

Science Fiction/San Francisco

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News and Notes

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

The full Hugo Award results are available elsewhere, but the Fan Hugos went like this: Frank Wu won for Best Fan Artist (his third win in five years) and Dave Langford won Best Fan Writer. In something of a surprise, *Science Fiction Five Yearly* won Best Fanzine for Randy Byers, Geri Sullivan and the late Lee Hoffman. In Chris Garcia-related news, *The Drink Tank* came in fifth for Best Fanzine and I also ran fifth for Best Fan Writer.

The nomination list was also posted. *Pacheco Progress*, the Casa de WorldCon BidZine, got eight votes. *The Drink Tank* was behind only Guy Lillian's *Challenger* in nominations for Best Fanzine. Chris Garcia was named by 39 foolish people in nomination for Best Fan Writer, leading the nominations there.

In interesting news, the sixth place in Best Fan Writer nominations was a tie between Claire Brialey and...wait for it...Frank Wu! Dan Steffan, whom everyone should nominate next year, came in sixth.

The BArea has a bunch of folks at WorldCon, including Kevin Standlee, Dave Clark, and the Parkers. But I can't remember a time when there's been so little buzz around a WorldCon. Part of that is that usually there are 20 or so Bareaites going. Yes, I was an early supporter of Nippon in 2007, and I still think

that WorldCon should tour to places the typical US fan might not be able to get to, but we should remember that to keep the vibe alive, it's gotta be in places folks can get to once in awhile. There are computer conferences that pride themselves on being in a different country every year, but they tend to dwindle away because too many people have trouble getting to Dubai or Sierra Leone.

In related news, the Hugo Awards have a new Award-specific website. This should help answer a lot of the simple questions that have kept folks like Kevin Standlee under stress for the last so-many-years. www.TheHugoAwards.org has the specifics, some discussion of why things are as they are, and photos of most of the Hugo trophies. It's a clean site that gives a lot of info and isn't overly complicated. Although there are some opinion things that are debatable (like "Can I vote for something I have not read/seen?" in the FAQs — they say no, though you CAN vote for it. You *shouldn't*, but you can...), overall it's a great site for pointing people to when they have questions. Now if we can just find a category to nominate it for!

Sadly if you're a comics fan, Mike Wieringo, the guy who really defined the modern era image of The Flash with Mark Waid, passed away very suddenly. It was a shame as he was only 44 and had been doing some of his biggest name stuff with Marvel on *Friendly*

Neighborhood Spider-Man. Wieringo and Mark Waid also did an amazing run on *Fantastic Four*, which I consider to be the only thing worthwhile to come out of Marvel since the early 1980s. I wrote up a little tribute piece on him for FanboyPlanet.com.

Speaking of Marvel, read *World War Hulk* and *Planet Hulk*. Our good buddy Greg Pak is writing, and he's a huge talent and worth reading.

You can look at eFanzines.com and find some new fun stuff. There's a new issue of Jan Stinson's *Peregrine Nations* with some great stuff, but there's more up there. *Peregrine Nations* has some great back issues too. Jan's one of the reasons I'm here because she printed my earliest articles back in 2004.

Jack Avery, you magnificent bastard! Another issue of *From Alien Shores* with a great review of *Stardust* and much more fantastic design. I swear he's the shiniest lay-out guy in the world right now. I think it stands up beautifully against stuff like *Plokta*, though with a more sercon-ish stand. It's amazing how much good design comes out of BArea zines. There's *FAS*, *Consonant Enigma*, everyone who's put together *SF/SF*, and *Trap Door*. It's insane!

Local fanzine fan and all-around good guy Rich Coad put together the CorFlu 50 which raised money to bring Steve and Elaine Stiles to CorFlu Silver in Vegas. The money's done been

raised! Good guy, that Coad fellow!

Read *Drink Tank* 138 and especially 139, which is the Cocktail Issue. There's a lot of fun stuff too. Howieird, myself, Frank Wu, España and others put in appearances in this issue, one of the rare ones I'll say you should make an effort to read.

TAFF is still going strong. Look into ChrisforTAFF.org for details on my part of the race, or you can find info on TAFF at taff.org.uk. You should vote. I mean, you could get rid of me for a few weeks next spring!

OK, it's not fannish at all and no one reading this will care, but my Aussie Rules Football Team, the Geelong Cats, just ended a 15-match winning streak. That's right, 15 games in a row! I've been lucky enough to have Bill Wright out in Oz sendin' me news stuff and I got to talk a bit of it with Janice Gelb when she was out. It has been a slightly shorter time since Geelong won the Premiership (1963) than it has since the Giants won a World Series (1958).

I think I saw George R.R. Martin over the weekend. I mean, it looked exactly like him. Anyone know if he was in the BArea?

SiliCon is coming down the track and it's a more comic-centric con this year. Lots of great pros on the sched. My man Mark Bode's there, with Dame Darcy, Jim Mahfood, Lela Dowling, Tess Fowler, Javier Hernandez, Molly Kiely and more. It's a shockingly good group of folks and *SF/SF* will be there! Should be a great time for all of us comics/fannish types. FanboyPlanet.com will also be there.

A plug: Illusive Comics and Games is expanding. What was once Brian's Books back in the old days is more than doubling in size. It's

one of those comic shops that has a long-standing clientele and fosters a strong community. It's also the home of the FanboyPlanet.com Podcasts, which have been talking about WorldCon lately. They'll be expanding the store and adding a lot of games and such. They're gonna have folks at SiliCon too.

Best panel topic for this year's WorldCon: How to Induce a Glacial Period.

Have you bought your membership in VintaCon yet? You should, if you haven't. If you like wine and you like fen, then you've got a reason to join us! I've heard that it's a good time and I'll certainly be there!

Had a lovely visit from Jean Martin at the Computer History Museum this week. Good to have fans stop by. The next day, Vernor Vinge made an appearance. The place is hoppin'!

I went to my first Ren Faire on the 26th of August, the Golden Gate Renaissance Faire in Golden Gate Park. Now, you may say to yourself, "Gee, Chris, you're a pudgy guy who loves history and has a hairstyle that is adaptable to various time periods, you *must* be a Ren Faire guy," but it's true, I hadn't been to one until last weekend. It was the added attraction of Bella Donna, the group of Italian Courtesans (most specifically the one portrayed by my current flame, the Lovely and Talented Linda) that drew me out of the South Bay and into the City. The faire as a whole was a lot of fun, Bella Donna was delightfully bawdy and the songs gorgeous, and the food was sublime for those of us who have an attraction to county fair-style cuisine.

And yes, I did in fact dress up, in togs lent to me courtesy of Bella Donna member Shawna (aka Courtesan Rosetta). I had very

poofy sleeves.

Speaking of Faire, I ran into former *SF/SF* Layout Queen Eva Kent. It was nice to see her, bringing the total number of times we've seen each other in person to two over the course of the year + that we did the zine!

If you haven't yet, go check out Lloyd Penney's LoC LJ (he's user lloydpenney) and see what wonderful LoCs this guy writes. His letter to *Consonant Enigma* is wonderful, and I never get tired of reading about zines that I'll probably never get to see. It's a wonderful resource.

Good pal and Ultimate Fighting Champion Jay Lake's book *Mainspring* was mentioned in a Boston *Globe* article about Steampunk. They also talked about *SteamPunk Magazine*, which is a wonderful read. It's good to see my personal favorite subgenre getting a place in the sun in a major paper. Magpie Killjoy, one of the editors of *SteamPunk Magazine*, has a wonderful quote about why the steampunk movement carries on even after the written stuff seems to be on the wane.

There's more connecting LA and BArea fandom than a couple of freeways. Sadly, LA Fan Dr. Susan "Arizona" Gleason has been in the hospital after collapsing last week. No word on how serious beyond that it is serious. Send good vibes or prayers her way if you can. I had a nice chat with her at Westercon (or maybe BayCon) at the LosCon party. She's good people.

Long-time pal and *SF/SF* contributor Bob Hole is leaving these fair climes and heading for Roseville. Good luck, Bob old boy, we'll still expect you to send art!

Letters Of Comment

Lloyd Penney writes:

Three issues behind again. So many fanzines, so little time... and I hate to ignore them, or give them a trite loc. So, here's more than a trite loc on issues 47, 48 and 49 of SF/SF.

Jean Martin responds: *Thanks for taking the time to send us LOCs for each of our issues.*

47... Chris is the Emergency Holographic Layout Guy. Geez, there you are again, you're everywhere! This is one of the perks of being the editor and layout guy, you can put in whatever pictures you like. When Yvonne and I were the CUFF delegates some years ago, we put out our trip report within two years, and we put it out as a fanzine to follow a proud tradition from American-based fan funds. However, reaction from Canadian fandom was muted, as people either didn't expect any kind of trip report, or didn't care if we ever did one or not. We raised over \$1,000 for CUFF, and as far as I know, we were the last winners to publish our trip report.

Chris is everywhere... and can do everything! He's got lots of energy and talent.

I haven't seen a Zoo Nation in quite some time, more than a year now. I guess the airline industry is keeping Pete Young busy. I hope he'll return.

Star Wars had a big impact on me, too, especially seeing that was the first movie I saw when I moved from Ontario to British Columbia in 1977. I also met up with a new Trek club in town a few months after I arrived, and that's where I date my entry into fandom. For me, it

will be 30 years in fandom in December. I can feel my arteries hardening...

I wish I knew about fandom much earlier. I could have been enjoying it for several decades as well, instead of just four years.

Greetings to all those partying Klingons in the BArea from K'Mon T'Pel-tu! (That's my Klingon name, by the way. Anyone who knows French will also see that is my way of spelling "Comment t'appelle-tu?" which is French for "What is your name?")

That's quite a clever Klingon name. I didn't know you were a Klingon too. Klingons, I've found, are so much fun and great to hang around with.

The NorCal Pirate Festival reminds me that the Fort York Pirate Festival is on right now at Old Fort York near the waterfront. It tries to recreate a pirate village, and I expect you'll see lots of familiar Ren Faire faces in the crowd. I haven't been to it yet, but it closes shop in mid-September.

I suppose we could credit the Pirates of the Caribbean films for the resurgence in pirates' popularity. Although I'm sure there have been core groups of pirates that have been doing this for a long time. It's fun to be a pirate since playing lawless and adventurous characters is more entertaining than just regular Ren Faire garb. Although I do like playing tavern wenches, princesses and fairies too. But then, I'm female.

Love the photos in the Kwik-E-Mart! Give him your best shot, Linda... I think only

one Canadian 7-11 got the transformation, and I'd have to look up where that was.

It is quite an interesting coincidence that the only Kwik-E-Mart in the Bay Area (as far as I know) is right across the street from Chris Garcia's work and across the freeway from where I live. We really are in the heart of fandom around here! I got to go to the Kwik-E-Mart as well as my significant other is a big Simpsons fan. I must say I never really got into the series but I do enjoy anything fannish and pop culture.

Book Expos are great fun! I've actually worked the last two Book Expo Canada shows, and got to roam the tradeshow floor the previous one in June. Took home lots of great stuff. For you in the League of Evil Geniuses, there is a children's book called Evil Geniuses, and I got a promotional button to go with my own League of Evil Geniuses shirt. Hey, no one mentioned there was a Canada night at the Westercon! How did that go?

I may have gone to the Canada party but I have no clear recollection of WesterCon. I was only there one night but I do remember having a great time. Whatever I do remember is in an article in this issue.

48...Yes, Chris, you've been bad, you slacker! Having a life is a good thing, and if you mean your new having a life is having it with Linda, that's a good thing indeed. As you can see from my LJ, I loosed the latest *Picofarad* the same day as I got caught up with *The Drink Tank*, and while I don't have much to say on the Harry

Potter stuff within, there's always something to comment on. Chris, I've been seeing lots of pictures of you in lots of fanzines. I think you'll be receiving a shiny rocket soon, no matter what you think. You've become fandom's newest Golden Boy, and I think getting nominated is just your first reward.

Well, I'm happy for Chris that he has a new relationship and is nominated for a Hugo. I think he's the nicest guy in fandom and all of this is well deserved.

Abbott and Costello explain site selection... well, just as silly as anything else those two ever did. Timing is everything, and sounds like you pulled it off. Woowoowoowoowo...

The Hugos are always subjective, and as much as those names who have been there should stay, there's lots of newer names who should be there, too. In some cases, it's a shame only five names make it to the ballot, but that would certainly spread out the vote to make it almost meaningless if we put more on the sheet. If only we all had the chance at some of the egoboo...

Yes, that's totally understandable. We all can't get recognized. But I'm sure we're all appreciated and it's great that we're able to do this at all!

Frank Wu is correct in some ways when he says he has become dissatisfied with cons. Too many? To be certain. In Toronto, years ago, Ad Astra was the only con in town, and we tried our best to cater to as many groups as we could with the money and space we had available. However, many groups demanded more time and space, we couldn't oblige them without angering others, and that's when the local Trekfen, filkers

and anime fans took things into their own hands, and started their own cons. Now Ad Astra is the smallest of the major cons, and most treat it as a start-of-the-season party. I like to party as much as anyone, but I remember when Ad Astra was supposed to be about science fiction literature? Oldpharthood rears its ugly head. Having too many cons in town means that the chances of seeing all your friends goes down, but I think that as the specialty cons drop in popularity (our own local Trekcon, just having reinvested itself as a general mediacon, is still suffering from lowering attendance), the idea of the general interest convention may make a resurgence, if only to pool resources to fight rising prices of guests, function space, insurance, etc.

I believe these things go in cycles as people's interests in cons peak and wane. It's all about attendance and economics after all. I'm all for quality as opposed to quantity, and I'd rather go to a general con where all my interests are satisfied instead of a specialty con where I'm limited to enjoying just one or two subgenres.

Good to see Cheryl Morgan is still around. I miss *Emerald City* as well; I might not have been able to read the books she reviewed, but the zine gave me an idea of what was happening in SF&F at the time.

I saw on Trufen.net that George Takei will be attending the Japanese Worldcon, much to the chagrin on many North American fans who won't even be in Japan to see it. George is a fine guest and dinner partner, always smiling and genial, and probably one of the most recognizable Asian actors in the world. Nippon 2007 will be better for his presence there, and I want to read reports! (I remember when I was at the Dutch

Worldcon in 1990, alongside the Worldcon was the Perry Rhodan Worldcon, with many German fans in suits attending and enjoying their own look into the Perry Rhodan universe. I don't recall any screaming about that...)

We'd love to have a report on that as well. We're working on getting some coverage.

Hey, Chris, if you get *The BASFA Times* on the go, be sure to make it available to all, the way NASFA in Huntsville, Alabama does. You know what I mean, as a downloadable .pdf anyone can grab.

Home stretch here with 49... I definitely want to take the time to read *Consonant Enigma*. The psychology of fandom is a deep-down interest of mine, and questioning why we do the things we do is always worthwhile. So, as soon as I get to it, I want to have some deep discussions via the local.

You are correct about the Chicago in 2012 Worldcon bid, and local fans Alex von Thorn and Marah Searle-Kovacevic are on the committee once again. I think they will have better luck this time around.

Chris the Sasquatch? Ah, now I know why he's forsaking the Corflu people to go to CostumeCon. He's got a new persona to perfect. Or, he wants a guest shot on that new show *Cavemen*...

After finding out how many communities have been losing their bookstores to poor finances and the so-called riches waiting for them online, it is good to see that someone still believes in the printed word enough to want to open a new science fiction bookstore. Way to go, Sharon Halton, and fandom, please support this new store!

Local bookstores are great. And science fiction bookstores even more so. I think that concentrating on something as popular as science fiction will attract a core group of people and hopefully that will be enough for the store to survive and thrive.

Good review of the fanzine lounge. I still think that while there's party venues here and there, the fanzine lounge is a place to get away from the maddening crowds and relax a little. In the evenings, however... Con-X-Treme was that bad? What if they held a con, and no one came? Did Chris walk into a plate glass door and bounce off? There's a commercial with two crows in it like that, IIRC...

Jean, I envy you that trip to London. I'd like nothing better than to go and enjoy a First Thursday pubnight with local fans. The *LOTR* musical you saw was originally the one in Toronto. Those who produced the show held it in Toronto first because the city had a stage big enough to stage it and London didn't. Reviews here were mixed, just like they were in London. I often listen to BBC Radio via the Internet, so I do get English culture on a regular basis. I listen to Jeremy Vine, Steve Wright and Chris Evans on Radio 2. The BBC is setting up a video viewer that will allow you to watch the past week's worth of television programming, so *Doctor Who* fans may be able to watch the newest episodes on their monitors.

I tried to make it up to Toronto to go see the LOTR musical last year but that didn't work out. I couldn't get a group to go see it. So when the opportunity to see it in London came up, I just had to go. I did hear that the Toronto version was four hours long or something like that. They

had to cut a lot for the London version. I do have mixed feelings about the musical too. I liked it but I wasn't bowled over by it. It was more spectacle than substance.

And finally, the TAFF ballot. I've got to get voting here, get some US\$, and fill it out. Hmm, No Award or None of the Above? The choice gets harder all the time...

All done, folks, and I expect this will fill your local. I'm at three pages, and will probably end on the fourth.

I may be fully employed soon. I has an interview with a local advertising agency, and they seem to like me. Next week, I will have four days of paid trial employment with them, and if they like what I can do, and I like being there, I think they will sign me up. Only bad thing is that I will be working the 2pm-10pm shift, which will kill the remains of my social life, but you gotta make the bucks to make the good times (on the weekend!) happen, and that means that I might not have much time to write locs, even less than I do now. However, I will try, and I might be able to get an earlier shift as time goes by. Wish me luck; I've been underemployed for three years now, and I'm tired of it.

Best of luck to you. We all have to pay the bills to do the things we love. Do write to us when you get the chance. But we understand if it just gets too busy for you.

Thanks to all, I think I've gone on long enough, and I expect *Garciazines* to start piling up again in the next few hours.

John Purcell writes:

How about this? I'm on a roll; I have had locs in four consecutive issues of *SF/SF*. This is either kind of a good thing or proof that I have

too much time on my hands. Oh, well...

Say, I am also a bit sad to see *Pixel* going on a self-imposed hiatus, but I can certainly understand where David Burton is coming from. He just wants to take a break and recharge his internal batteries. For that matter, Arnie Katz has hinted that he might do the same thing once *Vegas Fandom Weekly* sees its 100th issue. In either case, both of these gentlemen deserve to take a break; we'll still be here awaiting their next zines.

I can understand them wanting to take a break. Zine publishing takes up a lot of one's life. It's great that there's Chris and me at SF/SF so we pick up the slack for each other when we need to take it easy. And we've got lots of wonderful regular and occasional contributors as well.

The real first thing of note in this issue that I feel the urge to comment on is España's Con-X-Treme non-con report. As much as I don't approve of ghosting a con — I sort of did this when Corflu came to Minneapolis in 1989 (I dropped in for a few hours on Saturday afternoon to say hello to folks and then left) — it sounds like Con-X-Treme deserved such treatment. It certainly appears that the concommittee didn't care enough about the con or its members. If I had been in España's place, I would have left early on and never returned. Phooey on 'em! It also sounds like other BASFAns didn't like the con either, judging by comments pubbed in your minutes later in this ish. Bad news all around. Maybe next year the Powers That Be behind Con-X-Treme will learn their lesson and work harder on their con.

We certainly hope so. It would be great to have another good con at the San Jose

Doubletree.

The other thing that I really enjoyed in this issue was Jean Martin's stfnal and fantastical trip to the United Kingdom, especially Wales. I admit to not being a *Doctor Who* fan, but I still enjoyed reading about Jean's travels and impressions of the Welsh countryside and the Whoviana she saw. A very nicely done trip report with lots of nice photos. Thank you, Jean!

Wow, you deserve a special prize for even reading my very lengthy travelogue. I'm glad you enjoyed it! It was quite a fantastical trip.

By the way, it might just be me, but I couldn't help but notice that both España and Jean are cute. Is this typical of the make-up of BASFA's membership? Besides, my favorite Corflu roomie is usually spotted traipsing around the Bay Area, and you have to like a fan group with members called "Tall Kevin" and "Evil Kevin," and has a Sergeant-at-Arms. Sounds like a fun group of folks, and why visiting the Bay Area is now on my list of Places to Visit Some Year.

Yes, we are all cute here in the Bay Area! Seriously, though, we'd love to have you visit and it would be great to finally meet you.

Finally, I just have to say that your club minutes are fun reading. It makes me wonder how many people outside of your group actually reads these, but I do and usually find a few tidbits to chuckle over each issue. Pubbing these in your ish not only makes BASFA an official club, but it helps to get across the personality of the group. Thank you for running them, and don't stop.

It's great to have an actual science fiction club in the Bay Area, and there is a lot of overlap

between BASFA's membership and SF/SF's contibutors. I haven't made it to a meeting yet but reading the minutes does get me motivated to go. If only there were more days in the week and hours in the day to do everything I would like to do. I'll probably show up one of these days

though.
So that does it for this time around. Many thanks for keeping my string going, and I look forward to yet more reports from NASFiC and other cons and/or events your members attend.
That's what we're here for!

New Web Site to Celebrate Science Fiction Awards

The Hugo Awards, one of the highest honors in the field of science fiction and fantasy, have a new official web site at www.TheHugoAwards.org. The Hugo Awards honor the best in written and dramatized science fiction and fantasy as well as other categories. This new site serves as the definitive site for information about the Hugo Awards, including historical winner and nominee lists, pictures of past Hugo Award trophies, information on how to nominate and vote for the Awards, and an explanation of the rules and procedures for the Award.

The Hugo Awards are named for Hugo Gernsback, who, in 1926, launched *Amazing Stories*, the first major American science fiction magazine. First presented in 1953, the Hugo Awards are presented by the World Science Fiction Society (WSFS). The members of each year's World Science Fiction Convention nominate and vote on the awards, which are presented at a ceremony which is the high point of each year's Worldcon.

Past winners of Hugo Awards include authors Isaac Asimov, Sir Arthur C. Clarke, Robert A. Heinlein, Philip K. Dick, Anne McCaffrey, William Gibson and Neil Gaiman. Hugo Awards have also been given to movies such as *Star Wars*, *Blade Runner* and *The Lord of the Rings*, and TV shows such as *Star Trek*, *Battlestar Galactica* and *Doctor Who*.

The 2007 Hugo Awards were presented on September 1, 2007, in Yokohama, Japan, at the 65th World Science Fiction Convention, also known as "Nippon 2007."

The existing main web site of the World Science Fiction Society at www.wsfs.org remains active as a source of information about the World Science Fiction Society, its rules, and information about past and future Worldcons, while the new The Hugo Awards site will concentrate solely on the Hugo Awards. The new site was designed by a WSFS committee that was charged to undertake actions to promote and expand the visibility of the Hugo Award.

Further information:

Hugo Awards: <http://TheHugoAwards.org/>

World Science Fiction Society: <http://www.wsfs.org/>

Editorial

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

I am burnt. No, I'm not abandoning *SF/SF* or *The Drink Tank* or giving up my TAFF race, but I'm tired. I just wanted to say that now so y'all understand. I've been burning the candle at both ends and sometimes I just wanna lie down and close my eyes, snuggle up with someone special and relax.

The Hugos have been announced and shock...I still don't know. You see, we've got a deadline for the first Wednesday of the month to get her up on eFanzines, so I have to write this about a week before we get the actual results. There'll be people who are very happy with the way things go down and those who will bitch and moan. Go figure. Still, I don't expect to win and I don't expect to be on the ballot again.

Why won't I be on the ballot again? Well, it was sort of a perfect storm to make this nom happen. The Japanese membership of the WorldCon didn't nominate in large numbers and the remaining nominators were from LACon. Now, I met a lot of folks in LA and I already knew a lot of folks who went to LACon and would vote for me. I think I got something like 17 votes last year which was nearly enough to get on the ballot this year. I got lucky, really lucky, and I just don't know if it'll ever happen again. As it stands, I've got two little rocket pins to make me happy.

Not that I need nominations to be happy zining or in fandom. I love this stuff and

especially the good people I've met. It might be a good thing I'll never win one of these things because then I'd have to go on forever thanking people who had a big impact on me. There are just too many good folks in fandom that deserve to be mentioned for all the great stuff they've done with me and for me. I can't even use the "I love you all!" bit because Frank Wu already done did that one!

And somehow, this all leads back to drinking.

That's right, this relates to booze. Not sure how? Well, think about this: fandom's greatest pastime is conversation. Conversation is best when holding a drink in one hand. Therefore fandom is best when one has a drink in one hand. It's basic logic. Most of the world knows I enjoy a good drink now and again, and I have even been working on an issue of *The Drink Tank* all about cocktails and booze and drinking and so on. It all seems very fannish, this drinking. I'm not sure what it is, other than the fact that a majority of humans seem to enjoy feeling drunkish, but drinking and fandom go hand in hand.

And speaking of drinking and hands, there's always The Smooooooth. You see when I think of fandom, I think of our fannish Grandfathers, like SaM, R Twidner, Rusty Hevelin, Harry Warner, Jr., and recently of Bob Tucker. You see, Tucker was a guy who invented a lot of what we've come to think of as fannishness. Fan Humor? That's one of the things

that Tucker gets credit for. Hoaxes? Probably not the first, but one of the most famous of the early fannish hoaxers. Fannish pseudonyms? Tucker might have started that all with Hoy Ping Pong. He was a legend and continued to be a great writer and fan even as he entered into Prodom. You gotta love that.

Now, Tucker had a thing he did with the famous green label Jim Beam. He'd hold one hand aloft and they'd pass the bottle, keeping the hand up. Then when everyone had the drink, they'd swallow and then sweep the hand down saying "Smooooooth!" It has become one of those things that folks around fandom knew about, though since Tucker didn't make it out to the BArea much, we don't have a lot who Smooooooth out here unless they were first from somewhere else.

So you see, liquor has been with us forever in fannish terms. I'm fairly sure at least one person at that first WorldCon had a flask of something. We're just keeping up the good work. That's why I'm proud to say that *SF/SF* will be hosting a party at SiliCon. Details will follow and we're all very excited. If you're gonna be at SiliCon, you must stop by and say hello and enjoy a good time. Yeah, there'll be booze, but there'll also be conversation, food, maybe a copy or two of the zine, and good folks whom you might only know as names under article titles. That's what's great about cons: you finally get to connect those final dots.

Dreams of the City

A Column by España Sheriff

One of the most alluring incarnations of San Francisco in fiction is the detective/noir urban landscape: Crime and glamour side by side, a femme fatale with a gun behind her back or a stylish fog-enshrouded bridge that's the scene of a fatal leap (or was it murder?). In Dashiell Hammet's Sam Spade novels, and then in the radio adaptations and eventually in films like *Dark Passage* and *The Maltese Falcon*, San Francisco modernized its wild Barbary Coast image with a dash of urban style. Hitchcock and others continued the tradition, and detective stories set in the city have flourished ever since.

Which is where *9Tail Fox* comes in. John Courtenay Grimwood is not a San Franciscan, although you wouldn't know it from reading this novel. Set mainly in the heart of downtown, around Chinatown and Financial, it uses the city and its characters as the setting for a supernatural noir that shows a clear love and understanding of its illustrious pulp predecessors.

The story takes place in what is described as a near-future but appears to be essentially a present-day San Francisco except that Chinatown has its own SFPD subdistrict rather than being part of Central, as it is in reality. Bobby Zha is a hard-boiled antihero police sergeant, except he's more boiled than hard when we meet

him. Disliked by his fellow officers, and in fact not terribly popular with most folks except the homeless on his beat, he's a mess when you meet him, and no better when he dies, shot in the back under suspicious circumstances.

Being a cynical and not particularly spiritual guy, Zha's sudden murder is far less shocking to him than his dying vision; the celestial nine-tailed fox Jinwei Hu, which brings a whole slew of new questions to his rapidly fading consciousness.

Of course, this being a genre book, Zha doesn't stay dead. Rather, he wakes up in a hospital in New York in the body of another man — a long-term coma patient, to be precise. He returns to San Francisco to find out who killed him, if and how his own murder is related to the case he was investigating when he died, and while he's at it, to take his last chance at redeeming a life poorly lived, full of entanglements and unanswered questions.

He succeeds and fails in equal measures in realistic and very satisfying ways to the reader, and without the clichés that are tempting in this sort of story. Seeing himself from the outside for the first time, we discover along with Zha that it's not a pretty sight. It's compelling to see him reflect on the effects that his choices in life and his sudden death have had on the people around him. His quest for revenge is dampened a little

when he realizes he might have had it coming.

Although the mystery is a tad too convoluted and doesn't quite tie up as nicely as a detective story should, the characters and settings are vivid and enough answers are given to satisfy.

San Francisco is portrayed very credibly with the spectrum of the city's people and settings explored and a realistic cast of characters. (There is one typo that was significant enough near the beginning of the book to make me wonder if I was reading alternate history.) Chinatown, the homeless, and just the general feel are captured well enough that I checked to see if Grimwood had lived here or written other San Francisco books, and was surprised to find out that although he has visited the city, the author is in fact British.

And as if all that local goodness wasn't enough, there's another local angle. Although originally published by Gollancz in the UK, the US edition was published by local small press Night Shade Books. As with most of their books the cover is gorgeous, sporting Spectrum Award-winning art by Jon Forster, who also paints the covers for Night Shade's Liz Williams novels. In this case the cover design deserves a lot of credit as well; Claudia Noble and Jeremy Lassen cooked up a classic pulp-fiction inspired concept that fits the book to a tee.

Notes on NASFiC (Archon) (TuckerCon)

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

Sometimes it's nice to be the guy nobody knows. I don't often get that chance. I usually have people all around who know who I am and what I do. At Archon, the 9th North American Science Fiction Convention (NASFiC), which was also called TuckerCon, I was mostly unknown. This meant that things were much different from the usual con-going experience I have around California or even Seattle. It was a good time, with a few disappointments, but mostly it was a con that made me realize just how lucky I am.

I flew in. That's a rarity. I hate to fly and usually when I have to, it's for a good reason. My flight out was short, no delays, and the in-flight movie was *Spiderman 3*, which I hadn't seen. They were supposed to show *Shrek the 3rd*, but damn if the machine wasn't having trouble with the tape. I was spared! I arrived in St. Louis and I could tell that something was going to be difficult. As soon as I stepped onto the ramp back to the terminal, there was a momentary blast of air that hit me. It felt like the kind of environment that one would cook a roast in. It was hot. It was wet. My body-type does not work well in weather best reserved for swamps.

I made it through the mercifully air-conditioned terminal and found the light-rail into the city. I took it as close as I could and then grabbed a taxi the rest of the way. I was pleased to get into the car. The driver was parked in a



Somewhere near St. Louis.

Photo by Kathryn Cramer

taxi-only space and walked over to a car that was parked across the way. He told her something and she drove away. I didn't notice the hat thingee until she was gone.

"Even though she's a nun, I still think they'd give her a ticket for parkin' in the taxi zone." The guy explained. He turned on more air-conditioning and we were on our way.

Collinsville, where the con took place,

is about 20 minutes outside of St. Louis. In the bid we were promised St. Louis, MO and we got Collinsville, IL. Dave Clarke thinks it was a case of bait-and-switch. I don't think of it as that much of a problem, but there were some matters when you think about what a downtown convention location would probably have offered (in addition to much higher prices). The convention center was in the center of a cluster of

cheap hotels. There were three or four different price levels available within walking distance. I chose the Hampton Inn, partly because the main hotel, the Holiday Inn, had some very strict rules including pre-payment for the entire stay. That wasn't going to work for me.

There were also restaurants everywhere ranging from the cheap (Arby's, White Castle) to Porter's, a pricey cigar bar/steakhouse. There were a lot of family-type places like Ruby Tuesday's and Ponderosa Steakhouse, which is basically Sizzler. Right across the freeway was a Waffle House. The driver told me it had been built less than a month before. It looked like it was 15 years old and made from left-over parts not used in a Denny's. It was strange.

The problem with the restaurants wasn't that they weren't good, the food was at least edible and probably better than a lot of food you'll find around convention centers in the middle of nowhere, but none of it was distinct. The pricey steakhouse wasn't terribly good as people tell it, and even the Mexican place, which was serviceable, was nothing to write home about. If the con had been in St. Louis proper, this probably wouldn't have been a matter, but it wasn't so let's move on.

I checked into the hotel and got a call from Dave Clarke saying that he had arrived and was using public transit to get to the hotel and it would be a while. I went and registered and moved my stuff into the room. It had taken about 40 minutes and no word from Dave yet about being close. I had a panel that I needed to do, so I went and did it.

The best thing about Archon was the programming. There is no other con I can think of that did more with what they had. While there

weren't a lot of the writers I expect at the big cons, there were a lot of great folks there. The biggest name they had was Laurel K. Hamilton, though they also had my hero, James Ernest of Cheapass Games. The first panel I had was on Alternate History. It was James Dalmas, Steven Silver of Argentus, and myself. I moderated and it turned out to be a fun chat. We talked about books and movies and why the Nazis and/or The South always wins. I still want to find a way to have the Viet Cong win the War of the Roses, but that might just be silly.

Dave called and said that he was there. It had been more than two hours. Some difficulties in the bus lines had made it hard. He seemed beat. We headed over and got his badge and such. After that, I did a little exploring and found the Green Room.

This was the first serious disappointment.

Maybe I'm just used to West Coast cons, but I kinda expect the Green Room to have someone there to help answer questions, and maybe some light snacks for panelists who only have a few minutes between panels. The Green Room at TuckerCon was just a room with chairs (comfy chairs, admittedly) around the edge and a table where there was a water service. That's it. I wasn't expecting a full spread, but having someone there would have been great. I had a panel that wasn't put on the sched and I had to find out about re-scheduling it by running into the head of Science Programming. If there had been a Green Room attendant I would have probably been able to take care of these things. It's a little thing, but I really think it would have helped.

After that, I went to dinner at Zapata's

with Dave. It was a decent Mexican place, if unspectacular, and far better than I would have expected from Illinois Mexican food. I was also sure that Emiliano Zapata and the Zapatistas would have loved the fact that a hacienda-shaped Mexican restaurant in the middle of Illinois was named after him and the movement.

I had a panel late on Thursday about The New Media Paradigm. It was a bunch of bloggers like Tee Morris, the guys from Fear The Boot.com and Ryu Cope of Bad Buddhist Radio. We talked about the democratization of media and about podcasting. I love podcasts and the guys were very entertaining. I'm hoping that Tee posts the recording because there was some great material.

That might have been one of the best parts of the programming. I've seen other cons talk about podcasts, but it was a significant part of the programming at Archon and they even had a podcast studio. That was a great thing. I thought that all the podcast stuff was very solid and I'm hoping that other cons will do the same.

There weren't a lot of parties. That was a matter. There were as many parties at Con-X-Treme as there were on Thursday and Friday night at NASFiC. That was strange. The party on Thursday was pretty slow, but the consuite served beer, so folks were happy. I was underwhelmed by the nightlife. I mean, Westercon had had great parties, and I'd always heard that Midwest cons had a vivid party scene, and yet there wasn't much going on. Now, if I'd had the Booze-Tang Clan around that traditionally goes to the cons that I'm at, we could easily have made things far more exciting, but there was nothing to be done and I called it an early evening.

The next morning was easy. I had a panel

called What We Were Makes Us What We Are. It was about fandom's evolution and history. It turned out pretty well. It was a decent panel with Jacqueline Lichtenberg. I had no idea that she was married to the old fellow I've seen at cons since ConJose. I got to shill TAFF, which was a big plus. I managed to come up with a lot of good little bits.

After that, it was time for White Castle. I'd promised myself that I'd eat at White Castle on this trip since there was one right next to the hotel. I had four sliders and a box of buffalo chicken nuggets. The nuggets did bad things to my stomach, but the burgers were tiny pieces of Heaven.

Back at the con, I went to a few panels, which were all very entertaining. The next one I had was about Future Gadgets. There was a space guy, an SF writer and Howard Davidson, a BArea fan and a good guy. We talked about gadgets coming in the future. One was a personal firewall that would keep auto readers from charging our RFID-enabled credit cards. I wanted a multi-reader medical watch-like thing that would test glucose levels, heart rate, blood pressure and so on. We talked and had a good time.

After that, it was another podcasting panel. It was the same people from the first panel, minus one (the guy who was a screenwriter) and we talked good stuff. I got to use my announcer voice and did a solid plug for FanboyPlanet.com and Illusive Comics. I'm beginning to start seriously thinking about doing a regular PodZine (that's right, a sick and twisted hybrid of Fanzine and Podcast).

After that, I went and did a panel about matching your kilt and PDA. It was a strange

panel and I could only think of Andy Trembley as a good example. Despite the fact that we were in Collinsville, IL, all three panelists were West Coast people.

After that, Dave Clarke and I met up with John and Linda of the Montreal bid. John's chaired a WorldCon and a Westercon and is one of those all around SMOF fellows. They had to go to Kinkos and then we went to a BBQ place they had gone to the night before. St. Louis BBQ is pretty good, though I prefer thicker sauce usually, but this was great. The beef ribs were big and meaty. It was a step behind the BBQ

I should mention that Collinsville, Illinois is the home of the world's largest ketchup bottle.

place we went to in Austin during CorFlu, but it was still really good stuff. The bread pudding was a delight too.

After that, it was back and there were parties. I went to the Kansas City in 2009 party and I pre-supported. While I'm still a giant fan of Montreal (and I did my voting for that illustrious city), Kansas City is a good bid and I hope they do well. Still, I want Montreal to win (and they've got a lot of buzz). The Kansas City bid party was good, but there weren't a lot of people for me to talk to.

Now, anyone who has seen me at a BayCon, or even more so, at last year's WorldCon, knows that I'm usually talking to people or getting called to do something and

run around. I was anonymous in Collinsville. No one knew me, which says nothing for my TAFF chances with voters from the Mideast and South, but I got to go through and see lots of programming. There weren't a lot of parties for me to go through and make my name with the crowd, but I did have fun playing with the folks that I did come across. I went out into the night to give Linda a call.

And here's where things got weird.

You see, there was a thunderstorm, and there was lightning. I wanted to chat with Linda, but to get coverage I had to be outside, and outside there was lightning. Close lightning. Streaking lightning. It was overhead and it was scary, but I had to chat with Linda who was at Costume College. She mentioned something about decorating a turtle. This became a theme. I just kept imagining a turtle done up with Hippie Daisies and Goldie Hawn-type words decorated on it. It was strange.

So there I was, enjoying the outside with all the lightning. That's dedication.

Anyhow, I went back in after it went from streak to sheet lightning. The weather had changed its tactics in its quest to kill me. Dave and I hung around a little bit and I looked at the moon as we were walking back to the room.

It was red. Not just red. Blood red. Not just blood red, but red like the blood of the vanquished. The End Times were obviously upon the State of Illinois. The legions of the zombie dead were on their way and we were all about to be eaten. Dark wizards would attack and clash with the Warlocks of de Kalb County! It would be a bloodreign!!

We got back and I slept well.

After that, it was Saturday. I only had one

panel, so I could enjoy the other ones that were going on. There was a podcasting workshop that I watched and I really enjoyed it. I went to the dealers' room, which was smaller than at most WorldCons but about the same size as the NASFiC dealers' room had been at Seattle in 2005.

I ate another set of White Castles and then headed into my panel, *Wither Fandom (sic.)*. It was Roger Tener, a fan from Oklahoma, Daniel Kimmel, a film critic and fan from Boston whom I'd done a good panel with at NASFiC in Seattle, and myself. We talked about the future of fandom and some good stuff. I like that Tener guy. He does a daily zine that he sends out, and Mr. Kimmel's a good guy too. We were pretty entertaining.

I should mention that Collinsville, Illinois is the home of the world's largest ketchup bottle. I'm not sure who has the world's largest bottle of catsup, but a local church is also trying to build the world's largest ketchup packet. It's impossible to make these things up.

I went to a FanEd's dinner with Joe and Lisa Major and Steven Silver. They're good guys. We talked zines and told a few Harlan Stories over at Rudy Tuesday's. I had a very decent steak. I had seen the commercials for years but we never had one in Northern California.

The parties were better on Saturday night. I agreed to help the Montréal party, realizing that I had been talking them up but not really helping the bid much. I did a simple job: manning the backroom. I made sure that no one came through the exit door, watched the food levels and tried to make sure that people were having a good time.

Here's where I also did a lot of TAFF talk.

I stationed myself, had some great conversations with people from around the world (there was a guy from Australia who came, and there were lots of Canadians) and we chatted and made good fun. We talked a lot about movies, and the girl who wrote the book about Bug-Eyed Monsters (the title, and sadly even her name, slips my mind totally).

So, the party was a good time with great food and Iced Cider. Nothing better than Iced Cider. I love that stuff. There was very little Spruce Beer, but I had some.

Since TuckerCon was dedicated to the memory of Bob Tucker, there was the traditional "Smooth" in his honor. I sadly never got to Smooth with Tucker himself, but I was initiated by Geri Sullivan at CorFlu this year. They had Jim Bean Green Label whiskey, the preferred Smoothing booze.

Chat, chat, chat, nibble, nibble, nibble. Always a good party. I left around 1:30 and then after another call to Linda where I explained the blood red moon and how the army of the undead was ready to take me on as their King, I drifted off to a sleep to the melodious sounds of my CPAP machine.

The next morning I had the panel that had to be added. Since it was in no program guide, I expected no one. The topic was This Old PC, all about collecting old personal computers. Even with no publicity or listing in the official printed stuff, we got about 13 people for a 10 a.m. panel on a Sunday.

It was just me. I talked about computers and we gabbed for almost an hour. We talked about the Computer History Museum and other museums and the fun stuff that was going on. I got a little bit of laughter and I think we learned

a little something too. After that it was restful panels and a Ponderosa lunch. I had called for a car at 3:00, so I went to a panel about Bob Tucker and chatted a few more people up. I worked my magic a little and then we were out to the airport.

Sadly I was on a flight that was delayed, but they showed *Spiderman 3* again and I enjoyed it again. I like flights with films. The best I ever saw was *RKO 281* when I was flying back from Boston once. *Spiderman* was very close. I read a lot of *Dangerous Visions II: Electric Bugaloo*, and enjoyed the hell out of Piers Anthony's piece called "In The Barn." It wasn't bad at all, though the ending was a little strange.

All in all, it was a good con. There was a bit of an identity problem, with it feeling more like an average Archon than a NASFiC.

You should read *The Drink Tank* if you wanna hear more about the philosophy of cons and how the NASFiC fits in with that vision.

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

Westercon Bound

Story and Photos by Jean Martin

Editor

I was a little reluctant to attend Westercon, following so soon after BayCon. It was going to be at the same hotel, and seemed like it was just going to be BayCon Part Deux. I had a blast at BayCon and I didn't particularly want my memories of it tainted by a subsequent experience at the very same hotel, not two months later. But I knew several people who were going and my esteemed co-editor, Chris Garcia, was running the Fanzine Lounge. He even told me that the lounge would be sponsored by *Science Fiction/San Francisco*. Also, I was curious as to how another convention would fare at the San Mateo Marriott. It's funny to me that San Mateo, the city I lived in for over a decade until recently and have been working in for over seven years, has all of a sudden become the Mecca of fandom. I was also told that Westercon rarely comes to the Bay Area, so I had to take advantage of it being here. So I decided to check it out and I was "Gnomeward Bound," as Westercon 60 was titled.

But even with the best of intentions, my personal life intruded and I was only able to experience one day of the convention (which was held from Saturday June 30 through Tuesday July 3rd). Unfortunately, I did not get any days other than the actual 4th of July holiday off, and I had personal stuff I needed to take care of the weekend before.

I made it a point to go on Monday July 2nd, though. The big draw for me was that John Hertz, the creator of my favorite dance, The Congress of Vienna, was teaching a Regency dance class that evening. I took my lunch break at the con so I could register before the registration desk closed. During an hour or so that afternoon, I popped into a few panels, ran into some friends, and said hello to Chris at the Fanzine Lounge. I also went into the dealer's room and bought some costume bits and pieces. Quite a whirlwind lunch! I didn't run into very many people I knew, though, maybe because it was a Monday. But I felt the warm, cozy and familiar feeling of fandom even in that short span of time.

I went back to work and couldn't wait to finish the work day so that I could go back. I had a quick dinner from one of the food stands. Marriott does have the best hotel



Kathe and Phil Gust.

food! Then I checked out the room where the *Serenity* screening to benefit Joss Whedon's favorite charity, Equality Now, was being held. I

was looking forward to the screening as I had missed the two earlier benefit screenings a week or so earlier in San Jose and San Francisco. To my surprise, I didn't know anyone in the room at all!

I ran into a couple of friends outside the screening room and I chatted with them a bit. But I could hear the familiar strains of Regency music and so my ears and feet were drawn to the main ballroom.

There was quite a good turnout for the class considering it was a Monday night. But, again, I was surprised that I didn't know anyone there. Leigh Ann Hildebrand and Leo Schwab showed up a little later, and so did my friends the Gusts (in matching *Flash Gordon* costumes). But there were none of the usual Regency dance crowd.

I was excited to finally be taking a class from John Hertz and he looked fabulous in absolutely authentic-looking, movie-quality Regency attire.

I stayed for the



Clockwise from lower left: Fans at the *Serenity* benefit screening, Jean meets dance master John Hertz, the Fanzine Lounge, Margaret and Kristoph of Avalon Rising.

rest of the class and learned a few new dances. The finale was *The Congress of Vienna*, which was quite interesting to learn from him as he had choreographed the dance. I realized with delight that I've been doing it right all these years.

I introduced myself to John after the class and bought his music CDs and dance manual. I was surprised to find out that he'd heard of me, as he's also a fanzine publisher.

I hung out at the Fanzine Lounge a little bit later and was intending to leave for the evening (I did have to work the next day, after all), but then I found out that there were going to be parties! Somehow I had not expected that, though a couple of my friends told me that I should have, as it was a convention. So I stayed longer

than I had expected to and did my social butterfly round of the parties that night.

The League of Evil Geniuses party was the most popular of the evening, as usual. I ran into lots of people I knew there, including España Sheriff in a spectacular Indian-inspired ensemble. I looked quite conservative next to her in my Ackerman reproduction Regency gown. (I did win a Hall Costume award for it, though.)

I was also hoping to go to the *Firefly/Serenity* party room, but it wasn't open by the time I left, close to midnight.

It was interesting that most of the function rooms were in the same locations as they had been at BayCon. The Fanzine Lounge, the Gaming Room and the Con Suite were all in the same spots. The party rooms were off the same corridors, too. This all made the con so much easier to navigate than BayCon because I was used to the labyrinthine nature of the hotel the second time around.

I got to see musicians Margaret and Kristoph from Avalon Rising and Broceliande play a concert for a little



Next door to the Fanzine Lounge: the busy Gaming Room.



Jean and España breaking hearts at the League of Evil Geniuses party.

while. I like their music a lot. It was a lot more acoustic and low key with just the two of them.

All in all, I was pleased with Westercon. I managed to see a lot in one day and night. Now I wish I had gone for the weekend as well.

Fans Flock to Harry Potter Releases

By Jean Martin
Editor

July was a busy month for Harry Potter fans with the release of the fifth movie in the series, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* on July 11th, and the much-anticipated publication of the seventh and final book, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* on July 21st.

I participated in a costumed event at the Jack London Square Theater in Oakland on July 14th. The Black Fleet Star Pirates Guild organized it and several of its members came in costume, including myself as Cho Chang, to greet theater patrons as they came in and hand out movie posters to several lucky children. After a few hours of working, we got to see the movie, which was quite good, but I felt it lacked the danger and excitement of the last movie. But it's always great to see all these fabulous British actors in the Harry Potter movies. I'm a big fan of Gary Oldman, and he portrays Sirius Black really well. I wasn't very happy with how little screen time Cho Chang had, though.

Jack Avery, on the other hand, showed up at the midnight vigil for the book release in a couple of book stores in Santa Rosa. As this is the last book, there was a lot of hoopla all over the Bay Area and several bookstores sponsored late night Harry Potter costume parties.



Black Fleet members turn out as Hogwarts students and faculty.

Photo courtesy Jean Martin

It's too bad that J.K. Rowling has ended her phenomenally successful Harry Potter series. But at least there will be two more movies coming out over the course of the next two years, allowing fans to celebrate her creation in costume yet again.



Clockwise from left: Diane and Alex give away posters, Harry P. and Cho Chang, Gryffindor meets Ravenclaw at Copperfield's, the scene at Barnes & Noble in Santa Rosa.

Photos courtesy Jack Avery and Jean Martin

Comic-Con Delivers Spectacular Costuming



Photos by Jack Avery

San Diego's Comic-Con never fails to offer lots of well-made costumes. Our intrepid Jack Avery went this year, and brought back these pix.



BASFA Minutes: Meetings 889-892

Meeting 889

August 13, 2007

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

Began 8:02, with whistles.

25 people attended.

We established a party jar.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 888 were accepted as 'drowned out by the umpire.'

There was no Treasurer or Treasurer's report.

The VP reported that he had his wallet and phone stolen yet has had a bit of petty revenge at the thief's expense [other evil plans were suggested to him] - plus there's a Drink Tank out & a new SF/SF will be out Wednesday.

The President reported that BASFA notables Rob and Val Campbell sent the club a nice note and mailed BASFA a check for \$25.00 to cover a vast array of puns they have said in our absence.

We said 'hi' to new attendee Peter Baker - here for the first time & who wishes to find out about SiliCon.

Dave Clark then brought up a security risk - the one now posed by Chris Garcia impersonators!

Remember we will be meeting at the IHOP on Great America Parkway next week.

The Sports Committee reported that there's a free ticket to an A's game available from Kathe, so contact her thru him [Kevin Standlee].

Announcements

[evil] Kevin announced that September 15 is the deadline for submitting sketches to CostumeCon 26's Future Fashion Folio.

Chris announced The Drink Tank has 2 theme issues coming up - one cocktail related and the other is 'about the thing we call Worldcons' so send him content [chrisgarcia@computerhistory.org]

Adrienne announced that 'Torchwood' starts Sept 8 on BBC America.

Reviews

Howeird reviewed 'Avenue Q the Musical' as take Sesame Street in a slum and add racism, sexism, adult content - it was a spectacular production, the set is amazing - absolutely superb & worth full price orchestra seats [there were follow-ons].

Julie reviewed 'Stardust' as it seemed based on a fairy tale called the 'Invisible Kingdom' and was

a nice fantasy story, worth full price, even with chunks of exposition.

Andy reviewed 'Blimp' on the weebbs-stuff.com website as free and still worth full price.

[evil] Kevin reviewed the novel 'Stardust' as an easy read.

Jim reviewed 'Rush Hour 3' as a traffic jam - a waste of time and a snoozer.

Adrienne reviewed 'Underdog' as it didn't bore her as much as she thought it would & maybe worth matinee.

Harold reviewed 'Moliere' the movie as the Aquarius is still the worst theater in the world & the movie as 'Shakespeare in Love' - in French, with beautiful photography, well acted and worth bargain matinee.

Chris reviewed Procrastinators 1-3 as a fine little zine put out by a guy from 'over there' [England] - and worth sending an email to & they may be up on efanazines.com.

[evil] Kevin reviewed the first episode of the new 'Flash Gordon' as he doesn't know if the actors are that bad or if it's the director and not worth cable [there were many follow-ons].

Then we birthday auctioned off Andy for \$28.00 to Julie, who then gave him to [evil] Kevin; plus auctioned off books for \$0.40, \$0.25, \$0.26, a

poster for \$2.50, magazines for \$2.50, a stereo receiver for \$2.00, & videos for \$0.50 & \$5.00.

We adjourned at 9:15.

And the rumor of the week was that ‘through a typo on the ballot, Chris will accidentally be elected 27th president of the United States.’

Meeting 890

August 20, 2007

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

Began 8:00, with pancakes!

38 people attended.

We established a party jar.

Secretary’s report: the minutes of meeting 889 were accepted as ‘14 million tons of rice.’

Treasurer’s report is that last week we took in \$44.10 in the regular jar and \$26.86 in the party jar.

The VP reported that the breaking up with the girlfriend front was not a good idea [in re revenge] but still worth it & there’s a surprise Drink Tank out & a new SF/SF & Chris for TAFF is still in effect.

The President reported that he delivered content to Chris for the BASFA Times.

The Site Selection Committee reported that he’s been checking out places, the Coco’s is booked for next Monday - so we will be meeting here at the IHOP on Great America Parkway next week.

The Party Committee reported that he has all his receipts current & he plans to do parties at SiliCon both on Friday and Saturday nights.

Announcements

Bob announced that he’s moving to Roseville next month.

Dave C announced that a singer, Wing, will appear in SF tomorrow.

[tall] Kevin announced that he’ll be missing the next 4-5 weeks of meetings with his travel plans.

Andy announced that he has a cow.

[evil] Kevin announced that September 15 is still the deadline for submitting sketches to CostumeCon 26’s Future Fashion Folio.

Chris announced the Drink Tank deadline for the cocktail issue is this Wednesday.

Spring announced that Vintacon’s deadline for membership is also Sept 15.

Dave G announced that we will be here at the

IHoP next Monday.

Reviews:

[evil] Kevin reviewed the 2nd episode of the new ‘Flash Gordon’ as ‘Cleopatra 2525’ was more entertaining and that’s it - there won’t be a 3rd episode for him.

Chris reviewed ‘Stardust’ as it didn’t suck, was entertaining [Frank Wu follow-on’d: ‘It’s great!’] and Dave G called it a good date movie], then Chris reviewed a ‘Fanboy Planet’ podcast without him as because he wasn’t there it was great.

Dave C reviewed Wing and picked up ‘Wing Sings Elvis’ and ‘Beatles Classics by Wing’ and says she sings in a high voice and hits the high notes, except where she misses them, but if you like this sort of thing then get it & he reviewed ‘Hex’ [on BBC America] as very British.

Adrienne reviewed ‘Jekyll’ [on BBC America] as pretty gripping and the main character is done very well; she recommends and can’t wait for the finale.

Harold reviewed Annie Leon’s book ‘Working from IX to V’ as interesting & reviewed James Burke’s ‘American Connections’ as worth paperback and not bad & reviewed Showtime’s ‘Californication’ [a sex comedy] as worth watching on cable - funny and filthy.

Frank Wu reviewed the Museum of Science Fiction as really interesting and the museum has one of his paintings there - worth full price [there

were follow-ons].

Dave G reviewed the Las Vegas version of 'Spamalot' among the crap tables as shorter than the Broadway show with no intermission, but worth what they paid.

David reviewed 'Sunshine' [a movie about reigniting the sun] as full of plot holes, recreation physics & coincidences - as worth seeing the first half of & he can't recommend it [there were many neeping follow-ons].

Then Julie announced there's a Legion of Rassilon meeting this Friday at 1st and Trimble.

[tall Kevin] also announced that there is a brand new Hugo award website opened just last night: www.thehugoawards.org & the reviews have been generally favorable.

Frank Wu introduced David Sherman who was visiting us for the first time.

Then we birthday auctioned off Bob for \$12.00 to Chris, birthday auctioned off [tall] Kevin for \$15.00 to Dave C, birthday auctioned off Harold for \$15.00 to himself; plus auctioned off books for \$5.00, wall decorations for \$2.00, a bag for \$2.00, a token for \$1.00, & a pretty rock for \$1.50.

We adjourned at 9:38.

And the rumor of the week was that 'Chris Garcia will be elected president of the League of Wrasslin'.'

Meeting 891

August 27, 2007

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

Began 7:30-ish, with us milling around outside the IHOP [complaining that the IHOP folks did not honor our reservation - but since it was a gun group in there, we didn't complain -too- loudly ^_^]

33 people attended - that we knew about.

We established a party jar.

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 890 were accepted as 'al fresco.'

Treasurer's report is that last week we took in \$63.05 in the regular jar and \$8.25 in the party jar - and his computer is still dead.

The VP reported that there's a Drink Tank out & he has TAFF ballots.

The President was inside, arranging for us to get a conference room [successfully - and the IHOP and Holiday Inn folks were gracious to set us up in one] - and had nothing fannish to report.

The Site Selection Committee reported that we will be meeting at the Newark Round Table

pizza place next week.

The Party Committee reported that he has reservations for party rooms at both SiliCon and Further Confusion now.

Announcements

Lisa announced that there's a party at her place this Sunday, starting at 3 p.m. [366 Richmond Ave, San Jose. Cross street West San Carlos & a block from Leigh Ave] - munchies and a hot tub will be provided - and it's because 'we're not in Japan.'

Julie announced that a friend of hers is looking for a place to store an organ & will help out with the rent, so does anyone have a hall?

Harold and Howeird both announced that there's a total lunar eclipse tonight starting around 1:50am - and that the Chabot Science Hall will be opened from 10 p.m.

Spring announced that she has Vintacon flyers & their deadline for membership is Sept 15.

Adrienne announced that the 142nd annual Scottish Highland Games will be at the Alameda County Fairgrounds this Saturday and Sunday [\$15 for one day, \$22 for both days & on Saturday there's a Dr Who marathon on BBC America.

Dave C announced that CostumeCon 26's dealer's room first date of acceptance is Sept 1, if you're interested check the website and get an application in the mail by Sept 1st &

he announced that the Castro theatre is doing a Harry Potter movie marathon on Sept 1,2,3 and announced that the City of Berkeley gave him a bag of compost.

Ken announced there's a Legion of Rassilon meeting this week at First and Trimble.

Reviews

Adrienne reviewed the 'Jekyll' season finale [on BBC America] as fantastic and worth digital basic & reviewed 'Superbad' as a matter of taste.

Chris reviewed the Golden Gate Ren Faire as a lot of fun and the food was great - it was worth admission and the price of the fried food plate & he reviewed 'Mystery Date' as 'moving . . . gripping...touching; I was moved beyond rational thought.'

Joni reviewed the Dodge 2008 Avenger [automatic shift] as it has a certain 1970's macho thing going on and worth it if you want the motion and not the meat.

Deirdre reviewed the Writers of the Future ceremony as free, they fed us and it was held outside and was a lot of fun.

Ed reviewed Santa Clara's newest tunnel as it was meant to be a tunnel and quite nice, he recommends driving through it & reviewed 'September Dawn' as sensational and melodramatic but based on history and worth full price.

No one wanted to be #6.

Dave G reviewed himself as hungry and easily confused - and reviewed the SJ Giants now have Diamondvision [or a really big TV], that the game was an exciting pitcher's duel and they did strike out the 'beer batter' and if you're fast the half price beer now includes the good beers & was worth free, courtesy of Russell - Mike follow-on'd that he didn't expect any of these batters to rise to SF Giants level & Chris went off on a tangent [since he's been asked to assemble a vintage baseball team].

Dave C could have seen Wing - but went and saw 'Avenue Q' instead and a good time was had by all - go see it - and he reviewed 'Ratatouille' as worth full price and the audience stayed through the credits & reviewed 'Stardust' as great fun, worth full price & reviewed a book 'Imperial Life in the Emerald City' by Shandrasekaran as it's real life and not a lot of fun and worth full price.

We adjourned at 8:57.

And the rumor of the week was that 'I thought the rumor of the week WAS the meeting.'

Meeting 892

BASFA meeting happyakuyuujuuni (Japanese for 892) was called at 9:12 p.m. by acting president Kevin Standlee in the annexed Yokohama Bay Area location. Acting secretary was Carole Parker.

A group photograph of the present BASFA members was taken by previous WorldCon chairman, Vincent Doherty. The question was asked which location would have the most BASFAns in attendance - Yokohama or Silicon Valley?

Allowing for a conversion rate, it was agreed that 30 yen would be the pun tax amount. No previous minutes were available to be approved, and no officers were present, so no officer reports were given.

The sports committee reported that the San Francisco Giants have won five to six games in a row. A follow-on reported that a Japanese woman placed third in the World Track and Field marathon in Osaka.

Ambassadorial Reports - BASFA's reputation remains unchanged according to Pat McMurray. Another committee report, this one to take over Melbourne pointed out that Melbourne still qualifies for WesterCon. We currently have more agents in the eastern hemisphere than at any time in the last century. If all goes according to plan, we could take over Melbourne, but you will note that Dave Clark was not here.

We had some neeping about taking things out of context.

Another ambassador report from Dr. Andrew Adams who will be living in Ikuta for a few more days, and then returns to Redding. After eight months in Ikuta, we pulled off a WorldCon in Yokohama.

The question came up that if you mishear a statement that someone makes, does it count as a pun? This issue will be discussed next week.

Announcements

Daniel Spector's wife joined/was inducted into the local science fiction motorcycle club. They drive 50CC Honda Dreams which are reproductions of Honda racing motorcycles that can go 90 mph.

Glenn Glazer announced that two BASFAnS entered wedded bliss two nights ago at a very special Japanese style wedding. Kimonos were worn by both, with the groom wearing hakama as well. Glenn and Alison Hershey were the happy couple wearing traditional Japanese wedding garments, but I note that the wedding kimono came off after the ceremony was done because the room was so hot. Lots of bodies.

Ambassador John Hertz joined the meeting to make it 13 attendees.

Reviews

Bill Laubenheimer - We spent four days in Kyoto before coming to Yokohama. Kyoto has way too many things to do, you can spend as much money as you care to. We spent more than 25,000 yen on Japanese fabrics. We did nearly as much damage at two restaurants, one which had a 15 foot tall animatronic crab above the doorway. The food was excellent, and it had a taster menu of crab dishes.

Dave Clark had two restaurants to review. "On

the Herb" is at the World Porter mall. It's a nice Italian place with reasonable prices. The other place is NY Grand Kitchen which has a decent grill, good selection of beer, comprehensible to a foreigner, and worth the value.

Daniel Spector has been staying at the Yokohama Hostel Village. It is a mere 2 train stops away. It is clean, quiet, comfortable, and for two, it is \$37 per night. The room is small: 5'9" x 7'. Service is wonderful, but only has one bathroom for one 90 rooms with a single shower stall on the roof. No curfew. They were smart enough to group all other groups together.

Glenn reviewed the Manyo Club. It's 94,500 for seven (7) nights. When staying at the Manyo Club, you have full run of the place which has a spa, shared bath, saunas, foot bath on the observation deck near the roof, full Japanese breakfast. It was noted that Glenn, and our secretary Carole Parker, noted that they could get used to this. Despite not having much English skills, the Manyo Club staff is helpful and patient when speaking with non-natives. Carole also noted that the onsen (baths) are closed from 8 - 10 a.m. for cleaning.

Convention Reviews

Daniel noted that for the art auction, the Japanese had to be introduced to bidding against one another. At first, it started out with a Japanese whispering into the ear of a Western agent, and then the Western agent "making the bid." However, after four items, they got into it. The Japanese artist GOH, Bob Eggleton, and Michael Whelan did a piece together. At first,

Americans were bidding on it, and it got up to \$700. Then, a Japanese bidder got into the act, and the bidding went 1,000, 1,100, 2,000, 2,100, all the way up to 10,100 with the final stall at \$16,000. Because of the artwork that the three artists contributed to WorldCon, a combined total of \$23,500 was raised for charity (the convention). Bob Eggleton was supposed to do some artwork in someone's sketch book (Daniel Spector?), but Bob got freaked out about being part of a piece that got into five digits.

Andrew noted that Inoue-san was extremely happy about the amount of money that the artworks brought in.

Daniel noted that seven different people got art pieces instead of one or two people getting artworks. This was believed to be the highest art auction price in WorldCon history (price neeping happened). Plus, Daniel noted that collecting a Hugo is really neat.

Tall Kevin noted that this was the first time that he saw the Hugos from the audience viewpoint (position) instead of running around in the background.

Bill Laubenheimer noted that in many cases, it seemed like the Japan concomm tried to observe Western WorldCon traditions without paying attention to the function. He noted that filking got put out into outer Slobovia. Attending WorldCon in Japan is worth an attending membership. Tall Kevin noted that Jay Lake only came in for a 30 hour turnaround. A small debate broke out on whether or not Jay Lake is mad or very savvy.

Carole noted that the masquerade seemed to be rather well received when audience members were asked afterwards. Except for the one blot on the show, working with the Japanese was very enjoyable. Others followed-on that it started 47 minutes late.

Glenn felt that everyone he met was wonderful and helpful. The Japanese were really nice, and Glenn and Allison got a tour of Kamakura at the expense of the Japanese hostess who would not allow them to pay for anything.

Daniel's wife described going into a Japanese room party with a Hugo as intense.

Daniel noted that the Japanese respect awards, and they felt that it was a great honor to them. He will vote for future Japanese WorldCon bids.

Tall Kevin originally had some misgivings about a Japan WorldCon, and he is glad that he was wrong. Nothing more than the usual WorldCon noise. It was worth everything that he paid for it. While he would not be ready to come back to Japan next year, he thinks that once a decade would be appropriate.

Auction

700 yen note that was good enough for a ride on the Cosmo Ferris Wheel or another ride at the local amusement park. It is worth one Master level ride, and Daniel Spector paid 71 yen for it. Total monies raised from pun taxes and voting was 4,387 yen. Kevin promised to convert the money to American dollars before handing the treasurer the funds.

Rumor of the Week:

“Although David Brin promised to put his anti Seiun award in a different room (at the Closing Ceremonies) from his two Seiun awards, he will

forget due to fatigue, and they will annihilate each other.”

Meeting adjourned at 22:23.



View of Japan taken by the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) on the “Aqua” satellite, February 20, 2004.

NASA Photo

Bay Area Fannish Calendar

Life is complicated; putting on an event is even more so. Please check before attending, as events are sometimes cancelled or times and locations changed.

New listings are in **red**.

Ongoing events are toward the back.

Wednesday, September 5

The Exorcist (1973)

Castro Theatre

429 Castro Street

San Francisco

www.castrotheatre.com

2:10 and 7 p.m.

\$9

On a double bill with *Sorcerer (1977)*.

Wednesday, September 5

Ask a Scientist: Exoplanet Update

Axis Cafe

1201 8th Street

San Francisco

www.askascientistsf.com

7 p.m.

Free

Since SF State Prof. Chris McCarthy last spoke at Ask a Scientist, astronomers have found 28 more planets, bringing the total number of known exoplanets to 236. What do we know about them?

Wednesday-Thursday, September 5-6

Fantastic Planet (1973)

Rafael Film Centre

1118 Fourth Street

San Rafael

www.cafilm.org

8:30 p.m.

\$9.75

Many people have never seen this movie *not* stoned. In French with English subtitles.

September 5-16

16th Annual San Francisco Fringe Festival

EXIT Theatre

156 Eddy Street

San Francisco

www.theexit.org

The Festival's offbeat offerings this year include *Super Glossy!* (a sci fi satire of women's magazines), *The Children's Museum* (two sisters reunite in the family home and unlock an ancient hidden world), and a new stage adaptation of *The Turn of the Screw*.

Thursday, September 6

Buffy Night

Cerrito Speakeasy Theater

10070 San Pablo Avenue

El Cerrito

www.cerritospeakeasy.com

9:15 p.m.

\$6

Three episodes of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* on the big screen.

Friday, September 7

Music of the Spheres

Lick Observatory

Mt. Hamilton Road

San Jose

www.ucolick.org/public/music.html

7 p.m.

\$30-\$150

Part of the Observatory's Summer concert series, featuring the music of guitarists Daniel Roest & Mark Hanson followed by a talk by astronomer Sandra Faber, and telescope viewing (weather permitting).

Friday, September 7

Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (2006)

Old Mill Park

309 Throckmorton

Mill Valley

www.filmnight.org

8 p.m.

A free outdoor screening.

Saturday, September 8

BeefBowl Anime

Albany Library

1247 Marin Avenue

Albany

12:15-4:15 p.m.

Free

See the screening list at beefbowl.org

Saturday, September 8

Other Magazine Presents

Writers With Drinks

The Make Out Room

3225 22nd Street

San Francisco

www.writerswithdrinks.com

7:30 p.m.

\$3-\$5 sliding scale

With Truong Tran, Jennifer Solow, David Hawkins, Josh Wolf, Melissa Gira.

Saturday, September 8

Music of the Spheres

Lick Observatory

Mt. Hamilton Road

San Jose

www.ucolick.org/public/music.html

7 p.m.

\$30-\$150

Part of the Observatory's Summer concert series, featuring the music of guitarists Daniel Roest & Mimi Fox, followed by a talk by astronomer Adriane Steinacker, and telescope viewing (weather permitting).

Saturday, September 8

Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003)

Albert Park

1 Albert Park Lane

San Rafael

www.filmnight.org



Casa de Fruta may have lost out in its Worldcon bid, but its Renaissance Faire is alive and well. Costumes, combat, crafts, and Renaissance pageantry will be on display in Hollister every weekend from September 8 through October 14. Details at www.norcalrenfaire.com.

8 p.m.

A free outdoor screening.

Saturday, September 8

The Hunchback of Notre Dame (1923)

Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum

37417 Niles Blvd.

Fremont

www.nilesfilmmuseum.org

7:30 p.m.

\$10

Saturday-Sunday, September 8-9

The Singularity Summit 2007:

AI and the Future of Humanity

Palace of Fine Arts Theatre

3301 Lyon Street

San Francisco

www.singinst.org/summit2007/

9 a.m.-6 p.m.

\$50

Summit brings together 17 thinkers to discuss whether we are nearing the creation of artificial intelligence, the desirability of this, and the potential consequences.

September 8-October 14

Northern California Renaissance Faire

Casa de Fruta

100031 Pacheco Pass Highway

Hollister

Weekends, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

\$25/day, \$35/weekend

www.norcalrenfaire.com

Hearty ale, fine foods, crafts, and live performances.

Monday, September 10

Author: Diana Gabaldon

Books Inc.

301 Castro Street

Mountain View

7:30 p.m.

Free

Tuesday, September 11

Café Scientifique: Technology, Privacy and Civil Liberties: The Challenges of Homeland Security

International Building
SRI
Middlefield Road at Ringwood
Menlo Park
6-7:30 p.m.
Free
A talk by Dr. Peter G. Neumann of SRI's
Computer Science Lab.

Tuesday, September 11

Groundhog Day (1993)
Parkway Speakeasy Theater
1834 Park Blvd.
Oakland
www.parkway-speakeasy.com
9:15 p.m.
\$8
A benefit for Oakland Yellowjackets "Bike
Against the Odds" for Breast Cancer Research.

Wednesday, September 12

Pangaea
The Exploratorium
3601 Lyon Street
San Francisco
www.exploratorium.edu
7 p.m.
\$10 or free with Exploratorium admission
An original play by Stephen R. Culp, part
of "Science on Stage," script-in-hand
performances of new plays about science and
technology produced by the Exploratorium and
Magic Theatre.

Thursday-Friday, September 13-14

The Mummy (1932)
Stanford Theatre

221 University Avenue
Palo Alto
www.stanfordtheatre.org
7:30 p.m.
\$7
On a double bill with *The Old Dark House*
(1932).

Friday, September 14

*The Historian vs. The Futurist on Human
Progress*
Herbst Theater
401 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco
www.longnow.org
7:30 p.m.
Free/donations welcome
Niall Ferguson and Peter Schwartz in
conversation; part of The Long Now's Seminars
About Long-term Thinking.

Friday, September 14

The Phenomenauts
Slim's
333 11th Street
San Francisco
www.slims-sf.com
8 p.m.
\$15
The "Rocket Roll" band returns to SF, with the
Slackers and Deals Gone Bad. Tour posters for
the first 100 fans wearing Phenomenauts gear.
All ages show.

Saturday, September 15

*Authors: Michael Cadnum, Ellen Klages and
Pat Murphy*

Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street
San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com
3 p.m.
Free
Reading from the new anthology in which they
all appear, *The Coyote Road: Trickster Tales*.

Sunday, September 16

Tachyon's Twelfth Anniversary Party
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street
San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com
2-6 p.m.
Celebrate Tachyon Publications' twelve years of
saving the world, one good book at a time.

Wednesday, September 19

Joan's Brain
The Exploratorium
3601 Lyon Street
San Francisco
www.exploratorium.edu
7 p.m.
\$10 or free with Exploratorium admission
An original play by David Ford, part
of "Science on Stage," script-in-hand
performances of new plays about science and
technology produced by the Exploratorium and
Magic Theatre.

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

Thursday, September 20

Firefly Night

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

www.parkway-speakeasy.com

9:15 p.m.

\$6

The final episodes of *Firefly* on the big screen: “The Message,” “Heart of Gold” and “Objects in Space.”

Saturday, September 22

Author: Jeff Carlson

Borders

120 Crescent Drive

Pleasant Hill

925-686-4835

2 p.m.

Free

Saturday, September 22

The Phenomenauts

Phoenix Theatre

201 Washington Street

Petaluma

www.petalumaphoenix.org

8 p.m.

\$12

The “Rocket Roll” band plays Petaluma, with the Teenage Harlets, Maldroid, and Keyser Soze. All ages show.

Saturday-Sunday, September 22-23

Vintage Fashion Expo

Masonic Center

1111 California Street

San Francisco

Sat. 10:30-6, Sun. 11-5

\$10 (early bird \$20 Sat. 9-10:30 a.m.)

www.vintageexpo.com

Sunday, September 23

Bad Movie Night: Sin City (2005)

The Dark Room Theatre

2263 Mission Street

San Francisco

www.darkroomsf.com

8 p.m.

\$5

The Dark Room’s resident sharp wits skewer another bad flick.

Wednesday, September 26

Starry Messenger

The Exploratorium

3601 Lyon Street

San Francisco

www.exploratorium.edu

7 p.m.

\$10 or free with Exploratorium admission

An original play by Ira Hauptman, part of “Science on Stage,” script-in-hand performances of new plays about science and technology produced by the Exploratorium and Magic Theatre.

Friday-Sunday, September 28-30

Salute to Star Trek, Star Wars, and Battlestar Galactica

Doubletree Hotel

2001 Point West Way

Sacramento

www.creationent.com

\$369 (less costly packages to be announced)

A Creation con. Announced guests include *Trek* stars Jonathan Frakes, Marina Sirtis, George Takei and Robert Duncan McNeill, Jeremy Bullock and Peter Mayhew from *Star Wars*, and *BSG*’s Jamie Bamber; Friday night features a concert by Warp 11.

Sunday, September 30

Bad Movie Night: Grindhouse: Death Proof (2007)

The Dark Room Theatre

2263 Mission Street

San Francisco

www.darkroomsf.com

8 p.m.

\$5

The Dark Room’s resident sharp wits skewer another bad flick.

Wednesday, October 3

The Birds (1963)

The Lawn at Wente Vineyards

5565 Tesla Road

Livermore

www.wentevineyards.com

Suggested donation: \$9 adults, \$5 children

Outdoor movie night at the vineyard. Café opens at 6:30 p.m., movie at twilight.

Wednesday, October 3

Ask a Scientist: The Science of Big Waves

Axis Cafe

1201 8th Street

San Francisco

www.askascientistsf.com

7 p.m.

Free

Oceanographer Toby Garfield talks about the geography, atmospheric conditions, and laws of physics that conspire to create monster waves. Presented in collaboration with *QUEST*, KQED's multiplatform science initiative.

Friday-Sunday, October 5-7

SiliCon

Doubletree Hotel
2050 Gateway Place

San Jose
www.siliconventions.com
\$45

Media-oriented general SF con features art show, dealer's room, panels, masquerade, swap meet, indy film festival, more. The Masquerade Ball will have a Joss Whedon-verse theme.

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.

Sunday, October 7

Bad Movie Night: The Fog (2005)
The Dark Room Theatre
2263 Mission Street
San Francisco

www.darkroomsf.com

8 p.m.

\$5

The Dark Room's resident sharp wits skewer another bad flick.

Friday-Sunday, October 12-14

Vintacon

Hilton Garden Inn
6070 Monterey Street

Gilroy

<http://community.livejournal.com/vintacon/>
\$75 (designated driver membership \$10)
Alias ReeCon, the fifth Vintacon offers a unique combination of wine tasting and fannish company, and what's better than that? Reservations requested by September 15.

Saturday, October 13

Yorktown Victory Ball

Arlington Community Church Hall
52 Arlington Avenue

Kensington

www.baers.org

8-11:30 p.m.

\$20 at the door, \$15 in advance (by October 11)

A Bay Area English Regency Society event.
Early American costumes admired but not required.

Friday-Saturday, October 19-21

Wrestle Fan Fest

Cow Palace
2600 Geneva Avenue

Daly City

www.wrestlefanfest.com
\$30/day, weekend VIP passes available

Chris assures us that the guest list is stuffed with pro wrestling's superstars. Wrestling matches, vendors, Q&A sessions and photo ops with the stars.

Friday-Saturday, October 19-21

Sacramento Horror Film Festival

The Colonial Theatre

3522 Stockton Blvd

Sacramento

www.sachorrorfilmfest.com

Guests include actors Tony Moran and Tony Todd, and your hosts Mr. Lobo and the Queen of Trash.

Saturday, October 20

SF in SF: Kage Baker

Preview Room

Variety Children's Charity

582 Market Street

San Francisco

www.sfinsf.org

7 p.m.

Free

SF in SF is a regular series of sci fi author readings with discussion and book signing after, and a clever name. Cash bar opens at 6:30.

Saturday, October 20

Other Magazine Presents

Writers With Drinks

The Make Out Room

3225 22nd Street

San Francisco

www.writerswithdrinks.com

7:30 p.m.

\$3-\$5 sliding scale

With Nomy Lamm, Matthew Jacobs, Rachelle Chase, and David West.

Saturday-Sunday, October 20-21

Folsom Renaissance Faire

Lions Park

Natoma & Stafford Streets

Folsom

\$12

www.folsomfaire.com

Dancers, bards, puppets, food, more.

Friday-Sunday, November 2-4

BASCon

Embassy Suites SF Airport

150 Anza Blvd.

Burlingame

www.bascon.org

\$75

A safe and fun place for fans over 18 to discuss “slash” fanfic, now in its 7th year.

Saturday, November 3

Le Bal des Vampires

PEERS Event

Alameda Elks Lodge

2255 Santa Clara Avenue

Alameda

www.peers.org

6:30 p.m.-midnight

\$25

The annual hematophagic gala, featuring vintage ballroom dancing on one floor and Dracula’s Daughter Discotheque & Bar on another.

Saturday and Sunday, November 10-11

JTAF 5

Fort Mason Center

Marina & Buchanan Streets

San Francisco

www.project760.net/jtaf/forms/

\$35 at the door (\$32 until October 31)

The Japan Town Anime Festival relocates from Japan Center to Fort Mason. Guests include akai SKY, Quarter Circle, Stephanie Yanez, The Shogunate, Eurobeat King, Alex Shen.

Saturday and Sunday, November 10-11

ConStruction 2007

Holiday Inn

1740 North First Street

San Jose

www.sfsfc.org/construction.php

\$35 at the door (\$25 through October 31)

A conference about organizing science fiction, fantasy, horror, anime, and related conventions with a focus on Northern California and the SF Bay Area.

Tuesday, November 13

Author: Rudy Rucker

The Booksmith

1644 Haight Street

San Francisco

7 p.m.

Free

Sunday, December 9

Sac-Con

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street

Sacramento

www.sacramentocomics.com

10 a.m.-5 p.m.

\$6

Regular comic, toy and anime show, featuring game tournaments, cosplay contest, more.

Saturday, January 5

Victorian Twelfth Night Ball

PEERS Event

www.peers.org

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

Friday-Sunday, January 11-13

Sac-Anime

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street

Sacramento

www.sacanime.com

\$20

Anime convention featuring viewing room, manga contest, game tournaments, dealers’ room, more.

January 24-28

Further Confusion

Doubletree Hotel

2050 Gateway Place

San Jose

www.furtherconfusion.org

\$40 in advance (through December 30)

10th Anniversary Edition of the Bay Area’s major Furry con is themed “The Fur East.” Panels, art show, dealer’s room, costume contests, more.

Saturday, February 2

Le Mardi Gras des Vampires

PEERS Event

www.peers.org

Details to follow.

Friday-Sunday, February 15-17

DunDraCon

San Ramon Marriott

2600 Bishop Drive

San Ramon

www.dundracon.com

Annual gaming con returns to San Ramon.

Friday-Sunday, February 22-24

WonderCon

Moscone Center South

747 Howard Street

San Francisco

www.comic-con.org/wc/

Comics and media con that seems to get bigger every year. Details to follow.

Saturday, March 1

Pride and Prejudice Ball

PEERS Event

www.peers.org

Details to follow.

Sunday, March 9

Sac-Con

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street

Sacramento

www.sacramentocomics.com

10 a.m.-5 p.m.

\$6

Regular comic, toy and anime show, featuring game tournaments, cosplay contest, more.

Saturday, April 5

The Royal Debutante Ball

PEERS Event

www.peers.org

Details to follow.

Friday-Monday, April 25-28

CostumeCon 26

Doubletree Hotel

2050 Gateway Place

San Jose

www.cc26.info

\$85

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

Saturday, May 3

Chicago Speakeasy Ball

PEERS Event

www.peers.org

Details to follow.

Friday-Monday, May 23-26

BayCon

Hyatt Regency Santa Clara

5101 Great America Parkway

Santa Clara

www.baycon.org/2008

\$50 in advance

Northern California's largest annual general SF convention is on the move again. Diverse panels, dealer's room, art show, masquerade, anime room, hall costumes, gaming, much more.

Saturday, June 7

Gone with the Wind Ball

PEERS Event

www.peers.org

Details to follow.

Saturday, July 5

The Emerald City Ball

PEERS Event

www.peers.org

Details to follow.

Ongoing:

Through September 9

Tezuka: The Marvel of Manga

Asian Art Museum

200 Larkin Street

San Francisco

www.asianart.org

\$12

Last chance to view this groundbreaking show devoted to Osamu Tezuka (1928-1989), the "God of Manga," whose creations included Mighty Atom (known to U.S. TV audiences as "Astro Boy"), Jungle Emperor ("Kimba the White Lion"), and Princess Knight.

Daily

San Francisco Ghost Hunt

Walking Tour

Begins: Queen Anne Hotel

1590 Sutter at Octavia

San Francisco

www.sfgghosthunt.com

7 p.m. – 10 p.m.

\$20

Sundays

Sakramento Anime Society
Rancho Cordova Library
9845 Folsom Boulevard
Rancho Cordova
3-7 p.m.

Meets every Sunday to watch old and new anime and anime music videos, play collectible card games, practice artwork and make AMVs.

Mondays

Bay Area Science Fiction Association
Currently looking for a new regular meeting location. Check the website for details.
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
www.parkway-speakeasy.com
Midnight
\$7
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.

SF/SF Meetup

Mysterious Future Bookstore

531 Fifth Street

Santa Rosa

scifi.meetup.com/348/

Regular meetup for North Bay fans on the second Sunday 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.