

Issue 3

Saturday afternoon

Bozo Bus Tribune

The Official Organ of Minicon 48

“We're all bozos on this bus!”

Aliens By Design

At Opening Ceremonies, it was stated that there was a sign-up sheet for Author GoH Julie Czerneda's workshop “Aliens by Design”. The event is actually unlimited—no sign-up required! Sorry for the confusion. This hands-on 'creating an alien' activity will be held from 10:30a.m. - 12:30p.m. Sunday in the Rumpus Room (Grand Ballroom East A).

Also from Opening Ceremonies

Julie is tickled that the convention bar has been renamed Claws and Jaws for the weekend, in honor of the renowned restaurant for sundry aliens in her Trade Pact Cycle.

Richard Tatge discussed how most of the games you see people playing around the convention were introduced to the community by him. Quoth an audience member: “He's patient zero!!”

Speaking of which...

Fan GoH interview

“I caught part of the Fan GoH interview today. Dave Romm provided Richard Tatge with great leading questions. We learned a few things such as Richard's current favorite game (Pattern Master), made more interesting by a surprise move by John Stanley last night. Even Sharon Kahn learned something after many years together with Richard. Ask one or both about the figurines he brought back from Vietnam.

I hadn't known—there's a tour of Richard's games on YouTube. [Ed: Search for “Richard Tatge on gaming”.] And then there's the duplicating dodos... dodos... dodos...”

-Jeanne Mealy

Hugos: When it pays to screw up least

Minicon is pleased to announce that at 3p.m. Saturday in the Edina room, when **Joel Phillips** and **Diane Lacey** announce the nominees for this year's Hugo awards, they will in fact be Ustreaming live! Whether we'd manage a live stream was uncertain for a while. In fact, due to various mishaps, of the four conventions simultaneously announcing the nominees, Minicon will be the only one streaming live, said Joel at Opening Ceremonies.

Registration update

According to at-con Registration Head Carol K., Minicon 48 had about 85 at-the-door registrations as of noon Saturday. Since then, against all expectations, we actually ran out of Hagggle cards to give out!

Carol also wishes to remind everyone to return any lost badges to the Registration desk, and to look there if you've lost your own badge.

Couched in modernism

If you've noticed a few unusual choices of furniture by the DoubleTree—notably, the rectangular gray couches with brobdingnagian backs and armrests—be assured that you're not alone. Apparently, fans aren't the only ones to ask the hotel about its furnishings. A hotel worker told reporters that the DoubleTree management is still settling in, and that they are “aware there are issues with their couch selection.” By next year, things may be human-friendly again!

Programming miscellany

*** Relic demo tonight**

Gaming will be running a demo of the new Fantasy Flight Games game Relic tonight at 7. Designer John Goodenough will be playing! All players will receive coupons for \$5 off the game from Level Up's booth.

*** And remember:**

The live Art Auction is also tonight at 7!

*** Bob Tucker Memorial Smoooooooooth**

A fannish tradition with a smooth finish—in the bar tonight at 9p.m.

*** Party hours**

The LiveJournal party in Room 205 will start at 8 Saturday night. The Ladies' Sewing Circle, also in 205, will run from 2 – 5p.m. Sunday.

*** Additional panelist**

Jason Otting has been added to “The New Pony Phenomenon” (5:30 Sat., Veranda 5/6).

*** Program book correction**

The URL on the final page should read: www.mnstf.org/minicon48.

Personal

Everyone have a fun and safe convention! That includes you, Emma and Will.

—stephen borer

Krahn-Gahlon 4a.m. Pulse Check

Bar: 10 Counters: 2 Consuite: 4 Keith: 1 Lobby: 1
Seamstress Guild: 12 Kevin's Fanniversary Party: 7

Total: 37

Haggle Game Update

Not only has the great Minicon Haggle game been a hit, it's spawned a variety of projects, strategies, and social phenomena. Your editor has borne witness to spreadsheets of cards and hands in mobile devices, sprawling arrays of cards and rules, inductions into a mighty alliance, tales of double agents and scampish informants sending deliberately redundant information, and even—gasp—allegations of sabotage! Now that not all the rules in circulation are on the original slips of paper they were printed on, how can we know they're genuine? Could a clue reportedly copied word for word from a cell phone be a malicious fraud?

Clarification of Rule 48: If multiple entries tie for the high score, they are all disqualified. Whoever has the highest unique score is the winner.

Haggle Clue #3: There are two rules numbered 25 and two numbered 54.

Haggle Clue #5: More than one penny or rule turned in does not further increase your score.

Haggle Clue #7: The low can be boosted high, but everything can easily be lost.

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Tales from the Medallion Hunt

C. An arrow? Just an arrow?! Well, yes—it's a familiar symbol, especially with new, modern silvery signs directing visitors around the hotel. The ones pointing down the poolside area stairs have arrows of this sort, and this exact arrow can be found on the RECREATIONAL FACILITIES sign to the right of the consuite. The medallion was hidden directly behind the arrow. This one was picked up quickly by veteran hunter Rob I., who called it "low-hanging fruit". "C" might have stood for either 'Cabanas' or 'Crafts', but in the end stood for CubeBot, the folding robot-shaped toy Rob claimed as his prize.

15. The bar code is in EAN-13 format and encodes the numbers 208545143165. (The final '6' is merely a checksum.) When the initial '20' is taken as a single number and the other digits are taken individually, converting these numbers to their corresponding letters yields:

THEDEADCAFE. There used to be a little cafe in the corner of the north tower, but the room now sits empty... except for the penny the Cluemeister planted on one of the window frames!

Congratulations to **Tarah D.**, who, with help from her friend **Shannon J.**, deciphered the barcode with the help of a cell phone and Amazon.com. She readily decoded the letters, but didn't find the penny in the room until an impulsive and determined second pass. She then earned her penny back by solving a puzzle in the BBT room. A charm bracelet may be in her future!

CLUES: ROUND 2

3. You know—the hyperspace cone? It's cosmic! And cardboard!

5. So, uh, yeah. See you there.

7. Second floor, pool area. But the pool's not in sight.

8. Specifically, the left bed. On the right side of the headboard. Counting sheep can make you sleepy!

(Medallions 7&8 have been mysteriously marked Missing in Action.)

10. They're not minuses, they're hyphens! And the pluses are just... 'and's. It's not a hash mark—it's a pound sign! But the stars really are stars.

12. Only half the first word is veritable, but twice a quincunx can be reduced to noise. I watched you at six today, and I'll do it again tomorrow.

20. The southwest corner, to be exact. Think thematically in terms of negative space.

Hours of Redemption:

The Cluemeister's next three office hours are:

9 – 10p.m. Saturday • Midnight - 1a.m. Sunday •
11a.m. – Noon Sunday

Got material for the BBT? Drop it in the Submission Box on the chairs outside the BBT Office (Normandale Room). Pens and paper are provided.

The Bozo Bus Tribune

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