

The Drink Tank Issue 169



CostumeCon: Tasty!

**Cover Photo is from Howeird.
There are photos from Kristina Kopnisky (or Consonant Enigma) too!**

One can not deny the importance of CostumeCon 26 to BArea fandom. It would be very difficult. It was not the largest convention, not even the largest CostumeCon, but it was the one that drew the most people from the widest slash across the various BArea fandoms. There were costuming fans, of course, and there were Furrries, which makes sense, and there were SMOFs (Four former WorldCon chairs were there) and there were fanzine fans (two of whom, Tom Becker and Jean Martin, put out the most amazingly off-beat and brilliant Newszine a con has ever had!) and there were just plain folks who like to go to cons to party. There were folks chatting everywhere, people enjoying themselves, costumes flashing through every available space, performers all around, gangs of Cosplayers, photographers and people who were just there for the scene. I probably fall a little bit into that last category, though I was working the con. In a few years, we'll be able to look back and see the scattered debris, the obvious high watermark on the beach where the wave rolled back and we returned to fandom as usual with only the memory of the surge holding us to that moment.

My ghod...I'm aping Hunter S.



Thompson again!

Seriously, this was the time that many of us had been dreaming of. It was good enough to make almost everyone feel good and exhausted, but there were just enough problems to remind us that it was real. If you ever find a con that no one has any complaints about, you're talking about hallucinations that never happened. I'm pleased to say that even with the difficulties, I was most pleased with the way things went down. You can read about my MCing in SF/SF and you can find some of my commentary on various blogs. This is for others. There are going to be a lot of photos, commentary from Kristina Kopnisky (Who I bow to as my superior in just about every aspect of Fanzining and others.

I'll say this and hear heads explode: this is what BArea fandom should be. The feeling in that hotel,

THE Hotel, was electric the entire time. People worked together, fought through things, and enjoyed themselves while mingling with folks from beyond our normal sphere. The drama was low, the excitement high. This is what we should always be striving for. It took Kevin and Andy and their horde of staff and supporters six years to make this happen and it worked, flat-out worked. I was so proud to see it come off like it did, but when's the next time

something like this could happen? It'll take something big pushed by someone who has big ideas and is willing to push, push, push.

In other words, not me.

The bigger traveling cons could be an idea. Westercon wasn't quite the same explosive force, partly due to size and partly due to the fact that there wasn't the same feeling of gathering from all corners. The 2002 WorldCon was marred by troubles leading up, although it is still well-remembered by those who had no role behind-the-scenes. It would take a WorldCon with a strong set of personalities coming up with a great theme that they carried around the world with purpose and enthusiasm. The same thing could be said of a Westercon, though it would need a longer lead time. The key is the pimping, the pushing, the I'm-not-going-to-shut-up-until-the-deed-is-



done attitude that made CostumeCon such a success.

And whoever is the one promoting it, I'd plan on being seriously burnt out for a while afterwards.

We need to learn from the League of Evil Geniuses and their ways. Bring everything together in such a way that it makes the entire community want to be a part of things and make them a part of things. Throw over-the-top parties that people will talk about. Overlook nothing and no one when making the play to the



crowd.

In other words, copy what CC26 did to the letter.

I do have a dream. I want a united Bay Area fandom. We're segmented, ripped in two, and large portions of us are no longer in touch with the rest of us. That's a shame. What I want to see is everyone everywhere every time something goes on. That's easier said than done, but it's something that we can work for. I mean, it ain't the kinda easy thing that folks want to be a part of, but it's doable. It requires the settling of



troubles, some of which date back a couple of decades. That's the rough road to hoe, but we can do it, and if we do, we're bound to attract folks from all over to party with us when we take a thought towards FANAC!

Photos this page: Kevin Standlee taking photos, Hubba-Hubba Review and someone whose name I do not know up top, Bill Howard and friend, Hubba-Hubba and CostumeCon 26 Convetion Chair (and my personal hero!) Kevin Roche are below. These are all from the Opening Night Social.



The First order of Business, before I can get to the CostumeCon stuff, is to go over some LoCs I've recieved! And now...Steve Green!!!

Hi Chris,

Took me a moment to work out what was wrong with that (uncredited) photograph of mine you used to close The Drink Tank #166, then I noticed the shelving behind you and realised you'd flipped the image along its horizontal axis. Was that intentional? ***Indeed that was what I did and the reason? Well, I wanted to be looking the other way. it just worked better with where I was going to be putting it on the page. I also forgot to credit Linda with an image in the same issue (and a few other people as well!)***

Glad you enjoyed your trip to the Bell at Tanworth-in-Arden. The photograph immediately above your comments unfortunately lost its caption, which explained that it showed the late Ray Bradbury (pictured far right) with fellow Brum Group member Rog Peyton and author Ken Bulmer at Ompacon in 1973. I found it in Peter Weston's archive at eFanzines.

All best

-- Steve

Thanks for that. I seldom remember captions. Why? Because I'm a terrible, terrible FanEd! I thought that was Rog, but I wasn't sure.

Thanks Steve! Let us roll along with Mr. John Purcell

Ya know, Chris, I really like that sketch on your front cover. Judging by the content, it predates 2001. Even with the sparseness of the terrain and all, there is a nice symmetry to it, and that monorail looks suitably futuristic. The 747 overhead is almost a bit anachronistic, but I won't quibble too much. It is still a nice drawing. Plus, it sounds like you would have needed it once I read your intro on page 2. Such is life, ain't it?

As always!

And now you are back, working on your Handicapping the Hugos issue. That will be very cool. I have my favorites and all, but really don't have any serious picks to dwell on. It will be interesting to see what your odds-making skills reveal. Good luck to you, youngster. All I can say is that I'm glad I am not a betting man - especially if I go by your odds from last year's Hugo results. Better luck this year, I guess.

Well, the smart money ran in several of them (let's not forget that I called Locus and that Tiptree book as the winners!) but of course, odds are merely there to pull in bigger money when you're wrong!

Ooohhhh... plagiarism. I read this with much interest. As a matter of fact, I will gladly take this proposal to my department head for her perusal and eventual acceptance - after, of



course, I copy/paste it to Blinn College letterhead and affix my name to it. I mean, it's only fair GAME FOR KINKY SEX of me to do so. What else could it be?

I'd been waiting for Martin to send me somethin' and this was great. There's another article that'll be out soon from him and it's a lot of fun too!

I still can't believe you wrote 50,000 words about your TAFF trip. On second thought, I guess I do. Given

your energy level, anything is possible. Your chapter 4 has a prominent place in the 8th issue of *Askance* - currently under construction and hopefully will be posted by mid-May - which has a convention theme: besides your TAFF report chapter, there are two other con reports by me: AggieCon 39 and Corflu Silver Virtual Con Report. It was really a blast to lurk in the shadows, especially during the banquet. A whole mess of us - including Curt Phillips, Andy Porter, James Bacon, Peter Sullivan, Jim Caughran, Geri Sullivan, Dian Crayn, J. M. Stine, and myself, plus many more whose names I forget right now - were heckling the banqueters. We had so much fun. You missed out on an interesting experience.

50k words was nothing. I just wrote



and wrote and when it became obvious that I'd end up around 50k, I just made that the hard stop. I'm still waiting for enough people to write me with thorough corrections that I can make that a supplemental. Wish I could have been at the Virt. Fan Lounge. I was busy with CostumeCon and we didn't have internet either, which was rough.

It was also quite historical. Many of us were wondering about this. None of us could remember there ever being a live video with audio feed from a con before. Sure, there have been LiveJournal communities - the previous two Corflus, frinstance and NipponCon (was that the actual Japanese WorldCon name?) - but I can't think of any others. Randy Byers

said in his LJ that he's hoping to build on this experience at next year's Corflu in Seattle. (Tentative con name: Corflu Zed.)

As you've probably heard, the plan is CorFlu in 2011 to be in San Jose. I'm thinking CorFlu: 28 Zines Later. Can't wait for Seattle, though.

At any rate, here I am back to locking. My productivity in locking has been very low this year so far since my school work has been taking up so much time. But, that was to be expected. As this semester finally winds down, I have a bit of time. Now, however, it is time to go grade research papers.

None of which, I might add, have come from any websites. At least none that my Wormkiller can detect.

Later, gator, and keep those fan fires burning.

All the best,
John Purcell

And I will wait for the next LoC from Texas with heavy bated breath!

And now, Lloyd Penney on issues 165, 166 and 167.

April 30, 2008

Dear Chris:

It's my second full day since coming back from Las Vegas. A great convention, and I think you would have had a fabulous time there. While

I was gone, I got a lot of locs done, but can I keep up with you? No way! I have three Drink Tanks to get through, 165 to 167.

Ever on-ward, Lloyd!

165...Claire and Mark were at Corflu, and while I didn't talk to them much, I never heard much about your presence in the UK. Maybe they're still trying to



get over it? Anyway, I got a zine from each of them, and I'm sure there'll be one for you in the mail RSN. I wonder if you had as much culture shock being in Britain as I did being in Vegas. I doubt Britain has a Fremont Street Experience.

Many folks are being very tight-lipped about my trip. I think they're trying to build suspense for my TAFF Report, which everyone should request now!

A TAFF win and trip report, and four Hugo noms and counting...hey, man, your dad would be proud of you. And, the respect of your father is something you do deserve.

The old man's probably laughing harder than anyone at the noms...and the knowledge that I'll be coming in last again!

There were some Britfen at Corflu...Mark and Claire, Bill Burns, the Charnocks, and a few others who were registered, but did not come to the convention for one reason or another. Bill won a FAAn Award for eFanzines.com, and that won't be the last time, either. For the record, the winners are...

- Best Fanzine: *Prolapse*, edited by Peter Weston
- Best Fan Artist: Dan Steffan
- Best Fan Writer: Arnie Katz
- Best Letterhack: Robert

Lichtman

- Best New Fan: John Coxon
- Best Fan Website: eFanzines.com
- #1 Fan Face: Arnie Katz

Good to see John The Rock Coxon on the list of winners! And Dan Steffan has been my fave fan artist for ages now. I was shocked, when I looked at the breakdowns from VFW, that I was the Number 2 Fan Face behind Arnie. That's just flat out wild!

Then Len Bailes announced that the participants in the Virtual Corflu (in the chatroom), which drew as many as 38 fans at one time, had all signed a special award certificate of thanks to Bill and Roxy Mills. **Other Corflu Honors:** Ted White polled the audience and determined that the Past President of Fan Writers of America (fwa) for 2007 had been Dan Steffan. Finally, everyone acclaimed Randy Byers' bid to hold next year's Corflu in Seattle. (This comes from Mike Glycer's File 770 blog.) ***Sounds like a great time. I'm so wishing that the two had ended up on different weekends because I had an incredible time at CostumeCon (despite never wearing a costume!) and would have loved to have gotten to CorFlu too!***

166...More Eastercon reportage. Love the photo on page 5, the steam-powered Dalek, or perhaps it's just an enhanced salt shaker. Doctorow in any cage? Well, I can think of one person who might enjoy that. That's just the



167...Yeah, I gotta lost weight, too, and the mindless munching I did at Corflu didn't help things. I have a job interview tomorrow, so I am hoping that if I get this job, I will have lots of walking to do, and will shed some pounds and inches. How many dyslexics does it change to take a light bulb?

evil in me typing...and we know what you might look like with a trimmed head and face. Oh, you're just so cuuuuuute...

I can think of a couple of people who would enjoy Doctorow in a cage! Linda took that Dalek photo and the other day she reminded me that I forgot to mention her in the art credits. I also forgot to mention everyone else! I've gotta try and remember that.

DING TAFF is done, *DING* TAFF is done... What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas, and a lot of my money stayed there, too. So, I will find someplace that will sell me some US\$, and fire it off to you at your address. ***That'd be great! TAFF Forever (and you should have played more Craps. Fans always win at Craps!)***

Oh, I have to remember that one!

And, where was Leigh Ann Hildebrand's contrib here? Forgot again? You just like the abuse, Mr. G...

Actually, it was in the Handicapping the Hugos issue, which was a fine piece, as well!

It's getting late in the afternoon, so I will finish off here. It's not the best loc, but both Yvonne and I are still in recovery mode, and are liable to nod off at a moment's notice. Take care, and I will work on some SF/SF comments RSN. See you then.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

Thanks much, Lloyd! We're always glad to hear from ya at any zine I'm a part of! I'm still recovering from CostumeCon and that's been over for a week!

Of course, I did the Handicapping the Hugos issue and Mike Scott took issue with my biggest pick!

Got to disagree with you on the Best Novel Hugo. Brasyll (which I've not yet read) has only been published in the US in an expensive hardcover edition by Pyr, which is pretty much a small press (as far as I know), and that's likely to kill its chances. And regardless of its merits (and I didn't like it as much as you did), The Yiddish Policemen's Union did very poorly indeed in the popular vote in the BSFA awards, which I take to be a likely foreshadowing of its Hugo performance (and it has had a UK edition, so it's not that). I think it's going to be Charlie's year, but wouldn't be surprised to see John Scalzi pull off a unique double of fan writer and novel.

--

Mike Scott

I like Charlie's stuff, but this isn't his year. The big thing with the Hugos to American voters seems to be exposure and Chabon's been all over the place. Brasyll has also had high praise in a lot of locations (and Pyr is the step right below Tor in the US). Scalzi could be the spoiler because he has a big mouthpiece in Whatever, but Chabon's got NPR. The BSFA has been a bad predictor for the Best

Novel Hugo, actually. The last time the winner of the Best Novel Hugo also won the BSFA was Blue Mars. The BSFA went with River of Gods in 2005, though the book which was much more popular in the US, Johnathan Strange & Mr. Norrell, pulled off the win. The Yiddish Policeman's Union has also done well in various polls and has huge exposure on this side. I think we are in total agreement on one thing: Bobby J. Sawyer doesn't stand a chance!



My Weekend in Wonderland

Words and Pictures by Kristina Kopnisky

It started out as so many con weekends do. No matter how much planning goes into it, personal preparation gets rushed at the end. In my case I went to bed at 1:30 am on Friday expecting to get a maximum of 2 hours of sleep. I recall waking up sometime later feeling more rested than I should on 120 minutes of shut eye. After warily peeking around the corner at my clock I saw that it had betrayed me. 5 am. Expletive! I wake my husband and we gather my luggage and our child up in record time. We hurl ourselves onto the freeway in hopes of getting me to PDX in time for my 7 am flight. Fortunately I am not singled out for extra pleasantries with the TSA. I board my flight and head south. These events would set the pace for my entire Costume Con 26 experience.

After stopping in at Trader Joe's for room snacks my room mate and I headed to the Double Tree. Our room was ready for check in at 11 am. Score! We nabbed a bellman and got our stuff up to our room. I can not emphasize enough how important it is to tip your hotel service people well if they do a good job. This guy was great. We



tipped well. Con registration hadn't opened for the day so we headed to ops to check in. Good thing I did. Turns out the hotel failed to deliver a package I had sent on Wednesday. A package containing the binder to organize on site volunteers. An internet package tracking check and a phone call to the hotel later and we were back in business. The rest of the afternoon was devoted to helping my on site counter part get set up to recruit members into being volunteers.

Friday night's social was a huge success. Kevin sang beautifully. There was much dancing and many frilly underwear outfits. A dual between Bellatrix Lestranger and Agent Smith was caught on film. Great fun was had by all. After a quick drop by the con suite it was off to the room for some much needed rest.

Lynn McMasters' wire frame hat making class was highly informative. As usual these workshops make



the actual process seem so much less daunting than it does if you just read up on it. At the end not only had I learned enough to cover about 3 months of reading and twiddling but I had also made a few new friends. That is the hidden value to spending the day in a half day workshop. It gives a common ground to spring board conversations off of. It is also tremendously helpful to learn a skill from another persons point of view. This is something that one can not obtain by reading and messing with a pattern at home.



Most of Saturday afternoon was a bit of blur. Dinner was obtained in the over priced and horrendously serviced Coffee Garden. After almost 20 years of attending cons at this hotel I am shocked when the food from the Coffee Garden tastes good and the service is fast. The wait to get into the Science Fiction/Fantasy Masquerade was fun and social. Chris Garcia was a wonderful MC with the daunting task of keeping the audience entertained through 48 entries. My personal favorite was "We Lost". But I have a soft spot for Goblins and their Wargs. The elf head was an excellent touch. Don't be fooled by what you may have heard elsewhere, The Screen was a great bit of accidental comedy. I hope to see Return of The Screen at a con in the near future. Perhaps it would even make a great exhibition only masquerade costume for a future CC. "The Killer Brine Shrimp" was a wonderful piece of D grade



horror film. A perfect mood setter for the rest of the evening. Lots of laughing and good natured screaming could be heard in the audience. How could you not love a killer sea monkey, come on?

Though the actual amount of parties on the party floor were light compared to most conventions, they were hopping. The con suite was good place to chill out and have some conversation with new and old friends. The Daleks Manhattan Party and Klingon Bar were both well attended and I hear they were serving up many tasty beverages. A number of us migrated to the sewing room after the con suite closed. Kudos should be given to the person who placed the sewing room on the party floor. It was a stroke of genius, evil genius that is. Sewing and partying went on in the sewing room until we closed it at around 6 am.

Sunday. Well, my recollection of Sunday morning is a bit muzzy. It is an odd thing to be having a dinner of eggs and coffee while the tech crew for Parallel Dimensions in Design is having their breakfast from the same buffet. Needless to say I missed PDiD but I hear it was great. The Distressing





workshop was again a very informative way to spend half a day. I highly recommend Gail Wolfenden-Steib as an instructor. Her presentation style is informative yet relaxed. She managed a packed room with grace and managed to make no one who asked a question feel like a clueless noob though many of us were.

The Historical Masquerade was that evening. Again the wait was actually fun and social. There were less obvious technical glitches in this masquerade but the entries also numbered in the mid 20s. My favorite was the best in show winner - "The Empress Eugenie of France surrounded by her Maids of Honor, 1855". It was spectacular and well choreographed. They deserved the win.

The party floor was hopping again on Sunday night. The con suite stayed open later and was much more of a party after the masquerade than it had been the night before. The Daleks Manhattan party was again in

full swing. I think the Klingons might have been open too but I did not drop in. Once again a number of us congregated in the sewing room for chill and conversation. I can't recall when I went to bed but I know the sun was coming up.

Monday was very relaxed and there was a palatable sense of winding down everywhere in the hotel. I hear the BPAL swap went well and I know it was scheduled for 1 PM on Monday out of consideration for the scent sensitive members.

True highlights for me were the two workshops I attended, The Screen, time spent with old and new friends. The group that gets my vote for best dressed of the weekend were the retro/Firefly/Steampunk folk from southern California. They were lovely in everything they wore. I know they can be seen in the photo galleries from the weekend. You should check them out.

Costume Con 26 was a very special mini universe that came together under the leadership of Kevin Roche. Many of us are grateful to him for his 8 + years of hard work to put on the best fan run convention that Silicon Valley has seen in ages. CC26 was a coming together of the "tribes" in many ways. Like many beautiful and



rare things it is virtually indescribable to anyone who did not experience it. We the citizens of that temporary community will be trying to convey a little bit of that magic via the internet and other virtual means. I doubt we can communicate even a tenth of the experience no matter how hard we try.

Kristina edits Consonant Enigma

Costumers With Cameras words and photos by howeind

CostumeCon 26 had more cameras per square inch than any event I've been to since Paris Hilton got out of jail. Oh wait, I wasn't at that, I just saw it on TV. Never mind. Reminds me of a poem I heard at an open mike in my favorite coffee shop:

People

Watching people

Watching people-watching people

Only this time it would have been:

Costumers

Photographing costumers

Photographing costumer-photographing costumers

Just for fun, since there were about a dozen excellent photographers on CC26's staff recording the costumes for posterity, I concentrated on taking pictures of people with cameras, especially people in costume. Here are some of my favorites.



Photographer vs. Photographer (Kinda like Spy vs. Spy)



Pretty In Pink (Isn't She?)



Dr. Who joins the Papparazzi



At least the costume fits the camera...

There were thousands of photos taken at CostumeCon 26. There are a lot of places you can find photos, but I suggest <http://www.flickr.com/groups/cc26/> as a starting point. Also, keep an eye open for <http://pix.cc26.info/> which will have a ton of official con photos.