

Science Fiction/San Francisco

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Letters Of Comment

By Chris Garcia
Editor

Let us start with John Purcell of the Texas portion of the BArea:

I think I'd better get this off right quick to avoid falling behind in my "zines to loc" file. They tend to electronically pile up as I download zines, then delete as they get locced and listed as "received" in *IAPL*. The paper zines I get are much more easily maintained; right now the only paper fmz I have just came in the mail on Tuesday: the latest issue of *Banana Wings*, which will most likely be locced in the next two weeks or so (I have two research papers to write, so we'll see how things pan out here).

Chris Garcia: *Research will still be there in a week! SF/SF is a much rarer thing. I loved the new Banana Wings, too.*

Chris, I do hope you'll be running again for TAFF when it's reinstated next year. Of course, things may change yet again, since it all depends on ReplacerCon and what Suzle and Bug decide to do with this beastie. Stay tuned for further developments.

I'll be there next race. I got a soft sell on

running for DUFF when it starts up again. Maybe I could do both.

A Cordwainer Smith consortium would be interesting. Loved his stories. Did you ever see the movie *Scanners*? Details on this are best gathered from an Internet search and not on my faulty memory banks, but I do remember seeing the movie on cable quite a few years ago; it wasn't bad, either. Got a bit graphic in spots, but still an entertaining movie.

I love Scanners. It's one of those movies I reference all the time.

The Knarley Knews must have something really different in its PDF scheme; I have been having trouble downloading it from its URL, so I'm going to do something really drastic: print out a copy of my latest issue and *mail it* to Henry Welch, requesting a copy in trade. That oughta do it.

It's worth it. I got a copy of issue 120 for the BayCon Fanzine Lounge. I had some troubles at first, so I had to download it to my machine and open it from there.

Now that I've had the chance to look over other past issues of *TKK*, I am excited to read the 20th anniversary issue. My hat is doffed to the fans who produce zines

for so long. This shows tenacity, belief in their product, love for the fanzine medium, and even good, old-fashioned lunacy in sticking with a zine for umpty-ump years. Congratulations, Henry, even if I haven't read your zine yet.

It's easy to do 120 issues in 2 years, but to do an issue every other month for so long is so damn impressive.

If that mockumentary *In Smog and Thunder* ever wends its way down here to Texas, I'd like to see it since I am a great fan of mockumentaries of all types—my all-time favorites are *This is Spinal Tap* and *All You Need Is Cash*; this sounds like a lot of fun. I lived in LA for one year (1986) with my first wife, and didn't care for it. Besides, a good satirical spoofing of stereotypes is healthy for the psyche; it's not good for anybody, or a group of anybodies, to take themselves too seriously. We need to laugh at ourselves from time to time to get a proper perspective on life. I will have to keep my eyes and ears open for this film.

I wanna see In Smog and Thunder. I've heard nothing but good things. I wanna see For Your Consideration too. You lived in LA? Were you a LASFSan?

Regarding my loc, I found the information for that fanzine convention in Houston. If anybody's interested it is called REVELcon 18 (*sic*), held the weekend of March 16-18, 2007, in Houston, Texas. Here's a paragraph about it from www.cam-info.net/concalendar.html :

"A relaxacon whose main emphasis is fanzines, fun, and food. Brought to you with help from fans from Houston and the world. A fun weekend where you can read, watch your favorite characters, meet old friends, discover new friends and fandoms, find that zine or episode/series you've been looking for, laugh during the Saturday evening entertainment, or buy that special piece of art on Sunday morning."

Sounds hopeful, doesn't it? Here are the membership rates: Sept 1 - Jan 31st, \$65 full membership, \$35 for Saturday only. As of Feb 1, 2007, full membership is \$75 (also at the door rate), and Saturday only is \$40 (also at the door rate). A little steep for my pocketbook to do the whole weekend thing, so I might just run down for Saturday. Still, if anybody out there is in that neck of the woods come next mid-March, there's the scoop.

Sounds interesting. I can't do next year, but if it takes off, I'll try and make it one year. I can't wait for CorFlu. I'm psyched to make my way down there!

With that, I believe I shall knock off at this point. This doesn't mean I didn't enjoy the rest of the issue—which I did, of course; Howieird's short film reviews were fun, and the BASFA business minutes remind me of the silliness Minn-Stf business meetings were like—it is just that I have a lot of other school material to get onto this weekend.

Good to hear from ya. You should read the minutes from LASFS two weeks ago if you wanna good laugh.

See y'all next time.

All the best,

John Purcell

And hey, there's a Toronto Bay, isn't there? That must be where Lloyd Penney's from!

Dear Chris and Jean, and David and Eva, too:

Two issues behind as usual...well, it's what's expected. I have issues 32 and 33 of *SF/SF*, so I'd better get started. (And 34 just arrived! Man, am I ever behind!)

Chris Garcia: Well, it's our goal to keep you on your toes.

32...If eFanzines.com had a lull in October, they've more than made up for it. I am so far behind with letters and fanzines, I need a week or six to catch up. Yvonne and I have been very busy with post-Worldcon conventions, such as Con*cept in Montréal,

Astronomicon in Rochester, New York and the 2006 Canadian Space Summit in Ottawa. All good times, but it's time to get with the zines again.

I just did my last con for the year so things slow down until CorFlu and WonderCon.

Good to hear life's better, Jean... that voice audition is now at the brink of taping. I will be the narrator of a children's DVD...will tell you more later on when it's actually being produced. I do a minor part on a student film on Friday, and another project will start up in a couple of weeks. Con*cept was a good time, and the fanzine panels were entertaining. Astronomicon was a good time with interesting guests and good shopping in Rochester, and the Space Summit had some good friends and Canadian astronaut Chris Hadfield as a guest.

I can't wait to hear more about your DVD. AstronomiCon sounds like fun too. I didn't know there were any Canadian Astronauts!

I remember *Time After Time* very well...Mary Steenbergen and Malcolm McDowell starred in it, and they married some time after that movie. McDowell was a handsome man then...wonder what happened?

Years of bad films (remember Tank Girl?) and hard living. Still, he was so great

as Alex in Clockwork Orange that he can do no wrong in my eyes.

SiliCon sounds like just the best of times. Wish there was a kinda-relaxicon here. The best replacement for them seems to be the monthly pubnights, of which we have two, on the third Mondays and first Thursdays of each month. I honestly believe that this kind of convention, if it ever existed here at all, is slowly but surely dying. Give it five years, and I may have to go south of the border to go to the kind of convention I like.

I've gotta say that SiliCon is growing on me strongly. You know we'd love to have you and Yvonne out here full-time Lloyd, so make the move!

33...Chris mentions Bjo Trimble... got to see the Trimbles at Worldcon, and again at Astronomicon 10 in Rochester earlier this month. Both are great folks, and I had great fun with both of them.

I only ran into Bjo briefly. She called Randy Byers and me pikers. That was funny.

Hallowe'en was, for us, just another day. We had hopes that there'd be a fannish Hallowe'en party going on, but no such luck. Instead, fannish friends who used to live here, and who now live in New Jersey, will be coming up here to meet with lots of local fandom to celebrate an American Thanksgiving. Seeing Canadian

Thanksgiving was in October, two reasons to enjoy a massive turkey dinner are good reasons indeed.

Yeah, I didn't do much on Halloween, but I still love the holiday. When is Canadian New Years? I know Chinese New Year is in Feb and Jewish New Year just happened. I imagine it's sometime in the summer.

I had heard something some years back about either a remake of *Tron*, or a re-release. It might have been the video game. I wonder if a new *Tron* could be made today?

They made it as a game and did an animated thing I think for the DVD. I've not seen it since I watched the VHS about two years ago.

34...Just can't keep up, so I'd better get with it. Chris, you're not thinking of dropping out of the TAFF race, are you? Just because they added another year to the race? Can't have that, my friend, you're not getting out that easily!

I'm runnin', don't worry. I'm not sure if they'll do what they did in 1998 and do both directional races at the same time. That could be interesting.

A cross-America fan fund? Hey, that's what we do here. CUFF takes a fan from one side of the country and takes him or her to a con on the other side. After all, this is a big country. America is just as big.

CAFF, anyone?

CAFF would be interesting, since most West Coast fans seem to stay on this side of the country. I'd love to send a few folks to NESFA just to keep them on their toes!

Chris, Thanksgiving is just about here...at LAcon IV, I saw that John Hertz had helped the Eaton Collection put their display together, and in their section on trip reports, John gave them a reduced photocopy of the cover of the CUFF trip report Yvonne and I produced some years ago. I sent the Eaton a copy of the real thing, and I believe it is in the collection; I didn't get any formal acknowledgement. If you're there, perhaps you can find it in the stacks.

I ran into John at LosCon and we chatted and built a pegboard photo hangin' station. Nice guy. I'll check when I go down for research time later in the year.

That's all for now...take care all, and I'll try to keep up in the future. No guarantees, though...

Yours, Lloyd Penney

When you can, you will. That's why we all love ya so, Lloyd!

Editorial

By Jean Martin

Editor

Since this is my last editorial before Christmas and New Year, I would just like to wish everyone peace, love, joy and happiness during the holidays and into 2007. 2005 was a period of discovery, expansion, making new friends, making a new life. It was crazy but exciting as I got more into fandom and my personal life blossomed. In comparison, 2006 was a mixed bag for me. I had to figure out what was most important as I took too much on in 2005 and started to burn out. I tried cutting down, and even letting go, of some areas of my life—only to find out that they meant a lot to me and needed to be integrated back in. So it was a time of reflection and weighing my priorities. Hopefully, 2007 will be about having a full and enjoyable life still, but more in balance and harmony.

One of the most important things in my life is definitely *SF/SF*. It fulfills my need for creative expression, social interaction, participation in events, and organizing a collaborative endeavor. I must admit my

personal life has been distracting me from doing as much as I used to, but that has calmed down a bit now and I look forward to re-invigorating the zine in 2007. On the other hand, I guess it's understandable that we all go through times when we're more productive and times when we're not. Also, there are times when there are more events and times when there aren't. I'm sure everyone will be busy during the holidays with family and friends and there won't be as many fannish activities during that time.

But I'm sure fan groups will have Christmas and New Year parties and the like. If anyone would like to send in photos and articles about these, feel free to send them my way. We'd love to feature them in future issues.

I personally have not been to too many events lately. I hurt my right knee the day of the last PEERS Ball, *Le Bal de Vampires*, and it still hasn't healed completely. So I have not been able to dance. I hope it'll be okay by January, since I'm probably performing at the next PEERS ball. If not, I'll go to a specialist and get it

looked at.

What I've been busy doing is watching episodes of the *Doctor Who* spinoff, *Torchwood*. I've seen seven to date. I don't think they're as good as *Doctor Who* Series One (Christopher Eccleston) and Two (David Tennant), but they are still far and away better than anything on TV right now. I hope the SciFi Channel or some other station airs them here in the U.S. sometime soon so that everyone else can see them too. *Torchwood* features Captain Jack Harkness, the American flyboy that Rose and the Doctor met in one of my favorite episodes in Season One. Captain Jack came back for several more episodes and I guess he built up quite a following (he's quite a dashing, handsome and heroic figure), so now he has his own TV show.

I've enjoyed almost all of the episodes to varying degrees, but there was one that I found quite disturbing and didn't like at all. *Torchwood* (the title is an anagram of *Doctor Who*) is more adult, sexier, grittier, and darker, and people actually get hurt and die. It's a little bit like *Men in Black*, *X-Files* and *CSI* rolled into one. It's set in present-

day Cardiff, Wales, so it's much more realistic. By the way, BBC Wales produces *Doctor Who* and *Torchwood*. It's so funny to hear actors portraying aliens in *Doctor Who* with Welsh accents. In *Torchwood*, it's much more appropriate. I would love to visit Cardiff someday and see the *Doctor Who* museum there and maybe even catch a glimpse of either production team shooting a scene.

One big difference between *Doctor Who* and *Torchwood* is that *Torchwood* is much more about a team of characters. And this is their job: They're not just wandering the universe and exploring. I would have wanted to learn more about Captain Jack but the other characters get more air time. I do like the character of Gwen a lot. She represents how someone would react to being thrown into this fantastical situation, encountering extraterrestrials and their mysterious paraphernalia.

I've also been watching Seasons 1, 2 and 2.5 of *Battlestar Galactica* (*BSG*) on DVD. As I'm writing this, I have one disc to go. I know I'm behind on this, but it took me awhile to get past my bias against it because I loved the original from the 70s. But after hearing friends and people at conventions rave about it, and seeing the cast at Comic-Con last year, I gave it a chance. I've totally gotten into the show. I

find it gripping, original and well written. There are so many plotlines and themes interwoven together. The show manages to portray political intrigue, military power struggles, family dynamics, budding romantic relationships, the struggle for survival, mythology, religion, and even social commentary. Each episode builds on the last and I'm hooked! I don't think they've repeated a storyline yet.

I also like it that, once in a while, they give a nod toward the original series. They played the theme song in one episode, which gave me goose bumps and almost brought tears to my eyes. They also have Richard Hatch showing up in several episodes. There was one time they had Starbuck drive a Cylon ship and she wobbled the ship just like the original Starbuck did to indicate that she was not a threat. Oh, and they also brought back the *Pegasus* and Admiral Cain.

Just as the new series made Starbuck and Boomer women, they changed Admiral Cain into a woman as well. (The original Starbuck was my favorite character and Starbuck is my favorite in the new one as well.) Personally, I like the new Starbuck, Boomer and Admiral Cain. It's good to see strong women on TV. And each of them shows a very different type of woman. A newly-created female character for the new

series is President Roslin. I didn't like her at first, but I've grown to admire her. I wish our world leaders were more like her. She makes the tough choices but with a lot of compassion and wisdom. As for the male characters, I got used to the idea of Baltar being a wet blanket. But Apollo leaning in that direction I find a little bit disappointing. It would be nice to have a typical heroic alpha male character in the series, but there doesn't seem to be one.

I find it interesting to note as well that *BSG* seems to be inhabited by actors from different sci fi, fantasy and historical movies and TV shows, so it feels like a familiar family of sorts. Mary McDonnell (President Roslin) was the First Lady in *Independence Day*, Michelle Forbes (Admiral Cain) was Ensign Ro Laren in *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, Richard Hatch (Tom Zarek) was, of course, Apollo in the original *BSG*, Lucy Lawless (D'Anna Biers) was Xena, Jamie Bamber (Apollo) was in *Horatio Hornblower*, Dean Stockwell (Brother Cavil) was in *Quantum Leap*, and Edward James Olmos (Admiral Adama) was in *Miami Vice*. Does *Miami Vice* count as historical or sci fi? The 80s seems like a long time ago in a galaxy, far, far away. Like a time warp of fashion, pop culture and music.

However, I find it strange sometimes

News and Notes

to see modern clothing and tools in *BSG*. Every time they pick up a phone to communicate, or a dry erase marker, it throws me off a little. But other than that, the drama is compelling and I get submerged into the story and forget it's sci fi.

Well, I hope you all enjoy this issue. There'll be more fun and interesting things to cover in the new year I'm sure. In the meantime, enjoy the holidays. We'll see you all in 2007!

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

eFanzines.com was busy, even if there wasn't a *Drink Tank* to go up there. You had the *Rotating Moderator* from the LosCon Fanzine in an Hour panel. It features Laurraine Tutahasi, Ed Green, Vanessa Van Wagner, Me!, Selina Phanara and George Van Wagner too! It's a lot of fun and you can read more about it in the LosCon review.

John Purcell put out issue 17 of *In A Prior Lifetime* on Thanksgiving. It's a good issue featuring Eric Mayer among others; one of the best issues to date.

The Second Anniversary of *Vegas Fandom Weekly* is celebrated with the SecondAnnIsh from Arnie Katz. It's mostly reprints of great articles from the last year, and has a breakdown of articles and issues from the last year. It's a fun read and if you haven't been keeping up like you should, give this one a read and see why a bunch of us think it's one of the best things on eFanzines.com.

Jan Stinson gives us *Peregrine Nations* 6.3. *PN* is one of the reasons I'm in Fanzine Fandom and this one's a really good read. Check out the excellent LetterCol in the

issue.

Craige Howlett, who just got remarried, came to a BASFA meeting and started talking about his plans, which include the 2009 Harry Potter Conference, a bid for the 2011 WesterCon, and being the mind behind the 2013 potential WorldCon bid. Now, whether that means San Jose or San Francisco hasn't been said, but I understand San Jose has a few advantages that SF can't meet, including costs.

There's a lot of talk going on about the future of the Fan Funds as TAFF was cancelled and DUFF didn't have a race this year. The reaction to TAFF at LosCon was very positive and I've got the feeling that there's no crisis, though some were saying that there's talk about TAFF being in trouble. With Suzle and Bug at the helm as Administrators, I don't see there being any problem for the future.

“Join the Jedi Order”

Star Wars Event in San Francisco

Story and text by Dakron Slaxx

A “Join The Jedi Order” event was sponsored by Cinemax at Union Square in San Francisco, on Tuesday, November 7. The event was meant to promote the showing of all six Star Wars movies on Cinemax HD. Among the scheduled activities were Star Wars character appearances (courtesy of the 501st, Rebel Legion and SF FanForce), live martial arts and acrobatic demonstrations, gaming booths, and photo booths with green screens to digitally insert people into battle scenes.



LosCon 2006

A Santa Monica Adventure

By España Sheriff
Staff Writer

This year I grabbed an early ride down to the LA area on Wednesday night with Amy from Book Universe. She drives down every year from Oregon, stopping in Hayward, which is where she picked me up. With iPod loaded with a little filk, a lot of folk, and some old rock'n'roll, we headed out late and hit my sister's place in Santa Monica in the wee-going-large hours of Thanksgiving morning.

After a relaxing day spent wandering the Third Street promenade and the beach, and a muscle-relaxing night watching expatriate Brits sing karaoke (some few excellently and at least one terribly), I was ready to get my geek on. The Big Blue Bus deposited me right across the street from the Marriott which was convenient since I don't drive. Check-in was a breeze, registration likewise. The rooms were small but nice, though I wondered at the narrow doors and whether some congoers might not be thrilled with them.

Since I had never gotten around to sending in my check for the art show, I brought along art to hang just in case. I was

not really expecting there to be space, but there was one last empty panel just waiting there for someone like me, so I ponied up my \$7.50 and hung my art. The art show

was connected to the dealer's room so I bounced over to the Book Universe stall to ogle the goods and then to the next stall down, which had a fantastic selection of

1930s-1970s pulps. Still reasonably priced, the digest magazines of the Golden Age are starting to get pricier. I used to routinely find them under \$3 and now they're cheap at twice the price. Considering their content includes first appearances from luminaries of the field and true first editions of such classic novels as *Dune*, it's really surprising that it's taken this long. I picked up a couple of Merrill Year's *Bests* since I'd forgotten my own copy of the 9th Annual edition which contains William Tenn's "Bernie The Faust," source of one of my earliest memories of SF stories and the reason I was determined to make it to LosCon this year.



Karisu

Photo by Richard Man

So far everything had gone as swimmingly as one could hope. I unpacked, changed, ate a decent ahi burger and took a nap, preparing myself for the next few dissolute days.

And what better way to start off than with ice cream? The traditional ice cream social included a lovely couple of sorbets; raspberry and “tropical.” I enjoyed the former and looked around to spot my usual BArea co-conspirators. No sooner did I find those good folks than the Lux Theater show started. This year it was *The Adventures of Rick Deckard: Blade Runner*. They did a lovely job of providing the radio show atmosphere and costumes, and as a play the thing was quite entertaining. However the voices didn’t seem quite so well approximated as in previous shows, such as their own *Star Wars* offering. Still and all they are one of the highlights of Southern

California conventions, a uniquely fannish but quite professional and polished experience.

After the show it was time to cruise the parties, starting with the con suite, which was not as impressive as I remembered from previous LASFS shindigs. However, the Herbangelists had the room that had been the con suite in previous years, and their

spread included some lovely wines and cheeses in addition to many other, harder-to-identify offerings: One of my favorites being little grey sesame seed-covered treats that looked like dried fruit but turned out to be some sort of fish (I hope). Chocolates and dates also abounded.

Baycon, LACon IV, DarkCon, Montreal, and others all had parties as well,

so that despite attendance being down from previous years the convention seemed to be jumping. I ran into Chrisfortaff and Frank Wu and we helpfully blocked the doorway and had heady discussions about the Penguin Problem. After wandering the parties for a while and eating some odd yet delicious jello treats, a few of us headed for the dance, which had just started and was deserted. Another round of foraging for food and alcohol and we checked back in with happier results. Although the DJs had a penchant for dance floor-clearing music, they eventually



Dancing with Celebrities from the Stars

Photo by Richard Man

got their groove on and the dance floor was reasonably populated from then on.

Saturday dawned and I slept in but eventually crawled my hungover ass out of bed and headed to the con suite, where there was still not much to grab my attention except a coffee so vastly superior

to that provided in the hotel room as to be a different (and possibly controlled) substance altogether. That gave me the strength to make it down to the hotel restaurant for oatmeal and more coffee.

I wandered over to art show for egochecking but also to see quite a good

selection of artists. The dealer's room was pretty good as well, although my budget allowed mostly for window shopping only. In addition there was a very interesting display of matte and storyboard art that was sort of stuck in a back room and apparently not really advertised since I rarely saw anyone in there. A shame really, since there was some very nice work in there.

By this time William Tenn was scheduled to talk about the infamous Orson Welles radio broadcast of *The War of the Worlds*. It was a fascinating in-depth look at both the original story and its anticolonial themes and at the 1938 "Mercury Theater on the Air" adaptation and subsequent panic. As a SF author and teacher and also as someone who was listening during the event, Tenn's insights were fascinating. 86 years old, Tenn (real name Philip Klass) spoke with the tiniest bit of a slur but otherwise his unamplified voiced reached the room quite clearly even before someone from staff came in halfway through to provide a quite unnecessary (especially in Klass' opinion) microphone.



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Doomsday Machine and Starship Enterprise

Photo by Richard Man

Directly outside the room where Klass spoke was a whimsical sculpture of the Doomsday Machine from *Star Trek*, easily six feet long, with a tiny model of the Enterprise hanging before its gaping maw.

After grabbing dinner with Chrisfortaff Garcia and Joe Rhett it was time to get dolled up for the big party night. It was already less than half an hour to the Masquerade so I chose beauty over entertainment and missed the entire thing. However Richard Man was toting his laptop of gorgeous masquerade photography when I ran into him on the party floor so I felt like I had been there. Amongst the highlights were a Linda Carter 1970s *Wonder Woman* costume and the Worldcon favorites Dancing With Celebrities from the Stars.

The parties were all in full swing, although the Writers of the Future had taken over the room that had been the Herbangelists the night before, and desiring neither water nor ice cream, nor yet a copy of *Battlefield Earth*, I cannot offer more than the snarkiest conjecture on what went on in that party. They did have the highest proto-fan ratio of any of the parties, however.

John Hertz's party opened up at 1 a.m. and won me over with more fine wines and a very tasty Madeira, as well as cheeses, dates, persimmons, a lovely basket of fresh and varied vegetables and some lovely,

lovely smoked salmon. As befitted the tone of the soirée, the discussion quickly turned to art, though I fled when it became about the original vs. print vs. digital photography subject.

Another stopover at the Darkcon party and for friendly abuse from Bill Taylor who opined that I'm too political, and with a cry of "A la lanterne les aristos!" I headed down to see how the dance was going. I had been handed a flier for The Red Party, the lads who ran the small dance at LACon IV, and unfortunately never checked the room number, ending up with the mistaken conclusion that they were in charge of the official dance. Said dance was rocking along with at least twenty people out on the dance floor and eighties tunes blasting (always a reliable crowd pleaser at these things), and I soon forgot that they were more likely to be hitting us with some goth industrial. So I was sad when some friends grabbed me to head over to the actual Red Party room later only to find they'd already been closed down. These guys know how to do their thing and I look forward to their threatened appearances at BArea cons, or perhaps Gallifrey?

Eventually all the cool kids went off to bed and I sadly followed suit.

Sunday I woke far too late after not getting much sleep, as I missed a couple of

interesting looking panels, but I eventually got everything ready for a leisurely 3 p.m. checkout and headed over to the dealer's room to get my shiny new copy of *Dancing Naked* signed by Tenn. The line was satisfyingly long, a lot of it with dealers but also a number of regular fans of the man's work. He wasn't doing personalizations, unfortunately, but I got a small paperback collection signed on the title page of "Bernie the Faust" and that made me happy. He seemed confused for a second at having the book opened to that story, but I told him it was my favorite and he obliged, saying he was rather fond of it himself as *Playboy* had paid the sum of \$5,000 for it, a handsome fee at the time.

With these words of wisdom I grabbed my signed prizes before they vanished and called it a day, saying a few goodbyes and disappearing back off to Santa Monica for a couple more days of fun before rejoining reality.

LosCon: Chris Garcia's View

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

You know a con is a good one when you're walking down the hall and everyone seems to be offering you a chance to do something. I had five dinner invites on Saturday. That's a sign of a good con.

There was a lot of fannish love goin' on. I had been planning on staying with Frank Wu and Jim Terman on a roll-away, but the Marriott had changed its policy recently and didn't allow roll-aways in the room type that Frank had gotten. But Brad Lyau, SF historian and all-around good guy, agreed to let me share his room, which was very helpful. That's a good way to start a con.

Friday was a good day for a con. I got into the LAX Marriott around 10 after getting lost and somehow ending up in Pasadena. I called the hotel and the concierge gave me very good directions to the hotel. Helpful hotel staff is a wonderful thing! When I got there, I put out some of my zines for folks to take and put up a few posters for the AhwahneeCon bid. Almost

as soon as I started walking around, I started running into folks that I knew.

One of the first was former BAren turned Australian Janice Gelb. She's deeply involved with the Australia in 2010 bid and asked if I would take some stuff for the bid back with me, which I'm always willing to do. Quickly, I ran into Kathryn and James Daugherty, *SF/SF* and *Drink Tank* contributor Kelly Green, LA fans Selina Phanara, Ed Green, Vanessa and George Van Wagner, and Chris Marble, who it turns out is a wrestling fan like myself! Rad. I also ran into Len & June Moffatt, two long-serving LA fans who are wonderful and had won TAFF back in the 1970s. A chance meeting with John Hertz led me to helping set up some of the pegboard stands for the photos from the LACon IV Masquerade. That was labor,



Gothic Victorians

Photo by Richard Man

but it was OK since it's my fannish nature to help out when I can. Plus I learned a valuable skill.

The first panel I had was "The History of Science Fiction Machines." This quickly got off-topic and went on to real machine use and all sorts of political and other stuff. I wasn't unhappy with how it went, because the audience seemed to enjoy it. Larry Niven even came to watch. Jim Young and Mel Gilden were both on the panel and we talked and talked.

After that, I had the panel I was so excited for: "Fanzine in an Hour." I had done one at BayCon and the results were great. George Van Wagner was running things along with Laurraine Tutahasi and Vanessa Van Wagner. We had a small audience that included three teens, Ed Green and a couple of others. We threw out a call for an article and the teens came up with Robots Fighting Dragons. A better choice I couldn't have made myself. Ed Green and I went and wrote up a couple of articles, including Ed's great article on not trusting men with swords. I can't argue with his logic. In this



Wonder Woman

Photo by Richard Man

day and age, you just don't need them.

I was so impressed that I'm declaring *Rotating Moderator* as my top pick for the week. The zine featured art from Laurraine and Selina, whom I'd hijacked in the Green Room, thrust a piece of paper in front of her and said, "Draw!" And she did produce a lovely sun illo without benefit of her glasses!

After that, I headed off with a cast of BASFAns (Dave Clark, Frank Wu, Jim Terman, Dave & Spring) and friends (Brad, Kelly, others) and we enjoyed ourselves at the Encounter at LAX. It was a delightful, though over-priced, meal. We chatted about all the short stories that Frank Wu should be reading. I mentioned *Alpha-Ralpa Boulevard* and *Scanners Live in Vain*, both of which were seconded later in the evening by our own España Sherriff. There were two pluses at the table for making lists of short stories: Dave Clark and Brad are both wealths of information on SF, and they cleared up a bunch of questions.

Back at the ranch, I headed

to the parties and ran into Leigh Ann Hildebrand. We chatted and I wandered the parties and had a good time talking and walking. At one point, the topic of Penguins vs. Dinosaurs came back up. I still put my money on Penguins.

Saturday was a good day. I opened with a panel at 10:30 a.m. on Fan Funds. We had five panelists: John Hertz, Mike Glyer, Len & June Moffatt and myself. We had one audience member. We told her about Fan Funds and such, and mostly just chatted. It was one of those panels that doesn't seem like it would be of any use, but at least we touched one soul. I went out and had some lunch with some friends from LA before I headed to the Art Show tour led by Selina. There was a lot of great art, two pieces of which I brought home with me. Now, last year Frank Wu and Lubov were in the show, and neither of them were there this year, but the amount of stuff that was of top quality was still pretty impressive. I fell in love with three pieces: one a cut paper and collage piece from Selina, a print on canvas piece featuring incredible streaks of color raining down on suburbia that really sang to me, and a piece from Alicia Austin that quickly went out of my range. Wonderful stuff, and the quick tour made it even better.

I hung out in the Green Room a

lot, and they had light snacks and building blocks to play with. I love blocks.

I had to run the TAFF auction and it was a fun time. I love auctioneering, and I had a long table full of stuff to sell. There were only about a dozen people in the room, but they all bid and carried on. It was a lot of fun. The AIDS charity auction that David Gerrold ran earlier made more money, but the 200 bucks we pulled in made me happy. I was most impressed that we got some of the worst books and films out of my bookshelves!

That was all my programming. I had a fast dinner with some friends and we talked fannish politics and such. I'm a sucker for a good over-dinner story. That left me ready for the parties, which didn't open until later.

By far the best party was Eric in the Elevator. The comedy was dark but it was so funny. I watched the entire program twice and it was a riot, especially the bits from Leigh Ann, Ed Green, and especially Miss Allison Lonsdale. I was blown away by her take at the end of the program. Eric, as always, is a big talent in a tiny elevator.

I went to bed early and then woke up with lots of energy. Breakfast was very good, a Chicken Hash Martini that I really enjoyed. I followed that up with the Art Auction where I lost the Austin piece but

won both the other things that I wanted.

After that, I headed over to the Green Room and Chris Marble was there with some liquid nitrogen. I love playing with that stuff, so we froze some grapes, which were delightful and tasty. I poured some into a water bottle and took time blasting off the lid. That was awesome! I enjoyed firing the cap into the buildings I made out of the blocks. I have to say it was one of the better Green Rooms I've been in over the years.

I had to leave a little early, but it was a good time, and I took the route to Riverside via Redondo Beach and Hermosa Beach, and that was a good way to end a good con weekend.

Science Fiction Parties at Chabot Space Science Center

*Introduction by Jean Martin
Editor*



Bounty Hunters

Photo by Dakron Slaxx

The Klingon group, IKV Bloodlust, was involved in two different events at the Chabot Space Science Center in Oakland last October 27 and 28. On Friday, October 27, was the Lunar Express adult-themed party. Guest attendance was light but the Klingons were there in full force. Other science fiction-garbed participants, mostly in Star Wars costumes, also made their appearance. On Saturday, October 28, was the children's party, which was better attended.



Klingon Cindy and Romulan Dakron

Photo by Dakron Slaxx

IKV Bloodlust

Photo by KataH



Luke and Anakin

Photo by KataH

BASFA Minutes: meeting 852

Meeting 852

November 20, 2006

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

Began 8:04.

29 people attended.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 851 were accepted as '4.6 minutes of silence.'

We established a party jar.

Treasurer's report was late - but we have money.

VP report: 'Drink Tank' #104 is up on efanazines.com, a new SF/SF will be out soon, he finished NaNoWriMo in a weekend and he commissioned Zodiac artwork and now wants folks to write about each sign.

The President had nothing fannish to report but welcomed Glen & Allie to the meeting.

The Party Committee reported that the next 3 cons are all signed up for and he'll be the Science track lead for Con-x-treme.

The AhwaneeCon committee reported that some of the committee will be at Loscon & they have shiny tinfoil badges and that there's a Yosemite Clem sock puppet LJ account under Yclem.

Adrienne called the Sonoma Chicken Coop and is waiting for a return call, visited the Campbell coop and thought it was quite big ['size matters?' asked Dave plaintively] & she brought menus.

Announcements

Harold announced that while he likes Rupert Murdoch less than pizza that Fox News & etc will not be doing the OJ book and TV special.

Cheryl announced that the Tower Records sale is 40% off and they are open till midnight - and there are copies of the post-ultimate 'Emerald City' & dragon porn is up for auction.

Andy announced that if you go to Loscon there is a secret CostumeCon 26 table rate there.

Craige announced that he won the '09 bid for a Harry Potter con at the SJ convention center & has a bid in for the 2011 Westercon - AND is investigating a 2013 Worldcon bid and was remarried Thursday last.

Adrienne announced that she saw a newspaper ad about the Ultimate Girls Night Out at the SJ center for the Performing Arts as a series of 4 lectures.

Reviews:

'Casino Royale' was reviewed by Andy as it has a gorgeous title sequence and you get to see a lot of Daniel Craig and it's a great adaptation of the book, worth full price; Chris reviewed it as 'Oh my god it was good!' & ranks it as the 4th best in the series ever made - worth full price for you and 3 friends & Ken follow-on'd that there were no Q-branch gadgets.

Howeird reviewed 'The Sorcerer' as done Bali-wood style and it didn't work.

Cheryl reviewed the new Guy Gavriel Kay book as good & reviewed Neil Gaiman being interviewed as excellent and reviewed the Finncon '07 t-shirt as clever.

[tall] Kevin reviewed the SJ Convention and Visitor's Bureau outreach meeting as a 1-evening reception [with food] as quite nice and MediaZone.com as offering a cricket tournament for \$5.00.

[evil] Kevin reviewed giving tours of his lab to Lego League kids as it was great fun and absolutely worth full price.

Dave G reviewed a funeral he attended with Mariachi players as very nice.

Adrienne reviewed 'Marie Antoinette' as gorgeous but she wasn't sure she liked it & reviewed the season opener for 'Medium' as well done and she liked it.

I reviewed 'Borat' as there were a few funny bits but pretty over-rated and worth seeing on DVD; Trey follow-on'd that 'Jackass' fans will love it but he found it painful & Chris follow-on'd that he saw it and 'word.'

Chris reviewed 'Accepted' as genius - worth full price and reviewed the video of 'This Island Earth' as Evelyn wanted to know why the bugs

were so stupid.

Harold reviewed 'Dexter' as the anti-CSI-Miami - a wacky, vicious black humor show and worth having Showtime for.

Ed reviewed 'Android Dreams' as a fun read.

We auctioned off stuff: birthday auctioned off Craige for \$11.00 to Chris; birthday auctioned

off Shirl for \$6.00 to Bruce; birthday auctioned off Bruce for \$8.00 to Shirl; then auctioned off books for \$3.50, \$1.00, \$2.00, \$0.25, \$5.00, \$0.50 & 3 PS2 games for \$7.00.

We adjourned at 9:39 pm.

And the rumor of the week was 'the AhwaneeCon chair's title will be "Dome Messiah."'



An Artist's Space www.mostarkey.com

Art by Mo Starkey

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, December 6

Authors: David Farland, L.E. Modesitt Jr. and Brandon Sanderson

Borders Express
6157 Sunrise Mall
Citrus Heights
916-969-7877
3 p.m.
Free

December 6-10

Edward Scissorhands
Orpheum Theatre
1192 Market Street
San Francisco
\$35-\$90
www.bestofbroadway-sf.com
Choreographer Matthew Bourne's dance adaptation of the 1990 Tim Burton movie.

Thursday, December 7

Thrillville's Holiday Turkey Roast:

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.

Saturday, December 9

SantaCon
Heinhold's First and Last Chance Saloon
48 Webster Street
Oakland
8:30-9 a.m.

or

The Carousel
Pier 39
San Francisco
10:30 a.m.
santacon.tribe.net
SF is the home of the original SantaCon (a.k.a. Santarchy), which this year begins at Jack London Square, crosses the Bay by ferry, stops off at Pier 39 for a mass carousel ride, and then is loosed upon the city.

Saturday, December 9

Pandora's Trunk

916 Natoma
916 Natoma Street
San Francisco
1-7 p.m.
Free

pandorastrunk.com

An eclectic bi-monthly fashion/arts party and sample sale, this time with a robot theme.

Saturday, December 9

The Iron Giant (1999)
Milpitas Public Library
40 North Milpitas Blvd.
Milpitas
408-262-1171 ext. 3624
2 p.m.
Free (with free popcorn!)

Saturday, December 9

Other Magazine Presents
Writers with Drinks
The Make-Out Room
3225 22nd Street
San Francisco
7:30 p.m.
\$3-\$5 sliding scale
With writers Lolly Winston, Stephen Elliott, Indigo Moor, Laura Moriarty, and Kevin Avery.

December 9-23

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. Continues weekends through Dec. 23 with gifts, food, costumes, dance parties, etc.

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).

Sunday, December 10

Desert to Dream

Berkeley Public Library
2090 Kittredge Street
Berkeley
2-3 p.m.
Free

Author Barbara Traub gives a photo presentation and signs copies of her book, *Desert to Dream: A Decade of Burning Man Photography*.

Thursday, December 14

SF Film Society Poster Sale

San Francisco Film Centre
39 Mesa Street in the Presidio
San Francisco
Noon-8 p.m.

Movie posters from a variety of countries and genres, most priced from \$5-\$15.

December 14-January 1

Traces

Palace of Fine Arts Theater
3301 Lyon Street
San Francisco
\$30-\$45

www.circuscenter.org

An acrobatic multi-media performance directed and choreographed by 7Fingers founding members and Pickle Circus alumni Gypsy Snider and Shana Carroll.

Friday, December 15

Midnight Movie: The Transformers (1986)

Camera 7 Cinema
1875 S. Bascom Avenue
Campbell
\$7

Saturday, December 16

Gifty Holiday Art Sale

The Crucible
1270 7th Street
Oakland
10 a.m.-4 p.m.

www.thecrucible.org

The Crucible hosts a unique art and gift sale, highlighted by theatrical fire performances,

demonstrations of glass blowing, bronze casting, and blacksmithing, and the arrival of Santa in a flaming sleigh drawn by stilt-walking reindeer with flaming antlers.

Saturday, December 16

Midnight Movie: The Transformers (1986)

Camera 12 Cinema
201 South Second Street
San Jose
\$7

Saturday, December 16

Rocky Horror Picture Show Holiday Pajama

Party and Lingerie Contest

Guild Theatre
949 El Camino Real
Menlo Park
Midnight
\$7.50

landmarkafterdark.com

With the Bawdy Caste live onstage; audience participation kits available at the door.

Monday, December 18

Addictive TV

111 Minna Gallery
111 Minna Street
San Francisco

7-9 p.m.

\$6

415-447-9750, info@microcinema.com

A screening of Independent Exposure's "Best of 2006" short films and videos.

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.

Thursday-Saturday, December 21-23

Lunacy (2006)

Red Vic Movie House

1727 Haight Street

San Francisco

www.redvicmoviehouse.com

\$8.50

Surrealist psychological horror film by Jan Svankmajer, in Czech with English subtitles.

Saturday, December 23

The Fellowship of the Ring (2001)

The Two Towers (2002)

The Return of the King (2003)

Castro Theatre

429 Castro Street

San Francisco

1:30-11:30 p.m.

\$10

The entire *Lord of the Rings* cycle on the Castro's big screen—all for ten bucks.

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*), Jeffrey Combs.

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.

Sunday, January 7

Bad Movie Night:

Snakes on a Plane (2006)

The Dark Room Theatre

2263 Mission Street

San Francisco

8 p.m.

\$5

www.darkroomsf.com

With your hosts Sherilyn Connelly, Mikl Em, Geekboy and Jim Fourniadis.

January 10-20

Romeo & Juliet: A Fire Ballet

The Crucible

1270 7th Street

Oakland

\$30-\$120

www.thecrucible.org

The first-ever Crucible Fire Ballet mixes

traditional ballet, classical music, and compelling storytelling with exotic dance traditions, aerial performance, molten metal, fire eating, and flame throwers.

Thursday, January 11

Thrillville:

Earth vs. The Flying Saucers (1957)

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

9:15 p.m.

\$7

Featuring an 80th birthday tribute to Ray Harryhausen, theremin lounge band Project Pimento, and a new animated short, *The Pit and the Pendulum*.

Saturday-Sunday, January 13-14

Sac-Anime

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street

Sacramento

\$15, one-day pass \$10

www.sacanime.com

Anime convention featuring viewing room, art contest, vendor's room, costume ball, J-pop concert, more.

Tuesday, January 16

Author: Christopher Moore

Books Inc.

601 Van Ness Ave.

San Francisco

415-776-1111

7 p.m.

Free

Wednesday, January 17

Author: Christopher Moore

Kepler's Books
1010 El Camino Real
Menlo Park
650-324-4321
7:30 p.m.
Free

Thursday, January 18

Author: Ellen Klages

Books Inc.
601 Van Ness Ave.
San Francisco
415-776-1111
6 p.m.
Free

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, January 20

Other Magazine Presents
Writers with Drinks
The Rickshaw Stop
155 Fell Street
San Francisco
7:30 p.m.
\$5-\$7 sliding scale

“Writers in Drag”: Michelle Tea, Kim Stanley
Robinson, Andrew Sean Greer and Michael
Blumlein read works outside their usual genres.

Friday, January 26

Lunar Lounge Express
Chabot Space Science Center
10000 Skyline Blvd.
Oakland
8-11 p.m.
\$15
510-336-7373
Party under the stars with live music, Sonic
Vision planetarium show, and telescope viewing
(weather permitting).

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.

Thursday, February 8

Thrillville: King Kong vs. Godzilla (1962)
Cerrito Speakeasy Theater
10070 San Pablo Ave.
El Cerrito
9 p.m.
\$8
Thrillville makes its first appearance at the new
Cerrito, featuring the Atomic Lounge Show and

Gorilla X.

Friday-Saturday, February 9-10

ComBots Cup
The Crucible
1260 7th Street
Oakland
Noon-11 p.m.
\$20, discounts for kids and active-duty military
Fighting robots duke it out at the Crucible.
www.combots.net

Saturday, February 10

Other Magazine Presents
Writers with Drinks
The Make-Out Room
3225 22nd Street
San Francisco
7:30 p.m.
\$3-\$5 sliding scale
With writers Frank Portman, Eric Spitznagel,
Marta Acosta, Ahn-Hoa Thi Nguyen, and Angie
Krass.

Thursday, February 15

Seminars About Long-term Thinking: Vernor
Vinge
Cowell Theater
Fort Mason Center
1 Marina Blvd.
San Francisco
7 p.m.
\$10 donation
Presented by the Long Now Foundation. www.
longnow.org

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 (\$40 until February 1)
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 (\$40 until February 17)
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.

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, featuring a new location and Guests of Honor Alan Dean Foster, Diana Paxson, and Linda Von Braskat-Crowe and Toastmaster Seanan McGuire. 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

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

spfii.org/westercon60/

Guests of Honor: Tad Williams, Theresa

Mather, Christian McGuire

Toastmaster: Jay Lake

Friday-Sunday, July 27-29

Con-X-treme

DoubleTree Hotel

2050 Gateway Place

San Jose

www.con-x-treme.com

Few details are yet known about this con.

(Apparently it will be at the DoubleTree, and there will be a Klingon bar. What more do you need to know?)

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

Location TBA

Noon-5 p.m.

www.peers.org

An afternoon picnic and dance set in Jane Austen's England during the late 1790s.

September 1, 2007

Mikado Ball

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 N. Ellsworth

San Mateo

\$15 in advance (by August 25), \$20 at the door

www.peers.org

A Gilbert and Sullivan cast party. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

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

Masonic Lodge

100 N. Ellsworth
San Mateo
\$15 in advance (by September 29), \$20 at the door
www.peers.org
Edwardian as in macabre illustrator Edward Gorey. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

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

\$75 (through April 30, 2007)

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.sfghosthunt.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.

Veritech Fighter Command ONE-THREE

Round Table Pizza

4403 Elkhorn Blvd

Sacramento

916-338-2300

Anime/cosplay group usually meets the last Saturday of the month at 1800 hours.