

OTHER PEOPLE'S BAYCONS...

As I said last issue, this is what the rest of the folks thought of my favourite Con. All this issues photos are from Speculation's own Kent Brewster and there are opinons from programme participants and others.

So, here is Other Peoples' BayCon: The Con They Couldn't Refuse.

-+Most surreal moment of Baycon: Seeing an eight-year-old girl, dressed completely as a dragon (we're talking wings, horns, tail, etc.) wandering through the halls, reading my first book.

-+Second most surreal moment of the con: Having an English professor tell me that her students keep referencing my books in their papers.

The panels were hit and miss. First up was Gaming: Console vs. PC, which was about as exciting as it sounds. I figured since barely anyone would show up, but no, the room was filled. Not just ordinary Baycon residents either, they were game designers and computer programmers who really wanted to talk about the topic in question. Many of them got annoyed when we strayed off course, particularly some skinny guy with glasses. It's like, dude, 1) This panel sucks, and 2) SEE #1!

Truly Heroic Fantasy was the next day, and that went pretty well. That's where I met the English professor described above, and we basically talked about Joseph Campbell and Hero's Journeys and whatnot. This was followed by Villainy for Fun and Profit, the best panel I was on for the weekend. For some reason, discussing the intricacies of blowing up the sun really seems to please certain audiences. Plus, I got to meet Edward Muller.

The SF movie panel went horribly, for obvious reasons. The topic was the technical aspects of SF movies, and my other two panelists were technical specialists. No one in the audience, however, wanted to talk about technical issues! They somehow (gasp) thought it might be more interesting to talk about plots and characters than the lighting. The moderator was adamant we did not stray from our topic, however, especially his fascination explanation of the key grip.

I didn't end up going to the Current SF TV panel because I started to feel sick, though I did stay for the Themed Reading: Humor. That went pretty well, I just sort of skipped around in my first book. I then got to see Kevin Andrew Murphy read his short story, "The Pathetic Little Basilisk", which should be mandatory reading for all third-graders. Anyway, I could write more, but I think you get the idea.

-Neil Zawacki, Author of How to Be A Villain and long-time pal 'o mine

"You know Chris, the Fez will be mine somehow, so you may as well hand it over." said Bobby Tolland.

"The Fez can not be handed over, it has to be earned. To expect it to be handed to you is just plain arrogance." I said.

"Yeah, but Kelly just handed it to you" Piped up by Mr. Jason Schachat.

"Oh yeah." I responded.

The Drink Tank #26



Photo by Kent Brewster

Elisa Sheets and Me!!!

Dear Chris,

Good to see you again, even if it meant seeing you in that ridiculous fez. I had a good time, but then again, at BayCon, it's almost impossible not to. You were suitably nuts, but I expected no less. When the hell are you going to start actually trying to make money at comedy? You had the room going during Meet the Guests? Then again, it's much easier to get folks laughing when they expect nothing, and you managed to remain relaxed even though I know you were shitting bricks.

I liked most of the panels I went to, though I wish I could have made it to the time travel one with Galloway. I did sit through a couple of Neil's panels, but only the villainy one was any good.

Diane Paxson is a nice lady. She stopped me in the hall and asked where I got the photo of the BayCon 68 tourney that was on my shirt. We talked a bit about SCA in the older days. Nice lady.

I'm sure you saw the girl on the leash on the foyer on Saturday night. Such a nubile young thing she was. I managed to get a back-rub from two of them when I gave their mistress a white chocolate-dipped strawberry. That was certainly better than I deserved.

I didn't get to meet Frank, nor Kevin & Andy. I did have a brief talk with Jay Lake about the Polyphony series. I bought all of them from Tom Whitmore and read them over-night. Some people are zombies from partying all-night long. I am a zombie from reading too much.
-Jeff Lincoln, aka Blantons Up.



The List of Things I Watched but Did Not Do at Baycon
A Poem of Sorts by Michael S. Leavelly

I did not dance. I did not sing. I did not pull the shimmering mass of fabric close to me and find the taste of the wearer. I did not walk hand in hand with the queen dressed as Wonder Woman, though she brushed against me as she tried to get beyond the table. I did not play games with cackling teens and aging men in tight shirts. I did not smoke with men who knew the reasons not to. I did not kiss the girl who stared into my eyes too deep as I described the wave-length model I had built of rubber bands and toothpicks at lunch in the cold breeze

coffee garden.

I did not watch the Masquerade, but sat in the Hall and watched the outfits pass by as they were to enter. I did not offer help when the girl in the flapper outfit twisted her ankle, falling onto her boyfriend who seemed much less qualified to care for her than I. I did not take hundreds of photos, nor write long reviews, nor talk to many people I see only once a year.

And I did not have a bad time, sitting apart and watching the crowd do those things that I would not.

Frank Wu Weighs in on Alternate History

A common theme in alternative history conjecture is: What if Adolf Hitler had become a painter instead? In this case, there is actually a control for the thought experiment.

The basis of comparison is Frank Rudolph Paul. Both Paul and Hitler were born in Austria, both in the 1880's. Both were interested in architecture, both worked extensively in watercolor, both loved big machines, and both sucked at drawing people. Their paths diverge around 1914. Frank R. Paul saw the war coming and hopped a boat to America.

Hitler - already twice rejected by the Academy of Arts in Vienna and having spent years as a struggling artist - embraced the war and went off to enlist in the Bavarian army. We all know what happened to Hitler.

And Paul?

In America, he met up with Hugo Gernsback and wound up painting the first three years of covers for a fledgling science-fiction magazine called "Amazing Stories." He followed Gernsback to a number of different magazines and projects. Over the years Paul painted a parade of robots, spaceships, aliens and other delights, including the first magazine cover of a space station and, in my mind, the definite illustration of H.G. Wells' "War of the Worlds." He was so prominent that he was not only Guest of Honor at the first Worldcon, but he was the *only* guest of honor. That career highlight was in 1939, the year Hitler decided to stop fooling around with diplomacy and get serious with his army if he really wanted to take over the world.

Had Hitler's artistic path continued, it's easy to imagine it following Paul's. Like Paul, Hitler had a love of all things scientific and fantastical - from nuclear science to rocketry and ballistics to organic chemistry and chemical engineering to genetics to submarines and aeronautics and advanced military hardware. Nazis keep showing up in movies, despite their profound repugnance, partially because they were backed by a crack team of artists, costumers and graphic designers. These and other talented individuals generated memorable uniforms, posters, symbols, armoured personnel vehicles, flags and buildings - work just as stylish, ground-breaking and garish as Paul's. Perhaps, if Hitler had gone to America instead of trying to conquer the world, he instead of Paul may have become the first man to make a living drawing spaceships.



The Little One Speaks Up...Well, Kinda

by Christopher J. Garcia and Evelyn Aurora Nelson

When I got home from BayCon, I got to spend an hour or so with Evelyn while waiting for Gen to get off work. The Little One had only been at Con for half-a-day, but I'm always trying to find things for her to write in her Kindregarden Journal. This is what she wrote, once I helped her spell many of the words she wanted to use.

Chris took me to a convention. Mommy and I watched Shrek. Chris was on the TV. He was wearing a funny hat. Mommy bought me a dragon doll. It roars. I want to go there again because it was so much fun.

Mr. Loc Lloyd Penney Presents: Another Drink Tank LoC!!!

Dear Chris:

You're so prolific with Drink Tanks, it's always catch up time. so, this time, it's issues 22 to 25, and the Star Wars special.

22...I never did like Margaret Thatcher, who assumed the demeanor of the alternate Queen of England. When Reagan and Thatcher left office, I think the world was a little safer. I felt that Tony Blair in his first four or five years as the Prime Minister did a great job, but perhaps he's been in office a little too long. I would certainly agree with you that the BBC has become almost a guardian of British culture, instead of the American-style all music, all the time format almost uniformly in American (and Canadian) radio. I listen to the Beeb via internet when I can, which isn't very often these days.

I listen to NPR's BBC World Service when I'm on the road back from watching The Little One. I'm actually not that big a BBC fan, but they recently opened up much of their web content under a Creative Common License, which is applaudable.

The movie Wasp sounds somewhat familiar...a number of casinos have been built in the province of Ontario, and one problem has been children left alone in a car, or left to wander outside while mother, or both parents, are inside, gambling away the paycheques. such a social problem was predicted, but was dismissed out of hand.

I've seen more than one Tribe 'round these parts that have had major problems like those over the last few years. There was a movement, at one time, to require all casinos to provide a measure of free (or low-cost) child care on site for California and Oregon Casinos, but I don't know if it ever passed.

I like rice, and pasta, and noodles and bread, all too much. That's why I've placed myself on a variation of the Atkins diet, the Weight Watchers' Core Diet. It's not quite as severe as Atkins, and I have lost about 6 pounds after the first week. Let's hope I don't lose my will power, and plough my way through an Italian restaurant, or a bakery...

Keep it up, Lloyd! I went through a period where I dropped about 20 pounds, but they are back, at least most of them. Didn't go Atkins, I just did a lot of lifting.

My loc...CUFF was won unopposed again, which is a bad trend, but the winning candidate is an old friend. Brian Davis of New Brunswick announced his candidacy, and won, and will be heading off to Calgary for Westercon 58 (also the 2005 CanVention).

Unopposed isn't ideal, but it does mean at least one person thought to stand, which is better than none. I wasn't aware that WesterCon and CanVention were one and the same. They used to do that a lot more than they do now (like when WesterCon 68 was also BayCon, WorldCon 1968)

23...You're planning a mimeozine and a hectozine? Love to see the final results, even if you can only do a handful of zines on the hecto pan of jelly.

At least it's not likely to catch on fire. I'll make sure you're on the list to get them, but we're still a long ways off from all of that.

Emailed Words of Comment sent to Garcia@computerhistory.org

Helen Spiral's loc...Helen, how did you know about the Hawaiians? Yvonne and I have threatened each other with the idea of a Hawaiian tuxedo for years. The worst Yvonne did for one local convention committee member was a Hawaiian shirt with matching bellbottoms and headband. He's still the Hippy Dippy Treasury Man.

I would totally wear a Hawaiian Tuxedo. In fact, I can think of at least one other person, Jay Lake, who would also be a potential buyer.

Canadian bands...Guess Who, the Tragically Hip, Rush, April Wine, Lighthouse, Five Man Electrical Band, Bachman Turner Overdrive, The Rheostatics, Doug and the Slugs, the Crash Test Dummies, Moxy Fruvous, The Northern Pikes, Mashmakhan, Blood, Sweat and Tears, Powder Blues Band, Chilliwack,...not bad for just off the top of my head, hm?

How could I forget the Guess Who? The Hip are my faves and my Darling Girlfriend Gen loves Crashtest Dummies. Then there are all those Canadian singer-songwriters.

24...Gotta tell us more about your Baycon adventures. I've downloaded 25, but haven't read it yet. Jay Lake's shirt in the photo looks great. When you and I get together for Corflu next year, we gotta show off the true tackies.I knew Chase Masterson from DS9, but I have found out over the intervening years that she truly loves SF, and since acting jobs have been few and far between, she's immersed herself in the genre, and goes to a number of cons each year, when work allows.

And she's a darn nice lady to boot. We chatted a bit, which was nice, and she made a point to chat with me and the other guests.

Kevin Smith has spent some time up here...he's got some advanced satellite television equipment, and has watched a series on the CTV television network here called DeGrassi: The Next Generation. It's a sequel of DeGrassi Junior High, broadcast many years ago on the competing public CBC network. Smith came up here to see the series being filmed, and even got to star in one episode.

Star Wars Special...I was 18 when I saw the original Star Wars. I turned 46 yesterday. I saw Episode III a few days after its release, and I enjoyed it, but the best part about it is that it fulfils the cycle. The whole thing is done, and it looks like it would link up almost seamlessly with Episode IV. Obi-Wan didn't look too upset when he had cut off Anakin's legs above the knee, and leaving Anakin to perish in the lava seems almost out of character. I saw IV about 50 times, V about 20 times, and VI about 5 times. Episodes, I, II and III I've seen once each. I am no longer 18, and I think that's the main reason why my excitement levels over the prequel trilogy have stayed low and steady.

First off, Happy Birthday. I saw the original more than 100 times as a kid (usually twice a night at the drive-in) and the other maybe 20 times each. Evelyn loves them and has seen all the originals about ten times, and doesn't like the new ones. There were moments I enjoyed them, but not much.

25...Looks like Baycon was the ultimate blast. Gotta get down there sometime, but I gotta win a lottery, or somehow reduce the amount of geography between us. Our next con is the huge Toronto Trek 19 in July. I am now a 20-year veteran of the committee of Ad Astra, our local SF con, and seeing this will be the 25th Ad Astra, some big name guests are coming from California to join us. Can't spill the beans just yet!

Great fun indeed. Perhaps we'll launch a "Bring Lloyd Bayside" campaign for ya. And you can't just say that it's going to be a surprise because that's like a taste of honey and all that. I WANNA KNOW!!! I'm certainly out there for CorFlu next year, so Ad Astra, which I've been told to attend by folks like Frank Wu, is doubtful for me. Still, I can't wait for TorFlu!

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

And Now, please welcome Drink Tank regular and recent Award Winner, Eric Mayer!

Hi,

I don't go to conventions but I enjoyed your account of being BayCon Toastmaster. I like a good scare now and then!

Yeah, it's a scary thing. I couldn't imagine what a WorldCon Toastmaster must go through standing and talking in front of as many as a thousand or two people at the Hugo Ceremony. Luckily, I doubt I'll ever have to face that fear.

There's a lot of debate on some of the mystery writing lists right now about how publishers today want authors who will/can go out and make public appearances. Unfortunately, when it comes to entertainment, I can write. Period. I have no talent for performing or even public speaking (which is performing really).

A lot of mystery writers are terrific speakers. I've never been to any of the mystery cons, though I understand that they are wildly different than SF cons or even things like TikiCon or PezCon. From what I understand, they are frequently the type that are there to find out how to become Mystery writers, much like Romance Cons.

I'm not exactly terrified of speaking to groups, in a structured situation. So long as I have something to say, or can answer questions, an audience really doesn't bother me. But I tend to mumble and use Byzantine sentences, and most of my brain is busy trying to keep the "you know's" down to 2 or 3 a sentence. Any wit I might have flies out the window. I guess dead seriousness is a defense. Besides, what if you tell a joke and no one laughs? I wouldn't be a good representative for our mystery novels since there is quite a bit of humor in them.

Well, the Byzantine sentences wouldn't be much of a problem in Byzantium. Wit is hard, especially when you're trying to be witty. I've had many a chance to know the feeling of telling a joke and having no one laugh. I average about 2 solid hit jokes per ten told, with three hits, but not solid hits, four near-misses, and one flat out bomb. I increase my number of successes by increasing my over-all attempt rate.

I was on a panel at Mystery Ink, a small one day conference, two years running. And I'm still alive.

Anyway my hat -- indeed even my fez -- is off to you.

I did what I could and I'd do it again in a heartbeat. This issues look at the con is much different, sorta like issue 26 is the audience's thought and issue 25 was from the animals in the circus.

And I suppose one of the toastmaster perks is the singer sits in your lap? Years ago my wife and I were at this little dinner club to see "The Heat Is On" a one woman show about the life of Rita Hayworth, performed by Quinn Lemley, who for reasons unknown to me doesn't seem to be famous outside New York City. Our table abutted the so-called stage (i.e. 2 foot high platform at the front of the basement room -- well it was The Downstairs Cabaret) and this incredible woman, Quinn/Rita emerges in a sparkly, slinky gown, walks over to the end of the stage, right by our table and looks down and begins to sing/growl/purr "The Heat Is On" to me.

I about vanished through the floor. I mean...you know...but, gosh....She sounded as if she really meant it. Don't tell my wife.

Don't worry, my lips are sealed. I love Rita Hayworth. She was great in Gilda and Salome. She was one of the most beautiful women of that Hollywood period. I seem to remember finding a few Rita postcards that were my Grandpa's from the War era. She was quite a looked, but my grandfather would have only been 10 or so back then, so who knows. I can't say that I've ever heard of Quinn Lemley save for an ex who had her autograph on some show poster.

By the way, while looking for something comics related I came across this page on hectography which has the online recipe I mentioned, plus recipes for inks, and even photos!

<http://www.silverbulletcomicbooks.com/smallpress/108547144194515.print.htm>

Excellent! I'm there now!

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Eric

Blog:<http://www.journalscape.com/ericmayer>

James Hayland (aka Jay)

Chris: Good Review.

My experience is as follows and please note that all times are approximate.

12:05pm, Saturday- arrive at the DoubleTree ready to hit the dealer's room. Run into Schwa and end up walking and talking for a while. Leave to go register and find myself meeting Jesse and Hugh. Go with Jesse to set up PodCast of fannish music around 2.

4:15pm Saturday- Load hundreds of songs onto my iPod and find myself in the Coffee Garden at an edge table. People wander by.

9:30pm, Saturday- realise that I'm having just as good a time sitting and chatting with passers-by as I would doing con stuff. End up with Melissa Aards on my lap after we share dinner.

1:00am Sunday- Go with Aards to her room. Reimmerge sometime around 4pm, and head home.



The Family with the Incredibly Cute Maya

Christopher J Garcia played nice all weekend. His head, typically Fezzed, never got bigger than the giant melon that usually rests on his shoulders.

- Jayne Drivea (The Girl with Wicked Tatoos)

Conversation between Mr. Scott Moore (the guy who brought me into con-going after a while away) and Yours truly

“Chris, where's your Fez?”

“Damn, I left it in the room.”

“And while you're at it, you might want to put on your badge.”

“Good to see you again, Chris. For some reason, I've had nightmares about you since the last time we hung out.”

- The Girl called Vine



Jay Lake Drops is like it's hot with Lindsay and Lori

There are a hundred other stories that I've found or had people mail me. It's been a busy time. Here's a brief look at the other things going on around me

- I'm one of the new BASFA Officers, sharing power with Nathan Slemmer! They are in trouble now!

- Vanity Fair is a fine film, though a touch slow.

- Oil Storm on FX! is a strange near-future (like this September near) story of what happens when oil is severely slowed getting to us. It's a dark tale and one that feels entirely too plausible for me to ignore by turning on wrestling.

The Drink Tank 26 was edited by Christopher J. Garcia and written by all sorts of folks. You can read the by-lines. The photos were by Kent Brewster and I thank him highly. The posting to eFanzines.com was done by Bill Burns, the man in the high castle. If you've got comments, send them to garcia@computerhistory.org or 1401 N. Shoreline, Mt. View CA 94043.

A Few Closing Bits From Various Folks.