

Science Fiction/San Francisco

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News and Notes

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

The Legion of Rasillon is a growing group! The February meeting was packed to capacity and the question of moving to a larger venue was brought up. If the group keeps growing at its current pace, the LoR will need to hire the HP Pavilion by the year 2107. The February meeting featured two *Torchwood* episodes. I managed to win a Hartnell gift pack as a part of the auction.

As you're reading this, I'm probably enjoying a film at Cinequest, San Jose's largest film festival. There's a lot to love this year, including the Mindbenders program and a discussion with JJ Abrams of *Lost* and *Alias* and films featuring Amy Sedaris, Lukas Haas, Kal Penn and more. Stewart Copeland of The Police (and various movie scores) will be there, as will Minnie Driver. There's a lot of great stuff year-round that you can find out about at Cinequest.org.

eFanzines.com has been busy with post-CorFlu wackiness. *The Drink Tank* put out the first issue after CorFlu, a long review of the Austin, TX con and all the strange fun that happened there. You read about it in the last *SF/SF*. There were two other *Drink Tanks*, issues 118 and 119 to

tickle your fancy too! Most of them revolve around CorFlu to one degree or another, and issue 119 was called the 119th Issue Clip-Art Spectacular!

But I'm not the only one posting stuff. There's also more from Dick Geis, the legendary fanzine fan who seemed to fade away from eFanzines.com for a year and only returned a few weeks ago. He's back to his old habits with *Taboo Opinions* and he's released three new issues since his return.

Jan Stinson, who is largely responsible for my zining over the last few years, has a new issue of *Peregrine Nations* out as well. It's a great zine with a really good LetterCol. Jan is one of the most unsung FanEds in the world today and her zine is really solid.

Earl Kemp gives us the first *eI* of the year. It features a tribute to Bob Tucker, another tribute to ½ of my favorite TAFF winners Len Moffatt, and a piece from Fritz Lieber's son. It's another strong issue that you should head over to eFanzines.com to read right now.

A new *Vegas Fandom Weekly* hit the stands, as well as the last *In A Prior Lifetime*. You should really read *VFW* if you enjoy *SF/SF* because that's where Jack got the idea and where I really cut my teeth as a

LetterHack. *In A Prior Lifetime* is another zine that's really solid, and now that John's merging it with *And Furthermore* to form *Askance*, it's your last chance to see.

On the non-eFanzines.com front, *Challenger*, Guy Lillian's frequently Hugo-nominated fanzine, has released issue 25 on <http://www.challzine.net/index.html>. You've got the legendary Guy Lillian III (or as I sometimes refer to him, GL3) and James Bacon as well as Mike Resnick, John Hertz and Greg Benford all filing articles for it. A Taral Wayne cover is there too. One of the best things on the web.

There were 13 zines handed out at CorFlu by names as varied as Randy Byers, Ian Sorenson, Yvonne Rowse, me, SF's own Lenny Bailes, Tracy Benton and Bill The Refrigerator Bodden, and a new *Banana Wings* from Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer. Great reading and I think I still owe a couple of LoCs to various things.

Peter Weston's *Prolapse* arrived in the mailbox. Look for it to pop up on eFanzines.com at any moment. Lots of good letters, a fine article from Mr. Jon-Henri Holmberg and a script for *The Wizard of Ozimov*. Very good zine that was on my Hugo ballot.

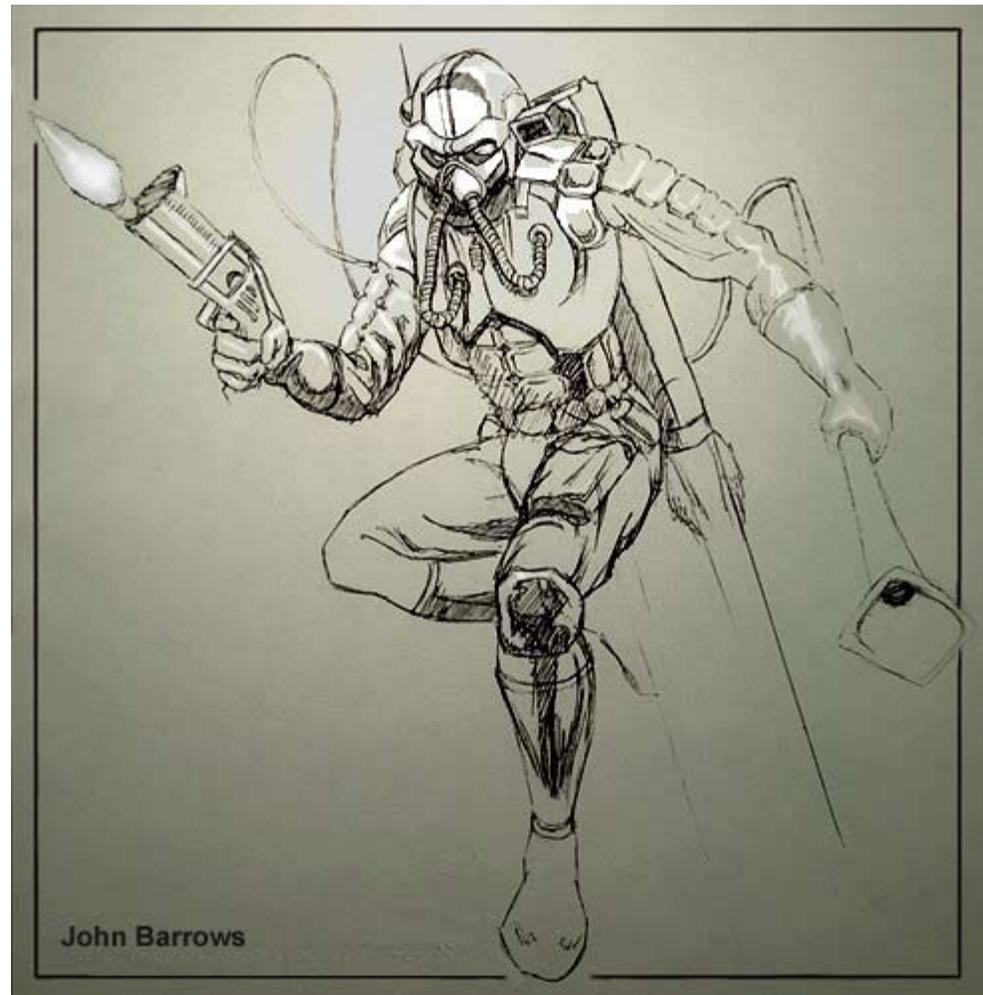
Sadly, by the time you're reading

this, Hugo nominations will be closed. The nominees for the final ballot should start trickling in over the next week or so. It always takes a while for these things to come out.

Good things to hear: Andy Porter, multiple-time Hugo winner, got out of the hospital this weekend after going in for dehydration. Get well soon, big guy!

The Annual BASFA Hugo Recommendation nights are now complete and you can read all about what we loved at the hugo_recommnd community on LiveJournal. Lot's of great recs that I've started looking into and a few things that make me wonder about people. The deadline to vote for the Hugos (if you were a member of LACon IV or a supporting or attending member of Nippon 07) is March 7th.

WonderCon's come and gone and hopefully you were there and said Hi.



John Barrows

www.cre8vision.net

Letters Of Comment

John Purcell writes:

Hey, there folks!

Good showing on the part of you BArians in the FAAn award categories. España and Jean pulled in good numbers even though neither copped the New Fan category. But that's okay. I am very happy for Teresa Cochran and all the other FAAn Award winners. A fine batch of folks all.

Jean Martin responds:

I was pleasantly surprised to see myself on the list of people who got votes in this category. I'm quite honored! Great to see España there as well. And Chris, of course, was nominated all over the place. Very cool! But, yeah, what's up with Chris being nominated again for Best New Fanzine Fan? That must be because he's always a breath of fresh air and constantly meeting new people. I was a little bit disappointed not to see SF/SF in the list of fanzines though. Maybe next year. There are a lot of great fanzines out there but I think we're pretty good too. But then I guess I'm probably biased.

As I am sure Chris has enthused already over his Corflu experience, allow me to put in my two cents worth (can't afford a quarter right now). It really was a great

time! I actually survived having that Garcia kid as my roommate for the weekend. He's a good egg. A bit scrambled, but good.

Sounds like you and Chris had a blast at Corflu. I enjoyed his article on it very much. You all sound like such friendly and fun people. And it's so great to see so many people all over the world being so active in contributing to fandom through zines like ours. So many creative, talented and dedicated people with like interests! It's another sub-community to be sure. I tend to just concentrate on the Bay Area as that seems to be more than enough to keep my hands full. It's great that Chris gets out there for us as our Bay Area ambassador.

Maybe since next year's Corflu is going to be much closer for you folks, maybe some more of you SF/SF folks can make it to Vegas. The tentative date is set for the weekend of April 25th or thereabouts, so the weather will be nice. Hope to see Jean and España there, maybe even Robert Lichtman. And many more.

Vegas would be awesome! And if it's not in February (which is really a bad time for me at my job, and I'm usually run down because of the hectic holiday season, my heavy workload, and dealing with the cold weather),

then I could possibly make it. I have to admit, though, you all sound way more into zines than I am and I'm a little bit intimidated, because I haven't been around as long and am not as prolific and knowledgeable. But if it's all just about having fun and meeting people... I could be down with that!

Depending on when one glances over at efanzines, there is either a lull in the fan publishing storm or a whirling vortex of doom ready to suck down unsuspecting readers. Such is the manner of this beast called Fanzine Fandom. This explains the disparity between my comment about how busy efanzines was compared to Lloyd's appraisal of activity at efanzines. Then again, what keeps me busy is probably crawling speed for the reigning champ of the letterhacks. God's speed, Lloyd Penney; may your eyes remain strong and your fingertips never cramp.

Yes, it does tend to be cyclical even here at SF/SF. It depends on how busy we are personally and how many activities are scheduled during a certain time. Yes, congratulations to Lloyd for winning Best Letterhack. John, you came in pretty close, though, and, we're actually featuring two of

your LOCs in this issue. [John's second LOC follows this one.]

This Furry Con deal is really odd. Funny thing, too, is that it was held at yet another DoubleTree Hotel. Fans must like this hotel chain. I really have no other comments on Chris's report except to add that ghosting at a con may be "wrong," but it can make for an interesting visit. You never can tell who you will meet and what you will be able to get away with.

I have noticed the DoubleTree connection as well. Does anyone know for sure why fandom favors this particular hotel chain for conventions? That would make an interesting story, I think.

España, thank you for the Cartoon Art Museum review. Charles M. Schulz was originally from my point of origin, the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Schulz was a St. Paul native, and I was from a western suburb of Minneapolis. Never met the fellow, but loved his *Peanuts* cartoon strip. A classic by any definition. Here is yet another venue for me to visit when I finally wend my way out west. So much to see and I haven't even committed to a trip there yet!

España finds so many of these interesting places to visit. I was a big Peanuts fan when I was a kid. I loved Snoopy, and if I ever get a dog, I'll probably get a beagle. But I'm more of

a cat person, and dogs require so much more time and attention, which is in very short supply right now, I'm afraid.

That pretty much sums up this particular issue. The next one should be interesting, thanks to Chris's Corflu report; I figured I'd better get this loc in to you guys quickly to beat deadline for *SF/SF* #39. See you then!

John Purcell writes again!

Well, just up, and a quick loc to you fine Bay Area folks it is.

If the Little Men are going to be revived, sign me up! I'd have to attend in absentia perpetuity, but that's alright. A nicer symbolic gesture cannot be imagined. I think the Little Men left one of the best lasting impressions in the history of fandom. A fun group of bright, incredibly talented people were in that club, and I think a memorial revival would be a nice touch.

In reference to Lloyd's loc, I may not be able to go down to RevelCon in March, not even for a one-day deal. Just too busy, finances a bit tight, and Aggiecon is the following weekend. So be it. It is held every year, and so I can back-burner this one to 2008.

Jean responds: I know the feeling; so many cons, so little time and money. But it's great that we do get to go to cons as much as

we do. And that there are so many to choose from to begin with for everyone to enjoy.

Chris, your Corflu report was well-done, and quite different from the one you wrote for *Drink Tank* #117. It is always interesting to see how the same person may write the same experience differently, even if the reading market is still pretty much the same. There is one correction I would like to make, however: Michael Moorcock's wife's name is Linda, not Lisa. She and I had an interesting chat Sunday afternoon about my dissertation research and the approval process of doctoral work. It was very helpful to get her input, and I look forward to meeting her again soon. A charming lady.

That's awesome that you guys got to meet Michael Moorcock. I read one of his books a long time ago.

One other Corflu note needs to be made. Are you going to pub that *Dinner and a One-Shot*? I hope so. I'd like to see what you nutzoids came up with. One-shots are great for spontaneous silliness, and I've always enjoyed participating in producing them. Sure wish I had been there for that one. Oh, well. It was still a wonderful weekend and my hat's off to Pat Virzi for running such a splendid show!

Reading about the *Royaliste* running aground was bad enough, but when I read

about the looting and shooting of this historic vessel, that made me very mad. I just can't stand the way that some Americans simply have no regard for history and will do whatever they can to damage Americana just for a momentary thrill. It really makes me angry, and I certainly hope that the perpetrators of these crimes against the *Royaliste* are found and punished. Damned idiots! Hang 'em from the highest yard arm.

*Unfortunately, we humans still have our animal brains, and some people just use that and not their higher brain functions. And most Americans don't have a sense of history or even know or care. It is quite sad. Whenever I go to Europe, there is such a sense of history and continuity. People there feel like they're part of a bigger tapestry of life and that they are the product of the past as much as they create the future. Here, progress is king and things from the past are just old and need to be demolished to make room for the new. So anyway, when I found out about the *Royaliste*, I just had to find a way to feature it to spread the word that they need help. I was quite amazed to hear that there are people who are re-creating history at such a level. That they actually re-live history in the present. Well, if there's one good thing about America is that we have the freedom and ability to do whatever we want. And that there are good souls who pitch in to*

help when it is needed.

Well, that's enough for now. I gotta run off to class. Thanks for the great zine—loved the first page layout, by the way; nicely done—and I look forward to the next issue.

Thanks for the compliment! We really appreciate it. Especially since this issue was a little light, as there hasn't been much going on. That's soon to change, though, as WonderCon and other events are lined up for the near future.

Mark Plummer writes:

I will freely admit that a new *SF/SF* usually slides by me, both because I am not exactly an habitual visitor to the Bay Area—only once so far in forty-three years, a frequency I hope to improve upon although somehow I doubt I will ever count as a regular—and because of my totally inexplicable failure to actually get home broadband up until a couple of months ago which has rather argued against reading on-line fanzines that are optimised for the screen and not entirely printer friendly.

Jean responds: Hello, Mark. Good to hear from you! Glad you finally got broadband and are able to read SF/SF. Yes, we do tend to be photo-heavy so it's best to see us in color on the screen.

And I will also concede that this

time I was largely sucked in by the prospect of a further installment in Chris's ongoing attempt to wallpaper the Internet with reports about Corflu. Having said that, maybe yours is only the second such that I've seen, but it feels like so many more. While I'm here, though, I should at least note that *SF/SF* is a very elegant piece of work. The style seems extremely neat and accessible for on-screen viewing, something which I've been a little uncomfortable with in the past, so congratulations to Eva on that.

Thanks so much for the compliment! Eva has done a great job with our layout. We do look great because of her visual style. Each issue has an identifiable SF/SF look to it but she makes it different enough each time to make it look fresh and new.

I'm sure it's symbolic that Chris returns again and again to the Corflu con-suite, which does indeed seem to me to be the heart of Corflu. That doesn't stop me finding it a little alien, mind. See, we just don't do that at British conventions. We are at home in the bar—and whilst in some respects the con-suite isn't all that different it does lack the small matter of a financial transaction element which our bars unreasonably insist on introducing into the proceedings whenever we want to get a drink.

That's too funny! I think bars are just such a part of British life that you all hang out there as a matter of course. Not just at conventions. Bars and pubs are a social institution in the U.K. Here in the U.S., bars are more about partying, watching sports or meeting members of the opposite sex. I'm not a bar person at all, and can't drink alcohol, so when I do go, I don't have anything else to do except study people (and be the designated driver). I've actually been going to bars more these last couple of years than I have my entire life! And it's usually with Brits and Irish folk so these observations come from empirical data.

Thus, the con-suite is very welcome, believe me, while remaining altogether implausible and leaving me in constant fear that I'm committing some dreadful social faux pas by failing to hand over any money every time I visit the bathroom.

Free drinks... that's America for you... we like to give away free stuff and receive free stuff.

We just couldn't get away with running a US-style con-suite at a UK convention. The hotel's corkage would be ruinous for a start, and we'd have to raise the convention membership fee to a positively grandmother-re-mortgaging level if we were to balance the books—and given the whole Greying of Fandom thing few of us have surviving grandmothers to deploy as

collateral. I also fear that the juxtaposition of a horde of British fans with *Free Stuff* would quickly become unseemly.

Yes, it helps that food and drinks are much cheaper here. By the way, I like your sense of humor. As Chris said in his article, Brits are quite entertaining.

Thus, should you ever make it over to a UK convention, Chris—and I heard a rumour that you were thinking about standing for TAFF (in which case you really ought to do a bit more to put yourself about a bit)—you should be warned that we do things differently here. In fact there's a long-standing tradition that a TAFF delegate buys *all* the drinks for *everybody* at the Eastercon. Just thought I'd mention that.

I'm sure as soon as the race for TAFF gets going again, Chris will be heralding "Chris for TAFF" through convention halls all over the U.S. He made a great job of promoting himself at SiliCon last year. I hope he wins... he so wants to be the next TAFF representative.

On a related note, I will be going to the U.K. in a few months to do a fantasy/sci fi tour there. I loved going to New Zealand to do the Lord of the Rings tour last year so much that I'm hooked on visiting places that have a fantasy/sci fi connection to them. I will be going to see the Lord of the Rings musical in London on June 2nd (already have my ticket!).

Then it's off to Wales to go see Cardiff, where Doctor Who and Torchwood are filmed, and hopefully to Portmeirion as well to see the Village (from The Prisoner). Apparently, it's quite difficult to travel from South Wales to North Wales. So part of the challenge will be trying to figure out how to do that on my own and without having to rent a car (I can't imagine driving on the wrong side of the road!). Globus used to have a tour of Wales several years ago but they don't anymore. And I haven't found any tour companies that do both North and South Wales. If anyone knows anything about this, drop me a line!

Editorial

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

If it's all right with you, I'm going to ramble a bit about the big cons. They've been on my mind for a while for a few reasons, mostly because I'm all paid-up for NASFiC.

St. Louis is the home of the 9th North American Science Fiction Convention. The NASFiC is only held when there's no WorldCon in North America. This year I'm very excited because it's a tribute to Bob Tucker and there's a great slate of guests. One guy who's gonna be there is my hero, James Ernest of Cheapass Games. I've interviewed him for FanboyPlanet.com and he was a funny, funny guy. Gotta love a gaming genius.

There's been a fair amount of contention about the NASFiC due to a situation with the hotels. There's a weird thing where fans have to pay for their hotel rooms ahead of time, which is insane, and have to book all three nights or they can't get the con rate. These things happen once in awhile when a hotel thinks they can bilk a lot of money from out-of-towners. I'm

staying at one of the cheap hotels around the way (and am looking for roommates if anyone needs a place!).

But NASFiC as an institution is one of those things that gets debated endlessly. I personally love NASFiCs. I went to the first one when I was a 9-month old and I went to the Seattle one too and had a really good time in the Emerald City. I've got a fair bit of history with the con but there are a lot of folks who love the idea and a lot of folks who really hate it.

The issue is this: you're trying to put on a WorldCon-like convention without the supports that are in place for WorldCons. The size of the facilities is usually the same as what would be used for a WorldCon, but the attendance is usually much smaller, meaning that things rattle around in the box a fair bit. The various portions don't have the support from the Floating WorldCon Teams and that can make simple things like the Art Show much harder than you'd expect. Because of these matters, folks have been saying that NASFiC should be eliminated.

The thing is, the idea of a NASFiC

is a good one. When WorldCon is off in Europe or Australia, or Japan like it is this year, it's much too expensive for a large number of American (and Canadian) fans to attend. The thought is it's much cheaper for folks to attend a US WorldCon-ish convention than to make the trip abroad. This idea in some ways makes the NASFiC feel like an ugly step-child. The idea of the Rump WorldCon came about in the 1960s and was finally made law in the 1970s with the first one taking place in LA in 1975. That's 30+ years of the matter being debated all over the place. It still lives, and a couple of the NASFiCs have been very good times, but there is a strong community that believes it's not manageable and should go away.

There was a great discussion of this on Kevin Standlee's LiveJournal with the idea of an American Science Fiction Convention (AmeriCon or some such) becoming an annual event. While that's been talked about for years, I'm not sure if it's a good idea unless it's combined with the WorldCon when the WorldCon is held in the US, which would basically make it

the NASFiC, except also being held when the WorldCon's in Canada. That'd be an interesting take, and I'll support it if someone puts it up to a vote.

The question becomes, how many major cons can we handle? There are several large regional touring cons, the most notable being Westercon and Deep-SouthCon. There's also a few smaller cons that tour, like CostumeCon (coming to San Jose in 2008) and CorFlu (coming to San Jose in 2012...maybe!), and there are a few more, I'm sure. I really think that these touring cons are a draw, but a small draw compared to the WorldCon, and especially compared to cons like BayCon, Norwescon and other large regular local/regional conventions. It's not unusual for a local con to outdraw the Westercon by a pretty serious margin (such as the Seattle Westercon in 2003), but nothing local outdraws the WorldCon. The Norwescon, it should be noted, was also just about the same size as the 2005 NASFiC in Seattle.

It's not easy to figure out why the locals are more of a draw than the nationals that tour (with the exception of WorldCon). Money probably plays a part. It's expensive to go to a WorldCon and people are often more likely to save to go to one out-of-town con a year, and typically the one to do that for is WorldCon. There's also the

fact that the Westercon and other touring cons can be pretty pricey, though not quite as pricey as WorldCons, and there seems to be a question of bang for your buck. At WorldCon, you get a lot of everything (don't believe me, read the report I did for last year's!) and Westercon is sometimes seen as a red-headed step-child. There's also the fact that you've got a known quantity with a local con. You know within a few degrees what you're going to get and Westercons and even WorldCons can be a crap shoot.

But that shouldn't be the case. All Westercon and NASFiC need is a hook. This year, it's the first time Westercon is back in the BArea for 20 years. That should bring folks out of the woodwork, but it seems that the timeline proximity to BayCon might be scaring them off a tad, and folks who are going to Japan a little later in the year aren't exactly going there cheap. No one expects the Westercon to be as big as BayCon. It just won't happen. In the best of all possible worlds, it would be bigger.

And you ask why? Because a Westercon should be drawing people locally *and* from all over the place. If you go to a Westercon to meet local fans, you'll probably be disappointed. There tend to be a lot more folks from out of town. Comparing the Seattle Westercon to the Seattle Norwescon the same year, I met a world more locals

at Norwescon. It wasn't even close. I met a lot of LA folks at Westercon, and a few SF people I'd never known, but few locals.

And there's the thing. If committees could make Westercons (or NASFiCs or whatever) more appealing to locals, they could more easily draw bigger numbers. This would also help with recruiting staff. A sense of local ownership every year could be just the thing they need.

But what does this have to do with this coming NASFiC? Not much, but the topic of hotly debated cons just keeps me flowing with words. I want there to be a number of ways in which fans from around the country can get to know each other. I read the NASFA *Shuttle* from Northern Alabama every month and yet I've never met any of them. I hope that'll change and I'll get a chance at the coming NASFiC, but still, if there was a con like AmeriCon somewhere, I'd have a lot more chances to do that. More cities would get Big Con experience and be able to bid for the WorldCon (or discover that they're just not ready). There's a lot to be said for a con that's around when WorldCon is not.

WonderCon: In Terribly Brief

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

It was a slightly cold Saturday in early March as I made the trip into the scary City to WonderCon. In recent years, Comic-Con North has been great fun, and in contrast to last year's unfortunate problem with too many people and not enough square feet, this year they were in Moscone South, where there was enough room for everyone!

With Cinequest going on, I only had one day. I got there bright and early and, as happens every year, my Press Pass was not waiting despite several emails arranging for it. And, as happens every year, the very nice people behind the desk simply had me fill out new paperwork and away I went.

After descending into the bowels of darkest Moscone, you entered the Killing Floor. Dealers, comic retailers, artists, movie crews, Suicide Girls, they were all there in their brightest, waiting to take you down and feast upon your wallet. I began my circling, looking for small press stuff to buy. The first person who recognized me was Mr. Raphael Navarro, the genius creator of *Sonambulo* and frequent artist for

From Parts Unknown (FPU). We chatted for several minutes and I bought his excellent book *Lucha Noir*, which reprints and expands upon his art done for the good people at FPU. It is excellent stuff. We also gabbed about the forthcoming Lucha-inspired cartoons, one of which he's freelancing for. Good for him!

I walked around more, running into a few folks I knew. There was Lon Lopez and that one guy with the beard from Cinequest. But I knew I had to run upstairs and fast if I was going to make my panel on Horror Hosts.

I arrived towards the end of the introductions. There was John Stanley making the intros, and Mr. Lobo, Stella Karloff (the daughter of Universal horror icon Boris), Cassandra Peterson aka Elvira Mistress of the Dark, Dr. Ghoulfinger, and Zamboo, whom I had never seen before. But there was a cloud hanging over the table, and it really affected me personally. Bob Wilkins, the man who was the first host of *Creature Features* (Saturdays at 11:30 on KTVU when I was a kid), has Alzheimer's and is very ill. Both Mr. Lobo and John Stanley nearly broke when mentioning how ill he was and that the appearances he is going

to be making in El Cerrito and Sacramento are likely to be his last. I've always loved Bob, even though when I watched *Creature Features* Stanley was the host, and I'm always sad to see icons from the field I love so much slipping away. I was fortunate enough to do an interview with both Bob and John at last year's WonderCon.

The panel went on and everyone spoke about how they ended up as Horror Hosts. I've talked with Mr. Lobo about that a few times, but he's such a great performer whenever there's an audience that you forget he's the guy you can have a good long conversation with just about any time he's not on stage/screen. They then showed a wonderful series of clips from Elvira's earlier days (which I used to watch in LA) and from all the others, including a series of commercials that both Bob and John did for *Creature Features*. It was a nice walk down memory lane. After getting some pizza for 7 bucks (that was actually pretty good), I headed off to the floor again and bought some small press comics. The best was *The Drop Kick Detectives*, an absolutely fantastic title where women Mexican wrestlers (Luchadoras!) fight a mummy. It's just too good.

Mars Needs Robots!

Sadly, around this time my stomach started giving me troubles and I knew I wasn't going to be around there too much longer. I ran into BAria Fannish legends Kevin Roche and Andy Trembley and introduced them to my buddy Neil Zawacki, writer of *How to Be a Villain*. We then headed over to the Studio Foglio table to chat with Phil. My stomach was OK for a while, but it was hurting off and on so I made a swing around to get some water. That helped, and I was back to the floor where I discovered the best costume of the con: Star Wars Gothic Lolita. She was in the classic Gothic Lolita outfit with a Star Wars fabric. It was just too damn good!

I ran into Kevin and Andy again as well as España Sheriff. We chatted and wandered around a bit before I ran into my buddy Derek McCaw. At that point, I knew I was done for the day and I swung out the door and headed back to BART. Sadly, that meant not running into the rest of the *SF/SF* staff (and how often do we see each other?), but I did make it home while only in moderate pain. I'm blaming La Victoria quesadillas.

There was a lot of great stuff and I wish I could have stayed longer. I'll be reviewing the small press stuff I picked up for FanboyPlanet.com.

As announced in our last issue, the Northern California Mars Society is partnering with NASA's Spaceward Bound project to set up and maintain a teleoperated rover to be used for training and field research in Martian analog environments. The rover will be operated by students and teachers in the Spaceward Bound project, and will be stationed at the Mars Society's Mars Desert Research Station in Utah.

The Mars Society is a non-profit organization of engineers, scientists, artists, musicians, and ordinary folks who share a passion for the exploration and eventual settlement of the planet Mars.

This project started at the January meeting of the Northern California Chapter of the Mars Society. Dr. Chris McKay of NASA Ames attended and suggested a couple of projects the Society could do in partnership with NASA and its Spaceward Bound program, through which NASA works with teachers and students doing field research in Mars-analog environments. One of the projects is to set up a remotely-operated rover that could be used in field research, to demonstrate the operational benefits and explore difficulties that future Martian explorers will have in using such rovers.

The project appears to have been inspired by a demonstration of a Senseta MAX 5 rover at the Spaceward Bound field expedition in the Attacama desert in Chile in 2006. For various reasons, however, the Society is looking at alternatives to the Senseta MAX 5 rover.

According to Society President John McGowan, they are looking for a commercial off-the-shelf rover that is all-terrain and durable. It needs to have a user interface that is simple and intuitive to a inexperienced user, or options that would permit the Mars Society to create a software-based user interface. It needs to be wirelessly controllable, perhaps by radio or wifi internet. It needs to have a video camera with display for the user. Any other sensors or manipulation arms would be a plus. The original suggested rover, the MAX 5R, was \$5,000 basic. Says McGowan, "We don't know at this point what our price range really is, but less expensive is better."

Those interested may contact John through his web site www.jmcgowan.com. E-mail: jmcgowan11@earthlink.net.

Here are some relevant links:

Northern California Chapter
of the Mars Society

<http://chapters.marssociety.org/usa/ca/northca/>
NASA Spaceward Bound program

<http://quest.nasa.gov/projects/spacewardbound/>
Dr. Chris McKay

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chris_McKay
Senseta MAX5R robot

<http://www.senseta.com/max5r.html>

Carnegie Mellon Innovations Laboratory
<http://cmil.west.cmu.edu/index.htm>

Cinequest 2006: Mindbenders

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

For five years, I was a faithful member of the shorts viewing committee of Cinequest. I was partly responsible for what showed up on the screen, and I always felt a twinge of pride when we'd put out a successful program of films from around the world. Sadly, this year I wasn't a part of the committee, and thus thought that the shorts program would fall apart and the choices would all be safe and simple.

Well, that was flat-out wrong, because I saw a couple of the programs and they were without question of top quality; as good as anything we'd done when I was around. The one that proved that the sense of disturbed wonder remained was Friday night's Mindbender program.

Mindbenders are films that twist the mind. They could be on unusual subjects or have violent or kooky themes. They might just have a massive will to be weird. In the past, films have dealt with time travel, amputation, snail-farming, hallucinations, twisted relationships, the Eye of the Bear-Tiger, phone sex grandmas, and more. This year, the selections were right in line with every other year, and perhaps even more

bizarre in the ways they played off of each other.

The first film was the lightest. *Venom* is the story of a woman who has mistreated insects, and the ways in which your uppance can come. It was beautifully directed by John Hayes, and utilized excellent creature effects as well as delightful acting and a great score. *Venom* truly had excellent sound mixing. If you're ever wondering what role the subtle sounds of a horror story play, watch this film.

That was followed by one of the most challenging films I've ever sat through. It was Gabe Ibanez's *Maquina*. It's a story of a woman who is violated in one of the darkest ways possible. It's a wonderful story which contrasts gore, and gives a wonderful moment of sanity-saving comedy involving a carrot, a machine and a very touchy place.

The program never failed to raise those hackles on everyone's sore spots. I'm not much of a guy for puppets, but there was a film (*Alone & Inhuman*) that made good use of them and their excrement (yes...you read that right). *Room to Breathe* had a couple of people walk out. *Filthy Food* wasn't much of a story, merely a woman playing with her food in suggestive ways

with absolutely no context whatsoever. It was easily the most sexually filthy thing I've ever seen on a movie screen that involved no sex whatsoever. There was a gimmick film called *4U* and a strange Spanish film where a case worker goes a little further than most.

Without question and by a wide margin, the favorite was *Criticized*. I watch a lot of horror films and I'm adding this twelve-minute masterpiece to my favorites list. It is the story of a filmmaker who confronts the man whose critical review of his festival film made it impossible to find distribution. The revenge taken on the critic is incredible and the ending is as dark as they come. The audience was in the grip of the film the whole time and the ingenious ending really took the roof off the place. It's rare that a short film gets as great a reaction as *Criticized* got on Friday night.

If you get the chance, come to Cinequest in beautiful Downtown San Jose. The festival runs through March 11th with films like *Monster Camp* (about NERO and LARPing), *Blood Car* (a horror film that's been called training wheels for *Grindhouse*), and an animated shorts program that's one of the best I've seen anywhere in the world.

Bruce Wayne Hosts a Formal Ball in San Mateo

by Jean Martin
Editor

Little did the residents of San Mateo know that their neighborhood would serve as Gotham City for one night, as the Period Events and Entertainments Recreation Society (PEERS) held its monthly ball at the San Mateo Masonic Temple on Saturday, February 3rd. The theme for the evening was “The Gotham City Black & White Ball” and the premise was that the formal party was being thrown by millionaire Bruce Wayne (a.k.a. Batman). So the Temple was transformed into stately Wayne Manor, complete with twinkling lights hanging from the ceiling, card tables and lots of food and drinks.

January and February are the busiest time of the year for me at my day job, plus I also moved residences in January, and so I didn't have the time to devote to preparing a suitable costume for the evening. The recommended attire was vintage or modern evening dress in black and/or white, with the optional twist of recreating a character from the *Batman* canon (but incognito, as

if the character was showing up to a ball as their alter ego). I chose a tea-length black dress draped with sheer black scarves and decided that I would be Rachel Dawes from *Batman Begins*. Although Katie Holmes did better than I expected in that role, I still think someone else could have been more appropriate as Bruce Wayne's love interest. However, as I wracked my brain to think of which female character I was most like, she was the closest I could think of. I certainly could not pull off more seductive or villainous characters such as Catwoman or Poison Ivy. Barbara Gordon,



Batman and Green Hornet

Photo by Dawn Neuhart



The Joker and Jean

Photo by Jean Martin

Batgirl, would have been perfect, but I really was not into wearing a red wig that evening. I find it very hard to wear wigs while dancing.

As it turned out, I only danced twice that evening, as I wasn't really in the mood

for some reason. I guess I was exhausted from everything that has been going on in my life recently, and I was just a little blue after the holidays. I arrived at the Temple in time for my shift at the door. I often volunteer to man the ticket desk, and as I started chatting with my co-volunteers, I found my spirits lifting. So I basically just talked and socialized all evening. I was happy to find some of my sci-fi friends in attendance. The comic book theme must have attracted them to the event. The crowd was definitely different. A lot of the usual Victorian and vintage ballroom dancers were nowhere to be found, and there were a lot of new faces, and even younger patrons. The dancing for the evening was more modern, mostly swing,

and the lively music was provided by Sara & Swingtime.

I missed the pre-ball class, which would have been useful to me as I'm not much of a swing dancer. I wanted to dance some Tango and Latin dances but there weren't that many that night



Lois Lane giving news updates

Photo by Jean Martin

so I didn't get the chance to dance any of them. I do okay with the Tango, which I think is just such a beautiful dance, and I do a creditable Rhumba, which is so



Wonder Woman and Catwoman incognito

Photo by Jean Martin

romantic and sexy. What I got to do was one fun swing dance and one stilted Fox Trot. I really need to work on my modern ballroom dancing skills!

In any case, I enjoyed the entertainment for the evening, provided by the actors of PEERS. Instead of the usual 30-minute performances during the intermissions, they sporadically did short skits in between dances, featuring the continuing story of why Bruce Wayne was late for his own party, and with the “reformed” Penguin, Catwoman, Two-Face and Dr. Harley Quinn waiting for him because they planned on abducting him. Alfred, the butler, and Dick Grayson would announce that Bruce was on his way but he was delayed by various accidents. Halfway through the evening, Lois Lane showed up and did various news reports on the same subject. It was all very well done and everyone enjoyed the show. Amy and Maya did great as Lois and Harley, while Greg was pretty scary as Two-Face. But the surprise for the evening was James, who was so convincing as the Penguin that I didn’t recognize him at first. He even talked like the Penguin! For the intermissions for the band to take breaks, dance instructor and DJ Persephone played music for all to dance to.

Another fun thing we all did that



Gambers try their luck

Photo by Jean Martin



Sara & Swingtime

Photo by Jean Martin

evening was trying to spot what character people were portraying. It was amazing to see how creative people were in trying to depict their alter egos in subtle ways. Erin was wearing a black and white striped dress but with her catlike lined eyes and sinuous movements, she was a dead ringer for Catwoman. Emily was wearing a green 70s style gown, but if you looked closely, she had gold gauntlets on. Yes, she was Wonder Woman. Of course, there were a few guests who actually wore their superhero or supervillain costumes. There was a Batman who looked just like the Adam West version who came with his buddy who was dressed as the Green Hornet. And there was Dr. Noe, who does a great Joker complete with white face makeup and green hair. So, did

anybody guess who I was? Nope! And sometimes, I even forgot my character's name and had to ask friends, who couldn't remember what her name was either. I guess that's how forgettable Rachel Dawes was in *Batman Begins*. But who could forget Christian Bale's fresh take on Bruce Wayne? When Bruce, played by professional actor Charles McKeithan, finally arrived, everyone rejoiced. Charles did an excellent job making himself look like the latest Bruce Wayne.

The ball went on after that but my friends and I moved the party on to our favorite post-PEERS hangout, the 24-hour diner Heidi's Pies. This was one time I was glad to be wearing a regular dress to Heidi's and not an elaborate costume. But I'm sure I'll make more of an effort costuming for the next PEERS ball I attend, as I do love costuming and dancing. Occasionally, like that evening in Gotham City, even my love for sci-fi (I use the term loosely to include all related genres including comics) combines with my dance and costuming passions.

A Lovely Time at Gallifrey, With a Few Bumps

By **Johanna Mead**
Contributing Writer

Like many conventions, Gallifrey One had its bumps, but it's still the best event around for *Doctor Who* fans.

Location

Gallifrey's decision to move to a hotel immediately adjacent to LAX was a significant factor in my decision to attend after many years away from the con. Unlike the old Airtel Plaza, the new venue was simplicity itself to reach, even for a non-driver like me, via the hotel's free shuttle.

The place was surprisingly nice—I'm used to airport hotels being a bit pokey as space is at a premium and they've got a captive clientèle—and the room rate of \$109 a night was positively cheap, given where we were. Unfortunately, that almost-cheapness didn't translate to any other in-house costs. I highly recommend visitors make the walk to the local Denny's (which can be crowded) for at least one meal a day, and make use of a nearby liquor store for drinks, rather than the in-house bar. But, aside from that, the space was pleasant, and

the hotel staff ever-friendly.

The Gallifrey convention staff and logistics didn't inspire confidence. They managed to misspell their own banner at registration—along with my name badge, grr. When I had questions of the staff, I too often heard “I don't know, try coming back later and maybe we'll know then.” The program book contradicted itself in several places in terms of what was happening when, and one of the programming grids for a particular space on Sunday was completely whacked. One would like to think that with 18 years' experience, the staff would be past those sorts of snafus but, honestly, it wasn't that big a deal. I was more upset over my name badge than I was over the state of the program, so it wasn't *that* bad.

I will admit that Gallifrey offers a very nice con suite, featuring snacks with some redeeming nutritional content—veggies, fixings for PB&Js, etc.—along with the usual assortment of sugar and sodas. There was a rumor that most of their budget got blown on soda and, honestly, I'd rather see juice or bottled water, but I suspect I'm in the minority. But that minor quibble aside,

it was a notch above several con suites that I've encountered in the past, and a nice place to kill a few minutes between panels and say hello to fellow attendees.

Events and Guests

Weirdly enough, I didn't spend much time at all watching the “big” guests: Colin Baker, Terry Malloy, Maggie Stables, Caroline John, and several others. I saw glimpses of their big talks as I dashed about—and listening to the lot of them trash what the BBC has become was rather interesting, I must admit—but I was much keener on going to the panels with Big Finish folks and assorted writers, of which there were a round dozen or so, ranging from chaps who've written for *Doctor Who* to hard-working folks who create those incredibly detailed tomes of show-trivia that keep us obsessive fans happily fed.

I think I identify more with the writerly-folk at these things and so I'm generally keener to hear what they have to say. That, and I'm usually totally terrified of looking like a *complete goober* when meeting media folk. Of course, my natural caution totally let me down when I met Paul

Cornell on Friday evening and I gibbered like a maniac at him. Fortunately, he was a good sport and seemed to understand that I meant well. But, really, it was embarrassing, because I went into total squealing “Aaaah! I’m so glad to meet you!” mode. Thank God it was early in the evening, as I was at least still mostly sober... (Note: they may charge \$10 for it, but the hotel bar martini is a pretty generous pour. Ow.)

Other high points of Friday: a round of “Just a Minute” led by Paul Cornell, which was bloody hilarious. Colin Baker made mincemeat of the competition, scoring more points than the other participants put together. The League of Evil Geniuses party was, as ever, excellent fun, although I’m a little biased in their regard, being a regular minion. I’m told that it kept going until 6 a.m., thanks to an infusion of guests returning from the British expatriate bar after closing time, but this little gal had to get her beauty sleep.

During the day, I did my bit to earn my way into the Jason Haigh-Ellery Stalkers Club, as I must have attended three panels in which he was featured. Particularly interesting tidbits included reference to the non-canon Doctor who got away (Ewan McGregor), dream projects that came *that* close (adaptations of the original Ian Fleming James Bond novels, which I would

have killed to hear) and coy hints about the upcoming production of an American SF show that has recently ended production and features a large fanbase—but Haigh-Ellery wouldn’t name it as the contract hasn’t been signed just yet. Walking out of that one, the money seemed split between *Stargate*, *Star Trek* and *Firefly*.

Saturdaynight featured a performance of *The Ten Doctors* by Offstage Productions and it was hilarious, if not entirely unflawed. The show ran long—too much laughter from the audience, apparently—and I thought the second half was just too long in general, and not as funny as the first. However, it was mostly entertaining; just not enough to stop me from bailing out about a half hour before the end and pestering Steven Moffat and Tom MacCrae in the hallway, instead. I think I overdid it with the pestering—oops—but no lasting harm done, I hope.

As the show ran late, the Saturday night dance didn’t start until Midnight and, was, frankly, completely dead. I didn’t mind, as that meant I got everything I wanted to hear, I danced my tuchis off for about half an hour, and then went prowling for other entertainment. Fortunately, the brains behind the Bubbleshock party provided it in bucketloads and the next thing I knew, it was 3 a.m. and I was about to slide into

completely plastered—always a good way to end the evening.

Unfortunately, James Strong cancelled, which bummed me out, as he was one of the chaps I was really looking forward to seeing on Sunday, especially his commentary for *The Impossible Planet*. Ah well, maybe they’ll invite him back next year...

All of the guests seemed to have a good time and, from what I observed in the autograph lines and such, they all gave good fanservice. Maggie Stables has earned my undying affection simply because she liked the Avon Lady hat. Yep, simple things like that are how fans are won over, forsooth. I didn’t hear any of the usual con-guest horror stories—God knows, I’ve seen a few examples of eyebrow-raising behavior by GOHs at these things—and I’d be surprised if anyone did have a horror story from the past three days.

Naturally, my paper journal is now stuffed with autographs. I’ve contemplated an autograph book in the past but, to heck with it, I like mixing autographs up with my pervy fic ideas, doodles for costumes, and snippets of overheard conversation, so there. For the record, the autograph lines were well-managed and generally started on time, so kudos to the staff on that one.

The dealers’ room was well-

stocked—if not nearly big enough, for I am a greedy fan—with the only major areas of overlap being with the new series toys. Alas, there were no inflatable Daleks to be had. I did, however, pick up “New Beginnings”—the boxset featuring “Keeper of Traken,” “Logopolis” and “Castrovalva”—and the seller threw in a free BFA, as well, so I have something new to listen to.

I was surprised to see several things at the charity auction worth bidding on, so I stuck around for most of that—four hours—and walked off with a magazine I wanted just for the giveaway item that came with it, a present for a friend and a piece of art which hath made it mandatory that I not make fun of the 1996 telemovie ever again and let’s just leave it at that. All in all, the charity auction raised \$3,400 for the American Heart Association, hooray!

The con was the largest G1 yet with close to 800 attendees, and it showed, as there were times when events were cramped for space, but everyone was—of course—so happy to be there that everyone’s tempers seemed to remain pretty calm throughout, even when squeezing into overstuffed panel rooms or trying to find a seat at the big-draw talks.

People were by and large not just *nice*, but *very nice*—genial and cheerful and tolerant of the fact that my fading English

accent went *completely haywire* as soon as I checked into the hotel. This is what booze, exhaustion and being surrounded by Brits will do to me, it seems. Lovely folks, the lot of them.

Costuming Notes

The con was costume light. Really, really costume light. Like I took eleven items to give to folks as a hall-costume prize and ended up giving four of them to con guests, as I didn’t see more than half a dozen costumes the entire weekend, noteworthy or otherwise. And, oh, alright, I suppose I should admit that I sort of hope that Jason Haigh-Ellery gives his to Paul McGann, as Jason looked a bit nonplussed by it when I gave it to him, and I expressly told all recipients to not feel obligated to keep it if they didn’t like it. However, Paul Cornell continued to earn squeepoints by being utterly charmed by it, so I won’t hear a word against the lad for the rest of his life.

One costume I *will* mention is the St. George’s Spirits TAC (Tactical Alcohol Consumption) squad, which was quite the hit. Evil Geniuses Extraordinaire Kevin and Andy were the brains behind this one, and I merely went along with them for I can’t resist a fun bit of uniform-based costuming. When the three of us went to the packed-out bar on Friday night in our uniforms,

you could hear neck vertebrae popping all through the lobby as people tried to figure out what the hell we were up to. “We’re so serious about our drinking, we have a uniform for it.” Incidentally, if you’re a Bay Area person and fond of vodka, whisky or eau de vie, you want to visit St. George’s Spirits Distillery in Alameda—and once you see the site, you’ll understand why it was decided that they needed a paramilitary uniform.

I’m probably spoiled by BayCon, but it was a shame that there was so little in the way of hall costuming at the convention and, of course, no masquerade as apparently the interest in costuming at Gallifrey is that low. Bummer.

Another notable costuming moment: I met a woman wearing a black velvet Anthony Ainley’s Master tunic and, naturally, I peppered her with questions about construction and suchlike, only to learn that she was wearing an original costume from the Beeb. Crikey! Naturally, I took a lot of detailed photos for my reference and, by the way, Ainley was a skinny lad, and I’ve got my research for my husband’s costume in ‘08 all lined up.

Yep, I’m going to ‘08. I’ve already pre-registered and I’ve even treated myself to the GOH brunch, despite not knowing who the guests are going to be. What the

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hell, it's like a lottery ticket and, honestly, if I go *meh* at the guest list and I have a friend there who is going *squeeee!*, I can always transfer the ticket to them. I've resolved that: (a) despite the fact that it's not all that much quicker to fly (thanks to all the aggro at the airport), I still prefer it to a five or six hour car-ride, and (b) next year, I fly down Thursday night and come home late-ish on Monday, as—assuming the traditional rain-on-Monday lets up—I'd like to join in the cricket match.

Conclusion

Obviously, I had a lovely, lovely time, socializing with fellow fans, going to the panels and generally relaxing for a couple of days in a new place—an invigorating change, and all that. But I'll admit that going from *a con stuffed with charming, witty, well-spoken fellows full of vim and vigor and other nice things beginning with 'v' to LAX airport on a holiday* gave me a case of the bends. Ow. Talk about coming back to earth with a thump.

February 12, 2007

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

Began 8:05 with toons.

16 people attended.

We established a party jar.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 862 were accepted as 'I go, you go, we all go for Hugo.'

The Treasurer reported that last week we took in only \$0.50 in the party jar; plus that at meeting 861 we took in \$48.30 in the regular jar & \$7.25 in the party jar.

The VP reported that there's no new 'Drink Tank' out yet & no, no, no, yes.

The President had nothing fannish to report.

The AhwaneeCon committee reported that PR3 is out and they've moved to the Indian village behind the visitor center and it has almost unlimited acorn storage.

Announcements

I announced that BASFA now has 15 rules and

brought a copy of them [there were follow-ons].

[evil] Kevin announced that CostumeCon 26 is looking for a courier to carry flyers to Dundracon this weekend.

Dave C announced that Gallifrey is this weekend in LA.

Chris announced that Drink Tank is still looking for hoax articles and also that SF/SF is looking for a review of Dundracon and in the fan awards he had a 3, a 4 and a 5.

Andy announced that he put in a ribbon order with Chaz & that soon a chummer of his may have an LAPD paddy wagon for sale.

Lisa announced that PantheaCon is also this weekend at the Doubletree.

Kevin announced that this is the 2nd of 3 nights to make Hugo nominations.

Reviews:

Fred reviewed the SJ Museum of Art's Escher exhibit as it cost \$8.00 to get in and was worth more than full price to see everything.

Chris reviewed his CorFlu adventure as he flew down on American Airlines - sort of - as they cancelled 2 flights on him, but despite that he had a wonderful time - had a chance to reflect on his artistic integrity and relationship to Art Widner ['Ars Garcia Artis?' Trey asked] and he

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highly recommends it as he had an absolutely wonderful time, worth full price and all the frustration.

[evil] Kevin reviewed the February PENWAG meeting as still an entertaining group and still worth full price & reviewed the CostumeCon 26 meet-and-greet as it ended around 1 am and sort of got out of control and also worth full price.

We auctioned off cookies for \$4.00 & Dave G reviewed the Pebble Beach Pro/Am as enjoyable and a nice way to spend a day & be paid for it and worth full price.

We adjourned at 8:52 pm.

And the rumor of the week was that 'KTEH will enter into a development deal with kink.com.'

February 19, 2007

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

Began 8:01 with flunkies.

20 people attended.

We established a party jar.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 863 were accepted as 'holy toasted.'

No Treasurer - or report.

The VP reported that a new 'Drink Tank' is due out Wednesday & a new SF/SF out ... soon.

The President had nothing fannish to report.

The Sports Committee reminded us that we want to organize an outing for a game, June 30, Giants vs the Diamondbacks & that this is the 3rd of 3 Hugo nomination nights.

The AhwaneeCon committee held a party at Gallifrey that ended around 4 am and there's a rumor that Jet Blue may be the con's official air carrier.

Adrienne reported that the Chicken Coop insists

on a large deposit to reserve a room for BASFA to hold a meeting there.

Announcements

Howard announced that it was President's Day and suggested a round of applause to honor BASFA's president.

Harold announced that the Hillsdale Compu-something is going out of business and holding a sale.

Chris announced that he is still looking for Drink Tank hoax articles and also that he is arranging a Little Man's meeting for this year's Westercon & still needs staff for the Westercon Fanzine Lounge.

Dave C announced that Potlatch will be in 2 weeks in Oregon.

Reviews:

Adrienne reviewed 'Babel' as the best of the 5 films up for Oscars; but her favorite of the 5 was 'The Queen'; she reviewed 'The Departed' as 'bang bang, shoot, kill, bleck' & 'Little Miss Sunshine' as it doesn't have a chance & reviewed 'Letters from Iwo Jima' as it was okay & Ken Watanabe is a babe; Ken follow-on'd that the AMC this Saturday will show all 5 films for \$30.

[we recessed for a few minutes]

Then Harold reviewed 'Le Petit Lieutenant' as

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it's in French with subtitles, a good film, kind of depressing & worth bargain matinée.

Chris reviewed 'Hannibal Rising' as a wonderful mess, all over the place - great to watch and nothing made sense - but worth full price.

I reviewed Charlie Stross's book 'The Jennifer Morgue' as it's delightful, starts off well and just gets better & reviewed 'Ghostrider' as a very successful adaptation, and that Nicolas Cage and Sam Elliott were brilliant; Trey follow-on'd that it was nice & Nicolas Cage didn't just phone in his performance - that there were flaws - but not irredeemable ones & worth matinée.

Fred reviewed 'Beckett' as the whole story left him cold and he couldn't connect with any of the characters.

We auctioned off cookies for \$4.00 & Dave G reviewed the Pebble Beach Pro/Am as enjoyable and a nice way to spend a day & be paid for it and worth full price.

We adjourned at 9:01 pm.

And the rumor of the week was that 'I never paid for it in my life.'

February 26, 2007

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

Began 8-ish with talk of infamy.

24 people attended.

We established a party jar.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 864 were accepted as 'et cetera.'

The Treasurer reported that last week we took in \$21.00 in the regular jar & \$7.50 in the party jar; plus that at meeting 863 we took in \$11.25 in the regular jar & \$5.00 in the party jar.

The VP reported that a new 'Drink Tank' came out yesterday & a new SF/SF is due out next Wednesday.

The President had nothing fannish to report.

[tall] Kevin reported on Hugo business that this is your last chance to get in your Hugo nominations.

The AhwaneeCon committee reported the next PR is ready - there have been several site changes, that acorn storage is in question & they sold 2 pre-supports in Gallifrey.

Announcements

Lynn announced that Consonance is this weekend and that she will be competing in a comedy competition this Wednesday at Rooster T Feathers.

Howard announced that he has been cast in 'Jekyll and Hyde, the Musical' at the Palo Alto theatre and watch his LJ for more info.

Adrienne announced that Barry Bonds will be interviewed by Ray Taliafero on KGO Tuesday night at 7-8 pm.

Chris announced that Cinequest starts Wednesday and Friday will be the 'Day of Distribution' & he announced that this weekend is Wondercon.

Dave G announced that there's a St. Louis NASFiC this year = Tuckercon & Chris follow-on'd that he is looking for roommates to share his hotel room there.

Andy announced that Chris had made his announcement.

Lisa announced that her husband finally had his operation and is recovering at the Santa Clara Kaiser but doesn't want visitors.

Dave C announced that Potlatch is next weekend at the Portland Red Lion.

Reviews:

Andy reviewed Gallifrey - the parts he didn't sleep through - as their parties closed late [4 am & 6 am] - they had a pool and a hot tub, kept vampire hours and the Dealers Room was small ['action figures, action figures & oh yes, jewelry'] & he had fun; [evil] Kevin follow-on'd that it went well and he amused some veterans with the martini patches; Dave G follow-on'd that he saw a lot of the Dealers Room but not much of the con & enjoyed the 2 parties he went to & it was worth full price; Dave C follow-on'd that again he was trapped in the Dealers Room & again wonders about the sexuality of fringe fans; Ken follow-on'd that the con had genuine souvenirs from Dr Who & [evil] Kevin follow-on'd again that by the con end they had a lot of the Dr Who evil genius posters autographed by their actors or writers.

Harold reviewed 'Amazing Grace' as earnest, well made and worth seeing & worth bargain matinée.

Stellan reviewed 'The Lives of Others' as recommended, if you don't mind reading subtitles and worth full price.

Lynn reviewed a Star Trek documentary as very cool and showed that fans have lives and lots of money to spend.

Chris reviewed 'Reno 911' as the greatest transition from small to large screen ever made - absolutely hilarious & well worth watching [Chris for TAFF] & he liked today's meat.

We auctioned off a wall scroll for \$2.00; books

for \$3.00 & more books for \$0.25 & Dr Who cards for \$17.00.

We adjourned at 9-ish.

And the rumor of the week was that 'Andy lands butter-side up' with an [evil] Kevin abstention.

Join our crew:

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

Contact Jean Martin and Chris Garcia

at:

SFinSF@gmail.com

Bay Area Fannish Calendar

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

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

Wednesday, March 7

Author: Ellen Forney
The Booksmith
1644 Haight Street
San Francisco
415-863-8688
7 p.m.
Free

Wednesday-Friday, March 7-9

*The Thing (1951) and
Isle of the Dead (1945)*
Stanford Theatre
221 University Avenue
Palo Alto
650-324-3700
\$7
Showtimes at www.stanfordtheatre.org

Wednesday-Sunday, March 7-11

The One-Man Star Wars Trilogy
Post Street Theatre

450 Post Street
San Francisco
www.poststreettheatre.com
Wed-Fri 8 p.m., Sat 5 & 8 p.m., Sun 3 p.m.
\$37-\$47
Watch writer/performer Charles Ross play all the characters, recreate the effects, sing the music, fly the ships and fight both sides of the battles.

Thursday, March 8

The Last Man on Earth (1964)
and *The Omega Man (1971)*
Preview Room
Variety Children's Charity
582 Market Street
San Francisco
7 p.m.
Free
Borderlands Books and Variety Children's Charity invite you to a double feature: two movies based on Richard Matheson's novel *I Am Legend*. Refreshments will be available for purchase, and your purchase supports Variety's efforts to aid disabled, disadvantaged, abused and neglected kids.

Thursday, March 8

Thrillville: Night of the Lepus (1972)
Parkway Speakeasy Theater
1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland
www.thrillville.com
9:15 p.m.
\$8
With the Diamond Daggers live onstage.

Thursday, March 8

Author: Suzanne Treister
City Lights Books
Columbus Avenue
San Francisco
www.citylights.com
7 p.m.
Free

March 8-April 7

Chemical Imbalance
EXIT Theatre
156 Eddy Street
San Francisco
www.precarioustheatre.com
Thursdays-Sundays 8 p.m.
\$15-\$30 sliding scale
Return of Lauren Wilson's darkly comic play based on *Doctor Jekyll and Mister Hyde*, directed by Matthew Graham Smith.

Friday and Saturday, March 9-10

Midnight Special:
The Princess Bride (1987)
Shattuck Cinemas

2230 Shattuck Ave.
Berkeley
www.landmarkafterdark.com
\$8

Friday-Sunday, March 9-11

The Twilight Zone: The Plays
The Dark Room Theatre
2263 Mission Street

San Francisco
www.darkroomsf.com
Fri-Sat 8 p.m., Sun 3 p.m.
\$15

Live stage adaptations of favorite *TZ* episodes return for a fourth season. This weekend features “Button, Button” and “Five Characters In Search...”

Saturday, March 10

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

Saturday, March 10

Forbidden Planet (1956)
Pacific Film Archive
2575 Bancroft Way
Berkeley
www.bampfa.berkeley.edu
3 p.m.
\$8
Anne Francis stars.

Saturday, March 10

Author: Joe Hill
Cody’s Books
1730 Fourth Street
Berkeley
www.codysbooks.com
7 p.m.
Free

Saturday, March 10

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

This month’s Writers With Drinks features “Reverse Live-Blogging”: People will blog in advance what they expect will happen at the event, and the organizers will try to duplicate those blog entries, to make them self-fulfilling prophecies. With Diana Paxson, Marga Gomez, T. Cooper, Rob Brezsny, and Polly Frost.

Saturday-Sunday, March 10-11

Calaveras Celtic Faire
Angels Camp
ticket info at www.calaverascelticfaire.com
California’s oldest and largest Celtic faire with music, dancers, archery, jousting, food and drink. Camping available onsite.

Sunday, March 11

Sac-Con
Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street
Sacramento
www.sacramentocomics.com
10 a.m.-5 p.m.
\$6
Comic, toy and anime show, usually has an anime costume contest.

Sunday, March 11

Bad Movie Night:
Friday the 13th Part III: 3-D (1982)
The Dark Room Theatre
2263 Mission Street
San Francisco
www.darkroomsf.com
8 p.m.
\$5

Monday, March 12

Author: Joe Hill
Books Inc.
601 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco
415-776-1111
7 p.m.
Free

Wednesday, March 14

Pi Day Puzzle Party
The Bazaar Café
5927 California Street
San Francisco
www.askascientistsf.com
7 p.m.
Free
Ask a Scientist celebrates Pi Day (3.14) with a friendly competition of math and logic brain

twisters, hosted by Puzzle Master Steven Bodovitz.

Wednesday, March 14

Author: Kim Stanley Robinson

Cody's Books
1730 Fourth Street
Berkeley
www.codysbooks.com
7 p.m.
Free

Wednesday, March 14

Author: Chris Jones

Books Inc.
301 Castro Street
Mountain View
650-428-1234
7:30 p.m.
Free
The author talks about *Too Far from Home: A Story of Life and Death in Space*.

Wednesday-Friday, March 14-16

The Body Snatcher (1945)
Stanford Theatre
221 University Avenue
Palo Alto
650-324-3700
6 and 9:30 p.m.
\$7

Thursday, March 15

The Case For and Against Human Enhancement
Pillsbury Winthrop Law Offices
50 Fremont Street

San Francisco
415-983-1000
www.wtc-sf.org/lbsbs2007.htm
8-10 a.m.

\$25
David Ewing Duncan of BioAgenda and TechNation host Moira Gunn moderate a breakfast panel discussion about the ethics of creating super-humans. Sponsored by the Women's Technology Cluster.

Thursday, March 15

Firefly Night
Parkway Speakeasy Theater
1834 Park Blvd.
Oakland
www.parkway-speakeasy.com
9:15 p.m.
\$6
Three episodes of *Firefly* on the big screen.

Friday-Sunday, March 16-18

Rakkasah West
Richmond Auditorium
403 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond
www.rakkasah.com
Fri. 7-11 p.m. \$12
Sat. 11 a.m.-11 p.m. \$15
Sun. 11 a.m.-8 p.m. \$15
Bills itself as the largest bellydance festival and fantasy bazaar in the world.

Friday-Sunday, March 16-18

The Twilight Zone: The Plays
The Dark Room Theatre
2263 Mission Street

San Francisco
www.darkroomsf.com
Fri-Sat 8 p.m., Sun 3 p.m.
\$15
Live stage adaptations of favorite *TZ* episodes return for a fourth season. This weekend features "Will The Real Martian Please Stand Up?" and "Take My Life...Please."

March 16-April 1

Emperor Norton: The Musical
Shelton Theater
533 Sutter Street
San Francisco
www.emperornortonthemusical.com
Fri & Sat 8 p.m., Sun 3 p.m.
\$30
Norton I, Emperor of the United States and Protector of Mexico takes up residence at the Shelton Theater through April 1st.

Saturday, March 17

The Girl Who Leapt Through Time (2006)
Castro Theatre
429 Castro Street
San Francisco
www.asianamericanfilmfestival.org
1 p.m.
\$10
New anime version of popular Japanese teen novel; part of the San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival.

Sunday, March 18

Bad Movie Night: Amityville 3-D (1983)
The Dark Room Theatre

2263 Mission Street
San Francisco
www.darkroomsf.com
8 p.m.
\$5

Thursday, March 22

Author: Kim Stanley Robinson
The Booksmith
1644 Haight Street
San Francisco
415-863-8688
7 p.m.
Free

Thursday, March 22

Thrillville: Creature Features Forever
Cerrito Speakeasy Theater
10070 San Pablo Avenue
El Cerrito
www.thrillville.net
8 p.m.
\$10
Thrillville's special tribute to TV horror host Bob Wilkins includes a screening of *Attack of the Mushroom People* (1963) and guests including Bob himself, John Stanley, Mr. Lobo, and others.

Thursday, March 22

The Girl Who Leapt Through Time (2006)
Pacific Film Archive
2575 Bancroft Way
Berkeley
www.asianamericanfilmfestival.org
7:30 p.m.
\$10

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

Friday-Sunday, March 23-25

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

Live stage adaptations of favorite TZ episodes; final weekend features "Nothing in the Dark" and "The Hitchhiker."

Saturday, March 24

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

Saturday, March 24

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

fighting starts around noon.

Saturday, March 24

Author: Kim Harrison
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street
San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com
1 p.m.
Free

Saturday, March 24

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

Saturday, March 24

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

Sunday, March 25

Bad Movie Night:
Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over (2003)
The Dark Room Theatre
2263 Mission Street
San Francisco

www.darkroomsf.com
8 p.m.
\$5

Monday, March 26

*Ask a Scientist:
The World's Most Fascinating Numbers*

The Canvas Gallery
1200 9th Avenue
San Francisco
www.askascientistsf.com

7 p.m.
Free
Math professor and author Keith Devlin leads a tour of some of his favorite numbers.

Thursday, March 29

Author: Christopher Moore

Book Passage
51 Tamal Vista Blvd.
Corte Madera
www.bookpassage.com

7 p.m.
Free

Thursday, March 29

The Phenomenauts

Bottom of the Hill
1233 17th Street

San Francisco
415-621-4455

7:30 p.m.
\$12 cover
SF-themed band plays SF; with the Epoxies, Groovie Ghoulies, Teenage Harlets, and the Rock 'n' Roll Adventure Kids.

Thursday, March 29

Underworld (2003)

Parkway Speakeasy Theater
1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

www.parkway-speakeasy.com

9:15 p.m.

\$6

Wednesday-Friday, April 4-6

Curse of the Cat People (1944)

Stanford Theatre

221 University Avenue

Palo Alto

650-324-3700

6:10 and 9:20 p.m.

\$7

Friday-Sunday, April 6-8

Tales of Anime

Marriott San Mateo

1770 South Amphlett Blvd.

San Mateo

www.talesofanime.com

\$40

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

Saturday, April 7

Red Carpet Ball

(1930s Hollywood Academy Award Ball)

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 N. Ellsworth

San Mateo

www.peers.org

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

Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.
(There's a glamorous calendar available at
www.cafepress.com/peers.75762076)

Thursday, April 12

Thrillville's 10th Anniversary Show:

Creature From The Black Lagoon (1954)
and *It Came From Outer Space (1953)*

Cerrito Speakeasy Theater

10070 San Pablo Ave.

El Cerrito

www.thrillville.net

8 p.m.

\$10

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

Thursday, April 12

Invasion of the Body Snatchers (1978)
and *The Thing (1982)*

Preview Room

Variety Children's Charity

582 Market Street

San Francisco

7 p.m.

Free

Borderlands Books and Variety Children's Charity invite you to a Science Fiction double feature. Refreshments will be available for purchase, and your purchase supports Variety's efforts to aid disabled, disadvantaged, abused and neglected kids.

Friday and Saturday, April 13-14

*Midnight Special:
Scary Movie (2000)*
Shattuck Cinemas
2230 Shattuck Ave.
Berkeley
www.landmarkafterdark.com
\$8

Friday-Sunday, April 13-15

ConQuest Sac
Sacramento Marriott
11211 Point East Drive
Rancho Cordova
www.avalonconventions.com/conquestsac/
\$40 (until March 31)
General gaming convention including military,
miniatures, card and board games, collectibles,
RPGs.

Saturday, April 14

Author: Jonathan Lethem
Moe's Books
2476 Telegraph Avenue
Berkeley
www.telegraphbooks.com
7:30 p.m.
Free

Saturday, April 14

Author: Robert Balmanno
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street
San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com
Noon
Free

Friday and Saturday, April 20-21

*Midnight Special:
The Re-Animator (1985)*
Shattuck Cinemas
2230 Shattuck Ave.
Berkeley
www.landmarkafterdark.com
\$8

Saturday-Sunday, April 21-22

APE (Alternative Press Expo)
Concourse Exhibition Center
620 7th Street
San Francisco
www.comic-con.org/ape/
Billed as the nation's largest show devoted
to alternative and self-published comics.
Announced guests include Art Spiegelman
(*Maus*).

Saturday, April 21

APE Aftermath
Isotope Comics Lounge
326 Fell Street
San Francisco
415-621-6543
7 p.m.-midnight
Free
The Isotope's annual event coinciding with the
Alternative Press Expo features the awarding
of the Isotope Award for Excellence in Mini-
Comics.

Sunday, April 22

Cherry Blossom Festival Parade
Civic Center to Japan Center
San Francisco

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

Friday-Sunday, April 27-29

Sacramento Scottish Games and Festival
Yolo County Fairgrounds
Woodland
www.sacaledonian.org
\$17 (\$15.50 in advance)
Athletic events, highland dancing, crafts, music,
food, whisky tasting, Bonney Knees contest,
more.

April 27-May 13

Jekyll & Hyde: The Musical
Lucie Stern Theater
1305 Middlefield Road
Palo Alto
www.paplayers.org
8 p.m. (Sun. 2:30 matinee)
\$26-30 (\$20 preview on April 27)

Saturday, April 28

*Sensible Prejudices: Divergent Jane Austen
Ball*
Masonic Lodge
100 North Ellsworth
San Mateo
www.baers.org
8 p.m.
A Bay Area English Regency Society dance.

Saturday, May 5

Sleeping Beauty's Christening Fantasy Ball
PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 N. Ellsworth
San Mateo
www.peers.org
\$15 in advance (by April 28), \$20 at the door
Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Thursday, May 10

Thrillville: Barbarella (1967)
Parkway Speakeasy Theater
1834 Park Blvd.
Oakland
www.thrillville.com
9:15 p.m.
\$7
With the Twilight Vixen Revue live onstage.

Monday, May 14

Author: Michael Chabon
Book Passage
51 Tamal Vista Blvd.
Corte Madera
www.bookpassage.com
7 p.m.
Free

Friday-Monday, May 25-28

BayCon
Marriott San Mateo
1770 South Amphlett Blvd.
San Mateo
www.baycon.org
\$75 at the door (\$65 until April 30)
25th Anniversary Edition of the largest annual
general SF convention in Northern California,

featuring a new location and Guests of Honor
Alan Dean Foster, Diana Paxson, Richard
Hescox, and Linda Von Braskat-Crowe and
Toastmaster Seanan McGuire. Diverse panels,
dealer's room, art show, masquerade, anime
room, hall costumes, gaming, much more.

Friday-Monday, May 25-28

FanimeCon
San Jose Convention Center
435 South Market Street
San Jose
www.fanime.com
\$50 (until March 31)
The Bay Area's largest annual anime
convention returns. Dealer's room, panels,
costume contest, J-pop concert, more.

Friday-Monday, May 25-28

KublaCon
Burlingame Hyatt Regency
1333 Bayshore Highway
Burlingame
www.kublacon.com
\$35
Annual gaming convention returns with panels,
dealer's room, game demos, flea market, more.

Friday-Sunday, June 1-3

Dollectable
Clarion Hotel SFO
401 E. Millbrae Ave.
Millbrae
www.bjdcon.com
\$65 at the door (\$50 until May 1)
A convention for enthusiasts and collectors of
Asian-style ball-jointed dolls.

Saturday, June 2

Space Cowboys' Ball
PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 N. Ellsworth
San Mateo
www.peers.org
\$15 in advance (by May 26), \$20 at the door
Browncoats, take note. Dance lesson at 7 p.m.,
dancing begins at 8.

Saturday-Sunday, June 2-3

Super-Con
San Jose Convention Center
435 South Market Street
San Jose
www.super-con.com
\$20 (one-day pass \$15)
Super-Con heads south for 2007. Dealers, guest
artists, cosplay contest, more.

Sunday, June 10

Ardenwood Celtic Festival
Ardenwood Historic Farm
34600 Ardenwood Blvd.
Fremont
www.ardenwood-celtic-festival.com
10 a.m.-5 p.m.
\$10
Celtic music, dancing, living history, ethnic
food, more.

Saturday, June 23

Batlh Jaj: Klingon Day of Honor II
Chabot Space Science Center
10000 Skyline Blvd.

Oakland
www.ikvbloodlust.net/kalendar.htm
7-10 p.m.

An evening of feasting, singing, and celebrating Klingon-style. Details to follow.

Saturday-Tuesday, June 30-July 3

Westercon 60: Gnomeward Bound

Marriott San Mateo
1770 South Amphlett Blvd.
San Mateo

spfii.org/westercon60/

\$70 (until March 31)

Guests of Honor: Tad Williams, Theresa Mather, Christian McGuire
Toastmaster: Jay Lake

Saturday-Sunday, July 14-15

Sac-Anime

Red Lion Inn

1401 Arden Way

Sacramento

www.sacramentocomics.com

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

Friday-Sunday, July 27-29

Con-X-Treme

DoubleTree Hotel
2050 Gateway Place
San Jose

www.con-x-treme.com

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

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

Friday-Monday, August 3-6

MythCon 38

Clark Kerr Center
2601 Warring Street
Berkeley

www.mythsoc.org

\$60, \$50 for Mythopoeic Society members

The annual Mythopoeic Conference returns to Berkeley with Guests of Honor Ellen Kushner and Delia Sherman.

Saturday, August 4

Pride & Prejudice Picnic

PEERS Event

Location TBA

www.peers.org

Noon-5 p.m.

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

Saturday, September 1

Mikado Ball

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 N. Ellsworth

San Mateo

www.peers.org

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

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

Friday-Sunday, September 28-30

Creation's Salute to Star Trek

DoubleTree Hotel
2001 Point West Way
Sacramento

www.creationent.com

A Creation con to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. Announced guests include Jonathan Frakes, Marina Sirtis and George Takei. Details to follow.

Friday-Sunday, October 5-7

SiliCon

DoubleTree Hotel

2050 Gateway Place

San Jose

www.siliconventions.com

Media-oriented general SF con features art show, dealer's room, panels, masquerade, swap meet, more. Details to follow.

Saturday, October 6

Edwardian Gothic Ball

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 N. Ellsworth

San Mateo

www.peers.org

\$15 in advance (by September 29), \$20 at the door

Edwardian as in macabre illustrator Edward Gorey. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Saturday, November 3

Le Bal des Vampires

PEERS Event

www.peers.org

The annual hematophagic gala. Details to follow.

April 25-28, 2008

CostumeCon 26

DoubleTree Hotel
2050 Gateway Place
San Jose
www.cc26.info

\$75 (through April 30, 2007)

CostumeCon will be coming to Silicon Valley in 2008. Details to follow.

Ongoing:

Through June 17

Worlds of Wonder

Cartoon Art Museum
655 Mission Street
San Francisco
www.cartoonart.org

\$6 (every First Tuesday is “Pay What You Wish Day”)

Exhibition of twelve comic-book and comic-strip illustrators and the worlds built from their imaginations.

Daily

San Francisco Ghost Hunt
Walking Tour
Begins: Queen Anne Hotel
1590 Sutter at Octavia
San Francisco
www.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 cards night at Atlas Cafe, 20th and Alabama Streets on Tuesday nights from 6:30 until maybe 10:00 p.m.

Fridays-Mondays

Haunted Haight Walking Tour

Meets at Coffee To The People
1206 Masonic Avenue
San Francisco
www.hauntedhaight.com
7 p.m.-9 p.m.
\$20

Reservations required.

Fridays and Saturdays

Vampire Walking Tour

Meets corner of California and Taylor
San Francisco

www.sfvampiretour.com

8 p.m.

\$20

Led by Mina Harker. Tour is cancelled if there is heavy rain.

Saturdays

Rocky Horror Picture Show

Parkway Speakeasy Theater
1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

Midnight

\$7

www.parkway-speakeasy.com

Barely Legal Productions presents the classic midnight movie every Saturday night. No one under 17 admitted.

Biweekly

PenSFA Party

The Peninsula Science Fantasy Association meets every two weeks for a party at the home of one of their members. They also host parties at local conventions. Email commander@pensfa.org for information on attending. PenSFA standard party rules: bring something edible or drinkable to share, or pay the host \$2. Don't smoke in the house without checking with the host first. Normal start time is 8 p.m. but may vary depending on the host.

Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers' Group
Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

Meets the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 6 pm. Contact Jade Livingston at sfscifi@yahoo.com for more information.

Monthly

Dorkbot-SF

Free, donations welcome

www.dorkbot.org/dorkbotsf/

Dorkbot hosts regular forums for artists, designers, engineers, students, and other people doing strange things with electricity.

Fantastic Frontiers

www.freewebs.com/fantasticfrontiers/

Social club for Sacramento County Sci Fi/
Fantasy fans usually meets the second Saturday of the month. Check website for meeting times and locations.

Foothill Anime

Building 5015, Foothill College

Los Altos Hills

Free

Monthly event where people can get together to watch anime and meet like minded others. Usually meets the first Sunday of every month at noon.

Legion of Rassilon

Carl's Junior

2551 N. First Street

San Jose

www.legionofrassilon.org

7:30 p.m.

Free

Doctor Who fan group usually meets the fourth Friday of the month: Episodes of *Doctor Who*, news, discussion of recent movies, and a raffle.

No-Name Anime

Saratoga Library

13650 Saratoga Avenue

Saratoga

www.nnanime.com

Free

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

SF Browncoats

Cafe Murano

1777 Steiner Street

San Francisco

www.sfbrowncoats.com

Noon

Free

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

Silicon Gulch Browncoats

Various locations (see website for details)

www.silicongulchbrowncoats.org

Noon - 2 p.m.

Free

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

Tangential Conjectures: The Science Fiction Book Club

Books Inc.

301 Castro Street

Mountain View

650-428-1234

7:30 p.m.

Free

Generally meets the third Thursday of the month (except March's meeting will be held on March 13th).

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.