

Science Fiction/San Francisco

Issue 44

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News and Notes

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

In sad news, SF author Michael Bishop lost his son Jamie in the shootings at Virginia Tech. He was the teacher of the German class where the most people were shot. If you're looking for something to do to support the memory of those lost, there is a Jamie Bishop Scholarship being started for German majors. You can make donations to The Jamie Bishop Scholarship, Virginia Tech Foundation, University Development, 902 Prices Fork Road, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

In far lighter news, eFanzines.com has sprung back. New issues of *Taboo Opinions* and *The Drink Tank* as well as Ed Meskys's *The View from Entropy Hall* have come online. They're all well worth reading.

In printed zines, there's a new *PLOKTA* out. The two-time, two-time Hugo winner for Best Fanzine does an issue for Eastercon that is a throwback to the great zines of the 1970s like *Seamonster* and *Stop Break Down*. It's got an LoC from you-know-me and great art and fun throughout. Well worth digging up. You might wanna

check out plokta.com for back issues as well. It really is one of the zines you should be reading if you like fanzines. There's also a drawing, I believe by Sue Mason, that looks exactly like me on the back page. It's shocking!

The Knarley Knews, one of the longest-running and best zines out there, just released its April edition with a fine Marc Schermeister cover. There's a link on eFanzines.com or you can check out <http://people.msoe.edu/~welch/tkk.htm> for back issues, many of which are fantastic. There are some great articles, including a look at Easter Island, a piece from Terry Jeeves, and a controversial piece on public holidays and religion. It's a very good read.

Dave Burton, the top FanEditor currently on eFanzines.com, has released another issue of *Pixel*. There's no question that the guy's a genius when it comes to this stuff as the issue is universally beautiful and has a great contributors list, including me, the Legendary Ted White, Lee Lavell, Eric Mayer and Peter Sullivan. It's good stuff and you'll really wanna head over and check it out.

I wonder who'll break down and go

with a regular digital zine first: The *Banana Wings* Crew or John Hertz?

A new *Vegas Fandom Weekly* arrived just in time for the first of May. It's a great issue with a lot of talk about a theoretical Hall of Fame. There are a lot of familiar names to BArea fans, though I don't remember Bill Donaho appearing on the list. Folks like Terry Carr do appear, though.

Speaking of Vegas fans, I recently came across a series of videos from the 1980 Westercon in Los Angeles, featuring current Vegas fan Bill Mills leading the singing in the Fan Cabaret opener. I had no idea Bill was such a great singer. There are three videos currently up there. One of them features a song written by Robert Aspirin. Really good stuff.

The Northern Alabama Science Fiction Association, NASFA, also put out another issue of its monthly newsletter, the *NASFA Shuttle*. It's one of the better clubzines out there and this time we get a long and detailed report on the St. Louis CostumeCon. You should head over to NASFA.org and take a look. It's really good stuff.

I've been put in charge of the BASFA

zine, which I'm tentatively calling *The BASFA Times*. Any BASFA members who wanna submit articles or art just lemme know. I'm hoping to make it in time for SiliCon. At BASFA's meetings, I've been bringing the art book and having people draw various things. We've gathered a lot of fun art that we'll be using.

On the International front, the GUFF and JETS races are over and Fan Fundery seems to be in strong stead. Chris O'Shea will be traveling from the UK to Japan for

WorldCon as a part of the Japan Expeditionary Travel Scholarship. She won by a wide margin over a field that included Abi Brown and Jukke Halme and five others—a big and very strong slate. GUFF, the Going Under Fan Fund, was won by Ang Rosin. She'll be going from the UK to Australia. She won a convincing victory over Johan Anglemark, Dr. Plokta and Anna Devour. Damien Warman did a great job of running a very fast-paced GUFF race. No word on what's happening with

DUFF yet, nor anything on TAFF other than that there'll be a race this year and I'm planning on being in it!

Anyone else interested in perhaps bringing a former Seattle-area tradition to the BArea? I'm thinking that Anglicon needs to come to 'round here!

Earl Kemp has released the latest issue of *eI* on eFanzines.com and it's a good one. I still think *eI* is the best fanzine running right now, with *Prolapse* coming up close behind. In this issue, you'll find great stuff about Ed Emshwiller from Luis Ortiz. I've been a big fan of Ed Emsh's stuff for years and this focuses on the part of his professional life I knew the least about: his SF art. I know a lot more about his filmmaking, but this was a great view. There's also a wonderful piece from Michael Moorcock and stuff from Mike Deckinger and Rog Phillips, as well as Earl Terry Kemp and more. GO and read it!

We've got conflicting reports on the health of Ray Bradbury. A report attributed to Earl Kemp has it that Bradbury is having trouble hearing and seeing of late, and I certainly consider Earl an authoritative voice on the subject. At least one other report of late has said that Ray has good days and bad days. He was at a signing in March and looked to be in good shape. Forry Ackerman suffered another fall and



Chris' News and Notes

Art by Frank Wu

was in the hospital again. Here's to the two of ya, I hope you're better by the time these words hit the net!

BayCon and Westercon meetings were held the last weekend in April and I was there for both. The good was the fact that so much has started happening. There's a PR just about ready to go out when this hits your eyes for Westercon, and it's a doozy. It's big, has a great Frank Wu cover and has more info than you could ever want to know. It also announces the Little Men meeting being held at the con. There's a lot left to do for Westercon and there are still staff positions open, including folks to help with the Fanzine Lounge that I'm running!

BayCon is more together, mostly because they've got a more continuous staff. The new hotel has thrown some curveballs at the operation but things are being worked through. The staff is coming together, and though some things have to remain unsettled until the hotel has finalized all the room situations, everything that had been planned to happen is still happening. There have been continuing reports of contacts being dropped and people trying to get ahold of various committee members with no luck, but things on that front seem to be improving.

One very specific note: the food situation is going to be much improved

in quality (I've eaten at the hotel and it's much better than the Coffee Garden) and prices are lower. I'm looking forward to a cash Chili Bar and the BBQ. Of course, mostly I'll be snacking in the con suite for my sustenance.

No solid word on a Westercon bid for 2010. I'm hoping that some established con will step up and combine their con and Westercon into one thing for that year, giving their con greater exposure to a wider audience and not burning out their local fandom. This year's Westercon will be a good time, but it's obvious that combining it with BayCon would have been a much better idea.

SF/SF is in talks about how we could best expand to cover the SF BArea. We're thinking about things like launching a dedicated site, opening up potential user-generated content like photos and forums, and so on. What do you think? Drop a line to SFinSF@gmail.com with your ideas. What would you like to see? What's the best way for us to serve your community? Do you want *SF/SF* the Zine to keep on keepin' on? Let us know and we'll bring it to light!

Letters Of Comment

Mark Plummer writes:

This may be unnecessary as a correction but I feel I should nevertheless point out that Chris is inaccurate when he says (*SF/SF#43*, News and Notes) that “GUFF sends folks from the UK to Australia and vice-versa.” That should of course read “GUFF sends folks from Europe to Australasia and vice-versa.” This is more than just a politically correct distinction because, as you (Chris) acknowledge, there were two Swedish candidates this time around, and historically GUFF has been won by fans from Holland and what was then still called Czechoslovakia. I don’t believe any non-Australians (or at least non-Australian residents) have ever won the northbound races, mind.

Jean Martin responds: Thanks for the correction. We’re always happy to give our readers more accurate information when available.

No, I don’t think it’s just you: we are “getting more and more Swedes, Norwegians and Finns running for Fan Funds.” Or at least Swedes and Finns. Or Finn. But yes, there was a Swedish candidate in TAFF in 2004 and two in this year’s GUFF race, plus one Finn on the

JETS ballot. None of them won, but whilst I know that it’s almost certainly the case that British fans have an inbuilt advantage over other Europeans when it comes to fan funds because there are a lot of British fans, it’s worth remembering that two of the last three TAFF winners weren’t from the UK (Tobes is from the Channel Islands and James Bacon is Irish and at the time he won was still resident in Ireland) and mainland Europeans have won major fan funds on at least four occasions.

That’s good to know that fandom is growing all over the world. I can see Scandinavians being into fandom.

Contemplation, the emergency Eastercon (as somebody said, they missed a trick in not calling it Contingency) was indeed pretty widely hailed as a success right up until the point that about half of British fandom went down with some vile lurgy in the week after the convention. Would it help if I were to tell you that you would almost certainly have had a wild time, Chris? No, thought not.

For us Yanks, here’s Wikipedia’s definition of lurgy: “Lurgy (or lurgi) is British English slang for an unspecified contagious disease, generally one considered inconvenient

and non-fatal with obvious symptoms, such as influenza or the common cold.” Hmm... Contemplation doesn’t sound like a sci fi convention. But Chester sounds like a good place to have one. Chester is on my list of places to visit. I guess too late now! It would be fun to go to a con in the U.K. But then, I wouldn’t really know anyone. Just a few weeks till my trip to the U.K. though. I’m very excited! I’ll be doing some fannish-type stuff so I guess I could be a TASFF (TransAtlantic Self-Financed Fan). I have to get through BayCon first though.

By the way, readers, I’ve just noticed again that we seem to keep getting LOCs from people outside the Bay Area, which include Mark and John Purcell (see below). I’m very happy that we have such a global reach and receive emails from such fine folks. But, hey, it would be great to hear from our Bay Area readers. We write about the Bay Area, after all.

John Purcell writes:

It is heartening to see new fanzines popping up on efanazines.com in the last week or so by new names and old familiar names, too. It sort of feels weird to not be plunking zines down in rapid succession.

For a change, I actually feel like I have room to breathe and get this fershlugginer dissertation proposal done. I'm glad I made the decision to slow down the rapid-fire zine pubbing. This feels much better, thank you very much.

Jean responds: I don't know how you and Chris do rapid-fire zine pubbing. I'm having trouble keeping up with twice a month! Oh, we got that explanation, at least from Chris's side last issue. But I do enjoy doing this. It's just a struggle to juggle everything else including life, work and my other activities. I've slowed down a little myself lately as well, as I'm preparing for our group's BayCon masquerade entry and planning my trip to the U.K.

Nice recovery from the Hugo nomination blunder made by the Hugo Administrator. At least it was not your fault, and I agree with you that now the Long Form award will be much closer. My personal choice there is *Pan's Labyrinth* mainly because I haven't seen *V for Vendetta*. There most certainly are good nominees for the movie category. It will be interesting to see how the voting ends up.

I haven't seen Pan's Labyrinth yet. It's on my Netflix queue. I just can't seem to find the time to actually go to a movie theater anymore. I had low expectations of V for Vendetta as that movie fizzled out at the box office and I didn't hear much about it. I was

very pleasantly surprised by how good I thought it was. Even to this day, just your mentioning it brings back how deeply I was touched by that movie. Yes, it will be interesting to see how the voting turns out. Especially since Chris is nominated and there are several Doctor Who episodes up for awards. Hey, Chris, you going to Japan for this? It would be so cool if Chris wins. Then I'll actually know someone who's won a Hugo. When I was growing up in the Philippines, Hugos and Nebulas seemed quite out of the realm of my experience.

I really can't wait to meet with Lloyd and Yvonne Penney in a month's time. At present, it looks like it will only be the two couples, the Penneys and Purcells; David Thayer e-mailed me that he's GoH at a Kansas City con, and just last week Brad Foster e-mailed me that he was accepted into a major artshow that same weekend as the ISDC deal in Dallas. *sigh* I haven't seen David/Teddy/Miranda since the mid-80s, and I have never met Brad. Too bad. But, something good will still come out of all this, I can assure you, in addition to the article and photos I intend to document this momentous meeting of fannish minds. Stay tuned.

I hope you all have fun getting together. It's quite amazing how we all develop these friendships across the ether. It's so much easier to communicate with like-minded people all

over the world nowadays.

And I also agree whole-heartedly with Lloyd that Jean must get her butt to Vegas for Corflu Silver. She'd love it. But, what's this about you might not be there, Chris? Eh? At the moment, I believe the tentative date for Corflu 25 is set for the weekend of April 25th. We shall have to see how things are finalized. Keep your fingers crossed, roomie.

Well, Costume-Con 26 is that same weekend here in the Bay Area. I'm probably going to be in the masquerade for that one too. If not, I'm definitely going to cover the event. So, no Corflu for me next year either. I was in Vegas for a weekend recently. My report on my Spamalot/Vegas adventure is in this issue.

It was very nice of Jean Martin to also include her story of how she got sucked into this vortex of doom known as Science Fiction Fandom. Her tale makes me wonder how many people swelled the fannish ranks—which were pretty rank to begin with—as a result of *LOTR*. The problem seems to be that these new folks would be more media-oriented and not print-word oriented. Of course, there is an overlap, but if you're a printed-word SF fan first—in other words, you actually read the stuff—odds are more likely that such a fan might be interested in fanzine production. Then again, there are a lot of wonderful media-zines floating

around, especially on the Internet. As folks have been wont to say, it is all fanac in one way, shape, or form. Vive la difference!

I'm sure a lot of people joined the fannish ranks because of the LOTR novels—and more recently because of the LOTR movies. I do have a slight (okay, big) sense of pride that I was into the novels 'way before the movies even came out. I have noticed that most people that got into LOTR because of the movies do tend to be more media-oriented. Some of them, though, did wind up reading the novels after seeing the movies. Which is, as you mentioned, all well and good. However people get into fandom and whatever level or type of involvement they're interested in is great!

Also, I think you're right, printed-word SF fans are more into zines than media-oriented types who probably are more into web sites. Most people that like to read a lot tend to like to write as well. I personally haven't read much sci fi and fantasy lately. Several years ago, I used to devour books... a book a week on average. Right now, I'm halfway through Ancestors of Avalon... which I started two years ago! And I'm really into the whole Avalon world. It's like revisiting family and old friends. I hope to finish it sometime this year. I think the most recent sci fi I've read is the Dune: House Trilogy. That was like visiting family and old friends as well. Coincidentally,

Ancestors of Avalon and the Dune: House Trilogy were written by people other than the original authors, who had passed away. It's great that these worlds continue on.

The Bay Area Actuals look like a fun group of folks. Hope they can keep it going. I am really starting to get more into the new version of BSG; it's very well done, and that's definitely A Good Thing.

The original still rocks but I have gotten into the new BSG, too. I can't wait to see what happens after this last season's cliffhanger ending. We'll have to wait awhile for the next season, though.

That Sonoma Valley Film Festival sounded like a lot of fun. Free food and drink helps with those sort of affairs, as that photo of Chris on page 20 attests. Man, lots of good people and displays there. I have always been in awe of animated films, and enjoy learning of how they progressed from conception, through execution, to final product. That photo of the concept drawing from *Cars* is cool. Man, I sure wish I could draw worth beans. Say, Chris: any of those gourmet chocolates left over?

Fine zine, BArens. Until next time around.

Thanks, always good to hear from you!

Editorial

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

We've got a good group here at *SF/SF*. There's Jean, that adorable little ball of energy that just can't be stopped. There's David, the fun guy with a fondness for drink and wrinkly foreheads. There's Eva, whom I've never met, but she's a great layout person. There's good ol' España, who can talk science fiction, and if she's the only writer to come out of *SF/SF*, that'll be enough. There's the elusive Jack Avery. There's Howeird, the guy who takes photos of the lovely ladies. There's Bob and Andy and Tall Kevin and Evil Kevin, and Mr. Dr. Noe, and Mo and so many others. We're a good group, a fun group, a group that would probably get along even if we had to see each in person on a regular basis. Sadly, that's not a state that we find ourselves in, so we have to make the most of those moments when we do get to see each other. One of those moments is BayCon, and we're about to dip our toes into that fountain!

Since 1982, there's been a BayCon. I was at the first one with my Dad. I remember being at the 10th Anniversary and every one since 2000. I love BayCon

and I always look forward to it, especially because it's a time when I get to see the good people of *SF/SF*, to see the folks who travel in to enjoy the con with me, and to hang out with the folks whose names I don't know but the con would not be the same without. It's a place where my jokes are understood and my sense of humor is, if not appreciated, at least tolerated.

And last year I ran the Fanzine Lounge, and I'll be doing it again this year. I've never been much into organization, but I knew that if I wanted a place where folks could stop and chat, maybe read a zine, or help out on a zine, I'd have to put it on myself. Luckily, BayCon's wonderful committee was kind enough to let me make it happen. That's where I'll be, and I hope you'll stop by if you're at the con. It's going to be a fun place, with scheduled programming like Fanzine in an Hour, ongoing stuff like the TAFF Silent Auction and the con-long issue of *The Drink Tank*, and special surprises like the FanboyPlanet.com PodCast and more. It'll be a fun time, trust me.

And that's just one small room in the sea of frolic that BayCon holds. The Masquerade has started to ramp up preparations already and you can hardly

go onto LJ without seeing what Kevin Roche and Andy Trembley have planned. There's a Match Game coming up too, and that should be wild. As always, there'll be parties, lots of parties. The GoHs this year are a good bunch, including Alan Dean Foster, Diana Paxson and more, and there are more SF pros than you can shake a stick at! Plus, we'll be there in our true *SF/SF* mode and everyone but Frank Wu (who'll be at Wiscon) will at least be making an appearance.

I'll be writing a little bit about my BayCon memories from the last few years in this issue and next issue we'll have some photos from our good friend Howeird (and you should really see *Jekyll and Hyde* at the Palo Alto Players, which he's in!) and more. That'll help get you ready for the big one.

So yes, I'm excited. I'm totally ready to take on the big con in San Mateo. Since this is the only year we'll be at the former Dunfey, I'm looking forward to seeing how things go. Folks will be coming from LA, from Vegas, from Seattle, from Texas, from just about everywhere, and I'll be there to give 'em a ribbon and make 'em feel right at home!

Dreams of the City

- a column

By España Sheriff

I finally saw *Grindhouse* last week and I can't believe it took me this long. "Planet Terror" is a complete blast, note-perfect. "Deathproof" is less than perfect, starting off slow and lingering too long in the set-up, but it pays off big and if it doesn't make Zoe Bell some sort of star, there is no justice in the world. One of the joys of "Deathproof" is Kurt Russell, who is a far better actor than he is often given credit for. Which brings me to this week's column.

Perhaps the greatest movie ever filmed in San Francisco, *Big Trouble in Little China* is the quintessential John Carpenter film. Kurt Russell is at his finest as the epitome of the brash, working-class American: truck driver Jack Burton, the protagonist, but perhaps not the hero, of the movie. Burton is big on ego but low on skills and he swaggers into situations that are way over his head, repeatedly. It's his friend Wang Chi who clearly has the fighting skills, knowledge and brains that poor Jack lacks.

The action takes place mainly in and under Chinatown, where mystical

warriors and regular street gangs collide over territory, power and a green-eyed beauty played by Suzee Pai. Russell plays Burton with just the right mix of overconfidence and obliviousness; a sort of meta-Kirk figure who is utterly blind to his own shortcomings, prone to statements like, "You can all relax, I'm here now" ... Frankly, it's hard to imagine another actor in the role. Only Bruce Campbell has come close to matching the clueless bravado of the classic Russell-type action hero.

The supporting cast includes Kim Cattrall as Gracie Law. At the time she was apparently a choice that did not please the studio. Being as she was fresh off *Porcky's* and *Mannequin*, they were afraid the public would associate her with that sexpot image. Of course, she later cashed in on it quite nicely for *Sex and the City*. She's great as the romantic interest who really isn't, since once again it is Wang Chi who gets the girl rather than Jack. Dennis Dun, who plays Wang Chi, is great and also appeared in Carpenter's *Prince of Darkness* but unfortunately doesn't seem to have done very much in the last few years.

Victor Wong as wise man Egg Shen, our narrator for the framing sequence, and

James Hong as the villainous Lo Pan are both great, and although Wong passed away in 2001 James Hong is still going strong and showing up all over the place including a hilarious turn as Cloris Leachman's boyfriend in *Malcolm in the Middle* a few years ago.

Originally meant as a period Western, the script was brought into the 20th Century by W.D. Richter of *Buckaroo Banzai* fame, and a cowboy became a truck driver. The Chinese mythology seems to have remained intact though, and it has a nice authentic feel without being over-explained. Russell had worked with Carpenter on *The Thing* and *Escape from New York* and with the lighter tone of this film they made it look easy, like they were having a great time.

Joint Browncoat Meetup

©Francis W. Yun

Photos by Francis Yun

Members of the San Francisco Browncoat and Silicon Gulch Browncoat groups held a joint meetup for lunch at the Little India Restaurant in Redwood City on March 10, 2007. Both are fan groups devoted to the TV show *Firefly* and meet once a month. Check our calendar section for more information.



Johnny, Ray and Kim



Joint Browncoat Lunch Banquet



Elizabeth and Christina



Louise and Friend



Melissa and Guy

Yoda and Duck

Memories of BayCons Past

Part One

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

I was seven when the first BayCon happened at the Red Lion Hotel at the San Jose Airport. I don't remember much about it, other than that a couple of Dad's friends had brought their kids and we played around the back of the hotel. That's about all.

I stopped by a few BayCons in the early 1990s, most notably in 1991 when my buddy Scott Moore and I made the journey and I ended up chatting for hours in the restaurant with a girl whom I would later kiss and, later still, lose in the mob seating for the masquerade. These things happen.

When did I return to fandom? You want an exact date? Friday, May 26th, 2000. Kathryn Daugherty had seen to it that someone from the Computer History Museum got an invite to the convention to speak on a few panels. I gladly accepted, since it was a chance to go to my first con since 1996 (when I ghosted a couple of days of LACon). I thought that it would be a good idea to do a fan table, so I put together a few things I could have at the

table that might get folks interested. I grabbed a Mac Portable, a 25- pound beast of a thing that rarely worked, and a Sol-20 computer designed by BArea early PC guru Lee Felsenstein. I brought the Apollo Guidance Computer, a Victor adding machine, a copy of the Ballistic Research Labs report on computers from 1956, and for one day, I brought the Enigma. I could never get away with that these days, but back then it was all OK.

People would come by the table and marvel at the stuff, maybe take a copy of our magazine, then come back around later with a friend to look at more stuff. I had a lot of table space, but a lot more stuff, so I had to rotate things in and out. The day I brought the Enigma, I carried it around and gave a few demonstrations and people absolutely loved it.

I did two panels: one on copyright, which is a topic I now HATE doing, but it was with Brad Templeton who is a Museum supporter and a really nice guy. I also did Where's My Flying Car? with Brad Lyau (who was recently my LosCon roommate), David Gerrold, someone else who might

have been John Hertz, and Poul Anderson. It was a great bunch and I mostly made comedic comments. It was a great time and I enjoyed the hell out of it. It was also Poul's last BayCon and I was very happy to get a chance to chat with him about antique cameras after the panel.

I mostly stuck around the fan table the rest of the weekend. I met a bunch of folks, including Kent Brewster, and had a lot of good times. I don't think I attended a single party.

The next year I returned without a fan table. I had a few panels and a lot of time to kill in between. On Friday, with nothing to do, I simply wandered around and watched the in-house TV network in my room. I think that was the night the guy fell onto the patio. He fell right past my window. I didn't notice. I did the Casino Night and that started a tradition that I look forward to every year.

The panels I did ranged pretty far in topic. But Clarke Said was very similar to the Where's My Flying Car? panel, but the panelists were folks like Gerry Nordley, Craige Howlett, LJ's JohnO and Ken

Wharton. It was fun, though very different from the year before. Craig had a nice set of opinions and Gerry Nordley is a really smart guy. I did one called Digital World with Ctein and a couple of other artists talking about various issues in digital art and how they relate to the concept of the “original,” and one on Collectable Computers with Craig, Mike Hagashi, Lunatic and one or two others. That was a lot of fun. The most interesting panel, and the one I actually prepared for, was The Evolution of Alice, all about the ways in which the “Alice in Wonderland” stories had changed. I even read *Automated Alice* by Jeff Noon to prep. Lori Ann Cole was on that one with me and there was a great audience too. The last panel I had was Tastes Like Gahg! with Adam from the Mythbusters (which wasn’t on the air yet) and Kathryn Daugherty. It was a great panel, one that I’ve done several times over the last few years and I’ll be doing again at this coming BayCon!

2001 was the first BayCon that really felt like a BayCon for me. I met a lot of good folks (Ken Wharton and Frank Wu for example) and just had a great time. This was the one that was most responsible for me falling in love with BayCon.

2002 came and it was the one with the beginning of the heavily-programmed Chris Garcia. I think I was on 10 panels

total, including four back-to-back-to-back-to-back. I had a lot of fun doing them, but I was a little fried. At that point, I was still staying in the hotel and I had my buddy Jason Schachat join me for much of the con. It was a great time with one panel after another. I can’t fully remember my schedule (and the old BayCon website is down) but I think I did the Food panel and a couple of Alternate History panels and that kept me nice and busy. I also remember I did a panel on the future of electricity with Ken Wharton that was just fabulous. Ken approached it from the scientific angle, while I did a bunch of research into the politics and business end. It turned out to be one of the best science panels I’ve ever been on.

If 2001 was the year that I fell in love with BayCon, 2003 was the year I fully integrated with the idea of BayCon. I had met a few people over the years, but now I had a full delegation of people I liked and could sit and chat with. I’d managed to make myself known to a few good people and at the Opening Ceremonies, I let slip a little thing while conversing with Kathryn Daugherty: “You know. I’ve always wanted to be a Toastmaster.” That’s what got the ball rollin’ towards that end.

This was also the year I started to learn a little about SMOFing and getting

chummy with a few of the people who ran cons, both in the area and all over the place. WorldCon in 2002 had left some scars, but had also opened up BArea fandom a little towards finding a New Breed. A lot of newer fans started to pour in, including myself, and the great up-swing that BayCon experienced in 2005 and ‘06 can be directly linked to the great stuff that was going on in 2003.

The panels were all great, and this was the year Jason Schachat, Steve Sprinkles and I each broke the bank playing Blackjack. I think we each had more than 200 tickets at the end of the night and we each won a drawing. We had a wonderful time and talked to folks. I reconnected with ML Heath whom I had met at ConJose, and started my long flirtation with LA Fandom by sitting and chatting with folks at the LACon bid party for hours and hours.

The next issue will feature the next three years which includes the wildest time I’ve ever had at a con (as Toastmaster in 2005) and one of the strangest experiences in my fannish life.

Camelot and Deep Space Nine in Las Vegas

Story and Photos by Jean Martin
Editor

After three hours of sleep owing to staying out late for Yuri's Night, I woke up at 5:00 a.m. to total darkness so I could get ready for my early morning flight to Las Vegas to see the musical *Spamalot*. I could have booked a later flight but I wanted to go on the same flight with my friends, and at the time I hadn't known about Yuri's Night (more about that next issue). And that was one event I wasn't going to miss!

The friends I went with to Vegas are the same ones I performed with in our Knights of the Round Table routine at last year's BayCon masquerade. We won Best in Show for both presentation and workmanship. We originally planned on going to New York to see *Spamalot*, which is the musical version of the movie *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, but that didn't pan out. So when the musical started playing in Las Vegas, we all thought it would be closer and easier to get to. Finding one weekend for all ten of us to go proved to be another challenge. In the end, eight were able to

make it along with several significant others and spouses.

Going to Vegas with a big group of friends who all like to do the same things and have the same interests proved to be a lot of fun. I've been to Vegas before with

family and for work, but never with friends. The adventure began when most of us were on the same Southwest Airlines flight out of San Jose International Airport. I'd never flown on that airline or out of that airport so these were all firsts. I was half asleep and



Spamalot Crew at Excalibur





Enterprise and Bird of Prey



Deep Space Nine at the Hilton

already felt jetlagged, and we hadn't even left yet!

We got to Vegas with no problems and checked into our hotel, the Best Western Mardi Gras Inn, close to the new Wynn Hotel where the musical was showing. After checking in, we walked to the nearby Hilton Hotel, where I was surprised to find out that my *Month Python* and *Lord of the Rings*-

loving friends also love *Star Trek*! It's strange how we never talked about *Star Trek* before. So the consensus was to go see The Star Trek Experience. I saw this a while back when there was only one "ride." Now there are two, the "Klingon Encounter," which I'd done before, and the newer "Borg Invasion 4-D," which someone in our group said was creepy.

But before the rides, we browsed through the *Star Trek* stores a little bit and viewed the museum on the way to where we had to line up. We had to wait in line for a bit so some of our group played *Star Trek* trivia games and talked about costuming ideas for the future. The museum had an

impressive array of props and costumes from the *Star Trek* universe.

I remembered the "Klingon Encounter" as being fun and original, but I didn't enjoy it as much the second time around. I think it's because I already knew what it was going to be about. I'm not going to divulge much about it as I don't want to spoil anyone's first experience. I still highly recommend that every *Star Trek* fan see it, though. I also felt nauseous afterwards. I'm very prone to motion sickness (that's why I don't do Rotary Waltzes and Polkas), but I don't remember feeling motion sickness



Capt. Janeway Costume at Star Trek Experience

from the first time I went on it. Must be from getting just three hours of sleep. The “Borg Invasion 4D” was scary but a lot of fun. The effects were quite spectacular.

After the rides, we went to meet friends of someone in our group for lunch at Quark’s Bar and Restaurant. The bar and restaurant area resembles the space station promenade in *Deep Space Nine*. The food, with funny names based on characters from *Star Trek*, was delicious. We even got a visit from a Klingon who cracked jokes and made us laugh.

We were all tired and sleepy

afterwards so we headed back to our hotel for a short nap. It was only mid-afternoon but it felt late already because we were all up so early! It was great that we were all on the same page on this. We weren’t on the Las Vegas Strip anyway, so there wasn’t much else to do. And none of us were interested in gambling. It would have been nice to see my favorite hotels, the Luxor, Paris and the Venetian, but I’ve seen them before and they’re going to be there for a while.

So after some much-needed shuteye, we prettied ourselves and walked over to the Wynn Hotel. There were so many people

on the streets! I noticed there were lots of foreigners too. I forgot how much of a tourist destination Las Vegas is. I’d never seen the Wynn before as it had been built since the last time I was in Vegas. I really wasn’t very impressed with it. The building itself was gigantic and golden but it didn’t have much character to it. It was even hard to figure out what style the interior was trying to represent. It had flowers and plants similar to the Mirage, it had the same carpets and casino area as Mandalay Bay, it even had some Oriental and Venetian touches to it. Very eclectic and quite confusing.



Excalibur as Camelot



Spamalot Crew Posing at the Wynn



Spamalot Display at the Wynn

But once we got to the specially-designed Grail Theater, where *Spamalot* was playing, you really knew you had arrived in *Monty Python*-land. There were Pythonesque signs and artwork in the long hallway, at the main lobby, inside the theater... everywhere! It was quite spectacular and surreal at the same time.

After meeting more friends whom we didn't fly in with and who weren't staying at the same hotel, we went up to our seats in the balcony where we had a good view of the stage. I've listened to the soundtrack many times in the last year (our routine used part of one of the tracks), and I was looking forward to seeing the visuals to go with the music. Once the performance started I was pleasantly surprised to find that there was a significant amount of clever, witty and outrageous dialogue that wasn't in the soundtrack. The costumes, sets, props, singing and dancing were lively and colorful.

I thoroughly enjoyed the musical. I love musicals in general but this was quite original. I had actually just seen *Camelot* with Michael York in San Jose a few months before so it was interesting to compare these two musical versions of the Camelot myth. I noticed, though, that some songs from the soundtrack were absent, the speed and order was changed a little, and some

of my friends said later that some verses were missing as well. The show was only an hour and a half—I guess to cater to the short attention spans of Las Vegas tourists, or to encourage them to go back out there and spend more money on gambling and entertainment.

Seinfeld's John O'Hurley, who played King Arthur, was the only recognizable name from the cast, but it didn't matter because the actor who played Sir Robin was quite talented. The actress who played the Lady of the Lake had a beautiful voice and remarkable stage presence. I loved her costumes. And the scene with her and her Laker girls was just hilarious!

There were a lot of references to other Broadway musicals, which might have gone over the heads of other patrons, but being a Broadway buff, I recognized scenes from *Fiddler on the Roof* (the Jewish men dancing), *The Boy from Oz* (the piano playing and the Carmen Miranda routine), and *Phantom of the Opera* (the boat and the falling chandelier scenes).

After the show, we bought souvenirs and took photos in the gallery and in front of the big *Spamalot* sign. Then we had dinner at one of the cafes, the Terrace Point Café, at the Wynn. I can't get over how labyrinthine these big Vegas casinos are. We lost two of our party but two other couples joined

us. I must say, the food and service at the Wynn were quite exceptional. I thoroughly enjoyed our late dinner. No one wanted to party and check out the Vegas nightlife so we all went back to our hotel.

The next day, after getting enough sleep, thank goodness, we took a tram at the Convention Center across the street from our hotel. The tram gave us a good view of the parking buildings (which were huge!) of the major hotels on the Strip. We did see some of the hotels as well from a little farther away. Vegas is so much like an adult Disneyland, especially when viewed from the tram. The tram was completely computer-operated and it was fun riding it. I don't think the tram system was in place the last time I visited.

We didn't stop until our destination, the Excalibur, to have brunch. We didn't have much time as we were flying out that same day. The Excalibur was the perfect choice since it continued our Camelot-themed trip. We dined at the Sherwood Forest Café, and our big group enjoyed the usual brunch favorites. This is the only restaurant I've found, though, where you can order a plate that includes pancakes, waffles and French toast. I can never decide among these three, and I guess in Vegas, you don't have to make a choice. You can have it all!

I've always liked the Excalibur because of its Arthurian theme and it has a more wholesome and family-friendly atmosphere to it. I'm just really not into gambling and drinking so the Excalibur suits me fine. I also loved the "Tournament of Kings" dinner show and joust that I went to last time I was in Vegas. After brunch, we took pictures at the hotel with their indoor collection of medieval armor and outdoor fairy-tale style stagecoach.

We toured New York New York and the MGM Grand hotels briefly. I'd never been to either and both were largely forgettable. The MGM had a really nice Rainforest Café, though, which I love. The one in Fisherman's Wharf is quite delightful if you haven't been to it yet. We also went to the M&M store, which was quite overwhelming. They had so much merchandise that it was hard to find actual M&Ms!

Then it was back to Las Vegas airport and to the Bay Area. What a quick and action-packed trip! I feel quite the jetsetter!

BASFA Minutes: meeting 873

April 23, 2007

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

Began 8:00, commenting that Aussies are just so darned nice.

21 people attended.

We established a party jar.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 872 were accepted as 'pixel-stained technopeasants.'

Treasurer's report: at the April 2nd meeting we took in \$11.75 in the regular jar & \$3.25 in the party jar; at the April 9th meeting we took in \$3.25 in the regular jar & \$6.50 in the party jar & at the April 16th meeting we took in \$6.00 in the regular jar & \$6.25 in the party jar.

VP reported there is a new 'Drink Tank' out in which he blathers and his next issue will be the Kurt Vonnegut issue & a new 'SF/SF' will be out Wednesday.

The President had nothing fannish to report and we said 'hi' to Joe, visiting us from another space entirely and he mentioned he has 2 tickets to the Giants vs. Mets game on May 8th.

Announcements

Cheryl announced that there were readings - John Scalzi at Borderlands on Thursday at 7 p.m. and at Dark Carnival on Friday at 5:30 p.m.; plus Ellen Klages at Borderlands on Saturday at 3 p.m.

Then Art asked if there were still shops that repaired TVs and if they picked up, as his 32" TV is feeling quite ill.

Dave C announced that there is a new 'Cargo Cult' catalog out.

Ken announced 'less than 24 hours to go' before KTEH shows the next 'Dr Who' episode & the next meeting of the Legion of Rassilon will be at the usual place this Friday at 7:30.

Chris announced that Howeird's play, 'Jekyll and Hyde' starts Friday and runs through May 13th

[evil] Kevin announced that the rates for Costume Con 26 go up on May 1st and that their room block opens up at the Doubletree this Thursday - and they have banners that you can put on your site.

Dave G announced that there will be 3 days of Bond films showing at the Castro over the Memorial Day weekend.

Reviews:

[tall] Kevin reviewed Chicago and Aurora as unexpected, with good rail suirvice, there was

snow, they saw a Cubs game and it was cold, they went to the Field Museum and saw some of it; then Cheryl follow-on'd that she went to a few readings and a Hugo Frog bar [with excellent fish] and saw the Art Institute and all in all was impressed by Chicago, except for the weather.

Chris reviewed 'Hot Fuzz' as the 2nd funniest film he's seen this year - absolutely hilarious and rad and worth full price; then reviewed an opulent house wherein he saw 'Shaun of the Dead' and it was exceptionally awesome - given the surroundings; then Ken follow-on'd that 'Hot Fuzz' was a cop/buddy-movie send-up.

Cheryl reviewed Monterey as they ate lots and otters are way too cute - and it was worth full price just for 1 otter.

Harold reviewed 'Grindhouse' as a good job of recreating the ambiance - but there should have been an intermission and the trailers were wonderful - well written but too damned long; then he tiraded about the heresy of remaking a classic like 'Halloween' [then there were follow-on's that waxed philosophical].

Andy reviewed last week's 'Dr. Who' as a qualified fantastic - a hell of a lot of fun - and still worth stealing.

Dave G reviewed the coast as he traversed it several times - he thought Norwescon was a nice little con ['little?' commented Spring] and worth full price, then reviewed the

Bob Hope Marriott and the Creation Grand Slam as somewhat reduced and he found the ads scattered around the hotel to be a bit disconcerting & said his last 2 weeks were 'busy.'

Stellan reviewed a PC game, 'Command and Conquer 3' as very science fictional and that it has live-action cut-scenes [using recognizable

actors], that there is a coherent plot that nicely hangs together and is beautiful - and worth full price - and is on sale at Target right now.

[evil] Kevin reviewed 'Kinky Boots' as marvelous.

We birthday auctioned off Cheryl for \$27.00 to Kevin & birthday auctioned off Dave G for

\$22.00 to Spring; then auctioned off an audio book for \$0.50; other books for \$0.25, \$0.25, \$8.00, \$1.00, \$2.00 & a DVD for \$3.00.

We adjourned at 9:51.

And the rumor of the week was that 'Today the Round Table on Moorpark, tomorrow the world.'

BASFA Minutes: meeting 874

April 30, 2007

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

Began 8:00, brought to you by . . . otters.

22 people attended.

We established a party jar.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 873 were accepted as 'Mmmmmm delicious otters.'

Treasurer's report: last week we took in \$84.50 in the regular jar & \$21.52 in the party jar.

VP reported that the art book is here and that there is NO new 'Drink Tank' or 'SF/SF' out this week - but there is a new issue of 'Pixel'

out.

The President had nothing fannish to report [and this time there were follow-ons].

The Party Committee reported there are conventions coming up and he needs volunteer bodies to help him run these parties - especially if he does 2 nights.

The AhwaneeCon committee reported they had a thingie in the Westercon PR & there will be snarky puzzles and word searches in their own next PR.

Then we did early auctions: birthday auctioned off Michael Siladi for \$13.00 to himself; then auctioned off Harold's Costco card for \$3.00 to Harold; then auctioned books for \$3.50, \$1.00, \$1.50, \$0.25, \$3.50, \$2.50, \$4.00, \$0.77, & a 1990 Star Wars calendar for \$4.00.

Announcements:

Michael Siladi announced that rates for BayCon go up on May 1 to \$75 & their room block is going fast - & Westercon's PR #2 is about to go out.

Fred announced that the Maker's Faire will be May 19-20, is family friendly & should be fun, check www.makersfaire.com.

Chris announced that the 15th year anniversary of the Psychotronic Film Festival will be this Saturday at 7pm at Foothill.

Howeird announced that 'Jekyll and Hyde the Musical' will be running Wednesdays through Sundays through May 13 at the Lucie Stern Theatre with the Palo Alto Players.

[evil] Kevin announced that the Costume Con 26 room block is now open at the Doubletree - but that getting a suite takes some extra effort & announced that the Unconventional Foundation

has money & that Andy Trembley is now a board member this Thursday - and they have banners that you can put on your site.

Cheryl announced that Variety Children's Charity is looking for a part-time admin person & John Scalzi apologizing for making the MacArthur Maze all melty.

Reviews:

Andy reviewed last week's 'Dr Who' as a rollicking good time - still worth stealing & reviewed St George Spirits as the chipotle chile vodka as 'holy mother of god.'

Cheryl reviewed the Ellen Klages reading as funny, enjoyable and entertaining.

I reviewed 'Hot Fuzz' as very funny and worth seeing twice, while Trey stated that Nick Angel is his hero.

Chris reviewed 'Blades of Glory' as the funniest movie he'd seen that week, worth seeing if only for the decapitations & the new AMC Cupertino Square has that new fragrance smell but the people working there are as dumb as a box of rocks.

Fred reviewed 'The White House Murder Case' at the SJ Playhouse as a riot - go see it and he reviewed a CD of country music called 'Folk Uke' as worth full price.

Dave C reviewed the John Scalzi reading as very entertaining & Tim Pratt has begun his conquest of literature [there were follow-ons]

and then he reviewed 'Torpedo Juice' by Tim Dorsey as having a lovable loony serial killer as the main character - worth paperback price for airline reading & reviewed 'Next' as it wasn't bad, worth matinee.

Ed reviewed the newest Scalzi book as he enjoyed it a great deal, thinks it worth full

price & reviewed 'Yellow Eyes' by Ringo as he enjoyed the heck out of it and it's worth full price.

We adjourned at 9:40.

And the rumor of the week was that 'otter pops is otters.'

Join our crew:

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

Contact Jean Martin and Chris Garcia

at:

SFinSF@gmail.com

Bay Area Fannish Calendar

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

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

Wednesday, May 9

Adrift: Space Travel After the Space Age

Bedford Gallery

1601 Civic Drive

Walnut Creek

Reservations: 925-295-1423

10 a.m.

\$7

Alex Baker, co-curator of the exhibition "Space is the Place," discusses popular notions about space travel in the post-Cold War era. The exhibition features an international group of artists working with the theme of space exploration, and continues through May 27.

Wednesday, May 9

Author: Daniel Handler

Book Passage

51 Tamal Vista

Corte Madera

www.bookpassage.com

7 p.m.

Free

Lemony Snicket's alter ego reads from his new work, *Adverbs*.

Wednesday-Sunday, May 9-13

Jekyll & Hyde: The Musical

Lucie Stern Theater

1305 Middlefield Road

Palo Alto

www.paplayers.org

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

\$26-30

Thursday, May 10

Invasion from Planet C (2007)

Roxie Film Center

3117 16th Street

San Francisco

www.roxie.com

7:30 and 9:30 p.m.

\$5

Mavericks didn't happen this year, but at least there's a gnarly new sci fi surfing movie to go see.

Thursday, May 10

Grindhouse Double Feature

Screening Room

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

701 Mission Street

San Francisco

7:30 and 9 p.m.

\$8

"In true exploitation scam tradition, I've decided not to announce the titles in advance, you'll need to trust me and just show up. I promise, though, that you will not be disappointed... suckers!" —J. Shepard, YBCA Film Curator.

Thursday, May 10

Authors: Holly Black and

Cassandra Clare

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

www.borderlands-books.com

7 p.m.

Free

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.

Friday, May 11

Authors: Holly Black and

Cassandra Clare

The Other Change of Hobbit
2020 Shattuck Avenue
Berkeley
510-848-0413
2 p.m.

Friday, May 11

*Authors: Holly Black and
Cassandra Clare*
Copperfield's Books
138 North Main Street
Sebastopol
707-823-2618
7 p.m.
Free

Friday-Saturday, May 11-12

Cerberus Barking
EXIT on Taylor
277 Taylor Street
San Francisco
www.sffringe.org
8 p.m.
\$15

A collection of three plays that take fantasy and fairy-tale premises in three entirely different directions: Stuart Bousel's *Polyxena In Orbit*, Alison Luterman's *Oasis*, and Hilde Susan Jaegtne's *Spoon Justice*.

May 11-26

Dracula, The Musical?
Belrose Dinner Theatre
1415 Fifth Avenue
San Rafael
www.thebelrose.com



In case you missed his show in SF in March, here's another chance to see **Charles Ross** perform his *One Man Star Wars Trilogy*, 8 p.m. Saturday May 12th at Marin Center. Canadian actor Ross plays all the principal characters, recreates the effects, sings the score, flies the ships and fights both sides of the battles.

www.marincenter.org

Photo by Jason Woodruff

Fridays at 7:30 p.m., \$25 (show only),
Saturdays at 7 p.m., \$40 (dinner show)

Saturday, May 12

The One Man Star Wars Trilogy

Marin Center

10 Avenue of the Flags

San Rafael

www.marincenter.org

8 p.m.

\$20-\$30

A one-hour, one-man, non-stop blast through
the original three *Star Wars* films.

Saturday, May 12

BeefBowl Anime

Albany Library

1247 Marin Avenue

Albany

12:15-4:15 p.m.

Free

See the screening list at beefbowl.org

Saturday, May 12

Other Magazine Presents

Writers With Drinks

The Make Out Room

3225 22nd Street

San Francisco

www.writerswithdrinks.com

7:30 p.m.

\$3-\$5 sliding scale

With Jami Attenberg, Stephanie Paul, and Liz
Maverick.

Sunday, May 13

Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (1971)

Cerrito Speakeasy Theater

10070 San Pablo Avenue

El Cerrito

www.cerritospeakeasy.com

2 p.m.

\$8

“Kiddie matinee” to benefit Cornell School
PTA.

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*.

Wednesday, May 16

SF in SF: Cory Doctorow and Rudy Rucker

Preview Room

Variety Children’s Charity

582 Market Street

San Francisco

7 p.m.

Free

The long-awaited return of SF in SF, a regular
series of sci fi author readings with discussion
and book signing after, and a clever name. Cash
bar opens at 6:30.

Thursday, May 17

Last House on the Left (1972)

Cerrito Speakeasy Theater

10070 San Pablo Avenue

El Cerrito

www.cerritospeakeasy.com

9 p.m.

\$6

Wes Craven’s influential grindhouse film, with
star David Hess in person.

May 18-June 10

Thunderbabe

Theatre on San Pedro Square

29 N. San Pedro Street

San Jose

www.tosps.com

Wed-Fri 8 p.m., Sat 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sun 2
p.m.

\$15-\$25

A musical comedy-adventure about a middle-
aged superheroine who must squeeze back into
her spandex in time to save the world.

Saturday, May 19

Author: Katherine Kerr

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

www.borderlands-books.com

3 p.m.

Free

Saturday, May 19

Author: Susan Palwick

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

www.borderlands-books.com

5 p.m.

Free

Saturday-Sunday, May 19-20

Maker Faire

San Mateo County Fairgrounds

2495 S. Delaware Street

San Mateo

www.makerfaire.com

\$15 in advance (by May 10), \$20 at the door,

one-day passes available

Crafters, tinkerers, artists and geeks converge

for a weekend of science, mechanics, art,

and entertainment for all ages. Events and

demonstrations include Roomba hacking with

Todd Kurt, the one-ton Robotic Giraffe, the

ComBots Cup and more.

Saturday-Sunday, May 19-20

The Princess Bride (1987)

Cerrito Speakeasy Theater

10070 San Pablo Avenue

El Cerrito

www.cerritospeakeasy.com

Sat Noon and 3 p.m., Sun 2 p.m.

\$4

Sunday, May 20

Little Women Picnic

The Shinn House

1251 Peralta Blvd.

Fremont

www.gbagc.org

Noon-5 p.m.

\$14.50, \$7.50 for GBACG members

A Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild event.

Thursday, May 24

Author: Esther Friesner

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

www.borderlands-books.com

7 p.m.

Free

Friday, May 25

Midnites for Maniacs: Gremlins (1984),

Howard the Duck (1986) and Troll 2 (1990)

Castro Theater

429 Castro Street

San Francisco

www.castrotheatre.com

7:30 p.m.

\$10

Friday-Monday, May 25-28

BayCon

Marriott San Mateo

1770 South Amphlett Blvd.

San Mateo

www.baycon.org

\$75

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,

Special Guest Ctein, 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

\$55

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.

Saturday-Monday, May 26-28

For Your Eyes Only:

Classic 007 Festival

Castro Theater

429 Castro Street

San Francisco

www.castrotheatre.com

New prints of classic James Bond films, plus

rare shorts and trailers and actor Richard Kiel

("Jaws") in person. Saturday: *Dr. No* (1962)

and *Goldfinger* (1964), Sunday: *From Russia*

With Love (1963) and *The Spy Who Loved Me*

(1977), Monday: *Thunderball* (1965) and *On*

Her Majesty's Secret Service (1969). \$10 for

each double feature.

Sunday, May 27

RiffTrax Live
Rafael Film Center
1118 Fourth Street
San Rafael
www.calfilm.org
7:30 p.m.
\$25

The stars of *Mystery Science Theater 3000*, Mike Nelson, Bill Corbett and Kevin Murphy will deconstruct a movie they have handpicked for this occasion, live on stage.

Wednesday, May 30

Author: Peter S. Beagle
Copperfield's Books
140 Kentucky Street
Petaluma
707-762-0563
7 p.m.
Free

The author celebrates the re-release of his first two books, *I See By My Outfit* and *A Fine and Private Place*.

June 1-14

4th Annual Hole in the Head Festival
Roxie Cinema
3117 16th Street
San Francisco
www.holehead.org

If the myriad traumas of daily life in the big city get to be too much, and it seems that only blood-curdling screams will ease your mind, then The Hole in the Head Film Festival is just what the (mad) doctor ordered. Details to follow.

Friday-Sunday, June 1-3

Dollectable
Clarion Hotel SFO
401 E. Millbrae Ave.
Millbrae
www.bjdcon.com
\$65
A convention for enthusiasts and collectors of Asian-style ball-jointed dolls.

Saturday, June 2

Ray Harryhausen Triple Feature
Castro Theater
429 Castro Street
San Francisco
www.castrotheatre.com
Three Harryhausen "DynaMation" classics back-to-back: *Jason and the Argonauts* (1961) at 1:15 and 7 p.m., *The 7th Voyage of Sinbad* (1958) at 3:20 and 9 p.m., *Mysterious Island* (1961) at 5 p.m.
\$10

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, June 2

Warp 11
Blue Lamp

400 Alhambra Blvd.
Sacramento
www.warp11.com
9:30 p.m.
Sacramento's *Star Trek*-themed rock 'n' roll band celebrates the release of their new CD, "It's Dead, Jim." With special guests The Hellbusters; ages 21+.

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 3

Author: Carol Berg
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street
San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com
3 p.m.
Free

Tuesday, June 5

Journey to the Center of the Earth (1959) and *Fahrenheit 451* (1966)
Castro Theater
429 Castro Street
San Francisco
www.castrotheatre.com
\$10
Two classic sci fi movies with scores by

Bernard Herrmann.

Wednesday, June 6

Naruto the Movie: Ninja Clash in the Land of Snow (2007)

Fairfield Stadium 16

1549 Gateway

Fairfield

and

Bay Street 16

5614 Bay Street

Emeryville

and

Deer Valley Stadium 16

4204 Lone Tree Way

Antioch

and

Hacienda Crossings 20

5000 Dublin Blvd.

Dublin

and

Stockton City Center Stadium 16

222 N. El Dorado Street

Stockton

7 p.m.

www.fathomevents.com

Local company VIZ Media presents a one-night, multiple-venue screening of the movie continuation of the popular anime series.

Saturday, June 9

Other Magazine Presents

Writers With Drinks

The Make Out Room

3225 22nd Street

San Francisco

www.writerswithdrinks.com

7:30 p.m.

\$3-\$5 sliding scale

With Judy Budnitz, Sesshu Foster, Anthony McCann, and Clifford Chase.

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.

Tuesday, June 12

Ask a Scientist: Terra Incognita

Axis Cafe

1201 8th Street

San Francisco

www.askascientistsf.com

7 p.m.

Free

What we do and don't know about Earth's southernmost continent, Antarctica. With Glaciologist and UC Berkeley Geology Prof Kurt Cuffey.

Thursday, June 14

The Hunger (1983) and

Galaxy Quest (1999)

Preview Room

Variety Children's Charity

582 Market Street

San Francisco

7 p.m.

Free

Borderlands Books, Variety Children's Charity, and the Gay Geeks Group invite you to a screening of two very different cult favorites. Refreshments will be available for purchase, and your purchase supports Variety's efforts to aid disabled, disadvantaged, abused and neglected kids.

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, June 16

Dragon Slayers Renaissance Festival

100 Aptos Creek Road

Santa Cruz

www.dragonslayersfestival.com

10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

\$10

Proceeds benefit Dragon Slayers, an innovative animal therapy program for physically challenged children and adults.

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.

Friday-Sunday, June 22-24

PolyCon XXV: Return of the Dragon

Embassy Suites Hotel

33 Madonna Road

San Luis Obispo

www.polycon.org

\$30 at the door (\$25 until June 1)

SLO's gaming con features tournaments for D&D, War Hammer Fantasy, Magic: The Gathering and more, plus the traditional Saturday barbecue.

Saturday, June 23

Author: Jacqueline Carey

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

www.borderlands-books.com

3 p.m.

Free

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

www.westercon60.org

\$75

Guests of Honor: Tad Williams, Theresa

Mather, Christian McGuire

Toastmaster: Jay Lake

Friday-Sunday, July 13-15

Sac-Anime

Red Lion Inn

1401 Arden Way

Sacramento

www.sacramentocomics.com

\$30

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

Saturday, July 14

Other Magazine Presents

Writers With Drinks

The Make Out Room

3225 22nd Street

San Francisco

www.writerswithdrinks.com

7:30 p.m.

\$3-\$5 sliding scale

Featuring Ben Fong-Torres, Deborah Ross, and Audacia Ray.

Saturday-Sunday, July 14-15

The 7th Voyage of Sinbad (1958)

Cerrito Speakeasy Theater

10070 San Pablo Avenue

El Cerrito

www.cerritospeakeasy.com

Sat. 6 p.m., Sun. 5 p.m.

Ray Harryhausen's classic special effects ride.

Saturday, July 21

Harry Potter Party

The Booksmith

1644 Haight Street

San Francisco

www.booksmith.com

11 p.m.-1 a.m.

Free

Midnight release party for J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*.

Friday-Sunday, July 27-29

Con-X-Treme

DoubleTree Hotel

2050 Gateway Place

San Jose

www.con-x-treme.com

\$50 at the door (\$45 until June 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.

July 29-August 4

The Dickens Universe

Kresge College

UC Santa Cruz

Santa Cruz

dickens.ucsc.edu

\$335, plus accommodations and meals

The Dickens Project hosts a week-long seminar open to the public as well as academics, with sessions focusing on Dickens's *Pickwick*

Papers, Victorian genres in poetry, drama, and the novel, afternoon teas and other activities for Victorianists.

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.

August 10-16

Dead Channels—The San Francisco Festival of Fantastic Film

Roxie Cinema
3117 16th Street

San Francisco

www.deadchannels.com

Now accepting entries (through May 31).

Details to follow.

Saturday-Sunday, August 18-19

Ani-Jam

Radisson Hotel

2233 Ventura Street

Fresno

www.ani-jam.com

\$20 in advance (by July 31), \$25 at the door, one-day passes available

Central Valley anime convention with a cosplay contest, videogame tournament, guests, more.

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, George Takei and Robert Duncan McNeill. Details to follow.

Friday-Sunday, October 5-7

SiliCon

DoubleTree Hotel

2050 Gateway Place

San Jose

www.siliconventions.com

\$45 at the door (\$35 until June 1)

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.

Saturday, January 5, 2008

Victorian Twelfth Night Ball

PEERS Event

www.peers.org

A.k.a. The Dickens Fair Reunion Ball. Details to follow.

Saturday, February 2, 2008

Le Mardi Gras des Vampires

PEERS Event

www.peers.org

Details to follow.

Saturday, March 1, 2008

Pride and Prejudice Ball

PEERS Event

www.peers.org

Details to follow.

Saturday, April 5, 2008

The Royal Debutante Ball

PEERS Event

www.peers.org

Details to follow.

April 25-28, 2008

CostumeCon 26

DoubleTree Hotel

2050 Gateway Place

San Jose

www.cc26.info

\$85

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 (Pay What You Wish day every first

Tuesday)

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.sfgosthunt.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 regular cards night at Atlas Café, 20th and Alabama

Streets, Tuesday nights from 6:30-10:00.

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.ussdefiance.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.