

Science Fiction/San Francisco

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email: SFinSF@gmail.com

Editors: Jean Martin, Chris Garcia

Copy Editor: David Moyce

Layout Editor: Eva Kent

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News and Notes

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

For two weeks out of every year, Cinequest replaces fandom as my main motivating force. This year, like many others, I'm exhausted from having burnt the candle at both ends and a couple of points in the middle for ten long, at times grueling days. There was a lot of fun to be had (especially hanging around with such great folks as the team behind *The Town That Was*) and there were a lot of movies.

The ones that stand out as potential favorites for *SF/SF* readers include *Monster Camp*, *Long Pigs*, *Blood Car* and *We Are The Strange*. Other films that had a large level of buzz included the political documentary *Shootdown*, the Indonesian film *Maskot*, the amazing Danish film *We Shall Overcome*, and *Outsourced*, which Jim Terman absolutely loved. I was also a big fan of the shorts (Animated Worlds deserves major credit as one of the best programs Cinequest has ever put on). If you want to read more about Cinequest movies, drop by FanboyPlanet.com for details.

But, even while I was at the festival, there were still zines posted on eFanzines.

com. I managed to get a *Drink Tank* out, which amazed me since I was running around so much. True, it's mostly a bunch of letters, but I even managed a film review of *Monster Camp* in it!

Three new things popped up that I hadn't expected. Mike McInerney (who I think is a BArea fan) and rich brown used to do a zine called *Focal Point*. I remember seeing a couple of issues and thinking they were really well done. Issues 12 through 23 are on eFanzines.com thanks to Robert Lichtman scanning them. It's always good to see more issues of older stuff coming online for us history lovers.

Another debut on eFanzines.com is Felicity Walker's *Ish* and well as Rodney Leighton's *The Mail Carrier Brought It*. I kinda liked the way *The Mail Carrier Brought It* looks. It's typed and scanned, so there's no art or anything, but it's well-written and good reading.

There's a new *File 770* from Mike Glycer on eFanzines.com. It's one of the better issues of late and a firm reminder of why *File 770* ends up on Hugo ballots so often. The art in this issue, including Grant Canfield, Brad W. Foster and Taral Wayne, is really good. Articles from James Bacon

and John Hertz as well as all the little stuff from our man Glycer makes for very fine reading.

Add to that the eFanzines.com version of Peter Weston's *Prolapse*. This one's just as history-soaked as the previous issue that ranked as my number two single issue for 2006. Lots of good writing and a fun playlet, too!

Letters Of Comment

Let us begin with Mr. Lloyd Penney!

Dear SF/SF Team:

Time for another letter from me, especially seeing I'm two issues of SF/SF behind...what else is new? Here's commentary on issues 39 and 40.

Chris Garcia replies: We're like sharks- if we stop pubbing, we will die!

39...Chris is absolutely right about Lee Hoffman. She is, unfortunately, just the latest in a string of those who influenced fanzine fandom, and in many ways, fandom as a whole. As the founder of *Science Fiction Five Yearly*, I was lucky enough to get on the mailing list for the last three or four issues. I have the last issue, and I will be writing a letter of comment to Randy and Geri anyway.

I was hoping that they'd keep it going, but alas that was not to be. I sent an LoC off and it's nice to know that I did get to LoC one issue of SFFY.

Ad Astra 2007, our local convention here, took place about 10 days ago now, and both the Montreal and Kansas City contingents were there to stage room parties. Montreal, being just up Highway 401, seems to be a popular choice, but

there is a group calling themselves Kanadians for Kansas City, ripping the Montreal bid for being inexperienced, and full of the people who made Torcon 3 a mess. All I can say is that you've got to get your experience somewhere... (Frank Wu might be right about another Canadian Worldcon...)

I'm still full-bore for Montreal. From what I've seen of the Montreal bid, there are few of the folks who took a lot of the punishment for the 2003 debacle. I'm just hoping that Montreal will be able to hang on since they've got some good momentum.

We've been able to scrape up some more cash, and it turns out we'll both be going to the International Space Development Conference in Dallas in late May. Should be fun, although I don't think there'll be the time or money to visit with John Purcell.

Well, you can always try and convince him to come to you! He's a really nice guy (and a helluva roommate!)

My loc...Chris, if you think I'm sending you royalties on every Smartass™ remark I made... Not long after this letter, we did get our Hugo voting packages from

the Japanese Worldcon, and we have made our Hugo nominations. I've gotten to the optometrist, and my new glasses should be here in a week or so. Clear vision? What a treat! And yup, Murray Moore delivered my FAAn Award to me at Ad Astra. Pat Virzi has my nominee button in the mail.

Glad to hear you got your stuff. I still stare at my Best New Fan certificate from last year when I'm thinking. It helps that it's right next to my monitor.

I did not get to see *An Inconvenient Truth*, but I wish I had. Al Gore will be speaking in Toronto shortly, and tickets to his lecture was the hottest ticket in town. It is refreshing to see that the environment has become an important issue among the electorate...I just hope it isn't too late. If it is a fact, we need to act upon it, and reduce emissions into the atmosphere. If it isn't a fact, we'll have cleaner air, anyway. So, let's do it. Richard Branson has put up some substantial cash to give incentive to scientists to come up with something that will not only reduce emissions, but even take the pollutants out of the air. Now to see if the scientists have the science to do it.

Money is what it'll take. It'd be nice if we could build a few of those mega-recycling centers that can deal with everything but radioactive materials. I'm no fan of Mr. Gore, but I will say that we certainly need to deal with global warming and emissions in general.

Now I really, REALLY wish I could have gone to Corflu! Not fair! It, from all accounts, was a very good time, and Pat Virzi has really topped up her egoboo account. Now, Vegas sounds really good, too...

I can't wait, I just hope that they find a date that isn't the last weekend in April because that's when I'll be workin' Costume-Con!

The idea of *Twilight Zone* scripts redone as plays is nifty! I'd pay a buck and a quarter to see those. And probably a lot more, too.

It's a great and it brings to mind the new Masters of Science Fiction TV series that's coming to ABC. They're taking classic SF and translating it to one hour shows. Should be interesting...and short lived!

40...Yes, lots of cons seem to be held at DoubleTree hotels. There's a furry con coming up in Montreal that's at one, as is the annual Toronto big media convention, recently renamed Polaris.

There's a long tradition with Red Li-

ons too.

The St. Louis NASFiC is probably the most northerly NASFiC there's been. Some years ago, there was the possibility of a Detroit NASFiC, and we supported that bid. Didn't happen, and that's probably the last time a bid for a large convention came out of Detroit. There is a group of NYC and other city fans who had started up the idea of a continental convention every year, but I haven't heard much from them lately.

Seattle's far more Northerly than St. Louis, though not nearly as far east. I hear that there's the seed of a bid for 2014 from Detroit. Could be interesting.

The Gotham Ball would have been a great time for some friends of mine in Vancouver. Martin Hunger and Christina Carr are well known for their convention work, and Martin works on some of the movies and TV series that are shot in Vancouver. Martin also makes a great R2 unit... One of their best costumes is as the Joker and Harley Quinn. Hey, if everyone was incognito, how did you know who was who in the photos?

Ooh, you bring up a good point! How do we know? I ran into Dr. Noe at Wonder-Con and he was wearing Joker garb, but I still recognized him. Maybe we're just able to see through disguises better than most!

Two great issues, and I thank you all for them. Slowly but surely, I am getting caught up with the stack of zines I have. Take care, and see you all next time.

Yours, Lloyd Penney

Always good to have a Lloyd Penney-style LoC!

And we've also got the Texas Tornado, John Purcell!

Say, you BAReans!

If any of your readers haven't yet taken the time to peruse Guy Lillian's wonderful zine *Challenger* at www.challzine.net/index.html, they are really missing a treat. I don't know how Guy does it, but each time out of the chute, *Challenger* continues to improve and provide interesting material. No wonder it gets nominated for the Best Fanzine Hugo each year. It is a deserving zine.

Chris replies: I love Challenger. I hadn't heard that a new issue had been released until about two weeks after it dropped, so I was late in LoCing it. If anyone out there hasn't read it, go and give it a gander. Great stuff with some wonderful art by Taral Wayne and others.

Speaking of fanzines, I find myself a little bit sad to see *In a Prior Lifetime* and ...and furthermore go by the wayside, but this is a decision I've made, mainly because I wanted to try something a bit different. I

think everyone will enjoy *Askance #1* when it hits the mail later this week. Speaking for myself, I had a good time putting it together. Can't wait to get feedback on it.

I'm looking over the proof as of this minute and it's really good. Especially that gorgeous Brad Foster cover. Plus it would seem that you have a very similar idea to the SF/SF crew in getting writers who aren't frequent in other zines. In fact, Teresa Cochrane and Roxanne Mills haven't popped up in many zines other than VFW that I know of.

As for *SF/SF* not receiving votes for Best Fanzine in the FAAn Awards, I wouldn't worry about that if I were you. The way I look at it, your zine is one of the best clubzines being produced nowadays. You folks do a wonderful job, so don't be discouraged. What you are doing is supplying an active stfnal community with an outlet for creativity, sharing, and disseminating information about stfnal events in your area. That is **exactly** what a clubzine should do. Even better, it's interesting to non-Bay Area fans like me. Keep up the good work. In time, votes will come, but that's not why fans produce their zines; we do it because we *love* to do it and we want to be in contact with other fans. Remember: fandom all about the people. If it wasn't, I wouldn't be doing it either.

Well, it's hard to be a good clubzine

when you're not affiliated with a club. Though others have said that we're the best clubzine not done by an SF club, we're actually not a part of BASFA or any other group. I must admit that we have a club-like feel, but one of the reasons for that is that we're trying to serve an area. So in a way we are a club for a club that doesn't really exist. I'll call it the Greater BArea Fans of Stuff or GBAFS. Though I must admit that I believe SF/SF is a far better zine than The Drink Tank, and somehow that ended up in 6th in the voting (tied with the best zine on eFanzines.com, eI).

Also, Jean, don't be intimidated by us louts. Just because we've been doing zines forever and a day doesn't make us any better than you. We just have more experience under our belts, that's all. Everybody at Corflu Quire was there to be with their fannish friends. You would enjoy it immensely. If Garcia can do it, so can you!

Jean, listen to the dude! In fact, I'd heard that folks believe CorFlu fans can be a bit off-putting and cliquish, but I've not really found that to be true. Maybe it's just me, but I felt welcome from moment number one. Trust me, Jean, if CorFlu next year isn't the same weekend as CostumeCon, you should go down to Vegas and check it out!

Cool deal that you got a loc from Mark Plummer. He's a real nice guy, and

when he said that the con suite at Corflu was the heart of the con, he is dead on. The concept of "free beer" may be a bit foreign to British fans, but here on this side of the Atlantic, we're quite used to it. In fact, that's where some of the registration money goes: supplying the con suite with munchables and drinkables of all types. It is a good set up, and a great idea.

I love the fact that a lot of our LoCers are Brits. I mean, they're great humans like all British subjects, and they are warm and kind and beautiful people who need to be celebrated (coughChrisForTAFfcough). I've been told that if I ever make my way over to the UK, I've got to be ready for a very different experience at cons.

Speaking of cons, I am all in favor of a NASFiC whenever the WorldCon travels to other countries. There are too many major regional cons each year that can easily suck down a fan's finances if they so desire, so I really don't think there needs to be such a critter like an annual "AmeriCon" or some such nonsense. Touring cons like Westercon, World Fantasy Con, and DeepSouthCon pull in sizeable attendance figures. So do the major regionals like LunaCon, Minicon, Boskone, Norwescon, BayCon, Midwestcon, and Windycon. No, we don't need an annual AmeriCon; as it stands, there is a science fiction or

fantasy related convention held every single weekend of the calendar year now. And there are new ones being added every year someplace, too.

There was a long thread on it in Kevin Standlee's LJ and it had some great comments. I love NASFiCs personally, it's just my thing. I kinda like the idea that AmeriCon should be combined with one of the major cons (one year, AmeriCon is a part of LunaCon, the next BayCon or MiniCon or so on) or combine it with the WorldCon. That would mean giving AmeriCon a special feel and certain things that it would do, and by combining it with one of those other cons it would change the feel for that one year and make it seem more important.

WonderCon sounds like it was a good time. Too bad Chris only had time for a one-day swing through. I would be doing that tomorrow (Saturday, the 17th of March) at RevelCon down in Houston, but I simply have too much stuff to do around home and don't want to spend too much money (\$35!) for only a partial day at best. Naw. If I do a con, it's usually for the whole show, not just a small part of it.

I do that once in a while, but usually I'm the first one there and the last one to leave. Only when I've got a heavy-duty conflict do I make short runs. I would have loved another two days at WonderCon.

So Gallifrey One was a *Dr. Who* convention, it sounds like. I have very little knowledge of Who-dom, thus Johanna Mead's review was enlightening. Once again, here's proof of the intense fan activity that you folks on the West Coast enjoy. Even if I don't understand it all, I still envy the assorted fun you all can partake of out there. *grumph*

And also the SF/SF debut of another writer! I am finding that I actually do enjoy Dr. Who, and I was thinking of going to Gallifrey before time and money meant no dice. We do have a lot going on, but I just saw the NASFA Shuttle and there are more cons in Chattanooga, TN than in the BArea. I'd never have guessed.

Thanks to Jean and Chris for another fine issue, and I hope you folks don't get too tuckered out from all of that West Coast fanac. You are all going to have way too much fun before I ever get there. No fair!

All the best,

John Purcell

We're like sponges. We soak up as much FANAC as possible and wring ourselves out in every issue of SF/SF!

Editorial

By Jean Martin

Editor

I turned 40 last March 9th, and am still adjusting to the idea of being in my 40s. I'm now in a different age bracket!

On my actual birthday, I went to work, which I prefer because I enjoy receiving birthday wishes and cards. My boss (who used to be a professional baker) makes wonderful birthday cakes, and my co-workers adorn my cube with birthday décor. This time, though, I felt strangely detached from it all: like I was going through the motions, but it was just an ordinary day and not my birthday at all. I guess I was expecting 40 to be a big thing, like I was going to receive some sort of enlightenment about life. Or some major change was going to take place. Alas, nothing extraordinary happened. In fact, everyone said I look more like 30, which is quite a compliment, and I'm glad I look 30 because if I continue the way I am then by the time I'm 50, I will look 40.

I'm happy my Mom was in town for my fortieth birthday, and so after work I had dinner with her, my sister, my nephew and my significant other. I picked a small,

cozy French bistro instead of a large, trendy restaurant. It was quite nice, but again anticlimactic. If anything, I thought, it's my Mom who should be given the honors on that day as she's the one who labored to bring me into this world!

However, the next day was another matter. On Saturday, March 10, I threw a huge birthday party and invited 100 people. I usually get a 50% attendance so I was hoping 50 people would help celebrate this special milestone with me, especially now that I have the space for more people in my new home. Sure enough, around 50 people came. And it was a fantastic party! Probably one of the best I've ever hosted. Lots of my dancing, sci fi and costuming friends showed up. And I felt very lucky and grateful to receive so much love from such creative, fun and genuinely nice people, most of whom I've only met in the last three years.

For a decade before that, I was depressed and had no outlet for my creativity, nor friends to share my interests with. Now, my cup is overflowing. So if anything, I think things have gotten better for me over the years. I have no idea what the next decade has in store for me. I don't

really have any plans or goals except to keep enjoying and appreciating what I have. I strongly believe that things will just build on that, as they have these past three years. I've found activities to be passionate about, and friends to do them with, that will keep me occupied and happy for the rest of my life.

It was pretty crowded during dinner, but after I blew out the candles on my beautiful pink frilly cake (complete with a porcelain figurine of a girl in a pink ball gown), I thought the party was going to end early as people started leaving around 10:30 p.m. To my surprise, some people lingered on and we turned the lights down. My previously respectable party turned into an after-hours type of party complete with a lecture and demonstration on how to serve and enjoy a particular type of expensive liqueur, and an interactive, hilarious karaoke session. This is the first time I actually had guests ask to do karaoke! I didn't have to encourage and cajole people to do it. I have a professional-quality karaoke machine and lots of karaoke CDs. People were actually lining up to sing several times. And it was great to find out that my friends like to sing too, and are actually good at it. The best

part was that everyone cheered everyone on and sang backup and even danced to several tunes. The party ended around 1:30 a.m. and I was exhausted but happy.

I must say as well how surprised I was at the presents I received. I normally don't expect much in the way of presents, and I really don't anticipate any at all. I hold parties because I love entertaining people and don't require anything in return. But this year everyone got me such cool and appropriate presents. Some even made presents especially for me! Someone remarked that my friends really know me by what they got me.

Who would have thought that I'd be dancing, performing, sewing, making lots of friends, and dating an amazing man at this stage in life! I guess it's true what they say, that 40s is the new 30s. I feel young, healthy and alive! I have friends from different age groups, from their 20s into their 60s, who are all quite diverse. I looked around during my party, and realized that we're all young at heart, and that's what keeps us young and enjoying what we do. Even my friends in their 60s do things I didn't think 60-year-olds do! Granted, I have had to ponder the appropriateness of a 40-year-old who goes around wearing costumes of sci fi and fantasy characters. But that's when I realized age is just a number

and it's how you feel inside that counts. I've always been iconoclastic and I intend to be so till I'm old and gray.

Also, I was struck with the realization that if I live to be 80, I'm really only halfway through life! There's still so much life ahead of me. And even if there isn't, I intend to live each day with meaning and purpose, and fun and joy, and appreciation for all the blessings in my life. Being a highly sensitive, emotional introvert, I think about these things all the time. So I have to remember not to get caught up with societal expectations and get overwhelmed with the negativity that seems always evident in our world. There's a lot of good around us too. that I think we forget to focus on.

Anyway, I guess this is my way of saying that I am grateful to all of you in fandom for just being there and doing what you do. For not being afraid to be who you are and what you want to be, regardless of age, race, or social status. *SF/SF* brings me a lot of fulfillment and keeps me going. I hope to see you all for a long, long time enjoying fandom. And make sure to say, "Hey Jean, you look 30" next time you see me!

Two Feature Docs, One Narrative Feature, and Six Shorts at Cinequest

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

Every year, the Cinequest Film Festival rolls into San Jose and takes over Downtown for 12 days. As always, I was there, announcing films, watching movies and generally helping out where I could. While I'm writing up specific movies for other things I write for (FanboyPlanet.com, *The Drink Tank*, etc), I thought I'd share with our loyal fans some of my faves in our little world (and just on the edges).

Monster Camp: A documentary about NERO Seattle, a Live Action Role Playing group that features a lot of folks I know from my semi-annual trips to Seattle conventions. It's a fun film, won the audience award, and is one of those rare films about fandom that doesn't make fun of the people it documents and still manages to be a lot of fun.

Blood Car: A narrative feature that's the psychosexual, gross-out descendant of *Frankenstein* as well as a sly political knock in the vein of Christopher Buckley's books.

It's the story of a guy who tries to invent a car that runs on wheatgrass juice, but finds that blood works much better, and in a land where gas costs 32 dollars a gallon, that's a big deal. Extreme in content, hilarious in execution. My second favorite film of the whole festival. <http://bloodcar.com/> for more details.

The Fighting Cholitas: A short and a documentary about a group of Bolivian women who have taken up professional wrestling in their traditional skirts and petticoats. It's a wonderful vision of a bizarre world that I had no idea ever existed.

Super Amigos: Another wrestling documentary...sort of. It's based on the masked social justice fighters of Mexico City. There's Super Barrio, the one who gained the world's attention by working to stop evictions in the 1980s. There's Fray Tormenta, the guy who opened a home for orphans and who directly inspired *Nacho Libre*. There's Super Gay, a masked fighter taking on homophobia. There's Super Animal, a vegetarian luchador and mixed-martial artist who wants to stop bullfighting and at one point pushes his way

through a line of 200 cops. An awesome documentary.

If I See Randy Again, Do You Want Me to Hit Him with the Axe?: The short film that showed before *Blood Car* and really hit home. It's about the strong social order of a four-man logging camp and the book that governs their lives. Absolutely hilarious and slightly gory too. I loved it!

Free Range: Another short that showed before a feature (the uneven *Long Pigs*) and really hit home. This one's about a pair of UK cannibals who live by the motto "needs must." They try everything to keep the eating lively, but human meat gets boring. A very fun film that just made me smile.

One Rat Short: A fine short that combines science fiction and romance with rats. The animation references everything from Harold Lloyd films to *The Matrix* and is a darn good film to watch with kids.

Our Man in Nirvana: Another animated short, though this one combines several styles, including shadow puppet animation, to create a multi-layered vision that enchants and moves. It won an award

from the British Academy of Film and Television Arts and was one of the audience faves as well. The artist came all the way from Germany on short notice as well and was a very nice guy.

Validation: The short that really made me smile. It's another short from Kurt Kuenne, a De Anza-trained filmmaker and composer. His last film, *Rent-A-Person*, won the Cinequest audience award, and this is a sort of follow-on to that wonderful piece. It's the story of a guy who only wants people to smile and be happy, and the one woman who won't smile for him. It's a wonderfully fun film.

There are a lot of other great films that you might want to check out. You can go to cinequest.org and find Cinequest Online where you can view films both in and out of the festival. Some of the films I recommend include Viewer's Voice selection *The Town That Was* (about Centralia, PA's coal mine fire), *One Last Drink Before Morning* (a slightly long but very well-done English short), and *Nobody The Great* (an entertaining little film that might best be called *Abu Ghraib: A Love Story*).

Stars Light Up WonderCon

Photos and story by Jean Martin
Editor

I was looking forward to WonderCon this year as I had so much fun last year. Last year at WonderCon I competed in the masquerade with a group of friends doing our *Firefly* song and dance number, and we won one of the top awards. I was there for the entire weekend and was able to socialize with lots of friends, even though the con itself was quite crowded with lots of mainstream comic book fans whom I didn't know.

This year, WonderCon was held March 2-4 at Moscone South, which is one of the original sections of the convention center. Reflecting the growing popularity of comic books, or graphic novels, there were more people in attendance this year. WonderCon is probably the biggest con of its kind in the Bay Area, and although smaller than Comic-Con in San Diego (put together by the same organizers), it is quite huge. And as I found out, too big for my taste.

I guess last year, because I was

in the masquerade and volunteered at the Browncoat booth in addition to covering the event for *SF/SF*, I had more of a focus and purpose, and I had several made-to-order groups of friends to hang out with. This year, I floated around aimlessly, overwhelmed by the sheer number of people crowding the exhibit halls and attending the panels in the huge ballrooms. I swear when I first walked into the exhibit hall, I felt a sense of déjà vu and I could be forgiven for mistakenly believing I was at Comic-Con. The main exhibit hall looked just like Comic-Con with a very similar layout of booths, interior architecture of the hall, jam-packed aisles and lots of people milling



Awesome young costumers



Green Lantern and Electro

around artists, celebrities and dealers. Talk about sensory overload! And most everyone was a stranger.

Moscone West, last year's site, seemed more spacious and roomy with its large hallways and meeting rooms, and stunning steel and glass architecture with high ceilings, so I didn't feel as cramped. Or maybe that's just because there were more people this year, as the exhibit hall seemed larger in terms of absolute size. In any case, it took me a while to adjust to my surroundings and

he was already on his way out to head to Cinequest in San Jose. I luckily ran into our regular columnist, España Sheriff, and some other costuming friends. I also sought out the Browncoat booth, which looked spectacular as usual. I said hello to some fellow Browncoats but they seemed really busy attending to customers, so I left soon after to roam the entire exhibit hall.

Before I did the exhibit hall, however, I first went to see the *300* panel in the main

start looking for things that were interesting to me and that I thought would be interesting to our readers. I also kept an eye out for people I know. I was hoping to run into my co-editor, Chris Garcia, but we missed each other as I got there in the middle of the afternoon (more about that later) and

ballroom right after I registered for my press pass. I got to Moscone South ten minutes before 3:00 p.m., when that panel was scheduled to begin. Now that I live farther away from San Francisco, it takes me longer to get to the city, and I also had to battle the enormous weekend and con crowds and numerous vehicles trying to find parking.

I was hoping to get to the con earlier but I've just been so tired and busy lately that I couldn't get organized and psyched up to head to the city any earlier. I also purposely decided to just attend on Saturday as I didn't want to have to drive to the city on a Friday night after work and not really have much left to do at the con when I got there. Plus, it was my mom's birthday dinner that Friday night, and my significant other was flying back from a two-week business trip that Sunday. I try to keep a personal life outside my fandom activities even though it makes me even busier!

I made it to the *300* panel right on time but the ballroom was already completely packed. I couldn't find any empty seats and just gave up and walked straight to the front of the stage. There were some photographers there and I asked them if it was okay for all of us to stay there and take photos if we had a press pass. One of them said, "Yes, until security asks us to leave." So I happily snapped several photos

of the director and stars of the movie until we were told sternly to go away or be thrown out.

For those who have not heard of the movie, it is based on a Frank Miller graphic novel that recounts the Battle of Thermopylae in ancient Greece, which pitted a small army of 300 Spartans against a much larger invading Persian army. The story had captured my imagination when I was in high school ages ago (pre-Frank Miller), and I was very excited that a movie was being made about it. To top it off, the movie stars one of my favorite actors, Gerard Butler, whom I've liked since I saw him in the TV miniseries *Attila*. To see the ruggedly handsome Scot up close was quite a treat. He made all the girls in the audience scream with delight, especially the first two rows of women, who proudly proclaimed they were members of two Gerard Butler fan clubs.

Gerry, as he likes to be called, walked onto the stage with a confident swagger and proceeded to clown around. He has a larger-than-life persona and is quite brash and funny. He openly admitted that he has a dark sense of humor, and he made us all laugh and blush with his outspoken and candid answers to several audience members' questions. He's very passionate about his work and said he underwent



300 Panel with Zack Snyder, Gerard Butler and Lena Headey

intense physical and mental preparation for the role of King Leonidas of Sparta. Gerry said the movie is strange, beautiful, romantic, artistic and inspiring, with a purity of purpose and real heroes. When a clip from the movie was shown, Gerry walked close to one screen and sat there enamored of it. When it was shown again, he did the same thing. He totally believes in the movie and I look forward to seeing it even though from what I saw from the film clip, the movie is probably too violent and more stylized than I would be comfortable

with.

I felt a little bad for Lena Headey because she didn't get very much attention. Most questions were directed toward Gerry, a few to director Zack Snyder and maybe only two for her. She did get to say that she was glad to play a strong female character in the movie, and that at first having so much testosterone around (the cast is practically all male except for her) was distracting, but after a while it got boring. Zack talked a little bit about what it was like directing actors against a blue screen, as most of the



Dark Horse Comics signing table

movie is CGI.

Elated after the panel, I then walked to the main exhibit hall and was overwhelmed as recounted above. After a little while, though, I started to have more fun and got into the spirit of things. I just had to tune out all the people walking almost shoulder to shoulder and just pick out people I knew and people in interesting costumes. There were only a few people in costumes, but those who were wore pretty impressive

outfits. The 501st Legion had a booth of course, and some of their members were in their movie-quality *Star Wars* regalia.

I checked out the dealers of comic books and fan merchandise. I vowed to myself not to buy any more doodads of this nature and I am proud to say I didn't buy anything except for a Darth Vader action figure, which I had promised to get for my nephew. There were several graphic novel artists from presses big and small signing

autographs. The nice thing about this con is that it provides a venue for aspiring comic book artists to showcase their work along with the more popular and established professionals.

I haven't been much into comics since I was a child—I enjoy the movie adaptations but don't read them much anymore. What really caught my attention, though, were some amazing paintings and prints at one fine art booth. They featured superheroes but in beautiful poses and settings, suitable as home décor. The one I liked with the Justice League was \$1,000. I'm glad it had a sold sign on it, or I would have been sorely tempted to take it home with me and spend money I shouldn't.

Some other thrilling aspects of the con where the stars of sci fi shows signing autographs. Their tables were juxtaposed in front of the Browncoat booth and were very accessible. You didn't have to pay to get in line like at other conventions. You did have to pay to get an autograph and/or photo with these celebrities, though. It was very cool to meet the original Boomer from the original *Battlestar Galactica*, Herbert Jefferson, Jr. and BarBara Luna who played Lt. Marlena Moreau from the famous *Star Trek* episode "Mirror, Mirror." I was excited to meet BarBara (that is how she spells it) as she's part Filipino. When I was a kid and



Chewbacca!

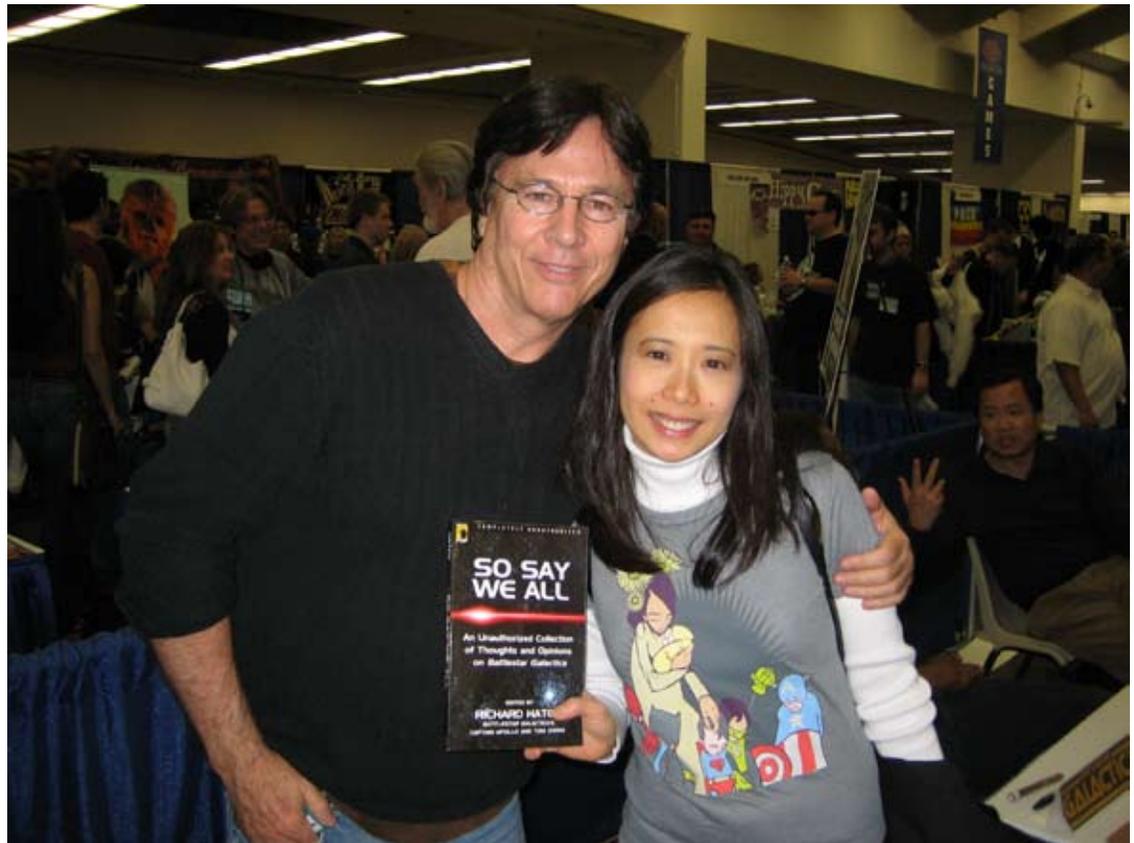
saw her on TV in the Philippines, I was glad to see someone with the same ethnic background as myself in an American TV show that I absolutely was enthralled by. That's what's great about *Star Trek* and other sci fi shows in general. There was more diversity, even way back when.

Peter Mayhew, Chewbacca from *Star Wars*, was signing autographs as well. He was a little bit grumpy, and actually, most of the stars didn't seem too happy to be there.

I guess it gets tiring sitting behind a table for several hours signing autographs for lots and lots of people. And reliving a part of their past that was probably way more exciting than selling photos and chatting with fans.

One actor who seemed genuinely to enjoy it all, though, was Richard Hatch, who has appeared in both the original and current *Battlestar Galactica* as Apollo and

Tom Zarek, respectively. Maybe that's because he's still active as an actor and writer. He has a new book out entitled *So Say We All*. But I suspect he really does enjoy meeting fans and sharing his love for his work with everyone. He and I had quite a nice, long chat. I was surprised because there wasn't a line to see him and so we had time to discuss different things such as his current projects and *SF/SF*. He



Richard Hatch and Jean

even asked to see a copy if I had one on me. Fortunately, I did! I told him I met him at Comic-Con a couple of years ago and that he was one of the judges for the masquerade when I competed during that same year. He said he remembered me. That was nice of him to say even if it wasn't true. But we really did seem to remember me! I told him I grew up on the original *Battlestar Galactica* and he said I looked too young to have been around then. He said this all quite sincerely. He also said that it's great to see women who really know sci fi and are doing something about it because that is quite unusual. Well, all this praise from one of my childhood idols filled me with a lot of joy and inspiration.

Pretty soon, it was time to leave WonderCon to go to a birthday party being thrown by a friend-of-a-friend at the bar at the top of the San Francisco Marriott. Aptly named "The View," the bar has a fantastic 360-degree view of San Francisco. The moon shone brightly in the distance and the lights of the city were just so beautiful. I also caught a glimpse of the Chinese New Year parade as it snaked through Union Square. No wonder the area was so crazy that day! There were people everywhere and cops had to direct pedestrians as well as vehicles.

Most of the guests at the party are

part of a costuming group I belong to and so most were wearing costumes. Raven, the celebrant, was kind enough to open up the celebration to all the people with birthdays right before and after WonderCon. And so a group of four, including myself, blew out the candles on the chocolate cake she'd brought.

After that, some of us went to Denny's for dinner. So ended my 2007 WonderCon adventure. I'm now looking forward to BayCon in May, which is my favorite con. WonderCon is fun in small doses but I've realized that smaller, more intimate cons are more my style.

Three Days No Nights at WonderCon

Story and Photos By España Sheriff
Staff Writer

WonderCon is normally a one-day event for me. I usually only go on Saturday to hit the big panels and hang out with friends. Recently, however, I've come to realize that there is more nighttime programming than I had previously thought, plus an anime room, so armed with a press pass I decided I'd see if I could keep myself entertained for all three days.

Thus it was that on my Friday lunch break I headed over to Moscone South and beheld the line outside the venue that was already surprisingly long, though not as daunting as in years past. I looked around for Joe Price, failing to spot him but instead running into Kim of the SF Browncoats on her way to the always-popular California Browncoats booth.

After finding Mr. Price and doing a quick tour of the main exhibitor hall I reluctantly went back to work. Hilariously, on the way back we passed the Gold Club on Howard Street and witnessed a whole troop of *Star Wars* costumers pouring

out of its entrance. The doormen were unfazed but curious and we stopped to let them know that WonderCon was going on just down the street. My firm belief

that the Nerd Wars are over and our side won was confirmed when the tall, dapper looking guy at the door nodded sagely and said, "Right, Wondercon, that's like the San



BC Booth

Francisco version of the San Diego Comic-Con, right?”

The afternoon dragged on until I made my escape and headed back in time to catch the second half of the Boom! Studios panel, which was very interesting. I have been hearing good things about this relatively new comics publisher which (among other things) publishes a series of highly entertaining anthology books: *Cthulhu Tales*, *Pirate Tales* and *Zombie Tales*. Another trip to the exhibitor hall yielded up posters for Stephen Colbert’s *Tek Jensen* comic and the movie *Hot Fuzz* plus information on all sorts of upcoming movies, books, cons and comics.

After a quick jaunt to find food and coffee, I managed to arrive back during the nighttime screening of the winners from the Comic-Con International Independent Film Festival. *Vinyl Wars*, which was halfway through when I got there, was amusing; next was *Post-Mortem* which started out strong but lost me towards the end. The last two films were both excellent: *Outside*, a science fiction short that was well done and intelligent, and *Zombie Prom* which I’d expected to be low budget and trashy but turned out to be a 50s musical extravaganza with RuPaul that blew everyone’s socks off.

Sunday I promised myself I would arrive early and managed to show up



Genres Collide

promptly at 2:30, in time to swing by the Borderlands booth to say howdy and then miss every interesting panel (just like at a real con), but catch glimpses of all sorts of fabulous costumes including an Electro with actual sparks coming out of his fingertips, Klingons and Stormtroopers galore, and a pair of Yip Yips. After running into Kevin

and Andy of Ahwahneecon fame and both Joes, we all headed out for some food and then to Raven O’Neill’s birthday party over at the Marriott’s bar. I had never been in this San Francisco landmark and recommend it despite the hotel-priced drinks because of its amazing views of the city. Pretty soon we had about thirty fen drinking and



Fillion and camera

eating cake, about half of those dressed in costumes, including a host of Klingons, some mad scientists, and a sexy robot. The other patrons mostly seemed amused, although a few heads ducked in, looked alarmed and scurried off.

Back to the con for the Masquerade. We arrived just in time to hit the intermission which included a handful of trailers, mostly uninspiring, and then a halftime show by Mr. Lobo. MC Phil Foglio eventually came back out to announce the winners, which were all great and included quite a few familiar faces, such as Richard and Meta who won best in show for their *Star Wars* costumes.

After the Masquerade LucasFilm

presented the Dark Side vs. Light Side short film contest, which I'd seen part of last year. Highlights were *Trooper Clerks*, *Pink Five Strikes Back* and *Recruitment*. The Light Side won, but we all know Jedis cheat.

Sunday was the day I managed to fit the most panels in, first with the "2007 and Beyond" panel which included past BayCon favorite Chase Masterson, Richard Hatch, Billy Campbell, and Jeff Loeb, and was quite interesting, revealing that Richard Hatch in particular is a genre fan. I was unimpressed with the *Jericho* pilot when it originally aired so I only went to that panel in order to get decent seats for the following one. However, I may pick up the show when it comes out on DVD, since the episode they screened

was not bad at all. The creator Carol Barbee was interesting and actress Ashley Scott was very enthusiastic and engaging. Actor Skeet Ulrich, who kept his baseball cap on during the entire panel, was somewhat less so.

As the *Jericho* panel wound down the room began to fill up for the event everyone had been waiting for, the *Drive* panel. This upcoming series is written by *Firefly* scribe Tim Minear, has effects by Zoic, and stars Nathan Fillion, so anticipation is very high. As in *Firefly* panels in years past the room was full of Browncoats and Fillion pretty much got a standing ovation just by walking into the room. Part of his appeal is that he is a very charming speaker, engaging with his fellow panelists and the audience and generally horsing around. Also on the panel were co-star Kristin Lehman, writer Ben Queen and director Greg Yaitanes, all of whom gracefully weathered a Q&A session mainly composed of a series of questions for Fillion.

And aside from a trip to Chevy's, that was the end of that for me, but I had an excellent time and can assert with confidence that this year's WonderCon exceeded my expectations—and I look forward to attending all three days next year as well.

Five Days Four Nights at Gallifrey One

Story and Photos By España Sheriff
Staff Writer

Thursday

The long Greyhound trip down to Los Angeles was fine enough for sleeping but hardly right to get me into “con mode,” unless you include the hangover portions of the convention. I transferred at the downtown LA bus station, fabled in song and police report, and rode another bus to the Glendale train station, which in turn was sort of like being in one of those *Twilight Zone* episodes that Serling favored about towns called Willowghby and Cliffordville. It was a quaint mission-style train station under blue skies, quiet and idyllic after the pre-dawn squalor of LA.

My sister’s boyfriend Andres kindly picked me up and dropped me off with my overpacked suitcase at the LAX Marriott, with which I was familiar from LosCon. I had arranged through the Outpost Gallifrey website to share a room with three Whofen, but was happy to find I was the first to arrive and temporarily had the place to myself. A shower and change of clothes helped make me feel human again and I headed to Santa

Monica to visit with my sister for a few hours. So it was around ten o’clock when I walked into the lobby of the Marriott and Lo! It was full of men. There were some women as well, but my first impression was: wow, that’s a lot of guys. My second was: wow, that’s a lot of British guys. Before I got too excited about that, my third impression seeped in:

hmmm—that’s a lot of polite, well-groomed British guys. It turns out *Dr. Who* fandom in Britain has a large gay fanbase. Still, the view was nice.

The Marriott allows drinks to be taken out of the bar to the other areas of the hotel, which is a nice change, so I ended up drinking a pint and chatting with one of my



Evil Geniuses Party with Tado Tomomatsu (center) and Andy Trembley (right)

roommates, “Who Cruiser” Dan Harris, and Erik Hoffman, film expert and frequent SoCal convention panelist. Eventually the crowd began to thin out and it was time to hit the sack.

Friday

My first order of business on Friday was checking in on the Art Show. They were still a good hour away from being set up so I headed over to nearby Westchester to deposit my paycheck and grab some breakfast, since the ConSuite pickings were slim. I found a nice little diner called the Coffee Co. on La Tijera that had tasty French toast, and then I enjoyed a leisurely walk back to the hotel under skies crisscrossed with planes landing and taking off from LAX. At first the extremely low-flying planes were a bit intimidating, but I used the opportunity to try out my new camera on moving targets.

Once back at the hotel the Art Show was set up and the LosCon signup and hanging process was being used, so in a matter of minutes I was hung and done. The show was smallish but packed with a variety of good artists, about half of those being general interest SF artists like me and the other half makers of media-related art with a lot of very nice Whovian pieces. Sales were slim, with even good and reasonably priced pieces getting zero bids and a total of four pieces going to auction on Sunday, so I was sad but not exactly surprised that I ended up

selling nothing.

Done with my responsibilities for the weekend, I wandered a little and ran into Andy Trembley who informed me that the League of Evil Geniuses party was that night and he and Kevin would be setting up for it a little later in the afternoon. A few panels looked interesting, but it was also gorgeous outside so I took advantage of the opportunity to hit the pool. Feeling nice and mellow from the water and sunshine I bopped down to the LoEG room, conveniently located next to the ConSuite, and spent a couple of hours taping Evil Genius of the Month posters to the walls along with fellow minions Johanna Mead and Merv from the Legion of Rassilon while Kevin and Andy turned the hotel suite into a lair, complete with monkey skulls and a banana slug. Finally every square inch of wall space was plastered with evil visages just in time for opening ceremonies.

We scurried down and found a corner in the packed main hall. Gallifrey has a ton of guests for its size. Colin Baker was the guest of honor but other guests included about a dozen writers for the show including Paul Cornell, Tom MacRae and Steven Moffat, actors Terry Molloy, Caroline John and John Levene, as well as effects artist Mike Tucker and a score of others. Steven Moffett won the brevity prize with a speech that was one word long: “Hugo.” The audience went nuts, natch, and this became a refrain for the weekend,

particularly when a fellow panelist disagreed with him. Colin Baker had a comeback of his own, of course: “You go. I stay”—which also met with approval from the audience.

The Ice Cream Social scheduled for Friday was postponed, so I went up to the room to change into something eviler for the League of Evil Geniuses party. It was sparse at the start due to the karaoke going on in the main hall, but also because apparently many of the British members traditionally run off to the little row of British pubs in Santa Monica. But as the evening progressed, the party was jumping and there were many interesting concoctions to be had. The party eventually wrapped up well into the wee hours and I reluctantly headed to bed.

Saturday

The first panel for the morning for me was the Big Finish Eighth Doctor Adventures, which was nominally about the Paul McGann adventures but ended up covering all of their audios. The projects under development sounded exciting but were shrouded in mystery as only the barest hints were given. After the panel I made my way to the table for the US distributor for Big Finish, Ministry of Sound and Vision. The seller at the table was kind enough to recommend “Jubilee” as my intro to the Colin Baker audios, since up until now I’ve only heard the Paul McGann series.

A leisurely buffet breakfast got me



Cast of the Offstage Theater Company during closing ceremonies

ready for the rest of the day. The service and food at Latitude 33 have been uneven in my experience, but in this instance both were excellent. I tried the buffet, which is superior to that of my old homebase at the San Jose Doubletree. For one thing, Latitude 33 includes an omelet cook; for another, waffles!

Once fed, it was off to the *Lost in Space* panel with Bill Mummy and Angela Cartwright. Even though I've only watched a few episodes of that show, it was highly entertaining. Mummy was also in *Babylon 5*, of course, and most famously was the creepy kid in the famous *Twilight Zone* episode "It's a Good Life," so he had a lot of good showbiz stories to tell and did a wicked impersonation

of Jonathan Harris.

Next was the Eric Roberts talk with Gary Russell doing an interview style session. Russell does these very well, as I later saw during the Mike Tucker talk, and although Roberts seemed to start off a little prickly, perhaps defensive awaiting the inevitable Julia Roberts questions, he seemed to relax and enjoy himself as the interview continued, and later we found out that he has agreed to be a guest on the February 2008 *Doctor Who* Cruise. When asked if he would consider reprising his role as the Master on a Big Finish production (and having had the audio series explained to him), he seemed willing enough, as did the BF folks later... personally, I'd love to see that happen.

The highlight of Saturday evening was the Offstage Theater Group parody play *The Ten Doctors*. I didn't know what to expect—fan productions can be anywhere from great to coma-inducing. In this case it was brilliant, full of obsessive fannish detail and hilarious dialogue. It helped that the entire cast was uniformly good with standout performances by Barnaby Eaton Jones, Gaz Ricketts and Kim Jones, with every actor playing multiple parts. Scheduled at 90 minutes with an intermission, it ran for two and a half hours instead, due to laughter, ad-libbing, and a false alarm that the actors gamely worked through. It's a testament to the quality of the work that three quarters of the audience were still there to clap like maniacs at the end.

The Buffy sing-along had been delayed until the end of the play, and was fun and well attended.

By the time that ended it was midnight and the party-room that had been League of Evil Geniuses the night before was now the Bubbleshock factory, complete with refreshing bottles of said soft drink. I stayed away from the soda but partook of the champagne and other treats. A quick detour down to the dance determined that it was sparse to begin with and closed down shortly after the hotel-managed bar outside closed, at barely one o'clock. I headed back upstairs, where I stayed until eventually there were

only a handful of us left around 3:30 a.m. when Merv of the Legion of Rassilon began yawning and saying things like “My, look at the hour” and “Goodness it’s late” and finally “For the love of God just leave! Here; take this bottle and get your drunk asses out of here!”

Bottle in hand, the last hardy remaining souls included Gaz and Dave from Offstage. None of us having private rooms, we loitered in the lobby until we ran out of alcohol and tasteless jokes and determined that the hotel bar did not reopen at 6 a.m. as we had hoped. At 8:30 we were at the poolside lounge and I decided it was time, if not for sleep, at least for a shower, so I bid the remaining crew good morning.

Sunday

It turns out the buffet is even better if you get there early, which I discovered for the first time. Tadao was one table over looking not unlike I felt, but as always quick-witted and full of vim. Bastard.

I wandered from panel to panel and eventually decided a swim and a nap was what I needed. I took both and descended feeling much more human and able to fully enjoy listening to Mike Tucker discuss his special-effects work, and then Colin Baker, Caroline John, Geoffrey Beevers, Terry Molloy, John Levene and Maggie Stables discuss all sorts of things, from their careers in *Doctor Who* to the BBC and the National Theater Company. It

was a lively and fascinating glimpse into the life of working UK actors and the changes the BBC has undergone over the last thirty or so years.

The convention was now slowly winding down and I took some time to walk through the dealers’ room and the art show one last time, before packing up my unsold art and heading over to closing ceremonies, which were rather like the opening ceremonies, only louder and slightly hoarser. They were followed by a screening with commentary of a 3-D *Doctor Who* adventure that was new to me, a Sylvester McCoy episode, and finally some recent interviews and promos for *Doctor Who* from British television. I lingered to the end, then headed over to the lobby where the last evening of drinking had begun. I spent time talking to Johanna and Alex and Kevin and Andy and feeling wistful that the con was ending. With some dutch courage in me I took the opportunity to tell Paul Cornell how much I had enjoyed his audio *Seasons of Fear* although I was kicking myself for having forgotten to bring the copy of his new comic *Wisdom* to get it signed. Finally, blearily, I headed to bed.

Monday

On Monday morning there were still a handful of folks about, some hoping to participate in Cornell’s annual cricket match, but the weather became overcast for just long enough to nix those plans. Two hours later

the skies were sunny again but I was on the beach in Santa Monica planning for next year’s Gally.

The Other Legacy of Mrs. Gaskell

By Cary W. Tucker
Contributing Writer

Every other month in Oakland, California, a mid 19th-century British novelist brings together hundreds of dancers from all over the San Francisco Bay Area. Clad in elegant, Victorian eveningwear, the dancers enter an early-20th century Masonic Temple to dance at the Gaskell Ball.

Simply referred to as “Gaskells” by the regulars and held on selected Saturday nights at the Oakland Scottish Rite Temple, a Gaskell dance is a formal Victorian ball. Entering the grand ballroom at Gaskells is something like stepping into an antebellum Southern plantation. Gentlemen stride by in black tailcoats or frock coats, with long cravats wound around their necks. Ladies huddle in colorful gowns that are bustled in the back or that drape gracefully over hoop skirts.

Like the costuming, the name of the Gaskell Ball draws from the Victorian era; specifically, from British writer Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell. Born in London in 1810, Elizabeth Gaskell was a close friend

of several famous Victorian novelists, including Charles Dickens. It seems altogether appropriate, then, that the inspiration for the Gaskell Ball came from a theatrical reenactment of Victorian London, namely The Great Dickens Christmas Fair.

Begun in 1970 and continuing every winter in San Francisco, The Great Dickens Christmas Fair has long included a recreation of the Fezziwigs’ dance party from *A Christmas Carol*. For several years, Gordon Monson and his wife, Shelley, had been portraying Victorian literary characters at Dickens Fair, and they eventually decided to put on their own historical dance party. In the summer of 1979, the Monsons and Shelley’s sister, Au-



Victorian Dancers

Photo by Cary Tucker

rie Bradley, hosted a Duchess of Richmond Ball, reenacting a famous ball from 1815 Brussels.

For their Duchess of Richmond Ball, Gordon, Shelly, and Aurie had rented the hall and paid all the other dance expenses. However, many of the guests expressed both an interest in having another historical



Victorian Geisha

Photo by Jean Martin

dance party and a willingness to pay for it. Subsequently, a group of organizers began gathering to plan additional historical dances.

An early challenge for the organizing committee was simply deciding on a name for the dances. At Dickens Fair, one of the organizers had portrayed Mr. Gaskell, the husband of the British writer. The name “Gaskell” seemed especially fitting, given that several of Mrs. Gaskell’s novels included

vivid and fond descriptions of Victorian shire-hall dances and assembly balls. Finally, the committee agreed on a name, Ye Gaskell Occasional Dance Society, which also made for a clever acronym, Ye GODS.

In the first decade of YeGODS, the dances really were held only occasionally, though the frequency and the attendance steadily increased. While only about 75 people had attended the first Gaskell Ball in September 1980, the number of attendees had reached as many as three hundred by 1989. The number of Gaskell dances held each year likewise grew from one or two in the early 1980s to five in 1989.

In 1990, given the swelling attendance, the Ye GODS organizers moved the dances to the current location at the Oakland Scottish Rite Temple. Not only was the Scottish Rite Temple located just down the road from the previous location, but the grand ballroom at Scottish Rite could accommodate hundreds more dancers. Held continuously at the Scottish



Waltzing at Gaskells

Photo by Jean Martin

Rite ever since, the Gaskell Ball is now held six times a year and routinely draws crowds of over six hundred people.

In over 15 years at the Scottish Rite Temple, the Gaskell Ball has remained remarkably consistent. With the possible exception of the fancy dress ball each October, the Victorian theme has persisted in the Gaskell costumes, music and dances. The vintage Brassworks Band has played for Ye GODS for as long as the balls have been held at Scottish Rite and, in keeping with the Victorian era, uses no electronic amplification. The romantic waltz—done

almost exclusively in the older, rotary style—makes up the majority of the dances offered, yet the evening also includes the polka, schottische, mazurka and other traditional European dances.

Occasionally, during the band breaks, a Gaskell Ball will feature selected dance performances; however, there have never been any dance competitions at Gaskells. Rather, the emphasis is on social interaction. As stated by Arthur Pruyn, one of the Ye GODS organizers and dance instructors, “My goal is to get you to do a passable waltz, enjoy yourself, and have a conversation with your partner.”

Elizabeth Gaskell, in her novel *Ruth*, described how much Victorian dancers enjoyed themselves, as the title character looked in on a shire-hall dance: “Bright colours flashed on the eye and were gone, and succeeded by others as lovely in the rapid movement of the dance. Smiles dimpled every face, and low tones of happiness murmured indistinctly through the room in every pause of the music.”

Now, more than 150 years later, the Gaskell Ball offers a chance to experience the same joy.



Masqueraders at Fancy Dress Ball (pictured above and below)

Photos by Jean Martin



Battlestar Galactica *Signing Event in San Francisco*

Photos by Francis Yun

On February 17, 2007, three actors from the popular SciFi Channel original series *Battlestar Galactica* appeared to sign

autographs at Antiquities of California, a film and rock-and-roll collectible store at Pier 39 in San Francisco. Members of the newly-formed Bay Area Actual, a *Battlestar Galactica* fan group, met and had their

photos taken with Aaron Douglas (Chief Galen Tyrol), Tahmoh Penikett (Lt. Karl "Helo" Agathon), and San Mateo native Michael Trucco (Samuel Anders).



Aaron and Tahmoh have a small disagreement



Cut that out, I'm working!



Elizabeth and Duck with Aaron, Tahmoh and Michael



The New Bay Area Actual Group



Things get out of hand for just a minute

BASFA Minutes: meeting 866

March 5, 2007

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

Began 8:01 with a pause for food.

18 people attended.

We established a party jar.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 865 were accepted as 'Oooo blinky.'

The Treasurer was late and confusion resulted in no report.

There was no VP or VP report.

The President reported that conventions have been happening all over the place.

There was talk about the mailing list problems.

Adrienne proposed a 1-time outing to the Sonoma Chicken Coop at 2nd Street and

Campbell Ave on March 26 and it passed.

There was an emergency birthday auction of Joanie to Garth for \$6.00.

Announcements

Andy announced that Hugo nominations are closed & Adrienne follow-on'd that she had problems submitting her ballot.

Ric announced that Chris Garcia was on last week's fanboyplanet.com podcast talking mainly about wrestling.

Art announced that he has cat food to give away in his car.

Dave C announced that Potlatch is THIS weekend - oops!

Reviews:

Julie went to a Legion of Rassilon meeting and saw 2 episodes of Torchwood and thought both were very well done, definitely worth seeing and worth buying if you have the money & she really likes Captain Jack.

Andy reviewed WonderCon as kind of a convention and it didn't suck & the dealer's room wasn't bad, while panel rooms were

almost impossible to get into & much better than a Creation con & worth what he paid; Ric follow-on'd that it was totally fun to get in free on a press pass & he had good interviews & the small conference rooms were very full; Dave C follow-on'd that the 2 panels he saw he enjoyed greatly and he had fun; Dave G reviewed the lobby as he saw a lot of folks and it was worth his time.

Then Dave G reviewed 'Beard Papa' as being far, far too close to where he works and well worth a jaunt over there for a variety pack & worth full price.

Mike reviewed the Dresden Files as appealing and he enjoys it & he reviewed 'Bridge to Terabithia' as a friendship story and worth full price.

We auctioned off a book for \$1.50 & a blinky pen for \$7.00.

We adjourned at 9:15.

And the rumor of the week was that 'Chris Garcia will enter the Gallifrey masquerade as a masked Mexican Rassilon.'

BASFA Minutes: meeting 867

March 12, 2007

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

Began 8:07.

17 people attended.

We established a jar for flowers for Judy Bemis.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 866 were accepted as 'm-i-n-u-t-e m-o-u-s-e.'

The Treasurer reported that last week we took in \$17.25 in the regular jar & \$8.50 in the party jar.

The VP reported that 'Drink Tank' issue 120 is - that the hoax issue will be out shortly & a new SF/SF is also out.

The President reported the BASFA mailing list might not be dead.

The AhwaneeCon committee finalized ribbon design & PR5 will be out next week.

Remember our outing to the Sonoma Chicken Coop at 2nd Street and Campbell Ave - will be on March 26 - and Adrienne brought menus.

Dave G made a resolution & Chris objected to consideration - and it passed.

Announcements

Dave G announced that Spring will be having a studio show, 2-8 p.m. on March 24 at their place (6133 Genoa Terrace, Fremont, phone = 510-744-9559) & they are looking at doing a dinner event March 18(?) at Taste of India in Fremont - contact them if interested.

Andy announced their Friday Baycon party is canceled and they are looking for interested parties to use their room Friday night - and also announced that the League of Evil Genius party will be Sunday night.

[evil] Kevin announced that the Valley Fair Spencer Gifts is having a sale on blinkies

[\$8, marked down from \$20] & that pre-reg for CostumeCon 26 has broken 200 - plus he announced that on April 28 he and Andy will be table hosts for the GLAAD banquet and would like to sell at least 3 other tickets for \$300 each.

Lisa announced that Big Harold's condition continues to improve.

Ken announced that Dr. Who will be on the cover of the KTEH magazine for April.

Chris announced that 'Ah Crap the Musical' won an award and that he finally got funding to do a documentary on the full Worldcon bid experience [for Worldcon 2013] and that a new File 770 is out on the 'intrawebs.'

I announced that Bob Hole is the theming director for Further Confusion 2008 - so give him your idea for Asian kitsch.

Harold announced that there's a fundraiser for Bob Wilkins March 22 in El Cerrito and another March 25 in Sacramento & that the Browncoats will be having a cruise Dec 1, leaving San Diego, for 5 days down to Baja.

Julie announced that there'll be a pirate fest in Vallejo in June, check www.norcalpiratefestival.com.

We then said 'hi' to Wayne Brown from Rochester NY - the president of the Rochester Fantasy fans - and named him Ambassador to Rochester NY.

Reviews:

Fred reviewed Potlatch in Portland as it was rainy, about 125 attended - that there were good panels, good parties and it was worth more than full price.

Andy reviewed San Jose's Coronation weekend as the Odd Fellows Hall was rather small for the attendees, but enjoyable - that the actual coronation started late, the room was packed, the script, show and performances were excellent - as were the lion dancers - and it ran way too late, then the PENSWAG meeting on Saturday was lots of fun but they couldn't stay late & on Sunday they went to a costume academy, which was well-attended and the minion ribbons were a hit; [evil] Kevin follow-on'd about the Coronation that he hit all his cues and did 4 costume changes in an hour.

Chris reviewed Cinequest as he had a great time and saw great films and said to search out 'Monster Camp' and 'Blood Car' [saying that Frank Wu said of it 'wow, that was weird'] & he also enjoyed 'Super Amigos' - thought it was well worth full price and not getting enough sleep.

Adrienne reviewed 'Wild Hogs' as amusing, enjoyable and worth matinee.

Harold reviewed 'Earthstorm' - a SciFi channel original as the most stupid thing he has ever done and worth getting your eyes plucked out to avoid.

Wayne reviewed Ad Astra as it had good guests, had an attendance of 500-600, there were various spirits tastings, a good cheesecake event, good panels and he had a great time there.

We auctioned off a magazine for \$0.50; books for \$0.25, \$5.00 & \$0.25 & a con booklet for \$4.00.

We adjourned at 9:35.

And the rumor of the week was that 'Those of us with hair understood.'

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, March 21

Author: Kim Stanley Robinson

Redwood City Public Library

1044 Middlefield Road

Redwood City

650-780-7026

7:30 p.m.

Free

Wednesday, March 21

Bawdy Island Beach Party

DNA Lounge

375 11th Street

San Francisco

www.dnalounge.com

8:30 p.m.

\$15

See what happens when pirates and wenches invade a 60s "beach blanket" party. Guests include The Devil-ettes, Twilight Vixen Revue, Ms. Killy Lee the Pirates' Booty, Banana Peel & Coconuts Cream, Delilah, The Damnettes,

and Ophelia Coeur de Noir. Ages 21 and up.

March 21-April 1

'Bot

Magic Theatre

Building D

Fort Mason Center

San Francisco

www.magictheatre.org

Wed-Sat 8 p.m., Sun 2:30 p.m.

\$31-\$45

An original play by C. Michele Kaplan.

Thursday, March 22

Author: Kim Stanley Robinson

The Booksmith

1644 Haight Street

San Francisco

415-863-8688

7 p.m.

Free

Thursday, March 22

Thrillville: Creature Features Forever

Cerrito Speakeasy Theater

10070 San Pablo Avenue

El Cerrito

www.thrillville.net

8 p.m.

\$10

Thrillville's special tribute to TV horror host

Bob Wilkins includes a screening of *Attack of the Mushroom People* (1963) and guests including Bob himself, John Stanley, Mr. Lobo, and others.

Thursday, March 22

The Girl Who Leapt Through Time (2006)

Pacific Film Archive

2575 Bancroft Way

Berkeley

www.asianamericanfilmfestival.org

7:30 p.m.

\$10

New anime version of popular Japanese teen novel; part of the San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival.

March 22-April 7

Chemical Imbalance

EXIT Theatre

156 Eddy Street

San Francisco

www.precarioustheatre.com

Thursdays-Sundays 8 p.m.

\$15-\$30 sliding scale

Return of Lauren Wilson's darkly comic play based on *Doctor Jekyll and Mister Hyde*, directed by Matthew Graham Smith.

Friday, March 23

Author: Ray Bradbury via Satellite

Carrington Hall
Sequoia High School
1201 Brewster Avenue
Redwood City
www.montalvoarts.org/thebigread.html
4 p.m.

Free
Montalvo Arts Center and the Redwood City Public Library present a satellite interview with Ray Bradbury as part of the “The Big Read,” in which the community is invited to read Bradbury’s *Fahrenheit 451* and join in a series of special events during the month of March.

Friday, March 23

Lunar Lounge Express
Chabot Space Science Center
10000 Skyline Blvd.
Oakland
8-11 p.m.
\$15 (\$30 with Collision Mission)
510-336-7373

Party under the stars with music by dream-pop band Sentinel, Sonic Vision planetarium show, new Comet Collision Mission (reservations required), telescope viewing.

Friday-Sunday, March 23-25

The Twilight Zone: The Plays
The Dark Room Theatre
2263 Mission Street
San Francisco
www.darkroomsf.com
Fri-Sat 8 p.m., Sun 3 p.m.
\$15

Live stage adaptations of favorite *TZ* episodes wrap up this weekend with “Nothing in the

Dark” and “The Hitchhiker.”

March 23-April 1

Emperor Norton: The Musical
Shelton Theater
533 Sutter Street
San Francisco
www.emperornortonthemusical.com

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

\$30

Norton I, Emperor of the United States and Protector of Mexico takes up residence at the Shelton Theater through April 1st.

Saturday, March 24

Bay Area Games Day



Jonathan Rosen is featured as “Charlie” in *‘Bot*, C. Michele Kaplan’s original play about parents too wrapped up in their own lives to notice that their son’s been creating an artificial intelligence in his bedroom. The play runs through April 1st at Magic Theatre at Fort Mason, www.magictheatre.org.

Photo by DavidAllenStudio.com.

Los Altos Public Library
13 S. San Antonio Road
Los Altos
10 a.m.
\$1
Regular event featuring German-style strategy board games like Settlers of Catan, Avalon Hill-type multiplayer games, card games, and historical board wargames.

Saturday, March 24

Gilroy Bot Gauntlet
Hobby World
6901 Monterey Road
Gilroy
www.calbugs.com
\$20 entry fee
Robo combat in the flea weight, ant weight, and beetle weight classes. Weigh-ins at 10 a.m., fighting starts around noon.

Saturday, March 24

Author: Kim Harrison
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street
San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com
1 p.m.
Free
Reading from *A Few Demons More*, latest in her series of novels featuring spellcasting bounty hunter Rachel Morgan.

Saturday, March 24

Author: Tad Williams
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street

San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com
3 p.m.
Free
Reading from his new fantasy novel *Shadowplay*.

Saturday, March 24

Pixar Shorts
Playhouse Theater
40 Main Street
Tiburon
www.tiburonfilmfestival.com
3:30 p.m.
\$10
The Tiburon Film Festival presents *One Man Band* (2006) with filmmaker Andrew Jimenez on hand for Q&A, plus a collection of other Pixar shorts including Oscar winners *Tin Toy* (1988), *Geri's Game* (1997), and *For the Birds* (2001).

Saturday, March 24

Opening Reception:
Thomas Wargin and Michael Page
Varnish Gallery
77 Natoma
San Francisco
415-222-6131
7 p.m.
Free
Exhibition runs through April 28.

Sunday, March 25

Paramental Appreciation Society
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street

San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com
3 p.m.
Free
Seth Lindberg, Claudius Reich, Loren Rhoads and Lilah Wild read from their new chapbook, published by Borderlands' newly-hatched small press, Red Snake Books.

Sunday, March 25

Bad Movie Night:
Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over (2003)
The Dark Room Theatre
2263 Mission Street
San Francisco
www.darkroomsf.com
8 p.m.
\$5

Monday, March 26

Ask a Scientist:
The World's Most Fascinating Numbers
The Canvas Gallery
1200 9th Avenue
San Francisco
www.askascientistsf.com
7 p.m.
Free
Math professor and author Keith Devlin leads a tour of some of his favorite numbers.

Wednesday, March 28

Fahrenheit 451 (1966)
Redwood City Public Library
1044 Middlefield Road
Redwood City
www.montalvoarts.org/thebigread.html

7:30 p.m.

Free

Montalvo Arts Center and the Redwood City Public Library present a free screening of Francois Truffaut's 1966 film as part of the "The Big Read," in which the community is invited to read Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* and join in a series of special events during the month of March.

Thursday, March 29

Author: Christopher Moore

Book Passage

51 Tamal Vista Blvd.

Corte Madera

www.bookpassage.com

7 p.m.

Free

The author of *You Suck* (sequel to *Bloodsucking Fiends*). What if your girlfriend was a vampire? What if you were, too? How would it affect your turkey bowling game?

Thursday, March 29

The Phenomenauts

Bottom of the Hill

1233 17th Street

San Francisco

415-621-4455

7:30 p.m.

\$12 cover

SF-themed band plays SF; with the Epoxies, Groovie Ghoulies, Teenage Harlets, and the Rock 'n' Roll Adventure Kids.

Thursday, March 29

Underworld (2003)

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

www.parkway-speakeasy.com

9:15 p.m.

\$6

First installment in the vampires vs. werewolves saga.

Friday, March 30

Author: Sam Weller

Redwood City Council Chambers

1017 Middlefield Road

Redwood City

www.montalvoarts.org/thebigread.html

7 p.m.

Free

Montalvo Arts Center and the Redwood City Public Library present an interview with the author of *The Bradbury Chronicles* as part of the "The Big Read," in which the community is invited to read Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* and join in a series of special events during the month of March.

Sunday, April 1

29th Annual Saint Stupid's Day Parade

Meet at Transamerica Pyramid

600 Montgomery Street

San Francisco

www.saintstupid.com

Noon

Free

Annual Feast of Fools finishes with festivities at Washington Square Park.

Wednesday-Friday, April 4-6

Curse of the Cat People (1944)

Stanford Theatre

221 University Avenue

Palo Alto

650-324-3700

6:10 and 9:20 p.m.

\$7

The seldom-seen sequel to 1942's *Cat People*.

Friday-Sunday, April 6-8

Tales of Anime

Marriott San Mateo

1770 South Amphlett Blvd.

San Mateo

www.talesofanime.com

\$40

Second edition of the con for fans of shoujo ("girl") anime and manga.

Saturday, April 7

Red Carpet Ball

(1930s Hollywood Academy Award Ball)

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 N. Ellsworth

San Mateo

www.peers.org

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

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

(There's a glamorous calendar available at

www.cafepress.com/peers.75762076)

Saturday, April 7

Streamliner

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

www.borderlands-books.com

3 p.m.

Free

Richard Lupoff and the New Retro Radio Players perform a live adaptation of a story from Lupoff's recent collection *Terrors*, written in the style of an old-fashioned radio drama.

Sunday, April 8

7th Annual BYOBW

Lombard and Hyde

San Francisco

www.jonbrumit.com/byobw.html

4 p.m.

Free

BYOBW stands for "Bring Your Own Big Wheel." An adult Easter Day road rally down Lombard Street on children's trikes, now in its seventh year. Costumes, prizes, silliness.

Thursday, April 12

Thrillville's 10th Anniversary Show:

Creature From The Black Lagoon (1954)

and *It Came From Outer Space (1953)*

Cerrito Speakeasy Theater

10070 San Pablo Ave.

El Cerrito

www.thrillville.net

8 p.m.

\$10

Thrillville celebrates its 10th birthday with a 3-D double feature, your hosts Will the Thrill and Monica-Tiki Goddess, *Cinema Insomnia's* Mr. Lobo and the Queen of Trash, and Kitten on the Keys.

Thursday, April 12

Invasion of the Body Snatchers (1978)

and *The Thing (1982)*

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 Science Fiction double feature. Refreshments will be available for purchase, and your purchase supports Variety's efforts to aid disabled, disadvantaged, abused and neglected kids.

Friday and Saturday, April 13-14

Midnight Special:

Scary Movie (2000)

Shattuck Cinemas

2230 Shattuck Ave.

Berkeley

www.landmarkafterdark.com

\$8

Friday-Sunday, April 13-15

ConQuest Sac

Sacramento Marriott

11211 Point East Drive

Rancho Cordova

www.avalonconventions.com/conquestsac/

\$40 (until March 31)

General gaming convention including military, miniatures, card and board games, collectibles, RPGs.

Friday-Sunday, April 13-15

Mists/Cynagua War

Society for Creative Anachronism Event

Ed Levin Park

3100 Calaveras Road

Milpitas

www.phmoms.com/mistscynaguawar

Site fee \$5

Feasting, fighting, bard competition. Overnight campers welcome.

Saturday, April 14

Author: Jonathan Lethem

Moe's Books

2476 Telegraph Avenue

Berkeley

www.telegraphbooks.com

7:30 p.m.

Free

The author of *Gun, With Occasional Music* has a new book out, *You Don't Love Me Yet: A Novel*.

Saturday, April 14

Author: Robert Balmanno

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

www.borderlands-books.com

Noon

Free

Reading from *September Snow*.

Monday, April 16

Ask a Scientist:

The Mind-Body Connection

The Canvas Gallery

1200 9th Avenue

San Francisco

www.askascientistsf.com

7 p.m.

Free

How chemical processes in the brain translate into human thoughts and behavior, with David Presti, UC Berkeley Neurobiology Professor.

Tuesday, April 17

Author: Jonathan Lethem

Kepler's Books

1010 El Camino Real

Menlo Park

650-324-4321

7:30 p.m.

Free

The author of *Gun, With Occasional Music* has a new book out, *You Don't Love Me Yet: A Novel*.

Friday and Saturday, April 20-21

Midnight Special:

The Re-Animator (1985)

Shattuck Cinemas

2230 Shattuck Ave.

Berkeley

www.landmarkafterdark.com

\$8

Saturday, April 21

Author: Scott Sigler

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

www.borderlands-books.com

1 p.m.

Free

With a new book out, *Ancestor*.

Saturday, April 21

Author: Ray Garton

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

www.borderlands-books.com

3 p.m.

Free

Author of the new book *Night Life* and its predecessor, *Live Girls*.

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, April 21

APE Aftermath

Isotope Comics Lounge

326 Fell Street

San Francisco

415-621-6543

7 p.m.-midnight

Free

The Isotope's annual event coinciding with the Alternative Press Expo features the awarding of the Isotope Award for Excellence in Mini-Comics.

Sunday, April 22

Cherry Blossom Festival Parade

Civic Center to Japan Center

San Francisco

www.nccbf.org

Time TBA

Free

A cosplay contest traditionally precedes the parade, with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners getting to ride a float to Japan Center.

Thursday, April 26

Author: John Scalzi

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

www.borderlands-books.com

7 p.m.

Free

Reading from his newest novel, *The Last Colony*.

Friday-Sunday, April 27-29

Sacramento Scottish Games and Festival

Yolo County Fairgrounds

Woodland

www.sacaledonian.org

\$17 (\$15.50 in advance)

Athletic events, highland dancing, crafts, music, whisky tasting, Bonney Knees contest, more.

April 27-May 13

Jekyll & Hyde: The Musical

Lucie Stern Theater

1305 Middlefield Road

Palo Alto

www.paplayers.org

8 p.m. (Sun. 2:30 matinee)

\$26-30 (\$20 preview on April 27)

Saturday, April 28

Author: Ellen Klages

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

www.borderlands-books.com

3 p.m.

Free

Reading from her new short story collection,

Portable Childhoods.

Saturday, April 28

Sensible Prejudices:

Divergent Jane Austen Ball

Masonic Lodge

100 North Ellsworth

San Mateo

www.baers.org

8 p.m.

A Bay Area English Regency Society dance.

Saturday, May 5

Sleeping Beauty's Christening Fantasy Ball

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 N. Ellsworth

San Mateo

www.peers.org

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

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

Sunday, May 6

8th Annual How Weird Street Faire

Howard Street between 11th & 12th

San Francisco

www.howweird.org

Some would call this the most "Burning Man" of SF's (many) summer street fairs. Details to follow.

Thursday, May 10

Thrillville: Barbarella (1967)

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

www.thrillville.com

9:15 p.m.

\$7

With the Twilight Vixen Revue live onstage.

Monday, May 14

Author: Michael Chabon

Book Passage

51 Tamal Vista Blvd.

Corte Madera

www.bookpassage.com

7 p.m.

Free

Author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay* talks about his new book, *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*.

Saturday-Sunday, May 19-20

Maker Faire

San Mateo County Fairgrounds

2495 S. Delaware Street

San Mateo

www.makerfaire.com

Crafters, tinkerers, artists and geeks converge for a weekend of science, mechanics, art, and entertainment. (Last year's faire featured welding and glass bending, Segway polo,

robotics demonstrations, crafts made from recycled computer parts, much other fun stuff.) Details to follow.

Friday-Monday, May 25-28

BayCon

Marriott San Mateo

1770 South Amphlett Blvd.

San Mateo

www.baycon.org

\$75 at the door (\$65 until April 30)

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, Richard Hescox, 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

435 South Market Street

San Jose

www.fanime.com

\$50 (until March 31)

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

Friday-Monday, May 25-28

KublaCon

Burlingame Hyatt Regency

1333 Bayshore Highway

Burlingame

www.kublacon.com

\$35
Annual gaming convention returns with panels, dealer's room, game demos, flea market, more.

Friday-Sunday, June 1-3

Dollectable

Clarion Hotel SFO
401 E. Millbrae Ave.
Millbrae

www.bjdcon.com

\$65 at the door (\$50 until May 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

www.peers.org

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

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

Saturday-Sunday, June 2-3

Super-Con

San Jose Convention Center

435 South Market Street

San Jose

www.super-con.com

\$20 (one-day pass \$15)

Super-Con heads south for 2007. Dealers, guest artists, cosplay contest, more.

Sunday, June 10

Ardenwood Celtic Festival

Ardenwood Historic Farm

34600 Ardenwood Blvd.

Fremont

www.ardenwood-celtic-festival.com

10 a.m.-5 p.m.

\$10

Celtic music, dancing, living history, ethnic food, more.

Friday-Sunday, June 15-17

RoboGames

Festival Pavilion

Fort Mason Center

San Francisco

www.robogames.net

\$55 (\$20 single-day ticket)

The event formerly known as the ROBOlympics returns to Fort Mason for another weekend of mechanized mayhem.

Saturday-Sunday, June 16-17

Northern California Pirate Festival

Marina Green Park

Vallejo

www.norcalpiratefestival.com

10 a.m.-dusk

Arrr...the launch of what hopes to become an annual event in the Bay Area; details to follow.

Saturday, June 23

Batlh Jaj: Klingon Day of Honor II

Chabot Space Science Center

10000 Skyline Blvd.

Oakland

www.ikvbloodlust.net/kalendar.htm

7-10 p.m.

An evening of feasting, singing, and celebrating

Klingon-style. Details to follow.

Saturday-Tuesday, June 30-July 3

Westercon 60: Gnomeward Bound

Marriott San Mateo

1770 South Amphlett Blvd.

San Mateo

spfi.org/westercon60/

\$70 (until March 31)

Guests of Honor: Tad Williams, Theresa

Mather, Christian McGuire

Toastmaster: Jay Lake

Saturday-Sunday, July 14-15

Sac-Anime

Red Lion Inn

1401 Arden Way

Sacramento

www.sacramentocomics.com

Anime convention featuring viewing room, art contest, vendor's room, costume ball, more.

Details to follow.

Friday-Sunday, July 27-29

Con-X-Treme

DoubleTree Hotel

2050 Gateway Place

San Jose

www.con-x-treme.com

\$50 at the door (\$35 until March 30)

A promising newcomer on the Bay Area con scene, though details are still a little sketchy.

Anime viewing, cosplay, Taiko drumming, martial arts demos, art show, and The Black Hole Bar.

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
www.peers.org

Noon-5 p.m.
An afternoon picnic and dance set in Jane Austen's England during the late 1790s.

Saturday, September 1

Mikado Ball
PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 N. Ellsworth
San Mateo
www.peers.org
\$15 in advance (by August 25), \$20 at the door
A Gilbert and Sullivan cast party. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Friday-Sunday, September 28-30

Creation's Salute to Star Trek
DoubleTree Hotel
2001 Point West Way
Sacramento
www.creationent.com
A Creation con to celebrate the 20th

Anniversary of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*.
Announced guests include Jonathan Frakes, Marina Sirtis and George Takei. Details to follow.

Friday-Sunday, October 5-7

SiliCon
DoubleTree Hotel
2050 Gateway Place
San Jose
www.siliconventions.com
Media-oriented general SF con features art show, dealer's room, panels, masquerade, swap meet, more. Details to follow.

Saturday, October 6

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

Saturday, November 3

Le Bal des Vampires
PEERS Event
www.peers.org
The annual hematophagic gala. Details to follow.

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. Details to follow.

Ongoing:

Through June 17

Worlds of Wonder
Cartoon Art Museum
655 Mission Street
San Francisco
www.cartoonart.org
\$6 (every First Tuesday is "Pay What You Wish Day")
Exhibition of twelve comic-book and comic-strip illustrators and the worlds built from their imaginations.

Daily

San Francisco Ghost Hunt
Walking Tour
Begins: Queen Anne Hotel
1590 Sutter at Octavia
San Francisco
www.sfgghosthunt.com
7 p.m. – 10 p.m.
\$20

Mondays

Bay Area Science Fiction Association
The Original Hick'ry Pit
980 E. Campbell Ave.
Campbell

www.basfa.org
8 p.m.
Free

Mondays

Dukefish

Jake's of Sunnyvale
174 E. Fremont Avenue
Sunnyvale

8 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

www.davekohr.users.sonic.net/svb/

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

www.BayRPS.com

6 p.m-10 p.m.

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

www.michaeldashow.com/eastbaystrategy/home.html

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

Free

Fridays

SF Games

Muddy's Coffeehouse

1304 Valencia Street

San Francisco

vax.hanford.org/dk/games

7 p.m. to midnight

Free

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 at Atlas Café at 20th and Alabama Streets Tuesday nights from 6:30 until maybe 10:00 p.m.

Fridays-Mondays

Haunted Haight Walking Tour

Meets at Coffee To The People

1206 Masonic Avenue

San Francisco

www.hauntedhaight.com

7 p.m.-9 p.m.

\$20

Reservations required.

Fridays and Saturdays

Vampire Walking Tour

Meets corner of California and Taylor

San Francisco

www.sfvampiretour.com

8 p.m.

\$20

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

\$7

www.parkway-speakeasy.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
www.legionofrassilon.org
7:30 p.m.

Free

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
www.nnanime.com

Free

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

SF Browncoats

Cafe Murano
1777 Steiner Street
San Francisco
www.sfbrowncoats.com

Noon

Free

SF Firefly/Serenity fans usually meet up on the second Saturday of the month.

Silicon Gulch Browncoats

Various locations (see website for details)
www.silicongulchbrowncoats.org

Noon - 2 p.m.

Free

Silicon Valley fans of Firefly/Serenity meet up on the first Saturday of the month.

Tangential Conjectures: The Science Fiction

Book Club
Books Inc.
301 Castro Street
Mountain View
650-428-1234

7:30 p.m.

Free

Generally meets the third Thursday of the month.

USS Augusta Ada
Round Table Pizza
3567 Geary Blvd.
San Francisco
trek.starshine.org

1 p.m.

Free

Augusta Ada is both a chapter of Starfleet International and a Linux and *BSD user group. Usually meets the fourth Saturday of every month.

USS Defiance

Round Table Pizza
1566 Howe Ave.
Sacramento
www.usndefiance.org

7 p.m

Free

Star Trek fan group meets the third Friday of the month.

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.