

Science Fiction/San Francisco

The twice-monthly news zine for the San Francisco Bay Area.

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email: SFinSF@gmail.com

Editors: Jean Martin, Chris Garcia, Jack Avery

Copy Editor David Moyce

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Gary Mattingly writes:

Just thought I would say that I skimmed through issues #9 & #10. Very nice pictures. Entertaining commentary. I think it is a good thing that you are posting dates, times, places for meetings of various groups. Why I even saw wine-tastings that happened where I live, Dublin.

I find it entertaining that the fans I know, except for a few like Dave Clark & Tom Whitmore, that live in the Bay Area, aren't mentioned. The groups certainly are disparate. Most of the ones I know don't go to SiliCon. A few go hang out in the bar at BayCon for short periods of time. I go to Pantheacon. Hm, I should go back in your issues and see if you mention Potlatch or Corflu. Ah, just checked first issue came out after both of those. Most of the people I know did go to those.

I did attend the first BASFA meeting but none after that. My fannish activities are pretty minimal other than attempting to communicate with some people I've known for over 20 or 30 years.

I'll keep checking out the issues at efanzines.

Jean Martin responds:

Glad to know that you're enjoying our zine. We hope you keep reading our issues and do tell your friends about us. We aim to cover more and more areas of fandom in the future. If you, or anyone you know, would like to report on events that you attend, please contact us. We like to get everyone involved and feel like they're a part of our family. We will definitely try to cover Pantheacon in San Jose next year. As for Potlatch and Corflu, these are in Seattle and Toronto. We generally concentrate on Bay Area events but we sometimes cover conventions in other areas if anyone from the Bay Area is willing to write about it.

Jim Gorman writes:

That e-zine you do is one of the best I have seen. I love the writing, I love the photos, and I love the things you cover. Keep up the great work!

Jean Martin responds:

We do try our best! It's positive feedback like this that makes all the hard work and time and energy we spend on this endeavor worth it!

Isara writes:

Y'know, I was totally unaware of this 'zine until the other day. Oh My Goodness, what a fantastic resource!!

Jean Martin responds:

Thanks for the compliment. And we do believe that we offer a lot of information, entertaining articles and colorful photos in a very timely manner. It would be great if more and more people benefited and enjoyed our zine on a regular basis. So spread the word!

David Gallaher writes:

Nice article on the upcoming San Jose Westercon, but one minor correction. The last San Jose Westercon was in 1983 at the Red Lion Inn. The 1985 Westercon was at the Red Lion Inn in Sacramento. The last Bay Area Westercon was Westercon XXXX at the Oakland Hyatt Regency and Convention Center in 1987.

Jean Martin responds:

Thanks for giving us the right information regarding the year of the last Westercon. It's great to have such knowledgeable readers!

Carole Parker writes:

I feel like I need to correct Chris on a couple of points: 1) It is SiliCon with the initial cap C, please. The initial cap C is part of the trade- or service-marked name, and is an indication of it being a convention. It is a play on the chemical, but we are not the chemical. We are the convention. 2) Dann Lopez is *not* the “head of the Con.” He is on the board of directors of Siliconventions, Ltd., which is the organization that is responsible for SiliCon. For 2005, the convention chairman was Craig Nicolai. For 2006, it is a pair of co-chairs, Chris Knight and Grant West. Please be sure to do some fact checking in the future.

Also, SiliCon was a literary convention, and we are in the process of becoming a media-oriented convention. Note: this does not mean that we are a *media* convention. Being a media-oriented convention means that we pay more attention to films, anime, costuming, and music than BayCon does - which is a more book oriented convention. This does not make either convention “good” or “bad.” It makes them different, so they can serve different members of the science fiction and science fantasy community. Which is, as many of us believe, as it should be.

Jean Martin responds:

Thanks for the corrections and for giving us more information on SiliCon. We do try to make sure our information is accurate. We will try to keep doing better in the future. But we always welcome feedback from our readers who often know more about their activities and events than we do.

Rich Berman writes:

Great issue #10! I especially enjoyed the pieces on Fabulandia and the cosplayers. Showing various events outside of the usual fan festivities is always interesting to me. I think that this diversity in reporting is one of your zine’s best strengths.

Having participated in a few of them, I always look forward to reading Jack’s book buying expeditions. Is there any chance of a book buyer’s survival guide, Jack?

I’m a big fan of the *Serenity*/*Firefly* universe, but I haven’t seen the movie yet. No theaters around these parts. So, here’s a question for discussion: Do you think that the mediocre box office for *Serenity* will discourage future projects, or was it good enough to ensure the survival of the franchise?

Keep up the good work and I look forward to the next issue!

Jean Martin responds:

The Fabulandia and Cosplayers photos did turn out nice. The photos were very colorful. And we do love introducing people to areas outside their usual interests. That’s pretty much the aim of our zine: to cover us much as possible. It helps that Jack, Chris and I have different areas of interests. So all together, the three of us cover a wide range of fandom.

Thanks for suggesting a book buyer’s survival guide. We’ll see if Jack is willing to do something like that. Great idea.

Although Serenity didn’t do too well at the box office, the word among the Browncoats is that if the movie makes a certain amount of money, including DVD and merchandise sales, then Universal will mostly likely, probably, hopefully, entertain doing a sequel. Let’s keep our fingers crossed! Hope you get to see the movie soon. I’ve seen it twice already and it’s quite an exciting roller coaster ride.

Thanks for the compliment and hope you enjoy this issue and all our future issues.

Have something to say about
Science Fiction/San Francisco? Or
about fandom in general?
Send your letter of comment to:
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Peter Sullivan writes:

Dear Jean, (Well, I've written to Jack and Chris, so I might as well complete the set...). Good to hear that you're getting some egoboo/feedback on *Science Fiction/San Francisco* as you go around the various events. Let's see if we can convert some of them into writing you letters of comment - it's getting mighty lonely in this lettercol for me with just an occasional Lloyd Penney for company! (Not that Lloyd isn't a fine letter writer and, unlike me, an adornment to every lettercol he pops up in. But if misery loves company, so do letterhacks like him and me.)

Jean, I think that you're right to say that the most important part of fandom is not the "infrastructure" (my own generic term for the events, conventions and fanzeens) but the people. It took me not much more than a year in postal games fandom to come to the same conclusion, at the nubile age of 17, and I think my level of involvement and interest deepened as a result of this 'epiphany.'

I like Chris' simple summary agenda for SF/SF - "Do Somethin'!" I guess I might have expressed it as "Do Fanac!" Of course, given that *anything* that fans do can count as fanac (from running a full-size convention to a quick game of

ghoodminton), that's a pretty easy stricture to fulfill.

On conventions, there seems to be a gap in the middle between the Worldcon monster (which, like Godzilla, will be munching its way through both Los Angeles and Japan over the next two years) and the smaller cons, which either specialise in small geographical areas and/or a specific area of fandom. Conventions like NASFiC and Silicon run the risk of falling down a chasm in the middle, unless, as Chris says, they find something distinctive to do. I guess there comes a point where a convention is too big to have everyone in one room, but not big enough for the dozen or more simultaneous programme tracks of a typical Worldcon. I was involved in running a board games convention for almost 10 years - our peak attendance was about 330, and that was ruddy hard work all round! Trying to do something on the scale of a NASFiC sounds several orders of magnitude harder. And yet all that people seem to say is "It's not as big as a Worldcon, is it?" (And yes, I *do* include myself in that condemnation.)

The listings section is awesome, and kudos to Jack for all his work on this. I note that the Bay Area Skeptics were having a lecture on "Why skepticism will not be popular in 2005." Hmm, I find *that* hard

to believe...

Jean Martin responds:

Yes, I hope more people write to us. Feedback is always great whether positive or constructive. With all the hard work Jack, Chris and I put in, we want to make sure that we are on the right track as far as what we are offering to people. It's also great to know that we have a core readership. We appreciate your regular LOCs. You not only give us glowing comments, you also add your own experiences and opinions on fandom. Which I think enhances our zine. So keep writing to us!

It is interesting to note, though, that our most devoted LOC writer is not only not from the Bay Area but is not even in the same country! I guess that's what makes the Internet so wonderful. That people from the U.K. and elsewhere can connect with other people all over the world who have the same interests.

I agree, people in fandom are very proactive and generally like to get involved. "Do Somethin'" is a really good call to action for people to help us out at Science Fiction/San Francisco. I think we're still in the beginning stages, and we're slowly but surely reaching a wider audience through word of mouth, and our own promotional efforts. Hopefully we'll reach critical mass soon... then we'll be more well known. I sincerely believe that our zine is

something special and that we have something great to offer. The calendar section, as you pointed out, is the most popular and useful section of our zine.

Good observations on conventions. I have yet to attend Worldcon. I hope to go to the L.A. one. But I seem to prefer mid-sized conventions such as BayCon. I did enjoy Comic-Con (I went for the first time this year), but if I wasn't in the masquerade competition, I would have just felt so lost in the chaos. And there were just way too many panels and activities all at the same time that I missed a lot that I wanted to attend. Oh, and the lines for the more popular events were so long I had to wait an hour for them. So that made me miss even more! SiliCon was fun but it was poorly attended. There were only two people at a panel I was speaking at, and one of them was a friend I dragged with me. So, yes, I can see how a more generalized sci-fi convention that isn't one of the bigger ones will have a harder time attracting people. On the other hand, I think some people, like myself, favor small- and mid-sized conventions, and like to stay local, if possible. It does get expensive traveling all over to go to conventions! In addition to having to use up vacation time at work. So perhaps in addition to being more distinctive, these conventions can find a way to attract people like me. I find that I can socialize and get involved more with the

smaller cons.

Lloyd Penney writes:

First of all, thanks to all of you for bringing back SF/SF. It certainly is a labour of love, and I hope you're in the Barea's face with this revival. Also, Chris, I've been very busy with trade shows and evening hours, and I've had an enforced holiday from loccing, and I am waaaaaay behind with everyone, especially the e-stack of Garciazines waiting for me. So, here's comments on issues 9 and 10 of SF/SF. It may be short and dirty, but it will be a response. If it's a loc, it'll be a fluke.

9...95 pages? Wow! I have noticed that when some SF/SFs are heavy with photos, I have to sic Adobe Reader 6 on in, as 4 just won't do the job. My loc...well, I certainly didn't think it would ever see the light of day, but there it is. I'm glad there's a zine for it to appear in. I am starting to lean towards a Toronto newszine, given that while it would cover a much smaller area, that small area would receive much better coverage than the whole country. Old skool fandom...now I really do feel old.

I like Peter Sullivan's spoke theory of the various fandoms, but it would require many fans of those various interests to accept the other fandoms and interests as valid, and

many do not. Would the majority of lit fans accept the furies? Probably not. I know some who are both lit and furry, and take care to keep their two interests very separate. I know, why can't we all just get along? I guess we just take pride in what we do, and it's human nature to try to place your interest above all others.

Neil Gaiman was in Toronto recently; must have been part of a tour he was on. It was a pay-at-the-door event, sponsored by a local educational firm, so some people didn't go. I didn't, mostly because I've never read anything by Neil, although I am certainly familiar with his titles. It is pleasing to see that Neil likes the tours so he can speak directly to his readers. I believe that's one reason why some writers enjoy conventions. They meet their readers, they find out what they like and hate, and perhaps learn something about themselves and their writing talents.

Chris, you've already described yourself as a hobbit (and in the two photos of you I've seen, YES!), so you must have been at the Hobbit Picnic. I've been on a website where you enter your name, and it gives you a hobbit name. Wonder what Chris Garcia comes out as? Google up the website, www.chriswetherell.com/hobbit/, enter in his name, and out comes Mungo Dogwood of Shadydowns. (Mine is Dimple Tolkien,

by the way.)

Every year, Toronto Trek has its own independent film contest, and every year, a group of fans from Montreal win the contest. Films like *Beavra!*, *Mooseman* and *A Simpleton's Life* wow the fans every year. They've got to get their films further afield, and reap some more prizes.

Just yesterday, as I write, there was a special event staged by the Friends of the Merrill Collection, and it was called *Bring Out Your Dead!* It was a swap meet, much like a big garage sale/dealers' room, and while it didn't bring out a lot of people (first-time events rarely do), there were a lot of great books and a few zines to faunch for and consider buying. The only item I purchased was a hardcover anthology, *The Best Science Fiction Stories and Novel, Ninth Series*, edited by T. E. Dikty. It was published in 1958, and also contains a list of all science fiction novels published in the years 1956 and 1957, compiled by one Earl Kemp. There were so many good books at that swap, but there's only so much shelf space and money available to me.

In the article on Bay Area Fanzines, written by Chris Garcia, he typoed his own last name as Garica. Second column, sixth line. It must have been late, Chris...

10...101 pages! Even better! Chris' visit to Vegas fandom is something I would like

to do some time, go and visit The Fandom of Good Cheer, and party with them. I've been receiving their zines since around the time Arnie and Joyce moved to Vegas, and started assembling the first bunch of Vegrants.

When the Ontario Renaissance Faire closed down after nine years, we wondered if there would be any interest in reviving such an event. Some of the vendors at the ORF got organized, and staged a one-day event at Case Loma, the castle-like building in Toronto, to recall the atmosphere of the Fair, and to advertise a new RenFaire, the Royal Abingdon Faire in the Hamilton area, at the western tip of Lake Ontario. I didn't go to it, but Yvonne did, and found that it was a good time, even with all the problems with a first time fair. Great traveling acts, such as Zoltan the Adequate and the Men in Tights were there, spreading their usual mirth, and giving all a good time. I am hopeful the faire will return, with a few improvements, and I can actually get to it! Meanwhile, good friends of mine are trying their best to get a new RenFaire started in the vicinity of Vancouver, British Columbia.

'Tis the night before Halloween...and besides the swap meet yesterday, I think local fandom is giving it a bye. Ah, well, we need a day to catch up, or goof off, or

whatever we need to do. I've got lots more Garciazines to deal with, so I'll spam you some more with some comments. See you then!

Jean Martin responds:

Thanks for being such a regular LOC contributor to our zine. We're happy to add your thoughts on whatever takes your fancy. Interesting to hear your swap meet story but too bad about the Ontario Renaissance Faire. But who knows, these things tend to keep coming back with enough interest. Good luck with starting your own local zine! Oh, and maybe you can come visit the Bay Area and enjoy our fandom as well. I haven't checked out the Vegas scene either, and I might be biased, but the Bay Area scene rocks!

Special thanks to Pikmin Link of Consplayers.com for coming through for us with Yaoicon photos. Check out their website at **www.consplayers.com**

Have something to say about Science Fiction/San Francisco? Or about fandom in general? Send your letter of comment to: **SFinSF@gmail.com**

Editorial

By Chris Garcia

Reading the last two issues of Science Fiction/San Francisco, I realized just what we're doing. We're putting out a zine that's bigger than most of the well-known phonebook zines every other week! It's amazing that Jack hasn't imploded from just trying to lay the thing out! I'm so pleased with us and the work we've been doing.

So much has gone on these last few days. There was Halloween, a big ole bash to be certain, and the start of National Novel Writing Month. There were more than a dozen major events and a few minor ones along the way. There were a couple of cons around the country that I know BArea fans attended, and one in the area itself. There were fanzines put up on eFanzines.com and all manner of stuff posted on local blogs. It was a pair of weeks slightly more active than any other in recent BArea memory, and this issue presents a lot of that.

Now, I know the editorial is supposed to be where we say 'If you're gonna read, you'd better write us somethin'" but I'm not going to do that. I'm going to tell you a little story about a boy who sent an LoC to a fanzine.

Once upon a time, when the Internet was just a twinkle in a grad student's eye, a fanzine was left on a table at a con. Let's call it ConScription, shall we? OK, so this boy comes across the zine and he brings it home. It's full of wonderful things, like stories of some Big Name Fans going to visit other Big Name Fans in some far away realm and also has a look at books by authors that the boy has never heard of, and has a full section where people who send letters, written on paper and sent at a post office mind you, had them displayed for all to see. Well, the boy saw all the names and decided that he wanted to be included, so he got out the pen and ink and wrote a few thoughts. He kept writing and writing until he had crafted the most beautiful letter of comment ever. It was layered and funny and thoughtful and brilliant and it was oh

so true.

But the boy was afraid. He was afraid that people would criticize him or think he was slow. He hid it under his bed, waiting for the day when he would have enough confidence to send it to the fanzine's editor.

He waited.

And waited.

And waited.

Then one day, he got out of bed, but the night before, when he was looking at other things that he hid under his bed, he had knocked the letter so that it lay on the bare hardwood floor and when he stepped on the floor, he stepped on the letter, slipped and hit his head on the nightstand, killing himself instantly.

The moral of the story is, if you don't send us a letter, you'll die!

News and Notes

National Novel Writing Month

What strange creatures people are. For some reason, if you name something, people will go along and play the game that suits the name. For the last several years, November has been National Novel

Writing Month, and I'm not immune to hype, as is obvious, so even I have signed up.

The concept is so nice and easy: you have one month to write 50k words or more. That's all. You come into the month with nothing but maybe an outline and by

the 30th, you've got a novel (well, a long Novella, but what are you gonna do?). It's just that simple, though the sound of it makes it seem like it's the most terrifying thing in the world.

National Novel Writing Month was founded in 1999 and has grown every year since. The Bay Area is one of the hotbeds of activity, with meet-ups and gatherings both before and during the month to spread community and supply encouragement. That encouragement is sometimes not enough, as less than 1/8th manage to make it to the end. Everyone who completes the 50k words requirement is considered a winner. In 1999, there were 6 winners. There were more than one thousand times that in 2004.

Several Bay Area folks have been among the winners in the last few years. Milpitas' Ealasaid A. Haas has been a winner the last four years, including doing a wonderful job with Neil Gaiman's outline for Johnny Thremin. She was featured on KFJC earlier this year and was the way that I heard of the event. San Francisco is the city with the most representatives, including four-time winner Cathryn Hrudicka. San Jose's Nicole A. Wright has won three times. Some have even gone on to get their books published by one of the big houses, including Jon F. Merz and Lani Diane

Rich.

A couple of the locals whose novels sound most interesting to BArea SF and Fantasy fans are Haas' *Portrait of the Librarian as a Young Vampire* and Maryanne Snell's *Murder at the Mystery House*. Mine is a crime/computer/obsessed stamp collector story called *Rutager's Laptop*.

So, for the month of November, more than 50 thousand people will be trying to write 50 thousand words. Maybe 10 thousand will make it through to the end. Maybe I'll be one of the lucky ones.

— Chris Garcia

PEERS Le Bal des Vampires Preview

For the 12th year in a row, the Period Events & Entertainments Re-Creation Society (PEERS) is holding its very popular Le Bal des Vampires on Saturday, November 5, 2005, at the Pleasanton Senior Center. Please note that this is the same location as last year and not in Oakland as stated in previous flyers.

The evening will feature haunting 18th, 19th and 20th century ballroom dance music by Brazen Hussey, who are equally at home playing classical music, vintage dance music, Celtic fusion, Swing, blues and hard rock. While the program has a strong

waltz bias, PEERS will include everything from elegant 18th century country and set dances to Viennese waltzes, polkas and mazurkas, to cool blues fox trot and tango, to early Swing and classic Rock. All set dances will be taught or called at the ball. This is probably the most eclectic PEERS ball theme- and dance-wise.

Suggested costume is evening dress or dress uniform from the century and country of your "rebirth," or modern evening dress. While there is no dress code for the ball, when I went to this last year, most guests were elaborately attired in everything from glamorous Victorian goth to outrageous 1960s hippie.

The ball's half-time show will be another cutting edge performance by Le Theatre des Vampires, the most feared theater company on the West Coast. I really enjoyed last year's performance, which was a cross between *The Scarlet Pimpernel* and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. Very funny, clever, colorful and entertaining.

PEERS is dedicated to the idea of entertainment as something for people to do rather than watch. I have enjoyed numerous PEERS balls over the years and each one is more enjoyable than the last. I've never taken formal dance classes myself and I do quite alright at PEERS events. There is definitely a lot to see and do, and

people to befriend and chat with. I love the costuming and social aspect of PEERS balls in addition to the dancing.

The Pleasanton Senior Center is at 5353 Sunol Blvd, Pleasanton, CA. Doors open at 6:30 pm and dancing goes on until midnight. Tickets are \$20 at the door. For more information, go to: <http://www.peers.org/>.

— Jean Martin

Anime Destiny Returns for Second Year

Cal Animage Alpha, the university anime group behind this Saturday's AnimeDestiny convention on the UC Berkeley campus, has announced that part of the proceeds from the convention will be donated to the American Red Cross' Hurricane Disaster Fund.

The one day con will run from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Registration for the convention is \$15 at the door.

In addition to hall cosplay and a costume contest at 4 p.m., the popular Iron Cosplay contest will also return. In this competition, two person teams are provided with supplies and must create a costume within a time limit.

Gaming, panels, a swap meet, dealers room, 12 hours of video programming, a

music video contest and karaoke will also be featured.

J-Rock band The Beautiful Losers will return for a concert. This year local J-Rock and J-Pop cover band akai SKY will open.

Last year the convention drew 400 attendees, about double the expected number. The convention is expanding in its second year, with the con taking place at the 10,000 square foot Martin Luther King Student Union Building. Answering a common complaint, this year all of the dealers will be in one larger room, instead of spread across several classroom-sized rooms.

— Jack Avery

Copyright Dispute Forces Cancellation of "Buffy" Musical

Sold out performances of *Once More With Feeling*, a live stage presentation of the musical episode of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* were cancelled last week after organizers received a cease and desist letter from FOX studios.

The non-profit theater group staging the event, The San Francisco Halloween Show, had rented the CounterPULSE theater for the event, which quickly sold out.

However, before the first performance,

FOX objected to the unauthorized production. The group issued a letter of apology and according to the group, received the support of Buffy creator Josh Whedon.

A letter formally requesting permission to stage the show was sent to FOX, but the company declined.

In a statement posted to the CounterPULSE website, The San Francisco Halloween Show has pledged to obtain permission in advance before using any copyrighted teleplays in the future. The group has issued apologies to FOX, CounterPULSE and to those who wanted to see the show.

CounterPULSE is hosting a free forum on Thursday, December 1 at 7 p.m. on copyright issues, the public domain and the relationship of creativity to a shared but privately owned cultural environment.

— Jack Avery

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

Alan Lee Book Signing at Book Passage

By Diane Rooney
Staff Writer

So you thought you knew it all about *The Lord of the Rings*, after all the books, documentaries, websites, line parties, and conventions, right? Well, did you know that Peter Jackson had planned flashback scenes of the five Istari arriving in Middle Earth, or that he thought about having Tom Bombadil officiate at Sam and Rosie's wedding? Seen the sketch of Denethor walking his dog? How about that map of Middle Earth where Numenor is modeled on New Zealand's North Island?

I thought so. You'd have to have heard those and other tales from Alan Lee, visiting the Bay Area to promote his new book, *The Lord of the Rings Sketchbook*. Lee gave a spectacular PowerPoint presentation filled with sketches, photographs, and composites and regaled his audience of about 75 fans with stories of his six-year involvement with the film trilogy.

The scope of his work on *The Lord of the Rings* is mind-boggling: In his six years he made over 2,500 pencil drawings. He also worked on packaging for the DVDs, including the icons on the Extended

Edition of *The Return of the King* and the fellowship entering Moria for *The Fellowship of the Ring*. At the suggestion of Peter Jackson and Fran Walsh, he did the sketches seen during the credits of *The Return of the King*, aiming to capture the actors when they were most themselves.

Lee explained his working relationship with fellow artist and designer John Howe, saying Howe was responsible for the evil creatures (the Balrog, the Fell Beast, and the wraiths) and evil locations (Barad-Dur, Minas Morgul, and the Black Gates, though he also created Bag End) while Lee created more of the good locations (Rivendell, Minas Tirith, Rohan, and Moria, though he also created Orthanc).

He opened the program with material on Minas Tirith, explaining in detail how his art was used in the film production. His pencil sketches and montages (often combinations of his photographs, many taken from helicopters, and working models) were used by the model makers and the computer artists.

The computer artists needed

very specific information on the geography of locations to complete their work with accuracy and consistency. Minas Tirith and its surrounding plains are a complex environment. Lee created a sweeping panorama stretching from Osgiliath across the Anduin and the Pelennor to Minas Tirith, complete with the curves in the river where the Corsair ships would eventually be sighted. In a light touch, one Minas Tirith



Alan Lee speaking
Photo by Diane Rooney

drawing shows Denethor walking his little dog atop the Citadel and looking out over the city.

In one of the most interesting sequences, Lee showed his series of pencil sketches of Gandalf and Pippin's ride through Minas Tirith to the Citadel. He explained that as he worked through the series, "the details of the architecture became clearer" to him, and "the structures started to become real

and fully formed." The sequence and visual angles are incredibly close to what was used in *The Return of the King*. In addition to the layout and overall architecture of the city, Lee drew thousands of details including columns, wall hangings, furniture, and the many statues that line the Hall of Kings. As we know, the eventual Minas Tirith miniature was so finely detailed it could be used not just in wide shots but in close-ups

filmed just inches from its surface.

Lee has two cameos in the films. In the Prologue to *The Fellowship of the Ring*, he is one of the nine men (who eventually become Ringwraiths) receiving rings. In *The Two Towers*, he and Supervising Art Director Dan Hanna are seen in the Armoury at Helm's Deep, when Gimli says "some have seen too many winters...."

His Elven map of Middle Earth appears as the endpapers in the new Sketchbook. He imagined it as something Bilbo would have brought back from Rivendell, and revealed that Numenor on the map is modeled after the North Island of New Zealand: "It's star-shaped with a volcano in the middle."

Lee said that there is still "a huge amount of art that hasn't been seen," suggesting that what's needed is "a big thick book that really shows off the props and the armor," for example. (Hmmm....maybe something like the massive new *Dressing A Galaxy: The Costumes of Star Wars?*)

After the slide presentation, he stayed for well over an hour answering questions, chatting with fans, and signing books and the special t-shirts whose unique design he had created in July for the SF Trilogy Thursday which raised funds for Cure Autism Now.

Alan Lee signing

Photo by Diane Rooney





Oh yeah, about that Istari and Tom Bombadil stuff... props and costumes were tried out on some extras, but the scenes with the five Istari were not completed.

Likewise, the filmmakers passed up a great opportunity to FINALLY get Tom into the pictures, but that scene also was never filmed.

CAN t-shirts designed by Alan Lee
Photo by Diane Rooney

Elevator to the Stars: The Space Elevator Challenge

By Jean Martin
Editor

The first-ever space elevator competition was held October 21–23 at NASA's Ames Research Center and at the Spaceward Foundation's offices, both in Mountain View, California. The Spaceward Foundation organized the event in line with its Elevator 2010 initiative. Elevator 2010 aims to develop and demonstrate the technologies necessary to construct a Space Elevator by 2010, and to build it within 10 years after that.

The Space Elevator was a concept first described by Russian engineer Yuri Artsutanov in the 1960s. Science fiction legend Arthur C. Clarke made the term popular in the 1970s in his book, *The Fountains of Paradise*. But it wasn't until the early 1990s that a new class of materials, Carbon Nanotubes, were discovered that would be strong enough but light enough to construct a Space Elevator. The Space

Centarus Team getting ready

Photo: Malibu Burns



Elevator now being envisioned would move cargo and people from the surface of the Earth to orbit and beyond in a simple and reliable manner. The main components would include a 62,000-mile long ribbon and a wireless electric vehicle, or climber, that would ascend the ribbon using solar power.

Thus, the games consisted of a tether or

“ribbon pull” competition and a climber or “power beaming” competition. The prize was \$50,000 for each. Competitors came from all over the world, and it was interesting to note that commercial enterprises were competing with university students and hobbyists. The event was not technically open to the public, one needed to be a competitor or on the VIP or press

list, but the setup was visible from the road.

I got to attend the first day of the climber competition and the VIP/Press reception on Saturday afternoon. The qualifying runs were held the day before, and the finals and awards ceremony were slated for the day after. The climber competition was held at NASA Ames. The remote control climber robots were supposed to climb a more modest 50-meter ribbon suspended by a crane. Six teams were slated to compete. The contest got off to a slow start, and some teams never even got to try, and some who tried never got off the ground. There seemed to be a problem with the industrial searchlight used as the power source. I stayed to watch team after team attempt the climb. Unfortunately, before I got there, the team from the University of British Columbia achieved the first beam-powered climb of approximately 20 feet. And after I left, the University of Saskatchewan went the farthest during the games, climbing approximately 40 feet. It was like stepping out to get a beer and hot dog at a baseball game, and coming back to find out you missed the only home run of the game. Curious coincidence how the Canadians dominated the weekend. However, 40 feet was still not enough to win the top prize.

I didn't get to attend the tether

University of Saskatchewan's Climber attempts liftoff

Photo: Malibu Burns



competition, which was held at the Spaceward Foundation that Saturday evening. The winner of the tether competition not only needed to beat all the other entrants but the Spaceward Foundation's tether as well. Out of the four entrants, the Centaurus team had the strongest tether but failed to win against the "house" tether by a small margin.

So although there were no winners, it was a first step in this exciting new technology in the space sciences. Next year, the competition will be repeated and the prizes will be increased to \$100,000 each. Funding for the prizes comes from NASA's Centennial Challenges Program.

For more information, visit: www.spaceward.org, www.elevator2010.org, and <http://centennialchallenges.nasa.gov>.

Below: Space Miners Climber, Right: Climber Competition Tower

Photo: Malibu Burns



Dava Sobel, Author of *The Planets* At the Mechanics Institute

By Diane B. Rooney
Staff Writer

Did you know that Mars is the planet of science fiction? Dava Sobel explains that it's written about more than any other planet in the science fiction universe. She believes people "have a fascination with Mars as a place for a human colony. It's the only planet that would have us," she says. Indeed, "we look at Mars through life-colored glasses."

A graduate of the Bronx High School of Science at a time when the admission of women was severely restricted and subject to quotas, Sobel has always been interested in planets. "I liked planets as a kid. Planets had that kind of appeal," noting she built a solar system diorama for a science fair.

At her lunchtime booksigning attended by about 60 people, Ms. Sobel began by explaining that *The Planets*, unlike *Galileo's Daughter* and *Longitude*, was difficult to write, since there was no hero and no obvious story line. She found her organizing principle in lining up each planet with a topic in popular culture, for

example, Venus and Poetry, or Mercury and Mythology.

The Mars chapter is a stunning first person account told by the meteorite Allan Hills 84001, the famous meteorite found in Antarctica that some believe contains microscopic life from the Red Planet. "Of the 28 Martian meteorites definitively identified to date, I am by far the most ancient." The meteorite describes its long life on Mars, its voyage through space to Earth, and its discovery by seven scientists on snowmobiles, "hunting dark rocks on the blue white ice."

Not a big science fiction fan, Sobel read



War of the Worlds, *Dune*, and *The Martian Chronicles*, among others, as background for the Mars chapter.

The Jupiter chapter is about astrology. Sobel, a former science writer for *The New York Times*, consulted an astrologer while working on the book, and had a chart created and interpreted for her. Indeed, she is now a bit worried because the astrologer said that her long period of creativity was now coming to an end!

She also commissioned a chart for the Galileo space craft, which observed salty seas on Jupiter's moon Europa and was eventually destroyed by its creators,

programmed to crash into Jupiter to avoid damaging Europa's environment. She said the chart reflected the difficult events in the spacecraft's life, including jammed antennas and stuck tape recorders. How so? "Jupiter was square with Mercury, the planet of communication in the craft's chart," she notes. "I just put that out there."

Sobel said the two questions she's asked most on this book tour are, "Did you listen to Holst's *The Planets*?" and "What about Pluto?" She didn't listen to Holst, and as for Pluto, she noted that the issue revolves (no pun intended) about the lack of specificity in the word "planet," which simply means

"w a n d e r e r . " Pluto, however, has been exiled from the solar system display at the Rose Center Planetarium in New York. Sobel says its situation is not dissimilar to that of the asteroids in the 19th century, when the first asteroid was seen as a missing planet but later reclassified.

(Pluto is now seen as a Kuiper Belt Object, or KBO. Astronomers who must be genre fans have named a new KBO Xena and its moon Gabrielle.)

Sobel shared two interesting stories about *Longitude*. She had pitched a magazine article to numerous publications, even the *Harvard Magazine*, where she was contributing editor. No one was interested in covering the November 1993 Longitude Symposium, which editors assumed would be "weird, boring, and esoteric." When 500 people arrived at Harvard for the conference, the Harvard editor had her drop everything to cover it. Immediately after the article appeared, Walker Publishing Company called to talk about turning it into a book.

She also explained that *Longitude*'s dedication to her mother includes reference to the Carnarsie neighborhood of Brooklyn. This caused some confusion for those not familiar with the borough's finer details. A French astronomer contacted her to ask if Carnarsie was in fact a star, and the Polish translator asked for an explanation, concerned that Poles would not understand the reference.

Sobel's next project extends her longstanding interest in the history of science but takes her into a new literary form. It will be a play about Copernicus, based on Owen Gingerich's book, *The Book*



Klingon Blood Hunt at the Sonoma Haunt

So there I was with the sun shining on the back of my head....wait a moment, where is my Bloodwine? I cannot begin a story without a full cup of Bloodwine for

it helps me remember the details as I want, I mean as I saw them. *Drinks Bloodwine.* The Haunt is presented by the Dragon's Head Inn of Sonoma. Assaulting or was it

assisting the Haunt was the StarFire Region of the Ring of Fire Fleet – mostly the ships IKV Bloodlust, IKV Midnight Dagger and the IKV Black Dagger. We were also joined by members of the 501st, an Imperial Regiment of Stormtroopers from Northern California. We had assembled at coordinates codenamed Sonoma; actually it was in a dirt parking lot behind one of the three haunts that the Dragon's Head runs. It was a gathering of two Empires, the Klingon's Ring of Fire Fleet and those Imperial Stormtroopers, which meant that no Human was going to be safe that evening. There were hundreds of Warriors and Soldiers gathering for the fight. *Drinks Bloodwine.* Okay, there were only 7 Klingons, 4 Stormtroopers and 2 Tie Pilots, but still it seemed like thousands.

The Stormtroopers and Pilots stormed off to the front gate while the Klingons prepared for a Cloaked Assault by moving in groups of 1 and 2. *Drinks Bloodwine.* The resistance was fleeting, Humans went running in all directions, casualties were high but we didn't care because they were only Human. I am KataH, leader of the



A mini Darth Vader and members of the 501st Legion

Photo by Mike Wilson

Klingons, and I brought along some 'Green' to drink as I didn't want to risk bringing Bloodwine to a blood feud. Did I forget to mention the blood feud? The Klingons had challenged the City of Sonoma to a blood feud or better yet, who could donate the most blood for the evening. There was a slight language problem here as the Klingons thought that by killing a Human they could donate their blood, nothing was mentioned about giving up our own blood — not for any cause. Yet we pushed on, battling the little Humans, children and small adults, to get to the blood mobile. *Drinks Bloodwine.* There were 13 deaths as I bladed my way through the large gathering of Humans and that was when we learned that those 75 deaths would not be part of the Klingon donation. What a waste of talent, some of my finest attacks where used to kill at least 187 of them and now they don't count.

Back at the front gate the 501st were forcing the Humans to give up something they called 'money' to get into the Haunts. I approached one such Stormtrooper and asked him what value was this 'money' and why did they care. His only response was: "These aren't the children we are looking for." "We don't need to see their money." And then he ordered me, yes me, to "Move along." One dead Stormtrooper and it

counted for me. *Drinks Bloodwine.* The rest of the Humans that were standing in line, well – wait just a second – why do Humans

like to stand in line all the time? It seems that every time I go to some Human function there is always a large group of Humans



Mixed Empires

Photos by Mike Wilson

standing in line for one thing or another. Is it genetic? Are they trained from birth to do this? How very weak-minded they are. *Drinks Bloodwine.* Anyways the rest that were standing in line quickly handed over their 'money' to the 'money changer,' some female Ferengi that had been forced to wear her clothes for this event. Past this entrance one could walk over to one of three haunts. They were arranged as Easy (not very scary), Long (and somewhat scary), and one as VERY scary – mostly for adults.

Most Humans came in but hesitated at to which Haunt to do first. Hesitation, it is like a disease with these Humans – but eventually most of them headed for the Easy Haunt – yep, go figure. *Drinks Bloodwine.* They did have to make it past the 392 bodies of the Humans we killed at the start of all this. There were times when the smoke of the burning buildings made it difficult for these Humans to see where they were going and some of them ended up on the pile of the 572 that we had already killed. *Drinks Bloodwine.*

There was a loud noise coming from the front gate, someone had come in who set the Stormtroopers into formation. I looked over and there was a crowd forming near where the Stormtroopers were now standing — at full attention mind you. I, and several other Klingons, made our way

through the crowd, and the 1,387 bodies of dead Humans, only to find that their Lord and Commander Darth Vader was there. Standing an unimpressive 4 feet tall, he looked much taller in the movies, was “Mini Darth.” It was very quiet, then

out of nowhere flash bombs went off and people were falling dead in their tracks. *Drinks Bloodwine.* The photographers were having a field day with a young child who had shown up for the Haunt wearing a Darth Vader mask.



KataH and his new friends

Photo by Mike Wilson

The Haunts were fun, the people were scared – both of the Haunts and the combination of Klingons and Stormtroopers. The attendance was close to 400 Humans – well at least that was the number that survived. As the evening drew to a close, we discovered that we had a

monumental task ahead of us. The clean up of the 4,295 Humans that were killed. We decided that was the duty of the lower life forms and we let the staff take care of this.

Reported from the front
KataH epetai-Heck'Lher, bIng 'aj

Kaptain of the IKV Bloodlust
The LOUDEST ship in ANY fleet
Negh'Var Class, First in the Fleet
Regent of StarFire, XO of the Ring of Fire Fleet
(Mike Wilson)
www.ikvbloodlust.net



Above: some of the characters who attended the Dragon's Head Inn Haunt.
Photos by Dakron Slaxx

Battle of Trafalgar Anniversary Celebration

By Jean Martin
Editor

On October 21, 2005, the exact date of the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar, the Bay Area English Regency

Society (BAERS) celebrated Britain's greatest naval victory with a dinner and ball. The Admiral Lord Nelson Memorial Dinner began at 5:30PM, and the Battle of Trafalgar Victory ball began at 8:30PM. Both were held at the Arlington

Community Church in Kensington, in the hills above El Cerrito.

Unfortunately, as the location was too far for me to get to on an early Friday evening, I missed the dinner. The dinner was a traditional beef buffet with an alternative of fish for guests who do not eat red meat.

I arrived at the ball as caller extraordinaire (and fearless BAERS leader) Alan Winston was briefly teaching the next dance, and Regency Country one. Most of the guests were on the dance floor, and everyone was wearing colorful costumes from the period. There were, surprisingly, as many men as women. Usually, the male/female ratio is unbalanced, with more women in attendance. Regency events usually attract more women but I guess men were drawn by the Battle of Trafalgar theme. My friend who I came with is from England, and he said he grew up idolizing Lord Horatio Nelson. So anyway, I've never seen so many dashing men wearing British naval uniforms in my life! Quite a treat. I



Captain Jack Aubrey and crew

Photo by Jean Martin



even got to dance with Captain Aubrey from *Master and Commander*. Well, someone who was playing the role for the evening, complete with long bushy sideburns, and an amazingly authentic coat courtesy of Quartermaster eBay. He was quite the dancer as well and I matched my graceful Regency steps with his lively Scottish jigs.

The women were just as lovely with their tiaras, turbans and bejeweled coiffures, sparkly jewelry, and flowing gowns. Some more demure in pale muslins, and some more risqué with low necklines and bright silks. Most were in the alluring, high-waisted, Empire style of the era.

The live dance music, provided by the Divertimento Dance Orchestra, was heavenly. They played pastoral and lively songs (think Mozart and Beethoven) to accompany the Regency Country dances. Regency Country dances are partner dances usually in a line, and in sets of two or three couples. These dances look elegant and flowing but are actually quite energetic and aerobic. What I like about them as well is that they're social, and all the dancers, especially myself, usually have smiles on our faces as we make eye contact with everyone else. These dances can be playful as well as seductive. Romantic waltzes (which began during that time) were also played with couples twirling around the ballroom counterclockwise. Some dances were a mixture of waltz and country dance, such as the exquisite Duke of Kent's Waltz.

Well, the Battle of Trafalgar is technically not Regency. The heart of the Regency period is from 1811–1820 when the Prince Regent ruled in place of his ailing and mad

Lady Leandra and Sir Robert on the dance floor

Photo by Jean Martin



Above: Lady Yvette and Lord Mark

Right: A naval officer attends the ball.

Photos by Jean Martin

father, King George III. Yes, the same one who lost the colonies to that ragged band of Revolutionaries. But the Regency aesthetic (think Jane Austen and Lord Byron) began even before that, and can encompass the late 18th century into the reign of the King George IV, the former Prince Regent.

In addition to music and dancing at the ball, hors d'oeuvres and punch were served. There was even a huge cake with little pastries on top that represented the British (with little Union Jack flags on them) and French (under Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte) ships. These were ingeniously arranged on the cake the same way as the opening positions of the Battle of Trafalgar. Card playing, a popular Regency pastime, was conducted in a side room. A likeness of Lord Nelson was in a place of prominence surrounded by flowers, a model ship and other naval paraphernalia. The night's festivities were made possible by BAERS members under the direction of Jolie Velazquez.

For more information on BAERS and their future events (which include costumed balls, non-costumed dance parties, science fairs, literary salons, picnics, etc.) visit: www.baers.org.



YaoiCon

By **Andrew Trembley**

Staff Writer

Let us start with definitions, lest y'all be totally lost.

YAOI is the Japanese equivalent to "Slash" fiction. But let me step back a bit. "Slash" fiction is homoerotic fanfic written

by women portraying romantic or sexual relationships between their favorite male characters. The term comes from early Star-Trek fanfic and "Kirk/Spock" stories so it's named after a bit of punctuation. Go fig.

So, as I was saying, YAOI is the Japanese equivalent to "Slash" fiction.

Except...

Where slash generally involves characters from live-action shows, yaoi features characters from anime and manga (comic books). Where slash is written mostly by women over 30, yaoi is (in Japan) written mostly by high-school and college girls. Where slash takes the form of prose, Yaoi takes the form of self-published comic books (doujinshi). Where slash writers look for cues and clues in source material to match up characters, yaoi writers match characters up because they would look good in bed together.

There's one really big difference, though, that eclipses the others. As popular as yaoi doujinshi are "Boys Love" (or "BL") manga: commercially published series by professional

mangaka (comic artists). Several manga publishing houses have imprints that are exclusively dedicated to BL titles.

With the incredible growth in the popularity of anime in the west, it's not surprising that yaoi has also become very popular, enough so to support an annual convention in its fifth year that brings popular BL mangaka to our shores.

For the second year in a row, Yaoi-Con was held at the Westin SFO in Burlingame with additional events at the Clarion Hotel across the parking lot. It was a touch irritating showing up at the Westin (the host hotel) on Friday night and finding out that all of Friday's events

All Photos by Pikmin Link of www.consplayers.com





girls. It follows the Japanese pattern (but is adults-only). Some of them haul their boyfriends along, there are a few gay men shopping for cartoon porn, and there are a few straight guys who figure the concentration of girls improves their odds, but well under a fifth of the convention is guys.

Saturday is rich with panel discussions, and, of course, the staple of

(and registration) were at the Clarion. Fortunately the Clarion's construction project was complete; the old wings had been destroyed and replaced by parking lot, making for a direct shot between the hotels.

Alas, work schedules and transit didn't allow me to arrive at this year's Yaoi-Con until after Opening Ceremonies and Guest of Honor Kazuma Kodaka's introduction. Nor did we sit down for Bishounen Bingo (definition time again: "bishounen" is Japanese for "beautiful boy" and is very literal about "boy" referring to barely pubescent boy; western fandom has shifted the age range up to something that fits community standards here), where pretty young men hawk prizes and bingo cards to fangirls.

Yep, most of the convention is college

any anime convention, the dealers' room. A Yaoi-Con dealers' room is always an interesting mix of vendors, from J-pop music dealers, manga importers (with boxes and boxes of commercial manga and of doujinshi, all in Japanese), toy and gadget importers (with strange objects), western manga and anime distributors (like BeBeautiful, TokyoPop/Blu and Media Blasters) and many dealers you might see at any SF convention. Because of the emphasis in Yaoi on fanworks, there's also a large "Fan Market" corridor where amateur artists can get a table and show and sell their wares.

The panels? They're wide and varied. There are plenty of panels on drawing and writing technique, the standard industry

panels where publishers announce new titles and answer questions about current titles, and (because porn and erotica are the basis of the whole genre) usually a few "real sex" type panels. This year there were more industry panels (featuring the aforementioned publishing imprints, some new in the last year) and fewer "real sex" panels, but all in all it was a good mix.

The art show was rather small, but that's the paradox of the genre. Yaoi fandom is a very participatory fandom; most members



of the convention are involved in producing art, fan writing or costume. Because of this, and because it's so easy for a fan artist to get a dealers table or a fan market table, there aren't many pieces in the art show. Putting art in the show is just something that doesn't occur to many Yaoi fan artists.

The Saturday night events (again, at the Clarion) remarkably all ran on schedule. This is impressive because in the past they haven't, and



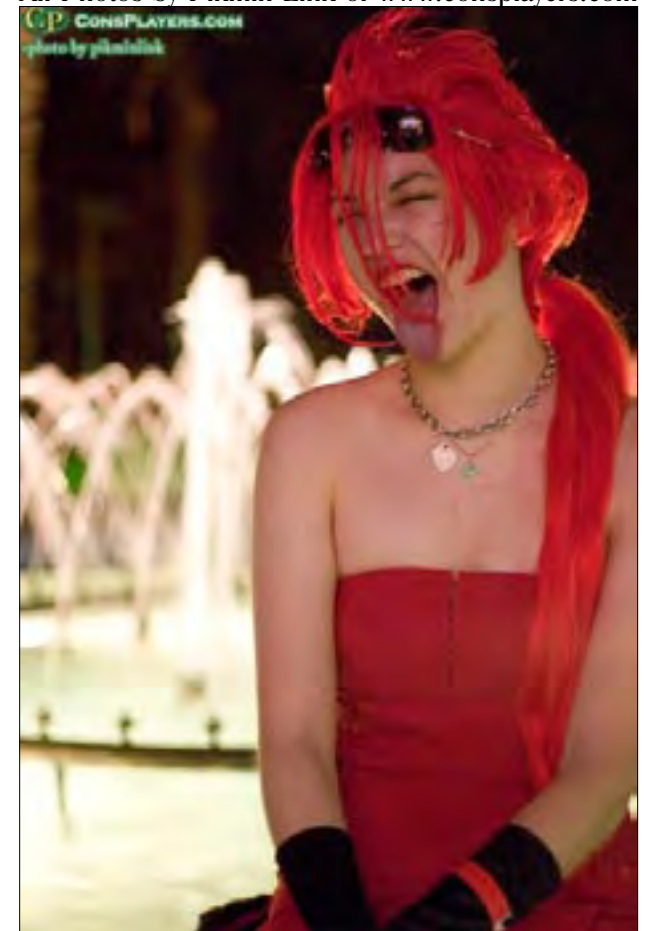
because the schedule is actually very tight.

The Anime Music Video contest, scheduled from 5-7 p.m., ran on time. Individuals and groups edit together and set clips from their favorite anime to whatever music they choose, trying to set their desired mood, often to excellent effect. The cosplay contest, scheduled in the same room for 7-9 p.m., started just after 7 p.m. and started at a quarter past. It's a rather low-tech affair, unfortunately with a riser-stage that should have been 2-3' higher to allow the whole audience to see better, but the quality of entries continues to rise over time. The "Bishounen Auction" (in which convention attendees bid for a few hours of time with selected pretty boys), scheduled for 9-11 p.m. (again, in the same room, which was starting to get really toasty by that point) started pretty much on time; I couldn't bear the heat or the bad bishounen rock band that was auctioned first so we bailed quickly. That

meant we missed the elaborate hoax at the end in which a group of guys on staff "bid \$125,000" for one of the female auctioneers.

Sunday wound up with a bit more shopping, a bit more gossip, more panels and the run home. Closing ceremonies weren't scheduled until 4:00 p.m., and the Yaoi-Con Raffle (infamous for giving away both the ridiculous and the sublime) after that. It was too long a weekend, and it was time to be going.

All Photos by Pikmin Link of www.consplayers.com



Dancing on Swamp Gas

By Eva Kent

Ye Gaskells Occasional Dance Society, an offshoot of the Charles Dickens Fair, presents Victorian costume balls every other month at Oakland's Scottish Rite Temple overlooking Lake Merritt. Lovers of vintage dance and costumes dance the night away with waltzes, mazurkas, polkas and energetic set dances to the esteemed Brassworks Band.

Every October Gaskells holds a Fancy Dress Ball originally inspired by portraits taken by the photographer Lafayette at the famed Devonshire House Ball that took place on July 2, 1897. At this lavish 1897 house party, guests wore historical and fictional costumes such as Cleopatra, Britannia, and Mercutio from *Romeo and Juliet*.

In the spirit of the Devonshire House Ball, dancers at this year's Fancy Dress Ball, held last October 29th, took care with their costumes. The deities Jupiter and Venus, and a male Tinkerbell and female Peter Pan, were among the most admired costumes. Many regulars to the ball converted their hoopskirt dresses, topcoats and knee breaches into pirate costumes by adding a silver sword to their belts.

When asked what made this particular Gaskells different from the regular Gaskells, Stannie Holt who was dressed as deposed Euro trash said, "The ball is bigger, the costumes more



Masked revelers

Photo by Jean Martin



PEERS Artistic Director Cathleen Myers
Photo by Jean Martin

creative and amusing.” She also said that she enjoyed the themed music of Brassworks.

The Grand Death March played by the Brassworks at the start of the ball set the mood of the night. The march is a chance for everyone to parade around the large ballroom eyeing each other’s costumes and to get their blood flowing in preparation for the dancing to come. The start of the march was slow and the music haunting. Partners took hands and followed the couples in front of them to start a large game of follow the leader. Leaders of the march shouted commands over the music giving the feeling of being in a cavernous cave and on the verge of going into a spooky battle. In each stage of the eerie march couples linked onto more couples, and by the end of the march, rows of sixteen people had formed.

The large turnout at the ball was attested to during Sellenger’s Witches Round dance.

In this dance participants take hands and form a circle around the room. Where there would usually be two circles set inside each other, four circles of dancers had to be formed at the Fancy Dress Ball in order to accommodate all of the guests.

Dressed as Glinda the Good Witch



Anime Heroine

Photo by Jean Martin

in a puffy pink gown, Sasha Nealand thought that this particular Gaskells was popular because it is “a Halloween thing to do,” she said. Last year Nealand discovered the world of Gaskells by doing a search on craigslist when looking for something to do to celebrate Halloween.

The ball was capped off by the popular Sir Roger de Coverley’s *Ghost*, a set dance

that gains in speed. By the end of the dance everyone is twirling around, clapping in time and hooting over the music. Gaskells Fancy Dress Ball is a perfect night for new dancers to be introduced to Gaskells’ lively atmosphere and it is also a perfect night for all Gaskells lovers to reunite and spend the night dancing on swamp gas.



Left:
Venetian Lady with
Captain Mal.

Right:
Eva Kent

Photos by Jean Martin



Clive Barker Tours Heaven & Hell

By Dr. Noe
Staff Writer

Clive Barker: writer, movie maker, artist?

Those familiar with his most recent books, the *Abarat* series, already know that Barker has been painting for years, and that many of his paintings have inspired the *Abarat* books; a line of plushies, “*Jump Tribe*” manufactured by Art Asylum; and his latest book *Visions of Heaven & Hell*, a collection of more than 400 images from the depths of Barker’s mind.

Barker was recently in San Francisco for Q&A and a signing of his latest foray into the world that is Barker’s mind.

Haight Street’s Booksmith (1644 Haight) drew a crowd of approximately 50 people who crammed into the store’s children’s section on October 25th to listen to Barker spin tales of the new book and answer questions.

Visions is a veritable Pandora’s Box of images certain to stay in your head, as Barker recounted in the opening of his talk. He recalled a signing where an 11-year old girl brought a copy of *Visions* for Barker to sign. Barker asked the girl’s mother if it

was ok for her daughter to have the book, to which the mother replied that there was nothing in the book the girl hadn’t seen at home.

Illuminated with ten essays on the recurring themes, *Visions*’ artwork presents an expressionist fervor of some of our most primal passions—good, evil, and everything in between. From the graphically terrifying to the ecstatically sensual, *Visions* is a journey through unexplored and forbidden realms.

Barker is now seemingly painting to write, which he says has “liberated a synaptic gap that has never been jumped over before.” He credits his daughter’s presence as the driving force behind his ferocity to paint.

When asked about how he keeps things fresh and interesting, Barker replied that it’s knowing your clichés when you write. That way, you don’t repeat the same thing again and again. He mentioned he knows of authors (but named no one) that haven’t found their clichés, and wind up telling the same story each time.

Other projects Barker has coming down the pike include *Scarlett Gospels* in which he promises an end to Pinhead,

who was made famous in *Hellraiser*. Barker promises Pinhead will have a good death. Fans of Harry D’Amour from *Lord of Illusions* can expect to see him in the story as well. On the film side of things, Barker is working on *The Midnight Meat Train* from his *Books of Blood* collection and *Tortured Souls*, based on his Todd McFarlane figures.



The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Still Time Warping after all these years

By Dr. Noe
Staff Writer

Halloween is the time when people's thoughts turn towards ghost, goblins, witch – and fishnet stockings?

For most, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* is as traditional to Halloween as Jack-



O-Lanterns and Candy Corn, however; for those in the Bay Area with a midnight fishnet fetish, *RHPS* can be seen in your own backyard each and every Saturday night.

Live Cast Barely Legal performs the 30-year-old show each and every weekend at the Parkway Cinema in Oakland. The cast also will be celebrating its 10-year anniversary this coming Saturday, November 5th.

But for a greater number of people, *Rocky Horror* is a once a year event, being synonymous with Halloween, the come as you aren't time of year. Or is it?

Several audience members who attended Barely Legal's Halloween shows on October 28th and 29th feel that *Rocky* is a place where you can be yourself, get a little crazy, and have fun. And many of them have been, and will continue to attend beyond the Halloween time of year.

"It's self-expression at its purest," said one audience member. It also appeals to people being able to be themselves, whatever that may be, without anyone looking at them weird or like they're the degenerates of society.



"It's dirty and goes against everything my parents ever taught me," said another audience member, who added that the people, and the acceptance, is what brings her back week after week.

Another audience member likes the movie and the songs. While there are several people who share this opinion, very few in my experience will actually admit it. What's even harder than finding someone who will admit to liking the *Rocky Horror Picture Show* for the movie itself is finding someone

who will admit to liking its pseudo-sequel; *Shock Treatment* (also known as *The Further Adventures of Brad and Janet*).

For the uninitiated (who are called Virgins), *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* is about a nice, wholesome couple, Brad and Janet, from Denton (located somewhere in Middle America). After attending their friends' wedding, they decide to go visit an

old friend. Their car breaks down causing them to seek shelter from a storm in a nearby castle. From there the story catapults into a cacophony in the varied forms of a mad scientist, Frank-N-Furter, who is creating a perfect man in the form of Rocky Horror during a party of Transylvanians from the planet of Transsexual.

Besides this riveting plotline, the show also offers up a live cast who perform all of the main parts in front of the movie. The work that goes into being a cast member is incredible, especially with a cast like Barely Legal: memorizing lines, timing, and finding screen-accurate costuming is excruciating and time consuming, but at the same time rewarding. For those that love to perform (or like to dance in their underwear) being a cast member is great fun. The thrill of

performing and audience accolades are a definite plus, but to be an intricate part of such a cult phenomenon is its own reward.

Nate Havoc, one of the directors of Barely Legal has been a part of *RHPS* for 10 years, starting out as an audience member in the early 90s.

"The show itself is fantastic – it is a lot of fun in a good environment with a lot of great people," Havoc says.

"The main reason I keep doing *Rocky Horror* is I remember what it felt like to me when I first started going – I thought the show was such a phenomenal event, and I want to help keep the show going and bring that feeling to people who are now hearing about *Rocky Horror* today."

As far as *RHPS* being Halloween's movie, so to speak, he said, "Aside from Halloween being the "birthday" of *RHPS*, *Rocky Horror* is a place where people can put away their inhibitions and be themselves, or be something completely different than they normally are. Halloween is the one day of the year that many people feel it is okay to dress up and pretend, and many people love that. *Rocky Horror* is a place where the feeling and spirit of Halloween exists every Saturday at midnight."

Additionally, there is audience participation where audience members have lines they call out to the screen. For



example, in a scene when Brad is looking for a word in his song, the audience calls out several words beginning with “S” until Brad actually says the word. Besides this, what keeps people coming back to *RHPS* every weekend, or devoting such a huge portion of their life to the show by joining a cast?

The brainchild of Richard O’Brien, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* is a spoof on the

old 50’s B-movies and throws together such things as the aforementioned Frankenstein-esque creation of Rocky, loss of innocence, and the turning of the tables by Riff Raff (O’Brien) on his master (Furter) ala Lobo in Ed Woods’ *Bride of the Monster*.

Staring in this sexual romp are Susan Sarandon (*Thelma & Louise*, *Bull Durham*) as Janet Weiss, Barry Bostwick (*Spin City*) as Brad Majors, Tim Curry (*Clue*, *Oscar*,

Legend) as Furter, and Meatloaf as Eddie, an ex-delivery boy and former fling of mad scientist Furter.

Originally a play written by O’Brien (*The Rocky Horror Show*), Rocky was brought to the big screen in 1975 and did very poorly. But soon after, several audience members continued showing up every weekend, many dressed as their favorite characters, and armed with hoards of AP lines. The rest is history. *Rocky* has been going strong ever since with its weekend midnight madness. Several cities in California and across the country are home to casts.

Casts in LA include “Midnight Insanity,” “Sins O the Flesh,” and “Wild & Untamed Things.” In the Midwest you have “The Dayton Affair,” and in Atlanta, GA there’s “Lips Down on Dixie” who perform each year at Dragon*Con.

Barely Legal also has its share of road shows, performing each year at BayCon in San Jose. They’ve also had shows at Bondage A Go-Go at the Glas Kat Supperclub in San Francisco and even helped kicked off Six Flags Marine World’s “Fright Fest.”

For more information on Barely Legal visit them at <http://barelylegal.rhps.org>.

Parkway Cinema: <http://picturepubpizza.com>.



Photos courtesy of Barely Legal

Robert Jordan at Cody's San Francisco

By Diane Rooney

Staff Writer

About 75 avid *Wheel of Time* fans were on hand to greet Robert Jordan on October 26 and celebrate the publication of *Knife of Dreams*. In his personable remarks Jordan addressed upfront many of the

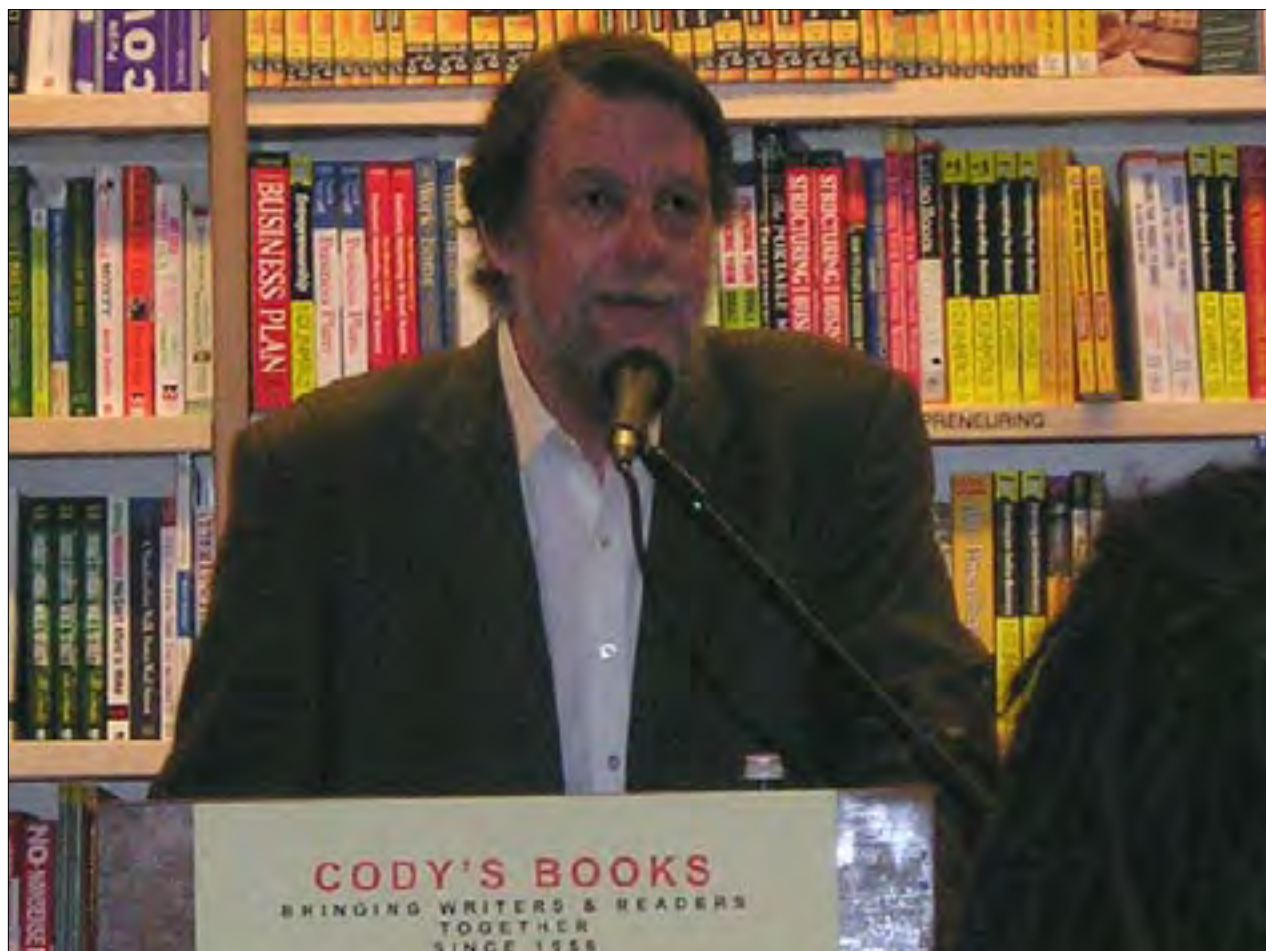
questions he's been asked repeatedly and provided news on his current and future activities, then took questions for about fifteen minutes.

He started a blog in September at Dragonmount (<http://www.dragonmount.com/RobertJordan/>) after lurking on *Wheel of Time* websites for

several months. He enjoys the opportunity it gives him to interact with readers and quickly stop false rumors, such as one that he had cancer. Actually, he's very healthy and gave the audience a full report on his blood pressure and his recent stress test! The blog is mirrored at wotmania (<http://www.wotmania.com/>) and other *Wheel of Time* sites.

Jordan is hard at work on the twelfth and final volume of the *Wheel of Time*. He worked half days the last few months while getting ready for the book tour, and when he returns home to Charleston he'll be working full time until it's done. There will be only one more book, "even if it's 2,000 pages." There's enough story, apparently, for one "coherent novel," even if it's "fatter than usual." He advised readers to "get a back brace before you go to the store." He also revealed that someone has already figured out who kills Asmodean and why, and has posted it on the web. But which, among all the theories?

He explained that several characters are modeled on himself: Mat, when he was in his teens and twenties; Perrin, when he was growing up; and Rand, because he's an outsider. He joked that his wife Harriet



thinks he's a perfect model of Loial Kiseran. He also explained that in *Knife of Dreams* a character is named for a woman in Great Britain who bought "naming rights" as part of a fundraiser for victims of torture.

Other projects are already in the planning stages, including more prequels to *The Wheel of Time*. Jordan wrote *New Spring*, a prequel, at the request of his publisher. It started out as a novella for *Legends Anthology* edited by Robert Silverberg, but it grew and soon reached 100,000 words. At that point, his publisher asked for him to complete it as a novel.

He's signed contracts for a trilogy called *The Infinity of Heaven*, which will feature a different universe and different culture than WOT. And Red Eagle Entertainment has finished an outline for a film based on *The Eye of the World*. Years ago, he reminded the audience, NBC bought the rights for a six-hour miniseries, but after 18 months the project died.

After the 12-part series is complete, Jordan and his wife will publish a *Wheel of Time* encyclopedia, including notes,

and vocabulary, script, and grammar for the Old Tongue. The Old Tongue, now with a vocabulary of about a thousand words, is based on about 850 basic English words (with ones like "electricity" removed and ones like "dignity" and "honor" added). He drew from Gaelic and Celtic "because

fantasy readers expect that," but also from Russian, Chinese, Japanese, Urdu, and Turkish.

A final memorable Jordan quote he calls his First Law: "If the answer is easy, consider the possibility that you're asking the wrong question."



BASFA Minutes: meeting 796

October 24, 2005.

Trey Haddad, President

Nathan Slerm-r & Chris Garcia, Vice-President

Dave Gallaher, Treasurer

Galen Tripp, Sargent at Arms

Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Began at 8:04 pm - with talk of 9-volt batteries.

18 people attended.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 795 were accepted as 'scampering'.

No Treasurer [week 2][but the proxy report was that last week we took in \$20.25 in the regular jar & \$18.50 in the FC party jar.

VP reports = pre-eminent VP Nathan reported 'Ummm, nothing fannish to report' & VP Chris reported that he had his first mayoral campaign this last week & it went well, plus there'll be a 'Drink Tank' out on Friday.

The President managed to avoid reporting.

Ed reported that he has a room for the Further Confusion BASFA party & he is FC's official party maven & the party goods were delivered.

Then we established a Further Confu-

sion party fund jar.

Announcements:

Kevin S announced that Gridlore's live journal is organizing an outing to Ardenwood's corn maze this Sunday at 10am [Gridlore = fellow fan Doug Berry] - so check his LJ for further details & Kevin announced that Cheryl is due back on Wednesday.

Dave C announced the Tiger Lilies are coming to town tomorrow night at Bimbos.

Art announced that that November is the annual Dev Nul NetHack - so sign up.

Mike announced that there's a Legion of Rasselon this Friday at the Carl's Jr at 1st & Trimble.

Sue announced that Stephen Hawking will speak Nov 7th at the Center for Performing Arts in SJ.

Reviews:

Andy reviewed makingfriends.com [an animated shorts site] as - you must watch the cartoons & he reviewed the Original Pancake House clam pancakes as surprisingly good & worth full price [ewwww!].

Ed reviewed 'Ghost' by John Ringo as just barely sf [barely future Navy Seal life] as a fun read with kinky sex - worth full price.

I reviewed 'Doom' as surprisingly fun

& not too bad; worth matinee; there were various comments of disbelief & Trey reviewed 'Doom' as the characters were charismatic enough to hold the screen, the special effects were pretty seamless & the plot was predictable - worth bargain matinee.

Julie reviewed a book, 'How to Make Anything' that sounded real nifty - about fabrication technology and a book that makes you think - as well worth reading.

Chris reviewed viewing German burlesque as weird and bizarre and worth having a friend bring with them from Germany to see on a Saturday night [there were comments].

Kevin R reviewed 'Wallace & Gromit' as worth full price & he howled out loud several times while watching it & he reviewed the Masterpiece Theatre 'Case of the Silk Stockings' with Rupert Everett as interesting, but there were some glitches; then Kevin reviewed the Stargate's first use as a portal [and the computer video file of this was nifty].

We auctioned off stuff for = 2 magazines = \$10.00; then books for \$0.25, \$0.25; \$0.75; \$0.25 & \$2.00.

We adjourned at = 9:21 pm.

And the rumor of the week was 'Clams got pancakes!'

BASFA Minutes: meeting 797

Meeting 797.

October 31, 2005.

Trey Haddad, President

Nathan Slerm-r &

Chris Garcia, Vice-President

Dave Gallaher, Treasurer

Galen Tripp, Sargent at Arms

Barbara Johnson-Haddad, Secretary

Began at 8:08 pm - for tonight's spooooooky minutes.

20 people attended.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 796 were accepted as "mysteeeeeerious".

No Treasurer [week 3][but the proxy report was that last week we took in \$5.50 in the regular jar & \$17.26 in the FC party jar.

VP reports = pre-eminent VP Chris reported there will be NO "Drink Tank" & he is participating in national novel writing month; [no Nathan, wk 1].

We said "hi" to Ben Seeberger, visiting us, having found us via the website.

We established a party fund jar.

Announcements:

Cheryl announced that she brought a Glasgow worldcon report in Finnish to

pass around & Saturday night is National Drunk Writing night.

Dave C announced there is a BASCon this weekend [for slash fiction] at the Embassy Suites in South SF - go there and buy books.

Kevin S announced that he'll be in Portland for Orykon this weekend at the Marriott, downtown & there are Emerald Cities in the room [and that any money goes in the kitty].

Chris announced that he is a proud Emerald City subscriber & that a number of BASFAns are mentioned in this months File 770.

Mike announced a Serenity meeting at the Tidehouse at Saturday, noon.

Kevin R suggested that folks might want to go to the SC Leather Assoc Community weekend - check scleather.org for more details & he announced that he & Andy may be running the cosplay masquerade in Anime LA.

Reviews:

Jony reviewed "Thus" by Pratchett as grim but whimsical.

Cheryl reviewed the UK as cold & wet - that there was a Worldcon and nobody died

& that England beat Australia in cricket and the world hasn't ended yet.

Dave C reviewed the Tiger Lilies as "the usual".

Kevin R reviewed Yaoi-con as it had a high "squeeeeee!" factor, that he felt old & out of place & it was full of squealy fan-girls & worth pre-reg - with more details in SF/SF.

Chris admitted being a great big geek & reviewed "Most Haunted Live" as a TV series made just for him; brilliantly wonderful & reviewed the DVD collection of "Arrested Development" as worth full price & even more wonderful.

Doug reviewed the Ardenwood corn maze as it contained trivia, was made for gamers * he insulted a chicken & it was utterly amazing; Kevin S follow-on'd that it was definitely worth full price.

We auctioned off stuff for = t-shirt \$1.00; DVD & magazine for \$4.00, figures for \$5.00; books for \$2.00 & \$2.00 & birthday auctioned off me for \$14.00 to Trey.

We adjourned at = 9:12 pm.

And the rumor of the week was "shiver me timbers!".

Bay Area Fan Resources

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

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

General Science Fiction Groups:

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

BASFA meets Monday nights at The Original Hick'ry Pit at 980 E. Campbell Ave. in Campbell.

www.basfa.org

Peninsula Science Fiction Association

Send an email to commander@pensfa.org to be subscribed to their email list.

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

The Fannish Imperial Guard

For information or to RSVP send an email to either mishalak@livejournal.com or aiglet@livejournal.com.

This recently-created group meets for brunch most Sundays, alternating between San Francisco and the East Bay. Following

brunch, the group usually explores a nearby area or event. This organization is very public transit friendly.

Fantastic Frontiers (Sacramento County)

www.freewebs.com/fantasticfrontiers/

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

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

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

Conventions

3DB Con

Sunday, April 24, 2006

www.threedollarbill.com/3DBcon

Three Dollar Bill Cafe 1800 Market Street
San Francisco

10 a.m.-10 p.m.

\$10

Game Convention.

AnimeDestiny 2005

November 5

www.ocf.berkeley.edu/~animage/animed/
University of California Berkeley
Berkeley

\$10 in advance, \$15 at the door

Members of Cal-Animage Alpha get in free.

9 a.m. – 11 p.m.

The second year for this very fun one-day convention sponsored by one of the oldest anime clubs in the U.S.

Anime track, programming, concert by j-rock group Beautiful Losers, cosplay contest, dealers, swap meet.

Anime Overdose 2006

August 4-6 2006

www.animeod.com

San Francisco

\$30 to ?, \$45 at door

Anime convention.

BAScon
November 4-6
www.bascon.org
Embassy Suites
250 Gateway Boulevard
South San Francisco
Memberships: \$70 to 10/31/05 or until
sold out
Information: BASCon, P.O. Box 282197,
San Francisco, CA 94128-2197
Email: info@BASCon.org

The fifth Bay Area Slash Convention.
Open to those 18 years or older.
Dealers' room, art show, panels, video
show, con suite.

Baycon
May 26-29, 2006
San Jose Doubletree Inn
San Jose
www.baycon.org
\$45 until August 31

The largest annual general SF conven-
tion in the Bay area. Dealer's room, pan-
els, costume contest, anime room, much
more.

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

Creation's Salute to Sci-Fi TV
November 12-13
www.creationent.com
Wyndham San Jose
1350 N. First Street
San Jose
\$35
Special packages available for \$139-249.00
Guests include actors Gigi Edgely,
Michael Shanks (Sunday only) and Don
Davis (Saturday only).

Creation Salutes Star Trek:
The 40th Anniversary Celebration
September 8-10, 2006
www.creationent.com
Doubletree Hotel
Sacramento
2001 Point West Way
Sacramento
Memberships: Gold Weekend Package:
\$399.

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

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

Gaming convention.

Fanime Con
May 26-29, 2006
San Jose Convention Center
San Jose
www.fanime.com

Price
The largest annual anime convention in the Bay Area. Dealer's room, panels, costume contest, multiple tracks of anime, Asian films, J-pop concert, much more.

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

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

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

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

Japantown Anime Faire 3
Saturday and Sunday, December 17-18
www.jtaf.com
Japantown
San Francisco

6 p.m.
Fun local anime convention with anime showings, dealer's room, costume contest, panels.

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

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

SacAnime 2006
Saturday, January 14, 2006
www.sacramentocomics.com
Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street
Sacramento
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
\$5.00

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

Sacramento Comic, Toy & Anime Show
Sunday, December 11
www.sacramentocomics.com
Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street
Sacramento
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
\$5.00

Dealer's room, anime viewing room, contests, Yugioh & Magic tournaments, cosplay contest at 2 p.m.

Wintershoppingland
Saturday, December 10
www.wintershoppingland.com
Hayward Centennial Hall
22292 Foothill Blvd.
Hayward
11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
\$2 (Free 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

This is an anime event organized by the group that puts on Yaoi Con and Tales of Anime. Costume contest, dealers room, programming to be announced.

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

Wondercon
www.comic-con.org/wc/
February 10-12 2006
The Moscone Center
San Francisco

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

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

Anime/Manga

Anime Baka
www.thetoytrader.com
462 Mendocino Ave.
Santa Rosa

Anime viewing/club hosted by a local anime store. Held first and third Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. First Monday is a potluck dinner.

AnimeFX
userwww.sfsu.edu/~animefx/
San Francisco State University
San Francisco
University anime club. Hosts free showings on Fridays during the school year.

Beefbowl Anime
www.beefbowl.org
Albany Library
1247 Marin Ave.
Albany
Anime club. Hosts a monthly anime

viewing on Saturday at the Albany Library.

Cal Animage Alpha
www.ocf.berkeley.edu/~animage/
Univeristy of California
Berkeley

University anime club. Hosts a weekly anime showing Mondays during the school year. Also sponsors AnimeDestiny convention in the fall.

Foothill Anime
foothill.anime.net
Foothill College
Los Altos Hills

This university anime club meets the first Sunday of the month for a free showing starting at noon.

Newtype Anime
www.stanford.edu/group/newtype/
Stanford University
Palo Alto

University anime club. Hosts free showings each Tuesday is in session.

No Name Anime
www.nnanime.com
San Jose

Anime club. Hosts a monthly anime viewing on Saturday at local libraries.

Tempura Anime
tempura-anime.us

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

Tsunami Anime
studiokyuu.com/tsunami/
San Jose State University
WSQ 109
San Jose

University anime club. Hosts free showings on Thursdays during the school year.

Anime Cosplay

The California Cosplay Times
www.californiacosplaytimes.com

This website is dedicated to promoting cosplay at conventions, with an emphasis on California and particularly Bay Area conventions.

In addition to hosting cosplay photos from members, most notably from Brocas and hosting Cosplay Magazine, the site also features a forum with a small but dedicated group of participants.

Consplayers.com
www.consplayers.com

Known for setting up a portable studio at conventions for better photos.

Cosplay.com
www.cosplay.com
forums.cosplay.com

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

Usagichan Search and Rescue
<http://www.usagichan.com/>
Home to Bay Area cosplay photographer li-onboogy and his Linus Lam Network News coverage of conventions coast to coast and even internationally.

Book Groups

Futurist Salon Book Group
Barnes & Noble Booksellers
Hillsdale Shopping Center

11 West Hillsdale Blvd.
San Mateo
650-341-5560

Meets montly

Science Fiction Book Club
Borderlands Books
www.borderlands-books.com
866 Valencia St.
San Francisco

Meets monthly at Borderlands books at 6 p.m.

Gay Men's Science Fiction Book Club
Borderlands Books
www.borderlands-books.com
866 Valencia St.
San Francisco

Meets the second Sunday of the month at Borderlands Books. Contact Christopher Rodriquez at cobalt555@earthlink.net for more information.

Bookstores (specialty)

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

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

Elsewhere Books
260 Judah Street
San Francisco

Used and collectible science fiction and
mystery

Kayo Books
www.kayobooks.com
814 Post Street
San Francisco

Best bookstore in the bay area for pulp
fiction, including old science fiction pulps.

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

Spellbinding Tales Bookstore
www.spellbindingtales.com
1910A Encinal Ave. @ Chestnut
Alameda
510-523-1105

Hosts SF-related events and authors.

Costuming

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

Comic Art

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

Media Fan Groups

Doctor Who

Legion of Rassilon
Meets one Friday a month in San Jose

at Carl's Junior, 2551 N. First Street at 7:30
p.m. The group shows episodes of the Dr.
Who series and has discussions of recent
movies and a raffle.

Serenity/Firefly

SF Browncoats
www.sfbrowncoats.com
Cafe Murano
San Francisco
Noon
Free

Serenity/Firefly fan group. Meets every
second Saturday of each month at Café
Murano in San Francisco.

Join the yahoo group from the link on
their website for schedule updates.

Silicon Gulch Browncoats
www.silicongulchbrowncoats.org

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

Sacramento Browncoats
groups.yahoo.com/group/
SacramentoBrowncoats/

Star Trek

IKV Bloodlust
www.ikvbloodlust.com

A very active Klingon ship, part of the StarFire Region of the Ring of Fire Fleet.

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

IKV Black Dragon
www.ikvblackdragon.com
Fairfield

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

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

USS Eagle
Fremont
For information email to
ncc1919@yahoo.com

USS Northern Lights
www.ussnorthernlights.org
Starfleet chapter. Meets monthly at the Great Mall Food Court in Milpitas

USS Renegade
www.geocities.com.renegade73101
East Bay

USS Tikopai
San Jose
www.usstikopai.org

Star Wars

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

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

501st Legion Golden Gate Garrison
www.goldengategarrison.com

501st Legion Central California Garrison
www.thestormtroopers.com/CCG.asp

Period Recreation

The Bay Area English Regency Society
www.baers.org

PEERS
(The Period Events & Entertainments Re-
Creation Society)
www.peers.org

Society For Creative Anachronism

Principality of the Mists
mists.westkingdom.org

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

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

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

Province of the Mists

Western Contra Costa County
provinceofthemists.org

Hosts fighter practice at the Rockridge
Bart Station parking lot every Thursday
from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

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

Role Playing/Board Games

Bay Area Role-Playing Society
www.BayRPS.com

Go-Getter's Pizza
1489 Beach Park Boulevard
Foster City
6pm to 10pm

Hosts a weekly game night. For club
and game night details send email to:
GM@BayRPS.com. (Not confirmed, check
before attending.)

Silicon Valley Boardgamers
davekohr.best.vwh.net/svb
Match Play
560 Showers Drive, Suite 4

Mountain View

A loosely-organized group that meets
every Monday and Wednesday at 7 p.m. at
a game store to play mostly German-style
strategy boardgames and cardgames.

Bay Area Games Day
davekohr.best.vwh.net/gamesday
Los Altos Library
Los Altos
Free

Regular event featuring German-style
strategy boardgames like Settlers of Catan,
Avalon Hill-type multiplayer games, lots of
cardgames, and historical board wargames.

SF Games
vax.hanford.org/dk/games
Muddy's Coffeehouse
1304 Valencia Street near 24th
San Francisco

SF Games is a collective name for a
bunch of people who get together and play
board games and card games every Friday.
Also has a cards night on Tuesdays at Café
Macondo, 3159 16th Street between
Guerrero and Valencia.

Stafnord RolePlayers (SRP)
http://www.rahul.net/pierre/SRP/SRP_
home.html

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

groups.html

Sacramento Games Portal
www.freewebs.com/sacgames/

Space/Science/Technology/Skeptics

Bay Area Skeptics
www.baskeptics.org

East Bay Skeptics
www.eb-skeptics.org

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

Robotics Society of America
Meets at San Francisco State University

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

Genre-influenced Musical Groups

AkaiSKY

www.akaisky.com

Trio that performs covers of J-Rock and anime music.

Ramen and Rice

ramenandrice.metaminstrel.net

Cello and Violin duo who play anime and game music at conventions

Warp 11

Star Trek theme rock band. Based in Sacramento.

www.warp11.com/

Wanted:

Contributors to cover
the following groups and activities:

The Gaylaxians

South Bay Star Wars Fan Club

PENSFA

Northern California Mars Society

The Society for Creative Anachronism

Star Trek groups

Star Wars groups

Legion of Rassilon

Filk Fandom

Furry Fandom

Role Playing/LARP

Fandom in Sacramento

All other Fan Groups and Activities

We want to have regular reports on all Bay Area fan groups and we want to list your events in our calendar. Contact Jean Martin and Chris Garcia at

SFinSF@gmail.com

The Bay Area Fannish Calendar

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

New listings are in red.

Daily

San Francisco Ghost Hunt Walking Tour

www.sfghosthunt.com
Begins: Queen Ann Hotel
1590 Sutter at Octavia
San Francisco
7 p.m. – 10 p.m.
\$20

Ongoing Fridays-Mondays

Haunted Haight Wallking Tour

www.hauntedhaight.com
Meets at PlanetWeavers Treasure Store
1573 Haight Street (at Clayton)
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Reservations required
\$20

Ongoing Fridays and Saturdays

Vampire Walking Tour

www.sfvampiretour.com
Meets corner of California and Taylor
San Francisco
8 p.m.
\$20

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

Ongoing through March 12, 2006

Gross, Gruesome and Gothic

Cartoon Art Museum

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

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

"Exhibition highlights include:

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

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

"The Vault of Horror: Graham

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

“The Stuff That Dreams Are Made Of: Neil Gaiman’s *Sandman* One of the most popular and acclaimed comic book series of the past 20 years, Neil Gaiman’s *Sandman* tales from DC Comics set new standards in excellence for fantasy and horror. Featured artists include Chris Bachalo, Duncan Eagleson, Marc Hempel, Kent Williams and series cover artist Dave McKean.

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

“It came from the Seventies! As the Silver Age of comics came to an end, the Marvel, DC and Warren publishing companies unleashed a wave of horror comics that pushed the boundaries of comic book art. Alfredo Alcalá, Jim Aparo, Frank Brunner,

Gene Colan and Dick Giordano, among others, bring new life to classic characters from *Dracula* and *Frankenstein’s monster* to anti-heroes including *The Spectre*, *Vampirella* and *Morbius*, *The Living Vampire*.

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

Now through November 13

Shocktoberfest 2005

The Thrillpeddlers

The Hypnodrome

www.hypnodrome.com

575 10th Street

Between Bryant and Division

San Francisco

\$18-\$69

I don’t know what’s wrong with people who think that having an uninformative website is the way to promote their event.

Reading between the lines, this show runs Thursdays through Sundays. Curtain time is too much to ask for, although we are told there are two shows nightly on October 29, 30 and 31. Jill Tracy and *The Malcontent Orchestra* are probably playing

those dates, and perhaps the other dates as well.

They don’t want to make it easy to buy tickets either.

The \$69 tickets are for the Deluxe Shock Box seats for two.

Through November 19

Runs Fridays and Saturdays

There Be Monsters!

EXIT Cafe

156 Eddy Street

San Francisco

8:30 p.m.

\$12-\$20

From their website:

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

“Presented somewhat in the manner of a turn-of-the-century Magic Lantern show of worlds within worlds, *There Be Monsters!* with its absurdist multiple-character monologues, slides, puppets and mechanical creatures (including a monkey astronaut, a sleeping pig, a dead Elvis waiting on the Highway of Eternity, and Jesus, paired with a hallucinatory,

evil monkey named Jungle Belle) delves into the logic of dreams and the nature of childhood perceptions regarding the discovery of things unknown.

Through November 12, 2005

Macbeth

Thursday, Friday, Saturday evenings at 8 p.m.

Sundays, October 24 and 30 at 2 p.m. and November 6 at 7 p.m.

Town Hall Theatre
3535 School Street

Lafayette

(925) 283-1557

Adults \$19-\$25

Seniors and Youths \$18-\$23

The performance on Monday, October 31 is a benefit performance and reception and tickets are \$50 per person.

From their website:

“Town Hall Theatre Company presents Shakespeare’s *Macbeth* in a unique vision by acclaimed director, Kevin T. Morales. The classic tragedy takes a contemporary turn in time for Halloween with witches, ghosts, murder, swordplay and betrayal in Morales’s comic book version. Costumer Melissa Paterson and Acalanes High School Choir Director Bruce Lenacher also bring their unique talents to this one-of-a-kind production.”

“Morales’ *Macbeth* offers artists in the community a way to collaborate -- musicians, painters, choirs, dancers and wonderful professional, community and teen performers put on a show that captures the community’s imagination and creates a major theatrical event. Never before will a Shakespeare show seem so much like a roller coaster -- and include a rock band with teen choir, samurai swords decorated like skate boards, bags of candy and masked marauders.”

Wednesday, November 2

Silicon Valley Boardgamers

davekohr.best.vwh.net/svb

Match Play

560 Showers Drive, Suite 4

Mountain View

7 p.m.

Free

A loosely-organized group that meets every Monday and Wednesday to play mostly German-style strategy boardgames and cardgames.

Wednesday, November 2

Anime Showing

Anime Baka

462 Mendocino Ave.

Santa Rosa

7 p.m.

Free

Anime viewing/club hosted by a local anime store. Held first and third Wednesday of each month.

\$20

Wednesday, November 2

Streetwars: Killer

Last day to sign up. See November 7 for details.

Wednesday, November 2

The Hunger

Castro Theater

429 Castro Street

San Francisco

3 p.m., 7 p.m.

“Catherine Deneuve is Miriam, a centuries-old vampire preying on urban club goers with her vampire lover John (David Bowie). When John begins aging suddenly, they seek the aid of doctor Sarah (Susan Sarandon) and Miriam casts her spell upon her. This neo-Gothic exercise in style and atmosphere has achieved cult status for good reason.”

Showing with *Repulsion* at 1 p.m., 5 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Wednesday, November 2

Tamora Pierce

Books Inc.

1375 Burlingame Ave.

Burlingame

6:30 p.m.

Free

Young adult fantasy author reads from *The Will of the Empress*.

Wednesday, November 2

Richard K. Morgan

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street San Francisco

7 p.m.

Free

Borderlands is excited to welcome Richard Morgan, acclaimed author of MARKET FORCES, BROKEN ANGELS, and ALTERED CARBON, a New York Times Notable Book and winner of the Philip K. Dick Award. Publishers Weekly offers this about Morgan's latest novel, WOKEN FURIES: "In Morgan's powerful third cyberpunk noir SF novel to feature Takeshi Kovacs, whose consciousness is transferred from one ultra-combat-ready body to another in the service of various unscrupulous powers, the interstellar mercenary returns home to Harlan's World, thoroughly pissed and dangerous. Despite his justified cynicism, he finds himself

trying to protect a young woman who may house the soul of a martyred revolutionary from centuries earlier. He also must fight a hired killer who's a younger version of himself. To succeed, he has to sift through his past to see which allies and memories he can trust. Morgan has become even more nery since winning the Philip K. Dick Award for his confident first novel, ALTERED CARBON (2003). This book develops a baroque, appallingly complicated setting, full of opportunities for revelation and betrayal. Both violence and sex are troweled on thickly but appropriately; they have significant consequences for these people who are trying—in circumstances even more desperate than our own—to discover who they really are and who they might have a chance to become." Morgan's career is really taking off -- come meet him before it's too late to say you "knew him when"!

Thursday, November 3

Tamora Pierce

Book Passage

51 Tamal Vista Blvd.

Corte Madera

10 a.m.

Free

Thursday, November 3

Tamora Pierce

Copperfield's Books Petaluma

140 Kentucky Street

Petaluma

7 p.m.

Free

Fantasy author of *The Will of the Empress* will sign.

Thursday, November 3

Octavia Butler

City Lights Bookstore

261 Columbus Ave.,

San Francisco

7 p.m.

Free

Noted author touring in support of her latest book *Fledgeling*.

More Events Next Page

Thursday, November 3

The Movie Bus shows The Fifth Element

www.DasFrachtgut.com

The bus picks up at

Amnesia Bar

853 Valencia Street

San Francisco

7:30 p.m. - 11:50 p.m.

\$10 Suggested Donation

From their website:

“We will take off from the Amnesia Bar and take you on a ride through the beautiful city of San Francisco.

“During the drive you will enjoy some short films by local filmmakers and music videos.

“We will park at a secret location to screen and ‘discuss’ the feature film.

“After the film we will have an outdoor-5-Element tag game to heat up our bodies and get hugged a lot - you’ll see.

“Dress crazy to go along with this fantastic movie, but don’t wear high hats that block the view of the screen for people behind you :).

“You can bring some drinks, but we will also have beer and cocktails on the bus for \$2 - \$3

“Your contributions support the Bus and the next big project to provide free fieldtrips to Inner City Kids. DasFrachtgut

will take students to the beach, the park, and a museum to engage them in scientific, artistic projects. We will serve them a healthy lunch and open their minds to the world.

“ 40 people max. For RSVP please call 415 424 1058”

Thursday, November 3 –

Saturday, November 5

The Rocky Horror Show-Starring

The Rocky Horror Picture Show Cast of Barely Legal’s Own Draven Corvus

The Missouri Street Theater and Arts Academy

1125 Missouri St

Fairfield Ca, 94533

Ticket Info: 707-422-1598

\$18-\$20

I only have very sketchy information on this, so please call to confirm before attending.

Through November 12, there are shows Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7 p.m. which are general audience shows with no AP lines.

Friday and Saturday at midnight is a mature audiences show with AP lines encouraged. A survival kit will be sold for the midnight shows. Alcohol sold. No midnight show on Thursday.

November 4-6

The Vampyre

Dreamweavers Theatre

www.dreamweaverstheatre.org/2005/the-vampyre.html

1637 Imola Avenue

Napa

(River Park Shopping Center)

8 p.m. Friday and Saturday

2 p.m. Sunday

\$18

Tounge-in-cheek presentation of a play based on a famous Shilling Shocker.

November 4-6

BAScon

Embassy Suites

250 Gateway Boulevard

South San Francisco

Memberships: \$70 to 10/31/05 or until sold out

Information: BASCon, P.O. Box 282197, San Francisco, CA 94128-2197

Email: info@BASCon.org

The fifth Bay Area Slash Convention. Open to those 18 years or older.

Dealers’ room, art show, panels, video show, con suite.

More Events Next Page

Friday, November 4

AnimeFX showing
 HSS Building Room 135
 San Francisco State University
 San Francisco
 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.
 Free
 Meets weekly during the school year.

Friday, November 4

Octavia E. Butler
 Marcus Books
 3900 MLK Way
 Oakland
 6:30 p.m.
 Free

Friday-Saturday, November 4-5

The Wizard of Oz
 Aquarius Theatre
 430 Emerson Street
 Palo Alto
 Midnight

Running as part of the theater's
 Midnight Madness program.

Friday-Saturday, November 4-5

Gremlins
 Landmark's Act 1 & 2
 2128 Center Street
 Berkeley
 Midnight

Saturday, November 5

Silicon Gulch Browncoats' Monthly Shindig
 Noon - 2:00 p.m.
 Tied House Cafe Brewery
 54 Villa Street
 Mountain View
 This event repeats on the first Saturday
 of every month.

Saturday, November 5

Video Games Live
 www.videogameslive.com
 San Jose Civic Auditorium
 San Jose
 8 p.m.
 \$20-\$55

A live concert by a full orchestra and
 choir performing music from popular
 video games. With an accompanying show
 that includes video, lasers, fog and live
 elements. Prior to the concert, there
 will be a costume contest and a video game
 history exhibit.

With music from games including
 Mario, Zelda, Halo, Metal Gear Solid,
 Warcraft, Myst, Castlevania, Medal of
 Honor, Sonic, Tron, Tomb Raider, Advent
 Rising, Headhunter, Beyond Good & Evil,
 Splinter Cell, Ghost Recon, Rainbow Six,
 EverQuest II, Kingdom Hearts, God of War
 and a classic arcade game medley featuring
 games from Pong to Donkey Kong.

November 5

AnimeDestiny 2005
 www.ocf.berkeley.edu/~animage/animed/
 University of California Berkeley
 Berkeley
 \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door
 Members of Cal-Animage Alpha get in
 free.
 9 a.m. – 11 p.m.

The second year for this very fun one-
 day convention sponsored by one of the
 oldest anime clubs in the U.S.

Anime track, programming, concert
 by j-rock group Beautiful Losers, cosplay
 contest, dealers, swap meet.

Saturday, November 5

Le Bal Des Vampires
PEERS (The Period Events & Entertainments
Re-Creation Society) Event
 www.peers.org
 PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF
 LOCATION!
 Pleasanton Senior Center
 5353 Sunol Blvd.
 Pleasanton

Waltz the night away in a romantic
 ballroom with the San Francisco Bay
 Area's most glamorous Undead at the 12th
 Annual Le Bal des Vampires.

The evening will, as usual, feature
 truly haunting 18th, 19th, and 20th

century ballroom dance music by Brazen Hussey, one of the most exciting dance bands around, equally at home playing classical music, vintage dance music, Celtic fusion, Swing, blues and hard rock. While the program, as usual, has a strong waltz bias, the program includes everything from elegant 18th century country and set dances to Viennese waltzes, polkas and mazurkas, to cool blues fox trot and tango to early Swing and classic Rock at this very eclectic Gathering of Kindred. As usual, all set dances will be taught or called at the ball.

Suggested costume is evening dress or dress uniform from the century and country of your “rebirth,” or modern evening dress. While there is no dress code for the ball (and we certainly don’t expect Spike to dress up for the occasion!), you will see some of the most gorgeously costumed guests of the social season at this ball.

The ball’s half-time show will be another cutting edge performance by Le Theatre des Vampires, the most feared theater company on the West Coast. Not recommended for the faint of heart.

For those wishing to learn or practice the dances before the ball, there will be an optional pre-ball dance workshop (details TBA).

Saturday, November 5

Historias del Desencanto (Stories of Disenchantment)

Castro Theater
429 Castro Street
San Francisco

Showing as part of the Latino Film Festival. In Spanish with English subtitles.

“In a limbo between centuries, the world is devastated by the Disenchantment. In this fantastical context, three characters meet in the labyrinths of their dreams: Ainda, a bat-winged artist; Diego, a filmmaker whose innocence resides in his belly button; and Ximena, an adolescent in full sexual awakening. Together, they experience a post-modern, gender-bending loss of sexual innocence in this mystical love story.”

Saturday, November 5

Rocky Horror Picture Show

www.picturepubpizza.com
Parkway Speakeasy Theater
1834 Park Blvd.
Oakland
\$6

Midnight

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

This is the group’s 10th anniversary show.

Sunday, November 6

Foothill Anime
foothill.anime.net
Building 5015
Foothill College
Los Altos Hills
Noon
Free

Meets the first Sunday of the month.

Schedule:

Honey and Clover 3-4

My:HIme 21-22

Monster 33-34

Tsubasa 708

Anime Music Videos

Beck 21-22

Ebichu Minds the House 9-10

Sunday, November 6

Video Games Live

www.videogameslive.com
Nob Hill Masonic Auditorium
San Francisco
7:30 p.m.
\$20-\$55

A live concert by a full orchestra and choir performing music from popular video games. With an accompanying show that includes video, lasers, fog and live elements. Prior to the concert, there will be a costume contest and a video game history exhibit.

With music from games including Mario, Zelda, Halo, Metal Gear Solid, Warcraft, Myst, Castlevania, Medal of Honor, Sonic, Tron, Tomb Raider, Advent Rising, Headhunter, Beyond Good & Evil, Splinter Cell, Ghost Recon, Rainbow Six, EverQuest II, Kingdom Hearts, God of War and a classic arcade game medley featuring games from Pong to Donkey Kong.

Monday, November 7

Lemony Snicket appearance

The Booksmith

1644 Haight Street

San Francisco

7 p.m.

Free

Monday, November 7

Cal Animage Alpha

Location TBA

Univeristy of California

Berkeley

7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Free

Schedule:

Mar

Weekly: Honey & Clover

Monday, November 7

Streetwars: Killer

www.streetwars.net

San Francisco

\$35-\$45

An old fashioned game of Killer. Once you pay your fee at the website, email live infear@streetwars.net with your full name, full home address, full work address, whether you will be playing as part of a team, work schedule, 2 recent photos and contact information. Organizers will contact you. Full details and entry information on the website. Registration ends November 2. Price goes up after October 26

Kills are to be made with water pistols, water balloons, etc.

Participants must live and work in the city of San Francisco.

Monday, November 7

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Tuesday, November 8

The Shire of Cloondara

SCA group

www.cloondara.org

Round Table Pizza

5188 Geary Boulevard

San Francisco

7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Free

Group meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. First meeting of the month is a business meeting, second is arts and sciences. Please check with contact to make sure meeting will be held as scheduled before attending.

Tuesday, November 8

T.A. Barron

Copperfield's Books Santa Rosa

Montgomery Village

2316 Montgomery Drive

Santa Rosa

Free

7 p.m.

Young adult fantasy author of *Shadows on the Stars* will appear.

More Events Next Page

Tuesday, November 8 (Late Monday Night)

A Feast For Crows release event

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

12:01 a.m.

Free

Join us late Monday night/early Tuesday morning (midnight) to be among the first to purchase A FEAST FOR CROWS, the excruciatingly anxiously awaited fourth book in George R.R. Martin's Song of Ice and Fire Series! We will have some giveaways and other cool stuff for you die-hards who stay up late.

Tuesday, November 8

Ask a Scientist

Bazaar Cafe
5927 California Street at 21st Ave.
San Francisco

7 p.m.

Free

Topic: From Spatial Awareness To Consciousness

It's hard to imagine how we would exist without spatial awareness, yet that is exactly what many patients with stroke and other forms of brain damage must do. The study of such patients has revealed new insights

into the role that the perception of space plays in producing accurate descriptions of the world. Lynn Robertson, author of "Space, Objects, Brains and Minds" will discuss her work on spatial functions of the brain and their role in perceptual awareness.

About the Series: Ask a Scientist is a new and different kind of lecture series. If you love watching Nova specials and reading Scientific American at the doctor's office, then this event is for you. Enjoy food, drinks, socializing, and conversation about the universe's most fascinating mysteries!

Tuesday, November 8

Newtype Anime

Room 60-61H
Stanford University
Palo Alto

8 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Free

Meeting and anime showing. This event is held weekly while school is in session.

Wednesday-Thursday, November 9-10

Barbarella

Danger Diabolik

Castro Theater
429 Castro Street
San Francisco

Barbarella: Wednesday 3 p.m., 7 p.m.,

Thursday 7 p.m.

Danger: Diabolik: Wednesday 1 p.m., 5 p.m., 9 p.m., Thursday 9 p.m.

A new 35 mm print of Barbarella.

"The year is 40,000. Peacefully floating around in zero-gravity, Barbarella (Jane Fonda) is suddenly interrupted by a call from the President of Earth. A young scientist, Duran-Duran, is threatening universal peace and Barbarella is the chosen one to save the world. During her mission, she never finds herself in a situation where it isn't possible to lose at least part of her already minimal dressing.

In a double feature with Danger: Diabolik, the 1967 movie based on the European comic.

"In psychedelic swinging 60s style, the dreaded thief (and killer) Diabolik wreaks havoc on a generic European country for his own financial gain and amusement. With his curvaceous, superficial girlfriend (displaying awesome powers of wig-wearing) they deed dirty. See them face off against bumbling cops and revenge-seeking mafiosos to an indelible score by Ennio Morricone."

More Events Next Page

Thursday, November 10

Thrillville's Crazy Beatnik Party

A Bucket of Blood

www.thrillville.net

www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Cinema

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

9:15 p.m.

\$7

It's, like, THRILLVILLE'S CRAZY BEATNIK PARTY, dad, featuring Roger Corman's ginchy 1959 beat horror comedy classic A BUCKET OF BLOOD plus the poetic beat jazz sounds of ARUNDO live on stage! Like, Kookysville, man!

Thursday, November 10

Charles Burns

Diesel, A Bookstore

5433 College Avenue

Oakland

510-653-9965

7:30 p.m.

Free

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

Thursday, November 10 – Saturday, November 12

The Rocky Horror Show-Starring

The Rocky Horror Picture Show Cast of

Barely Legal's Own Draven Corvus

The Missouri Street Theater and Arts Academy

1125 Missouri St

Fairfield Ca, 94533

Ticket Info: 707-422-1598

\$18-\$20

I only have very sketchy information on this, so please call to confirm before attending.

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Friday and Saturday at midnight is a mature audiences show with AP lines encouraged. A survival kit will be sold for the midnight shows. Alcohol sold. No midnight show on Thursday.

Friday, November 11

AnimeFX showing

HSS Building Room 135

San Francisco State University

San Francisco

4 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Free

Meets weekly during the school year.

Friday, November 11

Steven Erikson

Dark Carnival

3086 Claremont Avenue

Berkeley

5 p.m.

Free

Friday, November 11

Charles Burns appearance

The Booksmith

1644 Haight Street

San Francisco

Time: TBD

Free

More Events Next Page

Friday, November 11*The Keep*

Castro Theater
 429 Castro Street
 San Francisco
 9:15 p.m.

Based on the novel by F. Paul Wilson.

“Set in a Romanian village during WWII, invading German soldiers release a supernatural force from a centuries-old fortress. As soldiers are fatally consumed, a mysterious stranger appears to battle the being. Eerie and dreamlike, this horror fable is filled with Michael Mann’s expert use of sound and image.”

Double feature with 1977 action movie Sorcerer at 7 p.m.

November 11-13*The Vampyre*

Dreamweavers Theatre

www.dreamweaverstheatre.org/2005/the-vampyre.html

1637 Imola Avenue

Napa

(River Park Shopping Center)

8 p.m. Friday and Saturday

2 p.m. Sunday

\$18

Tounge-in-cheek presentation of a play based on a famous Shilling Shocker.

Friday-Saturday, November 11-12*The NeverEnding Story*

Aquarius Theatre
 430 Emerson Street
 Palo Alto
 Midnight

Running as part of the theater’s Midnight Madness program.

Friday-Saturday, November 11-12*Enter the Dragon*

Landmark’s Act 1 & 2
 2128 Center Street
 Berkeley
 Midnight

Saturday, November 12*8th Anniversary Sale*

Borderlands Books
 866 Valencia Street
 San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com
 Noon - 8 p.m.
 Free

Borderlands will be celebrating an 8th anniversary by having a big one-day sale. Buy any two used books and get a third one of equal or lesser value for free! Collectable books are not included in this deal but they will be 10% off all day long, and finally, everything else in the store will be 20% off (artwork excluded).

Friday and Saturday, November 11-12*Mermaid Meat*

Kanbar Hall
 Jewish Community Center 3200 California Street
 San Francisco
 Tickets: www.jccsf.org/arts
 \$25

Brenda Wong Aoki and Mark Izu present Mermaid Meat: The Secret to Immortality and other Japanese ghost stories.

I can't recommend this highly enough. See my review in issue two of the performance of Black Hair at the SF Theater Festival. In addition to the title story and Black Hair, they will also be performing The Bell of Dojoji, Dancing in California and a new work.

Aoki is a wonderful performer, using her voice and acting skills to bring to life traditional Japanese ghost stories with Izu providing musical accompaniment.

I suspect that Mermaid Meat is based on the same traditional story that Rumiko Takahashi used as the basis for her *Mermaid Forest* manga so anime fans might be particularly interested in this show.

More Events Next Page

Saturday, November 12

No Name Anime

www.nnanime.com

Saratoga Library

13650 Saratoga Ave.

Saratoga

12:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. or so

Free

Showing Final Fantasy XII: Advent Children.

Saturday, November 12

Paheli

Castro Theater

429 Castro Street

San Francisco

8:15 p.m.

Showing as part of the 3rd i Film Festival

In Hindi with English subtitles.

“Come Celebrate Bollywood at the Castro!!

“With its star-studded cast, (irresistible Shah Rukh Khan and Rani Mukherjee), fantasy sets, endearing musical scores, Paheli is a delightful Bollywood folk tale, wherein a ghost falls in love with a bride.”

Saturday, November 12

SF Browncoats

sfbrowncoats.com

Cafe Murano

San Francisco

Noon

Free

Serenity/Firefly fan group. Meets every second Saturday of each month.

Join the yahoo group from the link on their website for schedule updates.

Saturday, November 12

Steven Erikson

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

www.borderlands-books.com

3 p.m.

Free

Borderlands' customers were some of the first fantasy readers in the United States to go crazy for Steven Erikson's MALAZAN BOOKS OF THE FALLEN -- and now you can meet the author. From Books at Transworld: “His debut fantasy novel, GARDENS OF THE MOON, was acclaimed for its combination of originality and intelligent, strong and exciting storytelling, singling out its author as a writer destined to rank alongside . . . giants of the genre. The first in a truly

epic series chronicling the ill-fated Malazan Empire, GARDENS OF THE MOON also took the internet by storm and had fans falling over themselves to praise this brilliant debut.” Erikson will be signing copies of the third book in the series, the US hardcover of MEMORIES OF ICE. Don't miss this rare opportunity to meet the world-maker in person!

Saturday, November 12

Rocky Horror Picture Show

www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

\$6

Midnight

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

More Events Next Page

Saturday – Sunday, November 12-13

Robot Fighting League 2005 National Championship

www.botleague.com

combots.net/index

Herbst Pavilion, Fort Mason Center

San Francisco

\$20

Noon – 11 p.m.

From their website:

“Fighting Robots return to San Francisco! Join us for The ComBots Cup and Robot Fighting League’s 2005 National Championships! See the metallic stars of TV gather to fight it out to decide who’s the champion - in robot weight classes up to 340 pounds. Thrill to the spectacle as robots fight only a few feet away from the bleachers!

“The heavyweight combots cup competitors will be fighting for a \$10,000 prize! The highest prize in the US history of fighting robots.

“Famous robots from TV competitions and regional matches across the country - including this spring’s ROBOlympics - will fight it out in grand style in the place where it all started: Fort Mason.

“Robots will bash it out in our specially-built bulletproof robot fighting arena - so you can watch the carnage up close and personal that will lead to Number One!”

Saturday and Sunday, November 12-13

Creation’s Salute to Sci-Fi TV

Wyndham San Jose

1350 N. First Street

San Jose

\$35

Special packages available for \$139-249.00

Guests include actors Gigi Edgely, Michael Shanks (Sunday only) and Don Davis (Saturday only).

Sunday, November 13

Gay Men’s Science Fiction Book Club

Borderlands Books

www.borderlands-books.com

866 Valencia St.

San Francisco

6 p.m.

Free

This month’s book is *Marooned in Re-almtime* by Vernor Vinge. Please contact the group leader, Christopher Rodriquez at cobalt555@earthlink.net for more information.

Monday, November 14

Cal Animage Alpha

Location TBA

Univeristy of California

Berkeley

7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Free

Schedule:

Zipang

Weekly: Honey & Clover

Monday, November 14

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick’ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Tuesday, November 15

Daniel Wilson

Cody’s

2454 Telegraph Avenue

Berkeley

7:30 p.m.

Free

Author of *How to Survive a Robot Uprising* will sign.

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

Tuesday, November 15

Newtype Anime

Room 60-61H

Stanford University

Palo Alto

8 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Free

Meeting and anime showing. This event is held weekly while school is in session.

Wednesday, November 16

George R. R. Martin Appearance

Copperfield's Books

140 Kentucky St.

Petaluma

7 p.m.

Free

The author of *A Feast for Crows* will sign.

Thursday, November 17

George R. R. Martin Appearance

Stacy's Books

581 Market Street

San Francisco

12:30 p.m.

Free

Friday, November 18

George R. R. Martin Appearance

Kepler's Books

1010 East Camino Real

Menlo Park

Noon

Free

Venue reopened.

Friday, November 18

USS Defiance Meeting

Round Table Pizza

Howe Avenue

Sacramento

7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Free

Friday, November 18

George R. R. Martin Appearance

Bay Book Co.

Half Moon Bay

7:00 p.m.

Free

November 18-19

The Vampyre

Dreamweavers Theatre

www.dreamweaverstheatre.org/2005/the-vampyre.html

1637 Imola Avenue

Napa

(River Park Shopping Center)

8 p.m. Friday and Saturday

2 p.m. Sunday

\$18

Tounge-in-cheek presentation of a play based on a famous Shilling Shocker.

Friday-Saturday, November 18-19

Enter the Dragon

Aquarius Theatre

430 Emerson Street

Palo Alto

Midnight

Running as part of the theater's Midnight Madness program.

Friday-Saturday, November 18-19

The Neverending Story

Landmark's Act 1 & 2

2128 Center Street

Berkeley

Midnight

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

Saturday, November 19

Amber Benson and Christopher Golden
author event

The Booksmith
1644 Haight Street
San Francisco
7 p.m.
Free

The *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* actress will sign copies of *Ghosts of Albion: Accursed*, a book that was co-written with Christopher Golden.

Saturday, November 19

Rocky Horror Picture Show
www.picturepubpizza.com
Parkway Speakeasy Theater
1834 Park Blvd.
Oakland
\$6
Midnight

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

Sunday, November 20

Terry Bisson
Other Change of Hobbit
2020 Shattuck Ave.
Berkeley
2 p.m.
Free

Author will read from *Greetings and*

Other Stories.

Sunday, November 20

Paul Park
Other Change of Hobbit
2020 Shattuck Ave.
Berkeley
2 p.m.
Free

The author will read from and sign *A Princess of Roumania.*

Sunday, November 20

Mark von Schlegell
Borderlands Books
www.borderlands-books.com
866 Valencia St.
San Francisco
3 p.m.
Free

From the publisher: "An American-born recent ex-patriot to Germany. . .Mark von Schlegell's fiction deftly scrambles the codes of traditional science-fiction and fantasy with high literature and philosophy, generating a psychedelic weave of theory and pulp tradition. His SF and otherworldly ficto-criticism appears regularly in the international art underground -- from Brazil to Auckland to Berlin. VENUSIA, the inaugural volume of The System Series, is his first novel."

Sunday, November 20

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

This month's book is *Tamsin* by Peter Beagle. The author will visit. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

Monday, November 21

Cal Animage Alpha
Location TBA
Univeristy of California
Berkeley
7 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Free

Schedule:
Sosei no Aquarion
Weekly: Honey & Clover

More Events Next Page

Monday, November 21

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Tuesday, November 22

The Shire of Cloondara

SCA group

www.cloondara.org

Round Table Pizza

5188 Geary Boulevard

San Francisco

7 p.m.-9 p.m.

Free

Group meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. First meeting of the month is a business meeting, second is arts and sciences. Please check with contact to make sure meeting will be held as scheduled before attending.

Tuesday, November 22

Newtype Anime

Room 60-61H

Stanford University

Palo Alto

8 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Free

Meeting and anime showing. This event is held weekly while school is in session.

Friday, November 25

Legion of Rassilon

Doctor Who fan group

Carl's Junior

2551 N. First Street

San Jose

7:30 p.m.

Free

Showing episodes of the new Dr. Who series, news, discussion of recent movies and a raffle.

Saturday, November 26

USS Augusta Ada

http://trek.starshine.org

Round Table Pizza

5160 Geary Blvd.

San Francisco

1 p.m.

Free

Star Trek group. Meets fourth Saturday of the month.

Saturday, November 26

Roman Dirge appearance

Hobby Monkey

10000 Fairway Drive #140

Roseville

Free

Creator of *Lenore* and *Haunted Mansion*.

Saturday, November 26

Rocky Horror Picture Show

www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

\$6

Midnight

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

Sunday, November 27

Michael Moorcock

Dark Carnival

3086 Claremont Avenue

Berkeley

3 p.m.

Free

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

Monday, November 28

Star Wars Book Authors
Copperfield's Petaluma
140 Kentucky Street
Petaluma
7 p.m.
Free

Steven Sansweet, Peter Vilmur and Pablo Hidalgo will sign two new Star Wars-related books, *Star Wars Poster Book* and *Star Wars Chronicles*.

Monday, November 28

Cal Animage Alpha
Location TBA
Univeristy of California
Berkeley
7 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Free

Schedule:
Initial D: The 4th Stage
Weekly: Honey & Clover

Monday, November 28

Bay Area Science Fiction Association
The Original Hick'ry Pit
980 E. Campbell Ave.
Campbell
8 p.m.
Free
www.basfa.org.

December 2-4

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

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

Saturday, December 3

Bay Area Games Day
davekohr.best.vwh.net/gamesday
Los Altos Library
Los Altos
Free

Regular event featuring German-style strategy boardgames like Settlers of Catan, Avalon Hill-type multiplayer games, lots of cardgames, and historical board wargames.

Saturday, December 3

Beefbowl Anime showing
Albany Library
1247 Marin Avenue
Albany
12:15 p.m.
Free

Saturday, December 3

Jingles
SCA Event
Unitarian Universalist Church of Palo Alto
505 East Charleston Road
Palo Alto
11 a.m. - 10 p.m.
\$15

Yule revel. Choir, feast, bell competition, classes, a play, more. Email kim@gallagherclan.net for tickets and information.

Sunday, December 4

Foothill Anime
foothill.anime.net
Building 5015
Foothill College
Los Altos Hills
Noon
Free

Meets the first Sunday of the month.

Monday, December 5

Bay Area Science Fiction Association
www.basfa.org
The Original Hick'ry Pit
980 E. Campbell Ave.
Campbell
8 p.m.
Free

More Events Next Page

Thursday, December 8

Thrillville's Holiday Tiki Monster Mash Mothra

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

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

Friday, December 9

Twin Peaks: Fire Walk with Me

Castro Theater
429 Castro Street
San Francisco
9:40 p.m.

"In this challenging prequel to the TV series, the film begins with the investigation by FBI agents into the murder of waitress Teresa Banks. One year later, the sordid events of Laura Palmer's double-life are depicted, gradually intensifying into an all-out nightmare. Beyond what the series

ever did, the film detaches itself from any connection to reality; the result is Lynch's most controversial film." Double feature with Mullholland Drive.

Saturday December 10

Beaconsgate Boar Hunt and Feast

Province of the Mists
SCA Event
provinceofthemists.org

Contact the autocrat for more information.

Saturday, December 10

Wintershoppingland

Hayward Centennial Hall
22292 Foothill Blvd.
Hayward
www.wintershoppingland.com
11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
\$2 (Free 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

This is an anime event organized by the group that puts on Yaoi Con and Tales of Anime. Costume contest, dealers room, programming to be announced.

Saturday, December 10

No Name Anime

www.nnanime.com
Saratoga Library
13650 Saratoga Ave.
Saratoga
12:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. or so
Free

Showing Godzilla: Final Wars.
The new Godzilla movie. It's awesome. You should go to this show. All of you. Bring your friends.

Saturday, December 10

SF Browncoats

sfbrowncoats.com
Cafe Murano
San Francisco
Noon
Free

Serenity/Firefly fan group. Meets every second Saturday of each month.

Join the yahoo group from the link on their website for schedule updates.

Sunday, December 11*Gay Men's Science Fiction Book Club*

Borderlands Books

www.borderlands-books.com

866 Valencia St.

San Francisco

6 p.m.

Free

This month's book is *To Your Scattered Bodies Go* by Philip Jose Farmer. Please contact the group leader, Christopher Rodriguez at cobalt555@earthlink.net for more information.

Sunday, December 11*Dune*

Castro Theater

429 Castro Street

San Francisco

4:20 p.m., 9:20 p.m.

The 1984 David Lynch version,

"The desert planet Arrakis—we enter the year 10191 and the whole universe depends on the spice Melange which exists only on this dry and desolate planet. Its natives await the arrival of their Messiah who will lead them into a holy war against the evil Harkonnen Empire. So sets the stage for Lynch's bizarre, truly otherworldly vision of Frank Herbert's saga."

Double feature with *The Elephant Man*.

Sunday, December 11*Sacramento Comic, Toy & Anime Show*

www.sacramentocomics.com

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street

Sacramento

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

\$5.00

Dealer's room, anime viewing room, contests, Yugioh & Magic tournaments, cosplay contest at 2 p.m.

Monday, December 12*Bay Area Science Fiction Association*

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Wednesday, December 14*Petaluma Book Club**Dandelion Wine* by Ray Bradbury*Copperfield's Petaluma*

140 Kentucky Street

Petaluma

6:30 p.m.

Free

This general fiction book group will be reading *Dandelion wine* this month. Call Mat Brown at (707) 762-0563 or

Railey Album at (707) 766-7056 for more information.

Thursday, December 15*The Nightmare Before Christmas*

www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Cinema

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

9:15 p.m.

\$6

The REEL CULT FREAKOUT presents Tim Burton's ghoulish holiday stop-motion classic A NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS (1993) - trivia, prizes and more freaky festive fun!

Friday, December 16*USS Defiance Meeting*

Round Table Pizza

Howe Avenue

Sacramento

7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Free

More Events Next Page

Saturday and Sunday, December 17-18

Japantown Anime Faire 3

Japantown
San Francisco
www.jtaf.com

6 p.m.

Fun local anime convention with anime showings, dealer's room, costume contest, panels.

December 17- January 29, 2006

Lestat

Curran Theater
445 Geary
San Francisco

Tickets on sale October 30. Musical based on Anne Rice's Interview with the Vampire and The Vampire Lestat. Music by Elton John, lyrics by Bernie Taupin.

Sunday, December 18

Science Fiction Book Club

Borderlands Books
www.borderlands-books.com
866 Valencia St.

San Francisco

6 p.m.

Free

This month's book is *Cat's Cradle* by Kurt Vonegut. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

Monday, December 19

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit
980 E. Campbell Ave.
Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

December 22, 23, 26

Mirrormask

Red Vic
1727 Haight
San Francisco

Monday, December 26

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit
980 E. Campbell Ave.
Campbell

8 p.m.

Free

www.basfa.org.

Saturday, January 7

Twelfth Night Coronation

SCA Event

www.westkingdom.org/calendar/12th_night2006.php

San Jose Doubletree Inn

2050 Gateway Blvd.

San Jose

\$15-\$20

Meet and greet at the hotel bar on Friday night. Merchants, Fine arts, practical science and wooden spoon competitions.

Thursday, January 12

Thrillville's Sexy Sword 'n' Sorcery Show

The 7th Voyage of Sinbad

www.thrillville.net

www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Cinema

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

9:15 p.m.

\$7

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

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

Saturday, January 14, 2006

SacAnime 2006

www.sacramentocomics.com

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street

Sacramento

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

\$5.00

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

Sunday, January 15, 2006

Science Fiction Book Club

Borderlands Books

www.borderlands-books.com

866 Valencia St.

San Francisco

6 p.m.

Free

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

January 19-23, 2006

Further Confusion

San Jose Doubletree

www.furtherconfusion.org

\$40

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

Thursday, February 9

Thrillville's Sexy Sci-Fi Valentine's Show

Dr. Goldfoot and the Bikini Machine

www.thrillville.net

www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Cinema

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

9:15 p.m.

\$7

It's a SEXY SCI-FI SPY VALENTINE'S SHOW featuring Vincent Price, Frankie Avalon, a crazy car chase thru San Francisco and an army of alluring androids in DR. GOLDFOOT AND THE BIKINI MACHINE (1965) - live burlesque act TBA!

February 10-12 2006

Wondercon

The Moscone Center

San Francisco

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

February 17-20, 2006

Dundracon

San Ramon Marriott

2600 Bishop Drive

San Ramon

www.dundracon.com

\$?

Gaming convention.

February 17-20, 2006

PantheaCon

San Jose Doubletree

Pagan convention. Workshops, lectures, performances, rituals, vendors, drumming, dancing, costume contest.

February 19, 2006

Science Fiction Book Club

Borderlands Books

www.borderlands-books.com

866 Valencia St.

San Francisco

6 p.m.

Free

This month's book is *Wonderland* by Joyce Carol Oates. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

More Events Next Page

March 3-5 2006*Consonance 2006*

www.consonance.org/

Crowne Plaza Silicon Valley

777 Bellew Drive

Milpitas

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

Filk convention. Guests: Bill & Gretchen Roper, Marty Coady Fabish, Puzzlebox, Chris Conway

Saturday, March 4, 2006*The Phantom of the Opera Ball**PEERS Event*

Masonic Lodge of San Mateo

Doors Open: 7:00 p.m.

Dance lesson: 7:15 p.m.

Dancing begins: 8:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$15.00 in advance (by February 28)

At the door: \$20.00

Don't let those wild rumors of an Opera Ghost keep you from attending the social event of the season, the Opera Ball of the Paris Opera Populaire. This is destined to be the most spectacular of all our masquerade balls and Management assures you that "Everything is under control."

Our special guests - Monsieur Frank Beau Davis, that American trumpet virtuoso and his brilliant Brassworks Band

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

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

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

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

Thursday, March 9*Thrillville's Hipster Holocaust Blow-Out
Panic in the Year Zero*

www.thrillville.net

www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Cinema

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

9:15 p.m.

\$7

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

March 17–April 16, 2006*Zorro*

Berkeley Repertory Theater

written and performed by Culture Clash

The Roda Theatre

2025 Addison Street

Berkeley

From their website:

"California was born from a clash of cultures, and now Culture Clash explodes the romantic myths surrounding its creation. Following their 2002 hit, Culture Clash in AmeriCCa, these missionaries of

mayhem return to Berkeley Rep with the world premiere of *Zorro*. Employing their usual irreverence, the trio takes on this legend to explore questions of homeland security in the Wild West—when Anglo-Americans struggled with such issues as Mexican immigration, Indian gambling and a governor born on foreign soil. At long last, it's a Latin look behind the mask of this mainstream icon invented by an Irish American. *Zorro* rides out of the pages of pulp fiction, through the Hollywood image machine and beyond the barriers of class, race and ethnicity to become a hero for the oppressed in every land. Both history and histrionics play a role when *Zorro* is unsheathed!"

March 19, 2006

Science Fiction Book Club

Borderlands Books

www.borderlands-books.com

866 Valencia St.

San Francisco

6 p.m.

Free

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

Saturday, April 1, 2006

The Toon Town Hop

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge of San Mateo

Doors Open: 7 p.m.

Dance lesson: 7:15 p.m.

Dancing begins: 8:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$15.00 in advance (by March 25)

At the door: \$20.00

From their website:

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

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

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

danceable cartoon music during the intermissions.

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

Thursday, April 13

Thrillville's Ninth Anniversary Show

Forbidden Planet

www.thrillville.net

www.picturepubpizza.com

Parkway Speakeasy Cinema

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

9:15 p.m.

\$7

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

More Events Next Page

April 16, 2006

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

This month's book is *Dark Beyond The Stars* by local author Frank Robinson. Author will visit. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

Sunday, April 24, 2006

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

Saturday, May 6, 2006

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

May 11-14, 2006

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

Thursday, May 11

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

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

May 21, 2006

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

This month's book is the graphic novel *Watchmen* by Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

May 26-29, 2006

Fanime Con
 San Jose Convention Center
 San Jose
 www.fanime.com

The largest annual anime convention in the Bay Area. Dealer's room, panels, costume contest, multiple tracks of anime, Asian films, J-pop concert, much more.

May 26-29, 2006

Baycon

San Jose Doubletree Inn

San Jose

www.baycon.org

\$45 until August 31

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

May 26-29 2006

Kublacon

Burlingame Hyatt Regency

1333 Bayshore Highway

Burlingame

Guests: TBA.

Memberships: TBA.

Gaming convention.

August 4-6 2006

Anime Overdose 2006

www.animeod.com

San Francisco

\$30 to ?, \$45 at door

Anime convention.

Saturday, September 2, 2006

Captain Morgan's Privateers (We Ain't Pirates No More) Ball

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge of San Mateo

Doors Open: 7:00 p.m.

Dance Lesson: 7:15 p.m.

Dancing begins: 8:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$15.00 in advance (by August 26, 2006)

Tickets: \$20.00 at the door

September 8-10, 2006

Creation Salutes Star Trek:

The 40th Anniversary Celebration

Doubletree Hotel

Sacramento

2001 Point West Way

Sacramento

Memberships: Gold Weekend Package: \$399.

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

November 4, 2006

Le Bal des Vampires

PEERS

Venue: TBD

No information as yet for this just announced vampire-theme ball event.

July 6-9, 2007

Westcon 60: Gnomeward Bound

DoubleTree Hotel

San Jose