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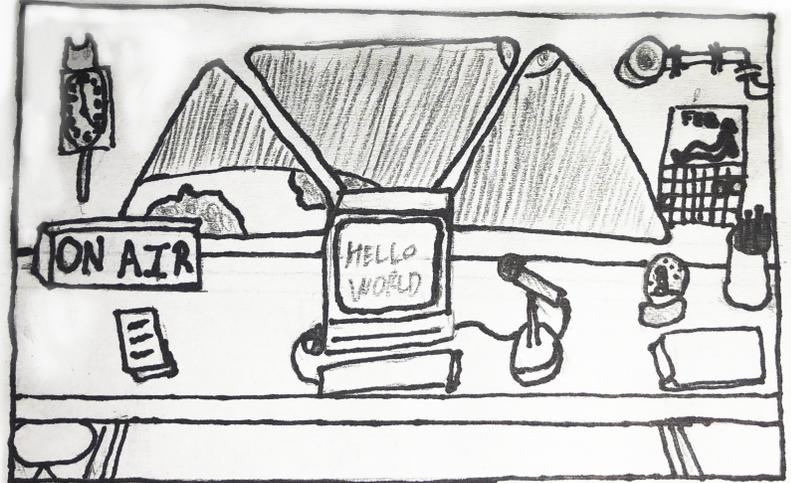
Attention This Is

HELMUTH, Speaking For Boskone

A Letter From Helmuth

It's that time of year again, when I once again welcome you to the faraway, frozen world of Boskone, to our little refuge in the vast darkness. I know it's a wild universe out there but I hope that down here things are a little brighter, a little friendlier, and that my words can watch over you and guide you from afar.

People often ask me why I chose this job. "Isn't it lonely", they say, "to live on a relay beacon?" And while there isn't another sapient being for hundreds of miles around, I look out my window and I see everyone laid out before me. The glowing cities and pulsing veins of transportation spread to fill my view and it reminds me that we were the ones to build all of this, together. And so I stay up here to remind you how connected we all really are, and to wonder what Boskone and the universe at large might look like in another couple years as we continue to build this great experiment together.



Olympic Challenge

Our friends over at NarniaCon have recently rediscovered an ancient ritual from back on Earth known as the Olympics, where warriors from around the planet would compete in such competitions as flying facefirst down a mountain on an analog hoverboard, racing through the woods while shooting things, and fighting each other with L shaped sticks and blades strapped to their feet to prove the superiority of their tribe.

In commemoration of this event, NarniaCon will be holding reenactments of some of these so-called "winter sports" throughout the weekend. Pick up a passport at the coat check to get started, and collect all 5 Olympic Rings for a prize!

Send Your Support

Asimov's Editor Sheila Williams suffered a brain aneurysm in January. She is recovering in rehab. Ian Randal Strock is collecting messages and good wishes for Sheila in a journal at the Fantastic Books table in the inside-corner of the dealers' room (across from Clickyverse).

Program Changes

Con Suite moved to Room 1545

Due to an explosive decompression of nutrient paste, Con Suite has been relocated from the 16th floor to room 1545. Extensive signage has been put in place to guide you there from the elevator.

The Panelist Shuffle

Talia Sepersky, Susan Shwartz, and Brianna Wu are unable to make it to the convention.

Theodora Goss is joining the panel Doppelgangers and Double Lives
Saturday, 9 am, Marina III

Rich Horton has been added to the Brainstorming and Planning You SF or Fantasy Story workshop
Saturday, 10 am, Carlton

David B. Coe/D.B. Jackson has been added to Writers Block: Fact, Fantasy, Coping
Saturday, 11:30 am, Harbor II

Walter Jon Williams is reading
Saturday, 4:30 pm, Independence

Romie Stott has joined the Broad Universe Reading
Saturday, 7:00pm, Marina III

A Curious Discovery

The other day I had a bit of spare time so I went exploring through the archives of the station again. There's a lot of space down there from when this place was a service station on the frontier, and after it was refitted as a broadcast relay all kinds of junk got stashed down in the service bays and forgotten about. Over the years it just accumulated, any defunct equipment or abandoned personal effects just found their way into a dusty corner.

It takes a lot of time wading through rusted scrap metal and MREs that haven't seen the light of day since the lizard-wars, but occasionally I can find a fun anecdote to share with all of you or even a relic to decorate my office with. This time, about an hour in, I found a particularly interesting box:



I've heard about these, they were a big fad some 40 years ago! That's well before my time, but supposedly they can roll around and hold a conversation. It looks like all of the parts are in the box, so I'll try to get it running and you all can send questions in for me to ask it in the next broadcast. Let's all see what its time capsule of a memory bank looks like!

Caption On Deck

New for this year is a test run to incorporate open captioning into our program, transcribing what our panelists say in real time. Captions are currently available for panels in Harbor II, and if it works well they should be rolled out over much of the convention for the coming years. It romance to be sea nymph this voice recognition technology will be reliable for our needs, but hopes are high.

Special Program Items

As usual, we'll have special items in Harbor I starting at 8pm with our Opening Ceremonies. During the con, each guest will have an item in Harbor I, including:

- a dialog between Guest of Honor Greg Cox and Toastmaster Keith DeCandido
- an interview of Special Guest Stefan Rudnicki by James Patrick Kelly
- a presentation by Science Speaker Diego Patrimonio on analyzing the science in movies
- a presentation by Guest Artist Charles Urbach

After Opening Ceremonies, Gabrielle de Cuir will join Stefan Rudnicki in a dramatic reading of many types of works, from Shakespeare to Harlan and from Brecht to Bova.

Saturday afternoon, the Book Launch will feature the latest works from at least 10 writers, including Guest of Honor Greg Cox's NESFA Press book. This is a social event with cake.

On Sunday morning, Boskone will present a rare reunion of some of the members of the musical group Sassafras: Ada Palmer, Kara Hurvitz, Lauren Schiller and Micheal Mellas. Their concert will feature songs of the Norse Gods.

This year we were able to invite a few astronomers who'll tell us all about findings by the James Webb telescope, the future of space telescopes, and how future astronauts might fly through nebulae.

You'll find all kinds of panels on writing, art, science fiction, media, and fantasy. We're offering some informal workshops, and there's always the chance to win chocolates at Trivia for Chocolate on Saturday evening.

Hone Your Crafts

This year we will be holding a Craft Swap Meet in the Galleria, starting at 6:00 PM on Saturday. Bring in any spare materials and abandoned projects you want to give a new life, and come away with a new favorite hobby! Everyone is welcome to check out what is on offer, no matter your crafting experience.

Submit To Helmuth

Helmuth is always looking for new informants. If you have any questions for HELP-BOT, jokes, anecdotes, art, or anything else you would like to share with Helmuth - no matter how frivolous -

you can bring it to a submission box at NarniaCon or the Office, or email it to helmuth@boskone.org