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Attention This Is

HELMUTH, Speaking For Boskone**Lunar Incident Barely Avoided***The remaining attendees of the Founding Day Ball*

Disaster broke out aboard the Luna Colony yesterday as the micro-nation's favored heir suddenly collapsed on the dance floor of the Founding Day Ball. While details surrounding their condition have been withheld from the press, we have been told that the cause was a rare drug interaction involving an illicit substance and not, as many suspected, foul play by one of the many Terran corporate and political interests attending the ball. Relations between Earth and the transmuted residents of the Luna Colony have returned to their normal, somewhat strained levels. The heir is receiving intensive medical care by the colony's powerful AI and expected to fully recover in the coming days, though their political prospects may very well be dashed.

The Fate of HELP-BOT

As soon as I could, I rushed back to my office to check on HELP-BOT but it was too little too late. By the time I got the bulkhead door open, acrid smoke was already rolling out of it and the life support system rapidly kicked into high gear to cycle the room's atmosphere. I pulled my shirt up over my mouth and dove into the haze, only to find HELP-BOT sitting still next to my computer. Its little arms, previously waving in a panic, rest locked in their uppermost position, reaching for the heavens. The indicator light in the center of its chassis dully flickers, synchronized with the intermittent whine still escaping from its voicebox until I gently extract the power cell from its side and those too falls silent and motionless.

The smoke flowing out of its processor array thins, then stops completely. The air in the room clears up and I drop the shirt over my mouth to reach out hold its outstretched claw, momentarily shocked by the warmth it carried from the meltdown, the same heat as a human's touch. I glance down at the box under my desk with the inserts stacking over the edge in a jumble and then back up at the little black eyes that somehow held even less life than they did before. I couldn't stand to leave its still silhouette haunting me, but nor would my heart let me return it to the junk heap as if nothing had ever happened so as the last of the heat leaked out of its metal frame I carried it across the station, rigged it to a CO2 tank, and gave it an astronaut's funeral out of the airlock as an offering to the great sun that spins, forever watchful, over this frozen little world.

Boskone Awards

Firstly, I present to you the winners at this year's art show:

Best In Show (People's Choice)

Kate Adams: Nocturne III (Magician)

Best In Show (Judges' Choice)

Bob Eggleton: The Great Dragon, Thrumm

Chair's Choice

Heidi Hooper: Frazetta

Director's Choice

Marianne Plumridge-Eggleton: Andraste's Daughter

Watchman's Choice

Charles Urbach: Arianrhod

Judge's Choice

Amanda Brock: Night at the Tavern

Duncan Eagleson: The Pict

Bob Eggleton: ...of the Apes

Linda Graves: Krispin

Linda Graves: Conell

Ruth Sanderson: Body of Work — Scratchboard

Charles Urbach: Body of Work — Colored Pencil

Jim Zaccaria: The Halloween Tree

The top scores at Trivia for Chocolate are **Rich Horton** with 43 points, **Chip Hitchcock** with 40 points, and **Rodney Somemerstein** with 21 points.

Finally, NarniaCon would like to report that so far, 3 guests have hit the bulls-eye at Rubber Duck Curling, a feat they had at first deemed impossi

A Message From Next Year's Chair

Mike Kerplan's letter is brief and every word of it is important.

As next year's con chair, I want to invite everybody to pre-register for Boskone 64 and to keep an eye out for announcements about some of the exciting events we're planning.

I can only comment on the information that has reached me up in orbit, but I am proud to announce that next year's Guest of Honor will be Catherine Asaro!

Boskone 64 will once again be hosted at the Seaport District Westin, on Febuary 12th-14th.

As always, you can get the best price on your badge right here right now by taking advantage of our Year-Ahead Rate upstairs in the Harbor foyer.

Year-ahead prices are
\$50 for adult memberships
\$30 for young adults 18-25
\$25 for teens 13-17 and
\$20 for children 5-12

Uh...huh...

Despite, or perhaps even because of yesterday's warning about incorrect signage, one clever reader called in to ask when this panel would start since it was missing from the program schedule.



I'm just hoping it isn't at 3 AM.

Dog Only Playing Dead

While Daisy, the unofficial convention mascot, has run out of steam, Boskone still has a fair bit of life left in it for us to enjoy.



After all else is said and done, join us at Dead Dog Filk in the Otis room, where we sing until we can't sing anymore whether we can stay in key or not.

Finally, a gathering to celebrate the life of Tony Lewis will be held in the Con Suite (Room 1545) at 8:30 PM. All are welcome to come share their favorite stories and memories of his time with us.

Looking To The Horizon

Thanks to all of our volunteers, staff, and participants for another great year. We look forward to seeing you all again next Boskone, but until then there is always the NESFA Clubhouse, open every Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday, and for many more special events besides! For more informaiton you can explore the NESFA website at nesfa.org/events.

This is Helmuth, Signing Off