

Bozo Bus Tribune

The Official Organ of Minicon 50

"We're all bozos on this bus!"

Highlights from Opening Ceremonies...

With more guests of honor than ever before, it's no surprise Opening Ceremonies ran a little long, and everyone got their say.

To honor **Sir Terry Pratchett**, a recent Minicon guest of honor who passed away last month, as well as other departed friends over the past year, con chair **Joel Phillips** opted against a moment of silence, reasoning that these individuals would prefer a moment of laughter. So he gave us some quotes from Sir Terry, such as: "If cats looked like frogs we'd realize what nasty, cruel little bastards they are."

Brandon Sanderson is selling a pair of con-exclusively printed novellas—to buy them, track down his assistant Peter or find him at one of his panels.

Tom Doherty said that he's used to spreading the words of others—if we were to listen to his own words, we'd be "very disappointed".

Jane Yolen read two poems, one for science fiction fans and one for fantasy fans. "...but you can like them both," she added.

Larry Niven read us something truly exclusive—the first draft of a supplementary story to *Lucifer's Hammer*, his 1977 novel with Jerry Pournelle, explaining how the surfer manages to survive the wave caused by the impact of the comet. "But I didn't want the surfer to live," Niven said. So he now leaves the story in Pournelle's hands. "And if he doesn't make changes, I know what changes he would make, and I *will* make them."

Finally, **Adam Stemple** wants to remind everyone to come to the Cats Laughing concert Friday night (doors open at 8, **SisterTree** opens, Cats play at 9). Speaking of which...

Cats laughing panel packed!

The Cats Laughing panel in Krushenkos filled the room with some fifty people and provided ample proof that the chemistry is still there. Here, have a few quotes.

On how the band feels before a performance:

"I am nervous, and I will tell you, this is the first time I have been nervous before a performance in my life." — *Steve Brust*

"Oh, we're dead inside." — *Adam Stemple*

Emma Bull, on she and Steve reminiscing over the years: "We'd get together and say, 'Damn. We are never going to be in a band that good again, in our lives.'"

On getting older: Lojo Russo recalled pulling out old set lists and cheat sheets apparently written in 6-point font and asking, "How could we read these?"

On maintaining discipline: The band had a strict rule against "drinking, drugs, anything" during rehearsals and paid gigs. For unpaid gigs? Anything went, including "gin and pink lemonade."

And in closing: "You'll have to come to the show last night!" — *Running Joke*

Michael Whelan presents...!

We're happy to announce that **Michael Whelan** will be presenting two slideshows of his art in the **Edina** room. The show at **4:30 – 5:30 Friday** will focus on Whelan's work on **Brandon Sanderson's** books and on his evolution from sketching to painting. The show at **4:30 – 5:30 Saturday** will be a more general survey of his career.

Signed Dealer Dollars to be auctioned

Six Dealer Dollars featuring the art of **Michael Whelan** will be signed, framed, and auctioned at Closing Ceremonies. Proceeds will go to an Alzheimer's relief charity.

Correction

Additionally, Mr. Whelan's **Kaffeeflatsch** listed in the pocket program for **2:30p.m. Saturday** is an **error**. It will actually take place at **11:30 a.m.**

Thursday Registration totals

Pre-reg: 826(!)

Warm bodies @ 11p.m.: 646

Total membership @ 11p.m.: 915

Easy-Peasy Lincoln Squeezy!

In a satisfying turn of fate, the first two medallions found in the hunt were, for once, the ones the Cluemeister dubbed the easiest! Then things took their usual chaotic turn.

1. This penny was in the lip of the plant pot stacked gaudily on three tables in the north tower atrium. It was found by some of the bar crowd—**Stephanie and Dave B.** working together with **Keith M.**

2. The same team spotted this medallion on a wall between the towers on the first floor. The 'blue' wall was really more 'black with blue lights shining on it.'

4. The 'Maxwell's Demon' penny was hidden under the guest card reader in the southeast vestibule, not far from the Bar. It was found by perennial hunter **John S.**

6. **Lady Danger** and her daughter **Anna G.** went on a medallion-hunting rampage! They first thought of The Game of Life (and who wouldn't?) when they encountered this clue, but no such game was present. Then, while wandering, their eyes fell on the magazine rack by the front desk, and they found #6 near a copy of *Life* magazine.

7. The rows of three circles represented one of many possible winning configurations in Triad, the giant-sized game in the Garden Court. **Ms. Danger** and daughter quickly recognized this fact, having played it last night, and **Anna** found the penny on the back of the rules board.

25. The mother-daughter duo also managed to find the second-hardest medallion—not by deciphering the devious clue, but through a combination of intuition and looking really hard. The Cluemeister will refrain from giving details just yet in order to give others a chance to work it out.

A few hints: It's articulatory phonetics! 'a'=gumline, 'd'=tongue+teeth, 'F'=flat tongue, 'l'=upper teeth+lower lip, 'o'=low tongue, 'v'=back of the tongue, and 'v+'=vibration.

H1. Dave B. managed to balance all the pieces in the Hover Kraft Challenge without it collapsing! He cheated by using the support wires, but the Cluemeister called that 'clever' and gave it to him.

O1. Stephanie B. meanwhile managed to solve the medium-difficulty *Oops!* puzzle and win penny O1.

O2. Joe P. claimed this medallion by solving the hard-difficulty *Oops!* puzzle. Extra-hard remains!

O3. The final *Oops!* puzzle fell to puzzle fan **J**, who ironically found the medium-level puzzles impossible to solve, but got #48 in a relative twinkle.

CLUES: ROUND 2

C, H2, P. These medallions can be won by trying various challenges in the Bozo Bus Office!

\$D. To the nearest five minutes. The medallion's name is definitely a clue.

N. One of Larry's creatures also showed up last year. Investigate its hinder regions.

T, L, 10. Still not available yet—sorry!

3. Attached to something high and swingy.

5. Look for something with three 'w's in its name.

8. Treasured loot from a certain movie... if it were red. ;)

9. Last night the room was as empty as {}.

15. Perhaps the most remote way to exit that's still open to the public...

20. 1999, 1977, 1984, 2002, 1993, 2012, 1999, 2009, 2001, 1993, 1997, 2006, 2004, 1985, 1993, 2004, 2013, 2007, 1982, 1979, 2006, 1968, 2001, 2008.

30. Go like a stop for each step:

d	r	e	y	i	e	h	1	e	n	s	d	7	e	4
3	4	o	6	p	4	s	C	u	o	1	l	h	o	2
r	1	w	9	3	r	g	2	l	m	f	c	d	9	o
9	t	g	n	6	d	w	e	5	b	5	d	o	s	e
r	7	6	i	0	t	7	o	c	n	6	e	n	4	a
g	5	f	x	b	8	v	7	s	b	k	d	t	9	2
5	p	4	2	u	9	f	g	2	m	l	9	p	8	e
j	v	q	4	m	a	0	b	4	o	n	6	e	o	r
1	e	l	9	8	r	s	2	n	0	a	5	s	i	a
t	g	b	6	d	9	2	g	e	n	e	3	f	p	c
b	r	i	u	q	4	n	1	6	w	5	i	c	8	z
8	v	5	n	x	f	h	6	3	g	k	8	5	m	j
3	n	p	7	g	a	8	6	k	n	r	3	s	t	s
d	k	m	o	e	y	r	l	m	i	u	p	z	2	y
e	r	2	i	e	r	7	s	n	g	o	6	k	a	u

"What's the use of shirts of [this?]" • In North foyer paintings, hard to miss.* • What enables tooth decay? • When we rise, what frames the way?* • Then again, what lies below?* • What splits bar from patio?* • The type of green at which you look.* • Dorothy's footwear in the book. • What derives from Fithp-like choppers? • Whence our brightest table toppers?* • What keeps strangers from the sea?* • The vegetologist heresy.

* Asterisk means the answer lies nearby, that you might use your eyes. And if you'd know how high to go, consider your goal(d)... then look below. (And numbers make you that much more slow.)

Hours of Redemption:

The Cluemeister's next three office hours are:

10 – 11a.m. Fri. • 3 – 4p.m. Fri. • 7 – 8p.m. Fri.

Got material for the BBT? Drop it in the Submission Box at the Coat Check near the Normandale Room at the end of the Grand Ballroom Foyer. Pens and paper are provided.

The Bozo Bus Tribune

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