

Science Fiction/San Francisco

Issue 32

Date: October 25, 2006

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News and Notes

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

The latest less-than-serious bid to come out of the BArea is AhwahneeCon: a bid for the 2009 WesterCon. Announced at SiliCon, the bid will be building towards the 2007 WesterCon where the voting takes place. The bid is headed by many of the same folks who brought us the Hollister in 2008 Casa de WorldCon bid. More details will follow.

There were a lot of rumors flying around SiliCon about a possible bidding of the Bay Area for WorldCon in the year 2013. It's still a rumor, but those in the know think it makes sense and that a local bid would be ideal for 2013. *SF/SF* will keep you in the know as details become available.

There was another rumor about a Westercon bid for 2010. No details were available other than it's being bid for by a group you wouldn't expect to be bidding for a well-known location in Southern California.

Fanzines Published

eFanzines.com has been very quiet of late. No PurcellZines until Sunday the 8th when he released a Memorial Zine to Bob Tucker, no *Vegas Fandom Weeklys*, no GarciaZines! That's not to say that there were no zines at all. A new *eI* from Earl Kemp came down from the mountain. It's a good issue, though slightly shorter than other recent offerings. Arthur Hlavaty's *Nice Distinctions* #15 also showed up on the site, as did Bob Sabella's *Visions of Paradise*.

Most interesting was the return of Bruce Gillespie & Jan Stinson's *Steam Engine Time*. Issue 5 came out with a lot of great articles, including a couple of them dealing with the works of Cordwainer Smith.

Few people in fandom have had the impact that Bob Tucker had over his sixty-plus years in fandom. From his zine *Le Zombie* (later *eZombie*), to his famous cry of "smooooth" after having a drink, Bob was a major defining force of fandom over the years. In his zines he even coined the phrase Space Opera and in many ways introduced the idea of the fan persona with his articles

under the name Hoy Ping-Ping. Sadly, we lost Bob on October 6th at the age of 91.

Tucker's writing, done under the name Wilson Tucker, was well-respected and he made an important contribution to the SF writing lexicon. When an author gives a character a name of a real person, often after the real person paid for the honor at an auction, it's called Tuckerizing.

Letters Of Comment

John Purcell writes:

You folks are getting your clubzine up there in numbers. Being a biweekly helps, but the quality of your zines is what makes them so memorable. Congratulations on such a nice run of issues.

Jean Martin responds: *Thanks so much, John! It's great to be appreciated by our readers. Especially from someone as well-respected in the fanzine world as yourself. Looking back, I'm amazed at how things just came together and we got all these wonderful articles and photos in each issue. A lot of hard work and enthusiasm from everyone involved seems to create this synergistic magic. I'm hoping this will continue for a long time to come. I've always felt there was something special going on here.*

Yeah, Chris, I really am a lucky bastard to get Frank Wu to do cover art for one of my zines. Like I told Frank, it would work very well as the cover for a future issue of *And Furthermore* when I'm writing about my days in various bands. I am not sure when that issue will be, but it's something I really want to write about; heck, it might even take quite a few installments! And that would be just fine by me.

Interesting... I'd love to trade stories with you about being in the music scene. What types of bands did you play in? I suppose that's not very sci fi but you can regale us with some of your stories in your next LOC if you like.

It was kind of fun to listen to that *Voices of Fandom* audio project the Las Vegrants posted on efanazines.com. I enjoyed listening to not only Chris Garcia tell the tale of how he got involved with fandom, but also lots of Vegas fans, and there's even one from some loner out of South Central Eastern Texas, who's not even a Texan, for crissakes! Oh, well. It's a fun thing to listen to.

Always fascinating to find out how people find fandom. It's almost like a closely-held secret known by a lot of people. I guess you need to really be into it to find out about it. Which is a good thing because it filters out people who shouldn't be in it in the first place.

Jean Martin sounds like her calendar is pretty full for the rest of the year, and then some. Mine is too, only my calendar is geared towards academic endeavors, such as finishing my doctoral coursework, prepping for my preliminary doctoral

exams next Spring, brainstorming on my dissertation research, and so on; plus all this is in addition to my teaching schedule at Blinn College. I'm telling you, folks, when QuireFlu comes around in February, I am so going to be needing the break! Then Aggiecon 38 in March will also help maintain my sanity. Heck of a lifestyle we all have, ain't it? And we wouldn't have it any other way, would we?

Good luck with your doctoral coursework. That's quite a huge undertaking. And yes, I have realized that I have jumped into a world where everyone is busy with so many things that interest them and that move their lives forward. It's quite a privilege to live in a country where you can do whatever you want. Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness and all that. So I should stop complaining and appreciate all these things that I am now doing, with all these wonderful people who like doing the same things I'm interested in. And yes, I wouldn't have it any other way. Especially since not too long ago I didn't have any of these creative outlets or wasn't involved in any of fandom's communities. However, it would be nice to take a break once in a while from all this pleasant madness and catch up

with my real life, and oh yes, sleep!

The Renaissance Festival pictures remind me that the Texas Ren Fest just began last weekend (Sept 30–Oct 1) and runs for seven more weekends. The Purcell clan is currently planning on going there on November 4th. Don't y'all fret, either; I remember my pledge to write you folks a report on it, complete with pictures.

We're looking forward to your article with photos. I'm curious to see how different or similar Ren Faires are in other parts of the country.

And with that, I shall sign off. It's my son's birthday tomorrow (October 7), his 11th. It is my fervent prayer to survive the day: three of his friends are coming over for a sleep-over, backyard campout in our tent. Life's an adventure, tra la.

Indeed it is!

Lloyd Penney writes:

Did it again, went to finally comment on one issue, and another one shows up. This is the usual basis of my multi-issue locs, Chris...just not having enough time to make comments on one issue. As a result, here are some comments on issues 30 and 31 of SF/SF.

Jean Martin responds: *A friend of mine actually had the same comment as yourself, Lloyd: That they just got one issue*

and then another one follows soon after. Well, that's how I feel too... we just finish putting an issue to bed and we have to start working on the next one! I can't believe we used to do this weekly! Chris and I did talk about switching to monthly when we took over from Jack Avery. But there's just so much to cover and it seems like the size of the issues are better twice a month. Otherwise, it would be such a big, huge, pdf file! And of course, the calendar section needs to be updated more often to be current and of use. Also, Chris is such a prolific writer, we have to publish often.

30...What do you think, are we having yet another resurgence of fanzines, or it is just the usual ebb and flow? I am having quite a time in catching up with the zines that do come in, and I am actually ahead of where I was last year. I am writing more and more locs each year, and 2006 will be no different.

I think there's not much discussion over the Fan Hugos any more because for some, it's the same old same old, Dave Langford wins again, and we've all received some warning along the way about the evils of faunching for a silver rocket.

Being new to sci fi fanzines, I have no idea why there's a resurgence. But I believe in a collective consciousness and perhaps there's a cultural phenomenon going on right now. There's more interest in fantasy because of the

Lord of the Rings movies, comics because of Spiderman, Batman, X-Men et al, and sci fi because of Firefly, Doctor Who and the like. So perhaps with more people interested in these genres, more people want to talk and write about them.

Interesting that Kevin Standlee's first Worldcon was LACon II...Yvonne and I were there, and we spent a good portion of our time getting ready to compete in its masquerade. I spent even more time getting dark green makeup off my face and my hair. Other than having to use lots and lots of soap and shampoo, I had a great time. I am sure Denver will be another great Worldcon, and North American fandom will flock to it, seeing it will be the first post-Japanese Worldcon, but we just won't be there to see it. I will rely on zines like this one to relay all the important scoops of what happened.

That's so cool that you were in a masquerade at LACon II and enjoyed it. I totally love doing masquerades as I love performing and I love hanging out with friends as we prepare and rehearse for them. Well, we'll see if any of our staff have the time and money to go to Japan for Worldcon. Or we could find someone who's going to it to cover it for us. Denver would be a nice place to visit for Worldcon as I've never been there.

As I write, I found out that Bob Tucker passed away last night. I talked to

him only a few times, but the first time I met him, I was at Chicon V in 1991 in Chicago, and I was on my first-ever Worldcon panel, on fannish traditions. He bade one of his “granddaughters” to go to his room and get a little something for the panel, and when she returned, Bob taught everyone in the room, panelists and audience alike, how to smooth.

Sorry to hear about this. Chris shares some thoughts on Bob's passing in this issue.

My loc...that conference I was at was the annual general meeting of the American Association of Otolaryngologists, or nose and throat specialists. They tossed money around, and I worked a grand total of seven days on it. And, hugs to Jean... whatever the problems you're dealing with right now, there's a lot of people who care, and knowing that they do may help you through. I just came back from two trips to a voice audition...I was there at 12:30 p.m. today, and they called me back at 5:00 p.m. for more taping. They seem to like what I can do, and I think I've got the role. Now to see what will happen.

Thanks so much for your concern and support. Things are much better now and I think I've learned a lot about myself and grown stronger as a person through all the stuff I went through this summer. I'm actually now quite happy, excited and looking forward to fall and

winter and all the magic and opportunities to connect with Halloween, Thanksgiving, Dickens Fair and Christmas coming up! Good luck with your voice auditions. You must have a nice speaking voice. I sometimes think I need voice lessons because I don't like my phone or recorded voice. I took singing lessons and seem to do okay with singing but I can't seem to apply the same breathing and resonance to speaking as I do to singing.

The TAFF ballot is finalized! Chris for TAFF! And, good luck to Mary Kay Kare, too. Now to see the ballot, bring it on! We'd all like to see more fanzines, electronic or otherwise, but people need the motivation to write and design a publication.

Chris for TAFF! I hope Chris wins, as I expect he would have a lot to write about for the zine if he does. But, hang on, I just realized I might have to run this thing all by myself while he's enjoying himself in the U.K.! But I guess he could do stuff from the U.K. as well. I mean, we do just email each other and I rarely get to see him except at conventions.

The Burning Man photos look great. I've already written about a TV special I saw on CBC television about a Vancouver couple that drove all the way down to Burning Man some years ago. It was an eye-opener to see... performance art, insanity down to an artform, casual nudity, do as you please, whatever you please. I'd love to

go some year.

Burning Man is something that needs to be experienced to be appreciated. Or to even know what it's about! It's different for everyone but the only thing that's the same is that it is a unique event unlike anything else in the entire world. Burning Man seems to be quite popular with Canadians. I ran into several Canadians last year and one couple asked me for some E. I was wondering why they picked me to ask as I don't think I look like the type of person who does drugs (and I don't). Apparently, they can't take it into the country so they have to get it when they get here!

España, we should have met at that panel at Worldcon! I know I pestered Chris at that panel, and perhaps raised some petty points, but still had fun. I attended more panels at that Worldcon than any other I've been to, and had a great time. You went shopping? Well, we hit a couple of places pre-convention. The California Science Centre and the gift shop at the LA County Coroner's Office. No kidding on that last one. The con suite, but another was the Staff Lounge. Because we were committee (Canadian agents for the con), we were entitled, and there was good food and good company, and instant friends. I never did learn Becky's last name, but before the con was done, we were on a first name basis.

The lounge truly was Cheers, and I guess I was Norm.

WorldCon sounds like it was fun. It must be great to be part of a con committee. Perhaps at some point I'll volunteer at a con to learn what it's like to be behind the scenes and to hang out with great people. But right now, my plate is full and I know that at some point, some of the things I'm doing right now will get old and I will need something new to replace them with. Or rotate around activities so that they don't get old in the first place.

Well, I didn't purchase everything...I did get three items, and we gave the big red TAFF t-shirt to Chris to further promote his TAFF bid. Never enough money or time. Tilly the Wonderdog was great! We all got our puppy fix each day. Tilly took to Yvonne, and followed her around. More than once we had to return her to her owner.

I met Tilly the Wonderdog for the first time at SiliCon earlier this month. Quite a popular dog she is!

31...I should see if there's anything I can add to the *Voices of Fandom* site. Not sure what I'd say, but there should be something there to help me record something.

Hmmm... I should check that site out. Someday!

I know I am suffering from lack of sleep...job hunting, the evening part-time

job, writing locs, getting ready to go to a few cons over the fall, going for auditions... sleep is getting more and more rare, and I can only suffer for it. You've got to chase your dreams, but every so often, you've got to clear an obstacle or two.

Yes, lack of sleep, I know the feeling! I'm currently hooked on watching Battlestar Galactica, on top of everything else, so I've been going to bed late. I'm behind on this series and didn't watch the first or second seasons when they aired. I didn't like the miniseries much. I guess I was too fond of and loyal to the original, so I had a hard time getting into the new series. Plus, the miniseries was shot with a lot of bouncy, hand-held cameras and I got nauseous watching it. And I rarely watch TV anymore. But since lots of people I know love it and say it's the best show right now, I decided to give it another chance. And well, I am enjoying the series and I can't wait to finish the first and second seasons so I can start watching the third season, which just started.

Great art in here, and good to see the Ren Faire at Casa de Fruta. Chris, did you get to this event? Aw, man, you didn't get to this one?

Glad you enjoy the art we feature. It gives the zine a well-rounded visual look and also it provides artists the opportunity to showcase their work. I don't think Chris made it to Casa de Fruta Ren Faire. I didn't either.

I was set to go with some friends and I had to cancel last minute as I was just so exhausted.

I've tried and tried, and even found a fix...and I still can't access YouTube on my computer. Definitely something wrong, and I'll keep looking for a way to make the fix.

Just found out that YouTube got bought out by Google. The integration in the internet industry just seems to keep rolling along. Not sure why you can't access YouTube. If you do find a fix, share it with us in case some folks are having the same problem.

I am rapidly turning into a turnip, so I will wind this up before I embarrass myself. Next weekend, Yvonne and I go to our first post-Worldcon convention, Con*cept 2006 in Montreal. Main guest is Robert Charles Wilson, fresh from his Hugo win in Anaheim. Again, we are going as retired conrunners, and we should be on a panel or two. I even set up a panel on fanzines, with Jeff Boman and Keith Braithwaite on it... Fred Lerner had to beg off, pleading family commitments. Take care all, and I really hope there's an opportunity to party with you at some point. We're suffering from a surfeit of geography. See you next issue.

That's great that you have a panel for fanzines. And wow, you're already attending another con so soon! Yes, it would be great to meet you and hang out some day!

Editorial

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

I'm sure you'll read a lot of SiliCon coverage in this issue, so I'll talk about a very small part of the convention in my editorial.

It was a good time in general and I'm so glad that I went. In the past, SiliCon was a small con that didn't know it was a small con. This year, SiliCon started to think that it was a small con and everyone discovered that it wasn't nearly as small as we thought.

Six hundred-plus attendees showed up, and while we were still kinda rattling around in the giant sanctum sanctorum of BArea fandom, there were large numbers roving.

The funny thing is the folks from *SF/SF* were there not only to report the convention for the pages of this fine periodical, but to actually hang out. With the notable exception of Eva, our lay-out mistress who was in Kansas, almost all of the crew responsible for the zine were together in one place. On Friday night, Jean, David and myself all met and chatted over drinks. We talked about the zine, and about the fact that we never managed to get all of us together. In fact, it was decided that if all of the *SF/SF* people ever got together (including Jack Avery), then the zine would poof out of existence.

Talking over drinks, we were actually talking like friends who had known each other for years. While I'd known Jean since the last SiliCon and David since BayCon, it was only the second or third time we'd ever met in person. I'd heard about these things, but before



SF/SF Team! Back row (left to right): Bob Hole, John Barrows, Kevin Standlee, Dr. Noe, Mo Starkey, David Moyce. Front row (left to right) Andy Trembley, Jean Martin, Chris Garcia, España Sheriff



SF/SF editors: David Moyce, Jean Martin, Chris Garcia

WorldCon I'd never experienced them. We were people who were friends who never see each other. That's a fannish tradition.

The big deal for *SF/SF* was the Sunday panel. We had been given a little slot to have a panel where we could pitch the zine, talk about the way we were founded and the people who write for us, and beg for more contributors. It was the perfect place for it, since SiliCon's got a lot of folks from media

realms who would often be at Fanime or KublaCon during the BayCon weekend. We had a large turn-out, the largest regular panel turn-out that I saw at the con. It wasn't just Jean, David, España and me, but Andy Trembley, Kevin Standlee, Robert Hole, Dr. Noe, John Barrows and others were all there. It was a nice time. We even got a bunch of great photos of the group all together. It's impressive that we've managed

to bring so many good people to work with us.

The big thing that came out of it is the fact that we've come so far. A year ago, Jean and I met and we were just starting with our editorial run on the zine. I started writing with Issue 2. Jean wrote her first thing for Issue 6. Dr. Noe was around about the same time. Now, from a tiny starting point we're at a point where we can fill a room with our writers, artists and readers. It was funny that we wanted to do a "Family Picture" of all the contributors and there was only one person to take it for us!

So, SiliCon's come and gone and there's a lot to be said about it, good and bad. I'm sure we'll get more of that from the rest of the zine, so I'll just say this: *SF/SF* is moving forward wonderfully.

Dreams of the City

-a column

By España Sheriff

In 1979, the Bay Area and the nation were recovering from the dawn of the era of the serial killer. While they had always existed, it was in the Seventies that the concept of serial murders as a distinct psychological crime entered the public consciousness. Just ten years earlier the Tate-La Bianca spree killings by the Manson Family had cut deep into the national psyche, and more recently in NY both Ted Bundy and the Son of Sam had terrorized the locals. Here in San Francisco the news had been filled with stories about the Zodiac murders after a letter purported to be from the killer was received by the San Francisco *Chronicle* in April 1978.

Naturally, Hollywood was not far behind: *Dirty Harry* took on the Scorpio killer on our streets, and cops have been chasing serial killers across the screen ever since.

But the most famous serial killer of them all is Jack the Ripper. At the time he became Jack, the term “serial killer” was nearly a century away, but once the concept came about he practically became their patron saint. His shadow hangs over the late nineteenth century, helping give lie to the romantic notion of the past as a more innocent time.

H.G. Wells, on the other hand is, if not a patron saint, at the very least a revered founding father of science fiction. Like “serial killer” the term “science fiction” was not yet invented when he began writing it; he called

his stories “scientific romances.” His shadow also looms over the next-to-last century, but in his case the shade is benign. He stands for rationalism, science and imagination. While not all his visions were Utopian, he was and is associated with a optimistic view of science as the savior of humanity and the rational-minded scientist as hero.

The contrast between these two nineteenth-century men (Wells lived until 1946, but *The Time Machine* was published in 1895) is perfect for a story set in the confused and turbulent social landscape of late-twentieth-century America.

In *Time After Time* (1979), the story starts in 1893 London where Wells has built a working time machine. His friend, a physician named John, is discovered to be Jack the Ripper and uses the device to escape into the future. Wells naturally follows.

In the movie present the Ripper feels right at home, crowing, “Ninety years ago I was a freak; today I am an amateur!” Wells, on the other hand, is disconcerted by the twentieth century and surprised to find it is not the Utopia he had imagined. Certainly the real Wells saw enough of the twentieth century to become disillusioned with some of his ideas of the future. The failure of the League of Nations and the actuality of the USSR hung heavy on his mind in later years.

For an added bit of reality mixing, the fictional Wells falls in love with a modern woman named Amy Robbins (played by Mary

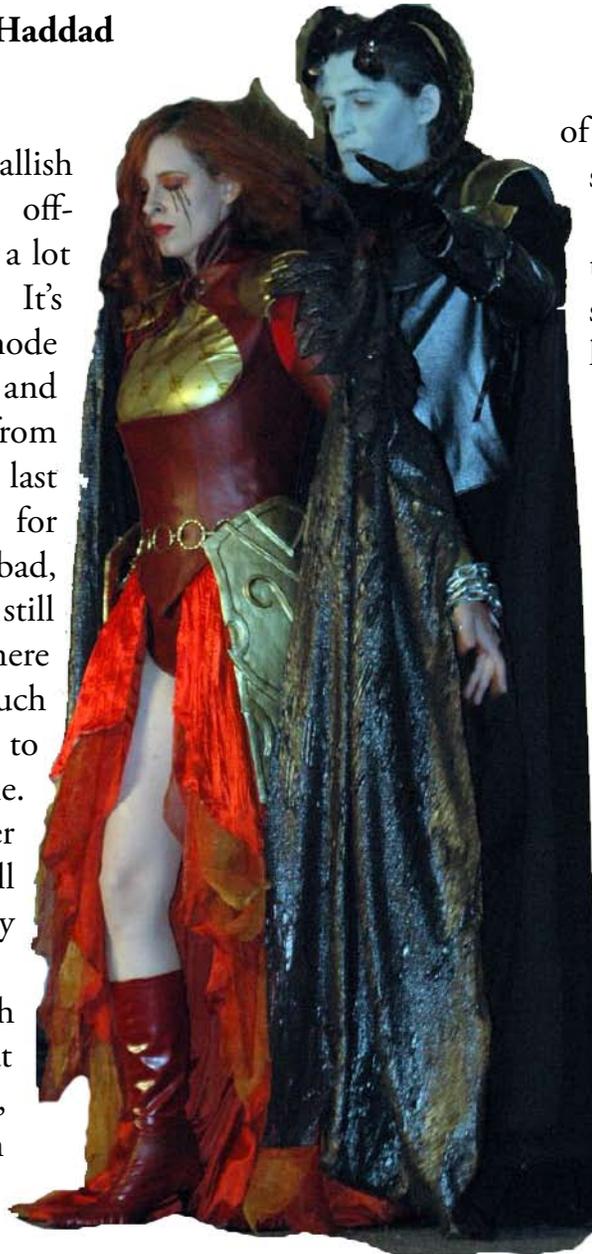
Steenburgen). Amy Robbins was the name of Wells’s real-life spouse. In the movie she is a frank and liberated Seventies woman who falls for the intelligent but somewhat naïve young Wells. Both their romance and the action scenes take place across the San Francisco landscape, a great example of the difference that shooting on location makes. This is a gorgeously photogenic city and as Jack and H.G. chase each other through the Embarcadero or Amy and Wells stroll through the Palace of Fine Arts, the difference between shooting on location and phoning it in from Vancouver has never been more obvious. They even manage to fit in the requisite car chase through the steep city hills.

Nicholas Meyer adapted the screenplay from his own eponymous novel and directed it himself. He also directed two of the best Star Trek films, *Wrath of Khan* and *Undiscovered Country*, and helped with the screenplay of *The Voyage Home*, another time-travel story set in San Francisco. Clearly he is a fan, if not of the SF genre in general then certainly of the Victorian scientific romance era, describing himself as fascinated by Verne and having written several neo-Holmes novels including the classic *The Seven Percent Solution*, which he also adapted for the screen. His other genre directing credits include the post-apocalyptic classics *The Day After* and *On the Beach*, and his upcoming projects include *The Crimson Petal and White*, set in 1860’s London, and a Teddy Roosevelt biopic to be directed by Scorsese.

Good Fannish Energy at SiliCon

By Barbara Johnson-Haddad
Staff Writer

For a smallish convention on an off-weekend, SiliCon had a lot to recommend itself. It's been in re-building mode for the last few years and has grown in size from 400-ish to mid-500s last year, to about 650 for 2006. All in all, not bad, but the Doubletree still dwarfs SiliCon and there seems to be too much hotel space for the con to use. At least at this time. Let it grow by another 200 members and it'll start showing the energy of other conventions. The main problem with the hotel layout was that the registration area, the largest presentation room, and dealers' room were on one side



Dawn Costume Exhibition

Photo by Howeird

of the hotel; while the standard panel space, anime, gaming and fan tables were on the other side. There was a bit of hiking to be done.

The biggest flaw that came to light was the last-minute notification of a charge for parking (unless one was staying at the hotel), but the fee was beaten back to \$3.00 from an initial \$5.00, plus the right of multiple exits/entries as long as the receipt was kept. This should serve as a warning to future conventions that they need to check their hotel contracts and make sure everything is put in writing.



Anime Characters at Sushi Bar

Photo by Howeird



Real Vampire Panel

Photo by Howeird



Ruby Raven Hats in Dealers Room

Photo by Howeird

To my mind the best parts of the convention were:

“Meet the Guests” was kept short and lasted a crisp 15 minutes, rather than dragging on interminably as it has in prior years.

The party floor was very active both Friday and Saturday nights, most opening around 8:00 p.m. and running late into the evening. There was a lot of excitement and energy there, with the Browncoats holding distinctly different parties each night. Since

many of these fans are new to convention fandom, they had a lot of good ideas. The BASFA party was a great party to talk to other people in, without getting drowned out by loud music. The League of Evil Geniuses party was charmingly decorated and packed with a standing room-only crowd. Just lots of fun, clever parties.

And the fan tables hallway had the greatest sense of fannish camaraderie at SiliCon. There were lots of good conversations, friends recognized, many fans in excellent costumes, and new clubs making a good showing at the tables. The only downside was that the hotel did not put up the foamboard that they supply for other cons, and thus, it got very warm in that hallway from 3:00-5:00 p.m.

My Sunday was unfortunately brief, since convention rooms began closing down around 3:00 p.m. In general, I had a very good time and definitely plan to attend SiliCon again next year.



Blue Sun Party Room

Photo by Howeird



Klingons at Mara's Bar

Photo by Howeird

CoffeeCon 2006

By España Sheriff
Staff Writer

Friday evening I left work, suitcase in hand, expecting a simple little relaxacon where I could put my feet up, perhaps get a wee bit tipsy, and gently geek out with my fellow fen.

I was off to a bad start when I managed to board the wrong train, taking the bullet instead of the regular train and bypassing the Santa Clara stop. I rarely take CalTrain so this confused me and since the next train back wasn't for nearly an hour, it also annoyed me. At 7:30 I was standing in front of the San Jose CalTrain station, knowing I was very close to the hotel but, at least according to the nice lady behind the counter, unable to get there from here without retracing my steps. In addition my phone was rapidly running out of juice, partly due to the incoming stream of text messages and calls from friends who *were* at the hotel already and wondering when I was going to join the fun. I was feeling quite sorry for myself when Joe Rhett rode, or rather drove, to the rescue and picked

me up.

I arrived at the hotel and ran up to the room with the idea of changing out of my work clothes and getting into a convention state of mind. But before I could do much more than splash water on my face our very own calendar wizard David called me to ask why I wasn't at the "staff meeting" that was even now taking place in the hotel quiet bar. Good question. I had been looking forward to seeing the infamous staff of our fine periodical all gathered in one place, and this was as close as I was going to get—so I hied my ass down to the bar, and there they were, already well into their cocktails, apparently. I ordered my first (and last)

drink from the hotel bar and enjoyed my first proper face-to-face conversation with them.

Eventually my drink ran out, and since I knew there would be at least one good party that evening, "Pancho's Crosstime Cantina," I decided that paying hotel prices for alcohol was a sucker's game



España, a beverage, and Eric

and suggested that we go investigate the party floor.

Pancho's was indeed hopping. Half the convention was probably there—most of them in some form of military costume. Andrew Trembley and Kevin Roche were in LJ Commando costumes, and suddenly I realized I still hadn't changed. I ran up to the room and put on some camo garments purchased that very afternoon just for the occasion (worst. costumer. ever.) and came back down feeling like a new woman; like All That I Could Be, maybe. Or rather; all that I could be at 9 p.m. on a Friday after being betrayed by public transportation.

The rest of the evening was spent mostly at Pancho's, with the occasional jaunt down to an unidentified party at the end of the hall, and a vague desire to wander over to the Browncoats party that kept getting held up by kind friends bringing me mudders milk from the selfsame. Rumors of a BASFA party also reached my ears, but inertia won out.

When Saturday arrived, I had yet to put my feet up and had bypassed tipsy quite neatly; but the con was still young. I made it down to the Coffee Garden in time for the buffet, which I love despite fact that it undoubtedly is trying to kill me. Joe Price and I settled down in a booth and spent the next two and a half hours drinking coffee,

alarming the waitstaff, and watching Chris Garcia run back and forth to the panels we were missing.

After drinking more coffee than is healthy we finally decided to stretch our legs and while Joe wisely decided on napping, I ran into Kevin Roche who was on his way to the party room that had been Pancho's the night before and was going to be the League of Evil Geniuses that evening. Kevin went to a panel, but Andy was just starting to set up for the party.

A few minutes later I was armed with masking tape and helping set up the rogues' gallery. A lively *Doctor Who* discussion and what felt like several hundred posters later, I bid the LoEG room adieu and wandered up to the room where I ran into Joe. We determined while we weren't really hungry, y'know, we could eat—so we headed for the Coffee Garden and soon enough were joined by Gina and Phil, and some unhealthy amounts of coffee later it was back up to the room to get changed.

The tone for the evening was set by the soundtrack. Adult Swim was on the TV as I tarted up and I was treated to the wonder that is listening to dubbed *Bleach*, *Trinity Blood* and *Eureka Seven* without any visuals to tell me what the hell was actually going on, plotwise. By the time I was ready to leave my brain was already well and truly

scrambled.

Saturday night parties included the League of Evil Geniuses, Mara's Bar, a small party with fun music and no name, and the Browncoats. I spent the majority of the evening in LoEG but ended the night over at the Browncoats. They always throw a lovely party and had a great sound system and best of all; dancing. Since SiliCon sadly had no official dance this was obviously the place to be. I danced until the party shut down and then headed to Burnett's late night talk. Small or not, SiliCon had very nice late-night programming.

Eventually I turned into a pumpkin and hit the sack; the next day was Sunday after all. I woke early so I packed my bags and began to prepare myself mentally for the always sad end-of-the-con day, slowly emptying hallways, depleted programming, and so on. Then Joe Price announced that he was ready for breakfast, so after tossing my bags in his car and checking out of the hotel it was off to the Coffee Garden again, and we were joined by Bill for a few hours of consuming even more coffee and buffet. When we simply could not drink another drop of coffee, it was pretty close to time for the *SF/SF* panel anyway, so we went our separate ways. I wandered back through the excellent dealers' room, which this year was a lot larger and included many dealers

I have not seen at any other con. Then I picked up my art from the art show and with twenty minutes left before the panel, I wandered into the Anime room which I had kept intending to check out. The movie playing at this time was actually a mesmerizing piece of weirdness called *A Tree of Palme* which I will be keeping an eye out for since it was visually stunning if nothing else.

I had been afraid that the *SF/SF* panel would be a dry version of Friday's staff meeting, but it was quite well attended, mostly with folks who have at one point or another contributed, but it was still nice to know that I'm not *just* writing this for the folks on the masthead. After a fun discussion and a couple of group photos, I wandered down to a self-publishing panel which was near wrapping up and was joined there by Joe. From there we hit the hiss-and-purr, which was just starting up. Normally it seems as though pretty much anyone who is still at the con ends up at this panel, but in this case there was still enough hustle and bustle going on outside that it was hard not to want to be out there enjoying the con. So we exited and headed to the quiet bar where I had seen some Browncoats and Robert Burnett heading. Along the way we ran into Baronlaw again and he joined us. The Burnett gang appeared to

be conducting an interview, so we chose a nearby table and pretty much out of habit ordered some coffee.

Friends came and went, goodbyes were said, and yet the coffee never materialized. Eventually what had been an excuse to sit and sip became a physical need and I approached the waitress again. She made sounds that made me think she was brewing a new pot, but as my craving grew it became obvious that this was a ruse to keep me quiet while she disappeared into the bowels of the hotel. The hapless manager that I approached next took pity on my bloodshot eyes and tremulous pleas and actually went and got coffee from the Coffee Garden at no charge.

Pleased and newly caffeinated, we decided that we could eat, so we wandered over to the Coffee Garden for more coffee and food. As we got progressively more hyperactive and incoherent we noticed that the table beside us was being set up for a large group. Sure enough, after a short wait the entire committee for CostumeCon 2008 was holding a meeting beside us. We were still there when they wrapped up and we all exited at about the same time to see if there was a Dead Dog going on.

There was, but only a few people were there yet, so the three of us commandeered a table at the balcony and continued our

little café society without the actual coffee until it became too cold to continue, and someone looked at the time and discovered it was 10 p.m. We decided that the marrow of this convention had been sucked and called it a night.

Next year we're bypassing the ambulatory phase entirely and just having bunks installed in a Coffee Garden booth.

Dance and Sci Fi Meet at the Browncoat Ball

Story and Photos by Jean Martin

Editor

Once in a rare while, a sci fi TV series becomes a cult phenomenon. Such is the case with *Firefly*, a space western that was canceled after a few episodes, but has since become the locus of an ardent international following of fans that call themselves Browncoats. Their fan support contributed to the resurrection of the show into the movie, *Serenity*, which came out last year. (Well, I'm sure most of fandom already knows about the Browncoats. But I thought I'd give a short introduction just in case some of our readers are newbies or have been stranded on a deserted island somewhere these last few years.)

So, anyway, what do these loyal fans do after building a proactive community that spans the globe and has organized multiple fundraisings, movie screenings, shindigs, meetups, a fan documentary (*Done the Impossible*) and convention booths? They throw the mother of all parties... the Browncoat Ball!

Originally conceived by the



Organizers Ammy Hill and Ray Hill

Chicago Browncoats in 2004, the event was brought to San Francisco this year, after skipping 2005 due to the release of *Serenity*. It was held in downtown San Francisco from September 22nd through the 24th. At the helm of this weekend-long gathering were Ray Hill and Ammy Hill, who are not related in case you were wondering. But both Ray and Ammy are, like myself, San Francisco Browncoats as well as vintage ballroom dancing enthusiasts.

I'm always surprised how many folks are interested in vintage dance as well as sci fi and fantasy. As I've mentioned in previous editorials and articles, I discovered fandom through Regency Country Dancing (BAERS) at BayCon. But other than BayCon, there hadn't been another venue where these two separate and distinct interests of mine, and lots of other people's, came together at the same time. So to me, the Browncoat Ball was a very special and magical



SF Browncoats

weekend. It was, in a nutshell, one of the most magnificent and delightful events I've ever attended. (Better still, there will be another opportunity to mix the two when the Period Events and Entertainments Recreation Society (PEERS) holds its "Space Cowboys" ball sometime next year.)

Back to the Browncoat Ball, I didn't really know what to expect but I was looking forward to just hanging out with my fellow Browncoats. I didn't even know if I would

get to dance much, as I thought there wouldn't be that many attendees, especially male, who would know how to dance, or want to. So I went with the expectation that it would be more like a convention with parties. Which is was... but it was so much more!

Since the event started on Friday evening and would go on until Sunday afternoon, with quite possibly late nights in between, I decided to book a bed and

breakfast a block away from the Marines' Memorial Hotel, the central location for the weekend. I picked the White Swan Inn as I'd been to its French sister B&B, La Petite Auberge, in 1998 and loved it. The White Swan is literally a couple of doors down and I'd wanted to stay at this English version for a long time. I got a late start on Friday, though, because I've been so busy and didn't get the chance to pack until Friday afternoon. I'm glad I was able to work from home that day! I got to the White Swan around 6:00 p.m. so I wasn't able to register in the Blue Sun Room hospitality suite at the Marines' Memorial. There were several activities in the Blue Sun Room over the weekend but I never made it there at all. There was just too much to do and see.

I quickly changed into my Inara costume, which I never expected to get quite so much wear when I made it for the Comic-Con masquerade last year. That's how I found out about *Firefly*, by the way, when a couple of friends invited me to join their *Firefly* masquerade entry. Then I took a cab to the Empress of China ballroom in the heart of Chinatown. The ballroom was



Ammy doing the Bohemian National Polka

on the top floor and the picture windows had a spectacular view of Coit Tower on one side and the Financial District on the other.

There were a lot of people already there when I arrived. Karla and Adam Levermore-Rich were there to greet me and give me my badge for the weekend, which was designed by Adam. Adam owns a storefront on Café Press called Black Market Beagles. He makes *Firefly*-related products for Browncoats to enjoy. I purchased a t-shirt

and a poster that he produced especially for the Browncoat Ball. I walked in and greeted some familiar faces, mostly SF Browncoats, who were seated on the Financial District side to the right of the dance floor. On the other side were people I didn't know. Everyone was dressed in costume, some recognizable as characters from the show, some in Asian-inspired outfits that would befit the 'Verse. The promotional flyer instructed people to dress in anything from "I just got in from the spaceport" to "Behold the hotness that is me."

Surprisingly, I ran into several PEERS folk. I had never met Ammy, who goes to PEERS and Gaskells, until that night. There were several people I recognized and who

recognized me but I'd never met them until that evening either. It was good to meet more dancers on a more personal level. It's hard to meet and talk with people at most dance events because there are usually too many people and most people just stick with those whom they already know. Also, a majority comes for the dancing and is more concerned about finding partners for the next dance than chatting.

Dinner was a several-course, sit-down, Chinese banquet, which I didn't expect. During dinner, DJ dance music was played, which was almost the same as the music from the recent cartoon ball. Unfortunately, we were all still eating when everyone's favorite dance, the Congress of Vienna, was played. It didn't matter: several couples formed a circle within seconds and we proceeded to do the dance around the ballroom. It was amazing how quickly we got partners for it! I asked a friend who was seated at the same table as myself but when he didn't respond quickly enough, another friend just grabbed me onto the dance floor. The Congress of Vienna is a romantic partner dance based on the waltz but which has several repeating patterns interspersed throughout. The music itself is absolutely lovely. My partner said afterwards that for the folks that don't know the dance, it had looked like a planned performance.



Kim and Brian Waltzing



Ariyana La Fay performing her fan dance

I felt giddy gliding through the dance floor because it just flowed and ran like clockwork: Yes, like we had rehearsed for it and put on a show!

Honestly, I didn't expect ballroom dancing on Friday night. I thought it would be modern dancing, so I didn't even bring ballroom dance shoes. Strappy, high heels and ballroom dancing just don't mix. In any case, most of the music was decidedly modern but the dances that went with them

were not. For example, I did a waltz to the tune of *Nothing Else Matters* by Metallica, and the swing to *People Are Strange* by Echo and the Bunnymen. Other songs that were played included *Doctorin' the Tardis* by the Timelords and *Crazy Little Thing Called Love* by Queen. These we danced just regular club style.

Some Starry Plough folks performed jigs as a performance piece and also taught some of the set dances, including the Haymaker's Jig, which were easy to learn for

the novices and fun for the experienced dancers.

Another fellow PEERS core group member and Peerless Beauty, Ariyana La Fay, performed her famous burlesque fan dance, which drew rave reviews from the audience and from the wait staff as well. She really puts on an amazing exotic dance that is seductive but still tasteful and stylish. A few seconds after her dance ended, there

was complete and stunned silence for a few seconds until my friend Glenn, dressed and acting like Jayne from *Firefly*, said a popular line from the show: "I'll be in my bunk." That was the perfect comic relief for



David and Emily



Kelly and Dr. Noe in front of pier

the moment and everyone burst out into laughter and applause. It's such a wonderful feeling being in a community of friendly, intelligent, talented and caring people who all have common interests and appreciate the same humor—and refer to the same sub-cultural touchstones.

The dance ended promptly at 11:00 p.m. but most of us were still not ready to call it a night. So we went to a nearby Chinese dive bar called Li Po, which we promptly took over. The regular patrons were all curious as to who we were and why we were wearing costumes. The ambiance at the place was very much like the 'Verse, a little run down with Chinese décor. After that, we walked back to our respective hotels and went to bed. It was really late and we still had an entire weekend of activities



Jean, Johnny and the Golden Gate

ahead of us! I was in the same hotel as my friend Kim and her husband Bryan. Kim and I talked in the lovely breakfast room where we had cookies and tea and a nice, cozy chat for a little bit.

Early on Saturday morning, I had a scrumptious and healthy breakfast buffet. Then I headed off to the Marines' Memorial to board the chartered tour bus that would take us to Fisherman's Wharf for the San Francisco Bay Boat Tour. I met up with some of my friends who had already been there Friday evening and some friends that



Ammy in front of Alcatraz



Ray with San Francisco skyline

were only doing Saturday's activities. That included Dr. Noe and his girlfriend Kelly. We had an entire boat with a cash bar all to ourselves. As I tend to get seasick, I took a Dramamine and headed for the top level of the boat where there would be fresh air as well as a better view. I wore my Browncoat Ball t-shirt and I was surprised that no one else did.

I chatted with lots of people and took photos. We got up close to Alcatraz and then went underneath the Golden Gate Bridge. I've been on several bay cruises before but this was the first time I got to go underneath

39 and had lunch at my favorite restaurant there, Dante's. (We decided to skip the scavenger hunt as we were too hungry to participate.)

Celeste and Glenn drove me back to my hotel (they were staying at another hotel close by), and I took a nap for the rest of the afternoon. The Dramamine, and not getting enough sleep for the last several months or so, finally caught up with me. Glenn had to steer me around the whole morning as I was so groggy.

And there still was the main event

that bridge. It was quite impressive! The waves definitely got much rougher right after you got past the bridge though. Then we went toward the Bay Bridge but didn't go under it. We did get a nice view of the San Francisco skyline. After an hour and a half, we were back at the wharf. I joined my friends Glenn and Celeste and a couple of other Browncoats and we explored Pier

that evening! I woke up late and rushed to get dressed and made up to go to the Marines' Memorial. I missed the happy hour in the Sky Room on the top floor of the hotel at 4:00 p.m., the waltz lessons at 4:30, and the pre-ball hors d'oeuvres at 6:00. There was even a masseuse available for those who wanted it!

I did make it in time for the announcements, where Jeff Boylan announced people as they made their grand entrances into the ballroom. As I walked in, I was completely blown away by how stunning the ballroom was with its crystal chandeliers, decorative moldings on the walls and ceilings, and French windows. It looked like a miniature version of the Hall of Mirrors at Versailles. The soft, yellow lighting made everyone look just absolutely beautiful. The buffet tables were close to the entrance and the dining tables surrounded the dance floor. The band Bangers & Mash, who play at PEERS events and the Dickens Fair, were playing charming period music throughout dinner. I sat with some fellow SF Browncoats and enjoyed the delicious food.

I was bowled over by how beautifully dressed everyone was. Guests were wearing everything from elegant and modern evening wear, to replicas of costumes from the TV show or movie (with some wearing

authentic ones such as myself), to original outfits that fit the look and theme of the 'Verse.

The costuming in the 'Verse is quite colorful and varied, and runs the gamut from Western, to Eastern, to historical periods such as the medieval and Graeco-Roman eras. So it was



Kaylee and Inara

a thrill to meet Shawna Trpcic and her husband Joe, who were at the table next to mine. Shawna designed the costumes for *Firefly*, and I was wearing one of her creations called the Whore's Dress from the episode *Heart of Gold*.

The dress is East Indian-inspired, complete with a long sheer shawl. It's embroidered in gold beads, especially the skirt, which was completely covered with them. It was quite an expensive purchase I had made on eBay when I found out about the Browncoat Ball at Wonder-Con last February. But it is so worth it: It fit me perfectly, no alterations needed, and the colors of bright pink

and turquoise really suit my coloring. Shawna said I really looked good in it!

There were other ladies dressed in costumes from the series. Two had Nandi's dresses from *Heart of Gold*, and one had Inara's gown from another episode I couldn't place. A few gentlemen were also wearing costumes designed by Shawna. So we all posed for photos with her, and compatriot Jonathan Logan, and I felt like a celebrity as dozens of cameras went flashing when we stepped onto the dance floor to have our pictures taken with her as a group.

The most striking of the costumes at the ball, however, were created by a lady who won the best costume prize for the evening. She apparently also won best costume at the Chicago Browncoat Ball in 2004. Unfortunately, the names of winners, who were voted on by the attendees, were announced too fast and I wasn't able to jot them down. And I never got a reply to an email I sent to Ray asking for the list. So if anyone can supply the names of the awards (and their clever and funny descriptions) and/or the winners' names that I wasn't able to remember, let me know and we will print them all in a subsequent issue. Here are the winners that I remember:

Joan Walton of Friday Night Waltz for keeping her cool while teaching the waltz class in the afternoon and creating



Joan Walton with Bangers and Mash

a dance based on the one performed in the episode *Shindig*. Her dance is called *Sir Warrick Harrow*, which had elements of English Country Dance, and everyone enjoyed learning and dancing it.

Alex Baker (a.k.a. Johanna's husband) got the Vera award for being the best armed in weapons and wit.

James from L.A. and James from S.F. both won the Fanty award for being the prettiest boy at the ball (based on Mal claiming to be able to distinguish twins Fanty and Mingo because "Fanty's prettier"). There were two winners because voters neglected to include a last name. Ironically, both

Jameses looked quite similar in some respects.

A blond young man won two awards, one of which was the Juggling Geese award. I can't remember the significance of the award, or the other award he won, but he came up to the podium wearing Arielle Kesweder's ballgown skirt.

Which led to Arielle's award for the girl most likely to lose her clothes by the end of the evening. Arielle, who's the sweetest, bubbliest girl I know, gamely claimed her prize wearing the pants of the guy that took her skirt. Or was it vice versa?

The big awards for the evening were Mr. and Miss Persephone, or the prom king and queen. The winners were my friends Glenn Martin and Celeste Miller who were wearing matching Alliance-style costumes. The Alliance are the ruling class in the 'Verse, which casts a shadow on the legitimacy of the balloting. Just kidding!



Prom King and Queen

Glenn and Celeste stood out not only with their fantastic costumes but also their regal air and presence.

By the way, the woman that won for best costume sewed and had on a replica of Kaylee's layer cake dress from *Shindig*,



Some of the ball's winners



Shawna Trpcic with her costume creations

but done with purple and lavender hues instead of pink and orange. She also made the costume of another woman, who had commissioned the Graeco-Roman inspired Inara gown from the same episode.

I really enjoyed the dancing, which consisted of waltzes, polkas, English country dance, mazurkas, schottisches, and of course, the Congress of Vienna. Some people came up to me and were

surprised they didn't know me because I seemed to know all the same dances they did. They were pleased to meet me and find out that I went to the same balls as they did.

It was also a lot of fun to see that I knew a lot of people there as well, both from my dance and sci fi realms, and in some cases from both. Emily and David Cole from PEERS were there and they called several

dances. Other dance friends included Mike, ballroom dance instructor Bud and his lovely wife Deborah. Sci fi acquaintances included Renee Balmert, founder of the SF Browncoats, photographer Oscar with his attractive date Kim, costumers extraordinaire Judy and A.J., and fellow Black Fleet Star Pirates' Guild members Debbie and Stephanie who both attend conventions, sci fi events and balls like I do.

I totally enjoyed everything about the ball: the food, spirits, laughter, music and dance with friends and kindred spirits in the heart of San Francisco. I felt like I was in a movie surrounded by stars in amazing costumes with a dazzling backdrop. It was definitely a unique and once-in-a-lifetime event.

Sadly, the ball ended at 11:00 p.m. and everyone went their separate ways. Some went to the Blue Sun Room "for more mellow entertainment," while others went to the nearby Swig nightclub. I had intended to go to one or the other after I went to a friend's wedding celebration in North Beach. I took a cab there, in my Indian *Firefly* gown, and drew lots of appreciative comments. I decided to spend the rest of the evening there and danced to Latin music and had some Mexican snacks. What an eclectic night to be sure!

I don't remember what time I got home but I'm sure I barely got any sleep that entire weekend. The next day, Sunday, I hoped to catch the later Chinatown tour at 1:30 p.m. as I wanted to enjoy the breakfast buffet and needed to check out of the B&B. However, when I got to the Marines' Memorial, I was told by a few people who were already there that the 1:30 p.m. tour had been canceled because no one signed up for it. Unfortunately, we had been told that we didn't need to sign up. Someone said we could catch up with the 11:00 a.m. tour but that was probably already winding down. Or we could meet up with some of the Browncoats who had gone to lunch instead.

I opted to go to the Folsom Street Fair, which was quite a different kind of experience entirely. (One that I probably won't recount in the pages of *SF/SF*.) I did run into some Browncoats from out of town there, and apparently some other Browncoats that I didn't catch a glimpse of went as well.

Other than the snafu with the Chinatown tour (which I really wanted to do, but then I'd already done it before, and I probably would have spent money that I shouldn't), the ball was undoubtedly a smashing success. Kudos to Ray, Ammy, and everyone who helped put the Browncoat Ball

and weekend together. It was a monumental task to get all the different events organized and put into action. My memories of that weekend will definitely last a lifetime.

Memories would definitely linger longer with photos and videos. Ray has asked people to send him photos to post on the web site and there are plans to create a souvenir DVD with everyone's full-size photos and video footage. I for one would love to have photos and videos to remember the event by forever, especially videos of the dancing. So send those photos and videos in!

For more information, visit:

www.browncoatball.com

www.browncoatball.com/photos.php

www.donetheimpossible.com

www.baers.org

www.peers.org/space.html

www.starryploughpub.com/dance.html

www.fireflycostumes.com

www.blackmarketbeagles.com

www.blackfleet.org

BASFA Minutes: meeting 845

October 2, 2006

Trey Haddad, President
Chris Garcia, Vice-President
Dave Gallaher, Treasurer
Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms
Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Began 8:00 [with talk of sports].

14 people attended.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 844 were accepted as 'pre-blurred.'

We established a party jar.

There was no Treasurer or Treasurer's report.

There was no VP - but surrogates reported that Chris did a lot of writing and was in a car accident which proves that 'fast food will kill you' & he's slogging away on issue #100 of 'Drink Tank.'

The President reminded the club that SiliCon is coming up this weekend and that BASFA can have a fan table there if we can get it manned.

The Party Committee asked since BayCon is moving hotels, should he plan to host a BASFA party at where ever the new site will be.

It was suggested that Trey check to see if the Hick'ry Pit would be used as a polling place for the November elections [Fred checked & it will]. So it was suggested that we consider meeting at an alternate site for that evening.

Announcements

Adrienne announced that there will be a 'hot brandy séance' on the last Saturday of the month in the Columbia Hotel in Columbia, CA.

Lisa announced that the League of Evil Geniuses will have a party at SiliCon.

Reviews:

Harold reviewed the 1st episode of 'Heroes' as he's not bothering to tape other episodes now; & reviewed 'The Man Who Tried to Clone Himself' as amusing and could be worth full price or library.

Frank reviewed 'The Science of Sleep' as a sweet, amusing little movie that's really

funny and totally worth matinee & reviewed 'The Discrete Charm of the Bourgeoisie' as a bit weird and bizarre, worth rental & reviewed 'In a Lonely Place' as film noir, as a great movie, very depressing and worth rental.

Sue reviewed Highway 88, going downhill - as her Prius was getting 100 MPG.

We auctioned off stuff - a box with rum & a T-shirt for \$36.00; cassettes for \$2.00; books for \$1.25, \$0.50, \$0.25, & a video for \$1.75.

We adjourned at 8:47 pm.

And the rumor of the week was 'If you write it, Chris'll print it.'

BASFA Minutes: meeting 846

October 9, 2006

Trey Haddad, President
Chris Garcia, Vice-President
Dave Gallaher, Treasurer
Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms
Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Began 8:01 [with me eating prawns].

22 people attended.

We established a party jar.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 845 were accepted as 'nicely kluged Mr. Trembley.'

Treasurer's report: we took in \$24.25 in the regular jar & \$33.50 in the party jar at meeting 844 & took in \$16.50 last week in the regular jar & \$45.75 in the party jar at meeting 845.

The VP reported that the TAFF ballot is out ['Chris for TAFF'], 'Drink Tank' #100 is almost done & then his hair will stop falling out, there's a new 'SF/SF' out & he worked SiliCcon; then [tall] Kevin follow-on'd about TAFF balloting.

The President asked us to seriously consider where we'll hold the Nov 6 BASFA meeting; we voted and pending availability will hold it at the Fremont Round Table, with [tall] Kevin checking on its availability.

The Party Committee reported that he sold 4 BASFA memberships at SiliCon & he asked questions about holding BASFA parties at BayCon & Westercon.

Announcements

Dave C announced that Terry Pratchett is doing 1 signing in Petaluma at Copperfield's next Sunday [at 3:30?] & announced that Dave Clark appeared in the premiere of 'Studio 60' & was mentioned as a suspect on 'Law & Order.'

[evil] Kevin announced that CostumeCon 26 signed a contract with the SJ Doubletree for April 25-28, 2008.

Chris announced the AhwahneeCon 2009 bid has begun & that there's likely to be a bid for SquatterCon 2010 at the LASFS clubhouse; and we established an AhwahneeCon Exploratory Committee, headed by Chris Garcia.

Dave G announced that he has a flyer for the San Mateo Marriott and passed it around.

Reviews:

SiliCon was multiply reviewed: [tall] Kevin reviewed it as a better fit for the San Mateo Marriott, as very quiet and low energy; Andy reviewed it as a good con for nightlife, with almost as many parties as at BayCon & the League of Evil Genius party was well-attended & the Coffee Garden ['was still crappy' = evil Kevin] was in decline & all-in-all there were lots of cries for 'Chris for TAFF'; [evil] Kevin commented that he got to buukd a volcano and crash 2 planes into it & he could be seen in a very sharp-looking suit on Friday; Chris reviewed it as he enjoyed working the newsletter, liked interviewing Mr. Lobo, enjoyed the parties and talking with friends and he had a really good time and is exhausted and thought it worth full price; Howeird took pictures, one of which he photo-shopped amusingly & 3 that he donated to the BASFA archives; I reviewed it as a fun time, that I enjoyed working on the newsletter and not having what I wrote snipped & thought the con was a bit low energy but the parties were good; Lisa reviewed it as quiet and she missed panels because she was sitting a fan table

and the parties were good; Ed reviewed it as he spent most of his time throwing the BASFA parties & didn't see much of the con & Trey reviewed it as both anime and gaming seemed smaller than last year.

Julie reviewed the EDA tech forum, that she got swag and the food was first rate and Watts Wacker gave a good discussion and she won an iPod Nano in a drawing & it's worth free if you're invited to one.

Dave C reviewed the Northern California Independent Booksellers Association trade

show - sponsored by the Slow Talkers of America - at the Oakland Convention center as he got a trunk-load of swag and could have used a pack mule and it was worth full price.

Chris reviewed the 'most worst thing human kind has ever done' a DVD, 'Requiem for a Vampire' as 'monkeys couldn't save this movie' & even having full frontal lesbian sex couldn't save this movie; 'it was wretched' and makes 'Vegas in Space' look like 'Citizen Kane' & that it was worth full price, \$1.00; there were many follow-on's.

Harold reviewed 'Jet Li's Fearless' as it had beautiful visuals, an interesting story, it was excellent and worth full price.

We auctioned off stuff - a Spiderman rosary for \$1.50; a coffee mug for \$1.50; cards for \$1.00 & a comic and an SF/SF for \$1.50.

We adjourned at 9:34 pm.

And the rumor of the week was 'the proceeds of the BASFA slave auction will go to fund Chris for TAFF.'

BASFA Minutes: meeting 847

October 16, 2006

Trey Haddad, President
Chris Garcia, Vice-President
Dave Gallaher, Treasurer
Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms
Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Began 8:00.

18 people attended.

We established a party jar.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 846 were accepted as 'I'm crushing your head.'

There was no Treasurer, but the proxy Treasurer's report was 'we have money.'

There was no VP, but he had been there earlier and gave Dave C his last print copy of the TAFF ballot to guard ['Chris for TAFF'].

The President reported that breathing is

good, even fans do it.

The Party Committee reminded folks to volunteer to help him run the BASFA Further Confusion party & he's made party room reservations for BASFA parties at BayCon & Westercon & he's run out of BASFA badge ribbons.

The AhwaneeCon committee reported that typos in the flyers have been corrected.

Adrienne proposed that BASFA do a gift

exchange because it seems fun but the motion failed for lack of a second.

Announcements

Lisa announced that CostumeCon 26 has sold 106 memberships.

Adrienne announced that the 'hot brandy séance' in the Columbia hotel in Columbia, CA has been postponed to sometime in November or December-and she'll keep us informed

I announced that SubLevel 3 will be 'Special Musical Guests' at FurtherConfusion 2007.

Reviews:

Andy reviewed Vinticon as Murphy, CA is a charming little town with tasting rooms every 3 doors, the Chinese restaurant they ate at was mediocre, that they drank scary wines [like 'Undead Red'], the scavenger wine hunt was a brilliant idea, but suggested that visiting fewer wineries per day would leave the participants with more energy to do other things [like play games till 1 a.m.] & that Twisted Oak winery is a must see; that Vinticon was worth full price, including the drive; [evil] Kevin follow-on'd that despite the wedding that took over Murphy they were still helped by many people.

Harold reviewed 'Static' by Amy and David Goodman as depressing and infuriating and very interesting - probably worth full price.

Dave C reviewed 'Al Franken's God Spoke' as a documentary, rather fun and worth matinee

Adrienne reviewed 'Man of the Year' as really fun, with Williams doing Mork-like antics and there were a lot of good lines in it; she enjoyed it; she also reviewed Masterpiece Theatre's 'Casanova' with Peter O'Toole as she kind of likes that sort of stuff and she liked it, thought it worth seeing.

Fred reviewed 'This Movie is Not Yet Rated' as absolutely excellent, he recommends it highly & is worth full price, or buy the DVD.

Trey reviewed 'Open Season' so you don't have to as he had few expectations when he went in and even with his lowered expectations was disappointed.

Dave C also commented about talking cows and asked what happened to 'Monster House.'

We auctioned off stuff - books & a DVD for

\$1.75 [to the proxy Chris]; coffee mugs for \$0.75; books for \$1.25 & \$1.50; cassettes for \$1.50 & a poster for \$1.00.

We adjourned at 9:15 pm.

And the rumor of the week was 'Open Season indicted for serial time-killing.'

Join our Crew

We are looking for writers to cover local events, conventions, fan groups and the fannish scene in general.

Contact Jean Martin and Chris Garcia at: **SFinSF@gmail.com**

Bay Area Fannish Calendar

While some effort (OK, OK, damn little effort) is made to verify event listings, please check before attending, as events are sometimes cancelled or times and locations changed.

New listings are in **red**.
Ongoing events are toward the back.

Wednesday, October 25

Author: Valerie Frankel
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street
San Francisco
7 p.m.
Free
www.borderlands-books.com

October 25-31

Extreme Scream
RSVP Event Center
899 Kifer Road
Sunnyvale
\$24.95
www.theextremescream.com
Featuring three separate haunted houses (including one for kids, and one for those over 12 only).

Thursday, October 26

SF in SF: Richard Kadrey and Adam Cornford

Valencia Theatre
New College
777 Valencia Street
San Francisco
7 p.m.
\$4

SF's Sci Fi author reading series, with discussion after.

Thursday, October 26

Army of Darkness (1993)
Parkway Speakeasy Theater
1834 Park Blvd.
Oakland
9:15 p.m.
\$5

Thursday-Sunday, October 26-29

Shock It To Me!
Castro Theatre
429 Castro Street
San Francisco
The San Francisco Halloween Horror Film Festival. Details at www.myspace.com/shockit2me.

October 26-31

Dragon's Head Inn
1200-1500 Valley House Drive
Rohnert Park
8 p.m. til late

www.dragonsheadinn.com
Sonoma County's major haunted house returns with a new location, Thursdays through Sundays in October plus Monday & Tuesday Oct. 30-31.

October 26-November 11

Shocktoberfest
The Hypnodrome
575 10th Street
San Francisco
Thursdays-Saturdays 8 p.m.
\$20-\$60
www.hypnodrome.com
The Thrillpeddlers present their seventh annual Halloween season revue, with three new tales of terror and taboo inspired by the notorious Theatre du Grand Guignol.

Friday, October 27

Rock 'n' Roll Horror Show
The Rickshaw Stop
155 Fell Street
San Francisco
7:30 p.m.
\$5-\$10 donation
www.sfindie.com
A screening of *Street Trash (1987)* and performances by Sik Luv, Wire Graffiti, Charm School Dropouts, and Madelia. 18 & up, all proceeds benefit SF Independent Film Festival.

Friday, October 27

Dynamite DinoNight

California Academy of Sciences

875 Howard Street

San Francisco

6:30 p.m.

\$350/family (2 adults + up to 3 children)

The Academy's 15th Annual Halloween Party, a kid-friendly event. Reservations required: 415-321-8405.

Friday, October 27

Halloween Costume Bash

Masonic Hall

2312 Alameda Ave.

Alameda

8 p.m.

\$25 at the door, \$20 in advance

www.spellbindingtales.com

A grownups-only costume-dance party to benefit the Alameda Food Bank, co-sponsored by Spellbinding Tales and The Alameda Sun.

Friday, October 27

Lunar Lounge Express Halloween Party

Chabot Space Science Center

10000 Skyline Blvd.

Oakland

8-11 p.m.

\$15, \$10 for students

510-336-7373

Come in costume and party under the stars with live music by Flying Venus.

Friday, October 27

Midnight Movie Spooktacular

Camera 7 Cinema

1875 S. Bascom Avenue

Campbell

\$7

Halloween movie event with guest appearances and free giveaways.

Friday, October 27

Thrillville's Halloween Spookylau:

The Crawling Eye (1958)

Copia

500 First Street

Napa

8 p.m.

\$6

Hosted by Speakeasy Theaters programmer and local lounge lizard Will "the Thrill" Viharo and his lovely wife and stage assistant, Monica, Tiki Goddess. Guest appearance by Cinema Insomnia host Mr. Lobo.

Friday & Saturday, October 27-28

Ghost Train

Roaring Camp & Big Trees Railroad

Felton

6:30 p.m.

\$25

Ride a steam train through a haunted forest.

Reservations required: 1-888-25EVENT.

Friday and Saturday, October 27-28

Late Night Picture Show:

The Monster Squad (1987)

Clay Theatre

2261 Fillmore

San Francisco

Midnight

\$9.75

www.landmarkafterdark.com

Friday and Saturday, October 27-28

Midnight Special: Evil Dead II (1987)

Shattuck Cinemas

2230 Shattuck Ave.

Berkeley

\$8

www.landmarkafterdark.com

Friday and Saturday, October 27-28

Midnight Madness: The Shining (1980)

Aquarius Theatre

430 Emerson Street

Palo Alto

\$8

www.landmarkafterdark.com

Friday and Saturday, October 27-28

Rocky Horror Picture Show

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

Midnight

\$6

www.parkway-speakeasy.com

Barely Legal Productions adds a Friday night show for Halloween weekend, with extra games and prizes. No one under 17 admitted.

Friday-Sunday, October 27-29

Young Frankenstein: The Play

The Dark Room Theatre

2263 Mission Street

San Francisco

Fri. & Sat. at 8 p.m., Sun. at 3 p.m.

\$15

www.darkroomsf.com/youngfrankenstein

Saturday, October 28

Bay Area Games Day

Los Altos Public Library

13 S. San Antonio Road

Los Altos

10 a.m.

\$1

Regular event featuring German-style strategy boardgames like Settlers of Catan, Avalon Hill-type multiplayer games, lots of card games, and historical board wargames.

Saturday, October 28

BeefBowl Anime

Albany Library

1247 Marin Avenue

Albany

12:15ish-4:15 p.m.

Free

See the screening list at beefbowl.org

Saturday, October 28

Spooky Science Lab Halloween Party

Chabot Space Science Center

10000 Skyline Blvd.

Oakland

10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Free with museum admission (adults \$13, children \$9)

www.chabotspace.org

Characters will appear in costume; so should you. A kid-friendly event.

Saturday, October 28

For Crying Out Loud:

A Reading by Lemony Snicket

Capuchino High School

1501 Magnolia Ave.

San Bruno

2 p.m.

650-685-4911

Sponsored by Books, Inc. in Burlingame; with illustrator Brett Helquist and music by The Gothic Archies featuring Lemony Snicket on percussion. (No info yet on obtaining tickets.)

Saturday, October 28

Extreme Scream Halloween Party

RSVP Event Center

899 Kifer Road

Sunnyvale

\$65

Doors open 6:30 p.m.

www.theextremescream.com

With The Greg Kihn Band; \$2,500 prize for best costume. 21+ only.

Saturday, October 28

Let's Talk About Ghosts

Spellbinding Tales

1910A Encinal Avenue

Alameda

7 p.m.

Free

With ghost tracker and author Gloria Young.

Saturday, October 28

The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari (1919)

Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum

37417 Niles Blvd.

Fremont

7:30 p.m.

\$5

With the Buster Keaton short *The Haunted House (1921)*.

Saturday, October 28

Laitala's Halloween Spooktacular

ATA Gallery

992 Valencia Street

San Francisco

8:30 p.m.

\$5

Other Cinema presents a collection of scary shorts, including Mary Ellen Bute's *Spook Sport (1940)*, Clifton Childree's *She Sank on Shallow Bank (2005)*, David Cox's *Doctor Yes*, Scott Beach's *World of Wax*, and more.

Saturday, October 28

Warp 11: "Halloween Scary Love Fest"

G Street Pub

228 G Street

Davis

10 p.m.

Ages 21+

Sacramento's Star Trek-themed rock band performs such hits as "Red Alert" and "Rage Against the Federation." With The Brodys.

Saturday, October 28

Midnight Movie Spooktacular

Camera 12 Cinema

201 South Second Street

San Jose

\$7

Halloween movie event with guest appearances and free giveaways.

Sunday, October 29

The Elm Street Murders

Club Six
60 Sixth Street
San Francisco
7:30 p.m.

\$20
415-863-1221
The Chainsaw Mafia returns with more “interactive splatter theater” in a parody of *Nightmare on Elm Street*.

Monday, October 30

Cemetery Man (1994)
Shaun of the Dead (2004)
SARS Wars: Bangkok Zombie Crisis (2004)
Preview Room
Variety Children’s Charity
582 Market Street
San Francisco
7 p.m.
Free
Borderlands Books and Variety Children’s Charity invite you to a Halloween Super Zombie triple feature. Refreshments will be available for purchase, and your purchase supports Variety’s efforts to aid disabled, disadvantaged, abused and neglected kids. Doors open at 6:30.

Monday, October 30

Independent Exposure - Halloweird Edition
111 Minna Gallery
111 Minna Street
San Francisco
8 p.m.
\$6 (21+)

microcinema.com
Microcinema International presents a dozen weird, creepy, gross, odd and strange shorts made by moving image artists from around the world.

Monday, October 30

Ask a Scientist:
Attention and Memory
The Bazaar Café
5927 California Street
San Francisco
7 p.m.
Free
With Prof. Adam Gazzaley, neuroscientist from UCSF.

Tuesday, October 31

Winchester Mystery House Flashlight Tour
Winchester Mystery House
525 South Winchester Blvd.
San Jose
408-247-2101
6:30 p.m.- midnight
\$35
Advance ticket purchase advised. Cosplayers will be reportedly be gathering in the garden again this year to take/pose for pictures (the garden tour is free!).

Tuesday, October 31

PHANTASM: (in)visible Bodies & Haunted Spaces
Space Gallery
1141 Polk Street
San Francisco
415-377-3325

7 p.m.
Halloween closing party for this group art exhibition.

Tuesday, October 31

Evil Dead 2 (1987)
The Red Vic Movie House
1727 Haight Street
San Francisco
7:15 and 9:15 p.m.
\$8

Tuesday, October 31

The Monster of Phantom Lake (2006)
Parkway Speakeasy Theater
1834 Park Blvd.
Oakland
9:15 p.m.
\$5
www.monsterofphantomlake.com
A new indy film pays tribute to the B-horror movies of the 50s.

October 31-November 12

Bat Boy: The Musical
School of the Arts Theatre
555 Portola Drive
San Francisco
\$26-\$36
Special Halloween show \$21
roltheatre.com
Musical comedy explores what happens when a group of teenagers discovers a half-bat, half-human creature in a small town in West Virginia.

Thursday, November 2

Once More With Feeling

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

9:15 p.m.

Free

The Parkway offers a free screening of the famous sing-a-long episode of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, with trivia, prizes and fan-fare.

Friday, November 3

Bioengineering: Rebuilding the Human Body from Ceramic Hips to Silicon Chips

Mechanics' Institute

57 Post Street

San Francisco

Noon

\$12

www.milibrary.org/events.html

Speaker TBA; part of the Institute's "Science Salon" series.

Friday and Saturday, November 3-4

Late Night Picture Show: Evil Dead II (1987)

Clay Theatre

2261 Fillmore

San Francisco

Midnight

\$9.75

www.landmarkafterdark.com

Friday and Saturday, November 3-4

Midnight Special: Donnie Darko (2001)

Shattuck Cinemas

2230 Shattuck Ave.

Berkeley

\$8

www.landmarkafterdark.com

Friday and Saturday, November 3-4

Midnight Madness: Alien (1979)

Aquarius Theatre

430 Emerson Street

Palo Alto

\$8

www.landmarkafterdark.com

Friday-Sunday, November 3-5

BASCon

Embassy Suites

250 Gateway Boulevard

South San Francisco

\$75

www.bascon.org

The Bay Area Slash Convention returns. Adults only. For all your Kirk/Spock fanfic needs.

November 3-18

The Curse of the Goddamned Ship

Dark Room Theatre

2263 Mission Street

San Francisco

Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.

\$10

www.darkroomsf.com/goddamned/

An evening of absurd theater, dark comedy and music of the sea aboard a ship of damned fools.

Saturday, November 4

Le Bal des Vampires

PEERS Event

Alameda Elks Lodge

2255 Santa Clara Avenue

Alameda

6:30 p.m.-midnight

\$17.50 in advance (by October 28), \$25 at the door

www.peers.org

The annual fancy dress ball for the Undead and their admirers. Ballroom dancing plus the Dracula's Daughter Discotheque & Bar.

Saturday, November 4

Wonderfest

Hewlett Teaching Center

Stanford University

Palo Alto

1 p.m.

Free

www.wonderfest.org

Day One of a free two-day public conference featuring dialogues between eminent researchers on topics such as string theory, black holes, and human aging, plus entertainment and presentation of the Carl Sagan Prize for Science Popularization.

Saturday, November 4

Morbid Curiosity: The Final Reading

Luna's Café and Juice Bar

1414 16th Street

Sacramento

916-441-3931

With *Morbid Curiosity* contributors Keith Lowell Jensen, Becca Costello, John Domeier, and M. Parfitt, emceed by editor Loren Rhoads.

Sunday, November 5

Wonderfest

Andersen Auditorium

University of California
Berkeley

10 a.m.

Free

www.wonderfest.org

Wonderfest moves to the Berkeley campus (Go Bears) for Day Two. (See November 4 listing.)

Sunday, November 5

Horror Bus (2005)

Rafael Film Center

1114 Fourth Street

San Rafael

cafilm.org

4 p.m.

\$6.50

Pieter Kuijpers' film based on a popular Dutch series of books about children and the supernatural by Paul van Loon.

Wednesday, November 8

Transit of Mercury

Chabot Space Science Center

10000 Skyline Blvd.

Oakland

11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Free with museum admission

www.chabotspace.org

View this relatively rare journey by Mercury across the face of the Sun, as viewed from Earth (it won't happen again for another 10 years). Visitors can see the progress on the Center's TV monitors and participate in hands-on activities.

Thursday, November 9

Thrillville: Shatfest

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

9:15 p.m.

\$6

Thrillville's tribute to William Shatner, including a screening of *Impulse (1974)*.

Friday, November 10

Late Night Picture Show:

The Toxic Avenger (1985)

Clay Theatre

2261 Fillmore

San Francisco

Midnight

\$9.75

www.landmarkafterdark.com

Friday and Saturday, November 10-11

Midnight Special:

A Clockwork Orange (1971)

Shattuck Cinemas

2230 Shattuck Ave.

Berkeley

\$8

www.landmarkafterdark.com

Saturday, November 11

Author: Ellen Klages

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

3 p.m.

Free

www.borderlands-books.com

Saturday, November 11

For Crying Out Loud:

A Reading by Lemony Snicket

Book Passage

51 Tamal Vista Blvd.

Corte Madera

11 a.m.

415-927-0960

With music by The Gothic Archies featuring Lemony Snicket on percussion. Customers will receive a ticket with purchase of a copy of *The End* (\$12.99), the final installment in the *Series of Unfortunate Events* books.

Saturday, November 11

Vegas in Space (1991)

Clay Theatre

2261 Fillmore

San Francisco

Midnight

\$12

www.landmarkafterdark.com

A midnight screening of the first all-drag-queen Sci-Fi musical ever – with host Peaches Christ and guests.

Saturday, November 11

Warp 11: "A 23rd Century Thanksgiving"

Old Ironsides

1901 10th Street

Sacramento

9 pm

Sacramento's Star Trek-themed rock band performs such hits as "She Make It So" and "Boldly Go Down on Me." With Special Guest TBD.

Saturday, November 11

Other Magazine Presents

Writers with Drinks
The Make-Out Room
3225 22nd Street
San Francisco

7:30 p.m.

\$3-\$5 sliding scale

Writers: K.E. Silva, Madeleine Robins, and
Katie Hafner.

Sunday, November 12

Author: Deborah Grabien

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

1 p.m.

Free

www.borderlands-books.com

Sunday, November 12

Authors: Tim Pratt and Heather Shaw

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

3 p.m.

Free

www.borderlands-books.com

Readings their works from *Year's Best Fantasy*
6.

Sunday, November 12

Ask a Scientist:

Why Do We Study Monkeys?

The Canvas Gallery

1200 9th Avenue

San Francisco

7 p.m.

Free

With Prof. Alexander "Sandy" Harcourt, UC
Davis Dept. of Anthropology; presented in
association with the Leakey Foundation.

Sunday, November 12

For Crying Out Loud:

A Reading by Lemony Snicket

First Congregational Church

2345 Channing Way

Berkeley

3 p.m.

\$3

510-559-9500

With music by The Gothic Archies featuring
Lemony Snicket on percussion. Presented by
Cody's Books; tickets for sale at Cody's stores.

Sunday, November 12

Blind Guardian

The Fillmore

1805 Geary Boulevard

San Francisco

German progressive rock band tours "A
Twist in the Myth," their new album. "They
previously did an entire album, 'Nightside on
Middle Earth' based on Tolkien's Silmarillion
and a song called 'The Lord of the Rings' is
on an earlier album. Definitely a band heavily
influenced by fantasy themes."— Jack Avery.

Friday, November 17

Bioethics and Beyond: Nature vs.

Nanotechnology

Mechanics' Institute

57 Post Street

San Francisco

Noon

\$12

www.milibrary.org/events.html

Speaker TBA; part of the Institute's "Science
Salon" series.

Friday and Saturday, November 17-18

Late Night Picture Show:

Godzilla, Mothra and King Ghidorah Giant

Monsters All-Out Attack (2001)

Clay Theatre

2261 Fillmore

San Francisco

Midnight

\$9.75

www.landmarkafterdark.com

Saturday, November 18

Borderlands Ninth Anniversary Sale

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

Noon-8 p.m.

www.borderlands-books.com

Saturday, November 18

Pas D'Armes

Society for Creative Anachronism Event

Elk Glen

Golden Gate Park

San Francisco

Opening ceremonies 11 a.m.

Site fee \$5 (\$10 family), repast \$10, non-
members +\$3 (The Hospitallers of St. Bahb the
Martyr will subsidize the non-members fee).

www.cloondara.org

Friday and Saturday, November 24-25

Late Night Picture Show: Brazil (1985)

Clay Theatre

2261 Fillmore

San Francisco

Midnight

\$9.75

www.landmarkafterdark.com

Friday-Sunday, November 24-26

J-Rock Connection

Santa Clara Marriott

2700 Mission College Blvd.

Santa Clara

www.j-rock.info

Weekend-long celebration of J-rock, cosplay, and Japanese street fashion; live acts include Kama Shenjing, Hagakure, Serafilia, and Mars.

November 24-December 23

Dickens Christmas Fair

Exhibition Hall

The Cow Palace

Daly City

11 a.m.-7 p.m.

\$20

www.dickensfair.com

An appallingly exciting experience of no ordinary cleverness. Dickens' London opens for business the Friday after Thanksgiving and continues weekends through Dec. 23 with gifts, food, costumes, dance parties, etc. (Free admission during opening weekend for "timeplayers" who have submitted their Victorian personae in advance and arrive in period costume — see website for details.)

Saturday, November 25

Toys for Tots Toy Drive

Toys R Us

1660 Commercial Way

Santa Cruz

11 a.m.-4 p.m.

831-479-4296

Costumed fans turn out in force for a good cause; sponsored by the Golden Gate Garrison-501st Stormtrooper Legion.

Saturday, November 25

Kaiju! Giant Monsters Attack!

ATA Gallery

992 Valencia Street

San Francisco

8:30 p.m.

\$5

Other Cinema presents Japanese monster film enthusiasts Patrick Macias and David Cox discussing and sharing clips of Godzilla, Mothra, Gamera, Rodan, and the rest.

Tuesday, November 28

American Scary (2006)

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

9:15 p.m.

\$5

www.americanscary.com

Local premiere of a new documentary film about television horror hosts, including local legends Bob Wilkins, John Stanley and Mr. Lobo; with filmmaker Sandy Clark and other guests.

Saturday, December 2

Super Toy, Comic Book, Record and Collectible Show

Santa Clara County Fairgrounds

344 Tully Road

San Jose

\$5 (early bird admission \$15)

www.timetunneltoys.com/toyshow.html

Thursday, December 7

Thrillville: The Giant Claw (1957)

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

9:15 p.m.

\$7

Hosted by Speakeasy Theaters programmer and local lounge lizard Will "the Thrill" Viharo and his lovely wife and stage assistant, Monica, Tiki Goddess. With the Twilight Vixen Revue live on stage.

Sunday, December 10

Sac-Con

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street

Sacramento

10 a.m.-5 p.m.

\$6

www.sacanime.com

Comic, toy and anime show, usually has an anime costume contest. Guests include *ST: TNG*'s Denise Crosby (Tasha Yar) and Tony Todd (Kurn).

Saturday, December 16

Otaku Bowl

Details to follow

Winter edition of the event where bowling, anime and cosplay meet. Video room, costume contest, artist alley/swap meet and random bowling fun.

Tuesday, December 19

Ask a Scientist's Holiday Trivia Party

The Bazaar Café
5927 California Street
San Francisco
7 p.m.
Free

A rollicking night of science trivia, hosted by the Exploratorium's Robin Marks.

Friday-Sunday, January 5-7

Fangoria's Weekend of Horrors

DoubleTree Hotel
2050 Gateway Place
San Jose
\$49-\$169, single-day tickets available
www.creationent.com

A Creation Convention. Costume contest, indy film room, dealer's room; guests include George Romero (*Night of the Living Dead*, *Dawn of the Dead*).

Saturday, January 6

Victorian 12th Night Ball

PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 N. Ellsworth
San Mateo
\$15 in advance (by December 20), \$20 at the door
www.peers.org

A.k.a. The Dickens Fair Reunion Ball. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Saturday-Sunday, January 13-14

Sac-Anime
Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street
Sacramento
\$6 - \$10
www.sacanime.com
Anime convention featuring viewing room, art contest, vendor's room, costume ball, J-pop concert, more.

January 18-22

Further Confusion 2007
DoubleTree Hotel
2050 Gateway Place
San Jose
\$45
www.furtherconfusion.org
The Bay Area's major Furry con. Art show, dealer's room, costume contest, more.

Saturday, February 3

Gotham City Black and White Ball
PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 N. Ellsworth
San Mateo
\$15 in advance (by January 27), \$20 at the door
www.peers.org
Bruce Wayne requests the pleasure of your company. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

February 16-19

Pantheacon
DoubleTree Hotel
2050 Gateway Place
San Jose
www.ancientways.com/pantheacon
Annual Pagan gathering with workshops, lectures, performances, rituals, drumming, dancing, costume contests, and crafts.

February 16-19

DunDraCon
San Ramon Marriott
2600 Bishop Drive
San Ramon
\$50 at the door (\$30 until October 31)
www.dundracon.com
Annual gaming con, with RPGs, board and card games, miniatures and more.

Tuesday, February 27

Author: China Mieville
Booksmith
1644 Haight Street
San Francisco
415-863-8688
7 p.m.
Free

Friday-Sunday, March 2-4

WonderCon
Moscone Center South
747 Howard Street
San Francisco
www.comic-con.org/wc/
Comic book/media convention with panels, dealers, summer movie previews, anime,

costume contest, more.

Friday-Sunday, March 2-4

Consonance

Crowne Plaza Silicon Valley

777 Bellew Drive

Milpitas

\$45 at the door (\$35 until October 31)

www.consonance.org

The annual Bay Area filk convention.

Saturday, March 3

Merry Widow Waltz Ball

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 N. Ellsworth

San Mateo

\$15 in advance (by February 24), \$20 at the door

www.peers.org

Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Sunday, March 11

Sac-Con

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street

Sacramento

10 a.m.-5 p.m.

\$6

Comic, toy and anime show, usually has an anime costume contest.

Friday-Sunday, March 16-18

Rakkasah West

Richmond Auditorium

403 Civic Center Plaza

Richmond

www.rakkasah.com

Billed as the largest bellydance festival and fantasy bazaar in the world. Details to follow.

Friday-Sunday, March 16-18

Con-X-treme

DoubleTree Hotel

2050 Gateway Place

San Jose

www.con-x-treme.com

Few details as yet on this con devoted to anime, science fiction, fantasy, martial arts, and cosplay.

Saturday, April 7

Red Carpet Ball

(1930s Hollywood Academy Award Ball)

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 N. Ellsworth

San Mateo

\$15 in advance (by March 31), \$20 at the door

www.peers.org

Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

(There's a glamorous calendar available at

www.cafepress.com/peers.75762076)

Saturday-Sunday, April 21-22

APE (Alternative Press Expo)

Concourse Exhibition Center

620 7th Street

San Francisco

www.comic-con.org/ape/

Billed as the nation's largest show devoted to alternative and self-published comics; announced guests include Art Spiegelman (*Maus*).

Saturday, May 5

Sleeping Beauty's Christening Fantasy Ball

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 N. Ellsworth

San Mateo

\$15 in advance (by April 28), \$20 at the door

www.peers.org

Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Friday-Monday, May 25-28

BayCon

Marriott San Mateo

1770 South Amphlett Blvd.

San Mateo

www.baycon.org

\$75 at the door (\$50 until December 31)

25th Anniversary Edition of the largest annual general SF convention in Northern California.

Diverse panels, dealer's room, art show, masquerade, anime room, hall costumes, gaming, much more.

Friday-Monday, May 25-28

FanimeCon

San Jose Convention Center

San Jose

www.fanime.com

\$40 until October 31

The Bay Area's largest annual anime convention returns. Dealer's room, panels, costume contest, J-pop concert, more.

Friday-Sunday, June 1-3

Dollectable

Clarion Hotel SFO

401 E. Millbrae Ave.

Millbrae

www.bjdcon.com

\$65 at the door (\$40 until December 1)

A convention for enthusiasts and collectors of Asian-style ball-jointed dolls.

Saturday, June 2

Space Cowboys' Ball

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 N. Ellsworth

San Mateo

\$15 in advance (by May 26), \$20 at the door

www.peers.org

Browncoats, take note. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Saturday-Tuesday, June 30-July 3

Westercon 60: Gnomeward Bound

Marriott San Mateo

1770 South Amphlett Blvd.

San Mateo

spfi.org/westercon60/

Guests of Honor: Tad Williams, Theresa

Mather, Christian McGuire

Toastmaster: Jay Lake

Friday-Monday, August 3-6

MythCon 38

Clark Kerr Center

2601 Warring Street

Berkeley

www.mythsoc.org

\$60, \$50 for Mythopoeic Society members

The annual Mythopoeic Conference returns to Berkeley with Guests of Honor Ellen Kushner and Delia Sherman.

Saturday, August 4

Pride & Prejudice Picnic

PEERS Event

No details yet on this event. www.peers.org

September 1, 2007

Mikado Ball

(A Gilbert and Sullivan Cast Party)

PEERS Event

No details yet on this dance. www.peers.org

September 28-30, 2007

Creation's Salute to Star Trek

DoubleTree Hotel

2001 Point West Way

Sacramento

A Creation con to celebrate the 20th

Anniversary of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*.

Details to follow.

October 6, 2007

Edwardian Gothic Ball

PEERS Event

Edwardian as in macabre illustrator Edward

Gorey. www.peers.org

November 3, 2007

Le Bal des Vampires

PEERS Event

Gotta love a group that plans this far in advance, particularly since they have a good track record of actually holding their events as scheduled. No further details available yet.

www.peers.org

April 25-28, 2008

CostumeCon 26

DoubleTree Hotel

2050 Gateway Place

San Jose

www.cc26.info

CostumeCon will be coming to Silicon Valley in 2008. Further details to follow.

Ongoing:

Daily

San Francisco Ghost Hunt

Walking Tour

Begins: Queen Anne Hotel

1590 Sutter at Octavia

San Francisco

7 p.m. – 10 p.m.

\$20

www.sfgghosthunt.com

Mondays

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org

Mondays

Dukefish

Jake's of Sunnyvale

174 E. Fremont Avenue

Sunnyvale

Gather: 8 p.m, games: 8:30 p.m.

Dukefish is a bunch of people who get together to play board games and, sometimes, bridge every week.

Mondays and Wednesdays

Silicon Valley Boardgamers

Match Play

San Antonio Shopping Center

Mountain View

7 p.m.

\$2

Group meets regularly to play mostly German-style strategy boardgames such as Settlers of Catan; also multiplayer Avalon Hill-style, historical wargames, and others.

Wednesdays

Bay Area Role-Playing Society

Go-Getter's Pizza

1489 Beach Park Boulevard

Foster City

6 p.m.-10 p.m.

www.BayRPS.com

Hosts a weekly game night. For club and game night details email GM@BayRPS.com.

Wednesdays

East Bay Strategy Games Club

EndGame

921 Washington

Oakland

7:30 p.m.-11 p.m.

Free

www.michaeldashow.com/eastbaystrategy/home.html

Fridays

SF Games

Muddy's Coffeehouse

1304 Valencia Street near 24th

San Francisco

7 p.m. to midnight

Free

vax.hanford.org/dk/games

SF Games is a collective name for a bunch of people who get together and play board games and card games every week. Also has a cards night on Tuesdays at Café Macondo, 3159 16th Street between Guerrero and Valencia.

Fridays-Mondays

Haunted Haight Walking Tour

Meets at PlanetWeavers/Genesis Store

1573 Haight Street (at Clayton)

San Francisco

7 p.m.-9 p.m.

\$20

www.hauntedhaight.com

Reservations required.

Fridays and Saturdays

Vampire Walking Tour

Meets corner of California and Taylor

San Francisco

8 p.m.

\$20

www.sfvampiretour.com

Led by Mina Harker. Tour is cancelled if there is heavy rain.

Saturdays

Rocky Horror Picture Show

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

Midnight

\$6

www.picturepubpizza.com

Barely Legal Productions presents the classic midnight movie every Saturday night. No one under 17 admitted.

Biweekly

PenSFA Party

The Peninsula Science Fantasy Association meets every two weeks for a party at the home of one of their members. They also host parties at local conventions. Email commander@pensfa.org for information on attending. PenSFA standard party rules: bring something edible or drinkable to share, or pay the host \$2. Don't smoke in the house without checking with the host first. Normal start time is 8 p.m. but may vary depending on the host.

Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers' Group

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

Meets the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 6 pm. Contact Jade Livingston at sfscifi@yahoo.com for more information.

Monthly

Dorkbot-SF

Free, donations welcome

www.dorkbot.org/dorkbotsf/

Dorkbot hosts regular forums for artists, designers, engineers, students, and other people doing strange things with electricity.

Fantastic Frontiers

www.freewebs.com/fantasticfrontiers/

Social club for Sacramento County Sci Fi

Fantasy fans usually meets the second Saturday of the month. Check website for meeting times and locations.

Foothill Anime

Building 5015, Foothill College
Los Altos Hills
Free

Monthly event where people can get together to watch anime and meet like minded others. Usually meets the first Sunday of every month at noon.

Legion of Rassilon

Carl's Junior
2551 N. First Street
San Jose
7:30 p.m.
Free

www.legionofrassilon.org
Doctor Who fan group usually meets the fourth Friday of the month: Episodes of Doctor Who, news, discussion of recent movies, and a raffle.

No-Name Anime

Saratoga Library
13650 Saratoga Avenue
Saratoga
Free

www.nnanime.com
Anime screenings usually take place on the second Saturday of the month.

SF Browncoats

Cafe Murano
1777 Steiner Street
San Francisco

Noon
Free
www.sfbrowncoats.com
SF Firefly/Serenity fans usually meet up on the second Saturday of the month.

Silicon Gulch Browncoats

Tied House
954 Villa Street
Mountain View
Noon - 2 p.m.
Free
www.silicongulchbrowncoats.org
Silicon Valley fans of Firefly/Serenity meet up on the first Saturday of the month.

USS Defiance Meeting

Round Table Pizza
Howe Ave. (Near Howe and Arden Ave.)
7 p.m.-10 p.m.
Free
Sacramento's oldest science fiction group meets the third Friday of the month. Info at www.usdefiance.org.