

THE BUFFALO BUFFALO

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Convention Opens Fashionably Late



Photo: Juan Sanmiguel

Following a slight elevator-related delay, NASFIC 2024 got off to a roaring start yesterday evening, with a bombastic opening ceremony featuring all our favorite guests of honor. Look out for them on the convention floor in the days to come!

Program Updates

The ~~Cake~~ Board Room Is A Lie!

All events previously scheduled for the board room (mostly kaffeeklatsches) are now in Hyatt Room 1606 (across the hall from Con Suite.)

Dungeon Mix Up!

Due to elevator failure, Kids Track is now located in Convention Center room 107, directly under the hotel walkway entrance to the exhibit hall. Despite the change, Kids Track remains dedicated to serving kids age 5 to 105 (younger OK with parent's assistance.)

Masque-Or-Raid?

In order to secure the green room from Skrull infiltrators, the masquerade has been delayed to 7:30. All other main stage events, including masquerade rehearsal, will remain at the previously scheduled time.



Advice - Ask Agnes

Dear Agnes,

I keep hearing about a so-called 5-2-1 rule for conventions. What is this about? Sincerely, Seven Ate Nine

As my grandma taught me, the 5-2-1 rule is as follows: Each day, have at least 5 snacks, eat at least 2 vegetables, and sleep at least once. I hope that helps. -A

Dear Agnes,

I saw a beautiful paper crown on the con floor today and want to get one for myself, but I hear they come from children's programming. Am I too old for that? Yours truly, Jerry Atrick

Jerry, Nobody's too old for crafts. Head on down there and make that crown, and enter it in the masquerade if you're feeling adventurous! -A

Dear Agnes,

My convention newsletter editor approves everything I pitch. How can I know when I have gone too far or haven't gone far enough? -Buff A. Lowe

Unfortunately, at times like this you just have to follow your heart. -A

Dear Agnes,

What is a Kaffeeklatsch? How do I pronounce it? Is it even English? Thanks, Con Fused

As the Merriam-Webster dictionary says, it is an informal social gathering for coffee and conversation. It is, of course, pronounced coffee-klatsch-A

James Webb Telescope Captures Startling Discovery

Just today, NASA published a stunning photo taken from thousands of lightyears away. Researchers are still furiously searching for the cause of this phenomenon and discussing its wide implications.



If you too are searching for answers in the dark unknown, consider checking out this week's space programming:

11am Friday: Space Day! Questions & Answers Hour in Convention Center Room 107

4pm Friday: UFOs vs Science in Regency A

1pm Saturday: Colonizing Venus in Regency A

2pm Sunday: CisLunar Orbits and Lunar Bases in Regency A

This Weekend In Sports

Tonight is night is the long-awaited finals of the Paperball Run Endurance race. The fierce contestants are gathering in the pit beneath the expo hall and performing the final tune-ups on their crafts in preparation for the starting gun.

Of particular note is the highly experimental "Butterfly" design, but will it's unique construction be able to survive the same forces as a classic Dart model?

Perhaps it's greatest competition will be the Hoop Glider, although the jury's still out on whether or not it complies with all race regulations.



Who will soar? Who will crumple? Only time will tell!

bartender_bot's Drink of The Day

It's Friday morning. Too soon for 'the hair of the dog' because a dog has not bitten you yet. Today's drink is the non-alcoholic Sweet Sunrise. You probably don't have an Acme Easy-Make(TM) replicator. So to make one you will need ingredients.

- 4 to 6 ounces of orange juice
- 1/2 to one ounce of grenadine (whatever amount in that range tastes good to you)
- An orange slice for garnish (looks nice but not required)
- A tall glass (standard large drinking glass)
- Enough ice to fill that glass (cubes from the hotel ice machine are fine)

1. Gather the ingredients together along with the glass full of ice. Leave a little room at the top of the glass. A couple of inches. You'll thank me shortly.

2. Pour the orange juice into the glass. You should still have some room at the top, at least one inch.

3. Slowly pour the grenadine into the orange juice. Witness the grenadine sink to the bottom of the glass. Why? Look up 'specific gravity' on fine reference websites everywhere.

4. Add the orange slice. Put it on top of the glass or hang it from the rim. Both of those are classic looks.

5. Drink. Enjoy. Look over the convention program schedule and when you've finished your drink you'll be ready for your next panel.

Don't forget to visit the virtual bar in our convention discord server and tip your bartender_bot. Thank you for observing all safety precautions.

Call For Content

The Buffalo Buffalo is looking for new correspondants. If you wish to submit an article, a story, a cool photo or piece of art, ask Agnes a question, or any other inspiration you may do so at Con Ops or at Kids Track in convention center room 107.

And Let's End Things With A Note From Our Chair



The Buffalo Burgher

art by Phil Foglio



Issue No. 2
Friday Night
19 July, 2024

Burgher? I hardly know her



Gargoyle Rampage! 3 Dead, 5 Wounded

At approximately 6:00 on Friday evening, a large gargoyle smashed its way into the Buffalo Convention Center and proceeded to go on a spree of destruction, smashing booths and chasing down bystanders. By the time the dust settled, 3 con-goers had been crushed. Among those lost in the attack, one is known to be 13 year old Cara Grossman, but the others remain unidentified. If you are suddenly missing a friend or loved one, please go to con ops with dental records to aid in the identification effort. In the aftermath of this incident, we thank the brave convention center security staff who wrestled the beast into the caverns beneath the expo hall, where it remains at large.

In spite of her untimely demise, Miss. Grossman is still expected to lead the Improv and Theater Games workshop in convention center room 107 at 2:00 Saturday. Not even death can release her from her responsibilities.

Program Updates Old News

Board Room events are in Hyatt 1606
Kids Track is in Convnetion Center 107
Masquerade start is 7:30

Panelist Shuffle!

David Dvorkin and John Hertz were unable to make it to con
Book discussion for "Shadow Over Mars" canceled
Leigh Grossman added to "Teaching SF" Sunday 10AM
Gary Ehrlich removed from "SFF And Music" Sunday 10AM

Critical Error

The Programming Department has rolled all the panelists back a version to prevent the con from being overly impacted by the CrowdStrike bug. If you find a panelist glitching and turning them off and back on again doesn't work, bring them to program ops outside Regency A.

Local Religious Services

Temple Beth Zion — 805 Delaware Avenue

Sat 9:15 AM - Torah Study

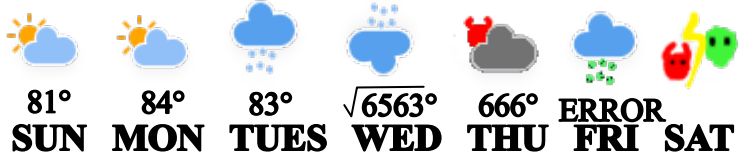
Sat 10:30 AM - Reform Jewish Shabbat Services

A Friendly PSA

Plants may be dangerous, hazardous, or even worse. If you suspect a neighbor to be in possession of vegetation please contact the proctors immediately.

-Our Glorious Benefactors

Next Week's Weather



Advice - Ask Agnes

Dear Agnes,

Where can I go to find the best parties? Thanks, Auntie

That would be my house, but you aren't invited so you'll have to settle for whatever I can get the editor to dig up! -A

Dear Agnes,

Since this is Buffalo, why are the Mounted Sherrifs riding horses and not buffaloes? I came all the way out here hoping to meet one! Yours Truly, Wona Pettem

Unfortunatly you just came at the wrong time Wona! This month, the Buffalo police force are performing an exchange program with the Canadian mounties. If you happened to bring your passport, you could cross the border and see the buffalo cops over in Toronto. -A

Dear Agnes,

Is a barrel the best vehicle to see Niagra Falls? Many Thanks, Gowin O. Vertop

Mr. Vertop, a barrel can be a great way to see the falls up close, but you must make sure to replace the base with a transparent viewing window in order to properly take in the sights. Best of luck in your adventures! -A

Dear Agnes,

While I was waiting to go up to my room, I saw the out-of-order elevator's doors open. The shaft was dark and I think I heard an anguished scream echoing from below. What's going on? Sincerely, Ami Haunted

Ami, don't worry. That's probably just Beatrice, ignore her and you'll be fine. -A

Dear Agnes, I'm still confused about kaffeeklatchen. What's the deal with them? Thank you again, Con Fused

Con Fused, I can assure you that kaffeeklatches are just casual hangouts over drinks and cerainly NOT a cover for secret illuminati meetings. I hope this clears things up. -A

Saturday Night Parties

At Agnes's behest, I have searched far and wide for rumors of parties tonight. Be warned that all events are tentative and start times may vary.

- 1502 - Capricon
- 1515 - CONtraflow/DeepSouthCon 2025 in New Orleans
- 1519 - Cosmic Lounge Karaoke
- 1605 - Balticon
- 1610 - Minneapolis In '73
- 16th floor VIP suite - Anime North viewing party: Mobile Suit Gundam: The Witch From Mercury

TEN HOURS LATER ...



Retractions

Yesterday, our sister paper the Buffalo Buffalo published an article porporting to show a strange photo from the James Webb Space Telescope. This morning, a tinted van full of friendly men in black suits came to inform us of the fact that the photo in question was doctored and that it also doesn't exist, being only a collective hallucination caused by a natural gas leak in our office. They also informed us that the James Webb Space Telescope does not exist either. We thank them very much for correcting us on these crucial facts.

Con Bingo

B	I	N	G	O
spot another con's t-shirt	buy something from a dealer	attend a panel or reading	high five a volunteer	find the flyer rack
experience filk	go to a party	achieve one bingo	attend a virtual or hybrid event	visit childrens programming
Went to the convention center	complement someone's hall costume	DRINK WATER	submit an "Ask Agnes"	visit con suite
bid in the art show	eat a vegetable	find someone wearing feathers	touch grass	order a drink from bartender_bot
spot a guy in a kilt	pet an animal	talk to a fan table-er	elevator wait longer than 2 minutes	talk to a program participant

bartender_bot's Drink Of The Day

It's Saturday. The sun is shining. The birds are singing. And at least a few of you are hungover (drink water, slowly, it will help). Today's drink recommendation is the non-alcoholic Lime Rickey.* Since you don't have an Acme Easy-Make(TM) replicator, here are the ingredients.

- 1/4 cup lime juice
- 1 ounces simple syrup
- 3 ounces selzer water
- 1 lime slice
- A tumbler glass (a small drinking glass, 6 or 8 ounces)
- Enough ice to fill the tumbler glass (cubes from the hotel ice machine are fine)
- A spoon

1. Gather the ingredients together.
2. Pour the lime juice and simple syrup into the tumbler glass.
3. Stir together, then add ice to fill the glass.
4. Add selzer water to fill the glass.
5. Drop the lime slice into the glass.

Drink. Enjoy. Then visit the art show. Bid early, bid often.

*To make a version of this with alcohol, skip the simple syrup and most of the lime juice. Instead use only 1/2 ounce of lime juice and 2 ounces of whatever alcohol is left over from the party (gin, bourbon, whatever). Drink, but very carefully.

Call For Content

The Buffalo Burgher is always looking for new correspondants. If you wish to submit a story or a piece of art, ask Agnes a question, or share any other inspiration, you may do so at Con Ops or at convention center room 107.

Let's close out today's issue with a word from our chair



The Buffalo Sauce

Art by Elzerei



Issue No. 3
Saturday Late Night
20 July, 2024

Spicy News Best Served With Bleu Cheese

An Itsy Bitsy Masquerade: Spiders Win By Default



Photos by Michael Conrath

What this year's masquerade lacked in quantity it more than made up for in quality. Every single one of these wonderful costumes deserves an award in its own right, and the judges were only too happy to deliver. From left to right:

Princess Leia by **Kathy Lehman** won Best Prop (blaster) and Best Choreography

Up the Waterspout by **Joy Alyssa Day** won Best in Show Workmanship and her performance (in which she was assisted by Tina Connell, Lisa Hertel, and Joni Dashoff) won "Most Scary", quite possibly helped by the Artificial Darkness inspired by MC Tony Lewis

Star Nursery by **Jacqueline Ward** and **Catherine Leeson** won Best Embellishment in workmanship and Most Beautiful in presentation

Dalek by **Karen Morano** won Best Assembled Costume and Most Humorous

last but certainly not least, **Panoply of Evil** by **Sandy and Pierre Pettinger** (worn solely by Sandy Pettinger) won Best Workmanship in Masterclass (although somehow the Best In Show Workmanship as also Masterclass so wouldn't that make them Second Best in Masterclass?) and Best in Show Presentation. Congratulations to all 5 entries and wow, you should have seen them up close because the details were incredible.

The Frank W. R. Paul Awards were presented during the judging break for the masquerade! Kurt Miller won Best Book Cover for 2024, but sadly isn't in attendance. Sergio Rebolledo won Best Magazine Cover for his work for *Clarkesworld* 202, July 2023 and gave a lovely acceptance speech. If you see him, he and his art absolutely deserve congratulations. Sorry Sergio for the award presenter being unable to pronounce your name.

Program Updates Old News

Board Room events are in Hyatt 1606

Kids Track is in Convention Center 107

David Dvorkin was unable to make it

Leigh Grossman added to "Teaching SF" Sunday 10AM

Gary Ehrlich removed from "SFF And Music" Sunday 10AM

Hertz If You Do, Hertz If You Don't

John Hertz has arrived today, and his previously canceled book discussion "Shadow over Mars" has been rescheduled to Sunday 1:00 PM in Grand Ballroom E

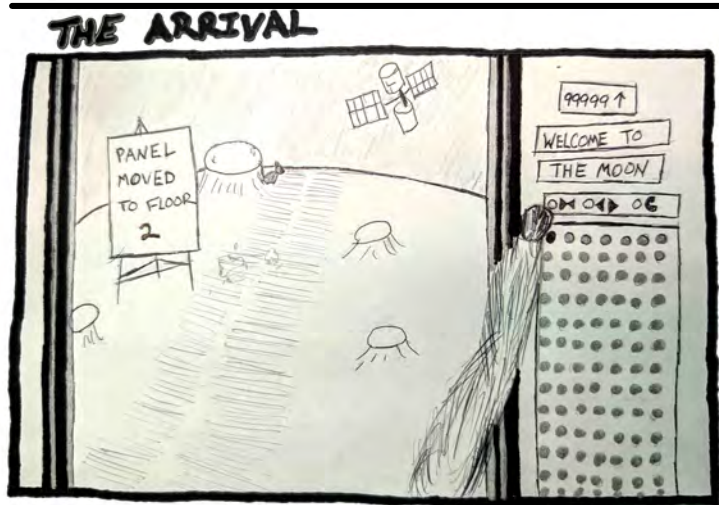
The Not-So-Novel Coronavirus Strikes Again

As of our most recent report, 3 congoers have tested positive for COVID-19 and promptly quarantined themselves off-site. We encourage all attendees to consider wearing masks and to test themselves early and often to prevent the spread of the plague. We will continue to monitor the situation and inform you as it develops.

A Letter To The Editor

Update from Ops concerning the recent Gargoyle incident:

We have researched the issue extensively with our supernatural informant sources and suggest that to recover the missing parties, a suitable sacrifice (either chicken or goat) be made on the keyboard of your laptop. This may also help alleviate the Crowdstrike Issue.



Everyone's A Winner!

Out of This World Poker Tournament

Winner: John "The Grinder" Stanley
Second Place: Sharon "I Stack The Deck" Stack
Third Place: Bobby "Fossilman" Felske

Art Show Awards

Best in Show

Ray Vantilberg -- *Swirling Colors*

Judges Choice

Johnna Klukas -- *Outpost #11*

Phil Foglio -- *Mechanicsburg Air Show*

Wayne Fowler -- *Body of Work*

Nilah Magruder -- *Hold Your Breath*

Theresa Mather -- *Yin and Yang*

Tomi Welch -- *Body of Work*

Advice - Ask Agnes

Dear Agnes,

Does this mean that if I sign up for a kaffeeklatch I can join the secret illuminati meetings - Con Fused

I can promise you nothing, but if there is a kaffeeklatch with someone you'd like to talk to, you should sign up ;) -A

Dear Agnes,

I was part of a winning Master Class entry in the masquerade but I only helped with props for the performance. This was my first masquerade, does this mean I can never be a novice? Yours Truly, Mae B. Master

Mae, I'm not saying you should stop the con from reporting results to the guild but also I'm not saying you shouldn't stop them from reporting your results to the guild. -A

Dear Agnes,

I want you to know the gargoyle is a friend of mine and he is looking for you! See what happens when you are mean to people. Love, Auntie

Is that a threat?? That's it, I'm done. I can't work under these conditions! -A

bartender_bot's Drink of the Day

It's Saturday night and this evening's drink recommendation is a non-alcoholic Margarita.* If your Acme Easy-Make(TM) replicator is still in the mail (bartender_bot loves free shipping), here are the ingredients you will need.

- 2 ounces lime juice
- 1 ounce lemon juice
- 1 ounce orange juice
- 1/2 ounce agave nectar
- 2 to 4 ounces seltzer or club soda
- 1 tumbler glass filled with ice (cubes from the hotel ice machine are fine)
- 1 spoon

1. Gather the ingredients together.
2. Add the juices (lemon, lime and orange) along with the agave to the glass.
3. Stir with the spoon to mix together.
4. Add 2 ounces seltzer, try the mixture, add more if needed for taste.

Drink while you look over the party list and decide which one(s) you'd like to visit. Tell the hosts that bartender_bot says hi.

* This recipe skips the fancy garnishes. Improvise with salt or a lime wedge if you insist. But you can't have my robot parrot. To make a version of this drink with alcohol skip the orange juice, lemon juice and seltzer. Instead add 2 ounces tequila, 1/2 ounce triple sec, and use one ounce of lime juice instead of two.

Sunday Parties

As always, we've rounded up some parties for you:

1610 - Minneapolis in 2073 & Geri Sullivan's 70th Birthday Party (yes, it is her real birthday)

1502 -- Dead-dogging. No Gargoyles, even those over 21 centuries old, will be served.

Last But Not Least, A Letter From Our Chair



THE BUFFALO STAMPEDE

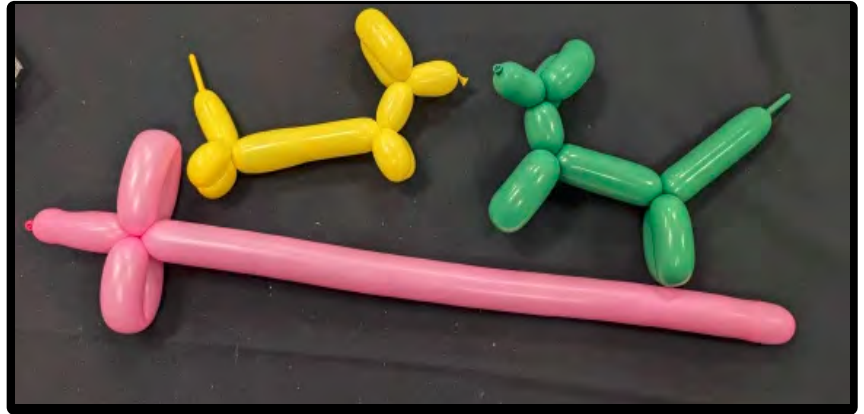
BISON, AND GOOD LUCK DRIVING HOME



Dead Dog?!? Dogs Not Dead Yet

We found them! They're still alive!

In other news, there is still plenty to do in the final hours of the convention, with several panels left to run as well as filk, games, and a couple parties!



Gargoyle Sees Error Of His Ways

We know you've been excited for updates on the gargoyle story, and so have we over at the Buffalo Stampede. Early this morning, we sent our brave intern down into the dungeon beneath the expo hall and against all expectations he returned several hours later! He claims that by the light of his standard-issue reporting flashlight, he navigated the darkened labyrinth for what seemed like miles before stumbling upon the inner sanctum. In the corner amongst a ring of candles was the gargoyle, deep in trance.

He woke and spoke with the intern in a cordial manner, professing a deep apology for his senseless violence and promising to turn himself in as soon as the convention was over. In the time since the other day's violent attack, he has taken up meditation and is also seeking to learn crochet!

The only mystery now is how our intern's standard-issue GPS tracker was smashed only moments after he entered the caves, and how his reporting flashlight came back with full battery despite supposedly being used for 3 entire hours.

A SLIGHT DETOUR



Corona: Still More Than Just A Beer

We once again remind everyone that 3 COVID-19 cases have been reported at the convention and ask you to take precautions where possible, including wearing masks, washing hands often, and testing yourself to make sure you are not spreading the virus. At this time, no new cases have come forward since our previous report but that was only a few hours ago. It has also come to our attention that the known plague victims did not all come here in the same party, or even associate with each other on-site. That being said, they all have left the convention to quarantine themselves

A Journalistic Anomaly

At some ungodly hour of the night a glowing vortex appeared above my desk and spat out an unfamiliar press release, in my handwriting, dated a month from now. Its contents are as follows:

Aliens Decend On Glasgow

If you have not already found shelter, take cover immediately. A swarm have flying saucers is falling from the heavens above the Glasgow waterfront district, abducting cattle and shooting lasers into the busy streets, and it is only a matter of time before they move on to the rest of the world. As a result of the laser-fire and general state of panic, many roads are blocked by wreckage and several fires have broken out. A coordinated military response was initiated, but called off after the UN received a transmission that said *[the rest of the document is illegible due to burn marks consistent with high-power laser fire]*

The following drone imagery was attached:



More to come as the story develops

Attention Costumers

We have been informed that the Houndstooth Costume Collective at 651 Main St. (only 3 blocks from the hotel!) is having an estate sale as they shut down. Items for sale include vintage clothing and costumes, shoes, hats, and sewing equipment.

The sale will continue today and tomorrow from 9 AM to 6 PM. If you have the free time, maybe go down there and give a new life to some old costumes?

Advice - Ask Agnes

Dear Agnes,

Thank you very much for your advice. I have signed up for a kaffeeklatch about the James Webb Space Telescope next week and am very excited for it. Yours Truly, Con Fident

Dear Agnes,

Will I be shot if was wearing a Miami Dolphins jersey? :A fan from Moon

Editor's Note: Agnes is currently not around to answer your questions beause she is hiding in an underground bunker. We at the Buffalo Stampede have been trying to get her to come out all day but the entrance is surrounded by ACME traps and we don't even want to see what she prepared inside

bartender_bot's Drink of the Day

It's Sunday morning. The last day of the con. You've made new friends and learned new things. Soon you will leave us. Explore strange new worlds...seek out new life and new civilizations...boldly go where no one has gone before. And when you get there catch up on sleep. Today's drink recommendation is for those of you who need to leave by midnight; the non-alcoholic Cinderella.* If your Acme Easy-Make(TM) replicator has been affected by the CrowdStrike outage, here are the ingredients you will need.

2 tablespoons lemon juice
2 tablespoons orange juice
2 tablespoons pineapple juice
1/2 tablespoon grenadine
1/4 cup ginger ale
1 empty tall glass (unless you brought a cocktail shaker with you to the con)
1 tall glass filled with ice (cubes from the hotel ice machine are fine)
1 spoon

1. Pour the juices and the grenadine into the empty tall glass
2. Stir with the spoon to mix.
3. Pour the mixed ingredients into the glass full of ice.
4. Add ginger ale to fill the glass.

Drink. Enjoy. Travel safely. Visit the Buffalo NASFiC Discord server to keep in touch with old friends and new. Thank you for joining us at Buffalo NASFiC. Your convention, kind human.

*Opinions vary about ginger ale. Use ginger beer if you love ginger, club soda if you don't. Or skip it completely if you don't want the drink to be fizzy. What matters is 3 equal measures of different fruit juices, plus 1/2 measure of grenadine. No version with alcohol today. You need to drive/ride/walk/fly/teleport and none of those are improved by alcohol. Thank you for observing all safety precautions.

Editor's Note: Here in the office we prefer just the three juices over ice since it's easier to sip at the writing desk. Feel free to experiment with lime too!

Finally, we would like to thank our chair for a great con

