

Science Fiction/San Francisco

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News and Notes

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

OK, sometimes, *SF/SF* co-editor Chris Garcia makes mistakes. Mark Plummer pointed out two that I knew were wrong and now must fix. First off, I referred to Chris O'Shea as female in the last News & Notes. I am, in fact, wrong. He's a dude. I was so concerned with getting Ang Rosin right (since all the Ang's I've known are male and I didn't want to mess that up) that I slipped on Chris. I apologize and hope your trip is a happy one. If I ever make it out there (like say if something like JETS, only to send someone to Europe from North America were to open up, and I somehow won it) I'll buy you the beverage of your choice (no beers, wines, or mixed drinks).

The other one is not my fault. You see, Mike Scott is a member of the *PLOKTA* Cabal, a sinister group of Mac Users who are determined to conquer fandom or choke its conventions with their dead. There are about 4000 members, one of whom is known as Dr. PLOKTA and who uses the alias Mike Scott. Steve Davies, who is a PLOKTA but doesn't use the nom de fen Dr. PLOKTA, was running for GUFF. I shall now institute and make it so:

Mike Scott is now Dr. PLOKTA and Steve Davies is Lord PLOKTA. Please make a note of it. Now, which one is Flick married to because they automatically become Mr. Flick (unless it's Dr. PLOKTA, in which case it's Mr. Dr. Flick)?

SF/SF's crew would like to give a shout-out to Kaja Foglio who is in the hospital right now. Get well soon!

There will be a Gerry Perkins memorial at BayCon. It's scheduled for Saturday the 26th at 5:30. A lot of folks will be there to celebrate the man and the legend.

I'm gonna say this in here because I can't think of anywhere else where it would make sense. FAPA, the Fantasy Amateur Press Association, has a bunch of openings for membership. If you're interested in being a part of one of fandom's oldest and proudest traditions, send me an eMail at Garcia@computerhistory.org and I'll give you some details. It's a good place with lots of BArea participation.

By the way, I've just been reading *All Our Yesterdays* from the late, great Harry Warner, and there's a good-sized chunk on the BArea in the early days of fandom. Speaking of Warner, his huge fanzine collection is now in private hands

in Texas with a pledge to keep it together for the time being. There are probably a lot of zines that exist in that one collection and nowhere else, so it's important to keep it as much together as possible. On the other hand, it would be nice to get it into a university setting where it can be properly stored and managed. Then again, archives can't always give large collections like this proper attention, so sometimes it's better to have them in private hands. Still, I seem to remember someone telling me that Harry kept things in pretty good order and that there's some sort of catalog available. I must try and get to see it.

Just got my final BayCon schedule and it's a good one. The panels I'm on range from round tables (about TAFE, the Fan Hugos and the third annual Fanzine in an Hour) to the relatively normal (Tales from Your In-Box, the Food Panel) to the slightly strange (Mexican Wrestling and Comic Book Super Heroes, Five Dollars, a Time Machine and a Dead Fish). It's going to be interesting.

Lots of action on eFanzines. There's a pair of new *Drink Tanks*, 125 and 126. I highly recommend 125 because it's the Vonnegut issue and it's actually pretty good. Steven Silver, Jeff Redmond, me, John

Purcell, BloodHag, and Matt Appleton. It's got art from España Sheriff and a bunch of others. Worth reading? Yes. Issue 126 is another important one because it's the first issue featuring anything from Dave Langford! That's a big get on my part and I have to thank him. Perhaps we could all get together and give him some sort of award... Plus there's a fine rant from Matt Appleton and some Chris Garcia strangeness.

Prolapse 6 is out on eFanzines.com as well. It's as good as it was when I wrote about it last time. It's going to be a very important zine because of the way it's documenting British Fan History. Apparently Peter was annoyed that Dave Langford wrote for me instead of him. I'm sure I'll find more ways to annoy Peter Weston.

One of my favorite people in the whole damn world, Mr. (Soon to be Dr.) John Purcell released a new issue of *Askance*. *Askance #2* is a really good issue with a superb LetterCol. It just bottles my mind how many folks responded. There's a review of AggieCon, a fine article from Charles Fuller, Lloyd Penney reviewing zines and more! It's just about the perfect zine for sittin' around a Fanzine Lounge and reading when the panels are dull.

John Theil, who has LoCed us here at *SF/SF*, has a new issue of *Surprising Stories* available through eFanzines.com. There's a

great interview with Kurt Vonnegut in it from the early 1980s. Wonderful reading.

I'm saying it right now: *Banana Wings* is gonna take home the Hugo for Best Fanzine this year. Why do I say that? Just you wait...

Westercon put out a 36 page Progress Report that's really, really good. There's a ton of info and some tiny type for the by-laws, but the Frank Wu cover is enough to make you smile. It's a Westercon PR, so it's full of stuff like by-laws, but the sheer weight and the ads make for non-tiresome reading. Kevin Standlee did a darn good job with it!

Anyone else think that Frank Wu should do an art book about a time-traveling band of dinosaurs who just wanna rock? I'm just sayin', is all.

I got to see *Jekyll & Hyde* at Palo Alto Players and it was a good show. Howieird made good use of his solo as well. It was a fun show and I'm glad I went. If you get a chance to see a show put on by the Palo Alto Players, you should take it. It's just plain old fashioned wonderful! It's a shame its run is over because it's a good time.

You must try and find *Starship Sofa*. It's an awesome podcast from a bunch of good folks. You can listen at <http://www.starshipsofa.com/>. The Gene Wolfe episode was pretty good, but the recent

Kurt Vonnegut Jr. episode was one of the best podcasts I've heard recently. Harry Harrison's edition is also really strong. The accents can be a little thick for some ears, but I love it.

Speaking of accents, DUFF, the Down Under Fan Fund, is still looking for nominees to come across the Pacific to enjoy the NASFiC. It should be a race if they can get the right Aussies to run. I'm thinking of nominating someone, but I have to ask if they wanna join the race.

I'll answer the question that everyone will be asking me at BayCon: Yes I am and yes, I've already got all five to agree, and the ball is rolling.

Lots of talk about the future of Westercon. There's no known bid for 2010 (though Utah has been rumored to be interested) and if there's no bidder, it's up to LASFS to decide when, where and if there's going to be a Westercon. There is a vocal segment that wants Westercon to blow away, and another that would like to keep it going. I think Westercon needs something more than site selection and a business meeting to define it and make it a stronger con. WorldCon has the Hugo Awards and that instantly gives it something that keeps it going. I'd love to see Westercon re-envisioned as a Relaxacon that tours and focuses on something specific for the entire

con. Simplifying things would help regain interest and make it easier for smaller fannish groups to run it. It's going to be talked about a lot over the next year and the emotions will likely run high. I'm going to be at the 2008 Westercon and the business meeting could be very important there. The only other convention that has had a similar issue is Eastercon in the UK. It led to many problems that led to the cancellation of the con (and the TAFF race, grumble, grumble), but it seems to have bounced back. I'd love to see another BArea Westercon, or maybe, after a redefining, Lake Tahoe.

Anyone thinking that it would be a good thing to party at the Computer History Museum in September?

Just a Note: Dave for TAFF.

Got a SiliCon PR not too long ago. Looks good. I have a certain soft spot for SiliCon, since they let us do an *SF/SF* panel last year, and I'm hoping that we'll all be getting together again this year. Looks like a good line-up, though cancellations have taken their toll in the past. It'll be interesting since October is right in the middle of TAFF's voting season and there may be two BArea candidates...

Some of the folks coming to BayCon include Lee Felsenstein, the designer of the Osborne 1 computer. He's a big deal and I'm so glad he's gonna be around. FanboyPlanet.

com will also be doing their weekly podcast from the San Mateo Marriott.

Not much new on Con-X-Treme. I know there are issues with a few folks and CXT over parties co-hosted at Further Confusion, which has raised eyebrows. They are up against Comic-Con in San Diego, which is a BArea favorite, but it's got a good concept and a decent set of agreed participants. There is the question of whether or not the BArea, and the South Bay in particular, is saturated with cons. I know I can do with two or three more cons around, but I'm not sure how necessary having another one is, particularly in the summer when we've got BayCon, Fanime and Westercon already. If I were to start a regular new con, I'd either (1) do it in the dead month of February, or (2) move it to the North Bay. Not that I'm thinking of starting a new con...

I'm waiting for word on the continuing health of Ray Bradbury and Forry Ackerman. I haven't heard anything new, which means at least it's not bad news.

Jay Lake was in town to do a workshop, but more importantly he hung out at a party at Dave Gallaher and Spring Shoenhuth's. The party was fun stuff, attended by such BArea fannish legends as Frank Wu, Kevin Roche, Andy Trembley,

Joe (last name forgotten), Bill Humphries, Adrienne Foster, Lisa Deutsch Harrigan and Jim Terman. There was cheese to be had (some of which went well with tortilla chips) and good wine to carry the conversation on well into the night. I had a blast and didn't end up leaving until almost 2am. Sadly, España said she was "Too Busy" to attend and I swore to mock her for it...so I can cross that one off my list!

Come to The Match Game!

It's back, people!

The Match Game, that zany comedic game show of the 1970s that Kevin Standlee brought back for last year's BayCon, returns as the Masquerade's half-time entertainment! The panel looks to be good folks, like LASFS' resident maniac Martin Young, brilliant writer (and former BayCon Toastmaster) Esther Friesner, the ever-charming Leigh Ann Hildebrand, the dry humor superstar Tom Galloway, always entertaining Doug Berry, and of course the ever-present Christopher J. Garcia!

Kevin Standlee will host the event, which is sure to be hilarious fannish fun. Saturday in the Convene (Golden Gate) Room during the Masquerade's half-time. See it!

Letters Of Comment

Let's start off with **Mark Plummer**:

Jean/Chris,

I'm not sure that I want the reputation of being the guy who writes to you solely to correct Chris's editorials but a couple of comments do stand out from *SF/SF* #44.

Chris Garcia replies: Come on! Someone's gotta keep me honest and it might as well be you, Mark!

Firstly, in commenting on the recently concluded GUFF race Chris refers to one of the candidates as "Dr Plokta." It's true that Steve Davies--who was a candidate in the race--is a member of the *Plokta* cabal and editorial team, but most people would recognize the name Dr Plokta as applying to Mike Scott, another *Plokta* caballista and editor who *wasn't* on the ballot.

There are too damn many of them for me to keep straight! The Cabal should publish an easy-to-use list of all their members with outlines and such...on letter-sized paper because A4 is confusing to American eyes!

And--tempting as it is to let this one stand so as confuse future generations--while I'm sure it's entirely commendable not to make the assumption that somebody called "Chris" is male, this would nevertheless have been correct in the case of Chris O'Shea

who won the JETS trip and who is referred to as "she" in the "News and Notes" section. (http://www.scifiinc.net/scifiinc/gallery/bio/O'Shea_Chris.htm).

Yeah, that one I feel bad about. I was just trying so hard to make sure that I got Ang right and I blew it. Blew it with a capital bleh!

What this all says to me is that Mr. Garcia is well-meaning when it comes to British fandom but just isn't as au fait with the personalities as he might be. Clearly he needs to travel to the UK to meet the fans so that he can accurately report their activities for *SF/SF*. If only there were a way to arrange this, perhaps through some kind of endowment of scholarship or... yes, a fund which could sponsor a delegate to travel from North America to Europe or vice versa, where deserving individuals could put their names forward and a winner be selected via a ballot of interested parties. Yes, if only there were such a thing...

Indeed...and if only I could possibly win such a thing... Best etc.

--Mark

Mark Plummer
Croydon, UK

Editorial

By Jean Martin
Editor

I've been feeling nostalgic about sci fi TV shows from the 70s and 80s for a few weeks now, ever since the new Ion channel started re-airing episodes of the old *Battlestar Galactica* TV series. That series shaped my pre-teen years and further fed and firmly established my love for sci fi shows, following so closely on the heels of *Star Wars*. (By the way, I do still call it *Star Wars*, and not *A New Hope* or "Episode IV.")

Back to the old *BSG*... There was something so magical about that series. It was colorful, mythic, and full of adventure, hope for humanity, camaraderie, good family relationships, hot women and even hotter men. Yes, it was campy, but what wasn't in those days? I appreciated the humor and lightheartedness of the show. Although I like the new *BSG*, I still prefer the old series to the new, which is very dark and doesn't have any comic relief. I was really disappointed when the old *BSG* was cancelled before they reached Earth,

and eagerly awaited the later incarnation, *Galactica 1980*, in which they finally did reach Earth.

In any case, it has seemed to me lately that sci fi television has not been as popular, or as good, as it was then. I also miss *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, although that one had a full and rich run of seven seasons. Thank goodness for Netflix which has started to carry old sci fi TV shows. I've been re-watching *The Time Tunnel* on DVD and enjoying it, not as I did then, but in a new way. Things seemed to be much simpler then. It was clear who were the good guys and who were the bad guys. Special effects weren't as flashy as they are now but scripts and storylines were tight, and focused on the human drama and on learning lessons about ourselves and the world.

Does anyone else remember and love the following TV shows I have been able to dredge up from my memory? *Buck Rogers*, *Fantastic Voyage*, *Gemini Man*, *The Man from Atlantis*, *Cliffhangers*, *The Bionic Woman*, *The Six Million Dollar Man*, *V*, *Spiderman*, *Logan's Run*, *Hulk*, *The Magician*, *The Greatest American Hero*, *The*

Invisible Man, *Land of the Giants*, *Wonder Woman*. Oh, how I long for the good old days!

I realize, though, that times change and art and entertainment change along with them. Nowadays, characters have more ambiguous motivations and drama is more about sex and conflict. I guess neither is good or bad, just a matter of taste. I tend to like more hopeful and colorful fare than most people today, who seem to enjoy thrillers and more grit. I feel a little insulted, though, when people say that the new style of TV is more "grown up" and "real." Sorry, but I don't think very many of us have lives like Jack Bauer of *24* or the suburban ladies on *Desperate Housewives*. I tried to watch both those shows but I just couldn't get into the unrelenting darkness and suspense of the former and the hopelessness and lost souls of the latter.

However, it was quite a nice and timely surprise that *Entertainment Weekly* recently featured the Top 25 sci fi shows from the last 25 years. Why they chose 25 years, I have no idea, since it meant leaving out *Star Wars*, the original *Battlestar Galactica*, etc.

But it was great for the reporter of what's popular in our day and age to recognize that sci fi (despite what I may originally have thought) is still important and alive. *EW's* list follows below.

I saw on *EW's* blog site that some people were quite upset that *Babylon 5*, *Farscape* and *Stargate* were not included. My own comments follow the entries. First, though, here are my general impressions. It seems to me that *EW's* criteria were the popularity of a show and how successful it was. But they also considered the show's legacy and staying power. It seemed odd to me that they lumped movies and TV shows together. It also seemed to me that there was a preponderance of recent movies and TV shows on the list, perhaps because these are still on people's minds. I saw the same thing happen with *Masterpiece Theatre's* countdown on PBS recently. But we really don't know if the new ones will be classics in a few years. The old ones have stood the test of time already.

I also noticed that there were a lot of shows, especially the newer ones, that were heavy on action: blowing stuff up, and fight and chase scenes. The older ones seemed to have dealt more with what it means to be human: drama, and allegories. It's too bad, because sci fi does get painted by people who don't like or understand it as escapist,

and as not having much meaning. Although I'm not averse to a good fight scene and lots of action, I believe that great sci fi happens when it combines those elements with an exploration of human issues—without being bound by conventional thinking or “normal” reality.

Well, here's *EW's* list (with my thoughts in parentheses):

25. *V: The Miniseries* (Glad to see this make the list; an awesome allegory of aliens as Nazis.)

24. *Galaxy Quest* (Surprisingly funny and memorable.)

23. *Doctor Who* (I agree with *EW* that Christopher Eccleston is the best Doctor. But to me the new *Doctor Who* series has just revitalized the franchise, and has really gotten me excited about sci fi TV shows again. This should really be higher on the list.)

22. *Quantum Leap* (Never really saw this; the characters didn't really interest me and it seemed very mainstream.)

21. *Futurama* (Didn't get to see this either. I'm not a big fan of *The Simpsons* and this looked very similar. I can't watch the very garish colors and listen to the harsh voices.)

20. *Star Wars: Clone Wars* (I hear this is really good, better than the latest trilogy. I should probably rent it; however, I'm

stunned that this was included and *Return of the Jedi* wasn't. *ROTJ* falls within the 25-year period, and even though it was not the greatest thing ever, it was still quite good.)

19. *Starship Troopers* (Aliens that looked like bugs, no thank you, although it did seem like there was more to this movie than shooting aliens.)

18. *Heroes* (I haven't really been watching much TV lately. Everyone tells me this is really good. I'll catch it on DVD, especially now that Christopher Eccleston has joined the cast.)

17. *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* (Quite fascinating, although I liked *Being John Malkovich* better.)

16. *Total Recall* (Though I really liked this movie, I'm surprised it's so high on the list because it didn't really catch on fire or anything.)

15. *Firefly/Serenity* (Yeay! Need I say more?)

14. *Children of Men* (Interesting premise, but too dark for me.)

13. *Terminator/Terminator 2* (The Governator makes the list! I loved these movies, and *Terminator 3* wasn't so bad either.)

12. *Back to the Future* (I love anything with time travel, and this was a fun ride.)

11. *Lost* (I tried to watch an episode and I couldn't get into it. It seemed very dark and

slow.)

10. *The Thing* (I'm not much into horror.)

9. *Aliens* (Ditto on this one.)

8. *ST: Next Generation* (My favorite TV series of all time! Tied with *Xena*, but *Xena's* not sci fi.)

7. *E.T.* (I loved this movie, very touching and heartwarming.)

6. *Brazil* (I've wanted to watch this for a while; maybe this will get me to go see it.)

5. *ST II: The Wrath of Khan* (The best *Star Trek* movie and I like all of them.)

4. *The X Files* (I like paranormal shows, but I'm not into conspiracy theories, so I never got into this show—and this show was literally *dark*.)

3. *Blade Runner* (Very good movie, but surprised to see it so high on the list.)

2. *Battlestar Galactica* (This is the new series. I'm sad that *EW* dissed the original while praising this one. I like it and it is better than anything else on the air (in the U.S.) as *EW* said, but it is quite depressing sometimes.)

1. *The Matrix* (I agree that this movie was quite groundbreaking because of its combination of “mythological and theological ideas” with “Hong Kong action-film aesthetics and videogame special effects,” but I still think it's a bit overrated. Good, but overrated.)

Here's some shows I think they missed:

Red Dwarf

The Last Starfighter

Starman

Contact

The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai

Tron

Dune (movie and miniseries)

Independence Day

Well, instead of writing *EW* to tell them what they've missed, how about this: write us, and tell us what you think of their list, and what you think should have been on it, too!

Dreams of the City

- a column

By España Sheriff

In general I like fantasy of the low kind. Epic tales of dragons and sorcery don't attract me as much as weirder or darker stories do: stories that tell us the world is not as it seems on the surface, and that if you look in just the right spot at just the right angle you might find another world entirely. Neil Gaiman, Tim Powers and others excel at this type of contemporary urban fantasy, in which the mundane world around us is just a veneer that hides a richer, darker fantastical realm in which vast powers move about us and where seemingly mundane everyday events are, as often as not, part of a greater battle between forces unseen. Those who do catch sight of these mechanisms are bound to be swept up in terrifying events beyond their comprehension and come out transformed—assuming that they and their minds survive the experience at all.

It makes sense that subways are a natural (or unnatural, if you wish) setting for these sorts of tales: dark, subterranean netherworlds, their true depths unknowable, with tunnels stretching into mysterious directions that no one we have met has ever seen in their entirety. Once below, on even the sunniest of summer days, one can't help

wondering while passing through them and catching fleeting glimpses of side tunnels, staircases, and distant lights of uncertain origin, what might lie beyond if we could just slow down and look. Whole civilizations could exist right under our feet, and subway stories may well be the successors to the earlier subgenre of "Lost Race" stories popular in the 19th and early 20th Centuries.

The Bay Area Rapid Transit system is younger and less, ahem... glamorous than the New York or London subway systems, but Lisa Goldstein's *Dark Cities Underground* does a creditable job of weaving her own tale of old gods and subways here in our own backyard—albeit connecting it to every other subway system through mystical means. There is a lot here that will remind you of other stories: the use of the Osiris myth and the sacrifice and resurrection archetype are reminiscent of Powers, particularly of *Last Call*. And it's hard not to think of Gaiman's wonderful *Neverwhere* when reading about underground adventures, and of course others have gone the Alice/Peter Pan-as-real-stories route before... but it's still a satisfying local angle on this type of story.

Goldstein sets up her story by positing that our most famous and resonant works of children's literature are not fiction at all,

but distorted reflections of tales told by the children who experienced them to adults who respun them as fantasy. Journeys to the Hundred-Acre Wood, Narnia, Wonderland, and Never-Never Land were actual, and traumatic, visits to one realm.

It's a wonderful idea, and if Goldstein doesn't quite use it to its maximum potential (others have explored similar themes more successfully), she does spin a good yarn once she gets going. She doesn't so much fail as overextend, trying for too much plot and too many connections, essentially throwing everything into the pot and not letting it blend quite well enough. But the story moves along pretty quickly and there's plenty to keep the reader interested.

It's impossible to ride the MUNI or BART trains after reading this book without thinking back to it. The work of subtle and inhuman powers would go a long way toward explaining many things about local public transit. Discussions of line expansions always make me wonder what new shape might be created upon their completion, and what dark power, other than the MTC itself, might benefit.

Memories of BayCons Past

Part Two: 2004 to 2006

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

Photos by Howeird

I was only a little bit known around town up until 2004. Yeah, folks knew me, and some pretty important folks, but hardly anyone outside of the circles in which I chose to tread. Somehow, maybe because I had started nosing around the edges of various cons, I discovered that more folks seemed to know me. I rolled with Jason Schachat and some other folks, but even when I was on my own, there were people around whom I knew. I hadn't started *The Drink Tank* yet, I hadn't made any movies, I hadn't done much, but just by being around and going to cons, folks knew who I was. It was a little strange.

At BayCon 2004, the panel list was long (I remember it as 12 panels, but I may be off by one or two) and I did two that were exceptional. The first was Five Dollars, a Time Machine and a Dead Fish. I'd done the panel before but this year we had a gentleman named Martin Young and a young lass name of Esther Friesner. She was Toastmaster and she was fantastic. I knew that I would be the next Toastmaster, and

she made it damn hard on me by putting on a helluva performance, including doing a hula! It was awesome and she's just that damn good. We posited some very strange realities and Martin proved that he is, in fact, the maddest man in all of fandom. Esther was no slouch herself as she managed to work in finding a way to make James

Marsters her personal sex slave. There's little better than that.

The second panel I was on and had a great time with was the Food panel. Kathryn and I always have a good time, and this year it was just the two of us. I remember that we made many in the audience hungry with our discussion of things like poutine and



The Guests of Honor-Andy Trembley, Kevin Roche, Jay Lake, Chris Garcia and Frank Wu



BayCon 2006 Masquerade: Snake Lady and Troopers



BayCon 2006 Masquerade: Spam-ish Inquisition



2004 Joust



Lynn Gold in Concert

various Mexican delicacies, but we also turned some stomachs with talk of tripe and insects and various Mexican delicacies. It was good stuff.

The charity casino was a big win for Jason, Steve Sprinkles and me. We had our fave dealer, Miss Vikki, and we played the entire night and won, won, won at blackjack. At the end of the night, I jumped to an empty table with less than five minutes and almost doubled my winnings. I think we only won one thing that night, but we had so much fun.

2004 was a good year. A strange year and one that I'd love to relive at some point. Genevieve and Evelyn came for a bit, mostly to walk around the dealer's room, and I bought a single piece in the art show, which is almost unheard of. I usually go broke buying art. I chatted, I hugged, I generally had a real good time.

2005 was very different. I'd started *The Drink Tank* on January 31st, 2005. I had been LoCing like a madman for about eight months. I started going to con staff meetings for no reason other than to try and see what was going on. I was also Toastmaster and that alone was enough to make it kinda nerve-wracking. You see, I have no problem speaking to crowds (individuals is a different story), but I did have set rules for myself about being Toastmaster. First

rule: don't say "fuck" into a live microphone. I managed to avoid that one.

It was at BayCon 2005 that I got to know Kevin and Andy, as well as Kelly Buelher and Daniel Spector. Jay Lake was writer Guest of Honor and he was a hoot, as always. My good buddy Frank Wu was Artist GoH, so everything was wonderful. The main panel that Jay, Frank and I were on was about MonkeyCon, the convention with a strange and twisted history that allowed Jay, Frank, Nick Mamatas and me to come up with a strange series of improvs and gibes. It was a funny, funny, funny panel.

Toastmaster is an easy-ish job...if you remember the little things. I totally handled the Opening Ceremonies with a decent amount of style, and then it was time for the Masquerade. I wore a Hawaiian shirt beneath my tuxedo and announced myself as eveningwear Jay Lake, which got a fair laugh. I only messed up once, pronouncing Ave as "Ah-Vey"



2004 Costumes: Green Velvet

instead of "Av-Ay."

The panels were different, and I was on fewer of them, but it was such a great time and I had such a blast hanging with everyone that I figured I should do something nice. On the last day, during the



Chris banging the con closed

Closing Ceremonies, I took off the fez that we'd all been wearing, dropped a twenty into it and passed it around, collecting a whole bunch of money (something like 300 bucks) for the con charity. That was a nice bit of work from the folks of the con. One person gave a hundred-dollar bill, which was wonderful. We had a blast and Evelyn gave me a great piece that I used in an article for John Coxon's *Procrastinations* 3. I also found Kitty, who was going to be heading the 2006 BayCon, and I said that I'd be willing to run a Fanzine Lounge. She took me up on it.

BayCon 2005 was also the first one that I got to write about in my own zines. *The Drink Tank* was still pretty new (and still

using the original format, which has changed at least three times since then) and I did two full issues around BayCon and a third with some BayContent. It was the first full exploration of con-reporting I'd done and I think it was the best stuff I did in that period of *The Drink Tank*.

The 2006 edition of BayCon was really good even though it started

off kinda bad. I was running the fanzine lounge. I had been given a cigar and was planning on smoking it on the deck in the evening. Sadly, it was windy and the cigar blew off of my cart and right into the path of my cart's wheels. I had lost my Arturo Fuente Hemmingway Classic to the wind. That was sad. It quickly got better when I was moved in and we started seein' folks. I ran into almost all of my local friends, save for Frank Wu who broke my heart by being Artist Guest of Honor at Miscon. There were a bunch of folks up from LA, like George and Vanessa Van Wagner and Ed Green and a few folks from further up north.

We did a Fanzine In An Hour, which was a lot of fun. We had Randy Smith,

Derek McCaw, the Van Wagners and Jason Schachat, who did the cover. It was called *The Minute Sixty* and it ended up on eFanzines.com less than two hours after we had finished it. It was a fun time and we put out an entertaining little zine.

Not a lot of paneling, but we did a few that were neat. Mostly it was getting to talk and meet with folks that made it a great con. I met Dick Lupoff, writer and Hugo-winning fanzine editor, and we talked fanzines and fan writers, IBM and wrestling. I think BayCon was where I first met a fair deal of the *SF/SF* crew other than Jean (whom I'd met at the previous SiliCon). Always good fun.

Reporting on BayCon 2006 was done in various places. I sorta look at my BC06 reporting as the lead-up to my WorldCon and CorFlu reporting, which were among the best that I've done...at least to my eyes. I wrote pieces for *SF/SF*, *The Drink Tank*, *Vegas Fandom Weekly*, *Pixel* and more. I double-covered a lot of stuff, admittedly, but I think I gave a fairly good idea of not only what happened, but what BayCon was like.

So, those are my seven BayCons to date. Feel free to find me at the next one, and we'll chat about BayCons come and gone.

My Night of Partying Like a Cosmonaut

Story and Photos by Jean Martin
Editor

I've always felt an affinity for cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space, because we have the same birth date, and because I've always had an interest in space and space exploration. When I was a child, I wanted to become an astronaut (among other things), until I realized that with my poor eyesight and being prone to motion sickness, there was no way I could ever be one. Also, I was geographically- and citizenship-challenged at that point, being in the Philippines and not an American citizen.

As with all things lately, everything I used to just dream of doing came within reach when I moved to the U.S., and specifically to the Bay Area. Over a decade ago, one of my wishes was fulfilled when I was able to attend a day at Space Camp, then at NASA-Ames in Mountain View, as a member of the Planetary Society. I still remember to this day the exhilaration I felt when I was strapped into wires and flew up, down and sideways in a simulated zero-G

environment. The second time I went to NASA-Ames was to meet with a prospective PR client inside the facility itself. I met with some people who were involved in the Mars Rover program, and I got to try out the Mars

robot simulation when it was still new and not available to the general public (as it is now). The third time was again in the Space Camp area, now converted to a visitor center, for Saturn Night where I got to see and



Jean at NASA Ames Hangar



Astronaut Anousheh Ansari

hear a panel of scientists involved in the Cassini-Huygens mission. The fourth time was for the Space Elevator Games, which I reported on for *SF/SF*.

Anyway, I was very excited to find out, from the calendar pages of *SF/SF*, that there was going to be a “Yuri’s Night” space party at NASA-Ames on April 13th, and that one of the special guests was to be Anousheh Ansari, the first female private space explorer. I was very interested to find out how she achieved this and what her

experience was like. I also just wanted to see with my own eyes someone who has done what I aimed to do so long ago, and had given up on. Unlike me, her coming from another country, Iran, didn’t stop her from fulfilling her dream to go into space.

Seeing Ansari and the other special guests was my main motivation

to go to the event. I was also interested in seeing the science demonstrations. However, glancing through the program on the website, it quickly became clear to me that this event had a not-so-subtle tie-in with Burning Man. First, there were going to be DJs playing music, one of whom I recognized as having been part of a big theme camp at Burning Man. Second, there were going to be light shows. Third, and the biggest hint, Burning Man Google

Earth was going to be one of the exhibits. So it seemed to me like this was going to be a rave with a serious science twist to it.

But nothing prepared me for the spectacular party that was Yuri’s Night. The press release dubbed it as an event that “joins the world in a celebration of space with a unique convergence of artists, scientists, space explorers, performers and musicians.” It certainly was unlike anything I’ve ever experienced: similar to Burning Man, but more focused on the elements that I’m interested in. By the way, Yuri’s Night is celebrated all over the world around the same time. According to the press kit, this event marked the first time it was going to be held in Northern California, but it was also expected to be the biggest in the world.

I got there around 7:30 p.m. and got my media badge at Will Call, avoiding the long line of people waiting to get tickets. Which was good, because otherwise, I would have been too late to see Anousheh Ansari go on stage. She was a petite and attractive lady and she had a slide show that showed the astronaut training program she went through, her flight to the International Space Station (which gave me chills), what life was like for her there (she still looked amazingly beautiful and well put together even in space!), and her descent back to



Robot Wars



Yuri's Night at NASA Ames

Earth (which was probably quite a letdown as well as a relief). I really enjoyed listening to her stories and seeing video footage from her entire experience. She recounted how she and her husband had built a business here in the U.S. after emigrating from Iran, and had made enough money so that she could afford to pay for the space flight. She trained in Russia and was on a waiting list, but luckily got slated to go at the last minute. Then she told us what they ate and how they slept on the ISS, and how her mother and sister cried the whole time she was away. We sometimes forget how dangerous these missions can be and the strength and

courage it takes to go into space. What a brave and inspiring woman! Especially since she's just like one of us and this is not her career.

Unfortunately, I missed the roundtable interview with her in the media room as I didn't find out about it until later. I didn't receive a press packet beforehand because I got my media authorization the day before via email, and I didn't make my way to the media room until later in the evening. There was so much to absorb around me that it took me literally hours to take it all in, feel like I was actually there to experience it all, and take notes and do my reporting duties.

Hangar 211 (I've always wondered what these huge hangars looked like up close, as you can see them from 101) was where the main stage was located. The stage looked like an alien spaceship with some Klingon influences. Three big video screens were on the stage behind the speakers and DJs. Later in the evening NASA astrobiologist Chris McKay spoke from that stage, talking about what it would take to terraform Mars and what impact that might have on humanity, and on Mars itself.

But other than the main stage, there were so many other sights and sounds inside the dark interior of the hangar. Spacey, ambient techno music filled the air



Space Cowboys DJ Art Car

continuously from live DJs (like Plaid from the U.K. and Telefon Tel Aviv) and from recordings. Accompanying the music were projections of colorful images on the walls and smoke from smoke machines. There was another, smaller stage for dancing. Several people wore Playa wear (such as the distinctive furry hats, coats and leg warmers coupled with sexy clothing that you often see at Burning Man). A few danced with unlit poi (fire dancing) and hula hoops. And there were lots and lots of blinkies (blinking LED lights). Google had a tent and representatives were handing out Google pins with flashing multi-colored

LEDs.

There were lots of other tents featuring vendors of organic and raw food and drinks as well as beer. The lines were really long and they ran out of food a few hours into the event. I managed to get the last raw, vegan, organic pizza, and it was delicious! NASA had a booth too, of course, and they were giving away toy aliens, slinky stars, and the like. There were a couple of clothing stores as well. Collectively, the tents resembled a small street fair indoors.

Also inside was a big white parachute filled with air and a propeller plane. (Well, it is a hangar after all.) Underneath the plane



Hula Hoop Dancing to Techno Music

was a lounging area with couches and rugs. There were couches and rugs everywhere for people to sit and chill out on, most of them inside geodesic domes. Very rave and Burning Man-like. Inside the domes were smaller screens. Some showed old sci fi book covers and others showed science documentaries.

Additionally, there was a live artist working on a sci fi painting, a QuakeFinder demo, a SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) booth, remote controlled robots, and a demo of Burning Man Google Earth, which showed what last year's Burning Man looked like from the air to



Carnival of Lights

the smallest detail, like camp sites and art installations.

Outside was just as packed with activities and feasts for the eyes. There was a huge balloon attached to a rope of white LED lights, another geodesic dome with couches and carpets to lounge on, another airplane (the Kuiper Airborne Observatory) with colorful lights projected on it, a HypKnowTron (oscillating LED lights that formed different colored patterns), a magical light performance on bikes called PLAYAFLIES 1.0, an amateur radio satellite demonstration (I got to witness David Hartzell communicating

with other operators across the country through amateur radio satellites), robot wars, a rover demo, an art car called SQUID Labs (with a big huge squid painted on the side), and a NASA telescope station (where I saw Saturn again, complete with rings).

Looking outside from the hangar, I could be forgiven for thinking I was in the Black Rock Desert at night viewing the

Playa. The concrete looked just like the floor of the desert, and the requisite music, lights, domes and art installations were all in evidence. There was even a line of Porta Potties, just like at Burning Man!

Later in the evening, lots more people from the younger age group came in. They looked like they were there more for the rave part of the event. I ran into several Burning Man friends around 11:00 p.m. The Space Cowboys' UNIMOG, an art car with screens on each side, blared out loud techno music that was more danceable than the music indoors. People congregated

in front of the UNIMOG to dance. The screens showed photos and videos of Cosmonaut Gagarin, the honoree for the evening. The Space Cowboys have a theme camp at Burning Man and it really did feel like a mini-Burning Man—but without the arduous camping and inhospitable Playa dust.

The party had a vibrant, earthy and hippy rave feel to it. Thousands of people were in attendance, and it went on from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. the next day. I had to leave around 1:30 a.m. to catch a very early plane to Las Vegas to see *Spamalot*. I actually stayed later than I'd expected to because I was enjoying myself so much.

It was good to see young people inspired and interested in science and space exploration, fulfilling the goal (stated in the press kit) for the event to serve “as both a tribute to our global heritage of space exploration and a reminder of how much more is out there to be discovered.”

I'm hoping they will have a Yuri's Night party again next year, and at the same location (as I live across the freeway from NASA-Ames). And what a perfect space it was for a space party!

For more information about Yuri's Night and photos, go to:

www.worldspaceparty.org (Bay Area)

www.yurisnight.net (Worldwide)

BASFA Minutes: meeting 875

May 7, 2007

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

Began 7:58, with yummy onion rings.

29 people attended.

We established a party jar.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 874 were accepted as 'holy moly.'

Treasurer's report: last week we took in \$56.52 in the regular jar & \$78.25 in the party jar.

No VP.

The President had nothing fannish to report.

The Sports Committee answered a question that he is looking for people that are interested in going to a Giants game the Friday before Westercon, June 29.

A motion failed, then another motion to call [tall] Kevin 'Kevin 2 Trains' for the duration of the meeting passed.

Announcements:

Andy announced that Studio Foglio is starting

'Psmith' in the Buck Godot webpages [updated Tues, Thurs, Sat].

[evil] Kevin announced that Baycon is coming up, that he and Andy will be hosting the Masquerade & the Evil Genius party is Sunday night, plus they are fixing room reservation problems for Costume Con 26.

Kevin 2 Trains announced that Match Game will be the halftime entertainment for Baycon's Masquerade & he has a review copy of Jay Lake's book 'Mainspring' [but to read it, you must also do a review of the book afterwards].

Dave C announced that he has Studio Foglio buttons [and they were passed out to those eager to have them].

Dave G announced that BASFA is 7/8 of the way to meeting 1000 & also announced that the Sharks lost to the Redwings [whimpering sounds followed].

Reviews:

Harold reviewed the DeLaHoya fight as boring - boxing is doomed - and it was not worth full price & he reviewed the Mountain House Restaurant as nice but very pricey - and not quite worth full price.

Adrienne reviewed a historical movie, 'Beau Brummel' as probably better enjoyed by people who are into historicals and costume dramas.

Andy reviewed last week's 'Dr Who' as 'standard, steal it' with good CGI and it was an absolute blast; he also reviewed music by Manhattan Resource Incorporated as interesting, very strange & worth full price; Dave C follow-on'd in defense of Carl Stalling; & Andy reviewed 'the most offensive record ever,' 'Jew Face' - a collection of early 20th century Hebrew comedy songs as a little piece of history, absolutely weird, wrong and hysterical - and there were follow-ons.

[evil] Kevin reviewed the International GLBT Human Rights Commission banquet as a lovely place, with good food and they rode home on the train after a Giants game & he reviewed 'Hyperdrive' as amusing and stupid, both horrible and entertaining.

Kevin 2 Trains reviewed an Al Stewart concert with about 150 attendees as there were great acoustics & it was definitely worth full price & reviewed driving in Napa as it was a beautiful day, but don't waste your time or money going to Rubicon; that he & Cheryl rode the wine train & the food was excellent.

Dave C reviewed the Psychotronic Film Festival as a continual attack of the weird and obscure, that he won a raffle there & it was worth full price - and then there were positive follow-ons.

Carole passed along a secondhand review of 'Spiderman 3' as her friend didn't like it &

she reviewed riding her bike for the first time after the accident as she'd ticked off another milestone - Ed follow-on'd that he enjoyed 'Spiderman 3.'

Then we auctioned off: books for \$0.25, \$1.25, \$3.00, books & a poster for \$0.75, posters for \$0.75 & \$0.25 & cups for \$0.05.

We adjourned at 9:25.

And the rumor of the week was that 'Chris Garcia and Kevin 2 Trains will collaborate to produce 'Snacks on a Train.'

BASFA Minutes: meeting 876

14 May 2007

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

Began 20:01.

16 people attending, but more dribbled in over the course of the meeting.

[tall] Kevin moved to adjourn -- which failed.

We established a party jar.

Secretary's report: The minutes of meeting 875 were accepted as 'illuminated,' pending the following corrections: It is "Manhattan Research Inc.," not "Manhattan Resource Inc.;" it is "Jewface," not "Jew Face."

Treasurer's report: Last week we took in \$8.85 in the regular jar & \$8.80 in the party jar. Current totals are \$9637.15 in the regular jar & \$703.95 in the party jar (at least until Ed remembers to bring the receipts).

Auctions were next on the agenda. Books went for \$1.50, \$2.00, and \$3.00. Magazines went for \$1.00. Computer speakers went for \$6.00. 'Star Trek' tapes went for \$2.25 (TOS) and \$22.00 (TAS).

President's report: Nothing fannish.

Vice-President's report: There are two new issues of the "Drink Tank" out. There will be a new "SF/SF" issue next week.

Committees:

Party: There will be parties on both Friday & Saturday nights at BayCon.

Sports: Still looking for people that are interested in going to a Giants game the Friday

before Westercon, June 29. There is significant interest so far, in part due to an ad placed in the program book.

Announcements:

Dave Gallaher: 15 May 2007 there will be a Haagen Dazs flavor release event. Scoops of the new flavor will be freely available at Haagen Dazs stores on that day.

[evil] Kevin Roche: BayCon is coming up. He handed out flyers good for a \$5.00 discount on memberships at the door.

Cheryl Morgan: Cory Doctorow & Rudy Rucker will be reading at the Variety Preview Room for SF in SF on Wednesday (16 May). Doors open at 18:30 for a 19:30 start time.

Cheryl Morgan: Friends from Finland will be visiting during BayCon, and may join us at the contemporaneous BASFA meeting. Cheers for Finland followed. Then Ed Stokke followed on to recommend "Finn's" -- a fish restaurant.

(“Bubble gum,” “Excelsior,” “Wibble.”)

Andy Trembley: Kaja Foglio is in the hospital. See <http://philfoglio.livejournal.com/5139.html> for details. [evil] Kevin followed on to say that Kaja would welcome ‘get-well’ cards.

Dave Clark: TAFF nominations are now open.

Reviews:

Kevin Standlee: “Mainspring” (book) by Jay Lake -- a fascinating premise that started well, then tailed off. Cheryl followed-on that she thought it was a lovely idea, with fascinating images, that fell off as the story progressed. [evil] Kevin said he enjoyed it a great deal and thought it evoked past classics, such as “Kidnapped” and “Jack of Shadows.” Chris Garcia loved it, until it ‘hit a wall.’

Ed Stokke: “Moulin Rouge” (movie) -- worth full price for the virgins.

Ed Stokke: “Spider-Man 3” (movie) -- flawed, but enjoyable.

Harold: “Eats, Shoots & Leaves” (book) by Lynn Truss -- worth full price. Multiple follow-ons were offered about bad spelling and worse punctuation in this book.

Andy Trembley: Eurovision Song Contest (2 music CDs) -- Serbia won, Ukraine was second. Ireland was last. The music is “worth stealing” and “bizarre.”

Cheryl Morgan: “Brasyl” (book) by Ian

McDonald -- This is a collection of three stories and a fun book.

Fred: “Empire” (book) by Orson Scott Card -- extremely disappointing and overly preachy.

Joe: “Shada” (audiobook) -- excellent story, well presented, worth full price. Cheryl followed-on with a dissenting opinion, saying that it was not good.

Chris Garcia: “Sunday” (a day in his life) -- pajama day.

Chris Garcia: “A Canticle For Leibowitz” (book) -- dull and worth hurling. A ‘crime against literature.’

Rumor of the Week: ‘They make an ointment for that, you know.’

We adjourned at 21:45.

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.

May 23-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.

Thursday, May 24

POV 2

Cerrito Speakeasy Theater
10070 San Pablo Avenue
El Cerrito

www.cerritospeakeasy.com

9:15 p.m.

\$6

A festival of wild and weird animated shorts by

BArea filmmakers. More info at pov2.blogspot.com. \$10

Thursday, May 24

Killer Klowns from Outer Space (1988)

Parkway Speakeasy Theater
1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

www.parkway-speakeasy.com

9:15 p.m.

\$6

“Speakeasy Tribe Night”: Bring your Tribe member printout for 2-for-1 admission.

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.

Friday, May 25

Starfleet Graduation Party

Cesar Chavez Plaza
10th & J Streets
Sacramento

www.downtownsac.org/concerts

5-9 p.m.

Free

CSU Sacramento grads and the general public are invited to party with Warp 11, Sac's own *Star Trek*-themed rock band, along with special guests Pets and Queensbury Rules. All ages welcome.

Friday, May 25

Midnight Movie: Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End (2007)

Camera 7

1875 S. Bascom Avenue

Campbell

www.cameracinemas.com

Midnight

\$7.50

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 Hescoc, 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

Rounding out the trifecta of BArea Memorial Day Weekend cons, this gaming convention returns with panels, dealer's room, game demos, flea market, more.

Friday-Saturday, May 25-26

Dracula, The Musical?



BayCon has a new home this year: The San Mateo Marriott, which recently gave all its meeting rooms new names, seemingly drawn from a motivational speaker's nightmare. Thus what was once the Crystal Springs Ballroom is now "Engage," the Golden Gate Ballroom is now "Convene," the Bay Bridge Room is "Inspire," and so forth. Come anyway; it'll be fun. Friday-Monday, May 25-28; memberships \$75 at the door; single-day passes available. <http://www.baycon.org>

Belrose Dinner Theatre
1415 Fifth Avenue
San Rafael
www.thebelrose.com
Friday at 7:30 p.m., \$25 (show only), Saturday
at 7 p.m., \$40 (dinner show)

Saturday, May 26

*Midnight Movie: Pirates of the Caribbean: At
World's End (2007)*
Camera 12
201 South Second Street
San Jose
www.cameracinemas.com
Midnight
\$7.50

Saturday-Sunday, May 26-27

ConspiracyCon
DoubleTree Hotel
2050 Gateway Place
San Jose
www.conspiracycon.com
\$179
So this is why BayCon had to move! It's all
becoming clear now!

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 features *Dr.*

No (1962) and *Goldfinger* (1964), Sunday
features *From Russia With Love* (1963) and
The Spy Who Loved Me (1977), and Monday
has *Thunderball* (1965) and *On Her Majesty's
Secret Service* (1969). \$10 for each double
feature.

Sunday and Monday, May 27-28

RiffTrax Live
Sunday:
Rafael Film Center
1118 Fourth Street
San Rafael
7:30 p.m.
Monday:
Cobb's Comedy Club
915 Columbus Ave
San Francisco
8 p.m.
\$25
www.sfsketchfest.com
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.

Tuesday, May 29

Baron Munchhausen (1943)
Goethe Institut
530 Bush Street
San Francisco
415-263-8760
7 p.m.
\$5 suggested donation
Seldom screened, over-the-top color production
(despite its being made in wartime) issued to
mark the 25th anniversary of Germany's UFA

Studio. In German with English subtitles.

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*.

Thursday, May 31

Luna Philosophie
Citizenspace
425 Second Street, 3rd Floor
San Francisco
colab.arc.nasa.gov/luna
6:30 p.m.
Free; bring refreshments to share
Luna Philosophie is a series of salon
discussions sponsored by NASA CoLab and
timed to coincide with the full moon. This
month's topic is "Spaceship Earth": How can
we sustain our planet's physical, chemical, and
biological life support systems?

Thursday, May 31

Buffy Night
Cerrito Speakeasy Theater
10070 San Pablo Avenue
El Cerrito
www.cerritospeakeasy.com
9:15 p.m.
\$6

Buffy the Vampire Slayer (the TV series) on the Cerrito's big screen, featuring the sing-along episode "Once More with Feeling" plus "Out of Sight, Out of Mind" and "The Prom." Prizes for best prom outfits.

Friday, June 1

Tezuka: The Marvel of Manga

Asian Art Museum

200 Larkin Street

San Francisco

www.asianart.org

Cocktails at 6:30 p.m.

\$350

Opening night reception and dinner for the museum's new show devoted to Osamu Tezuka (1928-1989), the "God of Manga," whose creations included Mighty Atom (known to U.S. TV audiences as "Astro Boy"), Jungle Emperor ("Kimba the White Lion"), and Princess Knight. The exhibition runs through September 9.

Friday, June 1

Midnight Movie:

Buffy the Vampire Slayer (1992)

Camera 7

1875 S. Bascom Avenue

Campbell

www.cameracinemas.com

Midnight

\$7.50

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

Midnight Movie:

Buffy the Vampire Slayer (1992)

Camera 12

201 South Second Street

San Jose

www.cameracinemas.com

Midnight

\$7.50

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

Author: Carol Berg

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

www.borderlands-books.com

3 p.m.

Free

Saturday, June 2

Author: Katharine Kerr

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

www.borderlands-books.com

5 p.m.

Free

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+ only.

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)

Local comic con migrates to the South Bay for 2007. Dealers, guest artists, cosplay contest, more.

Sunday, June 3

Ripley's Birthday Sale and Celebration

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

www.borderlands-books.com

Noon-8 p.m.

Celebrate the famous furless feline's fifth birthday with cake and cat treats. If you buy two used paperbacks you get a third of equal or lesser value free, plus all non-book items are 10% off.

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, Clifford Chase and Mo Mandel.

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, June 15

Midnight Movie:
Alien: The Director's Cut (2003)
Camera 7
1875 S. Bascom Avenue
Campbell
www.cameracinemas.com
Midnight
\$7.50

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, June 16

Midnight Movie:
Alien: The Director's Cut (2003)
Camera 12
201 South Second Street
San Jose
www.cameracinemas.com
Midnight
\$7.50

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.

Sunday, June 17

Father's Day Mission to Mars
Chabot Space & Science Center
10000 Skyline Blvd.
Oakland
www.chabotspace.org
1:30 & 3:30 p.m.
\$30
Send Pops on a simulated mission to the Red Planet. Adventure includes edible outer space

treats, general admission to the museum, and a souvenir of your trip.

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, June 23

Can't Stop the Serenity
AMC 14

1000 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco
8 p.m.
\$12

www.sfbrowncoats.com
2nd annual charity screening of Joss Whedon's
Serenity (2005) to benefit Equality Now.

Monday, June 25

SF in SF: Paul Park
Preview Room
Variety Children's Charity
582 Market Street
San Francisco
7 p.m.
Free

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

Saturday, June 30

Author: Lois McMaster Bujold
The Booksmith
1644 Haight Street
San Francisco
www.booksmith.com
7 p.m.
Free

Author of the long-running Miles Vorkosigan saga and the new *Sharing Knife* series.

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

Tuesday, July 10

Ask a Scientist: Sea Urchins
Axis Cafe
1201 8th Street
San Francisco
www.askascientistsf.com
7 p.m.
Free

The surprising number of things scientists have learned from a spiny sea critter, with Fred Wilt, UC Berkeley biology prof.

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 20-22

Westermark Madness
Society for Creative Anachronism Event
Ed Levin Park
Milpitas
www.thewestermark.org/madness42.html
Free/donations accepted
The annual SCA summer gathering with a twist: in addition to the traditional activities like sword fighting, archery, singing, and storytelling, they've added a Hawaiian luau theme.

Thursday, July 26

Author: Richard K. Morgan
The Booksmith
1644 Haight Street
San Francisco
www.booksmith.com
7 p.m.
Free

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, August 3

Midnight Movie: Serenity (2005)

Camera 7
1875 S. Bascom Avenue
Campbell
www.cameracinemas.com
Midnight
\$7.50

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, August 4

Midnight Movie: Serenity (2005)

Camera 12
201 South Second Street
San Jose
www.cameracinemas.com
Midnight
\$7.50

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, August 11

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 Robert Mailer Anderson, Sheng Wang, Darieck Scott and Austin Grossman.

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
imaginings.

Daily

San Francisco Ghost Hunt
Walking Tour
Begins: Queen Anne Hotel
1590 Sutter at Octavia
San Francisco
www.sfghosthunt.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.