

Brylcreem and Butter¹

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I've had a very busy month again, at the start of October, I travelled to New Zealand yet again for the Annual World of Wearable Arts awards – worldofwearableart.com - the entrants and winning costumes are displayed in a two hour fashion show with music and choreographed performances by prestigious dancers.

Unlike previous years where I was seated a few rows back and to the side, this year I was seated one row from the front (and the row in front of me was three steps below me so that if a person turned around they would have been looking directly at my knees).

For a few years now I've been suggesting that the SF community get behind the World of Wearable Arts so that there is some cross-over recognition of the skills involved, but it's always fallen on deaf ears (I guess I'll just have to chair my own convention).

Part of my four day trip to to speak with a couple of people about their intended involvement with my 2015 NatCon, I think we're all on the same page – My intended guest of Honour Gail Carriger has been asked about participating in a corset panel, she's amicable to the suggestion and has certain ideas on the correct fitting which (thankfully) the person who made the suggestion also follows the same styles of wear.

A spot of Morris Dancing, a Regency Ball and some Scottish Country Dancing.

There'd been some consternation leading up to the "Queensland Morris' Ale" like in previous years, I've helped with the running of said Ales, this year, when the date was set I realised that I would be in New Zealand, and so couldn't go. I offered to do "On Line / email etc" but between the intention being sounded and the final siren sounding, others expectations of what I was intending to do got muddled and so a few basics never got done. Lots of finger pointing ensued (some of it directed at me) – thankfully it all blew over fairly quickly.

For the first time in some 5 years I donned the Regency clothing and went along to a Playford Ball. The lady friend I go Morris Dancing with accompanied me and a great time was had by one and all. I had to laugh when dancing one dance with a woman I'd never seen before, she complimented me on my outfit, "Where did I get it?" (When one goes to a Regency Ball, one quickly assumes a certain level of grace and decorum) – The lady explained to me that she was a member of "Dance Kaleidoscope" and promptly explained to me that (Unlike "Sellengers 'Round") Dance kaleidoscope was danced by more serious dancers who were more professional.

I was impressed by the spiel and managed to keep a straight face right up to the moment I retorted with "I know – I was a foundation member..."

It actually felt strange having been a member of a dance group and leave and come back and not recognise most of the core dancers who'd been dancing with the group for years. Other dance groups (Like the once mighty *Moreton Bay Morris* had dwindled and the folded, but this was different, the side has kept going in the ensuing years).

1 Being what I had to buy a couple of before the Playford Ball – they were the only two items on my shopping list.

NetHack and Hearse

“@” In the past two or three months I’ve started re-discovering and playing *Nethack* – nethack.org - If you’ve ever heard the name, you’ll know it to be an old friend that you can come back to time and time and time again with fresh eyes - NetHack if you don’t know is a roguelike computer game that was both Dos based and turn based. I’ve always felt that NetHack is one of the most complex games that you’ll ever play (in-spite it’s ANSI graphics – part of it’s enduring charm). The current version 3.4.3 has been in play for about eight years now – one of the mysteries of the game is the secret squirl surrounding the DevTeam who develop and expand the game based heavily on JRR Tolkien’s Lord of the Rings books. When the Lord of the Rings Movies were imminently due to be released a minor patch was released so that occasionally when you encounter a Hobbit and #chat “The Hobbit asks about the One Ring.”

Concerning Hearse...

Hearse is a very small file that will upload and download “Bones” files – levels of the game where other players (or your own) have died and their possessions (and more importantly what killed them) are able to be exchanged – You may never play a Monk, a Tourist or a Wizard, but by loading a bones file from another player, Xena the Valkyrie can don a blessed fireproof +3 T-Shirt to wear under her grey dragon scales while wielding a wizards quarterstaff.

Unfortunately, I was taught to play Nethack by someone that only ever played the game using a (heavily frowned upon) technique called *Save Scumming*. It’s probably a good thing I’ve had such a long break from playing as I’m learning to play the game from scratch and haven’t allowing myself the luxury of playing a Save Scum game (The name derived from the opinion that ‘Saving’ is for Scum – basically cheating so that every which is granted, every battle decided before hand...)

I’ve had to resign up for Hearse (a true shame as I’d have been one of the top ten longest users of the service) but since I have resigned, I’ve already uploaded 1% of the Dos 3.4.3 bones files

<http://hearse.krollmark.com/bones.dll?act=userstats&user=14869> <http://tinyurl.com/Kroll14869>

I haven’t spent an all nighter playing NetHack this time around, but it’ll come and I’ll wonder where a night went.

I love New York (even on a wet day).

Railway Tunnels flooded, power out to Millions – it’s either a jolly big movie set, or it’s a natural disaster with a difference. I hope the residence of New York City and State and the surrounding areas will come through this disaster and hopefully it won’t become a common occurrences.²

²—And as much as it pains me to say it, I think the ever so close Presidential race will be won by Barack Obama due to the disaster unfolding – I would prefer it wasn’t the case, but it is. (I can’t believe I wrote that – Barack Obama earned his election on his own merits)

Mailing Comments:

Christopher Garcia: Podcasting: I never got an email link to your podcasts and I also haven't spotted a link in your Twitter feed, is there any chance you can let me know so I can download and appraise? - Thanks.

(which leads into) my other guests Pip Ballentine and Tee Morris are chronic podcasters / Twitterers / Facebookers etc – I've downloaded their more recent efforts - "The Shared Desk" and also the Ministry of Peculiar Occurrences" while I haven't listened to the latter, I'm having trouble listening to the former owing to the varying levels of sound which becomes quite glaring. One person will be in a soft almost whisper then say something which the other will howl at with laughter and will feed the discussion. While the conversation is interesting to listen to, I personally can't listen to the Shared Desk podcast with ear buds in owing to the roller coaster of sound.

I'll finish off for now and send this Marty's way., I hope any friends you have on the East Coast are coping as best they can. Now is the time to dry out if they can.

Take Care,

Andrew.

...and what was the Scottish Country Dance connection? Where I was tonight when I realised I'd better get cracking on the contrib.