

Science Fiction/San Francisco

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Thanks to Howeird for the photo on Page 4.

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News and Notes

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

Good stuff is coming to finish out the year. There's plenty on eFanzines, there's a big con coming up, and people are doing great stuff for the coming con season.

The first thing I wanna say is how great things are on the LosCon front. Panelists got their list of panels and I'm on a few. It's looking like a good time. There's gonna be a TAFF auction too!

And no, I haven't heard who won yet. Keep your pants on!

There are some folks who have been complaining about having trouble reaching people within the con. These things happen sometimes. I'm not sure what the status is for the Fanzine Lounge, but I'm sure I'll hear more soon.

eFanzines has good stuff available. The last *Askance* for 2007 is up and there's a lot of good writing, including some fine stuff from Arnie Katz. While Arnie and I don't agree on a lot of things, like what Fandom means and who is a Fan, I gotta say that I like the way he puts together his arguments. The entire issue is strong and I'm hoping we see more from John next year.

Dave Burton's *Pixel* is planning a comeback for next year. I was one of his columnists and he always put out a really strong

zine. He's probably knocking back the number of issues per year, but really, his stuff is worth waiting for!

Robert Sabella put up another *Visions of Paradise* on eFanzines too. Good ish, as Robert's usually are. I need to LoC it still! It's been a while since I sent one Robert's way!

Kristina Kopnisky's *Consonant Enigma* issue two is out and it's as good as, if not better than the first issue. Her sense of layout is solid and the writing is good too. I loved the first issue and this one's gold with lots of LoCs and strong articles. I read it twice, and not just the part I wrote! Word has it that James Bacon's planning on subbing something for the next issue. That'll be good stuff, I'm sure!

Anna Davour's *Physicality of Words on Paper* is up too. She ran for GUFF and she's one of my favorite underread writers. There are a few of those in Sweden/Finland/Norway/Denmark/anywhere in Europe other than the UK. I really should try and find more from them!

Tommy Ferguson, Mark McCann and James McKee have put out *Gotterdammerung Redux* and it's one of the few things I haven't read yet. I know the first one and that was strong stuff. Give it a read.

I haven't seen the new *Chunga*. Not sure why, but I heard that they sent it to the UK not that long ago. The new *Banana Wings* is great reading, especially when you take a look at Mr. Bacon's article on comics. Great LetterCol too!

TAFF Winner Announced

Chris Garcia has won the 2008 TransAtlantic Fan Fund race by a clear majority of the 174 votes cast. Further details of voting will be announced shortly. We would like to thank the other TAFF candidates — Linda Deneroff, Chris Barkley, and Christian McGuire — for standing for TAFF this year and making it a real race.

Chris will be attending Orbital, the 2008 Eastercon, next March as part of his trip. Details of his TAFF itinerary will be announced when they are available.

**Suzanne Tompkins, North American TAFF Administrator • suzlet at aol com
Bridget Bradshaw, European TAFF Administrator • bugshaw at cix co uk**

Letters Of Comment

Well, it's time for the Texas Dandy: John Purcell!

Well, here we go again. Another couple weeks have gone by, so that must mean it's time to send a loc on *Science Fiction/San Francisco*.

Chris Garcia replies: Yep, we are steady as the seasons...and with global warming that gives us a lot of latitude.

I am afraid that this time around this loc is going to be brief. That does not mean, however, that I did not enjoy the latest issue. Far from it. As usual, the zine is fun to read, full of solid articles and photographs. It's good stuff, so even though somebody like me may not find much material worth commenting on, that does not mean it's time to pack up your metaphoric Gestetner and steal away into the gloaming night; it merely means that there really wasn't much to comment on.

There's never a chance of that happening with me, you know! I'm not an egoboo (oh how I hate that word) whore and I'll just keep going as long as there's air in my lungs and spring in my fingers to type with!

...Which happens from time to time. For example, the hubbub over this year's Hugo Award design has subsided, and all of the fall conventions are in full swing. In fact, this coming Thanksgiving Weekend is the annual LosCon, is it not? I don't know if any of you BAreans are going, but if any of you do, have a good time. There are a lot of LA fans that I know — haven't seen them for many a moon — and

they are a nice bunch of folks. So go and enjoy yourselves.

And I'm still the guy who loves the design. There'll probably be a lot of stuff from LosCon, especially since so many of us BAreans tend to go (almost as many as attend Wiscon, on average) — and I'll be running the Fanzine Lounge!

Well, today is the deadline for North American TAFF ballots to be received up in Seattle. I sent mine in last week, so that's a done deal. I really hope there was a lot of participation this year; with four fine candidates on the ballot, there should have been decent interest in this year's race. Good luck to all of them — especially that Garcia kid — and it shouldn't be much longer until we know who's gonna need to take the swim across the Atlantic to jolly old England.

I am currently biting my nails trying to figure out if it's possible that I could have won. I'm still betting on Christian getting the call, but who knows. Time, and Suzle, will soon end the waiting...

Lloyd Penney posed the question, "Is SF dying?" and my initial response is, "I don't think so." Like you said, trends of all stripes run in cycles, and maybe written science fiction is merely on a down-slope right now. My thoughts are that literary SF is going through another change right now. As an entertainment genre, popular media SF is of one particular style — slam-bang action, lots of special effects, etc.

— and so written SF may eventually counter with material that focuses more on personal/interpersonal subjects and plots, keying on character development and motivations, and so on. Who knows? We can ponder the possibilities here until the space cowboys come home, but the only way we'll find out is what new writers will be producing over the course of the next few years. I plan on hanging around for awhile, so together we shall all see what develops.

Didn't Earl Kemp tackle that in the incredible "Who Killed Science Fiction?"

In the meantime, there is still new stuff being published, some of it very good, but there's plenty of wonderful old science fiction to read. For example, I've been re-reading (for relaxation when I get some time) *A Canticle for Leibowitz*. What a great book! It is still as relevant today as when it was written in the late 50s. A good story will always be a good story, and I am really enjoying it again. So if you find yourself sitting around with nothing new to read that looks interesting, hit the bookshelves and grab a book you haven't read for a couple decades. That ploy works for me every time I get this feeling. I like good writing from any era.

You know, I still haven't finished Canticle. I never realized that it was written in the 1950s! I always thought it was from the 80s. It's writing is very modern and certainly felt Post-Dangerous Visions. As far as a good story always being a good story, try reading Heinlein today. Like most cheese, it has begun to smell as it has aged.

Speaking of writing — and seeing the assorted photos in SF/SF — next weekend is the final weekend of the Texas RenFest, so we'll probably be going. I sure hope so. The weather lately has been perfect for it: mid-70s temps, a bit windy at times, but mostly sunny. There is a chance of rain over the next few days, but not that much. I certainly hope the weather holds because if it's like this next weekend, that would be very nice indeed. Then I could write up the event. Works for me.

Have a good time! I'm probably going to my next Ren Faire whenever The Lovely and Talented Linda ends up performing at one. I've already decided that I have to go to Dickens Fair just so I can do my Gentlemen's Pugilism Club bit.

Chris, your plans for the upcoming Holiday fannish season make me a bit envious, but I forgive you. Our plans are simple: Christmas with family up in Kansas City (my sister-in-law's family lives up there) so like last year, the gathering of the tribe is centered at her house. It was fun last year since it snowed one night, and that was the first time our kids had seen snow since the winter of 2001 when we lived in Iowa. It really never snows — or very rarely — here in the College Station area. I'm not complaining; this is a statement of fact. Personally, I don't miss scraping car windows or driving on snowy/icy roads; however, I do miss the changing of the seasons and having gardens.

It snows even more rarely here in Santa Clara (I have pictures of me playing in the snow around the age of one and it didn't snow again until the day I came back from Boston in 1998 for Christmas. It was an El Nino year...)

Well, over all, good stuff, Jean and Chris. Keep them coming, and enjoy the upcoming holiday season. I will do my best from this end.

We do what we can, and without David doing the layout and fixing my grammar, we'd not have anything to celebrate!

And don't forget to read and loc *Askance* #5, now posted at efanazines. Chris has already, so pass the word along. Thank you.

I heartily recommend it!

All the best,
John Purcell



It pays to be persistent: Garcia at SiliCon in 2006.

Photo by Howeird

Editorial

By Jean Martin

Editor

It seems like I'm just as busy in my new single life as I was in my previous coupled life. I still have all the same social activities and fandom events. But what has really taken center stage this past month or so since I moved into my new apartment is just staying at home and enjoying my beautiful, cozy and homey one-bedroom. I was worried I was going to miss being in an actual house with three bedrooms and a front lawn and backyard garden. Well, having my own space, surrounded by things I love that reflect who I am, and having precious peace and quiet has more than made up for it. Also, having a view of the pool from my balcony and an honest-to-goodness garage makes me feel like I do have my own house!

Also, I'd forgotten that deep down, I'm really a homebody. For the past three years, I've been out in the world too much. It's been fun, but I went way past what was good for me. I've neglected the things I love to do at home because I haven't had the time and energy. So, I've been zealously filling up on hobbies and interests that I haven't had the chance to pursue in a long time.

I've been watching a lot of movies on DVD: the type of movies I like, without having to feel defensive, or compromise on something that someone else has to like. Or else separate myself from someone for a few hours when we already

had precious few times available to be together. Guilty pleasures such as escapist fantasy and science fiction, or period dramas and musicals. Guilty pleasures they may be, but they have put a smile on my face, nourished my spirit, and fired up my imagination and creativity. That's when I realized that I can't stop watching these things even though someone else doesn't like them or judges me for them, because I need to fill up to inspire me to do what I love to do most, which is to be creative in lots of different forms. From writing to photography and scrapbooking to costuming and dancing and singing... and who knows what else might strike my fancy in the future. I've actually been enjoying cooking and baking, which I find is quite creative as well. I'm beginning to feel more like me again, and am excited that I'm back to doing creative stuff at home.

Recently, I've watched *Fantastic 4: The Rise of the Silver Surfer*, and found I liked it better than the original, which I thought was boring and formulaic. The sequel was still formulaic but a little bit more entertaining. I also finally got to see *Brigadoon*, a musical fantasy set in the Scottish Highlands, starring Gene Kelly, one of my all-time favorite performers. Old movies just connect with the heart and emotions more, and not just with the audiovisual senses like most movies do nowadays. I've also been watching a few episodes of *Relic Hunter* with Tia Carrere. After *Xena* went off the air, *Sydney*

Fox was the next best thing as a replacement female action hero. *Relic Hunter* obviously had a smaller budget, but I loved watching a female Indiana Jones traveling all over the world on archaeological adventures. It's an added bonus for me that Tia Carrere is part Filipina and that she's sexy but also brainy and strong. A great role model for girls, I think. Too bad the entire series is not available on DVD.

Speaking of not available on DVD, I've heard a lot about *Blackpool*, a musical/drama/comedy/mystery set in Blackpool, England, the ballroom dancing capital of the world. I finally broke down and ordered it from Amazon U.K. because it's not available here in the U.S. It stars David Tennant, the 10th Doctor. Well, it's bizarre, funny, sad, gritty, and romantic. The characters break into song, they have musical numbers, and it's just fantastic and original. The songs are real songs that the actors sing along to. My favorites are *White Wedding* by Billy Idol, *Should I Stay or Should I Go* by the Clash, and *Should I Stay?* by Gabrielle. If anyone's interested in checking these out, they are available on YouTube.

I've also started reading again. I haven't really read much in the last three years. Prior to that, I used to read a book a week. I finally finished *Ancestors of Avalon* by Diana Paxson (based on Marion Zimmer Bradley's *Avalon* series)... so that's got my interest in fantasy covered. I finished "reading" *Lords of the North*

via an unabridged audiobook by my favorite historical fiction author Bernard Cornwell (who wrote the *Sharpe* series). This book is the third in a series, set during the era of Alfred the Great and the wars between the Saxons and the invading Danes, so that's historical fiction covered as well. As for science fiction, I'm currently listening to the unabridged audiobook (20 discs!) of the *Butlerian Jihad*, the first in a trilogy of prequels to Frank Herbert's *Dune*. The trilogy is called *Legends of Dune* and was written by Brian Herbert (Frank's son) and Kevin J. Anderson. I'm really enjoying finding out the history of how the thinking machines enslaved humanity and how humanity overthrew their overlords. The novel also introduces the ancestors of the Houses of Atreides and Harkonnen as well as the origins of the Spacing Guild, Fremen, Tleilaxu and the Bene Gesserit. For a more "recent" history of the Houses Atreides and Harkonnen, and even House Corrino, check out the excellent prequel trilogy titled *Dune: House Trilogy*, also by Brian Herbert and Kevin J. Anderson.

I've also been collecting media. I've recently purchased DVDs of some episodes from the *Sharpe* series (starring the dashing Sean Bean from *Lord of the Rings*), the *Cadfael* series (a medieval mystery starring Sir Derek Jacobi as a former crusader turned monk) and *Red Dwarf* (I'm sure everyone knows this sci fi comedy). I've also been buying some heavy metal CDs (I'm still a rocker chick at heart): a Christmas album by several hair metal bands and a new *Tesla* cover album. Oh, I also bought the latest Gwen Stefani CD in honor of my seeing her in concert a few weeks ago. A friend of mine won a luxury box suite at the Oracle Arena for her concert and he invited 17 of his friends to

join him. It was quite an experience! I used to go to a lot of concerts in the early 1990s as a photographer and so I had access to the photo pit right in front of the stage. Before and after that, I was a paying customer and still enjoyed being in the crowd. But being in a luxury suite has just spoiled me for anything else. We had a buffet of food at the bar area, a refrigerator stocked with drinks, a waitress who took orders, a bathroom, a coat closet, bar seating and movie theater seating. And this was all private, just for our group! And our box was right in the middle across from the stage. I enjoyed the concert very much in addition to the amenities. Gwen is quite a performer and the dancing and costumes were impressive. I did enjoy her first solo album and liked the songs from her second album enough to buy that right afterwards. It's not as good as her first but still a worthy effort.

The latest reignited interest for me is scrapbooking. I've been (Creative Memories) scrapbooking for ten years as of this year. This activity has suffered these last three years, mostly because I've been taking so many photos due to all the events I've been going to that it was taking too much time just to sort, save, edit and print photos. Since I switched to a digital camera, I've been taking 100 times the number I used to take because I'm not limited to film. A one-gigabyte card can hold a lot of photos! I love doing layouts, journaling and putting my photos in scrapbooks. I love paper and stickers and colorful stuff.

But my passion for scrapbooking has taken off again because digital scrapbooking has finally gotten to a point where it is just as creative, user-friendly and customizable as the real thing. Creative Memories has just come

out with a software program called StoryBook Plus and it's so easy to use and everything is there on the screen: your book, your photos, design elements, different functions, etc. I'm quite blown away by it. The only problem is, my laptop is not very powerful and this program uses up so much juice that it's really slow when I use it. Someone else who had brought a better laptop to a recent scrapbook workshop showed me her digital scrapbook, and hers worked with lightning speed. What's great about the program is that you can move anything around, resize, crop, shape, and what have you, and you're not limited to templates like other programs. You can even add digital "stickers" and "papers."

I haven't finished an album yet but I've seen samples and they look fabulous! It still takes a long time, but not as long as a regular scrapbook. Now what to do with my ten hard copy finished scrapbooks? I'd like to digitize them for safety's sake. That's another reason why I'm switching to digital, because I'd like to be able to make multiple copies in case something happens to the album. I haven't found a large format color scanner for an affordable price, however. I've been scouring the Internet for one and they are all professional-grade and quite expensive. Epson just came out with a consumer version just this year, but even that is \$2,500. I figure that there will be more and more demand for one from scrapbookers (based on posts I've seen in scrapbooking forums), so more options will be available in the future and prices will come down eventually. That's how the technology cycle operates. We live in such an exciting time where technology is just revolutionizing how we do things on an individual level... even with scrapbooking!

Speaking of technology, thank God for the Internet, because I feel like I'm connected to the world from home, so I don't feel too isolated living by myself. Everyone is just an email away, and any data I need is just a Google search away. I'm not much of a phone person and rarely talk to people at home, except to plan things or exchange necessary information. I like talking to people face-to-face for the immediate interaction. Talking on the phone has always felt strange to me because I'm hearing a voice but not seeing a person. On the other hand, I love email because it's not in real time and I can think before I write, and do it whenever is convenient for me. Then the other person can also respond when it is convenient for them.

The Internet also makes it possible for me, Chris, David, and all the rest to bring you this here zine from the comfort of our own homes. With the rock music magazine I published in the early 1990s, I used to have to do layouts using the old cutting and pasting method on a layout board, and then I had to take that to a printing press. I would then have to pick up the issues and drop them off at various locations all over the Bay Area. That all took a lot of time, energy and money. Now we can publish for free on the Web. Technology is awesome.

Anyway, as I mentioned earlier, I'm still doing a lot of fandom-type events. October started with SiliCon. Later in the month I got very busy with a Legion of Rassilon meeting, two Halloween costume parties on the same night, a Halloween event at the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos, and of course the actual Halloween night, which I spent in a Foster City "safe streets" neighborhood. It was in a different location this time and it was quite amazing.

I didn't wear a costume, though, because it's usually cold out on Halloween and no one would have seen a costume underneath my overcoat. I costume year round anyway, so this is one opportunity when I don't wear one!

November is proving to be just as hectic, with the Gwen Stefani concert starting the month off with a bang. Then I went to the PEERS Bal des Vampires, a BAERS Friday night dance party, the *Battlestar Galactica: Razor* movie screening event, a scrapbook workshop, and a volunteer gig answering the phones for KTEH on British night (which included an episode of *Doctor Who*). Oh, and I also bought a new car.

Well, Thanksgiving is coming up and Christmas and New Year follow shortly after

that. This year has just gone by so fast! I feel like I'm on a rollercoaster and I am hanging on for dear life. It's a thrill ride, that's for sure. But I'm not quite ready to look ahead into the New Year, as Chris did in his Editorial last issue. I'm still processing and making sense of this year. I don't think there will be very many fannish activities coming up as the year winds down. Most people will probably be spending time with family in town or going away to be with family. Or just plain going away.

I hope everyone is having a great 2007 so far and I wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving! Let's all be grateful for all the blessings we have in our lives, which are so numerous when we stop to think about them.

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

Lee Meets Lee: A Stan Lee Tribute

By Lee Hester

Contributing Writer

On Sunday November 11, I was pleased to attend a dinner in honor of Stan Lee presented by the Cartoon Arts Society. The dinner was held at a nice country club in Northridge, near Los Angeles.

We were all milling about in the lobby when Stan came bounding in. Despite his 85 years of age, he was spry, witty, and alert. He was throwing out quips and had the timing and delivery of Bob Hope. He went up to the desk and asked in a worried tone, "Am I on the guest list?"

Friends and fans immediately surrounded him. I had traveled to L.A. at the invitation of my friend Jerry Boyd. One year ago, I had come to the same spot to join the tribute to the great Jack Davis. This year, I was back again. I had never actually met Stan Lee, and I wanted to remedy that, if circumstances permitted. I went around the room saying hello to some of my friends who were in attendance.

I saw my buddy Raphael Navarro and his wife Irma. I talked quite a bit with Paul Power, and met his friend Michael Town who is writing a new Image comic called *Shark Man*. I got a

chance to talk to Gary Owens, a very nice fellow, whom I had met earlier at Comic-Con.

I also talked to Javier Rodriguez, Michael Aushenker, Javier Nat Gurtler, Bill Morrison, Heidi Silver, Mike Wellman, and probably a bunch of other people I am forgetting.



After a while of circulating around the room, I saw that there were just a couple of people around Stan. I moved in and waited for my moment. Stan was talking intently with one person about the writer's strike. Stan made a good comment about the strike. He said, "You

know they are going to settle this thing. They have to settle. They are going to settle three months down the road. Why don't they just pretend that three months have gone by, and settle it now? Why do they have to wait?"

I jumped in: "Because they have to wait until everybody is hungry." Stan nodded in agreement and looked over, and now I was a part of the conversation. I took the opportunity to introduce myself. I shook his hand.

Lee: Hi Stan, I've never had the chance to meet you before.

Stan: What's your name?

Lee: My name is Lee, and I own a chain of comic book stores called "Lee's Comics."

Stan: Is Lee your first or last name?

Lee: It's my first name.

Stan: Where are your stores located?

Lee: They are in the San Francisco Bay area.

Stan: You came all the way down from San Francisco to see *me*?

Lee: Yes, it's my pleasure.

Stan: How long have you been in business?

Lee: Twenty-Five years?

Stan: Twenty-five years? If you were just

open for four years I was going to wish you luck, but after 25 years, it's clear that you know what you are doing. Say, some guys approached me about doing a chain of comic book stores called "Stan Lee's Comics." I was going to do it, but Marvel wouldn't let me.

Lee: That's a shame. I think they would have been a hit.

Stan: Listen, Lee, I have a terrible memory and I just heard a joke, so I have to tell someone before I forget it and it goes right out of my head, so I'm telling you. There was a guy standing around in a leather jacket, and a woman came up to him and yelled, "You killed a cow so you could wear that jacket!" The man replied, "I didn't think there were any witnesses. Now I have to kill you too!"

Just then Sergio Aragonés walked up and I shook his hand and said, "Hello Sergio." Sergio said, "Hello my friend." Stan said, "His name is Lee!" and with that, I departed Stan's company a happy man. I went back to talking to friends around the room, and making new friends, content that I had had my moment with Stan. He's a precious resource, but I didn't want to hog him for too long.

Later on, Jerry presented Stan with a drawing he did of Stan surrounded by the characters 1967, 40 years ago. Stan was very happy to receive it. Stan has this special quality shared by a few truly great men. He manages to make all the people around him feel special.

After a while Bill Morrison called the meeting to order, and there were several lively presentations honoring the man of the hour. There were a couple of videos highlighting Stan's career. Mark Evanier and Marv Wolfman

gave excellent tribute speeches. Scott Shaw presented a special Stan Lee edition of his delightful Oddball comics presentation.

Stan Lee was presented with the Sergio award by Sergio Aragonés. He got up and delivered a terrific speech that had the audience in stitches. After he was done, he got up again, and said that he forgot to say something. He gave a short speech that gave his many collaborators at Marvel equal credit for the success of Marvel.

Sometimes life experiences can teach us valuable lessons. I believe I learned something from this evening, and I want to share it with you.

What makes Stan Lee tick? What can we learn from him? Stan Lee is an energetic, creative, witty and intelligent man. He showed great talent at an early age. He is constantly creating and improvising. He is an outgoing guy who includes those around him in his fun and creativity. He is an icon that is loved by millions.

In the 1930s and 1940s, DC Comics brought forth a line of super hero comics that became familiar to the world. Many others tried, but it took an extraordinary man to create a new line of comics and characters that not only matched DC's output, but exceeded them in popularity. The new framework that Stan Lee created for American comic books is still the dominant one to this day.

The work that Stan Lee did is not always visible to some. You can look onto the pages of classic Marvel Comics and see the obvious brilliance in the art of Jack Kirby, Steve Ditko, John Romita, Gene Colan or John Buscema. Sure, it says that Stan Lee wrote *Fantastic Four*,

X-Men, *Spider-man*, *Daredevil*, *Hulk*, *Silver Surfer* and all the others, but how much did he really do, the skeptics ask? Some have suggested that the artists do most or all of the work, and Stan gets all the credit. To me this makes about as much sense as saying that John Lennon was the only good Beatle.

The classic marvel comics of the 1960s were a true collaboration. Stan helped to bring the full genius of all the great talents to bloom at Marvel. They all had long careers before and sometimes after Marvel, but they were never better than when they teamed up with Stan. Stan had the vision to select these artists and nurture them until they hit their full potential.

Excellence does not happen by accident. A movement like the Marvel Age of comics was carefully constructed, brick by brick, by a man of vision. Stan cared the most about quality, excitement and innovation, and that's what put Marvel on top.

Do you want to be the next Stan Lee and revolutionize the field that you are in? Here's what you do. Be a person of boundless energy, curiosity and ambition. Care about those around you, and make them feel important. Work with the very best, most talented people, and help guide them to their true potential. Ceaselessly innovate and promote your activities. Make everyone want to belong to your group. Find a new way to make your endeavors fresh and new. And as you move ever onward, and ever higher, don't forget to intone Stan Lee's credo: EXCELSIOR!

For more information on Lee's comic book stores in San Mateo and Mountain View, visit: www.Lcomics.com.

ConStruction Brings Out the SMOF in You

Story and photos by Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

The fifth ConStruction conference was held at the Holiday Inn San Jose over the weekend of the 10th and 11th. It was attended by 38 people, far more than most folks expected, representing most of the major cons in the BArea.

The weekend was full of panels about running cons, and there was food and talk from the good people at the San Jose Convention and Visitors Bureau. That's the entire con in a nutshell, but there's a lot more to it.

The Lovely and Talented Linda and I stayed at the Holiday Inn in a comfy room with very little closet space. I got there first and checked in, making sure the room was ready for the weekend. That meant I checked to make sure the TV worked. It did, on almost every channel. A&E was showing *The Godfather Part III*, the worst of the Godfather films but the one I have the most fun

con-runners' watching. It's got Andy Garcia and Joe Mantegna for ghod's sake! That's good casting! The show was very quiet, so I had to turn up the volume all the way, but the commercials were really loud,

so I had to turn it back down every time one of the William Shatner Priceline Negotiator spots came up. That got annoying so I just put on the closed captioning and left it at that.



What Secrets of Fandom are Mo Starkey & Kevin Roche learning?

After a while, it was time for the dessert gathering that SFSFC (San Francisco Science Fiction Conventions, Inc.) had put together. I like a good dessert and I was one of the early folks down there. I ran into some folks I didn't know, whom I figured correctly were Fanime people. I spent some time chatting with Nancy Cobb and Kevin Standlee and was having a genuinely good time.

The food was well-set, though it wasn't really dessert. There were cocktail shrimp, which I refer to as dessert shrimp, and little mushroomy type thingees. There was a tray of cookies, but those ran out quicker than the rest, and that left some folks a little annoyed for the rest of the weekend.

A great many folks really hate the Holiday Inn for various reasons. I always thought it was



What Worldcon bid is Kevin Standlee hatching?

a lovely property, and when I walked around I could almost see that the Westercon bid would have worked in there beautifully...if it had been transplanted to somewhere like Lake Tahoe. Kevin Roche especially has great rage towards the place from the stuff he's done over the years there. The stories he tells! I still have a soft spot for the place, though, and I thought the rooms were quite comfy. Glenn Glazer did not share my opinion, especially since his shower gave him almost no water.

Folks who weren't even attending the conference came, as it was an open invite. Tom Galloway, late of Google, joined in and we talked cards. Jo Rhett was there and didn't even bring his crutches, which many noted he really should have. All the attendees were there and we chatted and had a good time before calling it a night.

Saturday was good stuff. We woke up early and had the breakfast buffet. My grandmother and her twin sister, Ethel and Bethel, both worked at what was then the Hyatt House for more than twenty years. They've remodeled the place several times and the coffee shop no longer looks like it used to. These things happen.

We got to the con space just in time for the first session, where we all introduced ourselves and talked about basic con experiences. I was pleased to see some great questions coming both from the folks I've known and worked with and those I didn't know and probably won't work with because they do cons I don't happen to frequent. We set out to go through the rest of the panels for the day.

The panels were good, run mostly by folks I knew, which was expected, but it might

have been nice to get some folks from the outside world in. These things are hard to fix up, so I don't really mind. There was a lot of talk about facilities and I thought the panel on Hotels was the best of all. I was so pleased that I had done some things right when talking to the folks in Tahoe. I'd done some things wrong, but at least I got a little on the right side and can say that I was in all sorts of happiness. Dave Gallaher and Nancy Cobb are both very good folks to have speak on the topic.

Now, what I'm a big fan of is talking theory. I'm never gonna chair a major con that takes itself as a major, thus my theory about the Boutique Westercon, but there was a panel about What's All This About Worldcon. I was hoping it would be a panel not geared towards folks who knew little about Worldcon, but one about the ways in which Worldcon affects all of fandom and what we can learn. Sadly, none of the folks who weren't regulars came, and we just ended up sitting and talking about folks who might make good Worldcon GoHs. In other words, we SMOFed.

I would like to take this moment to say that I am not a SMOF. Thank you.

I had to run to the Further Confusion meeting since we're running close to the convention and my Science program is still gelling. I'm glad to say that it looks like it'll be pretty fun. I set up a live animal demo that will bring some large cats to the DoubleTree! Yay!

The rest of the day was the Zoo Game. It's a game designed in the 1980s by the New England Science Fiction Association, aka NESFA. I had heard about it. I was on a team that featured a couple of folks from Fanime, Andy Trembley, Kirsten from BayCon, Glen and Fred

Moulten from BASFA. We were DiscordiaCon and we played fast and loose.

The Lovely and Talented Linda was on Kitehcon and the other team, which featured Kevin Roche, was Gin and Conic. The game scenarios are almost all based on real life stuff that's happened to various cons over the years. My personal fave was a thinly veiled reference to a book of poetry that John Brunner and his wife put together that was pure garbage. We played that scenario and did well comedically. I loved the interaction, but a lot of stuff that needed to happen wasn't easy. We almost always had questions, and there was no answer to them because they were raised on the cards. We had to reason a lot of it out and that was realistic in some situations and not in others. Still, it was a lot of fun, and all three teams did well!

After that it was bed time, though we did watch *Saturday Night Live*. I love Andy Samburg.

The next morning featured the bunch from the San Jose Convention and Visitors Bureau. They gave us some material, but the best thing they gave us was a good breakfast. We ate well with lots of French Toast, sausage, and very good chicken in sauce. I was pleased. The presentation from the SJCVB was good stuff too, short with a little packet to take away and look at. I'll try and host a small con in San Jose at some point.

I stuck around and helped folks from CostumeCon stuff the Future Fashion Folio into envelopes. It went pretty quickly, even if I got some serious hand pain. After that, The Lovely and Talented Linda and I went back to my place and watched *Sideways*. I don't think she'll ever let me go wine tasting with the boys!

BSG: Razor Looks Sharp on the Big Screen

By Jean Martin

Editor

I don't usually get to go to special screenings, as they're usually in San Francisco or San Jose, or I don't find out about them beforehand. But this time, I found out about the special screening of the *Battlestar Galactica* movie *Razor* in advance through the Bay Area Actual Yahoo! Group, a local *Battlestar Galactica* fan organization.

The special screening event was shown all over the Bay Area last November 12th, and one of the theaters that participated was Century 12 in downtown San Mateo, near where I live and work. That proximity was very advantageous because the event was on a Monday night so I was able to drive there straight from work, meet some friends for a quick dinner, and then go to see the 7:00 p.m. showing. It was also going to be shown at 10:00 p.m. that same night, but that would have been too late on a weeknight for me and my friends, Christina and Jeff.



Razor lobby poster.

Photo by Jean Martin

The added incentive to see the movie, other than the fact that I enjoy the new *Battlestar Galactica* (although I'm a bigger fan of the original series), was that the movie was free — if you registered in advance through a web site dedicated to the screening. The movie was shown in theaters across the U.S. I was wondering how the Sci Fi channel was financing this massive promotional effort, since I didn't think showing a free movie would necessarily gain more visibility for the series, or for the official airing of *Razor* on November 24. Only die-hard fans had probably heard about the event to begin with.

Well, I should have known that paid advertising would come into the picture. There were commercials before, in between, and after, by major game console and cell phone manufacturers.

Some people in the audience were ticked off by it, but I figured that if we were getting to see a free movie, the least we could do was sit through some commercials. The only problem was, just like

watching TV, the commercials were way louder than the actual programming.

There were a lot of people in the audience and I wondered how everyone else had found out about the screening. Other than the friends I came with, I didn't know anyone else. Most of the people I know through the Bay Area Actual — who are also Browncoats, by the way — went to the screenings in San Francisco and San Jose.

I noticed that most of the crowd was younger, and my friend Jeff noticed that at least 80% of them were male. Most of the females had obviously been brought in by their significant others.

That was very interesting to me, because it reminded me that in general most sci fi fans, especially fans of such a gritty show as BSG, are male. I think the reason why there are more females in the Bay Area Actual fan group, and in active fandom as a whole, is that women tend, more than men, to band together in groups to do social things around their interests. But that's just my opinion.

As far as the movie went, it was great to see the new BSG on the big screen because it was very reminiscent of when I saw the original movie version in 1978. However, with all the spectacular but dizzying special effects, as well as the loud sound effects, I realized why I don't go to movies very often. I get nauseous and it sometimes takes me hours to recover from watching a movie, especially one that has a lot of action and hand-held camera work, or camera work that resembles hand-held motion. I probably only see one or two movies a year on the big screen. I prefer to watch movies on DVDs for this reason, and it's just more comfortable to

watch movies at home as far as I'm concerned. I think it has to do with how movie theaters are so much smaller now. Even when I sit as far in the back as I can, the screen is still too close for me, and I get motion sickness. Still, there is something to be said for watching a movie with a big group of people who clap, cheer, boo, and make funny comments.

I won't spoil the movie for those who haven't seen it. So all I will say is that the movie stands on its own, as it's a completely separate storyline from the main BSG story arc. Basically it's the story of *Battlestar Pegasus*: What happened to the crew before they met up with *Galactica*, the choices that Admiral Kane made to survive, and how a young woman carrying the torch of Admiral Kane's brutal legacy fares under Lee Adama's command after the death of the admiral.

It's a gripping, intelligent, and well-written drama, but quite violent and not for the squeamish. Michelle Forbes is fabulous and believable as Admiral Kane. I didn't like her so much as Ensign Ro in *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, but she's won me over in BSG. Starbuck is awesome as usual and Lee is wimpy as always. All of the new BSG characters that had previous incarnations in the old BSG I have accepted (and even love, in the case of Starbuck), except for Lee. Well, he's quite good-looking, but that's about it for me.

A completely new character (even to the new series), Kendra Shaw, played by the marvelous Stephanie Chaves-Jacobsen, completely carried the show considering that she was only introduced in this movie. Stephanie is of Portuguese, Chinese, Norwegian and English

descent, was born in Hong Kong, and grew up in Australia. She's a tiny, exotic girl with an atypical authoritative low voice and a strong and assertive demeanor. I hope to see her in more TV shows and/or movies in the future.

Speaking of the future, after the movie a preview of Season Four of *Battlestar Galactica* was shown. It is going to be the final season, so I hope it will be good and that there will be a satisfying resolution to it all. What I saw looked quite interesting and exciting.

Unfortunately, with the current writers' strike, the fate of Season Four is up in the air. Which is too bad, because I would like to see them get to Earth.

The original series ended quite abruptly as well. At least *Galactica 1980* continued the story and finally brought *Galactica* to then-current day Earth. I know that series didn't get good reviews and was pretty hokey, but I enjoyed it and am looking forward to it being released on DVD next month so I can watch it again. Also being released next month are the unrated, extended edition of *Razor* (now why didn't they just show this version to us to begin with?) and Season Three of the TV series. We fans of the old and/or the new BSG will have a lot to celebrate over the holidays.

A Weekend with my Fannish Family

By Jean Martin
Editor

SiliCon, held this past October 5-7, exceeded my expectations in every respect.

I enjoyed the last two I had gone to in 2005 and 2006, mostly because they were smaller and more intimate conventions. I had opportunities to be more involved as a panelist, and found it easier to hang out and connect with people. But I found that I enjoyed SiliCon even more as it grew to twice the size in terms of attendance from last year. The programming also took up all the big ballrooms as well as the smaller function rooms. And the parties were exceptionally fun on both Friday and Saturday nights.

That might have something to do with *SF/SF* throwing a party on both nights.

I was a little worried that I wouldn't get to the San Jose Doubletree in time to check in to my room, which was on the party floor and would serve as our zine's party room, in time for us to set up for the evening. I had to work that day and had to drive from the San Mateo area to San Jose.

Luckily, our department's yearly picnic was held that afternoon in a park in Foster City, just blocks away from my new home. After winning Best Costume for my new pirate outfit — the theme for this year's picnic was pirates!

— I rushed to my apartment to get my luggage, and then I was on my way to the Doubletree. It was great that I already had a costume on so I didn't have to change when I got to the hotel. My prize was a *Pirates of the Caribbean* dice game, which served quite nicely as party entertainment later that night. I suppose it's not fair that I keep winning Best Costume at my work's picnics — I won last year as well — since I'm a serious, year-round costumer. But it would have been quite demoralizing if I hadn't won, because I'm a serious, year-round costumer. Perhaps I'll give others a chance next year!

Anyway, I got to the Doubletree in good time. As I drove into the parking lot, I felt like I was coming home. Since BayCon had been



A contingent from Hogwarts School.

Photo courtesy Jean Martin

at the San Mateo Marriott this year, I missed the Doubletree and was looking forward to attending a convention there. I was able to check in fairly quickly and my co-editor, Chris Garcia, and his lovely and talented Linda, plus his sidekick Jason, helped me bring food and drinks



Your intrepid editors in the *SF/SF* party room. Photo courtesy Jean Martin

up to my room. We then decorated the walls with printouts of past issues that Chris had brought with him. The décor actually came out great, and one wall had all the pages of my New Zealand/Middle Earth article from last year — the longest article that *SF/SF* has run so far.

Then we were off to the first major event of the evening, Meet the Guests, where all the guests and panelists were introduced by the Programming Director, Hilary Ayer. Chris and I were among the panelists and it was cool to be mentioned along with professionals in the fields of moviemaking and publishing.

Our party started after Meet the Guests. I

with him: A cake with our Issue #50 imprinted on it. I cut the cake while lots of guests waited to sample the unexpected treat. It felt like I was having a birthday party all over again! The cake was a notable success. España came in later with much needed party supplies and *SF/SF* flyers. Dr. Noe also stopped by and played the *Pirates* dice game. Ken Patterson from KTEH, Merv from the Legion of Rassilon, and photographer Richard Man and his costumer wife Karisu also graced our party.

There was a J-Rock band right outside our glass doors, and they were loud but pretty good. It actually seemed like they were entertainment

was a little anxious because at SiliCon last year, Friday night was a pretty dead night as far as parties went. But this year it was a different story. There were so many people in our party room! We declared it a smashing success. There were several other parties that were great, too. I stopped by all of them for a little bit but I spent most of my time in my room as I had ID-checking duty. David also had a surprise that he brought

for our party guests, and lured a lot of people passing by in the hallway to venture in. I'd never seen a J-Rock band before, and I enjoyed it as I like heavy Rock music. It's nice to see Asian musicians performing Rock as you don't often see that. Heck, it's nice to see Rock music in any form nowadays since the music world is dominated by Hip Hop and Country.

The other parties that evening were Pancho's Crosstime Cantina, whose theme was flyboys from different shows; The Black Hole, the Klingon bar with *Star Trek* themed drinks; the Harry Potter After Dark Party with ladies in corsets and stockings barely covered by their Hogwarts robes; the Ariel Ambulance party, a Browncoat party; and the BASFA party.

Rocky Horror was at midnight but I skipped that because the *SF/SF* party was still in full swing. I ordered room service pizza, which was delicious, and I finally kicked out the remaining people at 4:00 a.m. We were the last party to close, so everyone still wishing to party wound up in my room!

I went to bed tired but happy. I giggled to myself as I looked around the room and realized that I'd never slept in a room with so much booze and trash lying around! I'm a teetotaler and neat freak, so it was very uncharacteristic of me to have living quarters like these. We had a lot of food and drinks left, despite the multitudes that came by, so Chris, David and I decided to open up the room again on Saturday. We had originally intended to just have a party on that Friday night.

Needless to say, I wasn't much use the next morning. Surprisingly, I was able to get enough sleep as the party rooms next to me were quiet during the day. I had to wake up in time for lunch and my first panel of the convention,

which was a Masquerade panel. Unfortunately, I missed meeting Jack Avery, who was only at the con for 10 minutes. I've never met our illustrious founder. Chris and España were able to see him, which leads credence to the fact that Jack actually exists. He's like Elvis, though, with rare sightings of him in the building.

That morning marked the debut of my new Marlena Moreau outfit. I'd wanted to wear this costume since I was a child, when I first saw the *Star Trek* "Mirror, Mirror" episode. Marlena was played by BarBara Luna, a half-Filipina actress. It made an impression on me when I was a little girl, to see someone from a similar ethnic background in a TV show, one that happened to be my favorite at the time as well. I met BarBara at Wondercon this year, and that spurred me on to purchase the costume on eBay. (Well, the Klingons and my Black Fleet Star Pirates Guild friends have also been encouraging me to get the costume for a few years as well.) I got a lot of compliments on the outfit, which made the investment worth it.

The Masquerade panel was fun. I held my own with the rest of the panel: Hilary, the moderator; Chris Bertani, an award-winning costumer and fellow BAERS organizer; a former SiliCon masquerade director; and the current masquerade director. There were several people in the audience who had good questions after we, the panelists, introduced ourselves and briefly recounted our masquerade experiences.

After the panel, I roamed the Doubletree and took photos. I was very impressed with the costume exhibit in one of the function rooms. There were actual costumes from *Firefly*, *Superman*, *Batman* and other genre movies. Outside in the port-cochère, I just happened to

pass by in time to see the real ambulance from the "Ariel" episode of the TV show *Firefly* parked there for people to view. Then I went to the vendor room, which was in one of the main ballrooms on the first floor. I ran into Lee Hester from Lee's Comics, who always has an impressive booth. The Other Change of Hobbit was also there with a good variety of sci fi and fantasy novels for sale. The art room was next door and I peeked in to see what was there. I saw several paintings I liked by one of my favorite artists, Bob Keck, but I didn't buy any as I already have one of his at home. I also saw España's and Richard Man's works side by side.

In the hallways outside the main ballroom were several booths by movie-related companies. There were some independent horror movie producers as well as a booth with SFX and makeup masters Ed Martinez and Nina Kempf's zombie head collection.

I knew I had a long night of partying and performing ahead of me, so I went back to my room for a short nap. But I didn't manage to sleep at

all with all the adrenaline running through me. Chris Garcia came by to bring more drinks and ice, so I knew I had to get ready for the rest of the evening. I got into my Medal Ceremony Leia costume, which always takes a lot of doing. Our Project L-11 group, which won Best in Show at BayCon last May, was invited to perform as the entertainment at the end of the Masquerade competition. It's great to be able to wear the costume again, which took a long time for me to put together even with the help of my fellow Leias. And it was great to do our routine again,



Comic book artist Javier Hernandez with Lee Hester of Lee's Comcs.
Photo by Jean Martin



Browncoats at the Hallo-Whedon Hootenanny.

Photo by Jean Martin

which also took months to rehearse, and which I personally think is quite awesome.

It's also very convenient to have a hotel room at a con so I can change into a different costume anytime I want. This enables me to bring more costumes than I would be able to if I didn't have a room.

I arrived in the backstage Green Room in time to see the rest of my group. We didn't have to wait long since there weren't many contestants and the Masquerade was pretty well organized. The actual stage was in the big ballroom on the first floor. Sooner than expected, we were waiting in the wings ready to go on. But before us, SiliCon president Dann Lopez presented the Ken Uhland award to Kevin Standlee for being

back to my hotel room to change into my third costume of the day — an original costume from the *Firefly* TV series. Called the Whore's Dress, it was worn by one of the courtesans in the episode "Heart of Gold." I had bought it on eBay for the Browncoat Ball last year and I'm glad I had another chance to wear it. It was expensive, but not as pricey as the Inara version, which did not have any takers when it was put on auction. I would have bought it if I could afford it! But the one I did get fit me perfectly with no alterations, and the turquoise blue top and fuschia beaded skirt suit my coloring much better. This time, though, I was going to portray Inara for my second performance for the evening, so I wore my Inara wig with the Whore's Dress. I

a long-time fan who has contributed a lot to fandom. Kevin wasn't able to attend the con and so the omnipresent Chris Garcia accepted it for him. Chris read Kevin's speech, and it was entertaining and hilarious.

We went onstage after that and the audience cheered our performance. It went by so fast this time, but it was quite a thrill for me to dance and sing with my friends portraying the 11 guises of Princess Leia. I ran

then went to the second floor ballroom for the Masquerade results.

The results were announced in the upstairs ballroom in an attempt to draw folks to the Hallo-Whedon Hootenanny Ball. They need not have resorted to such tactics, as the Ball was packed with lots of Browncoats as well as several members of the vintage dance community. It was nice to have such an elaborate awards ceremony, though. There were lots of great costumers competing. I noticed a lot of younger contestants in anime costumes. SiliCon did a great job of drawing that crowd this year. My favorites, both of which won prizes, were Bryan and Mette's Cassandra O'Brien and Robert's Doctor Who and Dalek entry. It's interesting to note that my two favorites were both based on *Doctor Who*. Although their presentations were really more than costumes: Brian and Mette recreated the "last human," Cassandra, who is little more than eyes and mouth on stretched skin over a metal frame. They played the assistants who constantly had to moisturize Cassandra and wheel her around. Robert did a good impression of the Tenth Doctor, and his Dalek was a marvel. It looked like the real thing, complete with a toilet plunger.

Then the grand ball for the evening, the Browncoats' Hallo-Whedon Hootenanny Ball, commenced. The Browncoats always put on a good event and this was no exception. The ballroom was decorated with a mixture of Halloween themes and references to Joss Whedon's past TV shows. The first dance of the evening, with music played by an excellent and eclectic DJ, was the Grand March. SiliCon co-chair Grant asked me to dance, and I was quite flattered. I had so much fun marching around the room to music from different TV shows and

movies. At one point, we were dancing to Darth Vader's theme! I smiled at everyone I knew that I passed by on the dance floor. Everyone was in costumes from different areas of fandom. Only at conventions like these do all my varied interests come together. It's like geek heaven!

My second performance that night was to be the last offering at the dance partner auction, which would then lead to a short skit to introduce my favorite dance, the Congress of Vienna. Bubbly Arielle was the MC for the ball and the dance auction. I recognized all of the guys and gals up for auction as PEERS regulars. I was a little nervous when I was the last one left. I was hoping there would still be people who were willing to buy a dance partner for a good cause. The bidding went higher and higher, and a friend of mine, whom I met when he bought me at a Klingon slave auction at BayCon 2005, bid \$50. But Browncoat Gabriel outbid him and won a dance with me for \$60. That was the highest winning bid of the evening. I didn't know it at the time, but Gabriel planned on bidding for me no matter how high it got because it would tie in to the skit we were doing. Still, a bid is a bid and the money was going to one of the Browncoats' favorite charities.

Right after the auction finished, my friend and one of *SF/SF*'s staff writers, Dr. Noe, came on stage dressed as Mal. He portrayed a harried Mal trying to say no to me as Inara who has asked him to dance the Congress of Vienna. The script was written by Louise, one of the Browncoats, and it was short but funny. Well, I'm not an accomplished actress by any means, and although I memorized the lines and practiced them with Dr. Noe, I still flubbed the punchline. At least Dr. Noe is a real actor and he saved me by

improvising. I followed his lead and improvised a new punchline, which worked out just fine and got a good reaction from the audience. Thank goodness for that one season of Improv I took years ago! It was then that Gabriel, dressed as a clueless Jayne, came on stage and I grabbed him and claimed him as my dance partner. Gabriel and I danced the Congress of Vienna and he did really well considering he didn't know the dance. I'm quite used to back leading this dance — it's hard to find dance partners for it, so I often have to dance with women or with men who don't know it, or don't know it well.

Afterwards, I danced a little bit until after they changed the music to some really fun industrial and goth tunes. When it turned techno, however, I went back to my room, which for that evening turned into the Chris Garcia-*Drink Tank*-sponsored by *SF/SF* room. Chris held court and bartended, so I didn't feel like I needed to be around too much to entertain the guests. So I went and checked out all the other parties on the party floor.

I missed the Klingon slave auction at the Black Hole Bar. Admiral K'atah presided over the evening's debauchery and I saw one of the Klingons who seemed quite happy with his slave purchase — a woman barely dressed in garter stockings, bra, and pink rubberband type material strategically placed around her chest and hips. I also ran into our very own Mangcha' dressed in his impressive Klingon regalia. The Klingons inspired me to change back into my Marlina Moreau costume — it was warm enough that evening to wear it — and they really appreciated my wearing the outfit.

Next I went to a *Battlestar Galactica* party sponsored by folks from the Bay Area

Actual BSG fan group, and Spike's Vampire Bar hosted by Browncoats Johnny and Thad. I also stopped by the BASFA party room. The highlight of the evening was the League of Evil Geniuses party, which always has the best guests, decorations and drinks. That night they were serving shots of Jalapeño vodka. I don't drink alcohol but I seem to get contact drunk. Except that I remember everything the next day. Which may or may not be a good thing as I did have some naughty fun spurred on by some friends at that party. Hey, it was a convention after all. And what happens at convention, stays at convention!

I don't remember much of what happened after that. I was on a natural high and didn't want the night to end. I went back to the ballroom for a little bit, but Saturday night seemed to wrap up earlier than Friday night, which was very unusual. I went back to my room for a little bit to check out the *Drink Tank* party, and then wound up in Brian and Mette's room which wasn't on the party floor. I stayed there for a little bit and chilled out. Around 4:00 a.m., however, I decided to call it a night since I had to wake up bright and early for the *SF/SF* panel.

Our panel was at 10:00 a.m. And for all my reminders to Chris and the staff about showing up, and listening to them complaining about the early time slot after a night of drinking and partying, I was the one who was the worse for wear. I got into my Cho Chang costume — quite a subdued and conservative costume after my sexy "Mirror, Mirror" outfit from the night before, but it suited the more serious nature of our panel. Well, we had one legitimate guest in the audience. The others were all people we know who have been involved in the zine at one

time or another. Which was fine. It's great to just get together and do something official as a team. We managed to talk for about an hour. David wound up as the de facto moderator. We talked about the zine and everything in between.

After that, I was hungry and had brunch at the Coffee Garden with a new acquaintance. I enjoyed the buffet, as I very rarely eat real food for breakfast. Oatmeal makes me feel like a kid again and makes me feel homey and cozy. I espied well-known authors Diana Paxson and Barbara Hambly in the seating area next to the Coffee Garden. Barbara was scheduled to sign autographs but I asked Diana if I could get her autograph as well. She said yes, so I ran to the dealer's room and bought a book by each of them from The Other Change of Hobbit booth. I almost told Barbara that I was supposed to be in a panel with her but I couldn't due to scheduling conflicts, but I didn't think that would have been a big deal to her. It would have been great for me, though, since it would have been an honor to be on the same panel as the author of *Children of the Jedi*.

Afterwards, I saw España with her friend Tadao having lunch at the Coffee Garden. Since I'd already eaten, I just joined them to chat. BAERS cohorts Leiann and Leo joined us too. Tadao had a part in the first episode of *Heroes* and is a prominent figure in L.A. sci fi fandom. I enjoyed listening to him talk about his triumphs and tribulations as a working actor in Hollywood. Sometime around then a number of ladies came squealing to our table, excited to see Tadao and asking him for his autograph. Tadao seemed like he both enjoyed and felt embarrassed by the attention. It turned out that the fangirls knew him and were just having a good time teasing him,

but were also trying to make him feel special.

I did a last round of the convention, and then found España and Tadao by the pool area, joined by España's friend JB and author Kevin Andrew Murphy. It was so special spending a lazy Sunday afternoon in the warm sunshine by beautiful blue calm waters of the pool. There are fewer and fewer times in my fast-paced life when I can just sit and feel fully present in the moment. This was one of them. Everything around me comes into sharper focus and I feel everything more keenly with all my senses.

I didn't have any other activities planned, but I didn't want to go home. I wanted to stay at the con as long as possible. So I sat and talked and listened. It's amazing how wonderful it feels to be with folk who are intelligent, creative, imaginative and just on the same wavelength as me. I understand where they're coming from and all the mutual references that get tossed around. What a nice way to end a fabulous weekend with my fandom family. And what a wonderful way to start my new life!



Tadao Tomomatsu surrounded by fans.

Photo by Jean Martin

BASFA Minutes: Meetings 901-902

Meeting number 901

November 5, 2007

Acting President: Kevin Standlee

Emergency Holographic Secretary: Glenn Glazer

No other officers present.

The meeting was called to order at 2001 hours. Kevin reviewed the various BASFA titles he's had and thanked the secretary for being volunteered. There was a motion by Fred to create a party jar, which passed.

The secretary read the minutes and asked for corrections. "Glenn" has two "n's" and it is Janet Tait, not Jan Tait. Joanie moved that Joe be referred to as Joe Bob for the duration of the meeting. Joe OTC'd, which failed 8-9. Bruce moved to change the first "Joe" in the motion to "everyone," which was seconded. Evil Kevin spoke against the amendment citing secretary hardship. Sue said that it would make the secretary's job easier. The secretary commented that it would make understanding the minutes hard in the future. Joe thought that it would make historical readings more amusing.

Ed spoke against, arguing confusion of identity. Fred also spoke against, saying it would make finding corrections for the next meeting difficult. Andy said it wouldn't matter as Barbara wouldn't

see these minutes anyway. Dave Clark warned that referring to everyone as Joe Bob might get us unwanted attention from the Department of Homeland Security.

Jo added the factual data that he has a brother named Bob and he did spend four years in the Ozarks. If that's where he picked up his motorcycling penchant, he must have been an Ozark Mountain Daredevil. Dave moved to close debate, one level. This motion passed. The amendment failed 4-12.

Evil Kevin moved to amend, changing "Joe Bob" to "Billy Joe." Andy suggested changing it to "ghost of BASFA past." Glenn suggested changing "Joe Bob" to "Joe" but was ruled dilatory. At this point, the president converted the motion to a fill in the blank. Jo put in "Ack!!!" (as in Bill the Cat), Eric put in "Joe" with an "e" as that is not how Jo's name is spelled. Bruce suggested "Barbara." Fred moved that debate be closed, which passed. Blanks as follows: Joe Bob failed 6-8, Billy Joe failed 5-8, Ghost failed 5-9, Ack!!! passed 11-10 after moderately heavy bidding. The main motion failed 1 to many.

Evil Kevin moved to accept the minutes as chronic hysteresis. The president opened it up as a blank. Eli suggested "And in the role of President Lora Roslyn: Kevin Standlee." Fred nominated Winchester 30-30 in honor of the 900 meeting. Dave sang his nomination of "I'm not

Lisa, my name is David." Lisa put in "Jo will be known as Joe Bob." Andy nominated "Chris and Barbara: coincidence?" Bruce moved to table blank filling. Move to table failed. Andy nominated "And closed captioning for the humor impaired provided by Glenn Glazer." Main motion passed by many to few and the minutes were accepted as "And closed captioning for the humor impaired provided by Glenn Glazer."

Fred moved to suspend orders of the day and go directly to auctions. This passed without objection. Dave mentioned that several items came from BASCon, a local slash convention. A Highlander pillow went for a buck, a pair of videos for 50 cents. 3 commercial videos went for a quarter and three more for a buck. A Wallace and Grommit video set went for \$5 and 16 pre-recorded video tapes for \$2. *Wild Animus*, 1st Edition finally got sold for \$1 after much procedural wanking about stopping the auctioneer from reading the synopsis versus getting him to restart the auction. "Hellphone" sold for a quarter and "Twice Dead Things" for 28 cents.

After the auction, the previous agenda resumed with officer's reports. Kevin will be in Newark, NJ next week. Secretary thanked people for giving him their names and for waiting patiently while he caught up.

Under committees, the only report was from

site selection, where Kevin said that if Dave Gallaher were here, he'd surely let people know that we won the right to hold the World Fantasy Convention in 2009.

Announcements:

Eli mentioned that the writer's strike is going on and may prevent "Pushing Daisies" from reaching a full season. A "Heroes" spinoff got canned. Both Kevins announced ConStruction this weekend.

Reviews:

Dave reviewed Al Franken's "Lying liars..." as describing "Joe Bob, I mean Bob Jones University as nice in a racist sort of way," and worth paperback. He also reviewed BASCon and was surprised that there was no discussion of Dumbledore's coming out of the closet. There was some debate as to whether or not it is still slash if the character is actually gay. Andy emphatically said no.

Gordon reviewed MileHighCon as being always fun to go back and worth full price, even if he only got to see closing ceremonies and the dead dog party. There was some discussion as to whether this constituted ghosting or not. Glenn reviewed watching the sun come up at Castle Rock State Park and going on the Summit Meadows Trail.

Ed reviewed the limestone caverns in Castle Rock. Andy reviewed www.weeble-stuff.com, the home of "Prawn to be Wild" as consisting of stories told as flash based games and worth the full price of free, despite some pointless parts.

Kevin continued his journey through Japan, starting at Aomori and focusing on the 53km tunnel to Hokkaido and the behind the scenes tour. Glenn reviewed the spa at Kusatsu Onsen. Gordon recommended "Barefoot in Tokyo."

A number of Guy Fawkes related rumors were nominated, but "Kevin has become an expert on Japanese schoolgirl outfits" became the rumor of the week. At this point, a move to adjourn was heard, seconded and passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Glazer

Emergency Holographic Secretary

Meeting number 902

November 12, 2007

Coco's Restaurant, Santa Clara

Acting President: Kevin Standlee

Emergency Holographic Secretary: Glenn Glazer

No other officers present

Meeting number 902 was called to order at 2002 hours.

Once again, many officers were absent and Tall Kevin presided as Acting President and Glenn presided as Emergency Holographic Secretary. This was due to the actual president and secretary off being Shark bait. Or baiting Sharks. Or something.

The secretary read the minutes and asked for

corrections. "Joni" is spelled "Joni." The book Dave Clark reviewed is actually called "Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them." At this point the VP showed up and took over leading the meeting, using not one, but two toy ray guns to restore order (though not to Dodge). Kevin moved to accept the minutes as "Chris: Remember not to cross the beams," which passed.

There was no Treasurer's report.

VP report: There is (quelle suprise) a new Drink Tank up. SF/SF out next week. Corset edition out after a random interval. Bruce tried to start bidding on Howard's pre-edited copy of the corset edition and Chris refused to recognize him.

Site Selection: Coco's next week. After that a skip and after that Coco's indefinitely. Fred mentioned that Christmas and New Year's are Mondays, this was noted and some investigation into whether the site will be available will be done.

No new business. Thankfully, no nude business either.

Announcements:

Evil Kevin announced that he and Andy are Costume GoHs at Philcon this weekend. They are working on their speeches. Ken said that Saturday would be yet another pledge night with new Dr. Who material. Please pledge or at least polish. Howard wanted to know if the pledge

drive would be followed by hazing and was zapped. Tall Kevin reported that due to various machinations at work, Menlo decided not to send him to Newark, NJ just yet. However, this may be for the better as it may pay for his ticket back east just before Smofcon.

Dave Clark said he had two announcements. The second one was that Orycon is coming up. The first one is that Veganomicon is out, but disappointing. He displayed a copy, but said that it appears that the people who wrote it learned of the Necronomicon second hand from Evil Dead 2 rather than from Lovecraft. Julie announced the Ragtime West Festival in Sacramento this weekend.

Reviews:

Ken: Two Saturdays ago, they went to Arizona in the Prius. They took Route 66 to the Grand Canyon and noted mules looking through the windows. They had dinner in a place in Williams that had its own microbrewery. Drove to the South Rim, but missed the sunrise. Jerry said she bought a book called "Over the Edge: Death in the Grand Canyon" and enjoyed it. They drove to Mather Point, but you need a bus to get there. They drove to the lookout tower and thence to Cameron Post and onwards to Flagstaff via the 89A. The Prius was yellow lined the whole way from Flagstaff to Sedona, where they got sandwiches built for two. Thence to Tuscon for the AT&T Fall Marketplace. Ken had breakfast with Bruce Jenner, but no Wheaties(tm). Ken handed out Dr. Who cards he got at the

Marketplace. They drove to San Diego, which was not too badly burned and back home. Ken presented Chris with a snowball, to his delight.

Follow-ons: Joni said that Oatman is a good place to get frybread. Jerry suggested death by frybread. Glenn suggested stopping. Dave asked if they still had to sell creationist books at the canyon and it seems that it is no longer so. Art: Kingston to Needles is another downhill all the way trip.

Tall Kevin: Back to Nihon. Took the Casseopeia sleeper train from Sapporo to Toukyou. In the Sapporo station, he saw a vendor actually hawking a newspaper. It turns out that it was a special edition announcing that the government fell. The sleeper train loads everyone and their luggage in five minutes. Narrow gauge, but spacious due to diagonal stacking. Glenn asked if it was narrow gauge because their horse's rears were not as wide as ours. They had a \$60 sushi dinner which was nice but not worth full price. Changed from a diesel to electric train to go through the tunnel and back to diesel on exit. The cabin was difficult to cool and not because it was hard to understand how to use the system. There are two showers for every 2-3 cabins. 2-300 yen for six minutes of hot water. You can stop and start the water for soaping up, but the minutes clear if you leave the shower compartment. Kevin thought that the shower was worth full price.

Howard: Model railroads in Roseville. He expected lots of setups, but there were just a

few smallish ones. Huge dealer's room. The Roseville club has a permanent setup and it was the best organized, but not the most impressive looking. The highlight was a geographic feature polyurethane demo. Follow-on: Glenn described the model train store in Akihabara.

Dave: Dave saw "Saw 4" says he. He described as two hours of his life that he'll never get back. He went to see the Tiger Lilies and the earthquake occurred. They never missed a beat. Follow-ons: Andy said their album "From the Bordello to the Grave" is worth full price.

Glenn described how the corruption in Port Royale during the pirates period was so bad, that when the town was destroyed by an earthquake, it was generally taken as a Sign From Above. There was general discussion of the Asimov reference describing churches as primary lightning victims prior to lightning rods. Julie said that Winona Ryder is back.

Evil Kevin: ConStruction was good, Holiday Inn bad. Not improved since last time. For example, the restaurant was closed at 1330 hours and the evil white fence surrounding the pool. Follow-ons: Glenn described many hotel miscues involving his room. Lisa said that there were no non-cosmetic changes since the Mythcon 19 years ago. Tall Kevin reviewed the hotel as being almost worth triple miles. Chris said he liked the hotel, but he also said his siblings work there. Evil Kevin attached a coda saying that Kimberlee from the CVB should really hear our stories since she was the one that recommended

the place.

Mike: Reviewed the first “Dumarest of Terra” book as better than expected. Asked if anyone else had read it, but no.

Bruce: BBC Video is podcasting “Dirk Gently: Holistic Detective” in six parts. Glenn thought it was Vic Morrow who was in six parts. Bruce said the podcast was worth full price.

Andy: ConStruction, take two. [#include<DumpOfAHotel.h]. Friday night social needs an icebreaker. Panel on customer service and outreach was well received, the one on Worldcons pointless. This caused everyone to wind up in the other track’s panel on staffing. He heckled the zoo game and this was followed by some general discussion of the game itself.

When the meeting came back from chaos as a whole, Andy described the brunch as moderate and better than expected. Follow-ons: Chris said that it was for sure that Brunner wrote the erotic flower poetry. Kevin noted the ‘84 era Boston bias to the game and confirmed that only Worldcon regulars went to the Worldcon panel, odd since about a third of the people at ConStruction had never been to a Worldcon.

Howard: Went to the vintage computer fair two weekends ago at the Computer Museum. Heckled Chris and noted many factual errors in the GNU/Linux film. Exhibit hall opened at 1400 hours, worth half price of \$20. Some general debate on the origins of Linux. Follow-ons: Chris found five BASFAns in the film. Julie: In ‘77, her high school got a couple of

computers and met some of these folks. The mechanical differential analyzer at the fair was cool. Cupcakes were good.

Second order follow-on: Glenn told the story of the Noreason cupcake. Third order follow-on: Julie described dinner at Tide House. An Apple program broke when Carbon changed, but it now works. When she first watched “The Frighteners” it simulated a subwoofer failure. At this point, Chris refused to allow any further orders of follow-ons. Mike announced that ST Menageries was playing at the AMC in Saratoga.

There was no auction.

Rumors: The following were suggested: Andy: Christopher Ranch Garlic for TAFF Julie: So, I had about three of these and I forgot them all. Dave: Burnt San Diego will be the next new Crayola color. Kevin: Exhausted by the maintaining of high corporate standards, the Holiday Inn (the owners of the ex-Hyatt) will choose to re-brand in the Bates chain of hotels. Howard: The ConStruction review will be continued over the next three meetings. The first two failed, the third passed 9-3.

The meeting adjourned at 2150 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn Glazer
Emergency Holographic Secretary

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, November 21

The Phenomenauts

Bottom of The Hill

1233 17th Street

San Francisco

www.phenomenauts.com

8:30 p.m.

\$10

The “Rocket Roll” band plays SF once again, with help from the Sore Thumbs, the Helper Monkeys, and GarageZilla.

November 21-December 16

Based on a Totally True Story

New Conservatory Theatre

25 Van Ness Avenue

San Francisco

www.nctcsf.org

Wed. through Sat. at 8:00 p.m.

& Sun. at 2:00 p.m.

\$22-\$34

New play about a young writer who learns that his play is to be made into a horror movie.

Friday, November 23

The Phenomenauts

The Blank Club

44 South Almaden Avenue

San Jose

www.phenomenauts.com

10 p.m.

\$10

The “Rocket Roll” band lands in San Jose.

Friday-Saturday, November 23-24

Donnie Darko: The Director's Cut (2004)

Red Vic Movie House

1727 Haight Street

San Francisco

www.redvicmoviehouse.com

\$8.50 (\$6.50 Sat. matinee)

November 23-December 23

Dickens Christmas Fair

Exhibition Hall

The Cow Palace

Daly City

www.dickensfair.com

11 a.m.-7 p.m.

\$22

An appallingly exciting experience of no ordinary cleverness. Victorian London opens for business the Friday after Thanksgiving and continues weekends through Dec. 23 with gifts, food, costumes, dance parties, etc.

Sunday, November 25

Bad Movie Night: The Net (1995)

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.

Tuesday, November 27

Down to a Science: Mindfulness and the Brain

330 Ritch Street

San Francisco

www.sciencecafesf.com

7 p.m.

Free

Dr. Phillippe Goldin will discuss his findings in the field of Mindfulness, such as how meditation affects neurological systems (and he has the pictures to prove it!).

Tuesday, November 27

Medieval Christmas Songs

Society for Creative Anachronism Event

Round Table Pizza

3567 Geary Boulevard

San Francisco

www.cloondara.org

7 p.m.

Lady Jehanne de Wodeford will teach period Christmas Carols at the Shire of Cloondara's November Arts and Science Session.

Wednesday, November 28

Shopping for Fangs (1997)

Pacific Film Archive

2575 Bancroft Way

Berkeley

bampfa.berkeley.edu

7:30 p.m.

\$9.50

"Generasian X" comedy-thriller includes a character who's afraid he's becoming a werewolf. Part of PFA's Asian American Film & Video series.

Thursday, November 29

More Brains!

Space Gallery

1141 Polk Street

San Francisco

www.spacegallerysf.com

7 p.m.-late

Free

Opening reception for a group exhibition of Zombie-inspired art. The exhibition runs through December 3.

Friday, November 30

Blade Runner: The Final Cut (2007)

Embarcadero Cinema

One Embarcadero Center

San Francisco

bladerunnerthemovie.warnerbros.com

The new version slated for release on DVD in December gets an early big screen preview at

selected theaters around the country.

Friday-Sunday,

November 30-

December 2

An Ardenwood

Christmas

Ardenwood Historic

Farm

34600 Ardenwood Blvd.

Fremont

10 a.m.-5 p.m.

\$8

Celebrate the holidays in Victorian style: Visit the decorated Patterson House, sing Christmas carols, meet Father Christmas.

Saturday, December 1

Super Toy, Comic & Record Show

Santa Clara County Fairgrounds

344 Tully Road

San Jose

www.timetunneltoys.com

11 a.m.-4 p.m.

\$5 (early bird 9 a.m. \$15)

Saturday, December 1

Bay Area Games Day

Los Altos Public Library

13 S. San Antonio Road

Los Altos

games.groups.yahoo.com/group/gamesday/

10 a.m.-11 p.m.

\$1



A favorite Bay Area holiday event, the **Dickens Fair** opens this weekend at the Cow Palace. From now until just



before Christmas, the vast Exhibition Hall will be transformed into a vision of Victorian London, with food, drink and gifts for sale as well as diverse entertainments.

Photos courtesy Dickens Fair

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

Saturday, December 1

Santa Arrives by Helicopter

Hiller Aviation Museum

601 Skyway Road

San Carlos

www.hiller.org

10 a.m.-noon

Free

Tuesday, December 4

Author: James Gurney

The Booksmith

1644 Haight Street

San Francisco

www.booksmith.com
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.

Sunday, December 9

Ask a Scientist's Holiday Puzzle Party
The Bazaar Café
5927 California Street
San Francisco
www.askascientistsf.com
7 p.m.
Free
Start the holiday season with a rollicking math
and logic puzzle competition.

Sunday, December 9

Bad Movie Night: Black Christmas (2006)
The Dark Room Theatre
2263 Mission Street
San Francisco
www.darkroomsf.com

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

8 p.m.
\$5
The Dark Room's resident sharp wits skewer
another bad flick.

Monday, December 10

*Impact of the Commodore 64:
A 25th Anniversary Celebration*
Computer History Museum
1401 N. Shoreline Blvd.
Mountain View
www.computerhistory.org
7 p.m.
With guest speakers Adam Chowaniec, William
C. Lowe, Jack Tramiel, and Steve Wozniak.

Tuesday, December 11

Author: Lemony Snicket
The Booksmith
1644 Haight Street
San Francisco
www.booksmith.com
Time TBA
Free

Wednesday, December 12

Ask a Scientist: The Dark Side of the Universe
Axis Cafe
1201 8th Street
San Francisco
www.askascientistsf.com
7 p.m.
Free
Stanford physics professor Patricia Burchat
talks about dark matter and dark energy.

Thursday, December 13

*Crazy Rays: Science Fiction and the Avant
Garde*
Roxie Cinema
3117 16th Street
San Francisco
www.sfcinematheque.org
7 p.m.: James Fotopoulos and Leah Gilliam
9:30 p.m.: Victor Faccinto and James June
Schneider
Presented by the SF Cinematheque, a series of
riffs on the intersection of science fiction and
experimental cinema, curated by Ed Halter.

Monday, December 31

*New Year's Eve Ball with
Paul Price's Society Orchestra*
St. Mark's Hall
600 Colorado Avenue
Palo Alto
www.paulpriceorchestra.com/NYE07.html
8:30 p.m.
\$25
Ring in the new year dancing to authentic
arrangements of vintage music. Modern or
vintage evening wear (any era: Regency,
Victorian, Edwardian, Jazz Age, Swing era,
etc.).

Friday-Sunday, January 4-6

Kingdom of the West's Twelfth Night Coronation
Society for Creative Anachronism Event
Doubletree Hotel
2050 Gateway Place
San Jose
www.thewestermark.org/12thnight.html
\$25

January 4-26

"Sweetie" Tanya: The Demon Barista of Valencia Street

The Dark Room Theatre

2263 Mission Street

San Francisco

www.darkroomsf.com

Fri. & Sat. at 10 p.m.

\$20

A new take on the tale of Sweeney Todd:

"Vengeance is best served hot."

Saturday, January 5

Victorian Twelfth Night Ball

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 North Ellsworth

San Mateo

www.peers.org

\$15 in advance (by December 29), \$20 at the door.

A.k.a. The Dickens Fair Reunion Ball. Dance Lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Tuesday, January 8

Café Scientifique: Climate Change and Global Security

International Building

SRI

Middlefield Road at Ringwood

Menlo Park

www.cafescisv.org

6-7:30 p.m.

Free

A talk by consultant and futurist Peter Schwartz.

Tuesday, January 8

Author: Todd McCaffrey

The Booksmith

1644 Haight Street

San Francisco

www.booksmith.com

Time TBA

Free

Thursday, January 10

Thrillville's Bat-Tastic Bat-Show: Batman (1966)

Parkway Speakeasy Theater

1834 Park Blvd.

Oakland

www.thrillville.net

9:15 p.m.

\$8

The fabulously freaky feature film version of the 60s TV series, starring Adam West and Burt Ward. Special appearance by Kitten on the Keys.

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.

Saturday, January 12

BeefBowl Anime

Albany Library

1247 Marin Avenue

Albany

12:15-4:15 p.m.

Free

See the screening list at beefbowl.org.

Wednesday, January 16

Ask a Scientist: Where Did Language Come From?

Axis Cafe

1201 8th Street

San Francisco

www.askascientistsf.com

7 p.m.

Free

A talk by Terrence Deacon, Professor of Biological Anthropology and Linguistics at UC Berkeley.

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

Masonic Lodge

100 North Ellsworth

San Mateo

www.peers.org

\$15 in advance (by January 26), \$20 at the door.
New Orleans' most amusing host, M. Lestat de Lioncourt, invites you to a joyous Mardi Gras Ball. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Thursday, February 14

Thrillville's Giant Valentine's Show: Konga (1961) and Reptilicus (1961)
Cerrito Speakeasy Theater
10070 San Pablo Avenue
El Cerrito
www.thrillville.net
7:30 p.m.
\$10
Featuring Mr. Lobo and the Queen of Trash in person.

Friday-Sunday, February 15-17

DunDraCon
San Ramon Marriott
2600 Bishop Drive
San Ramon
www.dundracon.com
Annual gaming convention returns to San Ramon.

Friday-Monday, February 15-18

Pantheacon
Doubletree Hotel
2050 Gateway Place
San Jose
www.ancientways.com
\$65 in advance (until January 15), \$75 at the door
Annual Pagan gathering with workshops,

rituals, drumming, dancing, and crafts.

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. Panels, dealers, summer movie previews, costume contest, more.

Saturday, March 1

Pride and Prejudice Ball
PEERS Event
www.peers.org
Details to follow.

Friday-Sunday, March 7-9

Consonance
Crowne Plaza Silicon Valley
777 Bellew Drive
Milpitas
\$50 at the door (\$45 until February 22)
www.consonance.org
The Bay Area's annual filk convention returns.

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 in advance (through December 31, 2007)
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.

Friday-Monday, May 23-26

FanimeCon

San Jose Convention Center
435 South Market Street
San Jose
www.fanime.com

The Bay Area's largest annual anime convention returns. Dealer's room, panels, costume contest, J-pop concert, more.

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:

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
Mountain View Community Center
201 S. Rengstorff Avenue
Mountain View
www.davekohr.users.sonic.net/svb/
6:30 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.