

The Drink Tank 348  
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That young lady providin' a clubberin' on the cover and down below is Christine Von Eerie, a young 'rassler who, if there was justie, would be the biggest thing in wrestling today. I know, I know, it's not a perfect world, but one can dream. I was playing with various liquify filters in Photoshop and I kinda took to this one. I've had a giant crush on her ever since I saw her do a promo about three years ago and wham!, she was a star in my eyes. She's good in the ring and is wonderful on the mic and what you gonna do?

So, Westercon's done come and gone and it was an amazing time. Not only were there exceptionally good folks there, like Randy Byers, Milt Stevens, Kevin Roche, Andy Trembley, Derek McCaw, Chuck Serface, Brad Lyau, and on and on and on, but there was an excellent set of panels.

Oh, and there was a Fanzine Lounge.

You see, they needed to put someone in a room where they could act as a buffer between the Writer's Workshop and the rest of the con, so they put us next ot 'em, in a room that had a big ol' window looking down on the Atrium which was where the Big Events, like the Friday Night Concerts, were being held. When you have a window that is easily visible to the majority of the con, you kinda look at it s another stage.

And so, we partied!

During the first of the Friday concerts, the exceptional Surf Band Sneaky Tiki, we were dancing in the windows. It was me, JC Arkham, Katster, Chuck, and Milt Stevens.

That's right, Milt was dancing!

It was an amazing time and we all had a wonderful time. Linda cut a rug with our friend Joe Price, I danced a lot, we put signs in the window, and in general had a very very very good time.

Kevin and Andy may well have saved Westercon for a few more years.

And it doesn't hurt that I get to be the Fan GoH next year, either! (Had I mentioned that?)

So, now, two different pieces about the up-coming voting for 2015 Site Selection. It's a pair of very different views on the business! And, a look at a wrestling match and why I love it!



# Vote "None of the Above" by William Housel

Since there seem to be a number of people interested in the whole Worldcon Site Selection vote this year, I believe it is time someone advocated for an option too few fans consider when filling out their ballots. I'm speaking, of course, of None of the Above.

This ill-tempered upstart candidate always appears on the ballot, but is almost universally the first candidate eliminated as we process the instant runoff results. As a reminder, Worldcon chooses its host sites via an instant runoff of ranked choices on the ballot. You don't just vote for a single bid, but rank as much of the list as you would like. Make sure, however, to use a unique ranking for each, lest you invalidate your ballot at some point in the process. So, if you really want to go to Chernobyl, would sort of like to go to Three Mile Island, and absolutely don't want to go to Fukushima, you could rank

Chernobyl first, Three Mile Island second, and Fukushima third. Or, as most people do, simply leave Fukushima blank. However, you also have the option of ranking None of the Above third, leaving Fukushima as a lower preference. I'll get back to the reason that matters shortly. You also have the option of selecting No Preference, which removes your ballot from the tallying once it is reached, or writing in a location, such as, oh, I don't know, New York. Write-in candidates may only be considered if they actually file as a bid by the close of site selection. This is distinct from the method used at Westercon, so votes for Granzella or the like will only be tallied in the first round (per WSFS rules, a record is made of all first choices, even invalid ones).

If you don't understand instant runoff voting by now, consult the internet, then perhaps attempt to read the WSFS Constitution. I promise it isn't that hard.

So, why might I have brought up Westercon and its Smofpocalypse, brought on by a hoax bid winning the Westercon site selection? Because there are still ways to reach a similar conclusion with this year's Worldcon race. The simplest case for Business Meeting intervention would be that of a tie between two or more candidates, in which case, the Business Meeting can merely break the tie. No new candidates are allowed to enter the field. Should the Business Meeting somehow fail to do this in three hours of horse trading, vote packing, revotes, and parliamentary procedures, the decision is passed along to the next year's Worldcon committee, in this case Loncon 3.

But None of the Above also can force the Business Meeting to intervene, and gets not just one chance (outright winning as the most preferred candidate), but two – the bid which comes out on top after the instant runoff is then compared to None of the Above on each ballot, and can overthrow a winner if it is preferred on more ballots than that winner, even if it was eliminated earlier. In either of these cases, the WSFS Business Meeting is then tasked with picking a winner in the site selection race, and all restrictions on bidders are removed. The original list of filed bids can compete, as can bids which would otherwise be forbidden from filing – like those inside of the 500 mile (800 km) exclusion zone. It could well become a battle royale of bids, given the possibility of winning a Worldcon without the years of hard work and thousands of dollars spent in bidding.

And with the higher stakes, it would not be a mere Smofpocalypse, but the full Smöfferdämmerung. So please, when you fill out your site selection ballots this year, consider ranking None of the Above.



**NONE  
OF THE ABOVE**

# The I Ching Says I should Vote For... by Chris Garcia

I have consulted the Oracle. OK, that's not quite true. I read *The Man in the High Castle*. I know, I'm an uneducated philistine for having never read it before, but I fixed it. It's a great novel, really is, and the pervasive I-Chinging in it made me think about the uses I would have for the I-Ching in my life. Now, mundane uses include food decisions and figuring out what to buy Linda for her birthday (hint: it's an i-Ching gift set!), but then I thought 'hey, what about fannish applications?'

And I was off to the races!

The WorldCon races, that is.

You see, with three different bids going up this year for 2015, who couldn't use a little advice on who to vote for? I mean, they've all got strengths (I love Orlando and Helsinki's facilities, Spokane's team are good folks [and if they were bidding for Seattle or any REAL city with a GOOD convention center, I'd probably vote for 'em number one]) and each has negatives (two European WorldCons in a row? Orlando's bidding a Disney property, Spokane's got one of the worst Convention Centres I've ever visited, and perhaps worse, it's in Spokane!), and that's made it hard to figure out who to vote for. I've tried all sorts of methods for deciding, and all of them come down to matrices and decision trees and stuff that I'm just not smart enough to understand. I needed something easier to understand yet not quite clear enough to make the choices easy.

And so, the I-Ching!

You may know how it works. You'd have a thing, in the olden days on bamboo sheets, and you'd ask a question and then you'd throw coins or yarrow strips, and then you'd get an answer and you'd consult the strip and that would tell you what Hexagram, and if there was a 6, or somesuch, you'd have a change reading and that would be more concrete.

Or less. These things are difficult.

Anyhow, I found a number of websites that did virtual I-Ching stuff, and after testing them all out on what I should have for lunch, and I chose the one that didn't give me pop-ups or the like.

Smart, eh?

So, I formulated a standard question and cast my coins, as it were. Funny thing is that when I did one of them by hand, I got the same Hexagram, which I was not expecting.

And here is what I asked and the answers I got!

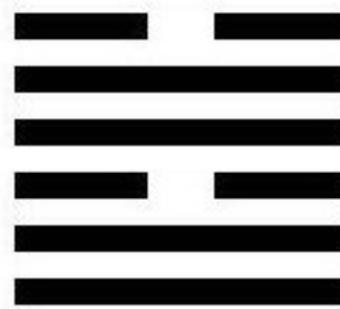
## Question - Should I vote for Helsinki to host the 2015 WorldCon?

### Answer – Tui (Joy)

This hexagram, like sun, is one of the eight formed by doubling of a trigram.

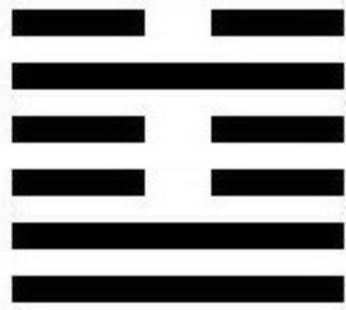
The trigram Tui denotes the youngest daughter; it is symbolized by the smiling lake, and its attribute is joyousness. Contrary to appearances, it is not the yielding quality of the top line that accounts for joy here. The attribute of the yielding or dark principle is not joy but melancholy. However, joy is indicated by the fact that there are two strong lines within, expressing themselves through the medium of gentleness.

True joy, therefore, rests on firmness and strength within, manifesting itself outwardly as yielding and gentle.



My Reading – So, voting for Helsinki will bring Joy, will it? That could be easily read as I'd be voting for a winner, no? That my choice for first place would be rewarded with that city getting the WorldCon, and that it would be a joyous time? The Double Lake that forms Joy is of importance as well. Helsinki is right on the water, no? Strange things are afoot!

## Question – Should I vote for Orlando to host the 2015 WorldCon?



### Answer – Chieh (limitation)

A lake occupies a limited space. When more water comes into it, it overflows. Therefore limits must be set for the water. The image shows water below and water above, with the firmament between them as a limit.

The Chinese word for limitation really denotes the joints that divide a bamboo stalk. In relation to ordinary life it means the thrift that sets fixed

limits upon expenditures. In relation to the moral sphere it means the fixed limits that the superior man sets upon his actions—the limits of loyalty and disinterestedness.

My reading – Well, limitation isn't a good thing, is it?

Or is it?

You see, with endless possibilities, you're making choices that are of your highest mind, and often, these are painfully difficult to achieve and then it's hard to make them happen. If limitations are placed upon a project, working within them can lead to much easier and faster work. You're limited and work within those limits, keeping you from flying off in all directions. That might be a good thing.

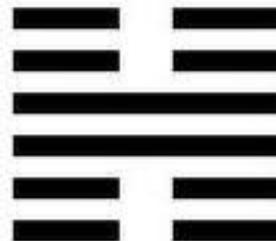
Or maybe it's that voting for Orlando is a limitation of my voting. That to vote for Orlando is just another drop in a sea (Water above a Lake is what the Hexagram represents) and that my votes value will be limited!

Also, it may be of note that a Lake with Water above it perfectly fits Orlando. The facility is built around a lake, and it's got the kind of humidity that is water everywhere! See, connection!

## Question – Should I vote for Spokane to Host the 2015 WorldCon?

### Answer – Hexagram 61 – Chung Fu (Inner Truth)

The wind blows over the lake and stirs the surface of the water. Thus visible effects of the invisible manifest themselves. The hexagram consists of firm lines above and below, while it is open in the center. This indicates a heart free of prejudices and therefore open to truth. On the other hand, each of the two trigrams has a firm line in the middle; this indicates the force of inner truth in the influences they present.



The attributes of the two trigrams are: above, gentleness, forbearance toward inferiors; below, joyousness in obeying superiors. Such conditions create the basis of a mutual confidence that makes achievements possible.

My Reading – Inner Truth is easy on the matter of Spokane. I went there for a conference, and it was an awful time. I really had some good times, debating the merits of various historical matters, but the convention centre felt old (though I've heard that it was recently up-graded) and when I went out to see the rest of Spokane, I was shocked to find that the streets rolled up at 5 and I couldn't find anywhere to go. Now, to be fair, I didn't get to see the Theatre, which I hear is pretty nice place for a Hugo ceremony, and I've heard that the city has had a recent foody 'plosion! But, inside, I have to say that I don't feel Spokane.

On the other hand, if voting for Spokane would bring inner peace, would that mean that I would realise that I had made the right choice? That I had come through my own demons of the last visit and would find inner truth in voting this way, leading to the WorldCon where I would discover that my last visit was just a fluke.

# Top Tweets for #Smöfferdämmerung by Chris Garcia

**JohnnyEponymous @johnnyeponymous**

SO, Three-Way Tie in Site Selection! #Smöfferdämmerung #FlairForTheDramatic

**JohnnyEponymous @johnnyeponymous**

Lucky to get a seat. 45 minutes early and we're already 90% full! Good call to move to main stage. #Smöfferdämmerung

**Espa'Ila Sheriff @Suzdal**

#Smöfferdämmerung? Really, Garcia?

**JohnnyEponymous @johnnyeponymous**

Donald Eastlake (@NotWestlake) calls the meeting to order. Mummering lessens... #Smöfferdämmerung

**JohnnyEponymous @johnnyeponymous**

Chairman Don lays out the situation before us, declares this a committee of the whole for the purpose of Seating the 2015 WorldCon. #Smöfferdämmerung

**JohnnyEponymous @johnnyeponymous**

The Chair entertains a motion for presentations from each bid, followed by 10 minutes of questions to each bid from the audience. Good. #Smöfferdämmerung

**JohnnyEponymous @johnnyeponymous**

Helsinki leads off with a bi-lingual presentation: English and Spanish (castilian). Both Spaniards in attendance impressed. #Smöfferdämmerung

**JohnnyEponymous @johnnyeponymous**

First question for Helsinki from @Mellow\_Yalow- Will Lordi be invited to play the con? Didn't know Ben was a fan... #Smöfferdämmerung

**JohnnyEponymous @johnnyeponymous**

Orlando follows with a bi-lingual presentation: English and Spanish (Cubano). Somewhere, Castro is smiling.... #Smöfferdämmerung

**JohnnyEponymous @johnnyeponymous**

All I want to know is if we will be allowed to go into Walt Disney World and act like Deniro in Cape Fear at the Tiki Room. #ProbablyNot #Smöfferdämmerung

**JohnnyEponymous @johnnyeponymous**

Spokane presents a bi-lingual presentation: English and Finnish. Finns in attendance unimpressed. #Smöfferdämmerung

**JohnnyEponymous @johnnyeponymous**

First question from @ColdAsGeisler - "Spokane? Really?" #Smöfferdämmerung

**JohnnyEponymous @johnnyeponymous**

@Mellow\_Yalow makes a motion to randomize initial voting order. Debate ensues.  
#Smöfferdämmerung

**John Coxon @johncoxon**

@HertzSoGood has already set up Smöfferdämmerung.tumblr.com for Business Meeting!  
Way to go, John!

**JohnnyEponymous @johnnyeponymous**

More wrangling going on. @DaveKyleSaysYouCantSitHere makes an impassioned plea.  
#Smöfferdämmerung

**JohnnyEponymous @johnnyeponymous**

OK, this has gone on long enough. 5 hours and still no vote on any of the three bids! I'm  
moving for a dinner break. #Smöfferdämmerung

**JohnnyEponymous @johnnyeponymous**

Packed house for so many hours! Sweatin' somethin' fierce. "Someone turn on the air  
conditioning 'cause this flower is wiltin'" #Smöfferdämmerung #OldieButGoody

**John Hertz @HertzSoGood**

@StatesmanJamesBacon moves to suspend rulz. WTF? Passes. Somethins up.  
#Smöfferdämmerung

**John Hertz @HertzSoGood**

OMG! Motion to allow new bids to be considered! Things just got HYPHY among the other  
bid teams! #Smöfferdämmerung

**John Hertz @HertzSoGood**

Vince Docherty (@PDQ\_Doch) has launched a bid for 2015. Chair declares it will be  
considered! HELLZ YEAH! #Smöfferdämmerung

**John Coxon @johncoxon**

#Smöfferdämmerung is trending World-wide. Also, Cricket scores are delayed.

**John Hertz @HertzSoGood**

Vince bidding 4 Kalamata, Greece. #Smöfferdämmerung

**JohnnyEponymous @johnnyeponymous**

OK, got me Tacos! Thanks @HertzSoGood! Voting is beginning with Vince's bid!  
#Smöfferdämmerung

**JohnnyEponymous @johnnyeponymous**

PDQ\_Doch wins on first ballot! Officially, it was the bid for Olive Country!  
#WorksEveryTime #Smöfferdämmerung

