

# Bozo Bus Tribune

The Official Organ of Minicon 54

*"We're all bozos on this bus!"*

## We're all lavender dream

Minicon has been running so smoothly that there's a dearth of real news! Since real news has too many opposites (fake news, imaginary news, real olds, etc.), this publication is forced to resort to a list of lovely things that are only half news at best:

- **David Perry** and his mystery guests were awesome, while **Teresa Chandler** is cut out for warm raspberries that melt right off the vine.
- In addition to the concert schedule, early music and late music circle, there was an impromptu low key music party in the smoking section (that is to say, outside the hotel).
- The Star Wars puzzle in the Quiet Activity Area was completed; it was subsequently turned over and the more difficult back side is being attempted.
- The Volunteers Department tried some new things this year and got a good response... and they hope to keep it up tomorrow!
- Art of swearing unicorns was colored, geeky gifts were given away, karaoke was crooned, an entire season of superhero anime was shown, beer was drunk and a social media manifesto was manifested.
- Thanks to Minicon's theme, **Geri Sullivan** didn't have to get dressed in the morning.

## Sunday film schedule wide open

*"MonsterKids & Prospect did not arrive in time to get screened on Sunday. Films will be Audience Choice only. Did you miss Neil Gaiman: Dream Dangerously or Chris Claremont's X-Men? Sunday will be your chance to view these well received documentaries."*

*—Michael Kingsley*

## Dave DeVries draws up a horde!

Our Artist Guest of Honor brought his famed Monster Engine to Minicon on a visit to the Rumpus Room! He interviewed the kids about the anatomy of a potential monster and made a lovely large line drawing for the kids to color. (Other intriguing monster doodles were found elsewhere in the room, but we cannot confirm DeVries' direct involvement.) DeVries later spent two and a half hours outside the Art Show demonstrating acrylic illustration techniques as he painted a portrait of someone very much like the Joker. A brown base allowed for a somewhat muted villain, rather than "a Joker with more shocking colors." The painting will go home with congoer Nathan.

## Speaking of Art Villains...

Artists are often easy prey—that was the theme of Friday's "Art and Copyright" panel. First **Tom Fleming** shared a fascinating tale of perseverance against unscrupulous art thieves willing to use cancer to justify their dirty deeds. Then **Dave Devries** recounted how his lawyer masqueraded as an entertainment lawyer (whom Dave paid with Dungeons & Dragons art), only to be thwarted by a femme fatale stripper. **Nancy Sims** shared her "copyleft" lawyer views on both cases and also discussed branding and trademarks.

Three takeaways were clear. First, pay the fee to register your work with the US Copyright Office! Second, never hire a real estate lawyer for litigation — don't just believe what a lawyer says they can do (I'll echo this advice). Lastly, sadly, theatrics can sway judges. This was an engrossing panel on a normally academic topic; great job by the panel!

*—Randy Holland*

## Almost too much perspective

**Rob Callahan** has been added to "The Assumption of Commonality" (Orchard Room, 11:30 a.m. Sun.)

~~~ Help us cultivate an urban legend! ~~~

**The Bozo Bus asks:**

Is there an elevator on the east end of the hotel? If not, should there be?

E-mail [bbt@minicon54.mnstf.org](mailto:bbt@minicon54.mnstf.org) or drop your answers in the Submission Box.

**Panel review: “Putting Yourself in Three-Toed Shoes”**

Five talented panelists discussed the problem of making abnormal characters relatable... which, like most any problem in writing, turns out to have multiple solutions. **Peg Kerr** described the technique of introducing the reader to oddities in a character's life through the eyes of another character to whom they are also new. **Jo Walton**, however, likes an opposite approach—drop puzzles about the situation to make the reader curious. “Oh, there's a dragon—summer must be over.” “I had to fly because it was raining.” Science fiction readers, after all, are used to figuring out the environment, so they give you a lot of help.

The panel then segued into a long juicy list of examples of unusual and fascinating characters that we're meant to sympathize with. Eventually the panel seemed to invert its purpose, and became about ways in which initially relatable fictional lifeforms can be made to seem especially strange from a human viewpoint, while still remaining sympathetic in skilled hands. **Eleanor Arneson** described writing a story in which a multi-bodied alien solves the problem of an abandoned infant in a way better than famous haiku maestro Bashō ever did.

**A Bumpy DNA Ride**

"Cool and creepy"—that's how **Sharon Kahn** summed up the conclusions of the roller-coaster-like panel "23 and Us." DNA testing can prevent disease, or lead to eugenics. Can catch a serial killer, or lead to a police state. Can discover one's family medical history, or lead to discrimination. Society will have to adapt fast to the privacy and moral issues arising from DNA testing. The concepts of identity, family, and even ethnicity will also change in the coming decades. So, buckle up; it'll indeed be a cool and creepy ride.

—Randy Holland

**More thoughts on purplitude:**

- Purple is the moment when sadness breaks and joy peaks.
- Alternately, purple means grape.

**Lose your bottle?**

There is a clear red water bottle in Lost & Found at the registration desk.

**Unnecessarily thematic reg update**

At close of purple reg on Friday, purple 8p.m., we had 477 warm purple bodies, and a total membership of 505. Purple.

(The purple update above is presented in fabulous edgy grayscale.)

**Medallion Hunt =DoDoDeka=**

**Yes, the Hunt is underway!**

The Cluemeister had travel delays and got a late start, but the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Minicon Medallion Hunt is finally underway! Look for a blue special edition flier with rules to the hunt and the first round of clues. First round not enough? Here's the second:

**CLUES: ROUND 2**

- A. I'm not as popular in Britain as I am in the States; my home is a cube but I lie against a rectangle.
  - C. Many of you have walked past me; I've gotten to hear a lot of free readings.
  - I. I could see about 180 degrees, if I could see out from where I'm hidden.
  - O. I'm relatively close to C, but not as able to hear. I'm just hanging out.
  - R. You can use my hiding place to make your mark, but it wouldn't be a legal signature.
  - S. Purchasing your convention badge entitles you to come find me; I'm just out of sight in a place few could see me at once.
- Have an announcement, a news story, a review, a personal item, or anything else for the BBT? Drop it in the Submission Box outside the BBT Office or write to [bbt@minicon54.mnstf.org](mailto:bbt@minicon54.mnstf.org).*

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