

Science Fiction/San Francisco

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Thanks to España Sheriff for the art on Page 9.

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News and Notes

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

Further Confusion is over and it was a bit double-sided. Folks had a great time, and you can look all over the fannish LJs to find many reports of that, but there were some problems in scheduling (and I was a part of those!) and the typical problems every con has with things like rooms being made ready. The biggest thing you heard about was the improvement of the Coffee Garden. The food was about 20% better than the last time I was there (SiliCon) and the service was great. The buffet for breakfast was good, the lunch and dinner buffets were much better than any of the ones they used to do. Big ups there.

For me, you gotta love the Live Animal Event from Leopards, Etc. They brought out a Siberian Lynx (in theme with the “Fur East” concept), a Caracal, a Cerval, a Puma, and what I thought was the big star, the King Cheetah, one of only 35 that have ever been seen!

No word on any bid for the 2010 Westercon. I’m not sure what the hold-up is for the three different rumored bids that have been out there. The one that I was involved with ain’t happening, but there were three other ones that had made the rounds and no word of them has reached me yet.

Speaking of cons, it’s confirmed that I’ll be doing a Fanzine Lounge at both Westercon in Vegas and Worldcon in Denver. I’m looking for help with both of them and they should be fun. The Worldcon one is a big deal because I’ve never

been fully on a Worldcon staff before and I’m hoping that I’ll finally get to meet those elusive fans of fanzines who never seem to make it out to where I am. If you’re gonna be there, why not volunteer to take some time in the Lounge and help out! I’ll be there, there’ll be zines, places to sit and chat, and maybe, just maybe, a piñata. BayCon will be the second con where you’ll be able to get my TAFF Report (after Costume-Con) — and there’s a plot thickening too!

Now is the time to start thinking about Costume-Con. It’s in April and you should get your hotel room before it’s too late. The program is starting to take shape and the Masquerades and Fashion Shows are looking good. I’ll be the MC for the Fantasy & Science Fiction Masq, so you’ll certainly want to see that one. From everything that Kevin Roche has been saying, this will be a Costume-Con like no other!

I just have to plug it for Hugo Voters: go buy *Family Guy Presents Blue Harvest*. It’s such a great parody of *Star Wars* that it’s nuts. Buy it from Cargo Cult Books! It’s certainly worthy of the Hugo for Best Dramatic Short Form.

eFanzines has been slightly slower than usual, with output of *The Drink Tank* slower than normal (though you should probably look for the Third Annual Giant Sized Annual (issue 160) and a surprisingly good issue 159). *Vegas Fandom Weekly* has a new one too, and it’s another in a long line of fun zines. The Steve Stiles art in it is great! Well worth reading.

Same could be said of *Askance* #6 from

John Purcell. There’s a lot of talk about the Core Fandom thing in it, including an article from Andy Trembley which I thought was very interesting. Claire Brialey has some terribly interesting things to say too, which is why she’s one of the most terribly interesting writers in the world at the moment. There are zine reviews from that master Lloyd Penney, including coverage of the zine you’re looking at right now!

Kim Huett put together a fantastic collection of the work of John Brosnan. All the writing and all the art (save for the intro) was written by Mr. Brosnan himself! It’s a great introduction to one of the better writers I’ve read in recent memory. There’s some stuff in there you’ll just never find. It’s called *You Only Live Once* and it’s at <http://efanzines.com/YOLO/index.htm>. And Mike Glyer has put up a scan of the first issue of *File 770* on eFanzines. (More about that later.) Speaking of Mike and *File 770*, Happy 30th Birthday to that long-lived and exceptional zine!

I haven’t got a single print zine in the mail since before Christmas. I’ve still got the same address. I only moved where I was living, not where I get my mail! Maybe it’s just the traditional slowdown that happens before the three big pubbing periods. There’s the issue you release a few weeks before the Hugo nominating deadline, the one you release about a month before the Hugo voting deadline, and the one you print for your major con, say CorFlu or Worldcon or Eastercon or whatever. Us Frequency Fools

don't usually follow that pattern.

Halftime entertainment for BayCon will include "Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me!" I'm doing the hosting and I'm assembling my team of evil participants. There are a lot of folks that I love working with, but there are only three panelists, one Not My Job person (who I think I've got), an announcer and my official scorekeeper. Still, it should be a lot of fun. I just gotta figure out something for the prize instead of Carl Kasell's voice on your home answering machine.

TAFF is still coming down the path and I've got a fair bit of the trip planned. It'll be a big BArea thing as several of us fannish types from these shores will be making our trip up there, including Frank Wu, The Lovely and Talented Linda, Rich Coad, Ian Stockdale and me!

What's next on the BArea con scene? Well, there's PantheaCon and Gallifrey (which is in LA, but draws a lot of BArea types) and there's the beast known as Wondercon coming up. I'm likely to be at P-Con for at least a little bit, and I'll do one day at Wondercon, probably Sunday. I've had an on-again, off-again relationship with Wondercon, but I've been looking at things and I'm getting a little more interested. There's always the Indy Aisle to keep me happy.

Many folks who read *The Drink Tank* may have heard that my dear friend SaBean is having a baby. I've made a list of the Ultimate Fannish Names for her to think about: Laney (after the dude who wrote *Ah, Sweet Idiocy!*), Eney (after Dick Eney who *did A Sense of FAPA*), Avedon (after TAFF Winner Avedon Carol), Ansible (the Langford Zine), Plokta and, of course, Mangcha. She actually liked Laney and Ansible the best so far. She's due in the middle of the year.

Letters Of Comment

Let's hear from the man...Lloyd Penney!

Dear Chris and Jean:

I've been ripping through a big stack of zines (not literally), and I am nearly caught up. Next in my catching up efforts are some comments on *SF/SF* 58.

Chris Garcia replies: *With the number of zines you get, I'm shocked you manage to LoC even half of them!*

January is slow most places, including Toronto. If local fans want a con fix, they have to go down the highway to Detroit for the annual Confusion convention. (It's been called that a lot longer than the furry con has.)

British zines often contain fiction with fans as characters, and there's character assassination going on there regularly. Cheryl Morgan writes some up for an American zine, and there's outrage. I suspect there's some people in desperate need of a sense of humour. The next act in this play should be interesting to see. The Core Fandom kerfuffle is also entertaining.

It will be and it'll be running in the BASFA Times (which I'll make sure folks get to see!). January doesn't normally feel so bereft of anything, but Further Confusion was a blast!

When do you head off to the UK for your TAFF trip? Some time in March, I think...I have a flyer for Orbital at home.

I leave on the 14th of March and return on the 31st. That's one full SF/SF issue that I'll

probably have nothing to do with!

eFanzines has been a little slow these days, which is assisting me in my catch-up efforts. I plan to work ahead on another project, which is something I hope you'll see soon.

Yeah, a little slow indeed. I'm wondering what everyone's doing these days that keeps them from zining.

Greetings to John Purcell...can you imagine what might happen if you were to participate in an anti-war protest these days? Who knows where you'd end up...would we even hear from you again?

Oh, it's not that bad. Why just yesterday I was mentioning to a co-worker that the war was unwise, and she said...hey, stop that! Put me down! Nooooooo...

I will attach a DUFF ballot to this loc...if I don't, e-mail me and I'll get it to you so all who are interested can take part. There is a British Consulate in Toronto, so I would imagine there's one in Los Angeles. I don't need a visa to go to the US or the UK, but new regulations now mean that for me to enter the US, I must have a passport plus at least one other piece of identification. The walls keep being built up higher and higher.

I need a passport for the UK, but I didn't know I required one for Canada. I'll have to make sure I bring everything with me when I go to Anticipation!

Hi, Jean...I hope you've recovered from

Christmas, and that life is a little better. You deserve it, and you deserve another hug, too.

Ditto from me, Jean!

I think that Arnie might have meant Core Fandom to be the group that holds up for example one of the oldest forms of fanac there is, perhaps raising fanzine fandom up as a little more special than the rest because of its history. Special, but not separate. In my own varied fannish career, I have enjoyed different kinds of fanac depending on what my tastes are at the time. I am very much enjoying fanzine fandom, given my interest and training in journalism. Will I be involved with it next year? Who knows? I suspect the answer will be yes, but something might come along to take my interest completely. (So stay interesting, you bunch...)

I love fandom and all sorts of FANAC. I think I'd be bored if fanzines or cons or any other single thing was all there was. I guess I never could have been Harry Warner...

Consonant Enigma's Kristina is moving to Portland? I hope she will continue to publish; her zine is very valuable in examining these crazy fans.

Me too. I think it was the best BArea zine of 2007 with some great and intelligent FanCon writing and that layout she's so darn good at! I hope I get to see at least two more issues this year. I think she's coming up for CostumeCon.

I need to find the time to look at and examine the old fanzines scanned at fanac.org. There's just too many new fanzines to deal with. I am glad there are archives like eFanzines.com and fanac.org keeping these zines alive, long after all the paper copies have escaped into private collections.

Yep, the older stuff keeps on getting scanned and put up (see my File 770 story) and there's more happening in that area every day. I still say someone needs to give a big ole collection to Google to scan and post.

I've been amazed at the relatively new phenomenon of the anime convention, and the way they've grown in numbers and size. Toronto's had Anime North for about 12 years now, and a convention that started as a one-day con that attracted about 800 people (Yvonne and I ran their green room that year) has ballooned into a 15,000-person juggernaut that takes up most of a convention centre and two entire hotels, function space and rooms and all. If you've ever wondered where all the young fans are, they aren't attending our conventions; they are at the anime cons.

I was at the first Anime Expo in San Jose in 1990. That one folded in the mid-90s, replaced by FanimeCon which continues to be huge to this day. That first one took place in the San Jose DoubleTree, where I've been to about 50 other cons over the years. I had a good time,

despite not really liking Anime that much!

Chris, another zine? You will burn yourself out, man! I don't go to see many movies, so I'm not sure I can add much to it. Let's see the first issue, and I'll see if I can comment.

It'll probably be finished when I'm on the plane to the UK, if my battery holds out!

And no events listings at the end? What happened here? This has to be one of the most time-intensive jobs in any publication, and I shouldn't be surprised that it might be missing once.

Well, there were the holidays. Plus, you'll see a new name next to the column for this issue!

All done for now. I may have the time to write responses in a more timely fashion in the future. Having this PDA with a keyboard really helps right now; I have no computer at Panasonic. Take it easy, folks, and see you next issue.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

Hey, you take it easy and we'll keep on keepin' on!

Two ways to hear about new issues of SF/SF:

Send an email to SFinSF@gmail.com to get on Jean's mailing list

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Sign up for the eFanzines announcement list by sending an email to efanzines-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Editorial

By Jean Martin

Editor

I have to admit, I'm a tech gadget geek. Well, I suppose that's not unusual in this day and age, and I'm probably not as much of one as most people are now, but I used to be always ahead of the curve growing up, even in the remote Philippine Islands.

I was the first one to have a Walkman, which I bought on my yearly summer trip to Hong Kong. And I got a new one practically every other year after that. *Walkman? What's that?* some young 'uns might be wondering. I went to Radio Shack not long ago to buy a new one and the sales guy looked at me funny. He asked if I wanted an mp3 player. I said I need a Walkman to play the audiobooks (mostly sci fi) that I rent from my local public library. I suppose I'm dating myself saying I was around when Walkmans came out. Anyway, I was the first one to have a camera of my own when I was like nine or around that age. I was the first one to have a PC (one of those clunky IBM clones with of course, a dot matrix printer.)

But as I grew older, and life got busier with adult responsibilities and lots of other interests, I haven't been as up-to-date as I would have been in the past. The whole mp3 revolution sort of started and boomed without me. I won an early generation mp3 player several years ago from a raffle at work. (I have very good luck with raffles at my job. I've won opera tickets, tennis

tournament tickets, etc. But I digress.) That mp3 player is obsolete now. It could only hold one album at a time if I remember correctly. I was excited about it at first but completely got over it a few months later. So when iPods came out, I wasn't first in line. In fact, I didn't even jump on the bandwagon. *Why do I need one?* I asked myself. It's such a pain downloading. It takes time and you have to do it often. Until several people lately assumed that I had one — perhaps because they know I'm into music and all types of media. Or maybe it's because they just think everyone nowadays has one! What finally broke down my resistance, in addition to my realizing I was completely behind the times on this one, was that my sister bought one. Sibling rivalry and all that. So I asked for one for Christmas from my parents. They're pretty good Santas, so I got my wish. Well, they gave me the money to buy one.

The third generation iPod nanos just came out recently and they look nicer and have a bigger screen. I did a little bit of research beforehand and even toyed with the idea of buying other brands. But I realized if I was going to get an mp3 player, I should go with the tried and true. I'm not the type of person to go after hot name brands. I was more concerned with features, reliability and availability of downloadable media. I'd used iTunes before to download episodes of *Battlestar Galactica* that I missed seeing on the SciFi Channel so I was

familiar with the interface. I was hoping for a pink iPod nano 3G, but that color was not even an option around the holidays. I was surprised, as they had red, green, blue and black. I chose silver, as I do like the color and it's a neutral color. As soon as I could, I opened the tiny box, and out came this sleek, wafer-thin technological marvel. I can't believe how much technology they can pack into tiny objects these days!

Well, for someone who didn't know what to do with one, and who was complaining about downloading being a hassle and taking time out of my busy schedule, that's mostly what I've been doing in January. Work has been busy and I've been too tired to do much else afterwards. I've also been recovering from being ill for most of December. And it's been unusually stormy and cold this Winter. So it's been the perfect time to just stay home and hibernate, and play with my new toy.

Now I have another confession to make: I'm an iPod addict. My iPod is constantly with me, at home, while working, during my lunch break, at bookstores, in my car, waiting before appointments, at restaurants when I'm by myself, in bed... everywhere practically. I've rediscovered my love for music. I've uploaded 42 albums from rock, heavy metal and alternative to classical, country, world, Latin, pop, musical theatre, soundtracks, you name it. It's great listening to so many different styles of music while I'm at work because it drowns

out the sounds around me. Also, the variety when I have it on shuffle keeps things fresh and unpredictable. Although after just a month, even 42 albums are starting to get old and repetitive. My latest find, music-wise, is Sixx A.M.'s *The Heroin Diaries Soundtrack* by Motley Crue's Nikki Sixx. It's the soundtrack to a book by the same name and not to a movie. The music is just absolutely amazing and the lyrics are inspiring. It's probably the best rock album I've heard in a long, long time. If you want to know more, check out the review I posted on Amazon.com.

I recently read in the business section (I'm a financial writer during the day, after all) that Apple didn't do well last quarter due to weak iPod sales. Hmm... that really tells me I'm way behind. Still, I'm surprised because the iPod Nano 3Gs are fantastic! Perhaps it's just that the economy is on a downward slope in general and sales of non-essentials are obviously going to suffer first. In any case, I'm probably single-handedly supporting Apple with all the downloading I've been doing on iTunes. I think I've already spent more on buying music, audiobooks and movies from iTunes than the cost of the iPod itself.

And then Apple had the nerve to come out with a pink iPod Nano 3G for Valentine's Day! I was so upset because it wasn't even a month ago that I had bought a silver one when I really wanted a pink one. And they did it for a holiday that doesn't even mean anything to me at the moment. (Well, it means that I don't have a special someone to spend it with this year, that's what!) I emailed my sister as soon as I found out and she jokingly said that she would buy my silver one (at a used price, of course) because she

likes the 3G better than her current one. That was all the incentive I needed. That, and looking at my desk at work where my pink Motorola Razor V3 cell phone, my pink 2008 leather planner, and my pink work badge holder sat. Oh, did I mention that pink is my favorite color? I just had to have a pink Nano! So off I went to the store to get one.

So what's this got to do with sci fi? you might ask. Well, I've purchased and even rented (that's new on iTunes) so many sci fi and fantasy TV shows and movies since I got my iPod. I've seen *Sky High*, about a teenager whose parents

And then Apple had the nerve to come out with a pink iPod for Valentine's Day.

are superheroes and he gets sent to a superhero high school but he doesn't seem to have any powers himself. I loved this movie! I've seen *The Bridge to Terabithia*, which I didn't like at all. I'm rewatching *Timeline*, which I like a lot despite the bad reviews. I'm sorry, Gerard Butler in a medieval outfit... that's a thumbs up for me right there. I'm not a big *Simpsons* fan, I think I've only seen one episode, but I enjoyed *The Simpsons Movie* a lot. It was a lot more intelligent and engaging than I expected. I'm also hooked on the vampire TV series *Moonlight*. I'm a big fan of Sophia Myles (girlfriend of the current Doctor

Who, David Tennant) and she's so beautiful and spunky in this show. The vampire Mick St. John is tall, dark and handsome and shows a lot of heart and vulnerability as well as intelligence and strength. It's romantic, action-packed and mysterious all at the same time.

Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles is also available on iTunes. I seem to keep missing the first 10-15 minutes of the series on TV. I'm not in the habit of watching TV so tuning in at a certain time is something I'm not good at. But you can also watch the episodes for free on the Fox web site, so no need to get those from iTunes. Summer Glau (River from *Firefly*) is amazing in this one as a female cyborg sent to help Sarah Connor protect her son. The show is gritty, exciting, and has the same look and feel as the movies — but without Governor Schwarzenegger, unfortunately.

I've also downloaded a couple of songs from *Spaced Out: The Best of Leonard Nimoy and William Shatner*. I didn't even know this album existed! Nimoy's "The Ballad of Bilbo Baggins" and Shatner's "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds" are just classic. I've also purchased Monty Python's "Camelot" and the Lumberjack Song, both of which I've performed, the first one at the BayCon 2006 masquerade and the second at a PEERS Music Hall a year or so ago.

If anyone hasn't seen Weird Al's *White and Nerdy* music video, run, don't walk and watch it on YouTube. It's hilarious! I'm not white but I'm nerdy so I relate to the video a lot. The music is fun and the lyrics are clever. I bought it on iTunes because I like to watch it over and over

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Dreams of the City

A Column by España Sheriff

So you thought last year was busy? Even if you aren't leaving the Bay Area for SoCal conventions or the state for Westercon and Worldcon this year you can still look forward to a packed calendar.

After a relatively quiet January during which to recover from the holidays things are already beginning to pick up. Further Confusion already came and went, and looking forward, this year promises to be a very busy one for Bay Area fandom. This month alone we can look forward to three major events; Wondercon, PantheaCon and DunDraCon, as well as newer/lesser-known offerings such as Animation of Display — now in its sixth year — and a local concert by geek superstar Jonathan Coulton, of “Re: Your Brains” and “Greetings from Chiron Beta Prime” fame.

This month also should see submittal of the final plans for Viz Media's proposed J-pop center in Japantown, which is apparently slated to include a 150-seat movie theater dedicated to anime and other Japanese pop culture, as well as a bookstore, boutiques and a cafe. A Maid Cafe perhaps? If all goes well the center may be open by the end of the year.

All of the usual conventions are back of course. BayCon's theme is Space Pirates — which is bound to be a big, loud, drunken,

hit. Fanime is also on Memorial Day weekend, alas — but it seems that many folks manage to hit both conventions anyway. Contact: Cultures of the Imagination returns to the NASA Ames Research Center after a one-year hiatus. Later in the year we can look forward to SiliCon, Yaoicon and APE. Those not making the pilgrimage to San Diego for Comic-Con may be able to go to the wine country instead for Vintacon. And there are even some wild rumors floating around that there is a Con-X-Treme 2 in the works.

The most exciting event we can look forward to is definitely Costume-Con 26, chaired by the vilest genius of them all, Kevin Roche, and to be held at the good old San Jose Doubletree. From the look of things so far it promises to be of interest to both hardcore costumers and those of us who enjoy costuming as a part of the overall convention experience without ever hoping to acquire the skills to recreate a historically accurate Elizabethan gown.

Consonance, the local filk convention, returns in March. But throughout the year we can also look forward to performances by The Phenomenauts, The Aquabats, The TomorrowMen and Warp 11. Local independent movie theaters El Cerrito, Parkway Speakeasy and the Mighty Clay all have exciting genre events on their respective schedules, and although licensing issues shut down the

immensely popular Buffy sing-alongs, there are still plenty of other things to look forward to including returning favorites like Thrillville with Will the Thrill and Monica (and often as not, Mr. Lobo) and Midnight Mass with Peaches Christ.

For those more inclined towards civilized fare, PEERs has a full slate of balls scheduled for all tastes and themes: Regency, Swing, American Civil War, Fantasy and even Steampunk. The Golden Gate Renaissance Faire returns, as do the larger faires later in the year.

If you have two left feet or are simply disinclined towards hijinks, there will no doubt be plenty of author signings and events; SFInSF has already hosted their first reading for the year at the Variety Preview Room. Conlan Press is releasing an unabridged audiobook of *The Last Unicorn*. Tachyon Publications has a slate of excellent-looking anthologies scheduled for publication, as well as a new edition of *The Stress of Her Regard*, probably my favorite book by this year's BayCon GOH, Tim Powers.

Night Shade Books continues to dazzle with gorgeous covers and a nice selection of upcoming releases like the intriguingly titled *Mall of Cthulhu*. McSweeney's dodged a bullet last year and not only survived but thrived, and the pirate store at 826 Valencia is now part of a network of 826 stores in several cities. The local bookstore scene is seemingly back on an even

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This Old Fanzine

File 770 Issue No. 1
by Mike Glyer

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

Some zines are stronger than others. I'm not talking quality, though that usually plays a part, but some are simply so ingrained in fandom that you can't pull them out. Even if they slow to a trickle, they're still important and still flowing through the veins of us Fanzinistas. *Emerald City* was one of those, but sadly it's gone. *Ansible* is another. And the other one that comes to mind right now is one that has been the Hugo winner, and has reported on fandom and its various rivulets over the last three decades. I'm of course talking about the greatest fanzine ever named after a room party: *File 770*.

Mike Glyer has been putting up some of the older issues over the last couple of years and the very first one just went up last week. I own a copy of this somewhere in the ever-growing number of boxes I'm the owner of, but I didn't see it when I went looking the other day. Such was my loss. Issue One isn't exactly what we think of when those of us who have read the beast for years think about Mike's masterwork, but it is the start of the thing. The first issue almost always set the tone (though if that's the case, no wonder no one reads *The Drink Tank!*)



and *File 770* #1 is as strong an opening move as you're gonna find.

The first article is about New Orleans bidding for the 1980 Worldcon. That would go to Boston, I believe, and N'orlens would get the con a few years later, giving us NoLaCon, which was something of a disaster. The articles are long and detailed, which is something that *File 770* has always presented, and the look is amazing. I'm not sure how Mike does his scans, but these are as clean as I've seen them and that only adds

to the enjoyment of the older issues he's been putting up.

His look at the various Worldcon bids is a lot like you'd see in the pages of *F770* today (or in the article that Jack Avery wrote for us about a year ago), and it looks at some of the important players of the time. There's a nice little piece on James Tiptree, Jr., in which he talks about it being a widely-known secret that he was really Alice Shelton and the way Putnum treated that fact. It was a good thing, I think, and the way he talks about Farmer's final entry in the *Riverworld* series (which, unless I misremember, took place in the early 1990s) made me realize that publishers certainly haven't changed.

There are some lovely illustrations, which is something that *F770* has always been good at. Today's editions, full of photos and fan art, seem much more busy, while here the art breaks up longer chunks of text. The stenciled headers for the various articles are a nice touch. That's something I've always wanted to do with *The Drink Tank* (and Steve Green has always done for *Fannish Memory Syndrome*) but have never had the artist crew to manage it! There's some really nice stuff, especially something by this person named Taral.

Mentions of the International Science Fiction Yearbook (Frank Wu lent me a copy ages ago and I've read it cover to cover several times) and the look at the zines that Mike got

are interesting reminders of those long-gone days. The talk about fanartists shows how much difference there is today. Now a fanartist can simply scan their art, ship it off and it's done, without having to worry about stenciling or having it returned. They can give away the material much easier and make the life of an editor so much nicer. I love fanartists and am always trying to find ways to make them more happy so that I can use them...I mean showcase their talents!

What's interesting is that Mike talks about the newszines of the time such as *Locus* and *Karass* (which is one I remember from an early age), and the look at the mechanics of a newszine in the 1970s is great. There's a line that really speaks to the reason we do this: "A fannish newszine is a one or two person organ, plagued with an irregular schedule, covering the same geographic area as the Washington Post with one five-hundredth the staff." That's an interesting point. It makes me feel very proud of what we've done with *SF/SF*.

The entire zine is a wonderful look at what zines were in the late 1970s, the starting point for one of the few zines that really made a major impact on fandom as a whole in the last 30 years, and a plain good piece of work. It's historical and wonderfully telling. I can't wait until Mike puts up some more of the ones from the past.

You can read *File 770* Issue No. 1 and Issue No. 7, along with more recent issues, at <http://efanzines.com/File770/index.htm>.



Dickensian Christmas in Olde London Town

By Jean Martin
Editor

I've been enjoying the Great Dickens Fair every year for the last several years. The 2007 season, the fair's 29th year, was no exception. The fair was held at the Cow Palace Exhibition Halls in San Francisco last November 23 – December 23. The period of time after Thanksgiving and before Christmas is a wonderful time to get into the Christmas spirit... Dickensian-style.

The first time I went to Dickens Fair was a long time ago when it was still being held at a pier somewhere on the Embarcadero. I remember feeling like I had used H.G. Wells's time machine and traveled to the Victorian era. My fondest memory, which I can still see in my mind's eye after all these years, was Fezziwig's Warehouse. There were lots of people in colorful costumes dancing, and the yellow glow of chandeliers made the atmosphere warm and vibrant. However, the place was not a very good venue. It was cramped and labyrinthine. After that one time, I didn't go again until more recently.

The Cow Palace location is much nicer, with the streets of Old London re-created in a much more organized fashion. You can see all the delightful shops, dining establishments and entertainment halls very easily as you stroll down aptly named areas such as Nickelby Road and Fagin's Alley. The main draw for me, of course, is the first room that you see as you enter the



Holiday revelers gather before the tree.

Photo courtesy Jean Martin



extensive costume wardrobe. What's dangerous for me is the shopping and dining. There are so many wonderful items to buy that you can't find anywhere else. I pretty much also eat my way through the place while I'm there. At least the entertainments are free.

I went to Dickens Fair this time on Saturday, December 8, with a big group of dance friends. We went on the same day that the GBACG (Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild) was going to be there as well. My group went in costume and I thought we were pretty snazzily dressed until I saw the GBACG group. They really take costuming to a professional level. We arrived early, right as the doors opened. I don't usually get there until the early afternoon because I like to stay until the end, but I went with a group this time and the

Characters from Jules Verne novels (left) included Captain Nemo himself (below).

Photos by Jim Bull

gate. It's Fezziwig's Dance Party, where you can dance Victorian and even English and Regency Country dances. Fezziwig's has been even more fun for me now that I know more people in the PEERS (Period Events and Entertainments Re-creation Society), BACDS (Bay Area Country Dance Society) and BAERS (Bay Area English Regency Society) scene. The ever-gracious PEERS artistic director, Cathleen Myers, even called a Regency set just for me when she saw me.

However many times I've been to Dickens Fair, I never get tired of it. There's always something new to see and a lot of great things to do all over again. But I only go once a season, because I like experiencing something once and then looking forward to it again next year. December is also a busy time with the holidays coming up and I tend to slow down toward wintertime anyway. But probably the main reason is that going to Dickens Fair is a very expensive proposition for me. The ticket and parking added up is not bad. And I already have costumes I can use from my



consensus was for an early start as some folks had to leave early.

We had a group photo taken next to the tall and beautifully-decorated Christmas tree at the Grand Concourse. I was having my friend, Jeff, take a solo photo of me when a lady dressed in a beautiful Civil War-style black outfit asked if she could take a photo of me as well. Then we stopped and stared and recognized each other: It was Diane Rooney, a former regular contributor to *SF/SF*. I hadn't seen her in a while and we hugged each other, delighted to see each other after so long. She was there for the GBACG get-together.

Afterwards, my group dispersed and my best friends Jeff and Christina and I strolled along and browsed through some of the stores. Surprisingly, I didn't buy much this time around. I already bought a wool cloak and a blouse last year so I guess I didn't really need any more costumes. I already have a couple of Dark Garden corsets, one custom-made and one off-the-rack, so I didn't need to spend money at that store either. The Dark Garden show windows are famous for their live mannequins. Women in corsets portray different Victorian-style provocative themes that can be playful, serious or even wild. There were a lot of Christmas wares for sale as well as pewter trinkets and other baubles. The only thing I purchased was a wand that looks like Hermione's from the Harry Potter movies.

I saw two guys in our group try their hand at fencing. I wanted to try, but I was too shy to do it. Instead, I went to get lunch at Pickwick Place, a Victorian version of a food court at the mall. I had a delicious vegetable pasty with gravy. After lunch, I ran into another friend named Jeff who



The Crummies Theatrical Troupe performs a Melodrama.

Photo by Kim Yasuda

was working at the fair. He's a singer and he invited me to see his choral group perform at the London Docks stage. I also ran into fellow fen Joan and Richard, and fellow dancers Kim and Allan.

To work up my appetite for our upcoming reservation at Cuthbert's Tea House, where our group would meet mid-afternoon, I walked around and saw the sights and heard the sounds of the fair. It gets a little bit overwhelming so I have to concentrate on one thing at a time. One thing I noticed that was new is the La Legion

Fantastique. They had a room decorated in the style of Jules Verne and characters from the author's novels were represented by players in amazing costumes and props. Seeing them got me interested in putting together a steampunk costume too. I don't know why I never realized the potential of combining my love of the Victorian era and science fiction. I've seen more and more people wearing steampunk at conventions and I'm determined to have one by BayCon in May.

I had some time left, so I watched the first

half of *The Pirates of Penzance* at the Victoria and Albert Music Hall. I saw that musical in 1978 with Rex Smith and Kevin Kline, before he was even famous. I love the music and story, and the cast at the Dickens Fair put on a good show. I recognized two of my fellow Peerless Beauties, a chorus girl group that performs at PEERS balls, among the cast.

Soon enough, it was tea time. Cuthbert's is a wonderful place for afternoon tea. I love their watercress sandwiches and scones. The place is like the town of Brigadoon that only exists for a little while, then disappears for a long time and then magically reappears again. I suppose that's what the whole fair is like. It's a real town that's only around for a month and then comes back at the same time each year.

After tea, my friends and I danced a little bit. Then we lined up for the popular Saucy French Postcard Review. I'd never seen it because I usually don't have time to see shows and you have to get the free tickets ahead of time because it gets packed very quickly. I didn't quite know what to expect, and it was nothing like I expected. I don't want to spoil it for anyone who hasn't seen it before. The element of shock and surprise is a big part of the thrill of watching it. Suffice it to say, the Victorian era is often generalized as a conservative time period. Still, the Victorians are also quite renowned, among those in the know, for their erotica.

Well, after that, it was time for another food break. I'm vegetarian but when I'm at Dickens Fair, or wherever they have British or Scottish meat pies, I'm all over these delicious treats. I got a Scottish pie this time, which is ground meat with oatmeal. I love oatmeal.

Oatmeal is vegetarian, right? So anyway, after all that food, I needed a bit of a workout, so it was back to Fezziwig's for some more dancing.

During dance breaks, when there were Victorian parlor games or Scottish dance



Can-Can Girl.

Photo by Kim Yasuda

performances, I wandered off to catch a little bit of my friend Jeff's chorus and a few minutes of the raunchy entertainment at Mad Sal's Dockside Alehouse. There were Can-Can dancers who were really good and had fantastic costumes. I do a little bit of this type of performing for

PEERS so it wasn't anything out of the ordinary for me. I had a tarot card reading done too. And as I was getting my fortune read, I heard the familiar strains of the Congress of Vienna waltz. I missed dancing it. Oh well, I can dance it at other balls.

There is no sense of time when you're at Dickens Fair as you're indoors and it's dark like London with its romanticized fog that's really Industrial Revolution smog. I was surprised to realize that I had been there for almost eight hours already! The highlight of Dickens Fair for me is when the players and remaining guests sing the Hallelujah Chorus in four-part harmony. I'm an alto and I don't know my part really well. I'm always surprised how many people know how to do a sing-along Hallelujah Chorus. I usually stand beside someone who knows what they're singing and follow along with the sheet music. And we always sound great. It just works like a special Christmas magic. (Although someone in our party mentioned later on that the song is really meant for Easter, not Christmas.)

Then we all sang Christmas songs as the players bade us goodbye. I'm always sad when they draw the curtains to close up shop. Unlike a play where you're just a spectator, saying farewell at Dickens Fair when the curtains are drawn feels like leaving a world that you were actually part of for one special day. At least there's always next year to look forward to.

For more information, visit:

www.DickensFair.com

www.Peers.org

www.Bacds.org

www.Baers.org

www.Gbacg.org

FurCon: Fun in Fur

By Maurice Ratz
Contributing Writer

My wife doesn't understand furies. She's cool about me going to cons, buying Anthro comics, taking the kids to see movies like *Surf's Up!* or Disney's *Robin Hood*, but she doesn't quite understand why people dress up in those hot suits and give themselves fan names. In fact, I don't understand the suits myself. I don't dress up, I just come with a rat or two in a cage and troll the dealers room.

This year, Chris Garcia was kind enough to invite me to be a part of the science program. I was interested, but the one panel I would have fit on happened at the same time as one of the panels that I couldn't miss. Still, Chris sat down and we had lunch together and he got me to write this.

I got to the con on Saturday morning. My flight was supposed to come in on Friday night, but they cancelled it due to weather. I got to the hotel, and even at nine in the morning there were people in their suits walking the hall. Strange. I had a suitcase, but no rats since flying with them can be difficult. I left them at home and told my oldest to take care of them. She's good with the boys. I checked in, dropped everything off and ran downstairs to find the rabbit panel. I was early and while I was looking for the room where the panel was supposed to be, I saw them

wheeling in crates that were growling. I asked the guy who was helping wheel in the crates what was under the towels.

"This one's a cheetah" he said.

It turned out that there was a panel with a cheetah, a mountain lion and a couple of other

cats at the same time as the rabbit panel. A strange thing to put on when there was a rabbit panel planned. I found the room, on the other side of the building, far away from the big cats, and sat down to see the presentation from the House Rabbit Society. As much as I love rats, rabbits



Photo courtesy Monoceros Media

were the first animals we had when I was a kid. They brought some and talked about keeping them and the different types. The presentation was pretty good. I played with a couple of the rabbits they brought for awhile and talked to one of the presenters afterwards.

After that was lunch and I ran into Chris. We ate and he told me about the various events. I had no plans for the rest of the day and Chris told me about the stuff he was putting on. He also told me that I had to register, which I had completely forgotten about. I waited in a bit of a line, but was entertained by a guy doing a carnival barker routine for one of the other conventions. He was really funny. I got my badge and went into the dealers room.

It was a big marketplace, but some of the other furry cons have much bigger spaces and more dealers. There were about a half dozen comics sellers, which was what I was after. I found a lot of the prices pretty high, but I found a table selling quarter comics and bought an armful. I went through every table a long time, looking over every piece they offered. I talked with a few dealers and a couple of the artists I'd seen at Anthrocon and Eurofurence. I was a little shocked to hear them say the dealers room was closing after I finished off the last table. I was in there for almost six hours.

I went and got some dinner with a couple I knew from Idaho. We talked about the live animal events. They saw the big cats and said that they were a lot of fun. I think I'd have been scared seeing those cats so close.

I went to the Costume Contest. It was a lot of fun. I had to take a seat in the very back, but I could see everything on the big screen. The

costumes were wonderful. Silly, but wonderful. You can tell that everybody puts a lot of work into their projects and the Superhero Horse was the winner. I liked his the best.

After that, I went to the parties. There was good drinking on the second floor and I found someone who had some absinthe. I'd had it once at a con party and was disgusted. This was better, but still very bitter. I ended up at one party with a couple of girls who had brought a small monitor lizard. I held it and they told me all about its habits and the tricks it could do.

The costumes were wonderful. Silly, but wonderful.

They put it on the clock radio and when it went off, the lizard walked over and clawed their ears to wake them up. It was a hit at the party.

I got up early and had breakfast. The buffet wasn't very good, but it got me out of there fast.

I met up with a few friends and we sat around talking about rats, waiting for the Guitar Hero III tournament. My kids got me hooked, but I was nowhere near as good as the younger players. One of them was so good he managed a perfect score on the entire song. I held my own in one game, but was destroyed in the next. I still had fun, even though it meant I couldn't be on the scientist panel.

I went to the puppeteering panel and had some fun. Having a puppeteer as a guest of honor is a great idea and the presentation was easily the best I'd seen at a con in years. Dave Barclay is an amazing puppetmaster and some of the tips he gave were wonderful. I wished I could have stayed for the whole thing, but I had to get my luggage out of the room so that I could get ready to fly home. I checked my bags and went back to the panel, but it was almost over. I went to the felines panel, which was much better than I'd thought. I enjoy Bad Dog Books and they had a panel about storytelling that I enjoyed. It was one of those panels that is geared for writers, but is really entertaining for everyone.

I ran to the airport and made my flight back to Jersey with ten minutes to spare. I didn't get around to reading the program book until I was in-flight. It was a nice book and Moira Hahn's cover was beautiful.

I'd come back to Further Confusion every year if it was in some closer state, but I might come every few years. I had a really good time and I got to hang out with some people who I don't get to see very often. This might have been the most fun I've had at a furry convention ever.

www.furtherconfusion.org

BASFA Minutes: Meetings 912-913

Meeting 912

January 21, 2008

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

Began 8:01 [with hopes that were soon dashed]

35 people attended

We established a TAFF jar

Secretary's report: we accepted the minutes of meeting 911 as 'motion to strike and replace with'

The Treasurer reported that last week we took in \$30.15 in the regular jar, \$10.86 in the party jar & \$41.45 in the TAFF jar

VP reported that he he's almost finished with a new 'Drink Tank' - and he's already got a LoC for that issue - so there's time-shifting going on - and Further Confusion is coming up and he's in charge of the science track

The President reminded us that there will be Hugo nominations after the meeting

The BASFA Times committee reported that he has 3 pages and a cover for it - but wants MORE

Announcements

Lynn announced that Denvention's hotel block is open & announced that this Wednesday she'll be in a comedy showcase at Rooster T Feathers

Harold announced that the Razzies were announced & Eddie Murphy had 5 nominations for every role he played in 'Norbert'

Adrienne announced that you should get Worldcon memberships by the end of the month so you can make Hugo nominations & announced that there's a UFO conference in Laughlin, NV Feb 23-March 1 & there'll be a 'Dark Shadows' fan festival in Burbank July 18-20

Andy announced that Further Confusion is this week & Soko Hardware in SJ [6th St] is closing and they're selling everything there at half off now & announced that the Evil Geniuses party will be in room 247 Friday night & they'll be landlording the party Saturday night for the Santa Clara County Leather Assoc

Mike announced that 'Pop Top Trio' will play the Mission City Coffee Roasting Company on Saturday, 8pm, Jan 26

There is no #6
[and then declined to state]

Reviews:

Lisa reviewed 'Alvin & the Chipmunks' as fairly decent & worth matinee

Chris reviewed DVDs - 'The Ten' as even better on DVD & worth full price & 'The Family Guy' was even better without the bleeps & worth full price

Harold reviewed 'The Paperback Apocalypse' by Robert Price, where the author waxes rhapsodic on turgid theology as worth library rental

Kelly went to a SFinSF/Tachyon Press reading & it was quite lovely and a free event [tall Kevin recommends the back row with the comfy chairs]

Daniel reviewed Rustycon as the worst facility since Petuniacon and over-programmed & the food service mystified him [there were follow-ons]

[evil] Kevin reviewed 'Resident Evil - Apocalypse' as worth cable with a hangover

Dave C reviewed 'Cloverfield' as the Blair/ Godzilla Project - pretty good and fun &

reviewed 'Plan 9 from Outer Space' as good and worth full price

[tall] Kevin reviewed 'Hawaii 5-0' on DVD as the counter girl didn't know of the series - at all - & each collection is worth buying at 25% off

Fred reviewed 'Persepolis', an Iranian anime - as highly recommended and worth full price

We adjourned at = 9:02

And the rumor of the week was that = 'the theme for next year's FurCon will be nos-fur-atu'

Meeting 913

January 28, 2008

BASFA meeting number 913-ish began at 2002 hours, with Eric Larson presiding as president and Glenn Glazer as the emergency holographic secretary[1]. No actual officers were present.

It should be noted for the record that BASFA found itself outside of our usual room having been preempted by what someone said was a stock club.

A regular jar and a TAFF jar were established.

The secretary rose under a point of personal privilege to note the increased noise level when we are outside of a closed room. He encouraged people to speak more loudly than usual and was only partially successful. The secretary

apologizes for the paucity of these notes, but many people were difficult to hear.

A motion was made to postpone the reading of last week's minutes to next week, which passed. Move to postpone the treasury report failed for lack of a second under some out of order debate on whether it was even meaningful or not.

A motion was made to have the officers contact Coco's management to permanently resolve the room issue, which passed unanimously.

Orders of the day were altered to put officer reports last.

Announcements:

Glenn: Today is the 50th anniversary of the patent of the Lego brick. Lisa followed-on with Google modified its name on the home page for this.

Adrienne said she had a quickie. Glenn suggested this might not be the sort of review we want here. After a nonplussed pause, she said there was a Superbowl pool at work and others were welcome to join. Glenn said that he wanted to repeal the Patriot Act and Harold volunteered to pay for the pun.

Reviews:

Harold reviewed the quiche and salad at Coco's as "Don't" and Cloverfield as "so-so". Dave Clark followed-on with his disappointed surprise

at this review as he enjoyed it.

At this point Chris showed up, becoming the first real officer present, but refused to take over leading the meeting.

Lisa reviewed FurCon. Lots of fun, 380 people in the furry parade. Daniel followed-on with "The most fun I've had at a Bay Area con." It is a young group and worth full price. Dave followed on by saying that the food at the hotel restaurant has risen above the level of fuel. Daniel rejoined this by saying that the service has never been less than excellent. Chris followed-on by saying that for once he just went to programming and still had a blast.

There was general discussion of a live action "chess" game that appeared to have rules rather outside of normal chess like lightning bolts. Glenn relayed a number of registration issues that Allie encountered and noted.

Julie reviewed "Torchwood" 2nd episode very disturbing and may be cut in America. Adrienne followed on saying she really enjoyed the acting.

Chris reviewed the season finale of "Pushing Daisies" as having excellent structure and acting.

Daniel went back in the orders of the day to announcements and announced that the head of the Greek Orthodox Church and the head of the Mormon church died on the same day. No one

really knew what this meant, but it was noted that they were never seen in the same place at the same time.

One book was auctioned to Glenn for \$5.

Officer reports:

Chris said there were two and half issues of “Drink Tank” coming up. Two issues of DT proper and “one Little Thing”. Glenn moved to have Chris’s Little Thing put in the same container as Adrienne’s quickie and was correctly ruled dilatory.

The meeting adjourned at 2037 hours with BASFA’s rumor of the week being “Coco’s: Two groups enter, one group leaves.”

[1] Damn it Kathryn, I’m a secretary, not a doctor!

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

Editorial

From Page 6

again. Every time I see it, I discover something else I haven’t seen before.

As far as audiobooks, most of the ones I’ve downloaded from iTunes are self-help and spiritual ones. But I recently found out that the BBC did a radio drama of the *Foundation Trilogy* by Isaac Asimov. That trilogy is one of my favorites of all-time, right after *The Lord of the Rings*. I found the 8-episode series on the Internet and uploaded that to my iPod. I’m not done with it yet and it’s a little bit on the dry side... it is British and it’s from the 1970s after all. If anyone’s interested in listening to this, let me know and I’ll send you the link.

I did a little bit more research and found that there is an unabridged audio version of the trilogy, but it’s not available for rent from the producer’s web site or from any library except in Australia. It can be purchased, but for \$60 apiece. That’s a lot of money. I might break down and buy it some day but with my splurging on iTunes recently, I’ll have to save up for that one for the future. The narrator is Scott Brick who’s the same narrator heard on the *Legends of Dune* prequels (*Butlerian Jihad*, *Machine Crusade* and *Battle of Corrin*) that I’ve been listening to these past few months. He’s pretty good so I’m sure I’ll enjoy these unabridged audiobooks.

The interesting tidbit I found during my research is that New Line was set to produce the *Foundation Trilogy* but it didn’t work out. So they had to come up with something else, and

decided to do *The Lord of the Rings* instead. Well, that’s one great thing that came out of that. But why did they have to do *LOTR* instead of *Foundation*? Couldn’t they have done both? Can’t they do it now? *I, Robot* seems to have done well. The movie was nothing like the book but it was quite good.

So I’m completely immersing myself in things that I love via my new iPod. I’m filling it up with music, movies, TV shows, audiobooks and music videos that bring me joy. We’ll see how long this preoccupation lasts. I’m sure at some point I will want to come out of hibernation and enjoy the outdoors and being around people again. It’s already February, so Spring is on its way. I’ll probably come out and play again when the flowers are in bloom and the sun shines from a blue cloudless sky. Or maybe sooner. Fandom awaits.

Dreams

From Page 7

keel after what felt like a rash of store closures in the last couple of years.

On the science front, Ask a Scientist returns for another year of salons and NASA CoLab’s new series of Luna Philosophie discussions looks interesting. For those of a more practical, less philosophical bent, Robogames returns to Fort Mason in June.

In short, there’s something for everybody and a few other things besides, so get out there and enjoy yourself this year. And if you manage to take some notes and some photos while you’re at it, feel free to submit them to our fanzine.

Bay Area Fannish Calendar

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

New listings are in red.

Ongoing events are toward the back.

Wednesday February 4

Artist: Darick Robertson

The Comic Outpost

2381/2387 Ocean Avenue

San Francisco

www.comicoutpost.net

3:00-6:00 p.m.

Signing by the artist and co-creator of *The Boys* and *Transmetropolitan*.

Tuesday, February 5

Ask a Scientist: Phat Tuesday Physics Circus

Axis Café

201 8th Street (btw. 16th & Irwin)

San Francisco

www.askascientistsf.com

7:00 p.m.

Free

Thursday, February 7

Dr. Charles Simony presents "Space Tourist"

Computer History Museum

1401 N. Shoreline Boulevard

Mountain View, CA

www.computerhistory.org

7:00 p.m.

Free (suggested \$10 dollar donation for non-members)

Friday, February 9

The TomorrowMen

The Uptown

1928 Telegraph Avenue

Oakland

www.myspace.com/tomorrowmen

9:00 p.m.

\$8

Opening for rockabilly bands The Revtones and Texas Steve + the Git Gone Trio.

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

Late Night Picture Show: The Princess Bride

The Clay

2261 Fillmore Street

San Francisco

www.landmarkafterdark.com

11:55 p.m.

\$10

Friday, February 15

Animania-a-Go-Go

Isotope Comics

326 Fell Street

San Francisco

www.isotopecomics.com

8:00 p.m.

Event to kick off San Francisco's famed AOD convention with DJ MacMini, Tommy Yune, Ken Pontac and comics legend Marv Wolfman.

Friday, February 15

Author: Alaya Dawn Johnson

Dark Carnival Bookstore

3086 Claremont Avenue

Berkeley

www.darkcarnival.com

Book signing by a bold new talent in fantasy fiction.

5:30 p.m.

Saturday-Sunday, February 16-17

Animation on Display 2008

Cathedral Hill Hotel

San Francisco
www.aodsf.org
\$35

Celebrating the animated arts from around the world in all mediums; guests include Marv Wolfman, Tommy Yune, Ken Pontac and Vic Mignona

Friday-Sunday, February 15-17

DunDraCon
San Ramon Mariott
2600 Bishop Drive
San Ramon
www.dundracon.com
\$40
Annual gaming convention returns to San Ramon.

Friday-Monday, February 15-18

PantheaCon
Doubletree Hotel
2050 Gateway Place
San Jose
www.ancientways.com
\$75 at the door
Annual Pagan gathering with workshops, rituals, drumming, dancing, and crafts.

Wednesday, February 20

Ray Harryhausen and Friends
Christopher B. Smith Rafael Film Center
1118 Fourth Street (Between A & B)
San Rafael
7:15 p.m.
\$15
Special Guests include: Craig Barron, Arnold Kunert, Dennis Muren & Phil Tippett

Friday, February 22
Jonathan Coulton
Great American Music Hal
859 O'Farrell Street
San Francisco
8:00PM
Sold out

Friday-Sunday, February 22-24

WonderCon
Moscone Center South
747 Howard Street
San Francisco
www.comic-con.org/wc
\$30 in advance, \$40 at the door.
Comics and media con that seems to get bigger every year. Panels, dealers, summer movie previews, costume contest, more.

Saturday, February 23

Community Costume Dance Party
Sebastopol Subud Center
243 Hutchins
Sebastopol
www.boudiccamusic.com/
Arab-Celtic rock fusion band Boudicca presents a *Star Trek* costume-themed event featuring the Black Sabbath tribute band Electric Funeral as well as bellydancers and drummers from the Angelena Shool of Middle Eastern Dance and Music.
\$10

Saturday, February 23

Authors: Maria Alexander and Loren Rhoads
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia Street

San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com
3:00 p.m.
Free

Tuesday, February 26

Ask a Scientist: The 2000-Year-Old Computer (and Other Achievements of Ancient Science)
Axis Café
201 8th Street (btw. 16th & Irwin)
San Francisco
www.askascientistsf.com
7:00 p.m.
Free
Richard Carrier, Science Historian and Philosopher, Columbia University, will discuss the nature and limitations of ancient science.

Saturday, March 1

Pride and Prejudice Ball
PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 North Ellsworth
San Mateo
www.peers.org
\$15 in advance (until February 23), \$20 at the door.
Mr. Bingley requests the pleasure of your company at Netherfield Manor. Join us for an evening of elegant dancing, wit, romance and intrigue. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

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.

Friday, March 14

Ask a Scientist's Pi Day Puzzle Party
The Bazaar Café
5927 California St. (21st Ave) San Francisco
San Francisco
www.askascientistsf.com
7:00 p.m.
Free
Celebrate Pi Day (3.14) this year with a
boisterous math and logic puzzle competition,
hosted by the inimitable Wes Carroll.

Monday, March 17

Ask a Scientist: The Science of Baseball
Axis Café
201 8th Street (btw. 16th & Irwin)
San Francisco
www.askascientistsf.com
7:00 p.m.
Free
This event is presented in collaboration with

KQED's QUEST program. Details to follow.

Thursday March 20

Benefit Book Party with Michael Chabon
826 Valencia
San Francisco
Details to follow.

Friday March 29

The Phenomenauts CD Release Party
Slims
333 11th Street
San Francisco
www.phenomenauts.com
9:00 p.m.
\$13

Friday-Sunday, April 4-6

Contact 24
NASA Ames Research Center
Mountain View
\$135

Saturday, April 5

The Royal Debutante Ball
PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 North Ellsworth
San Mateo
www.peers.org
\$15 in advance (until March 29), \$20 at the
door.
A ball in honour of the debut in Society of Her
Royal Highness, Princess Louise. Dance lesson
at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Thursday, April 10

*Thrillville's 11th Anniversary Show:
It! The Terror from Beyond Space (1958) and
Journey to the 7th Planet (1962)*
Cerrito Speakeasy Theater
10070 San Pablo Avenue
El Cerrito
www.thrillville.net
7:30 p.m.
\$10
With Mr. Lobo and the Queen of Trash,
Ms. Monster and a live music by The
TomorrowMen.

Friday-Sunday, April 18-20

La Prova Dura
SCA West Kingdom, Shire of Canale
San Benito County Fairgrounds
9000 Airline Highway
Tres Pinos
\$10

Friday-Monday, April 25-28

CostumeCon 26
Doubletree Hotel
2050 Gateway Place
San Jose
www.cc26.info
\$95 in advance (through April 15, 2008)
CostumeCon will be coming to Silicon Valley
in 2008.

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

Monday, April 28

Author: Jack O'Connell
Dark Carnival Bookstore
3086 Claremont Avenue
Berkeley
www.darkcarnival.com
Book signing by the author of *The Resurrectionist*.
5:30 p.m

Saturday, May 3

Chicago Speakeasy Ball
PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 North Ellsworth
San Mateo
www.peers.org
\$15 in advance (until April 26), \$20 at the door.
Join us at the hottest speakeasy in Chicago for All That Jazz! PEERS is proud (and truly amazed) to announce that the evening's band will be the one, the only, the incomparable Lee Presson and the Nails!
Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Friday-Monday, May 23-26

BayCon
Hyatt Regency Santa Clara
5101 Great America Parkway
Santa Clara
www.baycon.org/2008
\$65 in advance (through March 15)
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
\$50 in advance (through March 31)
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
Masonic Lodge
100 North Ellsworth
San Mateo
www.peers.org
\$15 in advance (until May 31), \$20 at the door.
Inspired by the Charity Ball In Atlanta from the first part of *Gone with the Wind*. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Saturday, July 5

The Emerald City Ball
PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 North Ellsworth
San Mateo
www.peers.org
\$15 in advance (until June 28), \$20 at the door.
Come join us in honoring the singular courage of Dorothy Gale and her intrepid companions.
Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Saturday-Sunday August 16-17
Golden Gate Renaissance Festival

Speedway Meadow
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco
www.sffaire.com
10a.m-6 p.m. Saturday/10am-5pm Sunday
\$15

Saturday, September 6

Northern California Renaissance Faire
Casa de Fruta
10031 Pacheco Pass Hwy
Hollister
http://www.norcalrenfaire.org/
10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sat-Sun
\$25 (starting May)

Saturday, September 6

Space 1889: The Adventure of Le Cirque de Venus
PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 North Ellsworth
San Mateo
www.peers.org
\$15 in advance (until August 30), \$20 at the door.
Steampunk event: Space 1899 - a Victorian Ball in Space. Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Saturday, October 4th

Swingin in the Rain
PEERS Event
www.peers.org.
An evening in 1929 Hollywood at a ball inspired by that most joyous of musicals!
Details to follow

Saturday, November 1

Le Bal des Vampires

PEERS Event

www.peers.org.

Details to follow

Saturday-Sunday, November 1-2

Alternative Press Expo

The Concourse

620 7th Street

San Francisco

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.

The Gay Men's Book Club

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

Free

5:00 p.m.

The book for February 10th is THE ALGEBRAIST by Iain M. Banks. Please

contact the group leader, Christopher Rodriguez, at cobalt555@earthlink.net, for more information.

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.

Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

6:00 p.m.

Free

The book for February 17th is THIRTEEN by Richard Morgan. Please contact Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for more information.

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

USS Northern Lights
The Great Mall Food Court
Milpitas
firstjedi2000@yahoo.com
7 p.m.
Free
The 'Lights is a chapter of Starfleet International and a swell group of science fiction fans. We do more than *Trek*. Usually meets the second Friday of the month, with social event TBD.

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.

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