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You know, thinking about it some more, I came up with another reason why SF/SF needs to be an e-zeen rather than paper. And that’s the photos. Trying to do full colour in a paper medium is normally just far too expensive. But of course for e-fanzeens, it costs nothing extra. And given your coverage of cosplay and similar costume-based fandoms, photos are an obvious (you might even say necessary) addition to event reports. Do pure cosplay fanzeens exist, or is it pretty much a web-based community? If there are cosplay fanzeens, how do they get over the colour issue?

It would be interesting to know how many people’s first convention is a Worldcon. As you say, it’s often large enough for newcomers to feel lost in the chaos, so it’s not really an ideal introduction. And yet that “Worldcon” tag will lead to *mainstream* local media coverage that no other convention – even a large regional like SiliCon (I promise to get the middle capital right this time!) or Baycon – can get. So it will tend to drag in people who have a fringe fan interest – what Arnie Katz refers to as “anybody who does more than just read the books or watch the movies” – and possibly lead to them getting more involved. With everything else going on at a Worldcon, I guess that reaching out to these newcomers can be difficult, although the Information Desk section will normally go out of their way to help if they possibly can.

Anyway, at the moment, I would say that there is about a 50% chance of me making it to Worldcon in Los Angeles next year, so if I do, see you there!

I suspect that Lloyd’s point about requiring “many fans of those various interests to accept the other fandoms and interests as valid” is the crux of the matter. I guess the problem is that what *should* happen is that the various fandoms should support each other against the mundane world’s view that “being a fan of X/Y/Z is stupid/silly/a waste of time.” Making common cause and sharing ideas on infrastructure – does it make sense to have fanzeens in a particular fandom? How about conventions? What would be the cosplay equivalent of a book author signing? And so on.

Instead, there is a tendency to share the mundane world’s view of other fandoms. Not recognizing that supporting someone else’s right to be a fan of X is also supporting your own right to be a fan of Y. The fact that you may have no personal interest in X doesn’t matter - everyone is free to set the limits of their own personal fandom. But this doesn’t have to involve dising other fandoms. It may be a noble and lonely thing to be a fan, but we sometimes seem intent on making this even more so for each other.

OK, rant over. Especially since I’m probably preaching to the choir here, as SF/SF is probably about as inclusive as fandom gets.

Your piece on Robert Jordan mentioned that one of his fans had bought “naming rights” to a character in a charity auction. This is an idea that increasingly seems to be taking off. Of course, there is a long and venerable tradition of this in Science Fiction novels - the practice is named “Tuckerization,” after Bob Tucker, the fan and pro writer who started it. And other SF authors have long used it as a way of ego-booing their friends or irritating their enemies. But auctioning off “Tuckerizations” for charity seems to be a fairly new, and welcome, development.

Jack Avery replies:

Yes, Science Fiction/San Francisco is a very image-heavy zine and printing out those pages in color would be prohibitively
expensive. Even in black and white, printing out and mailing copies of a 50 to 100 page zine every two weeks would be too expensive to contemplate. To do color, we'd need a grant, a large one.

As for cosplay zines: Well, there's two that I know of, Backnumbers Press published five issues of the now defunct Cosplay Magazine (the first issue was titled Cosplay at Fanime) that were devoted to the Bay Area cosplay scene. The zines attracted very little attention as the cosplayers seemed to be more attuned to html-based rather than pdf-based publishing and Traditional Fanzeen Fandom gave the whole thing a big yawn. There was also quite a bit of cosplay coverage in the only issue of Backnumber Press' genzine Don't Shake Me. These issues are still available at www.efanzines.com. Since these were efanzines, they are filled with color photos. Only a few copies of issue one of Cosplay Magazine were ever printed, and were franked through a mailing of the Pulp Era Amateur Press Society.

The second cosplay zine is apparently still active. Joe E.'s American Costumer/Cosplayer is a hard copy zine that tries to publish once a year. The zine is in full color and printed on Joe's home printer. There should be at least two issues published to date. His website is at http://www.snowcrest.net/fox/jag/. Cost for each issue is $8, which is pretty good for a 40-page zine in color. I haven't actually seen copies of this, but I'm told it does exist.

There are a great number of web sites that take the place of zines for the cosplayers. Among the best is http://www.usagichan.com/ which has con reports and photos by Bay Area cosplayer photographer Lionel. Lionel travels to most of the major anime conventions. The California Cosplay Times (www.californiaCosplaytimes.com) run by Oakland-based photographer Brocas (who is also the bass player for legendary heavy metal band Brocas Helm), focuses on West Coast cons, and is particularly good at covering the smaller local cons. Another good site is www.consplayers.com with many photo galleries and which is known for studio-quality set-ups at conventions. It's run by a northern California family, including daughter Pikmin Link, who is a prominent local cosplayer, her brother Jedi Master who is very involved in local Star Wars fandom, and their parents. Nationally, www.cosplay.com is a major site that features the work of San Francisco photographer Eurobeat King. Cosplay.com also has a very active forum with hundreds of members.

Of course, a lot of the cosplay fan action takes place on the networks of livejournals interconnected by friends lists.

Our coverage, so far, has skewed toward costume-oriented fandom. I don't think it's a case of too much costuming, but rather not enough coverage of other fandoms. Since Jean is a costumer and I like anime, we have those areas covered pretty well. Personally, and not speaking for the editorial board, I'm disappointed that we don't have better representation from Filk fandom, traditional fandom, literary fandom, conrunning fandom, SCA fandom, gaming fandom... The list goes on and on.

We make a real effort to get people out to as many different areas as we can and have as broad a coverage as possible, but without people who are "inside" those fandoms contributing, there's a limit to what we can do. In the early days of the zine, I spent one Saturday driving several hundred miles trying to cover as many
different events as possible by myself. That didn’t work well, I didn’t get to half the events I should have, I ended up being too tired to get all of the articles done in time for the issue, and I certainly can’t be doing that every weekend.

I have noticed that we have photos of the same folks in issue after issue. That’s simply a reflection of the fact that those people enjoy the same sort of events that our staff members enjoy. Hopefully, as we recruit more people, we’ll see some different faces.

When I founded this zine, I was looking at Arnie Katz’s *Vegas Fandom Weekly* for inspiration. I thought *SF/SF* would end up looking a lot like his zine, but it seems we’ve ended up with almost the complete opposite in term of coverage. He’s got all the traditional bases covered, yet I notice he never mentions the media groups or anime groups in Las Vegas, and he didn’t cover the recent Anime Vegas at all. I think he’s missing a bet there, but it’s his zine. While we have event and media fandom coverage, we are surprisingly weak on social fandom and traditional fandom. I’d like to see that change, but without those sectors pitching in and sending us coverage, there’s not much we can do.

The local Worldcon held here a few years ago was hardly my first convention, but it didn’t stop me from feeling lost in the chaos. But then again, I’m one of those Fringe Fans you mention. I grew up thinking that I was a Fan, I just didn’t live anywhere where there were any other Fans with whom I could engage in Fanac. Now that I’m here in the Bay Area, I’ve come to realize that I never was a Fan. I just read the stuff. The thing that puzzles me is that it seems enjoying science fiction doesn’t have much to do with being a fan. Just look at all the science fiction fanzines that don’t publish anything about science fiction.

The Balkanization of Fandom is troubling, and I’m not sure what needs to be done. I must admit, I just don’t “get” some segments of fandom. And I know that some fellow fans just don’t “get” my fan interests. I know anime fans who are flabbergasted that I actually READ old pulp stories from the 1930s and 1940s. At the same time, there are some fellow pulp fans who just don’t understand what I see in that Japanese cartoon stuff. But the problem goes deeper than just not sharing interests in a subculture. There seems to be an actual animosity among some of the groups.

My personal bias is that some people take things a bit too far. I get along well with anime costumers, even though I don’t cosplay myself, because they have a sense of perspective. They are just regular people who are in a costume. They don’t try to convince you that they ARE the character they are dressed up as. Some other folk take things too far, insisting that they ARE an alien or whatever character they are dressed as and insisting that everybody play along. As far as I’m concerned, that’s just short of wearing a tinfoil hat to thwart the CIA’s mind control microwaves. If you insist that you’re Slag-Blah of the Krusties Empire I’ll treat you just as I treat the guy who wanders around downtown Santa Rosa screaming incoherently at invisible demons.

And it’s not just the costumers and media fans, many fans seem to feel positively evangelic about their chosen fan interests. Everybody is so insistent that their way is the only true fannish way and everybody else is apostate. It often seems easier to avoid other fans rather than have them try to convert one to the cause. Pretty soon we’ll have fans in costume going door to door asking folks if they’ve accepted Ghu as their personal savior.

But that doesn’t mean that fans shouldn’t make the effort to get along. Jean is a fan of the Firefly/Serenity universe, while nothing that Joss Whedon has ever done has raised more than a yawn from me. That doesn’t stop us from collaborating on a zine, and I think the article she did on the
SF Browncoats was one of the best articles I ran back when I was the only editor around here. I just don’t understand Chris’ interest in pro wrestling, and I doubt he shares my fondness for cosplay photography, but that hasn’t stopped us from finding common ground in our fanzine interests.

SF/SF has always had an inclusive editorial stance. When I founded it, I deliberately tried to include areas of fandom in which I had no interest. I didn’t want to offend any fan by showing disrespect for the things they liked.

I think traditional fandom is just plain in the wrong for ignoring the “new” fandom.

Many people are talking about the graying of fandom, how instead of being driven by teenagers, fandom is now being driven by senior citizens. But they are only looking at their narrow slice of fandom. The younger generation of fans is just as active as previous generations, is greater in number, and is greater in diversity. I’m really happy that anime fandom is bringing large numbers of women and minorities into contact with science fiction fandom.

One of the things I found is that most fans have diverse fan interests; rare is the fan who is involved in only one narrow fan pursuit. A young fan I recently met through anime fandom turned out to be a fan of one of my favorite fantasy authors. While she’ll never be a pulp collector, and I’ll never be a Yaoi fan, we have quite a number of other fan interests in common. I would have missed out on a new friendship had I dismissed her as just a costumer who dressed up as a character from a video game that I’d never heard of.

Hopefully we’re exposing our readers to a wider range of fandom than they would otherwise encounter and perhaps we’re breaking down some of the prejudices that exist.

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**Editorial**

**By Jean Martin**

Autumn is the season when the Northern Hemisphere transitions from warm and sunny Summer to dark and chilly Winter. Not abruptly, but over a period of time when it feels like Summer one day and Winter the next. But Daylight Saving Time has ended and the rains have begun, and the leaves outside my window are turning. So I guess we’re now truly in the midst of Fall. Having grown up in a tropical climate close to the Equator, this time of the year is very difficult on me health-wise. I’m suffering my first, and hopefully the last, cold of the season. I’ve also been very introspective and somewhat gloomy.

Looking on the positive side, however, Fall is a time of celebration. Halloween just passed, and what a Halloween that was for me (see my article on the Foster City and Castro Halloween festivities)! Thanksgiving and Dickens Fair (see the News and Notes section for more information on the Dickens Fair) are around the corner. A lot to look forward to. On the other hand, it would be nice to slow down a bit after the whirlwind year I’ve been having!

Traditionally, Autumn was a time of reaping as well as celebration. Pagan cultures, which were more attuned with nature’s rhythm, took this time to celebrate the harvest as they also slowed down for the Winter. We could probably all take a page out of their book and use this time to reflect on the good things in our lives, our friends and family, as well as our accomplishments. And yes, take the time to slow down and take care of ourselves. A tall order but one that I will try to subscribe to. I wish you all a happy and safe Thanksgiving!
Dickens Fair Preview

The Great Dickens Christmas Fair has been ushering in the holiday season for several decades to the delight of the young and the young at heart from all over the Bay Area and beyond.

I went to one of these a long time ago when it was still at Fisherman’s Wharf and I remember being immersed in the Victorian age during Christmas. I felt like I was part of Charles Dickens’s popular novel, A Christmas Carol. But I also recall it being a confusing, labyrinthine location and didn’t go back to it until a couple of years ago at its new home at the Cow Palace. From then on, I was hooked.

The streets are laid out better and it does seem like you’re in Victorian London as you interact with costumed players, eat Cornish pasties, take afternoon tea, play games and watch some amazing theater (Mad Sal’s Dockside Alehouse is bawdy old-style fun). And then, of course, there’s the dancing at Fezziwig’s Warehouse. Straight out of a scene from A Christmas Carol. Don’t be intimidated, get up your courage and find someone to dance with! There are several dance hosts and hostesses who are more than willing to teach you the waltz and the polka. It is so much more fun to participate than just watch on the sidelines. There are also a few English Country dances, which I personally prefer as the waltz and polka tend to make me dizzy. And if you are lucky enough, you can dance or watch my favorite (and most everyone’s in the vintage dance community), the Congress of Vienna Waltz. The excellent Bangers and Mash usually perform the lively tunes. At the end of the day, Fezziwig’s does a sing-along Messiah in four-part harmony and Christmas caroling too. No Scrooge will be left unmoved by all this holiday spirit.

Shopping is also a treat at the Fair. You can purchase lace gloves, fans, Victorian attire, antique books, jewelry, Christmas ornaments and decorations, etc. So you can have fun while buying unique gifts for your loved ones or yourself! Food and drink abound as well.

Dickens Fair is similar to Renaissance Faires as it is run by the Pattersons who started Ren Faires in the 1970s. So come in costume and be a part of it, or not, as you prefer. You’ll have a jolly good time in olde England either way.

The Dickens Fair will be held at the Cow Palace Exhibition Halls for four weekends and the day after Thanksgiving from November 25 through December 18. Tickets are $20 at the door. For advance discounted tickets and more information, visit http://www.dickensfair.com/.

— Jean Martin

Fanzines Published

Cheryl Morgan’s Emerald City has put out a new issue and it’s currently available at EmCit.com. It heads off with a review of the hotly anticipated George R.R. Martin novel A Feast of Crows.

Christopher J. Garcia has been busy, as always. The Drink Tank 48-52 are now available on eFanzines.com, as is Claims Department 4 + 5, the travel/light review zine that will soon be a part of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association mailings. Found in Collection, the regular Garcia column in Catchpenny Gazette, is also up in issue Number 12 on eFanzines.com, as is a review of Constantine in Some Fantastic #6. Also, the most recent issue of Nth Degree has an article on Toastmastering BayCon.

— Chris Garcia
I like art. I really do. I even worked at the National Museum of American Art right after I got out of Santa Clara High. While trolling the net for images to use for The Drink Tank, I discovered deviantART.com, a website where artists can put up any art they like. I quickly became addicted and have been going to it all the time.

The first name that comes to mind when I think of BArea folks who are a part of deviantART is Bri-chan (aka Brianna Garcia [no known relation]). She’s a student at the Art Institute (my favorite haunted college in the US) and she does a lot of great work in the realm of fangirl art. Lots of gargoyles, tons of anime-influenced works, and fan art of Disney and Nightmare Before Christmas characters that I think are wonderful. I’d say my favorite of her pieces is a beautiful portrait of Mitch Hedberg, the comedian who died last year and made me very sad.

There’s a woman who calls herself GrrlintheCorner whose stuff I really like. She is a photographer from the city where I will soon be Mayor, San Jose. There’s a lot of great photography on deviantART, but her stuff seems so wonderfully shaped with a range that goes from abstract to poignant. Her work with structures like freeway overpasses, parking garages and rockscapes really shows a strong sense of formalism and attention to strong formations.

Another photog that I enjoy goes by populationcontrl. Representing the Silicon Valley, she has a small gallery of work, including several taken at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. They are remarkable photos, especially one of a shark in the big tank down there. Well worth the time.

One last photograph maven that I have marked is Laura of Sunnyvale, who goes by Xeyda. Not only has she done some great straight photography, including a beautiful piece of an icon at a church in Sunnyvale that I used to drive by all the time, but has done some fine photo manipulations and fractal art. I’m a big fan of fractal art and some of the stuff she does is just simple and clean and arresting. Kendra Ann Madsen is another Sunnyvale photographer that you should look out for.

Santa Cruz is a strange town, and an artist out of SC is another that I visit regularly. Michael H Lee goes by Monertia and does some great, surreal and somewhat filthy works in pen and ink and various other forms. While some of the images are a bit adult, they are all well designed and feel like they’d fit in with the Santa Cruz vibe quite nicely. I’d say you can see influences from R. Crumb and old Fillmore rock show posters. One piece, a silkscreened thing called A Patient Man, is beautiful and disturbing.

So, if you like interesting art, and are willing to wade through a bit of lesser work to get to the great, I highly recommend deviantART.com.

Artists Mentioned:
Bri-Chan- [http://bri-chan.deviantart.com/]
GrrlintheCorner- [http://GrrlintheCorner.deviantart.com/]
Populationcontrl- [http://Populationcontrl.deviantart.com/]
Xeyda- [http://Xeyda.deviantart.com/]
Kendra Ann Madsen- [http://withinillusion.deviantart.com/]
Michael H. Lee- [http://Monertia.deviantart.com/]

Have something to say about Science Fiction/San Francisco? Or about fandom in general?
Send your letter of comment to: SFinSF@gmail.com
KTSF Presents Wind and Cloud II

By Jack Avery
Editor

San Francisco television station KTSF continues to serve the Asian fantasy and martial arts fans in the Bay Area with a subtitled broadcast of Wind and Cloud II, the sequel to the television series based on the Storm Riders comic book.

The television series has a different cast than that of the Storm Riders movie that was based on the same material, and the second series picks up the story from where the movie ended. Unfortunately, it’s far from the best thing KTSF has aired in the Chinese fantasy TV genre.

The 28-episode series began on November 9 and will finish its run on December 19. KTSF aired the original Wind and Cloud series from January to March 2003. Wind and Cloud II is broadcast Monday through Friday on KTSF at 8 p.m. Adding a bit of confusion, the San Francisco Chronicle’s TV listings are incorrectly calling this “Wind and Clouds.”

The station broadcasts two hours of Chinese-language dramas Monday through Friday from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. When possible, these are also subtitled in English by the station. While not all of these are of interest to science fiction fans, quite a few of the series have fantastic content. Earlier this year, the station subtitled and aired the excellent martial arts epic Tian Xai Di Yi (Number One in the World or World’s Finest) under the title Hero. They also showed My Date With A Vampire III, unfortunately without subtitles.

The showing of Tian Xai Di Yi was subtitled by the station itself and is the only English-subtitled version of the show. Unfortunately, there are no plans to re-run it and the station does not have the rights to sell the subtitled version.

KTSF Director of Programming Victor Marino said the station will continue to show Chinese dramas in the future, and some of them will be subtitled in English, even though the station’s target audience speaks Cantonese or Mandarin.

“As far as future plans go -- we always look to air the highest rated series that is available and, when possible, subtitle them in English,” Marino said. “It’s the last part that’s tricky.

“It falls upon us to have a series translated into English and then, using a clean master, reposition the Chinese subtitles so that there is room for both languages.

Peter Ho as Striding Cloud
Zhao Wen Zhuo as Wind

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“It falls upon us to have a series translated into English and then, using a clean master, reposition the Chinese subtitles so that there is room for both languages.
“Additionally, clearing English subtitle rights can be a problem -- some companies refuse to release them due to other obligations that they may have.”

I wish I could say that Wind and Cloud II is good. But after watching the first couple of episodes, I have to say that sadly it's actually pretty bad. And I'm speaking as a fan of this sort of thing.

The first problem is with the martial arts. Every fight scene – and I must admit, there is an abundance of fight scenes – is filmed at high speed. This is an old martial arts movie trick used to make inexperienced actors look like they can throw kicks and punches as fast as a real martial artist. It also serves to hide the awkwardness of their form. Some of these fights are speeded up to the extent that you can see the stuttering frames.

In addition to this, bad CGI special effects are overused to “enhance” the martial arts and cover up the ineptitude of the actors. In one scene, they don't even bother to film the actors; they just create CGI images that look like video game characters fighting. It's as if one were suddenly watching a video game cut scene instead of a live action show. Of course, the martial arts here are supposed to be of the comic book variety, with punches that blow up buildings and kicks that level mountains, but the producers let the special effects sell the fights rather than the actors.

There are also a number of cheap camera tricks, such as close-ups and the implying of action off-screen, used in place of actually showing the characters fighting.

This is all the more disappointing as Zhao Wen Zhuo (Wind) actually has some martial arts chops. He majored in martial arts at Beijing Sports University and studied the same form of martial arts as Jet Li. Even if he is not at Li's level, he should be able to convincingly throw a punch or a kick without needing tricks. Sadly, he's reportedly said that he enjoyed filming the original Wind and Cloud series because it was easy. He didn't have to fight, he just had to pose and the computer did all the fighting for him.

It's hard to believe that Tony Ching Sui Tung, a noted martial arts director, is in charge of the fight scenes. He's done excellent work in the past, and has experience in blending martial arts action with computer graphic enhancements.

And then we have the plot. It's based on the Storm Riders comic book by Mah Shing Wing, so not much can be expected.
Storm Riders is hardly the Watchmen of the Chinese comic book field, despite its popularity.

The first episode starts out with a lengthy recap of the ending fight from the first series. We see Lord Conquer about to take over the Martial Arts World, but wait, Wind and Cloud show up riding on the back of a giant flying manta ray that can swim through the earth. A CGI battle follows until Wind and Cloud hit the cmd B, up, up, right, down buttons and unleash their special move. Conquer dies and all is right with the world.

But wait, unbeknownst to our heroes, an evil CGI cloud appears and sticks an ice mask onto a random henchman. Our new villain is born: "Ice Mask." (Actually he doesn't seem to have a name, but Ice Mask seems to be the internet consensus.)

Ice Mask is a comic book villain in the most negative sense of the term. He doesn't have any reason to do any of the evil things he does, other than liking to mess with the heroes. At least Lord Conquer wanted to rule the world.

Ice Mask poses and preens, threatens and rants, but he doesn't seem to have any goals other than to be the bad guy tormenting our heroes.

Wind has retired to spend his days pining for his lost wife, Dream, who was killed in the first series. Cloud has also retreated from the world of the martial arts to be with his wife, Muse, and son, Striding Cloud Jr.

Ice Mask steals the body of Dream and attacks Wind, telling him that he can restore Dream to life. All Wind has to do is kill one person for every 3 years of Dream's life. Wind is understandably unhappy and doesn't believe Ice Mask can restore Dream to life. Many CGI-enhanced fights ensue, including one particularly silly one where the pair battle while skiing downhill without the benefit of skis. Meanwhile the four jerks of the compass (The Lion of the North and the Laughing Buddha of the East are the only two memorable enough for me to, well, remember their names) show up trying to convince Cloud to take over the World of the Martial Arts. Much CGI-enhanced kung fu occurs when Cloud tells them to get lost.

The whole thing goes downhill from here, with Dream resurrected but without her memory and thinking that Wind killed her family. A guy named Morn shows up who turns out to be a good guy who, under the influence of a drug, raped Muse in the last series. (It seems that Striding Cloud Jr. may really be Morn Jr.) Oh, the angst! This is basically a soap opera with martial arts and lots of computer-aided special effects. Which would be fine if the martial arts and special effects were any good.

The acting is not very good either. Zhao Wen Zhuo not only chews up the scenery, in some cases, he uses his martial arts to blow it up. Peter Ho, who plays Striding Cloud, doesn't have much to work with, as his character is supposed to be unemotional, but he seems pretty wooden anyway. Whoever is behind the Ice Mask (unfortunately I don't read Chinese, so I can't tell who is credited here) has to act with a silly mask covering his face. He makes up for it with ridiculously overblown gestures and silly prancing.

Overall, this is a disappointing entry in the Chinese fantasy TV series genre, although admittedly, I'm basing my review on only the first two episodes. Perhaps it will improve in the coming weeks.
The Universe According to Stephen Hawking

By Jean Martin
Editor

When I heard that Dr. Stephen W. Hawking was going to give a couple of lectures in the Bay Area, I jumped at the chance to see him. I was able to get a ticket for his appearance at the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts last November 7th. I looked forward to being in the presence of one of the most brilliant scientific minds of our times, who is also credited with making the science of cosmology accessible to the layperson. I was also curious as to how he would give an entire speech because he suffers from Lou Gehrig’s disease, and can only communicate through a computerized voice synthesizer.

He exceeded my expectations in that respect. He was a very entertaining, and even humorous, speaker! Hawking wheeled onto center stage, with his personal/technical assistant behind him, as Wagner’s “Ride of the Valkyries” blared out from the speakers. Curious choice of music! I guess it was meant to highlight his strength of character and indomitable spirit. I remember the last time I was at the same venue, I was there to watch Patrick Stewart, Captain Picard from Star Trek: The Next Generation. The theme song for his talk, “You’re Unbelievable,” was similarly interesting. Which brings me to an interesting bit of trivia. Hawking appeared on an episode of ST:TNG playing poker with Sir Isaac Newton, Albert Einstein and Commander Data! Yes, Hawking follows in the
footsteps of the Newton and Einstein. He currently holds the Lucasian Professorship of Mathematics at Cambridge University in the U.K., which was at one time held by Newton. Hawking is also generally considered the modern-day Einstein.

Backtracking a bit, the evening began with an introduction by Walter C. Rhines, CEO of Mentor Graphics, which sponsored Hawking’s lecture. Rhines explained how Hawking delivers his speeches. He tapes his lectures beforehand and during the actual event, he feeds it to the computer one sentence at a time. A short film was then played, which showed Hawking visiting students from the Bay Area’s Bridge School, a school for the developmentally disabled. In the film, he retold his story about how he was a university student at Cambridge when he found out he had motor neurone disease. And how he communicates through a speech synthesizer by choosing words on a computer screen by clicking a switch with his fingers and forms one sentence at a time. Rhines updated this after the film by saying that now Hawking uses blinks instead of the switch.

After thunderous applause and a standing ovation from the audience, Hawking proceeded to give a brief history of the science of cosmology for about 30 minutes. He is, after all, the best-selling author of the most popular science book ever, *A Brief History of Time*. The talk was pretty basic. Most of it I already knew from school, my own readings, PBS documentaries, and other speeches. However, it was a thrill and privilege to hear it from the foremost expert in the field. As I mentioned already, he was also very entertaining. He peppered his monologue with jokes and colorful slides on a huge projector screen behind him.

Well, here is my brief summary of his brief history. Basically, his talk, entitled “The Origin of the Universe,” aimed to address two questions humans have asked since we evolved into thinking and conscious beings: “Why are we here?” and
“Where do we come from?” He began with a creation myth from an ancient culture. He then moved on to the ancient Greeks, specifically Aristotle who believed in an eternal universe with no god. Then he recounted Christian theology from the first millennium with St. Augustine of Hippo as an example. From the 18th century and the Age of Enlightenment came Immanuel Kant with his concept of absolute time. Then, of course, came Albert Einstein in the 20th century. Einstein postulated that time is combined with space in spacetime, which is curved by the matter and energy in the universe.

Einstein’s General Theory of Relativity, however, only explains how the universe evolves, but not how it began. Thus, the search was on for a more complete theory, as Einstein does not account for the small scale governed by Quantum Theory. Current theories now aim to combine Relativity Theory with Quantum Theory.

They are aided by more advanced technology and methods for studying the universe, including observations by Edwin Hubble, who discovered that stars are not uniformly distributed in space, and galaxies are moving away at a faster speed the farther away they are. This supports the theory of an expanding universe, one that began around 15 billion years ago. Another observable phenomenon is radiation left from the universe’s early dense state called Microwave Background Radiation. The universe expanded in a tiny fraction of a second.

This falls in line with the theory formulated by Hawking and his colleague Roger Penrose. Together they came up with the Hawking-Penrose Theory, in which the universe began with a Big Bang. Other concepts Hawking discussed included:

- Time can behave like another direction in space.
- The beginning of the universe was governed by laws of science.
- Nothing happened before the universe began.
- There are lots of other possible universes but most are too small and collapse before forming galaxies and intelligent life.
- We are the product of early fluctuations in the universe.

Hawking ended his talk with the thought that there has been tremendous progress in the field of cosmology, and that we are getting close to answering the age-old questions he began the lecture with: “Why are we here?” and “Where do we come from?” He also added another question: “Will the universe expand forever or will the universe eventually collapse?”

The floor was then opened to questions from the audience. Most of the questions were answered by his personal assistant, based on his knowledge of how Hawking has answered similar questions in the past. Such as his favorite food (curry), that he’s an opera fan and goes to see the San Francisco Opera whenever he’s in town, and that he believes in God — not in a personal one but in the laws of nature. For new questions, it took a while for Hawking to answer as he had to formulate the sentences from scratch. The most interesting one was when someone asked if he believed humans could eventually achieve time travel. His answer was that we are all going forward in time anyway! That was quite a clever comeback and something that we do forget to think of as such. The most humorous question was what he thought of Homer Simpson’s donut-shaped universe. Hawking has appeared on the TV show The Simpsons several times, apparently. He said that there are extra dimensions that we don’t see curled up like a donut.

All in all, it was an evening well worth the price of admission. Entertainment with an educational focus is always a good way to spend one’s time and money.
Cosplay at Anime Destiny at UC Berkeley
Lemony Snicket (Daniel Handler)
In The Haight

By Diane Rooney
Staff Writer

It was a dark and stormy night. No, really, it was. But rain and wind didn’t keep Daniel Handler away from All Saints Church to talk about *The Penultimate Peril*, the 12th in his *Series of Unfortunate Events*. An audience of about 150, including lots of children, braved the weather for the Booksmith-hosted event November 7. Some had been waiting over an hour, so the noise and energy levels were pretty high.

If you’ve never seen Lemony Snicket, you definitely should, if for no other reason than that Handler is in character the whole time. He moves through the audience, interacts with the kids, sings, dances, manipulates mysterious props, plays the accordion, and talks (a little) about his books. His facial expressions and gestures are wonderfully droll.

Handler began by explaining that “all this water outside” had prevented Snicket from attending. Turns out, Snicket had been the victim of an unfortunate event, bitten in the armpit by a shark and paralyzed from the armpit down. A shark in a glass bottle, “so fearsome it should not
be seen by children” was dutifully revealed, with the wry comment: “One day all of us will be dead and in a jar.”

Handler had three important moral lessons to impart:
1. Never raise your hand. (You risk a shark bite in the armpit!)
2. If you see Count Olaf, scream and run away.
3. If you squeeze anything hard enough, eventually it will make noise.

Just after imparting the first lesson, he asked who had read any of the books, and nearly every hand went up. “Have you learned NOTHING?!” he screamed at the room full of sharkbite-vulnerable arms.

To demonstrate the third lesson, he selected two kids who were friends to come to the stage, where one demonstrated squeezing the other as hard as he could.

Handler floated effortlessly from topic to topic, taking his enthusiastic audience along as he riffed on why people hate the accordion and as he acted the part of Count Olaf, enraged that the children had made puttanesca sauce rather than roast beef for dinner.

“I’m sorry it was such a disappointment,” Handler said at the end. But his audience wasn’t listening. They were too busy rushing to the front of the hall for photos and autographs, before making their way home through San Francisco’s shark-infested waters.

Daniel Handler shows his talents extent to more than writing.  Photo by Diane Rooney
Halloween… Samhain… All Hallow’s Eve. The one night of the year when the spirits of the dead and of the underworld are said to all come into our world and roam freely. Based on a pagan celebration from before recorded history, the modern world’s version of Halloween seems less spiritual and more commercial… but a lot more fun!

Here in the U.S., Halloween has become a candy fest for children and a costume party for adults. This dichotomy was clearly evident to me this year as I celebrated Halloween first with my parents, sister and nephew at the yearly Foster City safe streets; then it was on to the annual Halloween Castro block party.

The Foster City event was wholesome entertainment. We followed my nephew as he trick-or-treated through several blocks of beautiful and amazingly decorated houses in one Foster City neighborhood. There were hundreds of people who were kept safe as the local police blocked off traffic into and out of the area. So we were all able to walk the streets as well as the sidewalks. It was pretty dark and some vendors were selling different colored neon glow tubes to place around kids’ necks. Some people even had glow sticks. In addition to the elaborate decorations, the homeowners actually were giving out lots of candies and other treats. What a generous community! I ran into a couple who used to be my neighbors and their daughter. I also came across a co-worker, his wife and three children. The male twins were wearing matching Buzz
Lightyear costumes. My nephew, Franco, who was dressed in a blue Power Ranger costume, enjoyed meeting them. Franco also liked seeing a lot of other children in Batman, Superman and other superhero costumes. There was also a family in Star Wars costumes: a Darth Vader, two Jedis and a Padme Amidala.

My favorites were a house with a complete spooky cemetery on the front lawn, a ghost pirate ship, and a garage door with a cartoon projected on it. We must have walked for over an hour and we didn’t manage to see it all. It was quite a huge setup. For some reason, this was not advertised nor could you search for it on the Internet. It’s a well-kept secret that people only know by word of mouth. So I suppose I’m blowing the cover on it with this article.

But the night was not yet over! I braved the Halloween Castro party for the first time and lived to tell the tale. I’ve resided in the Bay Area for 18 years, and even worked and lived in the Castro for several years, but never quite made it to this spectacle. Since it’s known around the world as one of the liveliest and raunchiest of Halloween celebrations, I was curious to find out for myself what made it so popular. Lots of people have told me over the years that it’s pretty wild and dangerous. So I went there with expectations of witnessing drunken debauchery.

Well, it took a long time to fight traffic as we neared the location. It seemed like everyone in San Francisco was on their way to the Castro by car and on foot! We saw lots of people, mostly young, in costumes walking from blocks away. Luckily, I was able to stay at a friend’s house for the night, and so we were able to park in his back parking lot. The police blocked off most of the streets surrounding the intersection of Castro and Market Streets. There was a helicopter patrolling the skies, and a contingent of motorcycle cops stood ready in a side alley. News vans were also in evidence as several newscasters were doing live broadcasts.

As I walked toward Market and Castro, I saw a huge sea of people for blocks on end.
There must have been several thousands there enjoying the live band playing on a stage, gawking at other costumed participants, eating, drinking, dancing, and just generally hanging out and having a good time. Being a Monday, the crowd was probably lighter than it could have been were Halloween on a weekend. Which was perfect as it was relatively easy to walk around, and it didn’t feel too claustrophobic.

Costumes ranged from superheroes to seductive club wear. From historical garb to science-fiction attire. Men in drag had some of the most colorful ones, as expected. There was a man in a really cool Willy Wonka outfit, two twin-looking girls in cute but sexy schoolgirl uniforms, Carmen Miranda and showgirls.

I know the Castro area like the back of my hand but it looked so different that night! It actually reminded me of Burning Man as it was dark, people in costumes were partying and drinking, and everyone was headed in one direction like the night of the Burn. The difference is that the Castro crowd seemed more eclectic.

We also saw several people having their own parties in the apartments off of Castro Street. One particular party had two men and one woman showing their wares as the crowd below cheered them on. Other than that, it really wasn’t that raunchy. And people weren’t supposed to bring drugs and alcohol so it seemed tamer than I expected actually. Still, I had an awesome time, and I had a grin on my face pretty much from the time I walked in to the time the police swept the place at around 12:30 a.m. asking everyone to leave.

Well, Halloween this year will be hard to top. I’m a costume enthusiast, as most people know, but Halloween is still special to me, as I didn’t grow up with Halloween where I come from. And this is the night of all nights for people who love to dress up and party.
The Vampires Have Their Ball

By Eva Kent
Staff Writer

On the haunted evening of Saturday, November 5th, living dead from around the Bay Area congregated at Pleasanton Senior Center for the annual Le Bal des Vampires put on by the Period Events and Entertainments Re-creation Society (PEERS). Throughout the year, PEERS explores specific time periods such as the 1950s with their Prom Ball, but the folklore of vampires spans many eras and this was reflected by the wide variety of costume, dances, music, and entertainment taking place at the ball.

Costumed guests walked into a darkened ballroom lit by black lights that emitted a purple haze, making the white of gentlemen's gloves and the trim of ladies' dresses glow. Golden strands of miniature lights hung from the rafters, creating a soft ambiance. Costumes at the ball included Merlin, Dracula, Xena, an evil winged sprite, pirates, and Victorian ladies and gentlemen. Death was also there. He was draped in a black mantle and seductively caressed his elegant Goth date. A few women wore adornments on their heads such as a bouncing bat, a dead bird with extended wings, and a large black and orange spider.

The music, performed by Brazen Hussey, a Celtic inspired violin-based band, and dances performed by the shockingly

Left: Dracula and Eva Kent.
Right: A Victorian Vampire

Photos by Jean Martin
undead, spanned the ages. The first set dance consisted of partnered guests following in a line behind the leaders of the set as they made a slow rotation of the room. The band played an eerie tune that was punctuated by ladies’ hoopskirts bouncing back and forth from their movement to the beat. Later on in the evening, another set dance was played and the tune was livelier than the first. Three long sets of partners were made and an estimated 60 people took part. Confused dancers swirled around as they tried to remember the sequence of steps they’d just learned. The dance was reminiscent of the scene in the movie *A Knights Tale* where participants at a ball danced to David Bowie’s *Golden Years*.

*Werewolves of London* was one of the first modern dance songs played and sung by Brazen Hussey. Guests did crazy free-form dancing and swing dance to this song. A smash hit with the crowd was the *Rocky Horror Picture Show’s Time Warp* song and dance. Everyone ran to the dance floor creating rows to sing along with PEERS performers on the stage. A performer held up a dance chart to instruct us where to step as they sang, “It’s just a jump to the left. And then a step to the right. With your hands on your hips. You bring your knees in tight. But it’s the pelvic thrust that really drives you insane. Let’s do the time-warp again!” Another modern rock song performed by a PEERS singer and Brazen Hussey was the Rolling Stones’ *Sympathy for the Devil*. Four well-dressed Victorian ladies crowded the front of the stage and expressed their adoration for the singer.

For guests who wished to know what was in store for them during this epoch in time, a tarot card reading table was set up in the back of the room. Dracula, aka John Barrows, had his cards read and found that the predictions sounded accurate and applicable to his life. Abra Kent also had her cards read and they told her that she would

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*Theatre des Vampires*

Photo by Jean Martin
would experience pain that was not her fault and would accomplish the goals she has set for herself. Guests listened respectfully and nodded their heads in agreement as the readers told them what the cards said.

During the band break, Theater of the Vampires entertained the crowd with a three-part performance that looked at different periods of time when vampires thrived. The first was set in the 1970s where a young vampire wooed a model with his disco dancing ability. The second part was an interpretation of Sheridan Le Fanu’s novella, *Carmilla*, which showed the dangers a female vampire imposes. The last part was a comedy titled *Carpe Draculum*, where a family of vampires attempts to adjust to the modern world. The play ended—as many of the guests’ evenings ended—with the question, “who should we have for breakfast?”
The fifth Bay Area Slash Convention was held November 4-6 at the Embassy Suites hotel in South San Francisco. Accurately billed as a convention “by fans for fans,” it’s small (about 130 this year, as hall rumor had it) and friendly, with a lot of repeat attendees. It grew out of the somewhat larger and more elaborate Friscon – which I can remember attending at least fourteen or fifteen years ago – so it’s part of a tradition older than it is.

If you don’t know what slash is (and didn’t read Andy Trembly’s report on YaoiCon in the last issue), I’ll give you the short version: It’s fan fiction, usually based on TV shows, in which the writers postulate same-sex romantic/sexual relationships between characters. It’s not science fiction per se, but I presume that this august publication wants a report on it because it’s a relative. Not unlike a somewhat disreputable cousin. As Andy pointed out, it grew out of Star Trek fanfic in the beginning. In addition to all the Trek series, many of the TV shows that are or have been popular with slashers have a science fiction or fantasy premise: both Stargates, Highlander, Dead Zone, Xena, sundry vampire shows – even Harry Potter and The Lord of the Rings. (Yes, that sound you hear is Tolkien spinning.)

It’s a very relaxed and informal con. Main programming starts Friday afternoon, with the more popular fandoms or topics scheduled for Saturday. One- or half-hour slots and a room are made available for people to discuss different fandoms or more general topics. A lot of these are unmoderated, which means they wander way off the point – or they can be very nice discussions with a chance for older fen to dispense wisdom to newbies (“Why, kids, I remember when these stories were distributed only by mimeo…What do you mean, ‘What’s mimeo?’”). Since a fairly high percentage of fans at this con are also fanfic writers, it’s also a good chance for writers and readers to meet. Slash fanfic is indeed largely but not exclusively a phenomenon of heterosexual women, mostly middle-aged ones. BASCon, however, always has a healthy sprinkling of gay men and lesbians, and an increasingly wide age range.

Various types of discussions are scattered throughout the con. Some cover general topics which would be of interest to any fen, particularly those involved in fanfic. “Generation Fan: Live Social Networks vs. Lone Wolves on the ‘Net” asked the question, “Do in-person social networks still have the same impact as they once did in the age of the Internet?” A couple other discussions dealt with the migration of much fanfic and discussion from email lists and plain old web sites to LiveJournals. There was a “LiveJournal 101” introduction, and a comparison of the relative merits of different ways/places to post fanfic: personal website, themed hosting site, LiveJournal, etc.

There was a NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) writing session, filking, and even an “Eye of Argon” reading that actually got through the whole thing. “Your Showbiz Questions Answered” was this year’s “expert” panel in which someone who worked in the industry answered questions.

Discussions that focused on the shows of interest to slashers verged from the specific to the general. At one end of that particular continuum are individual shows. What gets scheduled depends largely on the expressed interests of the con members (as was stated on registration forms or communicated later
via the con website [http://www.bascon.org](http://www.bascon.org) and Yahoo Groups mailing list). The most popular category of shows other than SF is, broadly defined, law enforcement. That includes the perennial favorite, *Starsky and Hutch* – an interest almost as venerable as *Star Trek*. Others with large followings have fantasy elements, like *The Sentinel* and *Due South*, or not – *The Man from Uncle*, or the British series *The Professionals*. (At least no more fantasy than the average TV show.)

Next comes groupings of shows by type or theme, e.g. “Spies and Slash in the 60s,” “Older Fandoms and New Fans” (what a difference a DVD makes), “Darkfic,” “What’s New on the Tube?,” “Fresh Girls – Femmeslash,” and “Your Favorite Vampires.”

That segues into the general theme panel – usually moderated and sounding not unlike many an academic conference I’ve attended. Sort of. “Geeks with a Gun,” moderated by the excellent Lady Ra, was particularly good. We reached a consensus that there was something intensely erotic about the combination of glasses and a thigh holster. I moderated one called “Slash Archetypes: Warrior and Wizard/Scholar/Mage,” which had a gratifying response from the audience. BASCon attendees are, by and large, a bunch of very articulate and creative people. All a moderator has to do is throw out a few ideas for discussion, stand back, and occasionally keep people from going too far off-topic.

For those of you who are dubious but still reading, and are asking yourselves, “Who are these people and why are they interested in this stuff?,” one of the most interesting sessions was “Girls Who Like Boys Who Like Boys: An Anthropological Overview of Slash.” Although that doesn’t describe all of slash, it describes most of it. This was a discussion panel organized by two young female slash fans, Megan Haines and Jaclyn Nelson, who are also anthropology majors at a university in Virginia doing a grant-funded (!) research project on slash and yaoi fans. Those kids will definitely go far in academia if they could get a grant to go to BASCon, which they did. It was ninety minutes that felt way too short, and was as illuminating for this long-time fan as for the researchers. It was fascinating to hear from a largish audience just what about slash fandom attracted them. A lot of it, maybe most of it, is true of fandom in general: the opportunity for a creative outlet as writer or artist, and the sense of community. Because slash fandom is a subset of a subset of a subset, that sense of community is perhaps all the stronger. If I’d known I was going to be asked to do this report I’d have taken better notes, but I can tell you it was a fascinating and illuminating experience. If you’re interested in getting updates on their research, they have a mailing list: [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/anthro_of_slash_and_yaoi/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/anthro_of_slash_and_yaoi/).

BASCon also has a modest – belay that, it’s most definitely *immodest*, just small – art show. The Dealer’s Room is nice and spacious, with zines and photos being the most common items available. There was a book dealer with a lot of SF items – your correspondent was happy to buy a copy of *Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell* (among other things) so she had a chance of finishing it before the library’s copy came due. A very nice jewelry dealer and a purveyor of swords and other fantasy paraphernalia put a dent in my wallet, but I now have the coolest business card holder of anybody at work, with a book-and-dragon theme. (It wasn’t designed to be one, but it is now.) A recent BASCon tradition has been to include a masseuse in the Dealer’s Room, and this year was no exception. She did an exceptionally good chair massage and I greatly regretted not be able to fit a room massage into my schedule.

One of the highlights of BASCon is the song vid program. (Little-known fact: Slash fans were doing music videos long before MTV was ever heard of.) This is another area where the digital revolution
has wrought an amazing transformation. I can remember people back in the seventies spending hundreds of hours putting these together in the days of videotape. Now DVDs and editing software allow people to create an astonishingly professional-looking end product in a fraction of the time. There were thirty-three separate vids, all put together on a DVD with a nice intro. Wonder of wonders, they actually managed to have copies available right after the program, and all sold out immediately. More will be available later. Not all vids were particularly slashy – some were just exuberant or dramatic paeans to good old-fashioned “cult TV” fandom, from The Tick to Star Wars to Alias Smith & Jones to the latest incarnation of Dr. Who. They were set to an interesting variety of music; it’s not often you hear Frank Sinatra and ZZ Top and Indigo Girls and The Dandy Warhols in the same program. There was a great deal of hootin’ and hollerin’ in the audience, and an exceedingly good time was had by all.

If you like small, friendly cons and you like slash – or even if you just think you might – I highly recommend BASCon. Proceeds, including those from raffle tickets, usually go to a local charity. Due to the importance of Hurricane Katrina, this year BASCon supported a national charity, America’s Second Harvest, instead. Sunday morning has a combined breakfast, Dead Dog Party, and raffle. Prizes are also handed out for the art show (based on voting of attendees) and the popular photo caption contest. Most of the winners cannot be repeated here.

BASCon labels itself gen-friendly, but it’s just friendly, period. Embassy Suites isn’t perfect – what con hotel is? – but since breakfast is included, as well as happy hour, it can be a great bargain for budget-minded con-goers. Each room has both a bedroom that can fit up to four people, plus a separate living room with a sofa bed. There’s also a small fridge and microwave, for those who don’t have the time or funds to eat in the hotel restaurant, which has a decent if unimaginative menu. There are also a lot of cheaper places to eat within walking or short driving distance. If one is not particularly budget-conscious but just likes the luxury of a spacious room – or just has a partner with a different biorhythm – the bedroom/living room setup is nice.

BASCon is usually at the same time of year, which happens to be just before my birthday, so I’ve come to view it as a very nice birthday present – a chance to visit with old friends, let my hair down (metaphorically) and eat too many carbs. What can be better?
November 7, 2005
Trey Haddad, President
Nathan Slerm-r & Chris Garcia, Vice-President
Dave Gallaher, Treasurer
Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms
Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Began at 8:01 p.m. - as folks outside slavered to set up the polls.

8 people attended.

Secretary’s report: the minutes of meeting 797 were accepted as ‘speeded up’.

No Treasurer [week 4] but the proxy report was that last week we took in $36.45 in the regular jar & $5.75 in the party jar.

VP reports = neither VP was in attendance.

The President reported that he had nothing fannish to report.

Announcements: Joni announced that she will be absent several weeks due to jaw surgery & that if you want to contact her, her email addy is current.

Reviews: Dave C reviewed BASCon as it went much as slash fiction cons usually go for him [he’s not really into the genre] & was worth pre-reg - & that the photo caption contest frightened him.

Joni reviewed ‘The Rapunzel Problem’ by Vivian VanGeld as YA fiction and an interesting little book.

We adjourned at = 8:15 p.m.

And the rumor of the week was ‘80% of BASFA’s members are away, waiting in line to vote at their polling places’.

Klingons from the Starfire Region at the Mars Will Return Event at Chabot Space Science Center in October

Photo by Mike Wilson

More photos from this event, with funny captions, can be found at www.ikvbloodlust.net
November 14, 2005
Trey Haddad, President
Nathan Slerm-r & Chris Garcia, VP
Dave Gallaher, Treasurer
Galen Tripp, Sergeant at Arms
Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Began at 8:04 p.m. - with a Galen sighting. 17 people attended [when you count the baby].

Secretary’s report: the minutes of meeting 798 were left at home.

Treasurer report was a bit late, but last week we took in $0.50.

VP report = VP Chris reported that he finished his novel, did a script, did a movie, watched Evelyn, put out Drink Tanks & started another novel. [no Nathan, wk 3]

The President welcomed back old members & commented that the Boondocks on the Cartoon network is worth watching.

Announcements: Cheryl announced that she brought copies of the latest Emerald City & she has the souvenir book from World Fantasy Con for folks to check out.

Chris announced that SFSF will be very large & will contain a BASCon report & a surprise article & he might have a TV show.

‘Bob’ announced that KTEH will have a profile of the first Dr Who that will air at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

Reviews: Kevin S reviewed Orycon as the result of a traumatic relocation & the new hotel is more vertical than horizontal. There was a lot of gaming programming now, the publications were quite nice and he was on 4 panels & participated in gaming: Texas Holdum - and won the Friday night tournament & came in 2nd on the Saturday night tournament. He had a good time & it was worth what he paid for it. Kevin also reviewed a NESFA Instant Messenger CCCP proposition as amusing.

Cheryl reviewed World Fantasy Con as there were more authors present than fans - she found a few panels that she liked & she accumulated piles of books. She commented they were rained on but she had brought her brelly, the art show was pretty good & 819 people attended. Chris follow-on’d that a pro-wrestler friend of his was at the same hotel and had a great time chatting with authors there. Dave G follow-on’d that he approved of the book ratio in the Dealer’s room & he liked the hotel.

Chris reviewed the single greatest thing that happened on the internet [check out the Colbert report] as hilarious & also reviewed an El Sato movie, ‘Wrestling Women vs the Aztec Mummy’, as the best thing ever put on tape and sold at a flea market for $1.75.

Kevin R reviewed a load of utter rubbish on the SciFi channel, especially ‘Path of Destruction’ as so incredibly awful that it was barely worth the price of not being able to move off the sofa.

Dave C reviewed ‘robot cock-fighting time’ = ComBots as it’s back to basics robot fighting & Sewer Snake won in the heavyweight division. He thought it was fun and worth full price, even though he managed to get in free.

Ed reviewed ‘Jarhead’ as he enjoyed it. It was well-worth matinee and reviewed ‘There Won’t be War’ by Harrison as highly readable.

Dave G reviewed seeing a Santa at Stoneridge as terrible & insidious.

Then we auctioned off a lot of books for = $5.00; $0.25, $0.25; $1.25; $3.37 & $1.25.

We adjourned at = 9:26 p.m.

And the rumor of the week was ‘that next week’s meeting will be conducted
Bay Area Fan Resources

This is not a complete list of resources, as time goes by and we discover more resources, this list will grow.

If you know of a resource not listed, please send the information to sfinsf@gmail.com for inclusion in future issues.

General Science Fiction Groups:

Bay Area Science Fiction Association
BASFA meets Monday nights at The Original Hick'ry Pit at 980 E. Campbell Ave. in Campbell.
[www.basfa.org](http://www.basfa.org)

Peninsula Science Fiction Association
Send an email to commander@pensfa.org to be subscribed to their email list.

This group holds parties, usually every two weeks on Saturday, at members homes.

Starship Decatur
[www.livejournal.com/community/starshipdecatur/](http://www.livejournal.com/community/starshipdecatur/)

Hosts monthly meetings with viewings of the latest episodes and movies from all science fiction genres. Coordinated participation in events with the IKV Black Dragon and USS Northern Lights

Fantastic Frontiers (Sacramento County)
[www.freewebs.com/fantasticfrontiers/](http://www.freewebs.com/fantasticfrontiers/)

Fantastic Frontiers meets the second Saturday of every month at 1 p.m.

Email frellingbored@yahoo.com or call 530-417-3365 for directions, details, or RSVP. All are welcome!

Meeting usually consist of social chit-chat, videos/DVDs, sci-fi-themed games, book exchanges, brief discussions of club business, and the like. They are casual and very informally structured. Members are welcome to bring books they’d like to exchange, collectibles they’d like to display, videos or games they’d like to play, etc.

Conventions

3DB Con
Sunday, April 24, 2006
[www.threedollarbill.com/3DBcon](http://www.threedollarbill.com/3DBcon)
Three Dollar Bill Cafe 1800 Market Street
San Francisco
10 a.m.-10 p.m.
$10

Game Convention.

Anime Overdose 2006
August 4-6 2006
[www.animeod.com](http://www.animeod.com)
San Francisco
$30 to ?, $45 at door

Anime convention.

Baycon
May 26-29, 2006
San Jose Doubletree Inn
San Jose
[www.baycon.org](http://www.baycon.org)
$45 until August 31

The largest annual general SF convention in the Bay area. Dealer’s room, panels, costume contest, anime room, much more.

Consonance 2006
March 3-5 2006
[www.consonance.org](http://www.consonance.org)
Crowne Plaza Silicon Valley
777 Bellew Drive
Milpitas

Memberships: $35 to 10/31/05, $40 to 2/18/06, $45 at door

Filk convention. Guests: Bill & Gretchen Roper, Marty Coady Fabish, Puzzlebox, Chris Conway
Creation Salutes Star Trek:  
The 40th Anniversary Celebration  
September 8-10, 2006  
www.creationent.com  
Doubletree Hotel  
Sacramento  
2001 Point West Way  
Sacramento  
Memberships: Gold Weekend Package:  
$399.  

Creation brings William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy to Sacramento. And no, that's not a typo on the price. Cheaper packages will be announced later.

Dundracon  
February 17-20, 2006  
San Ramon Marriott  
2600 Bishop Drive  
San Ramon  
www.dundracon.com  
?$  

Gaming convention.

Fanime Con  
May 26-29, 2006  
San Jose Convention Center  
San Jose  
www.fanime.com  
Price  
The largest annual anime convention in the Bay Area. Dealer's room, panels, costume contest, multiple tracks of anime, Asian films, J-pop concert, much more.

Further Confusion  
January 19-23, 2006  
San Jose Doubletree  
www.furtherconfusion.org  
$40  

Furry convention with an emphasis on art. Dealer's room, programming, anime.

Game and Music Experience  
December 2-4  
www.experiencegame.com  
Moscone Center  
San Francisco  
$20-$35 (discount if registering before October 31)  

Play video games, see live bands, and other stuff. See the website for more details.

Japantown Anime Faire 3  
Saturday and Sunday, December 17-18  
www.jtaf.com  
Japantown  
San Francisco  
6 p.m.  
Fun local anime convention with anime showings, dealer's room, costume contest, panels.

Kublacon  
May 26-29 2006  
www.kublacon.com  
Burlingame Hyatt Regency  
1333 Bayshore Highway  
Burlingame  
Guests: TBA.  
Memberships: TBA.  
Gaming convention.

PantheaCon  
February 17-20, 2006  
www.pantheacon.com  
San Jose Doubletree  
Pagan convention. Workshops, lectures, performances, rituals, vendors, drumming, dancing, costume contest.
SacAnime 2006
Saturday, January 14, 2006
[www.sacramentocomics.com]
Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street
Sacramento
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
$5.00
Dealer’s room, anime viewing room, contests, Yugioh & Magic tournaments, cosplay contest.

Sacramento Comic, Toy & Anime Show
Sunday, December 11
[www.sacramentocomics.com]
Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street
Sacramento
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
$5.00
Dealer’s room, anime viewing room, contests, Yugioh & Magic tournaments, cosplay contest at 2 p.m.

Wintershoppingland
Saturday, December 10
[www.wintershoppingland.com]
Hayward Centennial Hall
22292 Foothill Blvd.
Hayward
11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
$2 (Free 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.)
This is an anime event organized by the group that puts on Yaoi Con and Tales of Anime. Costume contest, dealers room, programming to be announced.

Westercon 60: Gnomeward Bound
July 6-9, 2007
[spfli.org/westercon60/]
DoubleTree Hotel
San Jose

Wondercon
[www.comic-con.org/wc/]
February 10-12 2006
The Moscone Center
San Francisco
Comic book convention with anime, summer movie previews, panels, dealers, costume contest, more.

World Horror Con 2006
May 11-14, 2006
[www.whc2006.org]
Gateway Holiday Inn
The world horror con comes to the bay area.

Anime/Manga

Anime Baka
[www.thetoytrader.com]
462 Mendocino Ave.
Santa Rosa
Anime viewing/club hosted by a local anime store. Held first and third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. First Monday is a potluck dinner.

AnimeFX
[www.sfsu.edu/~animefx/]
San Francisco State University
San Francisco
University anime club. Hosts free showings on Fridays during the school year.
Beefbowl Anime
www.beefbowl.org
Albany Library
1247 Marin Ave.
Albany
Anime club. Hosts a monthly anime viewing on Saturday at the Albany Library.

Cal Animage Alpha
www.ocf.berkeley.edu/~animage/
University of California
Berkeley
University anime club. Hosts a weekly anime showing Mondays during the school year. Also sponsors AnimeDestiny convention in the fall.

Foothill Anime
foothill.anime.net
Foothill College
Los Altos Hills
This university anime club meets the first Sunday of the month for a free showing starting at noon.

Newtype Anime
www.stanford.edu/group/newtype/
Stanford University
Palo Alto
University anime club. Hosts free showings each Tuesday is in session.

No Name Anime
www.nnanime.com
San Jose
Anime club. Hosts a monthly anime viewing on Saturday at local libraries.

Tempura Anime
tempura-anime.us
Anime Club at Santa Clara University
Hosts anime showings on Wednesdays during the school year.

Tsunami Anime
studiokyuu.com/tsunami/
San Jose State University
WSQ 109
San Jose
University anime club. Hosts free showings on Thursdays during the school year.

Anime Cosplay
The California Cosplay Times
www.californiacosplaytimes.com
This website is dedicated to promoting cosplay at conventions, with an emphasis on California and particularly Bay Area conventions.
In addition to hosting cosplay photos from members, most notably from Brocas and hosting Cosplay Magazine, the site also features a forum with a small but friendly group of participants.

Consplayers.com
www.consplayers.com
Known for setting up a portable studio at conventions for better photos.

Cosplay.com
www.cosplay.com
forums.cosplay.com
One of the best resources for cosplayers both nationally and even internationally. This site hosts extensive member photo galleries and their forums are a meeting place for cosplayers who are planning on attending local events.

Usagichan Search and Rescue
http://www.usagichan.com/
Home to Bay Area cosplay photographer lionboogy and his Linus Lam Network News coverage of conventions coast to coast and even internationally.
Book Groups

Futurist Salon Book Group
Barnes & Noble Booksellers
Hillsdale Shopping Center
11 West Hillsdale Blvd.
San Mateo
650-341-5560
Meets monthly

Science Fiction Book Club
Borderlands Books
www.borderlands-books.com
866 Valencia St.
San Francisco
Meets monthly at Borderlands books at 6 p.m.

Gay Men's Science Fiction Book Club
Borderlands Books
www.borderlands-books.com
866 Valencia St.
San Francisco
Meets the second Sunday of the month at Borderlands Books. Contact Christopher Rodriguez at cobalt555@earthlink.net for more information.

Bookstores (specialty)

Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street
San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com

Dark Carnival
www.darkcarnival.com
3086 Claremont Ave.
Berkeley

Elsewhere Books
260 Judah Street
San Francisco
Used and collectible science fiction and mystery

Kayo Books
www.kayobooks.com
814 Post Street
San Francisco
Best bookstore in the bay area for pulp fiction, including old science fiction pulps.

The Other Change of Hobbit
www.otherchangeofhobbit.com/
2020 Shattuck Ave.
Berkeley

Spellbinding Tales Bookstore
www.spellbindingtales.com
1910A Encinal Ave. @ Chestnut
Alameda
510-523-1105
Hosts SF-related events and authors.

Costuming

The Greater Bay Area Costumer’s Guild
www.gbacg.org

Comic Art

Cartoon Art Museum
655 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
Phone: 415/CAR-TOON,
415/227-8666
Hours: Daily 11:00 - 5:00, Closed Monday
Admission Prices:
$6.00 - Adults
$4.00 - Students & Seniors
$2.00 - Children (ages 6 - 12)
FREE - Children (age 5 & below)
The first Tuesday of every calendar month is “Pay What You Wish Day.”
Media Fan Groups

Doctor Who

Legion of Rassilon
Meets one Friday a month in San Jose at Carl's Junior, 2551 N. First Street at 7:30 p.m. The group shows episodes of the Dr. Who series and has discussions of recent movies and a raffle.

Serenity/Firefly

SF Browncoats
www.sfbrowncoats.com
Café Murano
San Francisco
Noon
Free
Serenity/Firefly fan group. Meets every second Saturday of each month at Café Murano in San Francisco.
Join the yahoo group from the link on their website for schedule updates.

Silicon Gulch Browncoats
www.silicongulchbrowncoats.org
Serenity/Firefly fan group. Meets on the first Saturday of every month from Noon - 2:00 p.m. at the Tied House Cafe Brewery, 54 Villa Street, Mountain View.

Star Trek

IKV Bloodlust
www.ikvbloodlust.com
A very active Klingon ship, part of the StarFire Region of the Ring of Fire Fleet.

IKV Midnight Dagger
home.earthlink.net/~mitjos/index.html
Oakland

IKV Black Dragon
www.ikvblackdragon.com
Fairfield

USS Augusta Ada
San Francisco
http://trek.starshine.org
Starfleet chapter. Meets fourth Saturday of the month at 1 p.m. at the Round Table Pizza at 5160 Geary in San Francisco.

USS Defiance
Sacramento
www.ussdefiance.org
Starfleet group. Meets monthly at the Round Table Pizza on Howe Ave. (near Howe and Arden Ave.)

Star Wars

Sacramento Valley Rogue Force:
www.svrf.swanb.net/

South Bay Star Wars Fan Club
sbswfc.com/
Supposedly meets monthly, but no recent meetings have been listed on their calendar

501st Legion Golden Gate Garrison
www.goldengategarrison.com
Period Recreation

The Bay Area English Regency Society
www.baers.org

PEERS
(The Period Events & Entertainments Recreation Society)
www.peers.org

Society For Creative Anachronism

Principality of the Mists
mists.westkingdom.org

Cloondara Shire
San Francisco
www.cloondara.org/
Meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at the Round Table on Geary Avenue.

Shire of Crosston
Palo Alto, Mountain View and Los Altos
www.halimal.com/crosston/

Barony of Darkwood
Southern Santa Clara, San Benito, Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties
baronyofdarkwood.org

Province of the Mists
Western Contra Costa County
provinceofthemists.org
Hosts fighter practice at the Rockridge Bart Station parking lot every Thursday from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

College of Sainte Katherine
UC Berkeley SCA chapter
www.ocf.berkeley.edu/~sca/

Role Playing/Board Games

Bay Area Role-Playing Society
www.BayRPS.com
Go-Getter’s Pizza
1489 Beach Park Boulevard
Foster City
6pm to 10pm
Hosts a weekly game night. For club and game night details send email to: GM@BayRPS.com. (Not confirmed, check before attending.)

Silicon Valley Boardgamers
davekohr.best.vwh.net/svb
Match Play
560 Showers Drive, Suite 4
Mountain View
A loosely-organized group that meets every Monday and Wednesday at 7 p.m. at a game store to play mostly German-style strategy boardgames and cardgames.

Bay Area Games Day
davekohr.best.vwh.net/gamesday
Los Altos Library
Los Altos
Free
Regular event featuring German-style strategy boardgames like Settlers of Catan, Avalon Hill-type multiplayer games, lots of cardgames, and historical board wargames.

SF Games
vax.hanford.org/dk/games
Muddy’s Coffeehouse
1304 Valencia Street near 24th
San Francisco
SF Games is a collective name for a bunch of people who get together and play board games and card games every Friday. Also has a cards night on Tuesdays at Café Macondo, 3159 16th Street between Guerrero and Valencia.
Stafnord RolePlayers (SRP)
http://www.rahul.net/pierre/SRP/SRP_home.html

San Francisco Bay Area Gaming Groups
www.rahul.net/pierre/SRP/SRP_local_groups.html

Sacramento Games Portal
www.freewebs.com/sacgames/

Space/Science/Technology/Skeptics

Bay Area Skeptics
www.baskeptics.org

East Bay Skeptics
www.eb-skeptics.org

Mars Society Northern California Chapter
chapters.marssociety.org/northca/

Robotics Society of America
Meets at San Francisco State University

Chabot Space & Science Center
www.chabotspace.org
10000 Skyline Blvd.
Oakland

Genre-influenced Musical Groups

AkaiSKY
www.akaisky.com
Trio that performs covers of J-Rock and anime music.

Ramen and Rice
ramenandrice.metaminstrel.net
Cello and Violin duo who play anime and game music at conventions

Warp 11
Star Trek theme rock band. Based in Sacramento.
www.warp11.com/

Wanted:
Contributors to cover the following groups and activities:

The Gaylaxians
South Bay Star Wars Fan Club
PENSFA
Northern California Mars Society
The Society for Creative Anachronism
Star Trek groups
Star Wars groups
Legion of Rassilon
Filk Fandom
Furry Fandom
Role Playing/LARP
Fandom in Sacramento
All other Fan Groups and Activities

We want to have regular reports on all Bay Area fan groups and we want to list your events in our calendar. Contact Jean Martin and Chris Garcia at SFinSF@gmail.com
The Bay Area Fannish Calendar

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

New listings are in red.

**Daily**

**San Francisco Ghost Hunt Walking Tour**
www.sfghosthunt.com
Begins: Queen Ann Hotel
1590 Sutter at Octavia
San Francisco
7 p.m. – 10 p.m.
$20

**Ongoing Fridays and Saturdays**

**Vampire Walking Tour**
www.sfvampiretour.com
Meets corner of California and Taylor
San Francisco
8 p.m.
$20

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

**Ongoing through March 12, 2006**

**Gross, Gruesome and Gothic**

**Cartoon Art Museum**
655 Mission Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
Phone: 415/CAR-TOON, 415/227-8666
Hours: Daily 11:00 - 5:00, Closed Monday
Admission Prices:
$6.00 - Adults
$4.00 - Students & Seniors
$2.00 - Children (ages 6 - 12)
FREE - Children (age 5 & below)
The first Tuesday of every calendar month is “Pay What You Wish Day.”

From their website:
“From the darkest depths of the cartoon vaults comes the Cartoon Art Museum’s latest exhibition, Gross, Gruesome and Gothic. This horrifying display features over 50 original cartoons from a wide array of artists and comics, from spine-tinglers to rib-ticklers and everything in between.

“Exhibition highlights include:
“Masters of the Macabre: Edward Gorey, Charles Addams and Basil Wolverton Three of the most influential humorists of all time present their unique views of the world around us in a selection of comics and illustrations dating back to the 1920s.

“Spotlight on Gahan Wilson: This creator spotlight focuses on Gahan Wilson, one of the most celebrated and respected cartoonists of our time. In the past half-century, Wilson’s distinctive cartoons and illustrations have graced the pages of The New Yorker, Nickelodeon, Playboy and National Lampoon. In 2005, Wilson received the coveted Milton Caniff Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Cartoonists Society, one of the highest honors that a cartoonist can achieve.

“The Vault of Horror: Graham
“Ghastly” Ingels  From the pages of EC Comics’ seminal comic book The Vault of Horror comes “Shoe-Button Eyes,” a complete seven-page story illustrated by Graham Ingels.


“Scared Silly! Scary comics don’t always take themselves seriously. Bongo Comics’ annual Treehouse of Horror special features The Simpsons as you’ve never seen them before, as illustrated by Sergio Aragonés, Peter Kuper, Bill Morrison, Scott Shaw and Jill Thompson; Batton Lash’s Supernatural Law warns us to beware the creatures of the night...and their lawyers; and Charles Schulz’s classic comic Peanuts asks the burning question, “When will the Great Pumpkin arrive?”

“It came from the Seventies! As the Silver Age of comics came to an end, the Marvel, DC and Warren publishing companies unleashed a wave of horror comics that pushed the boundaries of comic book art. Alfredo Alcala, Jim Aparo, Frank Brunner, Gene Colan and Dick Giordano, among others, bring new life to classic characters from Dracula and Frankenstein’s monster to anti-heroes including The Spectre, Vampirella and Morbius, The Living Vampire.

“Nothin’ But Misery: The Goon by Eric Powell Powell is the Eisner Award-winning creator of Dark Horse Comic series The Goon, a horror comedy that pits the title character and his pal Frankie against killer robots, zombies, Spanish-speaking lizards and other supernatural menaces.”

**Through November 19**

**Runs Fridays and Saturdays**

There Be Monsters!
EXIT Cafe
156 Eddy Street
San Francisco
8:30 p.m.
$12-$20

From their website:

“A Forgotten Man and a Gremlin Chorus present a passionate excursion into unseen realms, descending a dark staircase to a land that falls somewhere between a Pre-School Easter Pageant and a Murderous Nightmare!

“Presented somewhat in the manner of a turn-of-the-century Magic Lantern show of worlds within worlds, There Be Monsters! with its absurdist multiple-character monologues, slides, puppets and mechanical creatures (including a monkey astronaut, a sleeping pig, a dead Elvis waiting on the Highway of Eternity, and Jesus, paired with a hallucinatory, evil monkey named Jungle Belle) delves into the logic of dreams and the nature of childhood perceptions regarding the discovery of things unknown.

**Thursday, November 17**

George R. R. Martin Appearance
Stacy’s Books
581 Market Street
San Francisco
12:30 p.m.
Free

**Friday, November 18**

George R. R. Martin Appearance
Kepler’s Books
1010 East Camino Real
Menlo Park
Noon
Free

Venue reopened.
Friday, November 18
AnimeFX Meeting and Showing
userwww.sfsu.edu/~animefx/
HSS Building room 135
San Francisco State University
San Francisco
4 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Free
In addition to the usual showing of anime, the group will host an open discussion on the Para Social Relations Within Anime Fandom.

Friday, November 18
USS Defiance Meeting
Round Table Pizza
Howe Avenue
Sacramento
7 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Free

Friday, November 18
George R. R. Martin Appearance
Bay Book Co.
Half Moon Bay
7:00 p.m.
Free

Friday-Saturday, November 18-19
The Vampyre
Dreamweavers Theatre
www.dreamweaverstheatre.org/2005/the-vampyre.html
1637 Imola Avenue
Napa
(River Park Shopping Center)
8 p.m. Friday and Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday
$18
Tounge-in-cheek presentation of a play based on a famous Shilling Shocker.

Friday-Saturday, November 18-19
Enter the Dragon
Aquarius Theatre
430 Emerson Street
Palo Alto
Midnight
Running as part of the theater’s Midnight Madness program.

Friday-Saturday, November 18-19
The Neverending Story
Landmark’s Act 1 & 2
2128 Center Street
Berkeley
Midnight

Saturday, November 19
Starship Decatur Meeting/Potluck
www.livejournal.com/community/starshipdecatur/
San Ramon
email eyeofcannan@gmail.com for directions.
2 p.m.
Free
Science fiction club meeting and potluck. Gas grill available. Episodes of Firefly and the new Doctor Who series available for viewing. The group may be planning a movie outing to follow the potluck.

Saturday, November 19
Amber Benson and Christopher Golden author event
The Booksmith
1644 Haight Street
San Francisco
7 p.m.
Free
The Buffy the Vampire Slayer actress will sign copies of Ghosts of Albion: Accursed, a book that was co-written with Christopher Golden.
Saturday, November 19
Rocky Horror Picture Show
www.picturepubpizza.com
Parkway Speakeasy Theater
1834 Park Blvd.
Oakland
$6
Midnight
Barely Legal Productions presents the classic midnight movie every Saturday night. No one under 17 admitted.

Sunday, November 20
Terry Bisson
Other Change of Hobbit
2020 Shattuck Ave.
Berkeley
2 p.m.
Free
Author will read from *Greetings and Other Stories*.

Sunday, November 20
Paul Park
Other Change of Hobbit
2020 Shattuck Ave.
Berkeley
2 p.m.
Free
The author will read from and sign *A Princess of Roumania*.

Mark von Schlegell
Borderlands Books
www.borderlands-books.com
866 Valencia St.
San Francisco
3 p.m.
Free
From the publisher: “An American-born recent ex-patriot to Germany. . .Mark von Schlegell’s fiction deftly scrambles the codes of traditional science-fiction and fantasy with high literature and philosophy, generating a psychedelic weave of theory and pulp tradition. His SF and otherworldly ficto-criticism appears regularly in the international art underground -- from Brazil to Auckland to Berlin. VENUSIA, the inaugural volume of The System Series, is his first novel.”

Sunday, November 20
Science Fiction Book Club
Borderlands Books
www.borderlands-books.com
866 Valencia St.
San Francisco
6 p.m.
Free
This month’s book is *Tamsin* by Peter Beagle. The author will visit. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

Monday, November 21
Cal Animage Alpha
Location TBA
University of California
Berkeley
7 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Free
Schedule:
Sosei no Aquarion
Weekly: Honey & Clover

Bay Area Science Fiction Association
The Original Hick’ry Pit
980 E. Campbell Ave.
Campbell
8 p.m.
Free
Tuesday, November 22
The Shire of Cloondara
SCA group
www.cloondara.org
Round Table Pizza
5188 Geary Boulevard
San Francisco
7 p.m.-9 p.m.
Free
Group meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. First meeting of the month is a business meeting, second is arts and sciences. Please check with contact to make sure meeting will be held as scheduled before attending.

Tuesday, November 22
Newtype Anime
Room 60-61H
Stanford University
Palo Alto
8 p.m. - 11 p.m.
Free
Meeting and anime showing. This event is held weekly while school is in session.

Friday, November 25
Legion of Rassilon
Doctor Who fan group
Carl’s Junior
2551 N. First Street
San Jose
7:30 p.m.
Free
Showing episodes of the new Dr. Who series, news, discussion of recent movies and a raffle.

Saturday, November 26
USS Augusta Ada
http://trek.starshine.org
Round Table Pizza
5160 Geary Blvd.
San Francisco
1 p.m.
Free
Star Trek group. Meets fourth Saturday of the month.

Saturday, November 26
Roman Dirge appearance
Hobby Monkey
10000 Fairway Drive #140
Roseville
Free
Creator of Lenore and Haunted Mansion.

Saturday, November 26
Rocky Horror Picture Show
www.picturepubpizza.com
Parkway Speakeasy Theater
1834 Park Blvd.
Oakland
$6
Midnight
Barely Legal Productions presents the classic midnight movie every Saturday night. No one under 17 admitted.

Sunday, November 27
East Bay Skeptics Society Meeting
China Village
1335 Solono Avenue
Albany
3 p.m.
Free
Discussion on evaluating scientific studies.

Sunday, November 27
Michael Moorcock
Dark Carnival
3086 Claremont Avenue
Berkeley
3 p.m.
Free
Monday, November 28
Star Wars Book Authors
Copperfield’s Petaluma
140 Kentucky Street
Petaluma
7 p.m.
Free
Steven Sansweet, Peter Vilmur and Pablo Hidalgo will sign two new Star Wars-related books, *Star Wars Poster Book* and *Star Wars Chronicles*.

Monday, November 28
Cal Animage Alpha
Location TBA
University of California
Berkeley
7 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Free
Schedule:
Initial D: The 4th Stage
Weekly: Honey & Clover

Monday, November 28
Bay Area Science Fiction Association
The Original Hick’ry Pit
980 E. Campbell Ave.
Campbell
8 p.m.
Free

December 2-4
Game and Music Experience
[www.experiencegame.com](http://www.experiencegame.com)
Moscone Center
San Francisco
$20 - $35 (discount if registering before October 31)
Play video games, see live bands, and other stuff. See the website for more details.

Saturday, December 3
Bay Area Games Day
[davekohr.best.vwh.net/gamesday](http://davekohr.best.vwh.net/gamesday)
Los Altos Library
Los Altos
Free
Regular event featuring German-style strategy boardgames like Settlers of Catan, Avalon Hill-type multiplayer games, lots of cardgames, and historical board wargames.

Saturday, December 3
Jingles
SCA Event
Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto
505 East Charleston Road
Palo Alto
11 a.m. - 10 p.m.
$15
Yule revel. Choir, feast, bell competition, classes, a play, more. Email kim@gallagherclan.net for tickets and information.

Sunday, December 4
Foothill Anime
[foothill.anime.net](http://foothill.anime.net)
Building 5015
Foothill College
Los Altos Hills
Noon
Free
Meets the first Sunday of the month.

Monday, December 5
Bay Area Science Fiction Association
[www.basfa.org](http://www.basfa.org)
The Original Hick’ry Pit
980 E. Campbell Ave.
Campbell
8 p.m.
Free
Thursday, December 8
Thrillville’s Holiday Tiki Monster Mash
Mothra
www.thrillville.net
www.picturepubpizza.com
Parkway Speakeasy Cinema
1834 Park Blvd.
Oakland
9:15 p.m.
$7

Aloha and season’s greetings! Welcome to THRILLVILLE’S HOLIDAY TIKI MONSTER MASH featuring the original exotic Japanese monster-piece MOTHRA (1962) in a brand new print plus the soothing, swaying sounds of THE MAIKAI GENTS with THE MYSTERIOUS MISS MAUNA LOA live on stage!

Friday, December 9
Twin Peaks: Fire Walk with Me
Castro Theater
429 Castro Street
San Francisco
9:40 p.m.

“In this challenging prequel to the TV series, the film begins with the investigation by FBI agents into the murder of waitress Teresa Banks. One year later, the sordid events of Laura Palmer’s double-life are depicted, gradually intensifying into an all-out nightmare. Beyond what the series ever did, the film detaches itself from any connection to reality; the result is Lynch’s most controversial film.” Double feature with Mullholland Drive.

Saturday, December 10
No Name Anime
www.nnanime.com
Saratoga Library
13650 Saratoga Ave.
Saratoga
12:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. or so
Free
Showing Godzilla: Final Wars.
The new Godzilla movie. It’s awesome.
You should go to this show. All of you.
Bring your friends.

Saturday, December 10
Beaconsgate Boar Hunt and Feast
Province of the Mists
SCA Event
provinceofthemists.org
Contact the autocrat for more information.

Saturday, December 10
Wintershoppingland
Hayward Centennial Hall
22292 Foothill Blvd.
Hayward
www.wintershoppingland.com
11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
$2 (Free 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.)
This is an anime event organized by the group that puts on Yaoi Con and Tales of Anime. Costume contest, dealers room, programming to be announced.

Saturday, December 10
SF Browncoats
sfbrowncoats.com
Cafe Murano
San Francisco
Noon
Free
Serenity/Firefly fan group. Meets every second Saturday of each month.
Join the yahoo group from the link on their website for schedule updates.
Sunday, December 11
Gay Men's Science Fiction Book Club
Borderlands Books
www.borderlands-books.com
866 Valencia St.
San Francisco
6 p.m.
Free
This month's book is *To Your Scattered Bodies Go* by Philip Jose Farmer. Please contact the group leader, Christopher Rodriguez at cobalt555@earthlink.net for more information.

Sunday, December 11
*Dune*
Castro Theater
429 Castro Street
San Francisco
4:20 p.m., 9:20 p.m.
The 1984 David Lynch version, “The desert planet Arrakis—we enter the year 10191 and the whole universe depends on the spice Melange which exists only on this dry and desolate planet. Its natives await the arrival of their Messiah who will lead them into a holy war against the evil Harkonnen Empire. So sets the stage for Lynch's bizarre, truly otherworldly vision of Frank Herbert's saga.” Double feature with The Elephant Man.

Sunday, December 11
Sacramento Comic, Toy & Anime Show
www.sacramentocomics.com
Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street
Sacramento
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
$5.00
Dealer’s room, anime viewing room, contests, Yugioh & Magic tournaments, cosplay contest at 2 p.m.

Monday, December 12
Bay Area Science Fiction Association
The Original Hick’ry Pit
980 E. Campbell Ave.
Campbell
8 p.m.
Free

Wednesday, December 14
Petaluma Book Club
Dandelion Wine by Ray Bradbury
Copperfield's Petaluma
140 Kentucky Street
Petaluma
6:30 p.m.
Free
This general fiction book group will be reading Dandelion wine this month. Call Mat Brown at (707) 762-0563 or Railey Album at (707) 766-7056 for more information.

Thursday, December 15
The Nightmare Before Christmas
www.picturepubpizza.com
Parkway Speakeasy Cinema
1834 Park Blvd.
Oakland
9:15 p.m.
$6
The REEL CULT FREAKOUT presents Tim Burton’s ghoulish holiday stop-motion classic *A NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS* (1993) - trivia, prizes and more freaky festive fun!

More Events Next Page
Friday, December 16
USS Defiance Meeting
Round Table Pizza
Howe Avenue
Sacramento
7 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Free

Saturday and Sunday, December 17-18
Japantown Anime Faire 3
Japantown
San Francisco
www.jtaf.com
6 p.m.
Fun local anime convention with anime showings, dealer’s room, costume contest, panels.

December 17- January 29, 2006
Lestat
Curran Theater
445 Geary
San Francisco
Tickets on sale October 30. Musical based on Anne Rice’s Interview with the Vampire and The Vampire Lestat. Music by Elton John, lyrics by Bernie Taupin.

Sunday, December 18
Science Fiction Book Club
Borderlands Books
www.borderlands-books.com
866 Valencia St.
San Francisco
6 p.m.
Free
This month’s book is Cat’s Cradle by Kurt Vonegut. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

Monday, December 19
Bay Area Science Fiction Association
The Original Hick’ry Pit
980 E. Campbell Ave.
Campbell
8 p.m.
Free

Monday, December 26
Bay Area Science Fiction Association
The Original Hick’ry Pit
980 E. Campbell Ave.
Campbell
8 p.m.
Free

Saturday, January 7
Twelfth Night Coronation
SCA Event
www.westkingdom.org/calendar/12th-night2006.php
San Jose Doubletree Inn
2050 Gateway Blvd.
San Jose
$15-$20
Meet and greet at the hotel bar on Friday night. Merchants, Fine arts, practical science and wooden spoon competitions.
Thursday, January 12

*Thrillville’s Sexy Sword ‘n’ Sorcery Show*

*The 7th Voyage of Sinbad*

www.thrillville.net  
www.picturepubpizza.com  
Parkway Speakeasy Cinema  
1834 Park Blvd.  
Oakland  
9:15 p.m.  
$7

The Cyclops, the Swashbuckling Skeleton, the Roc, the Dragon, the Snake Woman, the Evil Warlock and the teeny tiny Genie all come to magical life in Ray Harryhausen’s colorful fantasy classic *THE 7TH VOYAGE OF SINBAD* (1958) plus the sword-swirling sorcery of the Bay Area’s bodacious belly-dancing troupe CLAN-DESTINE live on stage!

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Sunday, January 15, 2006

*Science Fiction Book Club*

Borderlands Books  
www.borderlands-books.com  
866 Valencia St.  
San Francisco  
6 p.m.  
Free

This month’s book is *The Stars My Destination* by Alfred Bester. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

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January 19-23, 2006

*Further Confusion*

San Jose Doubletree  
www.furtherconfusion.org  
$40

Furry convention with an emphasis on art. Dealer’s room, programming, anime.

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Saturday, January 14, 2006

*SacAnime 2006*

www.sacramentocomics.com  
Scottish Rite Center  
6151 H Street  
Sacramento  
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
$5.00

Dealer’s room, anime viewing room, contests, Yugioh & Magic tournaments, cosplay contest.

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February 10-12 2006

*Wondercon*

The Moscone Center  
San Francisco  
Comic book convention with anime, summer movie previews, panels, dealers, costume contest, more.

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Send your items for inclusion in our calendar section to:  
SFinSF@gmail.com

More Events Next Page
February 17-20, 2006
Dundracon
San Ramon Marriott
2600 Bishop Drive
San Ramon
www.dundracon.com
$?
Gaming convention.

February 17-20, 2006
PantheaCon
San Jose Doubletree
Pagan convention. Workshops, lectures, performances, rituals, vendors, drumming, dancing, costume contest.

February 19, 2006
Science Fiction Book Club
Borderlands Books
www.borderlands-books.com
866 Valencia St.
San Francisco
6 p.m.
Free
This month’s book is Wonderland by Joyce Carol Oates. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

March 3-5 2006
Consonace 2006
www.consonance.org/
Crowne Plaza Silicon Valley
777 Bellew Drive
Milpitas
Memberships: $35 to 10/31/05, $40 to 2/18/06, $45 at door
Filk convention. Guests: Bill & Gretchen Roper, Marty Coady Fabish, Puzzlebox, Chris Conway

Saturday, March 4, 2006
The Phantom of the Opera Ball
PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge of San Mateo
Doors Open: 7:00 p.m.
Dance lesson: 7:15 p.m.
Dancing begins: 8:00 p.m.
Tickets: $15.00 in advance (by February 28)
At the door: $20.00
Don’t let those wild rumors of an Opera Ghost keep you from attending the social event of the season, the Opera Ball of the Paris Opera Populaire. This is destined to be the most spectacular of all our masquerade balls and Management assures you that “Everything is under control.”

Our special guests - Monsieur Frank Beau Davis, that American trumpet virtuoso and his brilliant Brassworks Band from San Francisco, will play an evening of opera and ballet tunes arranged for ballroom dancing and brilliant Viennese Waltzes, polkas, mazurkas, schottisches, reels, and quadrilles. All set dances will be taught or called and there will a pre-ball dance class to help you brush up on your mid-Victorian dance skills. And, of course, they will play those perennial favorites, “The Congress of Vienna Waltz” and “Sir Roger de Coverley” (with a distinctly Wagnerian edge).

Suggested costume for this gala event is Victorian evening or ball dress (circa 1860’s-80’s), period fancy dress, or modern evening dress. Masks are strongly suggested.

The fashionable young gentlemen of the Jockey Club will be pleased to know that evening’s entertainment includes operatic and ballet excerpts by the company, including the premiere of the ballet from the controversial new opera “Sappho,” choreographed by the celebrated Mme. Giry for the Peerless Ballet.

Refreshments will be served throughout the evening (Since we lack the catering budget of the Paris Opera Populaire, your potluck contributions will be deeply appreciated).

More Events Next Page
Thursday, March 9

*Thrillville’s Hipster Holocaust Blow-Out*

*Panic in the Year Zero*

www.thrillville.net
www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Cinema
1834 Park Blvd.
Oakland
9:15 p.m.
$7

It’s a HIPSTER HOLOCAUST BLOW-OUT featuring Ray Milland and once again, Frankie Avalon in a torrid tale of post-nuked LA survival, PANIC IN THE YEAR ZERO (1960)! With explosive cocktail swingers Johnny and Gin of THE ATOMIC LOUNGE SHOW live on stage!

March 17–April 16, 2006

*Zorro*

Berkeley Repertory Theater
written and performed by Culture Clash
The Roda Theatre
2025 Addison Street
Berkeley

From their website:

“California was born from a clash of cultures, and now Culture Clash explodes the romantic myths surrounding its creation. Following their 2002 hit, Culture Clash in AmeriCCa, these missionaries of mayhem return to Berkeley Rep with the world premiere of Zorro. Employing their usual irreverence, the trio takes on this legend to explore questions of homeland security in the Wild West—when Anglo-Americans struggled with such issues as Mexican immigration, Indian gambling and a governor born on foreign soil. At long last, it’s a Latin look behind the mask of this mainstream icon invented by an Irish American. Zorro rides out of the pages of pulp fiction, through the Hollywood image machine and beyond the barriers of class, race and ethnicity to become a hero for the oppressed in every land. Both history and histrionics play a role when Zorro is unsheathed!”

March 19, 2006

*Science Fiction Book Club*

Borderlands Books
www.borderlands-books.com
866 Valencia St.
San Francisco
6 p.m.
Free

This month’s book is *Declare* by Tim Powers. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

Saturday, April 1, 2006

*The Toon Town Hop*

PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge of San Mateo
Doors Open: 7 p.m.
Dance lesson: 7:15 p.m.
Dancing begins: 8:00 p.m.
Tickets: $15.00 in advance (by March 25)
At the door: $20.00

From their website:

“As any cartoon aficionado can tell you, some of the best film music actually appears in cartoons. In celebration of the classic age of cartoons, we invite you to the Toon Town Hop, a vintage dance ball inspired by the best cartoon music of the 20th century.

“Suggested costume is vintage or modern evening dress (Mouse ears optional!). Guests may also attend as their favorite cartoon character (vintage or modern!).

“The dazzlingly versatile Divertimento Dance Orchestra will play a multi-period program of beautiful and energetic dance music from both classic and modern cartoons. Dance classic waltzes and polkas, ragtime teens and 20’s dances, 30’s and 40’s Swing and fox trot, stirring marches, and a variety of other ballroom and set dances at this wildly varied event. For us diehard
dancers, there will be DJ dance music of some truly off-the-wall but extremely danceable cartoon music during the intermissions.

“There will be a light buffet of T.V. snacks – everything your mother said was bad for you (and she was probably right) and complimentary non-alcoholic drinks. Contributions to the buffet are, as always, very welcome. Intermission entertainment includes vintage dance performances by the Peers Flying Circus and a cartoon music sing-along.”

Thursday, April 13
Thrillville’s Ninth Anniversary Show
Forbidden Planet
www.thrillville.net
www.picturepubpizza.com
Parkway Speakeasy Cinema
1834 Park Blvd.
Oakland
9:15 p.m.
$7

It’s THRILLVILLE’S NINTH ANNIVERSARY SHOW featuring the all-time sci-fi favorite FORBIDDEN PLANET (1956) and spaced out theremin lounge band PROJECT PIMENTO live on stage!

April 16, 2006
Science Fiction Book Club
Borderlands Books
www.borderlands-books.com
866 Valencia St.
San Francisco
6 p.m.
Free
This month’s book is Dark Beyond The Stars by local author Frank Robinson. Author will visit. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

Sunday, April 24, 2006
3DB Con
www.threedollarbill.com/3DBcon
Three Dollar Bill Cafe
1800 Market Street
San Francisco
10 a.m.-10 p.m.
$10
Game Convention.

Send your items for inclusion in our calendar section to:
SFinSF@gmail.com

Saturday, May 6, 2006
The Fairy Tale Masquerade Ball
Masonic Lodge of San Mateo
Doors Open: 7:00 p.m.
Dance lesson: 7:15 p.m.
Dancing begins: 8:00 p.m.
Tickets: $15.00 in advance (by April 29, 2006)
At the door: $20.00

May 11-14, 2006
World Horror Con 2006
Gateway Holiday Inn
www.whc2006.org
The world horror con comes to the bay area.

Thursday, May 11
Thrillville’s Mad Mexican Monster Mash
Night of the Bloody Apes
www.thrillville.net
www.picturepubpizza.com
Parkway Speakeasy Cinema
1834 Park Blvd.
Oakland
9:15 p.m.
$7

It’s a MAD MEXICAN MONSTER MASH featuring the lurid South of the Border classic NIGHT OF THE BLOODY APES (1969), with masked female wrestlers vs a rampaging rapist
apeman and his evil mad scientist creator!
Live opening act TBA!
Admission: $7

**May 21, 2006**
*Science Fiction Book Club*
Borderlands Books  
[www.borderlands-books.com](http://www.borderlands-books.com)
866 Valencia St.
San Francisco
6 p.m.
Free
This month’s book is the graphic novel *Watchmen* by Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

**May 26-29, 2006**
*Fanime Con*
San Jose Convention Center  
San Jose  
[www.fanime.com](http://www.fanime.com)
The largest annual anime convention in the Bay Area. Dealer’s room, panels, costume contest, multiple tracks of anime, Asian films, J-pop concert, much more.

**May 26-29, 2006**
*Baycon*
San Jose Doubletree Inn  
San Jose  
[www.baycon.org](http://www.baycon.org)
$45 until August 31
The largest annual general SF convention in the Bay area. Dealer’s room, panels, costume contest, anime room, much more.

**May 26-29 2006**
*Kublacon*
Burlingame Hyatt Regency  
1333 Bayshore Highway
Burlingame
Guests: TBA.
Memberships: TBA.
Gaming convention.

**August 4-6 2006**
*Anime Overdose 2006*
San Francisco  
[www.animeod.com](http://www.animeod.com)
$30 to ?, $45 at door
Anime convention.

**Saturday, September 2, 2006**
*Captain Morgan’s Privateers (We Ain’t Pirates No More) Ball*
*PEERS Event*
Masonic Lodge of San Mateo
Doors Open: 7:00 p.m.
Dance Lesson: 7:15 p.m.
Dancing begins: 8:00 p.m.
Tickets: $15.00 in advance (by August 26, 2006)
Tickets: $20.00 at the door

**September 8-10, 2006**
*Creation Salutes Star Trek: The 40th Anniversary Celebration*
Doubletree Hotel  
Sacramento  
2001 Point West Way
Sacramento
Memberships: Gold Weekend Package: $399.
Creation brings William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy to Sacramento. And no, that’s not a typo on the price. Cheaper packages will be announced later.

Send your items for inclusion in our calendar section to:  
**SFinSF@gmail.com**
November 4, 2006
Le Bal des Vampires
PEERS
Venue: TBD
No information as yet for this just announced vampire-theme ball event.

July 6-9, 2007
Westercon 60: Gnomeward Bound
DoubleTree Hotel
San Jose

Ongoing:
Bay Area Science Fiction Association
The Original Hick’ry Pit
980 E. Campbell Ave.
Campbell
Mondays at 8 p.m.
Free

Legion of Rassilon
Doctor Who fan group
Carl’s Junior
2551 N. First Street
San Jose
Meets every fourth Friday at 7:30 p.m.
(No December meeting)
Free
Showing episodes of the new Dr. Who series, news, discussion of recent movies and a raffle.

Anime Style Drawing and Animation Techniques
Frank Bette Center for the Arts
www.frankbettecenter.org/
1601 Paru Street
Alameda, CA 94501
510-523-6957
Fridays 4 p.m – 6 p.m.
$10 teens per session
$35 adults per session
Professional illustrator and fine artist Ken McGhee helps participants develop the skills they need to draw characters, taking the class on a journey through the process and techniques of manga. Drop-in class, all skill levels welcome.

Bay Area Role-Playing Society
www.BayRPS.com
Go-Getter’s Pizza
1489 Beach Park Boulevard
Foster City
Wednesdays from 6pm to 10pm
Hosts a weekly game night. For club and game night details send email to: GM@BayRPS.com. (Not confirmed, check before attending.)

SF Games
vax.hanford.org/dk/games
Muddy’s Coffeehouse
1304 Valencia Street near 24th
San Francisco
7:00 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 on Tuesdays at Café Macondo, 3159 16th Street between Guerrero and Valencia.