

Science Fiction/San Francisco

Issue 30

Date: September 20, 2006

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News and Notes

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

eFanzines.com has been a busy place since our last update. In addition to all the Chris Garcia zines that tend to show up almost hourly, there've been zines from the likes of *SF/SF* LetterHack John Purcell (two issues of *and furthermore* as well as one of *In A Prior Lifetime*) and Arnie Katz (two wonderful issues of *Vegas Fandom Weekly*).

VFW, in fact, features one issue which is all about the pre-WorldCon party that gathered people from all over the world to Vegas. It's a great issue which'll make you wish you'd been there.

BArea fans Robert Lichtman (*Trap Door*) and Mike McInerney (*Number One*) have both posted issues of their zines up on eFanzines. *Trap Door* #21, a great issue, is one of the best reads you'll find on the web.

Dave Burton's *Pixel* #5 also came out and features a great LetterCol and some wonderful articles. There are a lot of folks who are saying that *Pixel* might be the first all-eZine to win the FAAn Award for Best Fanzine.

In the mail came an issue of *Banana*

Wings which extends Mark Plummer and Clair Brialey's Cal Ripken-like streak of great issues out of the UK. It's no shock why they've showed up on the Best Fanzine short list for the Hugos the last two years.

The Fan Hugos this year seemed to lack the fire they had a few years ago. People are accustomed to Dave Langford winning, and *Plokta's* also got a huge following, so few rumblings there. The BArea's own Frank Wu, who was a very controversial winner two years ago in Boston, hasn't drawn nearly the same level of chatter. There has been much more said about the winners of the professional writing categories, especially Kelly Link not winning for the soon-to-be-classic *Magic for Beginners*.

Fandom has been rocked by a few deaths over the last few weeks. Fans Bob Leman and Helen Wesson passed away. Wesson had been ill for a long while after suffering from pancreatic cancer and a stroke.

The Blogosphere has had a new addition. After Cheryl Morgan announced that she'd no longer be doing *Emerald City's* annual Hugo Recommendation list, Andy Trembley started the Hugo_Recommend community on LJ. It's a place where you

can put up Hugo recommendations year-round as posts. There are some guidelines that you should read before posting, but it's the place to go to get the best advice on what to look for if you're stuck.

http://community.livejournal.com/hugo_recommend/profile

SiliCon Preview

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

Fall signals the arrival of the "other" BArea Science Fiction con, SiliCon. While BayCon gets a lot of press, SiliCon has been putting on great conventions over the last few years after a couple of years' layoff. This year has a lot going for it, including some great guests of honor.

Sadly, as has happened with many cons over the last couple of years, SiliCon lost their Writer GoH Steve Englehart. It happens, and they've added Robert Meyer Burnett as Media GoH, which is a nice get since he did *Free Enterprise*, a real cult classic. Mark Bode, the son of legendary

artist Vaughn Bode, will be the Artist GoH and should be a great guest. He's done comics like *Miami Mice*, cartoons for just about every possible outlet, and he's even been exhibited in the New Museum of Contemporary Art. In addition, Craig Howlett will be the fan guest of honor, and since he's a local fave, you can't go wrong!

There's more to SiliCon than GoHs, in fact there's a lot more. There's the SiliCon Short Film Festival which'll feature short films in the genres of Science Fiction,

Horror, Fantasy, Space Exploration and Diabetes Educational documentary. Last year featured a number of great films. In addition, Mr. Lobo and *Cinema Insomnia* will be featured on Saturday at the con. That's always a good show to be sure.

There are a few other guests confirmed, including the legendary Peter Beagle (of *Last Unicorn* fame), Johanna Mead, Mat Nastos, Phil Yeh, and more. No word on programming schedules yet, but

you may want to check out www.siliconventions.com for more details as the time grows closer.

In addition, it's one of the last chances to enjoy a con at the San Jose DoubleTree. With BayCon moving and most of the other cons that have traditionally taken place at the DoubleLion looking for new homes after next year, this might be your last opportunity to enjoy an SF con in the hotel that has housed SJ fandom for more than two decades.

Letters Of Comment

Kevin Standlee writes:

I love reading WorldCon reports. There are about 6,000 different WorldCons going on at once over that special weekend, and I only got to experience one of them myself, so getting to hear how others experienced it is a treat. It's especially interesting when I read about something where my WorldCon overlapped the other person's so I can see how it looked from a different angle.

My first SF convention was LACon II back in 1984, and I was a senior committee member on ConFrancisco, so

España Sheriff's "Dreams of the City" was something I found particularly poignant. I have not yet seen first-convention-ever stories about ConJosé, the WorldCon I co-chaired.

Chris's "A Tale of WorldCon" also touched a nerve — or rather lots of them, all over my feet. I'd gone to Disneyland and California Adventure on the two days before LACon IV, besides having spent the day before that at the Orange Empire Railway Museum, so I, too, had plenty of blisters on my feet before the convention even started. I had brought many bandages

and wrapped my toes in the spots that are usually first to blister, but my feet found new ways to blister instead. Somewhat to my surprise, I found that my wing-tips (which I wore with my suit when presiding over the Business Meeting or hosting *Match Game*) were actually more comfortable than my sneakers, although they were not good for walking long distances. Congratulations again on the Hollister bid, even though it caused my blood pressure to go up when I lost my cool trying to explain to a clueless fan (one who should know better, I might add, as he's not a neo) that write-in bids

for ineligible sites can't possibly deadlock an election unless you assume that every single voter is an utter moron who can't read instructions.

Andy Trembley's take on the same convention (*Interstellar Dreamin'*) was another great look at WorldCon from a view that overlapped mine. One thing that Andy may not have realized, I see, was that the "stop" sign at 60 minutes in panels was intentional. The panels really were designed as 60-in-90, giving some 30 minutes of overlap. According to the instructions I got as a program participant, if we felt like going slightly over, we had time to do so, but the "stop" signs were sent around at 60. In the case of the daytime *Match Game*, I'm mightily relieved that we had that much time and that neither our predecessor nor our successor needed any of their slop time, as we needed every minute of it to turn a generic program room into a game show set and then back into a program room.

While my convention responsibilities kept me from spending as much time at the parties as I would have liked, kudos to Andy and Kevin and all others concerned with the Hollister and Evil Geniuses parties. Well done as ever. I have no doubt that the combination of a great party and intelligent, well-spoken hosts were major reasons why Hollister set a record for non-serious bids.

No doubt some sore losers — and at least one member of the Chicago bidcom describes himself in his LiveJournal as a sore loser — will think that the presence of Hollister had some effect on their narrow defeat, but I challenge them to prove how that could be when it seems likely that nearly every Hollister voter did cast a legitimate second-preference vote, which would have been their first-preference vote had Hollister not been in the race. (Well, except for me. I would have voted for Geneva as my first preference, to thank them for buying advertising in the Glasgow major events.)

Thanks again for letting me see the WorldCon through other people's eyes.

Jean Martin responds:

Kevin, thanks for writing to us to show your appreciation of our WorldCon coverage and for sharing your experience. Seems like fun was had by all. You're right, everyone has a different experience of a convention, that's why we like running multiple stories from different writers. I really wish now that I had gone! Especially after reading España's WorldCon report that appears in this issue. Yes, we have more WorldCon coverage in this issue!

I don't think anyone's written about my friends from the Prancing Pony Players (I've had the privilege of working with this award-

winning group doing Firefly and Spamalot masquerade entries) who performed two half-hour shows at the Spaceport Lounge. I watched their videos recently and was blown away by their Lord of the Rings-themed variety show. It was so professional and entertaining. I've seen some of their numbers before but an entire show with singing, dancing and poetry readings in movie-quality costumes was absolutely fantastic. My favorite is Anything You Can Do, a duet with Arwen and Eowyn trying to outdo each other. This number and some others as well as photos are on the following web site:

<http://p3.bucklandblues.com/p3worldcon.html>

John Purcell writes:

Hey there, you West Coasters!

Another sterling issue complete with an implied famous fanhistory reference. I refer here to the Bheer Can Tower to the Moon which was to be erected in the Bay Area, if memory serves. I can't get at my copy of *A Wealth of Fable* at the moment (it's in the bedroom, where my wife is presently sleeping) to double-check this, so feel free to look it up. Maybe the Drink Tank Light Tower will eventually come to be known as yet another monument to fannish stupidity from Bay Area Fandom. You folks would be in great company.

España Sheriff has been to a lot of

cons in her 13 years in fandom. Having a WorldCon as your first con is quite an initiation; I am surprised she didn't get overwhelmed by it all thereby getting burned out and turned off in the process. Sounds like she had a good time. Doing the math, it appears she's now 31 years old. Am I right? More young blood for fanzine fandom. Keep up the recruiting. The Bay Area seems to be one hotbed for the next generation of fanzine fans.

Her mention of the song *Con Francisco* reminds me of the version I came up with this past March after Aggiecon 37 was over and done with:

(To the tune of *San Francisco* as sung by Scott McKenzie; words and music by John Phillips)

*If you're conning in College Station,
be sure to wear some maroon in your hair;
'Cos when you con in College Station,
You're gonna meet some odd-ball people
there.*

*Aggiecon's in College Station,
computer games played well into the night;
They have SCA in College Station,
better bring a short sword to the fight.*

*All across the Station, there's a strange
vibration,
trains by the ballfield;*

*There's a whole generation, marching in
formation,*

*cadets on the drillfield;
Harlan warned us of these Nazis!**

*So when you con in College Station,
be sure to wear some maroon in your ear;
'Cos when you con in College Station,
summertime is pretty much all year.*

You may run this with my permission. If I'm brave enough, I'll give the premiere performance of this version at QuireFlu.

(*Footnote: Harlan Ellison was GoH at the first Aggiecon in 1969, and in his speech he referred to the Aggie Corps of Cadets as America's next generation of Nazis. Between that and the food fight between him and the banquet attendees, there was almost never a second Aggiecon. I have been researching Aggiecon and the TAMU SF club, Cepheid Variable, for an upcoming article in my zine, and I'm learning all sorts of fun stuff to share. Stay tuned.)

Lessee... two LACon IV reports. Thank you Chris and Andy for these. The one thing that stands out from these two reports is Andy's mention of that 30' Pika-chu with all those Pokemon geeks running around. Yeesh, you would not have found me in that mess. My 10-year old son would

love it, but not me. Most of the time you would have found me in the fanzine lounge, the con suite, huckster room, assorted parties, and by poolside. Unless I'm on a panel or really, really interested in the subject matter, I am no longer a panel person. Maybe if I know the people involved, too, but I really prefer hanging out and talking with folks. After all, they're the most important part of any convention.

Man, California has a lot of Renaissance Faires. The Texas RenFest is just around the corner, and we're looking forward to that. Eva Kent took some marvelous photos; I really have to show my wife these as she's putting the finishing touches on our Renaissance garb. A few nights ago in Barnes & Noble, I was flipping through a couple renfest magazines. Very neat stuff, and got me a bit jazzed for the Texas RenFest. I will keep my promise to you folks and get that article done, complete with photos.

SiliCon sounds interesting, and it's a good idea to showcase artists. That Artist's Colony would be very cool to hang around, watching artists at work and making connections. My wife, being an artist (check out recent issues of *In A Prior Lifetime* for a small sampling of her work), would love to be involved with this. One question here, too: is Mark Bode related to the great Vaughan Bode?

Overall gang, good stuff this time, as usual. Thank you for plunking your zine down at efanazines, and I'll be in touch.

Jean Martin responds:

Hi John, hah-ha, never ask a girl her age. But your math is probably right. Nice to hear that you think those of us in our 30s are young blood. Although I'm closing in on the big 4-0 soon! Yikes! You know what they say about women in their 40s though. That's when we hit our prime.

Thanks for sharing your song with us. Of course we're happy to run it. You do have a lot of interesting tidbits about past cons. Keep 'em coming! Seems like Harlan Ellison gets into trouble at these things quite often. Livens it up I suppose.

And yes, to me, the best part of a con is just hanging out with people and going to parties. Although I'm probably new enough that I still enjoy going to panels to learn about things. I go mostly to panels that have friends too. Sounds like there were some amazing parties at WorldCon. España covers a bit of that in her article this issue. Boy, did I miss out on hanging out with everyone!

We do have a lot of Ren Faires here in California. I have a friend that works at most of them. I don't know how she does it. I only go to one or two of the bigger and better ones a year. I like doing a variety of things so I

can't imagine working at Ren Faires several weekends a year. You do get to become part of the "family" and make closer connections with people. But I'm like a bee that samples flowers in a whole field. There's too much to do and see as far as I'm concerned to be stuck with just one flower.

I'm looking forward to SiliCon. Last year was a lot of fun. A lot smaller than BayCon but a lot more relaxed too. Yes, Mark and Vaughan Bode are related. Mark is Vaughan's son.

Glad you keep enjoying our zine. I'm personally tickled pink that someone as into fandom and fanzines as yourself appreciates our work.

Lloyd Penney writes:

Great masthead folks...or it reminds me of a movie from the 70s. Anyway, this is Lloyd, and I have two issues of SF/SF to send out, and not much time to do it in. I am typing this up at work, and will probably have to send it from work directly to you, so don't be put off by the strange e-mail address. Also, don't print it. Here's comments on 28 and 29.

28...*The Drink Tank* got it right? Hooda thunkit? Chris, you're ahead of your time, which is why no one understands you! I got to some of your panels, but definitely not all. Yvonne and I got to a lot of panels and we enjoyed ourselves, but there was

time for food, autographs, the dealers' room, etc. If Jay Lake was roasted, I hope you got some white meat.

I think a lot of us feel a little disconnected from time to time, and we need the subtle reassurances from others that we are thought of, and we are part of a community, and that you are valued. Fandom does this for me. It's the community, the participation, the social interaction and even the odd hug or five that helps reconnect you, even if you were never disconnected in the first place. The world of SF, or even your favorite SF world, is a wonderful place to take a refreshing mental vacation. However, it's the real world, as unappetizing as it is, that allows us the necessities of life and the means to insure that we can return to those refreshing fictional worlds and enjoyable respites, namely conventions, from time to time. Makes me wonder if fandom is just one big emotional support group.

Jean, only three years in fandom? (I agree with John Purcell in issue 29, you read like you've been around a lot longer.) You've been picking it up quickly. I'm nearly 30 years in it now, and one thing I've tried to keep in mind is that there's always something new to learn about it. Some will sneer at you if you proclaim that you didn't know about some obscure reference from fandom in the 50s, just as an example, but

I consider it a continuing adult education class. This particular interest of ours has a lot of subfeatures within it, and that's why I enjoy reading articles about fanhistory. Another small fact is revealed here and there, and the overall picture gets just a little more clear.

One thing I'd like to find at a convention is a panel on how to break into voice acting. Guys like Maurice LaMarche must be having the time of their lives, and making a few bucks, too. (Maurice is from Toronto, too!)

29...I'm a news junkie, too, which is why I cannot watch American news outlets, and rely on CBC, BBC and other off-continent news sources. News programmes are about the only programmes I watch on TV these days.

Chris, you must go to a Ren Faire, and you'll probably wind up at the one at Casa de Fruta. España, where are you originally from? I hope you'll be able to write more about your Worldcon experiences for this year.

Ah, Chris's Worldcon report! Just wait until you see the article I wrote for John Purcell... might bug some eyes. I had no idea you were in pain as you were walking about with your Chris for TAFF sign. I never saw any expensive fanzines in the dealers' room; I think Colin Hinz had

bought them all before anyone else could get there. I signed the big board in the 1977 slot, and Yvonne signed under 1978. You and I and Joe Major tied for ninth for Best Fan Writer Hugo with 14 nominations each! Montreal for Worldcon? Well, it would make it affordable for me. Yvonne and I will be going to Montreal for our next convention, Con*cept, in the middle of October.

Hey, Andy, wish the Worldcon had been able to keep the giant Pikachu, hm? I had wondered if the Worldcon had been able to establish any connections with the World Pokemon Gaming championships.

Folks, I am going to wrap this letter up, and send it to you directly from work. I start a major seven-day conference in Toronto, one of ear, nose and throat specialists, and I will be working exhibitor registration from Wednesday (tomorrow) to next Tuesday. I will be in a black suit for seven days. And darned right I'm getting paid for it. Anyway, I thought I'd do my best to catch up a little, and it may be some time before this makes it onto my LJ. Take care all, and I look forward to more Worldcon reports.

Jean Martin responds:

Hello, Lloyd! Yes, Chris is ahead of his time and I wish I had more time to learn more

from him. Our paths cross quite rarely. But it's great to work with him on the zine. Our interests complement each other and I think SF/SF is all the better for it. We get to cover the depth and breadth of fandom between the two of us.

Fandom as a community is the main reason I'm involved in it. It's such a great feeling when I walk around conventions, and I'm saying hello to people I know all over the place, and they know me too! The feeling of belonging to something bigger and to be around people with similar interests is such a special thing as well. I liken it to people who are into sports teams and the like. The difference is, us fandom folk do something more about it. So not only is it a community but a venue for expressing our creativity and imagination.

Emotional support, yeah, I've been needing a whole lot of that lately! All my friends in fandom have been very supportive. But I find that my family and friends outside of fandom that I've had for a long time have been pillars of strength for me. My fandom friends are all quite new, since I haven't been in the scene very long, and I haven't wanted to burden them too much with the very tough issues I'm dealing with in my life right now. But yes, my new friends have been so good to me and I don't know what I would have done without them these last couple of months.

So yes, it's only been three years, and

really active just for a year and half. I guess I just took to fandom like a duck to water. I feel like I've found my true home. And I guess my previous background as a heavy metal magazine publisher and active member of the heavy metal scene in the early 1990s has helped. The community dynamics are similar. Just the content of what's involved is different. But the types of people are familiar, the passion for some sort of art form is the same, etc. And I've always been an avid sci fi and fantasy fan. I've been yearning for something like this my whole life. Now that I've found it, I've decided to plunk myself down in the middle of things and stay there!

I know a couple of people who are pursuing voice acting. There are a few good schools for that here in the Bay Area. That would be a good convention panel as that's a workable avenue of getting into the

entertainment business, especially with anime and the like.

I don't really watch TV at all. Don't have much time for it anymore. And I really don't watch mainstream TV. I like PBS and BBC shows, where there hasn't been much exciting going on lately. I did get hooked on Rock Star: Supernova. Brings me back to my old heavy metal days. I partied with Jason Newsted and the Metallica crew a couple of times. They were quite nice actually. What I love about RS:S is that the contestants were for the most part quite polished and professional. My favorite, Storm Large, was the last one eliminated before the finals, which was disappointing. She was just awesome! But for the most part, the caliber of the singing and stage presence in RS:S just blew American Idol away. Oh, and I actually enjoyed the songs in RS:S. Nice to see rock 'n' roll getting some prime time exposure on TV.

AI was exciting the first couple of seasons and then it just got boring. And I'm really not that fond of pop, soul and country.

Wow, I'm very surprised that Chris has never gone to a Ren Faire. I think you'll enjoy it. Casa de Ren Faire is quite good. I highly recommend it.

España is, not surprisingly, from Spain. Her mother is American of Irish descent and her father is Mexican of Spanish descent. She and I are both immigrants and English is our second language. Sometimes, that's an advantage rather than a hindrance. I, and España I would assume, learned textbook English from good schools without having to correct bad grammar and spelling habits learned from childhood. Oh, and yes, España has her own LACon IV report in this very issue. I really wish I'd gone too, after reading her article.

Editorial

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

Well, well, well, it's all come to a head. The TAFF race is just around the bend, SiliCon's coming and WorldCon memories have just about cooled. It's a good time to be a fan. What's next? What joy and fun is there to be shared by us BAreans? Well, I'm not sure about the rest of you rubes, but I can say this for certain...I'm going to put together another fanzine.

You see, I'm a serial fanzinista. I love writing fan articles, I love laying out issues, I love brow-beating artists into giving me new Chris for TAFF material. It seriously keeps me from going nuts and just plain railing everybody who comes within a twenty foot radius. That's how I roll.

But there aren't many fanzines being made in the Bay. There's *The Drink Tank*. There's *Trap Door*. There's *Claims Department*. There's *Number One*. There's *L*I*S*P**. There are the FAPAazines that are done by BAreans like Janice Morningstar, Robert Silverberg and others. The fact is, there was a time when there were more

than a dozen regular zines coming out of the BArea. In those days, zines came in the mail and if one was bi-monthly it was (1) pretty darn frequent and (2) probably not a polyamory periodical. We've entered eTime and it's changed the way a lot of folks look at speed. The listervs, LJ and even Newszines like *SF/SF* and *Vegas Fandom Weekly* may well redefine the period that stuff is relevant. Look at *File 770*. It was THE source for fannish news and reviews in the old days (ah...my beloved 1990s!) and now, it's still an excellent zine, but almost everything we read in it has been batted around on the web for a few weeks (if not months). That doesn't make *File 770* an unsuccessful zine, it just means it has to put out material from folks whom you don't read every day. You can read me anytime, but the contributors for *F770* are rare elements to be savored.

So, I want more zines to come from the BArea...and I'm running out of time to write them myself.

In other matters, I saw that episode of *CSI* about Plushies. It wasn't a bad episode, but it had problems with the way they presented everything. Yeah, they did

better than a lot of things that deal with specific subcultures, including the very funny *Psyche*, but they got a few things wrong. It made me realize that I really have a responsibility.

Oh yeah, I should mention: I might be getting a show.

I ran into a guy at WorldCon who turned out to be a producer and I sent him a tape and it might turn into a show on a real network. Not cable...Over-the-air, rabbit ears can get it, no foolin' NETWORK TV. It's crazy, I know. One of the reasons they got ahold of me was that I was a fan. I don't fit the mold of what networks have shown of science fiction fans in past years, so I really do have to be concerned with the ways in which fandom and fans are presented. Yes, we do some things that are weird (like spending every waking hour writing zines), but it's important that no fun is made of fandom. I may not get everything, but I am glad that it's there for the folks who are into that sort of thing, no matter what it is. Once, while searching for some good Herm-Ginny femmeslash, I had a real eye-opening experience browsing

a page of Harry-Draco stuff. It was the fact that someone put real effort, honestly tried their damndest and, though they managed a somewhat weak story, obviously really loved HP and writing the story. There were tons of comments about the dozens of stories on the site by this author, many of them saying things like ‘What kind of sicko are you?’ and I realized that they were sickos in the same way that I’m a sicko for pubbing an ish every week at a minimum.

OK...a different kind of sicko, but the idea is the same. It’s something that they’re passionate about and they deserve some respect, if not for the finished product, then for their dedication to it. That’s what I need to remember. I gotta be on my guard about that if I get the show.

And if it turns out that I don’t get it...I’ll be drinking heavily at SiliCon, that’s for sure!

Join our crew:

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

Contact Jean Martin and Chris Garcia

at:

SFinSF@gmail.com

Dreams of the City

- a column

By España Sheriff

I read few children's books when I was little and most of the ones I did read I've completely forgotten. Where other people wax poetic about *Goodnight Moon* and Dr. Seuss, I only remember a few books of rhymes, *The Little Red Hen*, and little else. I read *Tales of the Unexpected* long before I ever cracked open any of Roald Dahl's children's books. But one of the exceptions to this rule was *Eloise*. I loved *Eloise at the Plaza* and I especially loved it when my mother told me that the stories were inspired by a real little girl.

Later on, when I was a little older I read about other people, famous or just wealthy, who lived in hotels, and eventually came to understand the concept of the residential hotel. New York writers and artists who lived in such places fascinated me. It would be great to have a mansion full of books, of course, but it would also be grand to "live downtown" like *Eloise* or Dorothy Parker. Alas, I am no Dorothy Parker, but then the San Jose DoubleTree is no Plaza Hotel... it's not even a Hotel Chelsea, so I guess that's alright.

But for two decades of conventions it was home; we wore it into shape like a good pair of shoes, and man could we dance in

it by the time we were done. I was there for ten of those years and every year I would find something new to like about the place. It took me a year or two to figure out that the stairs were faster than the elevator and that the poolside stairs went to the second floor—eliminating the need for elevators entirely.

The Coffee Garden menu, once a minefield of potentially hazardous decisions, became as familiar as the back of my hand and once I restricted myself to the safe choices there was no better place to socialize, its open layout allowing passing friends to join meals and conversations. The foot-of-onion-rings is sorely missed but the breakfast buffet is still the best way to beat a hangover into submission. And at 2 a.m. it's a beacon of hope and caffeine, all alone in the night.

In my years in the art show staff I became intimately acquainted with the Donner Pass Room, which I swear I saw referred to as the Donner Pass Banquet Room at least once. Each year we managed to get more stuff in there—we fit art into that space until the walls creaked. In fact I've been all over the hotel, dashing from pillar to post in my staffer days, finding all the comfortable quiet spots once the upstairs

couch disappeared, and hunting for the last of the remaining red lions during the transition era. My second SiliCon I stayed on the ground floor, which was interesting but a little surreal; like waking up one morning and discovering your front door opens onto downtown San Francisco.

So I'll miss the place even though I know I'll enjoy exploring whatever new spot we end up at. And I know that we've been outgrowing the DoubleTree for a while now and that the reasons we have to move on are probably at least partly unpleasant. But I don't know what they are, and right now I don't care. At SiliCon I intend to go to the quiet bar, which is one of the few places I never spent time in, and drink to a decade of memories. After that I'll lift a glass to the ghosts of old disputes, that we may leave them behind us when we move on. Then I'll toast the success of our upcoming endeavor in finding a new place. By then I'll be three drinks in and getting sentimental, so I'll probably drink to old times again. And... well, after four drinks I'll be nearing the end of my cash (I'm a good tipper when I'm drunk) and probably singing "Auld Lang Syne," so at that point I would appreciate it if someone took over both the drinking and the toasting.

Hope and Fear: Burning Man 2006

Introduction by Jean Martin
Photos by Daniel O'Sullivan

*Due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to go to Burning Man as I'd originally intended. I bought my ticket all the way back in January when they first went on sale. I was excited to go but at the last minute I couldn't make it. So, unfortunately, I don't have a Burning Man article to give to you all. However, my friend Daniel bought my ticket from me and also sent me some fabulous photos afterwards. So I asked him if I could use some of them for SF/SF. It looks like I missed a lot of great events (Comic-Con, WorldCon, Dragon*Con and Burning Man) these last few months due to personal reasons. But I guess these will all be around again next year. Well, except for WorldCon, which will be all the way in Japan. Still, I've made sure to have coverage for these events. So I hope you enjoy these fantastic photos. The theme for 2006 was Hope and Fear. Quite appropriate it seems during these times. If anyone went to Burning Man and would like to share your experience, we'd love to hear from you!*



Tripod Structure



Hula Hooper at the Deep End



Burning Man Temple



Monkey Chanting at Center Camp



Inside the Belgian Waffle



Fire Dragon at the Burn



Burn the Man!



Declaration of Independence Girls



Ejector Seat Man at the Burn



King and Queen of the Desert

Another View of LACon IV

By España Sheriff
Staff Writer

Tuesday

In order to avoid the worst of the morning commute, Joe Rhett and I started out of the city shortly after midnight. After a surprisingly nice drive along the relatively deserted Highway 5, a three hour nap, a truly terrible Nations burger and an even worse gas-station coffee experiment, we stopped for a surprisingly nice breakfast of tofu, rice and vegetables at a place called Eat Well (Because Your Mother Told You To) and then proceeded to miss our exit and briefly visited scenic Costa Mesa. With all of this out of our system, we finally arrived at the Anaheim Hilton a little worse for wear but happy to be off the truly frightening Los Angeles freeways.

We navigated the Kafkaesque Hilton system to end up in our room on the sixth floor exhausted and excited, and in my case with a lot of work still left ahead in order to get ready for the art show.

Although I had packed the majority of my possessions for this one week, I had to forget something: in this case, the box

containing all my makeup. Also, most of my artwork was in various states of completion. So after a trip to Target, a stop at a passable Italian place for lunch, and a lightning quick dash through registration (no line!), we had our badges and were officially members of the Con. Sleep would have been the next order of business, except the artwork had not magically gotten itself into hanging shape nor had the paperwork filled itself out. But, lo! After a few hours of working on this, Joe announced that there were honest-to-god parties going on. “On Tuesday?” I scoffed.

Still, procrastination is the sweetest of siren songs so I dashed from the room and wandered through the Denver and Chicago in ‘08 bid parties, which were all good... but ended up at the Australia in 2010 room. Does it make me old that 2010 still seems futuristic to me? Never mind, don’t answer that. A lovely Chardonnay took the edge off my urgent need to get art finished, and a lively conversation with Kevin Roche about, among other things, the intricacies of site selection, made the time fly. When I looked at the clock it was nearly midnight. Egad... back to the room to drunkenly finish the

artwork and paperwork... without a doubt, this must be how Picasso did it.

Wednesday

I set the alarm for just past eight a.m., woke, showered and put more final touches on pieces that were “finished” a year ago, thinking all the while of what Da Vinci said: “Art is never finished, only abandoned.” Lust for glory won out over the desire to abandon, barely, but hunger trumped both and with an hour to go before the artist check-in an exploratory jaunt to Café Oasis was in order. The breakfast buffet was tempting but overpriced as were most things on the menu, so I got a fruit bowl, Joe got an omelet and we both drank enormous amounts of coffee to offset the healthfulness of it all.

The Art Show had already assigned locations, so getting in early to hang art wasn’t critical, but it was still nice to skip the usual line to enter control sheets in the computer and to have access to a still not quite worked-to-death art show staff.

Self-consciousness ran rampant as I wandered to and from the staff desk getting clips and pegs and caught glimpses of the

art already hanging. Picacio, Gurney, Freas, and other household names lined the show, but also artists whose works and names I did not yet recognize, but whose art is just incredible. Suddenly my little yaffs seemed like kindergarten finger paintings. The Nippon contingent had two artists hanging with some really gorgeous pieces. I goggled at the tables of 3-D art as well: Bronze and copper sculptures, six-foot tall, of dragons and Predators; tables of pottery, wooden rocket ships, glassware and wonderful indescribable things. Quilts, fabric arts, jewelry, bowls with hands — awe soon won out over envy as I oohed and aahed at all the shiny.

Once checked out of the art show I was free, with no further responsibilities on my plate until the hotel bill was due on Monday — at which point I would presumably have to start cleaning dishes or hotel rooms since the Dealers' Room was right next door to the Art Show and all the magic wards in the world would not protect my pocketbook. Booksellers, publishers, clothiers, leatherworkers, jewelers and silversmiths filled the hall and magazines, swords, cloaks, books, DVDs, CDs, posters and a million other items on display were suddenly on my must-have list.

After temporarily struggling free of the magnetic field of rampant consumerism

we call the Hucksters' Room, I made it to Opening Ceremonies. These included a *Tom Corbett: Space Cadet* episode in honor of the late Media GOH. Since James Gurney had not yet arrived at the convention, and Howard DeVore had also passed away earlier this year, Connie Willis was the only guest to speak. After the official gavel-passing from last year's Glasgow WorldCon to Chris Maguire, she took the stage to enthusiastic applause. She was charming and lovely. This is the first time I had heard her speak and I was pleased to discover that her presence and wit were just as delightful as on the written page. After a sing-along to the Space Cadet Marching Song (no, really) we left the room in high spirits. Sing-alongs may be silly... well, ok, there's no "may" about it, they *are* silly. But I have to admit they are a pretty good way to loosen the social constraints on the audience and set a precedent of member interaction. To quote David Mamet: "If you don't make it yourself, it ain't fun, it's entertainment."

After a quick bite at the convention hall Space Port, which was surprisingly reasonable and tasty, I attended my first panel of the convention. It turned out to be a truly incestuous affair, since the panel included our esteemed editor Chris Garcia plus one of our contributors Andrew Trembley, and Lloyd Penney in the audience. The subject

was blogs and efanazines. The overall feeling from the panelists, who also included James Bacon, Theresa Nielsen Hayden and Lisa Deustch Harrigan was, unsurprisingly, that ezinedom is a Good Thing. The discussion veered in various directions and included some interesting zine and fannish history, and much fun was had by all. My second panel for the day was *Someday My Prints Will Come*, which had BAreal artist Ctein and was quite informative.

After taking a nap to recuperate and changing into my glad rags, I ventured out to see what the party scene was like. Chicago, Columbus and Denver all had parties with food and alcohol, and Denver in particular had a wide and interesting selection of beers. Kansas City had ice cream, root beer floats and hot fudge, which go a long way toward purchasing my immortal soul. The must-attend party was Hollister in 2008, which had very nice fruit snacks, sake, and lovely wines. Plus conversation that was essentially a continuation of the fascinating fanzine panel with all the dirty bits left in. Issues of the *Pacheco Progress* were available to peruse during the extremely infrequent conversational lulls. Eventually Chris "Karisu" Willrich, Richard Man, Jade Falcon and Chain all joined the festivities, making it a Bay Area members club by the time one a.m. rolled around and I turned into a

turnip. I would have braved the wee hours except that a trip to LA's fabled Garment District was in the works for the morning, so I retired for the evening. My room was right on top of the Hollister party room and the faint sounds of merriment filtered in through the window and intertwined with my dreams.

Thursday

Thursday morning, it was time for my first proper trip to the Garment District. I had visited it briefly once before, but this time we were to hit Santee Avenue as I was specifically looking for boots. Jade Falcon and Eric Anderson were on the hunt for blood-red velvet for a Venice Carnivale costume and pirate shirts. Ah, fandom. The hot Los Angeles sun nearly killed us but we survived by running into a million stores one after the other like kids in a chocolate factory. In the actual fabric stores where the bolts are sold, I had no intention to purchase, but I enjoyed looking through all the lovely wools, cottons, silks, satins and velvets and some fabrics that were incredibly gorgeous riots of lace and organza and appliquéd flowers. Many of them were more akin to sculpture than anything as mundane-sounding as "fabric."

After we returned to the hotel exhausted, I slept for three hours. It was

sorely needed but I managed to completely miss the Artist Reception and Chesley awards. It was evening when I woke up and the parties were in full swing by the time I got down to the fifth floor. My brand-spanking new boots came in handy as I bounced from party to party, ending up engrossed in conversation with Chris Garcia, Jason Schachat, Eric Anderson and a possibly Finnish person outside of the Evil Geniuses party, which had been the Hollister party the night before. I earned a Lab Rat ribbon for trying first a truly vile wasabi liqueur and then a liquorice one that was beyond delicious. Around 4 a.m. Andy Trembley started discreetly tidying up around us last drunken die-hards, and we finally took the hint and staggered off to our respective fates.

Friday

Friday I woke up early to attempt a breakfast in Café Oasis with some Browncoats, but I didn't make it until 9 a.m. and couldn't spot them. My recollection of their appearance was a bit of an alcohol-induced blur so I was unsurprised to hear later that they had been there after all. I grabbed a bagel at the con suite instead and hoofed it to the *Best Books of 2005/2006*, which featured Charles N. Brown, Paula Guran, Gary K. Wolfe, Jonathan Strahan

and Ellen Datlow. The panelists were very knowledgeable and made some intriguing suggestions that will undoubtedly make my reading list as they become available in the coming months. In fact, I already picked up the most recent issue of *Fantasy & Science Fiction*, which has Peter Beagle's *El Regalo* in it. San Francisco publishers Nightshade Books and Tachyon Publications both got nice mentions as well.

Off I went to wander in circles between the second and third levels of the Hilton, which are a bit of a maze. Eventually I figured it out and listened to George R.R. Martin read a chapter from his next *Song of Ice and Fire* book. He didn't use a microphone, so it was hard to hear at times, but the audience was rapt and filled the admittedly small room to overflowing.

The big event for the evening was the Masquerade, with Phil Foglio as MC. He did a great job keeping the audience entertained through the technical difficulties that inevitably arise during this type of event, telling bad jokes and even singing a song to the tune of the beer barrel polka during the backstage removal of Optimus Prime. There were just over 30 entries and the overall quality was superb, with some pretty high tech constructions and lovely workmanship as well as amusingly choreographed numbers. The Spanish

Inquisition, which I had seen at BayCon, was a huge hit and well choreographed. Lounge Lizard was fast, funny and highly entertaining. The River Tam entry was good, and notable in that it was clear that she had considerable practice with her weapon. The big winner was the Trinity Blood group costume, which won Best in Show, Best Anime, and received a beautiful wedding kimono from the Nippon 2007 Worldcon. Others worth mentioning included Lady Tottington, Fosters Home for Imaginary Friends, Puss in Boots, Handmaiden of Sauron, and audience favorite Dancing With Celebrities from the Stars.

The ever-brilliant Lux After Dark players provided halftime entertainment. The dancers all wore can-can outfits adapted to the SF genre, so we were treated to a Princess Leia, Leelo from *Fifth Element*, and Borg dancers, as well as a couple of others I didn't recognize. Rather than a couple of dance numbers, which is what I expected, they put on an hour-long musical play. Set more or less to the tune and story of *Moulin Rouge*, it was tweaked to a boy-meets-girl-on-a-space station concept. The sftnal trimmings were nominal outside of the costuming but the acting and singing were good and the pace quick and snappy. After the play, the judges came back with the results (a bit of a shock to those of us

who have been to BayCon Masquerades and waited hours for results) and the evening drew to a close as I dragged my tired ass off to bed.

Saturday

Saturday morning the newsletter greeted us with a "Congratulations Denver" headline, signaling to our great dismay that the 2008 Worldcon will not be held in Hollister after all. We rended our garments and rubbed ashes in our hair and headed to the con suite for bagels.

My first panel of the day was *Galaxy Quest Revealed*, which was supposed to be a talk by Robert Gordon, but when he called in sick they decided to simply run the movie. Despite the fact that I own it on DVD, I got sucked in and watched the whole damned thing. Afterwards, feeling sheepish at having sat through a movie I own while at a con, I went over to something more unique: *Implications of Global Warming* with Gregory Benford, Rick Lynch and Kim Stanley Robinson. I recently read *Forty Signs of Rain* and *Fifty Degrees Below*, so I was greatly looking forward to this panel. I was not disappointed in the least; all the panelists agreed on the reality of climate change, the dire consequences and the fact that human action must take place to change it if the human species expects to

survive. Robinson was far more optimistic about our ability to do so than Dr. Benford but the discussion over possible solutions was fascinating. Handouts regarding carbon capture and storage were provided and realclimate.org was recommended for further reading.

Brain full of global scientific goodness, I then headed over to something that would make even the best of brains burst, *Harlan Ellison Tells Us*, where I got what I thought were reasonably safe seats ensconced in the middle of the auditorium a couple of rows behind the camera. However Ellison came from left field (duh) and decided to conduct the first half of the talk from the camera stand, which he bonked with his microphone first. He was in fine form and did eventually make his way first to and then onto the stage, where he told the infamous gopher story. He seemed more content than in past years, possibly due to his settlement with AOL and his Grand Master award. Near the end of his talk he expressed his happiness with his career, his home and his life. He also announced that this would probably be his last convention. Given later events, this now seems more likely than it did at the time.

After that I wandered over to the Fan Fun auctions where Lloyd Penney seemed to be purchasing, well... everything. I did

manage to snag a Frank Lurz print at an embarrassingly low price. Chris Garcia was there bidding on every zine offered and even winning a few. A few items were put away to be eBayed as the minimum bids were under the reasonable value of the item, but an issue of *File 770* originally mailed to Avram Davidson brought a pretty penny and some NASA teddy bears went over surprisingly well.

My money spent, I left the auction and went over to *The Renaissance in Hard SF*, which failed to really grab my attention and lost me to *The Singularity: What Is It and Why Should You Care*, which had Cory Doctorow on it. It was really quite interesting although the definition of Singularity is still vague enough in people's minds that it was sometimes difficult to stay on topic. Issues addressed included post and trans-humanism, genomodification/body tailoring and informational and computational singularities. Much fun was had by most and I left the panel feeling oddly recharged.

My last panel for the day was *Crafting the Whedonverse*, which involved Jane Espenson, Tim Minear and Loni Peristere speaking about their experiences on *Buffy*, *Angel* and *Firefly*. Marti Noxon could not make it but the panel was a huge success regardless, a fascinating look into

the creative process and the specific culture within *Mutant Enemy*. Tim Minear's speech cadences were almost disturbingly Whedon-like. Both writers discussed the level of oversight that Whedon brings to his creations, which was not much of a surprise to those of us who follow his work. As with his casts, the crew seems to have an endearing rapport with Whedon and with each other. At the end of the panel, Minear discussed his upcoming show *Drive*, the details of which are still quite secret but which seems to be potentially a very exciting show, unlike anything I've seen on TV recently.

After such a brain intensive day I was ready for a nap but the Hugo Awards ceremony was due to start at 8 p.m. and I had to decide what to wear. I rushed to the room and changed and then rushed back down to the auditorium. I arrived just late enough to miss the newly renamed Forrest J Ackerman Big Heart Award being presented to Forry. Connie Willis was a fabulous MC, keeping the festivities going while also managing to stall them and torture the nominees. The winners were all deserving and gracious, and in almost all categories my first or second choice. Whatever controversies his earlier onstage behavior may have provoked, Harlan was struck speechless and looked honestly touched when presented with his

award. Betty Ballantine received a special award and gave a beautiful speech. She also looked amazing in a fabulous gold dress. John Scalzi accepted the Campbell award and tiara with panache, and David Levine rushed to the stage to receive his Hugo with quivering excitement. Morena Baccarin accepted for *Serenity* and BAreal Frank Wu got his second Fan Artist Hugo.

Mentioned in the evening newsletter was the fact that there had been a Friday night dance, which few seemed to have been aware of. For the Saturday night dance large signs with arrows were parked at the feet of the escalators.

The parties were full, but my stamina was not up to navigating the maze of hallways and I crashed around midnight.

Sunday

The *Battlestar Galactica* panel was in a reasonably packed auditorium full of fans waiting for any tidbit on the new season. I arrived after the teaser had already been shown, but listening to the show writers describe the creative process was entertaining, and Ron Moore was an engaging speaker. We were told the third season will see the interior of a Cylon and that there is going to be more development of the Cylon religion and society.

Afterwards, I wandered over to

the less well-attended but also highly entertaining *Doctor Who* panel with Paul Cornell and Shaun Lyon of the Outpost Gallifrey website. There was supposed to be a third panelist who never showed up, but his absence allowed the panel to essentially become a one-man talk. Cornell stood and spoke about working on the first and third series of *Doctor Who* and avoided spoilers for those of us who are still season two deprived. Although his episode, *Fathers Day*, was nominated for the Hugo, Steven Moffett won for *Empty Child/Doctor Dances*, and Cornell read us some of the text messages he received from Moffet. His enthusiasm was infectious and he bobbed up and down as he spoke of his lifelong love of *Doctor Who* and working with Russell T. Davies, Christopher Eccleston, David Tennant and Billie Piper.

After that, the only thing left on the schedule was Closing Ceremonies, but I napped right through them; clearly I am getting old. This turned out to be the right decision, though, since the Dead Pluto party started at 7 p.m. and I awoke refreshed and headed down expecting a half dozen fen and a bowl of peanuts. To my delight the con suite was overflowing with diehard fans that refused to let the convention end. Sara Bruce, Lunatic E'sex, and various SMOFs kept the party going well into the night.

Two bottles of wine had sat neglected in the room all week, so those got broken out and I sat on the terrace with Sara Bruce and Tilly the Wonderdog and polished off first the red and then the white, with a little help from Andy Trembley and other staunch volunteers. After a lively, if alarming, political discussion with Allyn Llyr those present all agreed that a Revolution was in order. Not wanting to waste good booze on Molotov cocktails, however, I decided to leave that for another day and instead ended up in a conversation about autism with Kory Doyle that was as interesting as any panel of the convention. Just as the wine ran out, James Bacon walked by distributing beer like some alcoholic Santa. Around 2:30 a.m. my brain gave out and I declared the convention officially over for me. As I left I passed scores of fans still engaged in lively debate and I would not be surprised at all if dead dog lasted right through until dawn.

Like all good conventions, LACon IV left me both physically exhausted and mentally renewed. I didn't sell one piece of art, but the work I did in preparation for the con and the art I saw while there filled me with new ideas. The panels full of creative people, some struggling to make it, others at the peak of their careers were an inspiration, and even the parties contributed

to a feeling of endless potential, packed as they were with fen full of humor and outlandish ideas. SiliCon is just a month away, and LosCon the month after that, and then, who knows? Maybe it's time to visit Colorado.

Privateers Assault San Mateo



A Gentleman, Captain Jack Sparrow and Pirate Sassy

By Jean Martin

Editor

Proving that pirates are a very popular theme nowadays, the Period Events and Entertainments Re-Creation Society (PEERS) pirates ball last September 2 was packed to the rafters with costumed revelers. Dressed in everything from Captain Jack Sparrow to an HP Software pirate and a Pittsburgh Pirate, the dance was very colorful indeed.

Well, technically, the ball's name was changed from Captain Morgan's Pyrates Ball to Captain Morgan's Privateers (We Ain't Pirates No More) Ball. What's the difference, you might ask? Privateers, according to the Merriam-Webster OnLine Dictionary (which I did PR for during my short stint as a high-tech PR account executive), are sailors on an armed private ship licensed to attack enemy shipping. Sounds a little bit more respectable than the definition for a pirate: one who commits or practices robbery on the high seas. But the distinction was lost on the participants, who were more concerned about having a good time dancing, socializing, watching the entertainment and enjoying the delectable treats.

The ball was held at its usual venue, the San Mateo Masonic Temple, and it was a surprise to me to see so many people as the event was during Labor Day weekend, the Bay Bridge was partly shut down, and Burning Man was happening at the same time. I myself didn't make it to Burning Man (see the photo essay in this same issue), but

I'm glad I got to go to the Privateers Ball instead as I love English Country Dancing.

The band for the evening was the incomparable Bangers & Mash, who perform at Fezziwig's during Dickens Fair and grace the stage at PEERS events regularly. They played elegant Baroque music, lively English Country tunes and a few anachronistic waltzes, polkas and mazurkas. Dance Master Alan Winston of the Bay Area English Regency Society (BAERS) and the Bay Area Country Dance Society (BACDS) was the caller for the evening. He taught the dances briefly before each set. I enjoy Alan's teaching style but I wound up not dancing much that evening. I socialized with friends I haven't seen in a while and manned the ticket table for 45 minutes. I did get to dance with Alan, which I love because he gets creative and I feel like I'm Ginger Rogers gliding across the hardwood floor.

During one of the intermissions, a special guest performance by Dogwatch delighted the crowd with their seafaring music. There was also a Morris Dancing demonstration. All in all, the evening was awash in 17th- and 18th-century swashbuckling fun.

Visit the following web sites for more information:

<http://www.peers.org/>

<http://www.baers.org/>

<http://www.bacds.org/>

<http://www.m-w.com/>



First Mate John with Lady Eva



Pirate Sassy and Sir Alan waltzing



Captain Morgan and Crew





Rum
1



Half of Bangers and Mash



Pirate Wenches

BASFA Minutes: meeting 841

September 3, 2006

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

Began 7:59 [with pie].

17 people attended.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 839.98 were accepted as 'sloshed in translation' & the minutes of meeting 840 were accepted as 'Crikey!'

There was no Treasurer [week 3] but we took in \$3.00 last week.

There was no VP but Chris did a dash-by fanzine-ing and there is a new issue of the 'Drink Tank.'

The President congratulated Frank Wu on his Hugo win again - since Frank had brought his rockets with him [shiny!].

We said 'hi' to Bob Balmanno, visiting us for the 1st time & just-published author of

the sf novel 'September Snow.'

The Hollister in 08 committee reported 'sadly' [while jumping with glee] that they did not win the site selection ballot but pulled 79 votes [a record for an ineligible bid] & the party was a resounding success, plus various bits of evidence were handed over to fanac.org's history archives & they ended with \$138.00 to pass along to the BASFA party fund & future hoaxes may occur & then the committee was discharged - to applause.

Announcements

Ken announced that the final Cinema San Pedro movie for this season on Wednesday night will be 'The Breakfast Club.'

Dave C announced that he has a box of 'Greetings from Lake Wu' books in his car, by Jay Lake & Frank Wu for \$150 [and cheap at that price].

Eric announced that Steve Irwin died today.

Reviews:

Mike reviewed socks made of 'cool max' that keep feet comfy and cool as pricey

but worth the cost & says that prescription glasses for \$18 are well worth it from valueglasses.com.

[evil] Kevin reviewed taking Andy to Disneyland for the 1st time as there were many fun parts to it & he found the jokes at the 'Jungle Cruise' are as bad as ever - but they've added piranha! & he reviewed the WorldCon Masquerade as one of the smoothest he's ever taken part in - it hummed - and some of the backstage judging was overly dramatic. There were follow-ons - Dave C commented that the photo area was 'a little tiny space' & they didn't get all the contestants & [evil] Kevin said that Conrad would be on National Geographic TV.

Kevin S reviewed WorldCon as he spent 7 days there to get the full flavor of the con & that the 'taster' memberships did their job & he enjoyed the con & wished he could've attended more panels.

It was then moved and passed that Kevin S be renamed Kevin Alpha-Omega for the duration of the meeting.

Since Kevin S was the first on the WorldCon

main stage - and the last one off of it - then he related WSFS business meeting hijinks [as Ben Yalow fought the tide] - saying it was exhilarating but not fun - and that both 'Match Games' went well but the night time 'Match game' needed a much bigger room & air conditioning; then Bob follow-on'd that Kevin was masterful.

Dave C reviewed WorldCon as he was stuck in the Dealer's room most of the con & did well.

Fred reviewed Burning Man as totally great

and the weather was much better than other years & was worth far more than full price.

Frank showed his 'Chris for TAFF' poster & related that he tracked down 2 movies he'd been looking for - 'Laserblast' [not as bad as he expected] & 'The Crater Lake Monster' as completely awful and really bad and not worth full price.

Eric reviewed something seen at the Tapestry Arts Festival as beer inspired and that the WalkWatcher art was fairly cute

We auctioned off books for \$0.25 & a stack of blank CDR's for \$3.00.

We adjourned at 9:40 pm - before the rumor was adopted, but:

And the rumor of the week was 'Final Vote - Ben Yalow 0, the Tide 99.'

BASFA Minutes: meeting 842

September 11, 2006

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

Began 8:00.

23 people attended.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 841 were accepted as 'stripped to the bone

in 2 minutes.'

We established a party jar.

Treasurer's report: we took in \$10.75 last week in the regular jar & \$142.50 in the party jar - mainly thanks to the Hollister bid.

The VP stopped by for pie, but left before the meeting began.

The President welcomed BASFA's newest member, Stellan Lagerstrom, who then

introduced himself as 'your basic nerd' who went to Worldcon & stumbled on us [BASFA]. Then we said 'hi' to Howeird, who introduced himself as 'it's all Chris's fault' and he came by expecting to find 3 people here, and had seen our website - and that it needs to be updated, & met Mark - who was here to give Joanie a donation for her middle school's book project.

Announcements

Kevin announced that he is rather rashly donating 2 Hugo items to Joanie's middle school project & asked if anyone wanted to

look at the trophies.

Dave C announced that he has joined the dark side of the badge [many follow-on's about badge ribbons].

Andy announced that SiliCon is coming up in a couple of weeks & there is possibly going to be an Evil Geniuses party on Saturday night.

Adrienne asked why BASFA doesn't print its own books & several reasons were given.

Joanie announced that an art car festival will be held this Saturday & Sunday in downtown SJ.

[evil] Kevin announced that the annual gay rodeo will be at Driscoll Ranch, 5 miles inland of San Gregorio Beach, this Saturday & Sunday [and they will be sponsoring the goat dressing].

Reviews:

[evil] Kevin reviewed the Northern California Ren Faire as they got will-call tickets because of the Hollister bid & it was a beautiful, pleasant day; a mid-sized faire & folks were having a lot of fun & the acting was certainly cheesy - more cheesy than he remembered anyway & worth full

price.

Adrienne reviewed the Pleasanton Scottish games as it was very large & she liked the games and the shopping - a fun place to go on a Labor Day weekend & worth full price and spending the day there & she reviewed an HBO boxed set, 'Deadwood' as the show is so awesome.

Kevin S reviewed an [L] member [anonymous Kenny] as a drive-by poster who is very nearly illiterate - and astonishing.

Andy reviewed 'Greetings from Lake Wu' as the Frank Wu artwork is justifiably gorgeous and each piece is radically different from each other & the stories are generally excellent & the production values are insanely gorgeous, definitely worth throwing \$150 at.

Trey reviewed [so you don't have to] Walter Hunt's latest book, "Dark Crusade", 4th in the series as he liked it and it brought matters to a satisfactory close & worth paperback; then Dave C commented that he met Mark Budz at WorldCon and that some authors tend to write their titles in alphabetic order - & Joanie approves of this.

We auctioned off stuff - birthday auctioned

Kevin S for \$10.00 to Dave C & birthday auctioned [evil] Kevin for \$10.00 to Andy; then books for \$1.75, \$0.50, \$1.00, \$0.75 & \$3.00.

We adjourned at 9:17 pm.

And the rumor of the week was 'Tall, evil or cheap - pick any 2.'

Bay Area Fannish Calendar

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

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

Wednesday, September 20

Author: Kelly Link
The Booksmith
1644 Haight Street
San Francisco
7 p.m.
Free

Wednesday, September 20

Anne of the Indies (1951)
Pacific Film Archive
2575 Bancroft Way
Berkeley
7:30 p.m.
\$8
The pirate queen of the Caribbean as imagined by Jacques Tourneur (*Cat People, I Walked with a Zombie*). Part of PFA's "Arrr, Matey: Pirates and Piracy" series.

September 20-23

TROG!

Theatre Rhinoceros
2926 16th Street
San Francisco
8 p.m.
\$20
www.makeitsoproductions.org
Make It So Productions' parody of the 1970 British B-horror film *Trog*, which starred Joan Crawford in her final role.

September 20 -October 1

Woman in Black (A Ghost Play)
Pacific Rep
Golden Bough Theatre
West side of Monte Verde between 8th and 9th
Carmel-by-the-Sea
www.pacrep.org
Local production of the play that's been running in London for 16 years. Highly recommended by Jack Avery.

Thursday, September 21

Jurassic Third Thursday
California Academy of Sciences
875 Howard Street
San Francisco
5-9 p.m.
\$5
calacademy.org/events/thirdthursdays/
Lounge lizards attending this month's "Third Thursday" cocktail party may tour the new

exhibit *Dinosaurs: Ancient Fossils, New Discoveries* and listen to Brazilian jazz by Boca do Rio.

Thursday, September 21

Science on Stage:
The Stem Cell Research Plays
McBean Theatre
The Exploratorium
3601 Lyon Street
San Francisco
7 p.m.
Readings of eight short plays about the up-and-coming field of stem cell research by up-and-coming playwrights from the UCSB Summer Play Lab. Free with a Magic Theatre subscription, an Exploratorium membership, or a same-day Exploratorium ticket (\$13).

Thursday, September 21

Serenity (2005)
Parkway Speakeasy Theater
1834 Park Blvd.
Oakland
9:15 p.m.
\$7
Proving once again that you can't stop the signal.

Friday, September 22

Film Night in the Park: Ghostbusters (1984)

Commons Park
10 Ross Commons
Ross
8 p.m.
Suggested donation: \$5 adults, \$3 children

Friday and Saturday, September 22-23

Art at the Dump
SF Recycling & Disposal
503 Tunnel Ave.
San Francisco
Fri. 5-9 p.m., Sat 1-5 p.m.
Free
www.sfrecycling.com/AIR
Exhibit/reception for artists-in-residence
Noah Wilson (photography) and Kim Weller
(art inspired by visual mass media, such as
the *Archie* comics). The Artist in Residence
Program offers artists the opportunity to
create art using materials gathered from San
Francisco's refuse, with 24-hour studio access,
a monthly stipend, and a final exhibition.

Friday and Saturday, September 22-23

Feast (2005)
Aquarius Theatre, Palo Alto
Clay Theatre, San Francisco
Shattuck Cinemas, Berkeley
Midnight
\$8 (\$9.75 at the Clay)
www.landmarkafterdark.com
The *Project Greenlight*-winning Horror pic
spatters all three of Landmark's midnight movie
screens on the same weekend.

Friday-Sunday, September 22-24
Browncoat Ball

Marines Memorial Club and Hotel
609 Sutter Street
San Francisco
\$150; single-day tickets available
www.browncoatball.com
Join the SF Browncoats who are sponsoring
this year's Browncoat Ball. Two dinner and
dance events, a boat tour of the bay and a tour
of Chinatown are planned, plus lots of *Serenity*/
Firefly activities. The event is themed around
the ball from the *Firefly* episode "Shindig."
(Yes, that's the one with Kaylee's dress in it.)

Saturday, September 23

BeefBowl Anime
Albany Library
1247 Marin Avenue
Albany
12:15ish-4:15 p.m.
Free
[See the screening list at beefbowl.org](http://www.beefbowl.org)

Saturday, September 23

Tachyon Publications Anniversary Party
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street
San Francisco
2 p.m.
Free
www.borderlands-books.com
With Peter S. Beagle, Terry Bisson, Grania
Davis, Ellen Klages, Richard Lupoff, Pat
Murphy, Frank Robinson, and others.

Saturday-Sunday, September 23-24

Northern California Renaissance Faire
Casa de Fruta

100031 Pacheco Pass Highway
Hollister
\$22
www.norcalrenfaire.com
Hearty ale, fine foods, handmade crafts, new
Tournament of Horses.

Sunday, September 24

Bad Movie Night:
Kingdom of the Spiders (1977)
The Dark Room Theatre
2263 Mission Street
San Francisco
8 p.m.
\$5
www.darkroomsf.com
The web site used to say the Bad Movie for
9/24 would be *Incubus (1965)* starring William
Shatner, in Esperanto with English subtitles.
Kingdom of the Spiders has Shatner, too, but
one can't help mourning the lost opportunity to
hear him speak Esperanto.

Monday, September 25

Bad Astronomy
Dimond Branch Library
3565 Fruitvale Avenue
Oakland
6:30 p.m.
Free
www.baskeptics.org/sept2006.htm
A talk and book signing by Dr. Phil Plait,
presented by the Bay Area Skeptics.

Wednesday, September 27

The Art of S. Clay Wilson
Edinburgh Castle Pub

950 Geary Street
San Francisco
7 p.m.
Free

Book launch party for a retrospective of one of the most prolific and lurid of the SF underground comix artists (*The Checkered Demon*, etc.). Presented by Green Apple Books.

Thursday, September 28

SF in SF: Ellen Klages and Madeleine Robins

Valencia Theatre
New College
777 Valencia Street

San Francisco

7 p.m.

\$4

Sci Fi author reading series, with discussion and book signing after.

Thursday, September 28

Science on Stage:

The Ruby Vector

McBean Theatre
The Exploratorium
3601 Lyon Street

San Francisco

7 p.m.

Script-in-hand performance of a new play examining issues about bio-weaponry, by Karla Jennings. Free with a Magic Theatre subscription, an Exploratorium membership, or a same-day Exploratorium ticket (\$13).

Thursday, September 28

ParaSpheres
City Lights

261 Columbus
San Francisco
6:30 p.m.
Free

Book release party for *ParaSpheres: Extending Beyond the Spheres of Literary and Genre Fiction - Fabulist and New Wave Fabulist Stories*. With editors Ken Keegan and Rusty Morrison, and readings by authors Charlie Anders, Rikki Ducornet, Laura Moriarty, Rudy Rucker, Stephen Shugart, Mark Wallace and William Luvaas.

Friday, September 29

Lunar Lounge Express

Chabot Space Science Center
10000 Skyline Blvd.

Oakland

8-11 p.m.

\$15, \$10 for students

510-336-7373

Party under the stars with music by the Kevin Beadles Band, Sonic Vision planetarium show, and telescope viewing (weather permitting).

Friday and Saturday, September 29-30

Late Night Picture Show: Cremaster 3 (2002)

Clay Theatre
2261 Fillmore
San Francisco

Midnight

\$9.75

www.landmarkafterdark.com

Friday and Saturday, September 29-30

Midnight Special:

Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981)

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

Friday and Saturday, September 29-30

Midnight Madness: Young Frankenstein (1974)

Aquarius Theatre
430 Emerson Street
Palo Alto

\$8

www.landmarkafterdark.com

Saturday, September 30

*Fifth Annual Film in the Fog:
Them! (1954)*

Lawn, Main Post Theater
Presidio of San Francisco

5 p.m.

Free

www.sffs.org

Family-friendly picnic, concert and outdoor film screening presented by the San Francisco Film Society and the Presidio Trust.

Saturday, September 30

ParaSpheres

Rebound Bookstore
1541 Fourth Street

San Rafael

5 p.m.

Free

Book release party for *ParaSpheres: Extending Beyond the Spheres of Literary and Genre Fiction - Fabulist and New Wave Fabulist Stories*. With readings by Rikki Ducornet, Tom

LaFarge, William Luvaas, Stephen Shugart, and Mark Wallace.

Saturday, September 30

EndGame Fifth Anniversary Party

EndGame

921 Washington

Oakland

9 a.m.-7 p.m.

Free

Events include a charity raffle for the chance to play *Settlers of Catan* with Guido Teuber or *True 20* with Chris Pramas from Green Ronin. www.endgameoakland.com

Saturday, September 30

Hellfire Club Ball

Masonic Lodge

100 N. Ellsworth

San Mateo

8-11:30 p.m.

\$20 at the door

Presented by the Bay Area English Regency Society (BAERS). The bawdy, naughty members of the Hellfire Club invite you to enjoy an evening of elegantly transgressive dance and subterranean carousing. Masks, cloaks, and hoods encouraged. Dance in the shadows as a monk or nun or flaunt your noble standing, if you dare. Women of low birth and reputation are also welcome to join the revels.

Saturday, September 30

Warp 11: "Return to the Alpha Quadrant"

Blue Lamp

1400 Alhambra Blvd.

Sacramento

10 p.m.

Ages 21+

Sacramento's Star Trek-themed rock band performs such hits as "Everything I Do I Do With William Shatner" and "She Make It So." With Special Guest TBD.

Saturday-Sunday, September 30-October 1

Northern California Renaissance Faire

Casa de Fruta

100031 Pacheco Pass Highway

Hollister

\$22

www.norcalrenfaire.com

Hearty ale, fine foods, handmade crafts, new Tournament of Horses.

Monday, October 2

An Evening with Neil Gaiman

Berkeley Repertory Theater

2025 Addison Street

Berkeley

7 p.m.

\$10

Presented by Cody's Books. Tickets available via email at events@codysbooks.com or by phone (510-559-9500 or 510-845-9092).

Tuesday, October 3

Author: Neil Gaiman

Kepler's Books

1010 El Camino Real

Menlo Park

7:30 p.m.

Free

650-324-4321

Might be a good idea to arrive early: outdoor

reception begins at 6:15.

Wednesday, October 4

Author: Alexandra Sokoloff

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

7 p.m.

Free

www.borderlands-books.com

Thursday, October 5

Thrillville's Zombie-Rama:

Children Shouldn't Play With Dead Things (1972) and Burial Ground (1981)

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

7:30 p.m.

\$8

Hosted by Speakeasy Theaters programmer and local lounge lizard Will "the Thrill" Viharo and his lovely wife and stage assistant, Monica, Tiki Goddess. Guest appearance by Cinema Insomnia host Mr. Lobo; live therein by Robert Silverman.

October 5-31

Dragon's Head Inn

1200-1500 Valley House Drive

Rohnert Park

7 p.m.-midnight

www.dragonsheadinn.com

Sonoma County's major haunted house returns with a new location, Thursdays through Sundays in October plus Monday & Tuesday Oct. 30-31. Expect to see plenty of vamps,

ghouls, and ghosts, along with Klingons, Storm Troopers, and the Red Cross bloodmobile.

Friday, October 6

Return of the Living Dead (1985)

Sid & Nancy (1986)

They Live (1988)

Castro Theatre

429 Castro Street

San Francisco

7:30 p.m.

\$10

www.thecastrotheatre.com

Part of the Castro's "Midnites for Maniacs" series.

Friday, October 6

Late Night Picture Show:

Phantom of the Paradise (1974)

Clay Theatre

2261 Fillmore

San Francisco

Midnight

\$9.75

www.landmarkafterdark.com

Brian de Palma's sorta-cult-classic, with a live musical performance by Evolution Rainbow.

Friday and Saturday, October 6-7

Midnight Special: The Goonies (1985)

Shattuck Cinemas

2230 Shattuck Ave.

Berkeley

\$8

www.landmarkafterdark.com

Friday and Saturday, October 6-7

Midnight Madness:

Plan 9 from Outer Space (1959)

Aquarius Theatre

430 Emerson Street

Palo Alto

\$8

www.landmarkafterdark.com

Ed Wood's magnum opus, in color!

October 6-29

Young Frankenstein: The Play

The Dark Room Theatre

2263 Mission Street

San Francisco

Fri. & Sat. at 8 p.m., Sun. at 3 p.m.

\$15

www.darkroomsf.com/youngfrankenstein

Friday-Sunday, October 6-8

SiliCon

DoubleTree Hotel

2050 Gateway Place

San Jose

www.siliconventions.com

\$45 at the door

Guests of Honor: Mark Bode, Robert Meyer

Burnett, Craige Howlett

Media-oriented general SF con; this year's

theme is "Comics On and Off the Page."

Art show, dealer's room, panels, Short Film

Festival, costume contest, more.

Saturday, October 7

Author: Kage Baker

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

3 p.m.

Free

www.borderlands-books.com

Saturday, October 7

Author: Glen Hirshberg

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

5 p.m.

Free

www.borderlands-books.com

Saturday, October 7

Dickens Fair Preview Ball

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 N. Ellsworth

San Mateo

\$15 (by September 30), \$20 at the door

www.peers.org

Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Saturday, October 7

Film Night in the Park:

Young Frankenstein (1974)

Dolores Park

San Francisco

8 p.m.

Suggested donation: \$5 adults, \$3 children

Saturday-Sunday, October 7-8

Northern California Renaissance Faire

Casa de Fruta

100031 Pacheco Pass Highway

Hollister

\$22

www.norcalrenfaire.com
Hearty ale, fine foods, handmade crafts, new
Tournament of Horses.

Monday, October 9

Author: Spider Robinson

The Booksmith
1644 Haight Street
San Francisco

7 p.m.
Free

Tuesday, October 10

Nosferatu (1922)

Parkway Speakeasy Theater
1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland
9:15 p.m.

\$7

Max Schreck as the granddaddy of all movie
vampires, with an original live soundtrack
performed by the Devil Music Ensemble.

Friday, October 13

Winchester Mystery House Flashlight Tour

Winchester Mystery House
525 South Winchester Blvd.

San Jose
408-247-2101
6:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m.

\$35

Advance ticket purchase recommended. If
you miss the Friday the 13th tour, they'll be
conducting more around Halloween.

Friday, October 13

Zooming Out in Time

Cowell Theater

Fort Mason Center

San Francisco

7:30 p.m.

\$10 suggested donation

A lecture by mathematician John (not Joan)
Baez, presented by The Long Now Foundation.

www.longnow.org

Friday, October 13

*Spacehunter: Adventures in the Forbidden Zone
(1983), Jaws 3-D (1983), and Friday the 13th
Part 3 (1982)*

Castro Theatre

429 Castro Street

San Francisco

7:30 p.m.

\$10

www.thecastrotheatre.com

A 3-D triple feature; part of the Castro's
"Midnites for Maniacs" series.

Friday and Saturday, October 13-14

Late Night Picture Show:

Plan 9 from Outer Space (1959)

Clay Theatre

2261 Fillmore

San Francisco

Midnight

\$9.75

www.landmarkafterdark.com

Ed Wood's magnum opus, in color! Friday the
13th show includes a live appearance by the
Devilettes.

Friday and Saturday, October 13-14

Midnight Special:

Plan 9 from Outer Space (1959)

Shattuck Cinemas

2230 Shattuck Ave.

Berkeley

\$8

www.landmarkafterdark.com

Ed Wood's magnum opus, in color!

Friday and Saturday, October 13-14

Midnight Madness: The Goonies (1985)

Aquarius Theatre

430 Emerson Street

Palo Alto

\$8

www.landmarkafterdark.com

Saturday, October 14

LitCrawl

Various venues on Valencia Street

San Francisco

6-9:30 p.m.

Free

www.litquake.org

The culminating event of LitQuake, the San
Francisco Literary Festival, which runs October
6-14. Lit fans may stalk over 100 writers from
a multitude of genres up and down Valencia
Street, with readings in bookstores, bars, a
laundromat, etc.

Saturday, October 14

Creature from the Black Lagoon (1954)

Revenge of the Creature (1955)

The Creature Walks Among Us (1956)

Castro Theatre

429 Castro Street

San Francisco

\$16

www.thecastrotheatre.com for showtimes
Part of the Castro's 3-D film series, with Julie Adams and Ben Chapman in person.

Saturday-Sunday, October 14-15

Northern California Renaissance Faire

Casa de Fruta

100031 Pacheco Pass Highway

Hollister

\$22

www.norcalrenfaire.com

Hearty ale, fine foods, handmade crafts, new
Tournament of Horses.

Sunday, October 15

House of Wax (1953)

Phantom of the Rue Morgue (1954)

Castro Theatre

429 Castro Street

San Francisco

\$12

www.thecastrotheatre.com for showtimes

Part of the Castro's 3-D film series.

Sunday, October 15

St. Sebastian's Archery Hunt

Society for Creative Anachronism Event

King's Mountain Archery Range

Huddart County Park

Redwood City

10 a.m.-sundown

\$9 (members \$6)

www.thewestermark.org/events.html

A hunt in the forest, to be followed by a
baronial feast.

Tuesday, October 17

Gorilla at Large (1954)

Robot Monster (1953)

Castro Theatre

429 Castro Street

San Francisco

\$12

www.thecastrotheatre.com for showtimes

Part of the Castro's 3-D film series.

Tuesday, October 17

Gremlins (1984)

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

9:15 p.m.

\$7

A benefit for Just Cause Oakland.

Wednesday, October 18

Femspec Magazine

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

7 p.m.

Free

www.borderlands-books.com

Editor Batya Weinbaum and contributor Ardys

De Luis discuss *Femspec*, an interdisciplinary

feminist journal dedicated to critical and

creative works in the realms of SF, fantasy,

magical realism, surrealism, myth, folklore, and

other supernatural genres. www.femspec.org

Wednesday, October 18

Pirates of the Great Salt Lake (2006)

Pacific Film Archive

2575 Bancroft Way

Berkeley

7:30 p.m.

\$8

With short feature *Vexation Island*. Part of
PFA's "Arrr, Matey: Pirates and Piracy" series.

Thursday, October 19

Thrillville's Monster-rama:

The Werewolf vs. The Vampire Women (1971)

and *Beast Of The Yellow Night (1971)*

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

7:30 p.m.

\$10

Hosted by Speakeasy Theaters programmer
and local lounge lizard Will "the Thrill" Viharo
and his lovely wife and stage assistant, Monica,
Tiki Goddess. With guest appearances by Son
of Ghoul, Cinema Insomnia host Mr. Lobo, and
the Devilettes.

Thursday, October 19

It Came From Outer Space (1953)

Cat Women of the Moon (1953)

Castro Theatre

429 Castro Street

San Francisco

\$12

www.thecastrotheatre.com for showtimes

Plus the Three Stooges short *Spooks (1953)*;

part of the Castro's 3-D film series.

Friday, October 20

Friday the 13th: The Final Chapter (1984)

Castro Theatre

429 Castro Street

San Francisco
Midnight
\$5
www.thecastrotheatre.com
Part of the Castro's Crispin Glover Film Festival.

Friday-Sunday, October 20-22

What Is It? (2005) and
The Big Slide Show
Castro Theatre
429 Castro Street
San Francisco
7:30 p.m.
\$18 (\$16 in advance)
www.thecastrotheatre.com
Crispin Glover's ten-year project, featuring the writer/actor/director in person.

Friday-Sunday, October 20-22

Yaoi-Con
Westin and Clarion Hotels
San Francisco Airport
www.yaoicon.com
\$60 at the door
Male/male anime and manga fest with art show, manga reading room, dealer's room, bishounen auction. (For a definition of *yaoi*, see www.yaoicon.com/whatisyaoi.html or Andy Trembley's review in SF/SF #11.)

Saturday, October 21

Author: Deborah Grabien
Book Passage
51 Tamal Vista Blvd.
Corte Madera
415-927-0960

4 p.m.
Free

Saturday, October 21

The Rolling Darkness Review
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street
San Francisco
6:24 p.m. (dusk)
Free
www.borderlands-books.com
A traveling multi-media Horror experience which incorporates theatrical lighting and live music to provide "much more than the usual bookstore reading." With Pete Atkins, Glen Hirshberg, Norm Partridge, and music by Pets Gone Wild.

Saturday, October 21

Other Magazine Presents
Writers with Drinks
The Make-Out Room
3225 22nd Street
San Francisco
7:30 p.m.
\$3-\$5 sliding scale
With Lisa Goldstein, Michelle Orange, and Tim Redmond.

Saturday, October 21

The Orkly Kid (1984)
Rubin and Ed (1991)
Castro Theatre
429 Castro Street
San Francisco
Midnight
\$10

www.thecastrotheatre.com
Part of the Castro's Crispin Glover Film Festival.

Saturday-Sunday, October 21-22

Folsom Renaissance Faire
Lions Park
Natoma & Stafford Streets
Folsom
\$12
www.folsomfaire.com
Dancers, bards, puppets, food, more.

Sunday, October 22

3DBCon
Three Dollar Bill Café
LGBT Center
1800 Market Street
San Francisco
10 a.m.-10 p.m.
\$10
www.threedollarbill.com/3DBcon/
One-day gaming convention; gamers need to register by October 13.

Sunday, October 22

PHANTASM: (in)visible Bodies & Haunted Spaces
Space Gallery
1141 Polk Street
San Francisco
415-377-3325
7 p.m.
Opening party for a group show offering serious as well as amusing considerations of paranormal phenomena through a variety of media, including photography, painting,

installation, performance and video. With works by Kamau Patton, Erin Weber, Jon Santos, XK, Gordon Hull, Jesse Houlding, Evans Hankey, Zach Von Joo, Kim West, Marina Shterenberg, and Antonios Kosmadakis.

Sunday, October 22

Back to the Future (1985)

Bartleby (2001)

Willard (2003)

Castro Theatre

429 Castro Street

San Francisco

11:30 a.m.

\$10

www.thecastrotheatre.com

Part of the Castro's Crispin Glover Film Festival.

Tuesday, October 24

A Fistful of Dollars (1964)

For a Few Dollars More (1965)

Castro Theatre

429 Castro Street

San Francisco

7 p.m.

\$9

www.thecastrotheatre.com

Wednesday, October 25

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly (1966)

Castro Theatre

429 Castro Street

San Francisco

1, 4:30 and 8 p.m.

\$9 (\$6 matinee at 1 p.m.)

www.thecastrotheatre.com

Thursday, October 26

Army of Darkness (1993)

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

9:15 p.m.

\$5

Friday, October 27

Dynamite DinoNight

California Academy of Sciences

875 Howard Street

San Francisco

6:30 p.m.

\$350/family (2 adults + up to 3 children)

The Academy's 15th Annual Halloween Party, a kid-friendly event. Reservations required: 415-321-8405.

Friday, October 27

Halloween Costume Bash

Masonic Hall

2312 Alameda Ave.

Alameda

8 p.m.

\$25 at the door, \$20 in advance

www.spellbindingtales.com

A grownups-only costume party to benefit the Alameda Food Bank, co-sponsored by Spellbinding Tales and The Alameda Sun.

Friday, October 27

Lunar Lounge Express Halloween Party

Chabot Space Science Center

10000 Skyline Blvd.

Oakland

8-11 p.m.

\$15, \$10 for students

510-336-7373

Come in costume and party under the stars with live music by Flying Venus.

Friday, October 27

Midnight Movie Spooktacular

Camera 7 Cinema

1875 S. Bascom Avenue

Campbell

\$7

Halloween movie event with guest appearances and free giveaways.

Friday, October 27

Thrillville's Halloween Spookylau:

The Crawling Eye (1958)

Copia

500 First Street

Napa

8 p.m.

\$6

Hosted by Speakeasy Theaters programmer and local lounge lizard Will "the Thrill" Viharo and his lovely wife and stage assistant, Monica, Tiki Goddess. Guest appearance by Cinema Insomnia host Mr. Lobo.

Friday & Saturday, October 27-28

Ghost Train

Roaring Camp & Big Trees Railroad

Felton

6:30 p.m.

\$25

Ride a steam train through a haunted forest.

Reservations required: 1-888-25EVENT.

Friday and Saturday, October 27-28

*Late Night Picture Show:
The Monster Squad (1987)*

Clay Theatre
2261 Fillmore
San Francisco
Midnight
\$9.75
www.landmarkafterdark.com

Friday and Saturday, October 27-28

Midnight Special: Evil Dead II (1987)

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

Friday and Saturday, October 27-28

Midnight Madness: The Shining (1980)

Aquarius Theatre
430 Emerson Street
Palo Alto
\$8
www.landmarkafterdark.com

Saturday, October 28

Bay Area Games Day

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

Saturday, October 28

*For Crying Out Loud:
A Reading by Lemony Snicket*

Capuchino High School
1501 Magnolia Ave.
San Bruno
2 p.m.
650-685-4911
Sponsored by Books, Inc. in Burlingame; with illustrator Brett Helquist and music by The Gothic Archies featuring Lemony Snicket on percussion. (No info yet on obtaining tickets.)

Saturday, October 28

Warp 11: "Halloween Scary Love Fest"

G Street Pub
228 G Street
Davis
10 p.m.
Ages 21+
Sacramento's Star Trek-themed rock band performs such hits as "Red Alert" and "Rage Against the Federation." With The Brodys.

Saturday, October 28

Midnight Movie Spooktacular

Camera 12 Cinema
201 South Second Street
San Jose
\$7
Halloween movie event with guest appearances and free giveaways.

Monday, October 30

*Ask a Scientist:
Attention and Memory*
The Bazaar Café

5927 California Street
San Francisco
7 p.m.
Free
With Prof. Adam Gazzaley, UCSF neuroscientist.

Tuesday, October 31

Winchester Mystery House Flashlight Tour

Winchester Mystery House
525 South Winchester Blvd.
San Jose
408-247-2101
6:30 p.m.- midnight
\$35
Advance ticket purchase advised. Cosplayers will be reportedly be gathering in the garden again this year to take/pose for pictures (the garden tour is free!).

Tuesday, October 31

PHANTASM: (in)visible Bodies & Haunted Spaces

Space Gallery
1141 Polk Street
San Francisco
415-377-3325
7 p.m.
Halloween closing party for this group exhibition (see Oct. 22 listing).

Tuesday, October 31

The Monster of Phantom Lake (2006)

Parkway Speakeasy Theater
1834 Park Blvd.
Oakland
9:15 p.m.

\$5

www.monsterofphantomlake.com

A new indy film pays tribute to the B-horror movies of the 50s.

Friday and Saturday, November 3-4

Late Night Picture Show: Evil Dead II (1987)

Clay Theatre

2261 Fillmore

San Francisco

Midnight

\$9.75

www.landmarkafterdark.com

Friday and Saturday, November 3-4

Midnight Special: Donnie Darko (2001)

Shattuck Cinemas

2230 Shattuck Ave.

Berkeley

\$8

www.landmarkafterdark.com

Friday and Saturday, November 3-4

Midnight Madness: Alien (1979)

Aquarius Theatre

430 Emerson Street

Palo Alto

\$8

www.landmarkafterdark.com

Friday-Sunday, November 3-5

BASCon

Embassy Suites

250 Gateway Boulevard

South San Francisco

\$75

www.bascon.org

The Bay Area Slash Convention returns. Adults only. For all your Kirk/Spock fanfic needs.

Saturday, November 4

Le Bal des Vampires

PEERS Event

Alameda Elks Lodge

2255 Santa Clara Avenue

Alameda

Ballroom dancing: 7:30 - midnight

Dracula's Daughter Discotheque & Bar: 6:30

- midnight

\$17.50 in advance (by October 28), \$25 at the door

www.peers.org

The annual fancy dress ball for the Undead and their admirers.

Friday, November 10

Late Night Picture Show:

The Toxic Avenger (1985)

Clay Theatre

2261 Fillmore

San Francisco

Midnight

\$9.75

www.landmarkafterdark.com

Friday and Saturday, November 10-11

Midnight Special:

A Clockwork Orange (1971)

Shattuck Cinemas

2230 Shattuck Ave.

Berkeley

\$8

www.landmarkafterdark.com

Saturday, November 11

For Crying Out Loud:

A Reading by Lemony Snicket

Book Passage

51 Tamal Vista Blvd.

Corte Madera

11 a.m.

415-927-0960

With music by The Gothic Archies featuring Lemony Snicket on percussion. (No info yet on obtaining tickets.)

Saturday, November 11

Vegas in Space (1991)

Clay Theatre

2261 Fillmore

San Francisco

Midnight

\$12

www.landmarkafterdark.com

A midnight screening of the first all-drag-queen Sci-Fi musical ever – with host Peaches Christ and guests.

Saturday, November 11

Warp 11: "A 23rd Century Thanksgiving"

Old Ironsides

1901 10th Street

Sacramento

9 pm

Sacramento's Star Trek-themed rock band performs such hits as "She Make It So" and "Boldly Go Down on Me." With Special Guest TBD.

Saturday, November 11

Other Magazine Presents

Writers with Drinks

The Make-Out Room
3225 22nd Street
San Francisco

7:30 p.m.

\$3-\$5 sliding scale

Writers: K.E. Silva, Madeleine Robins, and
Katie Hafner.

Sunday, November 12

For Crying Out Loud:

A Reading by Lemony Snicket

First Congregational Church
2345 Channing Way

Berkeley

3 p.m.

510-559-9500

With music by The Gothic Archies featuring
Lemony Snicket on percussion. Presented by
Cody's Books: Tickets go on sale in Cody's
stores (only) on October 13 – no info yet on
prices.

Sunday, November 12

Blind Guardian

The Fillmore

1805 Geary Boulevard

San Francisco

German progressive rock band tours "A

Twist in the Myth," their new album. "They
previously did an entire album, 'Nightside on
Middle Earth' based on Tolkien's Silmarillion
and a song called 'The Lord of the Rings' is
on an earlier album. Definitely a band heavily
influenced by fantasy themes."— Jack Avery.

Saturday, November 18

Pas D'Armes

Society for Creative Anachronism Event
Elk Glen

Golden Gate Park

San Francisco

Opening ceremonies 11 a.m.

Site fee \$5 (\$10 family), repast \$10, non-
members +\$3 (The Hospitallers of St. Bahb the
Martyr will subsidize the non-members fee).

www.cloondara.org

November 24-December 23

Dickens Christmas Fair

Exhibition Hall

The Cow Palace

Daly City

11 a.m.-7 p.m.

\$20

www.dickensfair.com

An appallingly exciting experience of no
ordinary cleverness. Dickens' London opens
for business the Friday after Thanksgiving
and continues weekends through Dec. 23
with gifts, food, costumes, dance parties, etc.
(Free admission during opening weekend
for "timeplayers" who have submitted their
Victorian personae in advance and arrive in
period costume — see website for details.)

Thursday, December 7

Thrillville: The Giant Claw (1957)

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

9:15 p.m.

\$7

Hosted by Speakeasy Theaters programmer and

local lounge lizard Will "the Thrill" Viharo and
his lovely wife and stage assistant, Monica, Tiki
Goddess. With the Twilight Vixen Revue live
on stage.

Sunday, December 10

Sac-Con

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street

Sacramento

10 a.m.-4 p.m.

\$5

Comic, toy and anime show, usually has an
anime costume contest.

Saturday, December 16

Otaku Bowl

Details to follow

Winter edition of the event where bowling,
anime and cosplay meet. Video room, costume
contest, artist alley/swap meet and random
bowling fun.

January 5-7, 2007

Fangoria's Weekend of Horrors

DoubleTree Hotel

2050 Gateway Place

San Jose

www.creationent.com

A Creation Convention. Guests to include
George Romero (*Night of the Living Dead*,
Dawn of the Dead). Ticket information
forthcoming.

January 6, 2007

Victorian 12th Night Ball

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge
100 N. Ellsworth
San Mateo
\$15 in advance (by December 20), \$20 at the door
www.peers.org
A.k.a. The Dickens Fair Reunion Ball. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

January 13, 2007

Sac-Anime

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street

Sacramento

\$5 - \$10

Anime convention featuring viewing room, art contest, vendor's room, costume ball, J-pop concert, more.

January 18-22, 2007

Further Confusion 2007

DoubleTree Hotel

2050 Gateway Place

San Jose

\$40

The Bay Area's major Furry con. Art show, dealer's room, costume contest, more.

February 3, 2007

Gotham City Black and White Ball

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 N. Ellsworth

San Mateo

\$15 in advance (by January 27), \$20 at the door

www.peers.org

Bruce Wayne requests the pleasure of your

company. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

February 16-19, 2007

Pantheacon

DoubleTree Hotel

2050 Gateway Place

San Jose

Annual Pagan gathering with workshops, lectures, performances, rituals, drumming, dancing, costume contests, and crafts.

February 16-19, 2007

DunDraCon

San Ramon Marriott

2600 Bishop Drive

San Ramon

www.dundracon.com

Annual gaming con; details to follow.

March 2-4, 2007

WonderCon

Moscone Center South

747 Howard Street

San Francisco

www.comic-con.org/wc/

Comic book/media convention with anime, summer movie previews, panels, dealers, costume contest, more.

March 2-4, 2007

Consonance

Venue TBD

\$45 at the door (\$35 until Oct. 31)

www.consonance.org

The annual Bay Area film convention.

March 3, 2007

Merry Widow Waltz Ball

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 N. Ellsworth

San Mateo

\$15 in advance (by February 24), \$20 at the door

www.peers.org

Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

March 11, 2007

Sac-Con

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street

Sacramento

10 a.m.-4 p.m.

\$5

Comic, toy and anime show, usually has an anime costume contest.

March 16-18, 2007

Rakkasah West

Richmond Auditorium

403 Civic Center Plaza

Richmond

www.rakkasah.com

Billed as the largest bellydance festival and fantasy bazaar in the world. Details to follow.

March 16-18, 2007

Con-X-treme

DoubleTree Hotel

2050 Gateway Place

San Jose

www.con-x-treme.com

Few details as yet on this con devoted to X-

treme anime, science fiction, fantasy, martial arts, and cosplay.

April 7, 2007

Red Carpet Ball

(1930s Hollywood Academy Award Ball)

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 N. Ellsworth

San Mateo

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

www.peers.org

Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

May 5, 2007

Sleeping Beauty's Christening Fantasy Ball

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 N. Ellsworth

San Mateo

\$15 in advance (by April 28), \$20 at the door

www.peers.org

Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

May 25-28, 2007

BayCon

Location TBD

www.baycon.org

\$75

The 25th Anniversary Edition of the largest annual general SF convention in Northern California will apparently not be held at its traditional home, the San Jose Doubletree.

Diverse panels, dealer's room, art show, masquerade, anime room, hall costumes, gaming, much more.

June 2, 2007

Space Cowboys' Ball

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 N. Ellsworth

San Mateo

\$15 in advance (by May 26), \$20 at the door

www.peers.org

Browncoats take note. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

June 30-July 3, 2007

Westercon 60: Gnomeward Bound

Marriott San Mateo

1770 South Amphlett Blvd.

San Mateo

spfii.org/westercon60/

Guests of Honor: Tad Williams, Theresa

Mather, Christian McGuire

Toastmaster: Jay Lake

August 3-6, 2007

MythCon 38

Clark Kerr Center

2601 Warring Street

Berkeley

www.mythsoc.org

\$60, \$50 Mythopoeic Society members

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

August 4, 2007

Pride & Prejudice Picnic

PEERS Event

No details yet on this event. www.peers.org

September 1, 2007

Mikado Ball

(A Gilbert and Sullivan Cast Party)

PEERS Event

No details yet on this dance. www.peers.org

October 6, 2007

Edwardian Gothic Ball

PEERS Event

Edwardian as in macabre illustrator Edward Gorey. www.peers.org

November 3, 2007

Le Bal des Vampires

PEERS Event

Gotta love a group that plans this far in advance, particularly since they have a good track record of actually holding their events as scheduled. No further details available yet. www.peers.org

April 25-28, 2008

CostumeCon 26

www.cc26.info

CostumeCon will be coming to Silicon Valley in 2008. Further details to follow.

Ongoing:

Daily

San Francisco Ghost Hunt

Walking Tour

Begins: Queen Anne Hotel

1590 Sutter at Octavia

San Francisco

7 p.m. – 10 p.m.

\$20

www.sfghosthunt.com

Mondays

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org

Mondays

Dukefish

Jake's of Sunnyvale

174 E. Fremont Avenue

Sunnyvale

Gather: 8 p.m, games: 8:30 p.m.

Dukefish is a bunch of people who get together to play board games and, sometimes, bridge every week.

Mondays and Wednesdays

Silicon Valley Boardgamers

Match Play

San Antonio Shopping Center

Mountain View

7 p.m.

\$2

Group meets regularly to play mostly German-style strategy boardgames such as Settlers of Catan; also multiplayer Avalon Hill-style, historical wargames, and others.

Wednesdays

Bay Area Role-Playing Society

Go-Getter's Pizza

1489 Beach Park Boulevard

Foster City

6 p.m-10 p.m.

www.BayRPS.com

Hosts a weekly game night. For club and game night details email GM@BayRPS.com.

Wednesdays

East Bay Strategy Games Club

EndGame

921 Washington

Oakland

7:30 p.m.-11 p.m.

Free

www.michaeldashow.com/eastbaystrategy/home.html

Fridays

SF Games

Muddy's Coffeehouse

1304 Valencia Street near 24th

San Francisco

7 p.m. to midnight

Free

vax.hanford.org/dk/games

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.

Fridays-Mondays

Haunted Haight Walking Tour

Meets at PlanetWeavers/Genesis Store

1573 Haight Street (at Clayton)

San Francisco

7 p.m.-9 p.m.

\$20

www.hauntedhaight.com

Reservations required.

Fridays and Saturdays

Vampire Walking Tour

Meets corner of California and Taylor

San Francisco

8 p.m.

\$20

www.sfvampiretour.com

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

Saturdays

Rocky Horror Picture Show

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

Midnight

\$6

www.picturepubpizza.com

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

Biweekly

PenSFA Party

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

Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers' Group

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

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

Monthly

Dorkbot-SF

Free, donations welcome

www.dorkbot.org/dorkbotsf/

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

Fantastic Frontiers

www.freewebs.com/fantasticfrontiers/

Social club for Sacramento County Sci Fi/

Fantasy fans usually meets the second Saturday of the month. Check website for meeting times and locations.

Foothill Anime

Building 5015, Foothill College

Los Altos Hills

Free

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

Legion of Rassilon

Carl's Junior

2551 N. First Street

San Jose

7:30 p.m.

Free

www.legionofrassilon.org

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

No-Name Anime

Saratoga Library

13650 Saratoga Avenue

Saratoga

Free

www.nnanime.com

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

SF Browncoats

Cafe Murano

1777 Steiner Street

San Francisco

Noon

Free

www.sfbrowncoats.com

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

Silicon Gulch Browncoats

Tied House

954 Villa Street

Mountain View

Noon - 2 p.m.

Free

www.silicongulchbrowncoats.org

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

USS Defiance Meeting

Round Table Pizza

Howe Ave. (Near Howe and Arden Ave.)

7 p.m.-10 p.m.

Free

Sacramento's oldest science fiction group meets the third Friday of the month. Info at www.ussdefiance.org.