

Science Fiction/San Francisco

Issue 42

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News and Notes

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

Busy time as always in fandom. BayCon is ramping up and there are more and more meetings. Things are coming together and it's looking more and more like things'll be great as always with BayCon. Westercon is coming together too, though a number of departments are short...including my little realm, the Fanzine Lounge!

The Legion of Rassillon met on the 23rd at the Carl's Jr. on First in San Jose. Two episodes of *Torchwood* and a pre-show screening of *Shaun the Sheep* from the Aardman folks, who also do *Wallace and Gromit*—a great new set of cartoons that should be available via Amazon UK soonish. The meeting was well-attended, as most have been of late, and I'm not surprised with the recent buzz surrounding *Dr. Who*. Lots of DVDs and memorabilia as part of the raffle. I won a *Prisoner* gift pack (which is AWESOME!) and a *Torchwood* DVD. There was also a March 30th meeting, but as I'm writing this it's still in the future. I had a real good time, though. If you're a *Dr.*

Who fan, you should show up the fourth Friday of every month for the fine stuff that's been showing.

eFanzines.com has had a slower than usual period, mostly due to the fact that no *Drink Tanks* came out until the 29th when the Hoax issue hit the web. There was the debut of John Purcell's *Askance*. It's the replacement zine for his two zines, *In A Prior Lifetime* and *...and Furthermore*. It's a good zine with a lot of wonderful contributors, including Linda Bushyeager (whose 1970s zine *Granfalloon* was one of the zines that my Dad used to teach me to read), Roxanne Mills, and Teresa Cochrane. John also finished off the letters from his previous zines and had a piece from our good buddy Lloyd Penney. Good stuff and a fine successor to *IAPL*.

As always, *Pixel* dropped on eFanzines.com and is a wonderful zine. There's a wonderful conversation piece between Dave Locke and Eric Mayer, Whither Fandom from the Legendary Ted White, a nice piece from Lee Lavell, a piece from me and a good-sized lettercol. Everything is solid and there's a very good reason that *Pixel* was second in the voting for the FAAn Awards.

The best Sercon going today, *Some Fantastic*, has released a late but wonderful issue. Issue 11 features a lot of great reviews and a look at modern Japanese Horror. It's a good read.

Mike Glycer has put out another archive issue of *File 770* on eFanzines.com. and my man Dick Geis put out another couple of short issues of *Taboo Opinions*.

Obituary

Gerald R. Perkins, long-time fan, passed away on March 30th after falling into a coma earlier in the week. Gerald was well-known as a con attendee and was a part of Furry Fandom for a number of years. He was also a writer, artist and collector. He left the BArea a few years ago and moved to Seattle. Gerald was 63 years old. *SF/SF* will include a fuller appreciation of Gerald in an up-coming issue.

Hugo Nominations

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

The Hugo nominations are out, and it's an interesting field in the fannish Hugo categories:

Fanzine

Banana Wings, *Challenger*, *The Drink Tank*, *Plokta*, *Science-Fiction Five-Yearly*.

Missing from this list are last year's nominees *File 770* and *Chunga*. It's also a personal scrape that *The Drink Tank* was nominated over *eI* by Earl Kemp and *Pixel* by Dave Burton. Good to see *Science Fiction Five Yearly* up, though, as it's the last issue.

Fan Writer

Chris Garcia, John Hertz, Dave Langford, John Scalzi, Steven H. Silver

This is a helluva fivesome of nominees. Scalzi won the Campbell last year and Dave Langford has twentysomething Hugos for Best Fan Writer and Fanzine. John Hertz is on the ballot again from last year, as is Silver. Sadly, Claire Brialey has dropped off the

ballot as has Cheryl Morgan. I stand no chance in this group.

Fan Artist

Brad W. Foster, Teddy Harvia, Sue Mason, Steve Stiles, Frank Wu

No surprises on this list. It would have been very nice to see Dan Steffan get nominated, but this is still a very good list. I know Frank's pulling for Steve Stiles. Brad Foster has recently turned to colorizing his art and using his Photoshop to good effect.

All the Hugo nominees:

Novel

Michael F. Flynn, *Eifelheim* (Tor)
Naomi Novik, *His Majesty's Dragon* (Del Rey)
Charles Stross, *Glasshouse* (Ace)
Vernor Vinge, *Rainbows End* (Tor)
Peter Watts, *Blindsight* (Tor)

Novella

Robert Reed, "A Billion Eves"

Paul Melko, "The Walls of the Universe"
William Shunn, "Inclination"
Michael Swanwick, "Lord Weary's Empire"
Robert Charles Wilson, "Julian"

Novelette

Paolo Bacigalupi, "Yellow Card Man"
Michael F. Flynn, "Dawn, and Sunset, and the Colours of the Earth"
Ian McDonald, "The Djinn's Wife"
Mike Resnick, "All the Things You Are"
Geoff Ryman, "Pol Pot's Beautiful Daughter"

Short Story

Neil Gaiman, "How to Talk to Girls at Parties"
Bruce McAllister, "Kin"
Tim Pratt, "Impossible Dreams"
Robert Reed, "Eight Episodes"
Benjamin Rosenbaum, "The House Beyond the Sky"

Related Book

Samuel R. Delany, *About Writing: Seven*

Essays, Four Letters, and Five Interviews

Joseph T. Major, *Heinlein's Children: The Juveniles*

Julie Phillips, *James Tiptree, Jr.: The Double Life of Alice Sheldon*

John Picacio, *Cover Story: The Art of John Picacio*

Mike Resnick & Joe Siclari, eds., *Worldcon Guest of Honor Speeches*

Dramatic Presentation, Long Form

Children of Men

Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest

The Prestige

A Scanner Darkly

V for Vendetta

Dramatic Presentation, Short Form

Battlestar Galactica, "Downloaded"

Doctor Who, "Army of Ghosts" and "Doomsday"

Doctor Who, "Girl in the Fireplace"

Doctor Who, "School Reunion"

Editor, Short Form

Gardner Dozois

David G. Hartwell

Stanley Schmidt

Gordon Van Gelder

Sheila Williams

Editor, Long Form

Lou Anders

James Patrick Baen

Ginjer Buchanan

David G. Hartwell

Patrick Nielsen Hayden

Professional Artist

Bob Eggleton

Donato Giancola

Stephan Martiniere

John Jude Palencar

John Picacio

Semiprozine

Ansible

Interzone

Lady Churchill's Rosebud Wristlet

Locus

The New York Review of Science Fiction

Fanzine

Banana Wings

Challenger

The Drink Tank

Plokta

Science-Fiction Five-Yearly

Fan Writer

Chris Garcia

John Hertz

Dave Langford

John Scalzi

Steven H. Silver

Fan Artist

Brad W. Foster

Teddy Harvia

Sue Mason

Steve Stiles

Frank Wu

John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer (not a Hugo)

Scott Lynch

Sarah Monette

Naomi Novik

Brandon Sanderson

Lawrence M. Schoen

Letters Of Comment

John Purcell writes:

I have a confession to make, Jean. This past weekend I really wanted to walk up to Richard Hatch at AggieCon 38 and show him the picture of you and him in *SF/SF* #41 to see if he remembered you. It could have been a funny moment, but I never ran into him or managed to get to the programming items he was on. *sigh* Another lost opportunity to make a funny. And I really wanted to ask him if he ever felt stupid saying “feldergarb” on *Battlestar: Ponderosa*. Really, I did! As Roger Rabbit always says, “I do it only when it’s funny.”

Jean Martin responds: That would have been so funny! He’s quite a nice guy. Very approachable. Battlestar: Ponderosa... hilarious! I liked Lorne Green in both those shows.

Also, as far as that picture of you goes, you cannot possibly be 40 years old, Jean. You look too good to be 40. Obviously, you are one of those folks who simply doesn’t look their age. Do you act your age? Geez, I hope not! After all, you’re a fan, for crissakes! Dress funny; hang around goofy people for an entire weekend; speak in tongues; listen to odd music and dance to it. Oh, wait;

I just described a typical con you attend, didn’t I?

Thanks for the compliment! Fandom and dancing keep me young. I have friends in their 60s who are still so active and vibrant. I aim to be like that when I’m their age. Our outer appearance, I think, reflects our inner selves. So young at heart translates to young of body. But I guess I have my Asian genes to thank too. Oh, and I’ve been moisturizing since I was 20. I almost did the character Cassandra from Doctor Who—she’s the last living human in the distant future— for SiliCon last year but that didn’t pan out. She says, “Moisturize me, moisturize me” all the time, which would have been fitting.

That also sounds like AggieCon 38, too. Heavy Anime influence this year, especially *Naruto*, on the costume contest. The SCA folks were out in full force, too, which made for an interesting combination. Overall, a fun time, complete with two good bands in concert: Friday night it was *Eyeshine* (from Los Angeles); Saturday’s show was by *Ghoultown*, which I urge people to see to believe. I have never seen a Goth Country band before. Interesting music, different stage show, but a lot of fun.

My AggieCon 38 report will be in *Askance* #2, due out in May.

*AggieCon sounds like a lot of fun. We don’t get a lot of unusual bands at our cons. I love live music and used to go to concerts all the time. I haven’t been to any in a long time. This past month, however, I was invited to a free concert at a tech convention in San Jose. I got to see 80s rock band John Cafferty and the Beaver Brown Band, with guest singers Mike Reno from *Loverboy* and Ligertwood from *Santana*. I was right up against the stage bopping up and down to the music with a big smile on my face. And with my camera in tow, it felt like the good old days of my heavy metal magazine, when I used to take photos of rock bands and write about and hang out with them. By the way, I just realized how much money there is still floating around Silicon Valley. Everything was free at this arena-size concert from the food, to the drinks, to the tchotchkes. The crowd was also at least 80% male. All of these felt very strange... I’m not used to living in Silicon Valley, obviously!*

Anime seems to be gaining popularity, especially with the younger generation. I think that’s what’s going to be the future of fandom. Call me old-fashioned, I guess, or just plain old,

but I have trouble watching the new anime. They're too fast, intense and overstimulating for me. I loved anime in my teens when the stories and animation were simpler and easier to digest. The only animation I've been able to get into is Avatar: The Last Airbender. And that's aimed at kids, I believe. But I love the sense of that world being familiar yet magical. It also has a very eco-friendly theme to it. And who knows, if I needed a change I could easily start dressing up in anime costumes. I already have one from Final Fantasy, Yuna, that I haven't worn yet.

I don't often see SCA folk at cons around here. They tend to keep to themselves and have their own events. I know several people in the SCA, and I used to dance with one of their dance groups, but I've never gotten around to their big events. They're usually at the same time as PEERS events, unfortunately. I've tried to connect with several of their "PR" folk to see if they'd like to contribute to SF/SF but haven't had much luck. If anyone from the SCA reads this and would like to submit stories and photos about SCA events, please contact me!

Chris Garcia's Cinequest reviews reminded me of the mini-Schlock Film Festival Friday night of AggieCon. Some fun short films were shown, my favorite being *Dance*, which was a choreographed fight scene between a ninja and an overweight

ballerina in a pink tutu. It was strange and silly, and had everyone in the room howling. Most of the films were by TAMU students, but anybody could have shown their film if it had been received and registered by the 22nd of March.

I would have liked to attend Cinequest too. Too many things at the same time, though! I remember years ago I went to see Sir Ian McKellen at a Cinequest panel. He was quite funny and elegant at the same time.

Speaking of fun, short films, some friends just turned me on to the Pink Five trilogy, a spoof of the original Star Wars movies. The Star Wars one was short and I didn't enjoy it too much. But the Empire and Return of the Jedi ones were very impressive and hilarious! Professional quality acting, editing, music, effects, props, locations, etc. You can find all three on www.trudang.com/pinkfive/. They're actually making another one as the third one was only half of Return of the Jedi.

That date, by the way, was my 53rd birthday. It was a particularly fannish birthday this year. Not only did AggieCon 38 start on it, but *Askance* #1 was posted to efanazines that day, and I also started mailing out copies. Yes, it was a good day.

Happy birthday! That's awesome to have all these things that you love to celebrate on your birthday. The One Ring Convention

in L.A. started on my birthday but I decided not to go as I wanted to have a big party instead. But I did get to have lots of my friends at my birthday party. It almost felt like a mini-BayCon!

So, that ought to do it for now. Thanks for the zine, and I hope you folks survive the conning season now forthcoming out there. Come to think of it, that's happening in Texas, too! "Tis the season to be conning."

Happy conning to you and everyone! Yes, con season is commencing here too. It's currently the calm before the storm for me, in between WonderCon and BayCon. Oh, hang on, I already have to start getting ready—sewing, accessorizing, rehearsing—for BayCon as I'm going to be in the masquerade with friends. Be sure to check us out there. We have a special, secret treat in store for everyone.

Editorial

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

HELLS YEAH!!!!

OK, that's out of the way. A while back I got an email saying that I was nominated for a Hugo. Not a Hogu, an actual Hugo. A *Hugo* award, the kind they give to people like Dave Langford and Charlie Browne. *That* Hugo. I was blown away, nearly speechless for almost five minutes (and if you've met me, you know that's a big deal) and simply shocked.

And then I started thinking about this editorial. You see, I don't have a lot of experience with getting big time kudos from a large swatch of people. I knew that I had to say something, and simply saying "Thanks" just seemed too damn simple. I've got a lot of folks to thank and I'll be doing that in a bit, but first I gotta say that I'm not a guy who does this stuff for egoboo, but because I actually love the process of zining, of writing, of emailing folks to discuss their zines, of laying out an issue, of basically being a fanzine fan. That, and I have a lot of time on my hands at work and I really don't feel like taking up smoking. It's kinda weird that I'd get nominated. I'd do this stuff even if no one was watching. I've got a few zines that I've done that've never seen the light of day

(and probably never will) that I did because I wanted to do an issue for me.

And now, I find myself facing a Hugo nomination and it's wonderful. I gotta admit it's a great feeling to know that as long as there are Hugos, my name will be on that list of nominees. It doesn't change my life, but it makes me realize that folks are really looking at what I put out there. When I looked at the list of zines that were nominated for Best Fanzine, I realized that at least a few of my words appeared in every single one of them! That's weird.

So, can I win? No, I don't think so. I'm not well-known around the world, I've never had anything in the biggies like *Locus*, I've never really gone out of my way to sell my writing. Sell myself...yeah I've done that (Chris for TAFF!) but not really my work. I imagine I'm going to have a hard time beating No Award in both categories, but I think I can pull it off!

So now for the thankyou's. I gotta start with Jean, David, Eva, Jack, España and all the rest of us here at *SF/SF*. I really love this zine, and I'm hoping that we'll have another great year working together. Props are owed to the eFanzines.com Mafia led by Don Bill Burns along with Johnny Purcell, Dave Burton, Lloyd Penney, Earl Kemp, Arnie Katz, Peter Sullivan and Eric Mayer. I

gotta thank folks like Andy Trembley, Kevin Roche, Kevin Standlee, Howeird, Trey and Barbara, Mark Valentine, Frank Wu and everyone else for giving me so much great material. And of course there's always Leigh Ann, Ed Green, Jason Schachat, Sprinkles, Genevieve, Evelyn, ML Heath, the legendary Ted White, the equally legendary and more English Peter Weston, Cheryl, Brad Foster, the late Bill Rotsler, Selina Phanara, Kelly Green, Jay Lake, Mark and Claire, Andy Porter, James Bacon, Bob Hole, M, Jay, Mike, SaBean, Judith and Kathe. And of course all the folks in the APAs I'm in and the folks of LASFS and Vegas.

And a hundred more I can't think of.

Sadly, I had to sit on the info for more than a week and as a guy who loves to write about the stuff goin' on in his life, it was not at all easy.

By the way, I'm announcing a contest. I'm trying to convince Dr. Noe, that devil-may-care once-in-a-while writer for us here at *SF/SF*, to write a regular column. I thought the best way to convince him would be to come up with a good title for his column. My thoughts: Dr. Noe's Secret Volcano Lair, or Dr. Noe's Valley. The Good Doctor himself said that it should be Where the Hell is Dr. Noe, which is pretty good.

You got any ideas?

Dreams of the City

- a column

By España Sheriff

After years of absence, a beloved TV icon was finally returning to television, and anticipation was high; after years of waiting and badgering the BBC, *Doctor Who* was coming back.

Of course there was some trepidation. The actor that had been cast as the new Doctor was a bit on the young side, and attractive. Was this new version going to ruin everything? Was there even a point in resurrecting a show that had been off the air so long, and had been on the decline towards the end anyway?

I'm not talking about the triumphant rebirth of the series that was Russell T. Davies' "Season 1," starring Christopher Eccleston. In 1996, the BBC reached an agreement with Fox Television, and a *Doctor Who* TV movie was produced. Set in San Francisco, but filmed in British Columbia, it was the first new *Doctor Who* produced for the screen in nearly a decade, although books, comics, and audios had filled the vacuum in the intervening years.

The story was set during New Year's

1999 and yes, it involved more kissing and car chases than *Doctor Who* fans were used to then. Unlike another San Francisco time travel tale, *Time After Time*, in this instance it's pretty obvious that aside from some stock footage of the Transamerica Pyramid and the Golden Gate Bridge, nothing on screen takes place in the city. The climactic scenes which take place at the Institute for Science and Technology are actually at the Plaza of Nations in Vancouver, and even the news anchors are local to Vancouver, not SF. And it's a shame, really, since it's rare for this series to venture outside of the UK in its filmed incarnations—unless it is to leave Earth entirely.

Paul McGann was the Eighth Doctor, and while he was admittedly prettier than some previous incarnations, he was and is a well-respected and talented actor. The movie was far from perfect, but not as bad the reaction of some fans would lead one to believe. Americanized, to be sure. Melodramatic in spots, and campy in others. But no worse than some classic episodes and specials of the original run.

Ratings in the US were poor but

good in the UK, and we all waited to find out if this would mean a new series. It did not, and that's too bad because a season of Eight would have been a wonderful thing. We do have at least a season's worth of audio adventures with McGann, and more to come, but it's still interesting to think what might have been.

We All Go For Hugos

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

The BArea has had a long history of providing Hugo nominees, and once in a while we win them. I don't think that'll be a problem for me this year, but it could happen to others.

The Best Fan Writer award has a longstanding tradition with the BArea. Terry Carr won Best Fan Writer in 1973, and although I think he was living outside the BArea for a while, I'm also certain he moved back just before he won. (I may be misreading a few sources.) I don't think Charles Browne was a BArea yet when he was nominated for Best Fan Writer, but he's come here since. There was a long drought in Fan Writer (though one or two might have been nominated and I'm not sure where they lived) until Cheryl Morgan, who could also be considered a Brit, was nominated in 2004. She came close to derailing the Langford Machine in 2004, but she never managed; she was nominated in 2005 and 2006, and maybe she declined her nom in 2007, but we won't know that

for a while.

With Best Fan Artist we come to an area where I'm just not sure. I don't see any names that I know were BArea at the time of their nomination or win, though I do know that Vaughn Bode was around San Francisco in the 1970s (he knew my Dad a little bit), but it would appear I can't be certain until Frank Wu's nomination in 2002. He's been nominated every year since, winning in 2004 and 2006. He's the favorite this year in my eyes, though Brad Foster's gotta be right up there too.

Best Fanzine? Yeah, we've had nominees and winners in our little area. The first was *FANAC* by Terry Carr and Ron Ellik in 1959. It was nominated the following two years as well. Ellik left and moved to LA and started another zine called *Starsprinkle*, a bi-weekly zine that featured news and chattering. (Sound familiar?) Bill Donaho's zine *HABAKKUK* was nominated in 1967. I recently saw an issue, and it was really good. He returned to publishing it in 1993 when Dave Clark, good ol' reliable WorldCon chair Dave Clark, invited him to come to ConFrancisco. Ed Meskys did

Niekas for a good long time, and part of that time he lived in Livermore. I think he had left Livermore by the time he won in 1967. *Locus* moved out West in the 1980s and it won a couple before they started the Best Semi-Prozine category for *Locus* in the 1980s.

There was something of a break before *Trap Door* was nominated in 1987. It was nominated again in 1992. Then another break before *Emerald City* was nominated in 2003. Cheryl won it for *EmCit* in 2004. Nominated in 2005, she moved it off to compete with *Locus* and *Ansible* in Semi-Prozine for 2006. *The Drink Tank* is another one in the line.

Locus isn't the only one to have multiple nominations in Semi-Prozine. There's another great Semi-Pro called *Speculations* that had seven nominations between 1997 and 2003. Sadly, they haven't put out an issue in a while. Kent Brewster's a great guy and a BArea fannish legend.

So, will we have another Hugo winner locally? Well, Frank's got a shot, and *Locus* is nearly a sure thing. Just don't count on me to be the one!

Confessions of a Serial Fanzinista

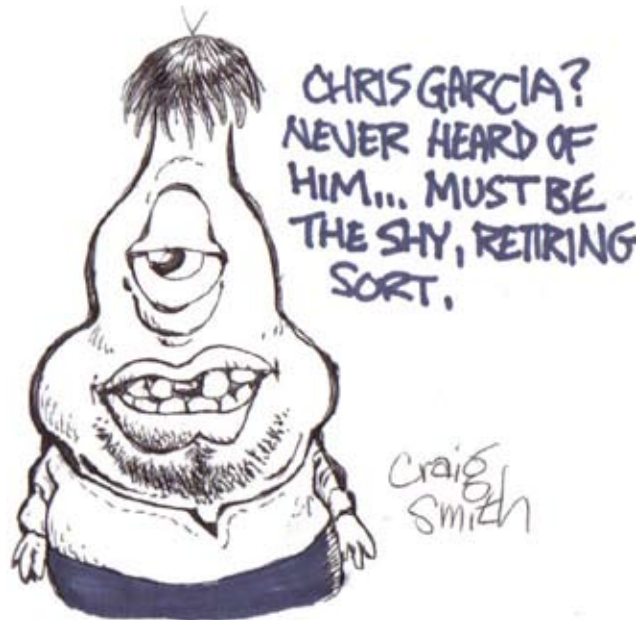
By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

If I manage to get so much material out every week, usually enough to fill an entire zine, it figures that my entire life must revolve around producing writing. That's not entirely untrue, but it's not wholly true either. Here now is a look at an average week in my fanzine production.

Monday

I wake up and grab a quick bath. Yes, a bath, because who ever had a good idea for a fanzine article while they were taking a shower? I think of something and I immediately I send myself a cryptic email about it. Get dressed, run to the car and drive to work, thinking about what I'm going to say in my editorial for *SF/SF*. Wander into work nursing some sort of hangover that I must have acquired between the car and the Museum's front door. Slowly trudge upstairs and sit at my computer. Spend twenty minutes catching up on emails. I come across my cryptic email and can't figure out what the hell I meant by "Giant Rats do the Congo." Walk

to the water cooler and discover it needs to be changed. Realize half-way through changing it that I meant Rats Doing the Conga Off a Ship, meaning it's supposed to be an article about how people are abandoning traditional fannish ways. Smile and start to write it. By 9:30, I'm 2/3 of the way through the article when I remember that I've not written my wrestling review yet and Derek was expecting it an hour ago. I quickly fake up a report for fanboyplanet.



com and dash it off. It's 11 a.m. and I'm tired, but I check my blog. No comments. Great. I then start checking out eFanzines.com and realize that there's a new zine up. I spend twenty minutes LoCing it and then recall that I'm still not done with the article. I open up Word again, but sadly I'm interrupted by Alana saying that it's time for lunch. I leave. When I get back, there's a note saying that I'm needed downstairs to go through donations. I go down and end up sorting through things for almost three hours. Drive home, cursing because I didn't send myself a copy of the article to work on while I'm watching Evelyn. I watch Evelyn at Gen's house and recreate the entire article as best I can. Evelyn then begs to write her own article. *I like fanzines because Chris is a poopbutt* is as far as she gets. Gen comes home, I go to BASFA and then it's time to bother people into doing art in the little book. I head home again kick myself for not remembering to send myself the article at home. I rewrite it again while watching the last half of *Monday Night Raw*. I manage to finish and send it off to myself at work. I sleep at Midnight.

Tuesday

Wake up with a weird feeling in my head (my CPAP must not be working). Take a bath and start whistling Marty Robbins's song "El Paso." Realize that there's a ton of connections between the way the story of the song plays and the lesser short fiction of H. Beam Piper. Write the article in my head while I'm getting dressed and rewrite it on the way to work. Tear up the stairs and start typing without stop. Look at the corner of my computer screen around 10:30. Look at my email in-box and see that 45 emails have piled up. My boss wants a scan of something she'd left on my desk. I go through the papers and find it, pull a few art pieces for *The Drink Tank* and go down to the scanning lab. Scan them all. Return to my desk and work on the next issue. LoC the latest eFanzines.com zine, get pulled away for lunch. Realize that I've still not finished the article from Monday. Find the file and finally finish it. Lay it into an issue of *The Drink Tank* along with the one about "El Paso." Send issue off to Bill Burns and work on latest issue of *Half Dome Happenings* for AhwahneeCon. Get an email from Lloyd Penney commenting on the previous four issues of *The Drink Tank*. Get an eMail from John Purcell commenting on *SF/SF*. Get an email from Arnie Katz reminding me that I forgot to

write him a response to an email he sent over the weekend. Write responses, go and pick up Evelyn at Cheerleading. Read her some Isaac Asimov as a way of trying to introduce her to Science Fiction. Realize after only ten pages that this technique isn't going to work. Go home and write an article about how hard it is to get her into SF.

Wednesday

My boss asks me how the Big Project is going. I realize that I haven't done anything on it for a month. Say that there's IT issues. She buys it. I run downstairs and finish the project in the space of an hour. Run back upstairs and add to my various blogs. Read my Friends List. Respond to Jay Lake's recent anti-Republican rant. Write an entry about the new issue of *The Drink Tank*. Start laying out new issue. Go home a little early, pick up Evelyn and then make her a special dinner. Read her some China Mieville. Realize that was a GIANT mistake. Let her watch *The Simpsons* instead.

Thursday

Write *Falls Count Anywhere* for fanboyplanet.com. Read the new *File 770* that got sent to work. Write an LoC. Go to the lounge to take a nap. Send my boss the update on the project. Get praise for doing such a great job over the last few weeks. Realize that I forgot a step in the project.

Run down and finish it right before anyone notices. Go to lunch. Come back to find a series of emails about a con I'm working for. Write some copy for the Progress Reports. Finish the *Half Dome Happenings*. Lay out another article that M sent me about drug use. Find the perfect image of a boobular chick shooting H. Send for permission and get it right quick. Pick up Evelyn and try reading *Eragon* to her. She'll have none of it. Neither will I. We watch *Simpsons* together. Go home and write an article about the difficulty of turning a Seven Year Old on to SF.

Friday

Spend most of the day reading fanzines while renaming hundreds of entries in our database. LoC at the same time. This leads to some very confused database entries. I fix them after lunch. I get ready for the next Legion of Rassilon meeting. Finish the next issue of *The Drink Tank*. Send it off to Bill Burns, who then sends it back when he notices that I misnumbered it. I fix it and head home a little...well, a lot early. As soon as I'm home, I get email from David about the lack of material for the next issue of *SF/SF*. I start writing a bit of levity from an otherwise humorless fool about a week of my fanzine production...

Congress of Vienna Waltz at the Cyprians' Ball

Story and Photos by Jim Bull
Contributing Writer

The annual Cyprians' Ball, hosted by the Bay Area English Regency Society

(BAERS), was held February 17 at the San Mateo Masonic Temple. Held around Valentine's Day, this particular ball is meant to be a romantic and flirtatious event in the style of the early 1800s.



English Country Dancers



Stephanie and Mike

The evening's dancing began and ended with The Congress of Vienna, a dance that was also done at the Browncoat Ball back in October. A little background on this dance that is popular in the Vintage dance community: Dances of this type, that consist of a pre-choreographed sequence of figures,

are usually referred to as sequence dances. Another one popular in the Vintage dance community, and that was also done at the Browncoat Ball, is the Bohemian National Polka.

“Congress” was created by John Hertz of Los Angeles sometime around the early 1980s. John is the person who started English Regency dancing in Southern California, and was into folk dancing before that. There are references from the

Regency period to a dance of this name, but no surviving description of the steps.

The dance as developed by John is a combination of folk dance-style waltz, sometimes call the rotary waltz in the Bay Area, with figures from the Landler. The Landler is a German couple dance also done in 3/4 time that some believe may have influenced the development of the Waltz.

The music used for the dance is a combination of three Scandinavian waltz

tunes. The dance can only be done to this music because the figures fit the unusual phrasing. In fact, it is that unusual phrasing, especially the long 14-bar A music that, in my opinion, makes the dance something special.



Divertimento Dance Orchestra

Editor's note:

Another unexpected place where the Congress of Vienna was performed was at Burning Man. Imagine my surprise when I heard this dance's familiar melody and steps while watching the 2005 documentary Burning Man: Beyond Black Rock recently. It brought a smile to my face to see my favorite dance, which I had thought was limited to the Bay Area vintage dance community, performed at the huge, cultural phenomenon that is Burning Man.—JPM

The Phenomenauts Play Rocket Roll

By España Sheriff
Staff Writer

What can you say about a band with its own videogame?

The Phenomenauts are an Oakland band that play a blend of rockabilly and punk which they describe as “Rocket Roll.” A little Devo, a little Revillos and a lot of fun, they hit the scene in 2000 when they snuck into the Vans Warped Tour and proceeded to impress reviewers, fellow performers and organizers enough to be invited back the following year.

They have a reputation of putting on a great live show, so I was excited to finally get a chance to see them. Along with four other bands, they were part of a lineup called “Plastic!” at the Bottom of the Hill, billed as a night of 80’s Punk Rock and New Wave, but clearly having a genre bent. I arrived late to find the Rock and Roll Adventure Kids, purveyors of “Fried Chicken Rock ’n’ Roll,” already on stage. They were fun and loud and at first I thought they were simply making up their steam-of-consciousness-sounding song titles. But apparently “Boobies, Rock ’n’ Roll, Hot Dog and a Jelly Roll” is actually

the name of a song. They set the tone quite nicely and the next two bands maintained the energy, the lead singer of the Teenage Harlets in particular when he dove into the mosh pit and disappeared into the crowd for some minutes, all while keeping ahold of his microphone and continuing the song.

The club was packed, and only the front of the crowd had formed a small and more or less contained mosh pit, but I stayed safely on the sidelines anyway. It was hard not to admire the energy both on and off stage. The third band, the Groovie Ghoulies out of Sacramento, was a little bit calmer, mostly staying on stage—though at least one



The Phenomenauts

Photo by Liz Lazich

audience member made it on stage during their set to stage dive. The Ghoulies were more Horror-themed, naturally, veering towards Dickies or Cramps territory. They played a great cover of “Pet Sematary” that I liked better than the original, as well as a crowdpleaser called “Till Death Do Us Party.” They ended their set with R.E.M.’s “It’s the End of the World as We Know it



Left to right: Professor Greg Arius (keys/effects), Captain Chreehos (stand-up bass), Commander Angel Nova (vocals/guitar), Corporal Joe Bot (vocals/guitar), Major Jimmy Boom (drums)
 Photo by JCB

(And I Feel Fine),” a lovely segue for the (retro)futuristic rock ’n’ roll of the band I was there to see: The Phenomenauts.

The crowd was having a ball already but clearly anticipation for this band was high: Half the audience was wearing Phenomenauts t-shirts, including me. Even if they had sucked it would have been impossible for me to resist the rocket-in-atom logo shirt bearing the band’s slogan, “Science and Honor,” especially at the extraordinarily reasonable price of \$12. Excited by the bargain I added some logo patches, buttons, and a nifty wings pin to the pile and it still didn’t hit \$20.

and the band members took their places on stage. When the lights came up the crowd went nuts and so did the band. They were in full space cadet regalia: Professor Greg Arius in white and red, Captain Chreehos, Major Jimmy Boom, Corporal Joe Bot and Commander Angel Nova all wearing black and red, each with his own special accessories, the best of which is Joe Bot’s half-face silver helmet. This is a band that seriously needs to have some action figures made of them.

Starting off strong with “I Am Robot,” they played songs that were clearly

Not having seen the band play live I wasn’t sure if they always performed in full uniform or reserved that for special occasions, so I was pleased to see the stagehands setting up some gloriously sci fi mic stands, a glow in the dark grid backdrop, and a bunch of other stage props. Every time there was a lull in the between-acts tinned music, the entire crowd would lean forward in anticipation and eventually they were rewarded when the lights

dropped way down low favorites with the crowd, which sang along while still moshing their be-dickie’d psychobilly asses off. Highlights included “Galactic Pioneers,” “Progress vs. Pettiness,” and of course, “Rocket Roll,” every single one an absolute blast and on its way onto my iTunes even as I type this.

Not content to simply rock the house, they also blasted the audience with smoke machines and at one point Professor Arius shot the delighted crowd with the “streamarator,” a modified leaf-blower that shoots toilet paper rolls. After their last song, a short mix of exit music played, including a few seconds of the “The Space Academy Marching Song” from *Tom Corbett: Space Cadet*. I had to laugh, since I recognized the tune from having heard it during opening ceremonies at ConJose.

Although there was one more band, The Epoxies—also science fictionally inclined, though without the retro sensibilities of the Phenomenauts—I was up past my bedtime on a work night, so I decided to end on a high note and call it a night.

<http://www.phenomenauts.com/>
<http://groovie-ghoulies.com/>

Great Principles in Computing: Peter Denning at the Computer History Museum

Story and Photos by Howeird
Contributing Writer

One of the perks of being a member of the Computer History Museum in Mountain View is the free food at the



Peter Denning

members' reception prior to each event. One of the perks of working right down the block from CHM is they still have food left when I get there. The wine and soft drinks, on the other hand, never seem to run out.

On March 29 there was such a reception, and it was packed. It had been a couple of months since the last CHM event, and I think people were making up for lost time. The lecture by Peter J. Denning was also SRO, which is pretty impressive considering the size of the CHM auditorium. Denning is currently the chair of the Computer Science Department at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey. His talk was entitled "Great Principles in Computing," but was really about trying to show that computer science is a "natural science," a process of nature.

"Computing is no longer a science of the artificial. It is a science of natural information processes. The remarkable shift to this realization occurred only in the last decade," according to the abstract on computerhistory.org. Denning's talk

attempted to show that computation is as natural as biology, and hence machines that compute should be looked at as natural phenomena.

Denning comes to us with a long and impressive résumé, and he speaks with enthusiasm, humor, and belief in his subject. But for a hardware geek like myself, the concept of a computer (even a HAL-level AI) being a natural phenomenon just doesn't sell. His premise breaks computing into seven parts:

- Computation (meaning and limits of computation)
- Communication (reliable data transmission)
- Coordination (cooperation among networked entities)
- Recollection (storage and retrieval of information)
- Automation (meaning and limits of automation)
- Evaluation (performance prediction and capacity planning)
- Design (building reliable software systems)

Grabbing the top-level breakdown

of these categories from his full report on <http://cs.gmu.edu/cne/pjd/GP>:

Computation:

- Representations hold information.
- Computation is a sequence of states of a representation.
- Representations can be compressed, but not too much.
- Finite representations always contain errors.
- Computations can be open or closed.
- Computations have characteristic speeds of resolution.
- Complexity measures are defined by the sizes of representations.

Communication:

- Information can be encoded into messages.
- Data communication always takes place in a system consisting of a message source, an encoder, a channel, and a decoder.
- Information in a message can be measured by the amount of uncertainty it resolves (Entropy Principle).
- Messages can be corrupted during transmission and recovered during reception.
- Messages can be compressed.
- Messages can hide information.

Coordination:

- A coordination system is a set of agents exchanging information according to agreed-on protocols, working together to achieve a system objective.
- Coordination tasks can be delegated to computational processes.
- All coordination systems depend on solutions to concurrency control problems.

Recollection:

- All computations take place in storage systems.
- Storage systems comprise hierarchies with volatile (fast) storage at the top and persistent (slower) storage at the bottom.
- The principle of locality dynamically identifies the most useful data, which can be cached at the top of the hierarchy.
- Thrashing is a severe performance degradation caused when parallel computations overload the storage system.
- Access to stored objects is controlled by dynamic bindings between names, handles, addresses, and locations.
- Hierarchical naming systems allow local authorities to assign names

that are globally unique in very large name spaces.

- Handles enable sharing by providing unique-for-all-time object identifiers that are independent of all address spaces.
- Data can be retrieved by name or by content.

Automation:

- Physical automation maps hard computational tasks to physical systems that perform them acceptably well.
- Artificial intelligence maps human cognitive tasks to physical systems that perform them acceptably well.
- Artificial intelligence maps tasks to systems through models, search, deduction, and induction.
- Models represent processes by which intelligent beings generate their behavior.
- Search finds the subsets of states of a complex system that must participate in the final outcome of a task.
- Deduction locates the outcome of a task by applying rules of logic to move from axioms to provable statements.
- Induction builds models by generalizing from data about a

complex task's behavior.

Evaluation:

- The principal tools of evaluation are modeling, simulation, experiment, and statistical analysis of data.
- Computing systems can be represented as sets of equations balancing transition flows among states.
- Network of servers is a common, efficient representation of computing systems.
- Network-of-server systems obey fundamental laws on their utilizations, throughputs, queueing, response times, and bottlenecks.
- Resource sharing, when feasible, is always more efficient than

partitioning.

Design:

- Design principles concern human conventions for planning and building software systems. The criteria for good design are context sensitive.
- Error confinement and recovery are much harder in the virtual worlds of software than in the real world of physical objects.
- The six fundamental principles of software design are abstraction, information hiding, decomposition, levels, virtual machines, and objects.
- Abstraction, information hiding, and decomposition deal with different aspects of modularity.

- Levels organize the functions of a system into hierarchies that allow downward calls and upward returns.
- Virtual machines organize software into interacting subsystems that simulate computing machines.
- Objects organize software into networks of shared entities that activate operations in each other by exchanging signals.
- In a distributed system, it is more efficient to implement a function in the communicating applications than in the network itself.

Denning went on to show how these principles apply to many fields of natural sciences, and posited that this means computer science must be a natural



Members Reception



Peter Denning chats after his speech

science as well.

While he made a strong point that computer science shares methodologies with many sciences, I saw nothing in his evidence which supported computing as natural. To my mind, computers can be used to study nature, but the science about computers is not a study of nature, any more than the science of optics used to study the stars is a natural science.

After the presentation Denning took questions from the audience, one of which was a rather shoddy plug by the CHM head, along the lines of “How can CHM continue to attract great speakers like yourself? (sell more memberships).” After the formal Q&A and the traditional presentation of a plaque to the speaker, Denning chatted with lots of folks who came up to the podium.

The museum’s next event will be Thursday, April 19: The Commonwealth Club and Computer History Museum Present Digital Crossroads: Where Technology Meets Our Daily lives: Taming Gaming in Your Home. Details can be found here:

<http://www.computerhistory.org/events/>

BASFA Minutes: meeting 868

March 19, 2007

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

Began 8:02, with me wanting my bag of eggshells.

20 people attended.

We established a party jar.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 867 were accepted as 'whatever.'

The Treasurer reported that last week we took in \$5.25 in the regular jar & \$0 in the party jar & \$20.75 in the jar for flowers for Judy Bemis & he has ice tea.

The VP reported that there's no new 'Drink Tank' out ['sorry,' said [evil] Kevin] & Evelyn kicked him awesomely in the knee and he fell... hilariously and a new SF/SF will be out Wednesday.

The President reminded us that NEXT week [March 26] we will be meeting at the Sonoma Chicken Coop at 2nd Street and Campbell Ave. - and we welcomed a visitor, David Casteneda, who just moved here 6 days ago from Arizona and found us because of the website.

Harold proposed something to annoy the secretary and it was quashed.

Chris proposed making an official issue of the BASFA Times this fall and it was moved to establish a BASFA Publication committee with him at its head and it was so ordered.

Announcements:

Dave G announced that Spring will be having a studio show, 2-8 pm on March 24 at their place [6133 Genoa Terrace, Fremont, phone: 510-744-9559].

Joni announced that she and Garth are still looking to sell their BayCon memberships at \$60.00 each.

Adrienne announced that Gather.com's novel entry deadline was March 15 and her entry is a Gothic mystery, 'Bettina's Ghost,' so go rate it/vote for it.

Dave C announced that the fundraiser for Bob Wilkins March 22 is sold out, but the March 25 one in Sacramento's Crest Theatre still has some tickets.

[evil] Kevin announced that IBM is sending him to speak to the press next week - to explain spintronics.

Reviews:

Harold reviewed 'The Host,' a thinking man's

monster move and a bit of a parody as it has the ugliest monster in it he's ever seen, as funny and worth bargain matinee.

Chris reviewed the DVD of 'Casino Royale' as kick-assedly-awesome and the extras are excellent, especially the Bond Girls featurette and recommends it as perfect.

Adrienne reviewed 'Amazing Grace' as she enjoyed it, said it has good costumes and recommends it if you like historical stuff.

[evil] Kevin reviewed giving the keynote address at the Latino College Preparatory Academy as he was expected to be inspiring [and it sounded as though he succeeded] and rated the experience as worth full price.

Dave C reviewed a CD by Artichoke, 'Never Mind the Bollocks, It's the Sex Pistols' - as based on the 30-second previews he could get on Amazon, he didn't buy it and said the songs made him drowsy; there were follow-on's, with Trey eventually saying, 'I don't understand all this self-inflicted pain.'

Trey reviewed '300' as the font of all manliness and those seeking historical accuracy need not apply [and there was much talk of rouged nipples] - but there were some neat scenes and worth - well, it's a rental.

We auctioned off a poster for \$2.00; cards for \$1.25, a book for \$4.25 & birthday auctioned

off Spring to Dave for \$15.00.

We adjourned at 9:09.

And the rumor of the week was 'that the RWA wants Kevin Standlee to administer their awards next year' [with a final vote on that being 25 for and 6 opposed].

BASFA Minutes: meeting 869

March 26, 2007

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

Began 8:02, with flung fake sugars.

23 people attended.

We established a party jar.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 868 were accepted as 'all cooped up.'

The Treasurer reported that last week we took in \$41.75 in the regular jar & \$5.25 in the party jar.

The VP reported the claim that the hoax issue of the 'Drink Tank' is out - or will be out & there'll be a new SF/SF out Wednesday.

The President reminded us that NEXT week [April 2] we will be meeting back at the Hickory Pit.

The Publications committee wants people.

Announcements:

[evil] Kevin announced that the next phase of his work-site will be online at www.almaden.ibm.com/spinaps and there's a St. Louis con this weekend, CostumeCon 25.

Mike announced this year's season of Dr. Who starts this Saturday on BBC1 [and deleted].

Ken announced that KTEH is running some documentaries - 'Lust in Space' at 11 pm Saturday & 'Mythmaker - William Hartnell' will be next Saturday & April 10 sees the start of 'Dr. Who.'

Bob announced the Contra Costa Library has for free the Rosetta Stone language courses online.

Reviews:

[evil] Kevin reviewed the BayCon committee meeting as it lasted over 4 hours & Chris still has permission to chase him around with a big stick if the CostumeCon meetings last that long [there were follow-ons].

Harold reviewed 'Torchwood' as worth buying on DVD at full price & the 2nd season of 'Rome' as containing spoilers & had nice costumes & a free hand with historical accuracy [then there were follow-ons about 'The Tudors'].

Dave C reviewed the tribute for Bob Wilkins as it sold out & Dave suggested that donations can be made to the Alzheimer Aid Society of Northern California for the care of Bob Wilkins & he reviewed 'Are you Smarter than a 5th Grader' as perversely attractive & recommends it [with some shame] & there were follow-ons.

Bob reviewed having his car hit in the parking lot as not worth full price & reviewed having

6 fillings as not worth the terror & reviewed the Escher exhibit at the SJ Museum of Art as really, really good & reviewed 'Planet Earth' as worth seeing.

Chris reviewed 'Challenger' as thick, very big and possibly the best fanzine out there & worth writing 2 letters to & reviewed 'Askance' as having a great cover & there are pictures of Chris in it & is also worth writing a letter to it.

Carole reviewed hearing she needs major car repairs as it sucks.

Ken reviewed a John Waters show on Court TV - 'Till Death Do Us Part' as a bit amusing and worth catching.

Andy reviewed the 'Dresden Files' as the last 2 episodes were worth watching & also reviewed the Shure E2c noise-canceling earphones as worth buying and worth full price.

Trey reviewed movies he saw so you don't have to - 'TMNT' was more or less predictable and very true to the Saturday morning cartoon & reviewed 'Wild Hogs' as far too cliched & worth rental.

We auctioned off foam things for \$0.75; a hat for \$0.75, a magazine for \$0.25, various Disney kitsch for \$5.00, an eyepatch for \$0.50, a button for \$0.50, a book for \$1.00, & a Cinequest magazine for \$0.25.

We adjourned at 9:37.

And the rumor of the week was 'that Kevin Standlee will be elected president of SFWA.'

Join our crew:

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

Contact Jean Martin and Chris Garcia at:
SFinSF@gmail.com

Bay Area Fannish Calendar

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

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

Wednesday-Friday, April 4-6

Curse of the Cat People (1944)

Stanford Theatre

221 University Avenue

Palo Alto

650-324-3700

6:10 and 9:20 p.m.

\$7

The seldom-seen sequel to 1942's *Cat People*.

Thursday, April 5

Comics 4 Comix Benefit

Cartoon Art Museum

655 Mission Street

San Francisco

www.cartoonart.org

7-10 p.m.

\$20

A benefit for the museum featuring stand-up comics Michael Meehan, Kurt Weitzman, Nick Leonard, Mark Silverman and host Michael Capozzola. Silent art auction, food and drink.

Thursday, April 5

Drunk Puppet Night

Amnesia Bar

853 Valencia Street

San Francisco

www.amnesiathebar.com

9 p.m.

Free

A night of inebriation and adult puppetry featuring performances by Shadow Circus Creature Theatre, Jenny Jo and Ms Mac, the Big Tadoo Puppet Crew, Janaki Ranpura, and P-Raw's Barbie Show Live. Over 21.

Thursday-Saturday, April 5-7

Chemical Imbalance

EXIT Theatre

156 Eddy Street

San Francisco

www.precarioustheatre.com

Thursdays-Sundays 8 p.m.

\$15-\$30 sliding scale

Return of Lauren Wilson's darkly comic play based on *Doctor Jekyll and Mister Hyde*, directed by Matthew Graham Smith.

Friday and Saturday, April 6-7

Late Night Picture Show:

The Road Warrior (1981)

Clay Theatre

2261 Fillmore

San Francisco

www.landmarkafterdark.com

Midnight

\$9.75

Friday-Sunday, April 6-8

Tales of Anime

Marriott San Mateo

1770 South Amphlett Blvd.

San Mateo

www.talesofanime.com

\$40

Second edition of the con for fans of shoujo ("girl") anime and manga.

Saturday, April 7

Red Carpet Ball

(1930s Hollywood Academy Award Ball)

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 N. Ellsworth

San Mateo

www.peers.org

\$20 at the door

Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8. (There's a glamorous calendar available at www.cafepress.com/peers.75762076)

Saturday, April 7

Streamliner

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

3 p.m.
Free

Richard Lupoff and the New Retro Radio
Players perform a live adaptation of a story
from Lupoff's recent collection *Terrors*, written
in the style of an old-fashioned radio drama.

Sunday, April 8

7th Annual BYOBW

Lombard and Hyde

San Francisco

www.jonbrumit.com/byobw.html

4 p.m.
Free

BYOBW stands for "Bring Your Own Big
Wheel." An adult Easter Day road rally down
Lombard Street on children's trikes, now in its
seventh year. Costumes, prizes, silliness.

Sunday, April 8

Crimson Cult (1968)

The Dunwich Horror (1970)

Werewolves on Wheels (1971)

Victoria Theatre

2961 16th Street

San Francisco

www.deadchannels.com

First film at 7 p.m., double feature at 8:30.

Individual films \$8, \$15 for the double feature

and \$20 for all three. Part of the "Sleazy

Sundays" series presented by Dead Channels—

The San Francisco Festival of Fantastic Film.

Thursday, April 12



Anousheh Ansari will give a keynote speech at the "Yuri's Night" party at NASA/Ames in Mountain View on April 13th. Ansari is a businesswoman, commercial spaceflight booster (one of the people for whom the Ansari X Prize is named), and the first female "space tourist," having traveled in a Soyuz spacecraft to the International Space Station in 2006. "Yuri's Night World Space Parties" are held in over 30 countries and 91 locations worldwide to mark the anniversary of Yuri Garagin's flight and celebrate humanity's first venture into space.

Photo by NASA

Jewish Superheroes

Jewish Community Center
1414 Walnut Street
Berkeley
www.jccebay.org
7:30 p.m.

Free

What does Superman have to do with Samson?
Was Batman of Gotham really Golem of
Prague? Local comic book expert Rabbi Harry
Manhoff talks about the secret “Jewish-ness” of
favorite comic book characters.

Thursday, April 12

Thrillville's 10th Anniversary Show:
Creature From The Black Lagoon (1954)
and *It Came From Outer Space (1953)*
Cerrito Speakeasy Theater
10070 San Pablo Ave.
El Cerrito
www.thrillville.net
8 p.m.
\$10

Thrillville celebrates its 10th birthday with a 3-
D double feature, your hosts Will the Thrill and
Monica-Tiki Goddess, *Cinema Insomnia's* Mr.
Lobo and the Queen of Trash, and Kitten on the
Keys.

Thursday, April 12

Invasion of the Body Snatchers (1978)
and *The Thing (1982)*
Preview Room
Variety Children's Charity
582 Market Street
San Francisco
7 p.m.

Free

Borderlands Books and Variety Children's
Charity invite you to a Science Fiction double
feature. Refreshments will be available for
purchase, and your purchase supports Variety's
efforts to aid disabled, disadvantaged, abused
and neglected kids.

Friday, April 13

Yuri's Night '07
Hangar 211
NASA Ames Research Center
Moffett Blvd.
Mountain View
www.worldspaceparty.com

6 p.m.-late

\$30 (VIP pass \$200)

A space-themed party marking the anniversary
of Yuri Gagarin's pioneering flight, with live
bands, art installations, science and technology
demos, the Big Bang Beer Bar, keynote speech
by “space tourist” and commercial spaceflight
advocate Anousheh Ansari.

Friday, April 13

Carrie (1976) and *Prom Night (1980)*
Castro Theatre
429 Castro Street
San Francisco
www.thecastrotheatre.com

9:45 p.m.

\$10

A “Midnites for Maniacs” program with a
prom night theme; preceded by *Pretty in Pink*
(1986) (which also features high school kids,
but not so much blood) starting at 7:30.

Friday and Saturday, April 13-14

Midnight Special:
Scary Movie (2000)
Shattuck Cinemas
2230 Shattuck Ave.
Berkeley
www.landmarkafterdark.com
\$8

Friday-Sunday, April 13-15

ConQuest Sac
Sacramento Marriott
11211 Point East Drive
Rancho Cordova
www.avalonconventions.com/conquestsac/
\$45
General gaming convention including military,
miniatures, card and board games, collectibles,
RPGs.

Friday-Sunday, April 13-15

Mists/Cynagua War
Society for Creative Anachronism Event
Ed Levin Park
3100 Calaveras Road
Milpitas
www.phmoms.com/mistscynaguawar
Site fee \$5
Feasting, fighting, bard competition. Overnight
campers welcome.

Saturday, April 14

Author: Jonathan Lethem
Moe's Books
2476 Telegraph Avenue
Berkeley
www.telegraphbooks.com

7:30 p.m.

Free

The author of *Gun, With Occasional Music* has a new book out, *You Don't Love Me Yet*.

Saturday, April 14

Author: Robert Balmanno

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

www.borderlands-books.com

Noon

Free

Reading from *September Snow*.

Sunday, April 15

Squirm (1976)

Kingdom of the Spiders (1977)

Son of Blob (1972)

Victoria Theatre

2961 16th Street

San Francisco

www.deadchannels.com

First film at 7 p.m., double feature at 8:30.

Individual films \$8, \$15 for the double feature

and \$20 for all three. Part of the "Sleazy

Sundays" series presented by Dead Channels—

The San Francisco Festival of Fantastic Film.

Monday, April 16

Ask a Scientist:

The Mind-Body Connection

The Canvas Gallery

1200 9th Avenue

San Francisco

www.askascientistsf.com

7 p.m.

Free

How chemical processes in the brain translate into human thoughts and behavior, with David Presti, UC Berkeley Neurobiology Professor.

Tuesday, April 17

Author: Jonathan Lethem

Kepler's Books

1010 El Camino Real

Menlo Park

650-324-4321

7:30 p.m.

Free

The author of *Gun, With Occasional Music* has a new book out, *You Don't Love Me Yet*.

Friday and Saturday, April 20-21

Midnight Special:

The Re-animator (1985)

Shattuck Cinemas

2230 Shattuck Ave.

Berkeley

www.landmarkafterdark.com

\$8

Saturday-Sunday, April 21-22

APE (Alternative Press Expo)

Concourse Exhibition Center

620 7th Street

San Francisco

www.comic-con.org/ape/

Billed as the nation's largest show devoted to alternative and self-published comics.

Announced guests include Art Spiegelman (*Maus*).

Saturday, April 21

APE Aftermath

Isotope Comics Lounge

326 Fell Street

San Francisco

415-621-6543

7 p.m.-midnight

Free

The Isotope's annual event coinciding with the Alternative Press Expo features the awarding of the Isotope Award for Excellence in Mini-Comics.

Saturday, April 21

Author: Scott Sigler

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

www.borderlands-books.com

1 p.m.

Free

With a new book out, *Ancestor*.

Saturday, April 21

Author: Ray Garton

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

www.borderlands-books.com

3 p.m.

Free

Author of the new book *Night Life* and its predecessor, *Live Girls*.

Sunday, April 22

Maniac (1934)

Preacherman (1971)

Black Gestapo (1975)

Victoria Theatre

2961 16th Street

San Francisco

www.deadchannels.com

First film at 7 p.m., double feature at 8:30.

Individual films \$8, \$15 for the double feature and \$20 for all three. Part of the “Sleazy Sundays” series presented by Dead Channels—The San Francisco Festival of Fantastic Film.

Sunday, April 22

Cherry Blossom Festival Parade

Civic Center to Japan Center

San Francisco

www.nccbf.org

1 pm

Free

A cosplay contest traditionally precedes the parade, with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners getting to ride a float to Japan Center.

Tuesday, April 24

Author: John Marks

The Booksmith

1644 Haight Street

San Francisco

www.booksmith.com

7 p.m.

Free

Author of Fangland.

Tuesday, April 24

A Quiet Place in the Country (1969)

Castro Theatre

429 Castro Street

San Francisco

www.thecastrotheatre.com

9:15 p.m.

\$9

An artist (Franco Nero) tries to get away from it all with his girlfriend (Vanessa Redgrave). Unfortunately, their country villa may be haunted. In Italian with subtitles. Preceded at 7:00 by *Investigation of a Citizen Above Suspicion* (1970); both films feature spooky scores by recent Academy Awards honoree Ennio Morricone.

Thursday, April 26

Author: John Scalzi

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

www.borderlands-books.com

7 p.m.

Free

Reading from *The Last Colony*.

Friday, April 27

Author: John Scalzi

Dark Carnival Books

3086 Claremont Avenue

Berkeley

510-654-7323

5:30 p.m.

Free

Reading from *The Last Colony*.

Friday-Sunday, April 27-29

Sacramento Scottish Games and Festival

Yolo County Fairgrounds

Woodland

www.sacaledonian.org

\$17 (\$15.50 in advance)

Athletic events, highland dancing, crafts, music,

whisky tasting, Bonney Knees contest, more.

April 27-May 13

Jekyll & Hyde: The Musical

Lucie Stern Theater

1305 Middlefield Road

Palo Alto

www.paplayers.org

8 p.m. (Sun. 2:30 matinee)

\$26-30 (\$20 preview on April 27)

Saturday, April 28

Author: Ellen Klages

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

www.borderlands-books.com

3 p.m.

Free

Reading from her new short story collection, *Portable Childhoods*.

Saturday, April 28

Sensible Prejudices:

Divergent Jane Austen Ball

Masonic Lodge

100 North Ellsworth

San Mateo

www.baers.org

8 p.m.

A Bay Area English Regency Society dance.

Saturday, May 5

Bay Area Games Day

Los Altos Public Library

13 S. San Antonio Road

Los Altos

davekohr.users.sonic.net/gamesday/

10 a.m.

\$1

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

Saturday, May 5

Sleeping Beauty's Christening Fantasy Ball

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 N. Ellsworth

San Mateo

www.peers.org

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

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

Sunday, May 6

8th Annual How Weird Street Faire

Howard Street between 11th & 12th

San Francisco

www.howweird.org

Noon-6 p.m.

Some would call this the most "Burning Man" of SF's (many) summer street fairs.

Thursday, May 10

Authors: Holly Black and

Cassandra Clare

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

www.borderlands-books.com

7 p.m.

Free

Thursday, May 10

Thrillville: Barbarella (1967)

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

www.thrillville.com

9:15 p.m.

\$7

With the Twilight Vixen Revue live onstage.

Monday, May 14

Author: Michael Chabon

Book Passage

51 Tamal Vista Blvd.

Corte Madera

www.bookpassage.com

7 p.m.

Free

Author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay* talks about his new book, *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*.

Saturday-Sunday, May 19-20

Maker Faire

San Mateo County Fairgrounds

2495 S. Delaware Street

San Mateo

www.makerfaire.com

\$20 (\$15 in advance, one-day passes available)

Crafters, tinkerers, artists and geeks converge for a weekend of science, mechanics, art, and entertainment for all ages. (Last year's faire featured welding and glass bending, Segway polo, robotics demonstrations, crafts made from recycled computer parts, much other fun stuff.)

Sunday, May 20

Little Women Picnic

The Shinn House

1251 Peralta Blvd.

Fremont

www.gbagg.org

Noon-5 p.m.

\$14.50, \$7.50 for GBACG members

A Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild event.

Thursday, May 24

Author: Esther Friesner

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia Street

San Francisco

www.borderlands-books.com

7 p.m.

Free

Friday-Monday, May 25-28

BayCon

Marriott San Mateo

1770 South Amphlett Blvd.

San Mateo

www.baycon.org

\$75 at the door (\$65 until April 30)

25th Anniversary Edition of the largest annual general SF convention in Northern California, featuring a new location and Guests of Honor Alan Dean Foster, Diana Paxson, Richard Hescox, and Linda Von Braskat-Crowe, Special Guest Ctein, and Toastmaster Seanan McGuire. Diverse panels, dealer's room, art show, masquerade, anime room, hall costumes, gaming, much more.

Friday-Monday, May 25-28

FanimeCon

San Jose Convention Center

435 South Market Street
San Jose
www.fanime.com
The Bay Area's largest annual anime convention returns. Dealer's room, panels, costume contest, J-pop concert, more.

Friday-Monday, May 25-28

KublaCon
Burlingame Hyatt Regency
1333 Bayshore Highway
Burlingame
www.kublacon.com
\$35
Annual gaming convention returns with panels, dealer's room, game demos, flea market, more.

Friday-Sunday, June 1-3

Dollectable
Clarion Hotel SFO
401 E. Millbrae Ave.
Millbrae
www.bjdcon.com
\$65 at the door (\$50 until May 1)
A convention for enthusiasts and collectors of Asian-style ball-jointed dolls.

Saturday, June 2

Space Cowboys' Ball
PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 N. Ellsworth
San Mateo
www.peers.org
\$15 in advance (by May 26), \$20 at the door
Browncoats, take note! Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Saturday-Sunday, June 2-3

Super-Con
San Jose Convention Center
435 South Market Street
San Jose
www.super-con.com
\$20 (one-day pass \$15)
Super-Con heads south for 2007. Dealers, guest artists, cosplay contest, more.

Sunday, June 10

Ardenwood Celtic Festival
Ardenwood Historic Farm
34600 Ardenwood Blvd.
Fremont
www.ardenwood-celtic-festival.com
10 a.m.-5 p.m.
\$10
Celtic music, dancing, living history, ethnic food, more.

Friday-Sunday, June 15-17

RoboGames
Festival Pavilion
Fort Mason Center
San Francisco
www.robogames.net
\$55 (\$20 single-day ticket)
The event formerly known as the ROBOlympics returns to Fort Mason for another weekend of mechanized mayhem.

Saturday-Sunday, June 16-17

Northern California Pirate Festival
Marina Green Park
Vallejo

www.norcalpiratefestival.com
10 a.m.-dusk
Arrr...the launch of what hopes to become an annual event in the Bay Area. Details to follow.

Saturday, June 23

Batlh Jaj: Klingon Day of Honor 11
Chabot Space Science Center
10000 Skyline Blvd.
Oakland
www.ikvbloodlust.net/kalendar.htm
7-10 p.m.
An evening of feasting, singing, and celebrating Klingon-style. Details to follow.

Saturday-Tuesday, June 30-July 3

Westercon 60: Gnomeward Bound
Marriott San Mateo
1770 South Amphlett Blvd.
San Mateo
www.westercon60.org
Guests of Honor: Tad Williams, Theresa Mather, Christian McGuire
Toastmaster: Jay Lake

Friday-Sunday, July 13-15

Sac-Anime
Red Lion Inn
1401 Arden Way
Sacramento
www.sacramentocomics.com
\$30 at the door (\$20 until May 1)
Anime convention featuring viewing room, art contest, vendor's room, costume ball, J-pop bands, more.

Saturday, July 21

Harry Potter Party

The Booksmith
1644 Haight Street
San Francisco
www.booksmith.com
11 p.m.-1 a.m.

Free

Midnight release party for J.K. Rowling's
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows.

Friday-Sunday, July 27-29

Con-X-Treme

DoubleTree Hotel
2050 Gateway Place
San Jose
www.con-x-treme.com

\$50 at the door (\$45 until June 30)

A promising newcomer on the Bay Area con scene, though details are still a little sketchy. Anime viewing, cosplay, Taiko drumming, martial arts demos, art show, and The Black Hole Bar.

July 29-August 4

The Dickens Universe
Kresge College
UC Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz
dickens.ucsc.edu

\$335, plus accommodations and meals

The Dickens Project hosts a week-long seminar open to the public as well as academics, with sessions focusing on Dickens's *Pickwick Papers*, Victorian genres in poetry, drama, and the novel, afternoon teas and other activities for Victorianists.

Friday-Monday, August 3-6

MythCon 38
Clark Kerr Center
2601 Warring Street
Berkeley
www.mythsoc.org

\$60, \$50 for Mythopoeic Society members

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

Saturday, August 4

Pride & Prejudice Picnic
PEERS Event
Location TBA
www.peers.org

Noon-5 p.m.

An afternoon picnic and dance set in Jane Austen's England during the late 1790s.

August 10-16

Dead Channels—The San Francisco Festival of Fantastic Film
Roxie Cinema
3117 16th Street
San Francisco
www.deadchannels.com

Now accepting entries (through May 31).
Details to follow.

Saturday, September 1

Mikado Ball
PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 N. Ellsworth
San Mateo
www.peers.org

\$15 in advance (by August 25), \$20 at the door
A Gilbert and Sullivan cast party. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Friday-Sunday, September 28-30

Creation's Salute to Star Trek
DoubleTree Hotel
2001 Point West Way
Sacramento
www.creationent.com

A Creation con to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. Announced guests include Jonathan Frakes, Marina Sirtis and George Takei. Details to follow.

Friday-Sunday, October 5-7

SiliCon
DoubleTree Hotel
2050 Gateway Place
San Jose
www.siliconventions.com

Media-oriented general SF con features art show, dealer's room, panels, masquerade, swap meet, more. Details to follow.

Saturday, October 6

Edwardian Gothic Ball
PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 N. Ellsworth
San Mateo
www.peers.org

\$15 in advance (by September 29), \$20 at the door
Edwardian as in macabre illustrator Edward Gorey. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins

at 8.

Saturday, November 3

Le Bal des Vampires

PEERS Event

www.peers.org

The annual hematophagic gala. Details to follow.

Saturday, January 5, 2008

Victorian Twelfth Night Ball

PEERS Event

www.peers.org

A.k.a. The Dickens Fair Reunion Ball. Details to follow.

Saturday, February 2, 2008

Le Mardi Gras des Vampires

PEERS Event

www.peers.org

Details to follow.

Saturday, March 1, 2008

Pride and Prejudice Ball

PEERS Event

www.peers.org

Details to follow.

Saturday, April 5, 2008

The Royal Debutante Ball

PEERS Event

www.peers.org

Details to follow.

April 25-28, 2008

CostumeCon 26

DoubleTree Hotel

2050 Gateway Place

San Jose

www.cc26.info

\$75 (through April 30, 2007)

CostumeCon will be coming to Silicon Valley in 2008. Details to follow.

Ongoing:

Through June 17

Worlds of Wonder

Cartoon Art Museum

655 Mission Street

San Francisco

www.cartoonart.org

\$6 (Pay What You Wish every first Tuesday)

Exhibition of twelve comic-book and comic-strip illustrators and the worlds built from their imaginations.

Daily

San Francisco Ghost Hunt

Walking Tour

Begins: Queen Anne Hotel

1590 Sutter at Octavia

San Francisco

www.sfghosthunt.com

7 p.m. – 10 p.m.

\$20

Mondays

Bay Area Science Fiction Association

The Original Hick'ry Pit

980 E. Campbell Ave.

Campbell

www.basfa.org

8 p.m.

Free

Mondays

Dukefish

Jake's of Sunnyvale

174 E. Fremont Avenue

Sunnyvale

8 p.m.

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

Mondays and Wednesdays

Silicon Valley Boardgamers

Match Play

San Antonio Shopping Center

Mountain View

www.davekohr.users.sonic.net/svb/

7 p.m.

\$2

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

Wednesdays

Bay Area Role-Playing Society

Go-Getter's Pizza

1489 Beach Park Boulevard

Foster City

www.BayRPS.com

6 p.m.-10 p.m.

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

Wednesdays

East Bay Strategy Games Club

EndGame
921 Washington
Oakland
www.michaeldashow.com/eastbaystrategy/home.html
7:30 p.m.-11 p.m.
Free

Fridays

SF Games
Muddy's Coffeehouse
1304 Valencia Street
San Francisco
vax.hanford.org/dk/games
7 p.m. to midnight
Free

SF Games is a collective name for a bunch of people who get together and play board games and card games every week. Also has a regular cards night at Atlas Café, 20th and Alabama Streets, Tuesday nights from 6:30-10:00.

Fridays-Mondays

Haunted Haight Walking Tour
Meets at Coffee To The People
1206 Masonic Avenue
San Francisco
www.hauntedhaight.com
7 p.m.-9 p.m.
\$20
Reservations required.

Fridays and Saturdays

Vampire Walking Tour
Meets corner of California and Taylor
San Francisco
www.sfvampiretour.com

8 p.m.
\$20
Led by Mina Harker. Tour is cancelled if there is heavy rain.

Saturdays

Rocky Horror Picture Show
Parkway Speakeasy Theater
1834 Park Blvd.
Oakland
Midnight
\$7
www.parkway-speakeasy.com
Barely Legal Productions presents the classic midnight movie every Saturday night. No one under 17 admitted.

Biweekly

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

Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers' Group
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street
San Francisco
Meets the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 6 pm. Contact Jade Livingston at sfscifi@yahoo.com for more information.

Monthly

Dorkbot-SF
Free, donations welcome
www.dorkbot.org/dorkbotsf/
Dorkbot hosts regular forums for artists, designers, engineers, students, and other people doing strange things with electricity.

Fantastic Frontiers

www.freewebs.com/fantasticfrontiers/
Social club for Sacramento County Sci Fi/
Fantasy fans usually meets the second Saturday of the month. Check website for meeting times and locations.

Foothill Anime

Building 5015, Foothill College
Los Altos Hills
Free
Monthly event where people can get together to watch anime and meet like minded others. Usually meets the first Sunday of every month at noon.

Legion of Rassilon

Carl's Junior
2551 N. First Street
San Jose
www.legionofrassilon.org
7:30 p.m.
Free

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

No-Name Anime

Saratoga Library
13650 Saratoga Avenue
Saratoga
www.nnanime.com

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

SF Browncoats
Cafe Murano
1777 Steiner Street
San Francisco
www.sfbrowncoats.com

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

Silicon Gulch Browncoats
Various locations (see website for details)
www.silicongulchbrowncoats.org

Noon - 2 p.m.
Free
Silicon Valley fans of *Firefly/Serenity* meet up on the first Saturday of the month.

Tangential Conjectures: The Science Fiction Book Club
Books Inc.
301 Castro Street
Mountain View
650-428-1234
7:30 p.m.
Free
Generally meets the third Thursday of the month.

USS Augusta Ada
Round Table Pizza
3567 Geary Blvd.
San Francisco
trek.starshine.org

1 p.m.
Free
Augusta Ada is both a chapter of Starfleet International and a Linux and *BSD user group. Usually meets the fourth Saturday of every month.

USS Defiance
Round Table Pizza
1566 Howe Ave.
Sacramento
www.ussdefiance.org

7 p.m.
Free
Star Trek fan group meets the third Friday of the month.

Veritech Fighter Command ONE-THREE
Round Table Pizza
4403 Elkhorn Blvd
Sacramento
916-338-2300
Anime/cosplay group usually meets the last Saturday of the month at 1800 hours.