

Science Fiction/San Francisco

Issue #63

April 9, 2008

email: SFinSF@gmail.com

Editors: Jean Martin, Chris Garcia

Copy Editor: David Moyce

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Art credits:

Pages 3 & 19 - Selina Phanara

Science Fiction/San Francisco is the twice monthly news zine for the San Francisco Bay Area. All issues can be found at www.efanzines.com
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News and Notes

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

Well, I'm back from the UK with a full belly of UK Fandom and fun. It was a great trip, especially when I got to visit Cardiff and walk along the banks of the river Taff. No kidding!

First off, there were a lot of zines hitting the streets while I was gone. There was a progress report from the Montreal in 2009 folks. In both English and French, it was a solid report with info on Fan Guest of Honor (and *Drink Tank* contributor) Taral Wayne and a nice article about the Montreal in/en 77 bid that I somehow acquired a button from. Good stuff for a first progress report.

There was also the 30th Anniversary issue of *File 770*. The King of Fannish Newszines, *F770* has been a legendary zine, won a few Hugos and made Mike Glycer into a Big Name Fan that few can match. This issue is thick and hearty, and even has a special edition of This Old Fanzine in it. There's a nice report on WorldCon from John Hertz as well, and more writing than you can shake a stick at! Go to eFanzines.com and take a look.

That reminds me that the Hugo nominations are out. The BArea did pretty well. *The Drink Tank* is on the ballot for Best Fanzine up against *Argentus* from Steven Silver, *File 770*, *PLOKTA*, and Guy Lillian's *Challenger*. Should be an interesting voting year as there could be a huge swell of support for *Challenger*, but *File*

770 has had a better year in 2007 than most, and could take the prize.

The Best Fan Artist features only name dropping off, Mr. Frank Wu, and one name adding on, Taral Wayne. Frank said that he would turn down the nomination this year after having won it in 2004, 2006 and 2007. Steve Stiles, Sue Mason, Brad Foster and Teddy Harvia make up the rest of the list.

The Best Fan Writer has two BArea writers on it. There's Cheryl Morgan, the Best Fanzine winner for *Emerald City* in 2004, and me. Also on that list is Dave Langford, who is going for his 21st Best Fanwriter Hugo in a row, John Scalzi and Steven Silver. Good group, even if I snuck my way in there!

If you haven't read John Purcell's *Askance* and its Anniversary Issue, what are you waiting for? It's one of the best issues of anything I've read in ages. While *File 770*'s anniversary issue may be longer, John does a wonderful job with his and I highly recommend it to anyone who likes fanzines. There are a lot of interesting LoCs in this one responding to Andy Trembley's article in the previous issue.

Go to eFanzines.com and give *Journey Planet* a read. It's a jam-packed zine full of writing from names that you might have heard of like James Bacon, Dave Langford, and John Scalzi, and some that you might not know like Max, Flick, Tubewhore, Ang Rosin and more. It's well worth giving a bit of time to.

Jim Mooney passed away last week. He was 88. The man was a legend and one of the most distinctive artists of the Silver Age of comics. He did many of the *early Dial H for Hero* pieces from the old days, one of my favorite things in all of comics. He was better known for his work on Spider-man and Supergirl, but *Dial H* was always my fave.

There was a strange note from the Weinstein Company the other day. After a lot of negative attention from the 501st, the Weinsteins have said that they'll be releasing the original version of *Fanboys*.

The original was about a group of friends who wanted to take their friend who was dying of cancer to see *The Phantom Menace*. The producers tested it and it didn't go well, so they cut out all the cancer stuff and voilà, the new version tested much better. But the 501st Legion had done a lot of help with extras and when the producers recut it into a typical idiots roadtrip film, the 501st got mad and launched a protest. Now the Weinstein Company has said they will be releasing the original version, likely on DVD. The strange fact is the Weinsteins have had a bad run of luck with various releases lately and they don't even have a firm release date for *Fanboys*. I have to admit that the fact that it tested poorly might have been a reason to just can the thing and put it on DVD solo, but trying to release both the bastardized version and the real one is interesting.

The room block for the DoubleTree for next year's Further Confusion just opened up. I've heard that the suites are already sold out. FurCon has become so popular that they appear to have outgrown the DoubleTree. There was talk of relocating for 2010, but no word on where to. The Santa Clara Convention Center and the attached Hilton would make a good location, I think.

Con-X-Treme 2 is happening at the Marriott in San Mateo on Labor Day weekend. That's where Westercon and BayCon 2007 were held. I've got a lot of fond memories of that hotel. Anyways, there is some wonderment that there will be a CXT2. The website wasn't working as of a while back and so far contains little info. I'm thinking I'll be going just because I want to be able to say I went to all of them!

BayCon is coming too. We're moving to the new digs of the Santa Clara Convention Center and it's all looking like it's gonna be a great deal of fun. There's going to be a fanzine lounge, which I'll be running, and "Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me" as the Masq half-time show. Should be great.

You haven't forgotten about Costume-Con, have you? It's at the end of the month and it's got a prelim program up on the cc26.org site. Take a look. It's gonna be a good time. I'll be MCing the Fantasy and SF Masq and it should be fun. I've also seen a half-dozen or so of the planned entrants for other shows, and they're awesome! I can't wait.

Westercon is in Vegas this year, and Denver's got WorldCon and I'm gonna be at both. If you wanna help out with the Fanzine Lounge at either, lemme know!

Letters Of Comment

Let's hear from Mr. John Purcell!

Whoops! Lloyd Penney caught my little pruff-redding error about re-naming Steve and Sue Francis. I still wonder how I ever came up with the name Davis in that loc in SFinSF #60. Most peculiar...

Chris Garcia replies: You know, I don't know Steve and Sue, so I didn't even catch it. I was kinda shocked that Murray Moore didn't pull it off. I thought it was a shoe-in. Then again, I thought Christian McGuire was going to win it all.

Even though I have not much to say about this particular issue, I do have to mention that Chris' review of *The Acolyte* #11 has me positively snot-green with envy. Francis Tower Laney was one of fandom's publishing giants back in the day, and to have a copy of one Laney's zines is one of those holy grails of fan-pubbing. A great review of a great zine. Some year I may have to spring the bucks for some of these landmark fanzines.

There aren't a lot of issues of The Acolyte still around. You might find one or two floating around eBay every year, but that's about it.

Wondercon sounded like fun for España Sheriff. Then again, she always makes them sound that way. The con even got a national media coverage due to the major films debuting this coming summer. I kept looking for that

Garcia kid in the crowd shots, but no such luck.

Wondercon was a blast. I got a call from a friend from LA who saw me on one of the TMZ-style shows because of Wondercon!

It would be hard not to spot him, that's for sure.

You know, I just got a haircut...

So thank you for the zine - short loc, sorry! but gotta do some school work - and I look forward to more coming from the BArea, especially now that Chris is back in the swing of things. (I guess.)

Well, not fully yet, but give me a chance and I'll be back!

All the best,
John Purcell



Editorial

By Jean Martin
Editor

I don't know what we did before the Internet came along. It seems to be omnipresent at this point. I buy my costumes from eBay, I get my movies from Netflix, I buy my books and other media from Amazon, my shoes from Zappos, my clothes from various online retailers, and the list goes on. I even found my last boyfriend on Match.

Online shopping was all the rage for several years; now it's social networking. I was active in Tribe for a year and then I dropped off. I actually found *SF/SF* through Chris Garcia's post on a Tribe site in mid-2005. And the rest is history, as they say. I can't believe Chris and I have been working on *SF/SF* for almost three years!

I suppose the demise of my postings on Tribe as well as LiveJournal is due to the fact that I got very busy with *SF/SF*, and I don't feel the need to post about the minutiae of my life and activities for all the world to read. Whatever I do feel the need to share usually shows up on the pages of *SF/SF* — which I suppose is a lot more than some other people would be comfortable with, too. The distinction I think is that I'm more of a journalist than a journaler. Also, I don't think it's fair for me to post on LiveJournal, for instance, and expect my friends to read my journal when I don't have time to

read theirs. As I've said before, I've missed the boat on some events because of this, but I think I have my plate full when it comes to activities at this point. I'm actually starting to cut down in an effort to have a saner, more balanced life.

One web site I do enjoy is YouTube. There I've found segments of dances I loved from dance events that I've gone to. It's a good way for me to reminisce as well as to explain to other people what the heck kind of dancing I do. It's hard to tell people I do vintage ballroom dancing and English and Regency country dancing. Most people think country dancing is Western-style line dancing, which is definitely not what I do. I've also found old episodes of *Man From Atlantis* and *The Gemini Man* on YouTube. I was on a 1970s TV nostalgia kick over the holidays.

A web site I find very useful is SmugMug, a photo storage, ordering and sharing site. It's not a free site, but it's the best one I've tried, and I've tried almost everything out there. SmugMug has great layouts, privacy features, easy navigation, and the best part is that you can upload and share photos using the original resolution. Most photo sites upload pictures at smaller resolutions, and lots of them are very clunky as far as filing and organizing photos. Although I have to say that it's worth it for Shutterfly as they have the best photo books around.

A relatively new web site is the

professional networking site LinkedIn. I haven't used it to find a job yet, as I love my current day job, but I can see how useful it could be for that purpose.

Two other social networking sites I've joined recently are Meetup and Bay Area Linkup. These are more like bulletin board postings for groups and events. I joined several groups on Meetup, most of which were metaphysical and spiritual in nature as I've been wanting to nurture my spiritual side again after being with someone who was very outwardly focused and very much in the material world. But most of these events coincide with my dancing and fandom activities, so I've decided to just do spirituality at home. I would like to be with a spiritual community but spirituality lends itself quite well to individual practice.

As for Bay Area Linkup, I've totally given up on that one. Most of the listings are about wine tasting or hiking and even both at the same time! As I don't drink alcohol and I'm not an outdoorsy/sporty person, these activities just don't appeal to me. The other listings are very mainstream and generic as well.

I joined MySpace not too long ago. I found that doing the HTML layouts is fun, but once I was done with that, I was done with MySpace. I truly don't know how people find the time to network online. I suppose it's a matter of preferences and priorities. I like to

be with people and socialize in person. When I'm at home, I tend to like peace and quiet. But I do keep in touch with most of my friends via email. I love email as I'm a writer and I am most comfortable expressing my thoughts in writing. I don't tend to be a phone person and don't talk on the phone very much.

It seems like the latest in online networking is FaceBook. I joined it too but closed my account when I read on MSNBC that some employers search FaceBook to learn about prospective employees. FaceBook is searchable by email and I don't really want to have my personal information readily accessible to my employers, current or future — or anyone else for that matter. With other social networking sites, you use aliases. A friend recommended that I set up another email address to use for that, but I find having multiple email addresses confusing and time-consuming. I already spend several hours a day managing three email addresses. At this point, I'm on information overload and would like to cut down on receiving and managing online information.

I have a personal email address, the *SF/SF* address, and I recently opened one up for Internet dating. I figure it's worth another shot. But this time, I joined eHarmony as it sounds more selective. You only get matches who are pre-screened to be compatible. I enjoyed doing the personality tests; I like learning about myself. But I'm finding the whole process more like a chore. I'm getting seven new matches a day (which I hear is quite normal in the beginning), and I'm corresponding with like 15 men at any one time. It's just too much work and takes too much time! And you really have to think about

what you want and what you're looking for, which, I suppose, in the long run is a good thing. The jury is still out as to whether I will continue with eHarmony. I figure if I'm meant to meet someone, I'll meet him in the real world if not in Cyberspace.

What does the future have in store for us all as far as the Internet is concerned? It seems to me the next wave is having the Internet mobile

and at our fingertips. Blackberries and iPhones are now starting to become ubiquitous. It would be great to be able to be online whenever we want to be. But the question is, do we want to be? There's no stopping progress and so it will be up to us individually to figure out how much is too much. I personally don't want to be glued to the Internet 24/7. I'd rather be dancing or hanging out in fandom!

Where No Spoilers Have Gone Before

By Al "Rackstraw" Megas

Contributing Writer

Didn't think I'd be able to this again. Those who've known me for long enough may remember how I used to seem to have *Star Trek* movie data before the release date and long before anyone else.

Now that there's a *Star Trek* movie prequel in the works, my old pipeline into the machinations of the script creators is active again. I've been getting a wealth of tidbits about the plot and where *Star Trek* could go from here. If you haven't heard about the movie (have you been living under a rock?), it's being conceived and directed by J.J. Abrams.

Here are some key aspects of the story:

It will be an anachronistic reboot of *Star Trek* continuity; the kind some fans hoped to see from the end of *Enterprise*. There will be elements of either time travel or precognition but we won't be sure which until the end.

Purists, I predict, will cry with outrage or simply scratch their heads at developments such as a warmly smiling Mister Spock. Remember, however, that Spock smiled in the *Star Trek* pilot when the ship's captain was Christopher Pike. You see, it all makes sense in the end.

But some of the oddities are harder to reconcile. For example, remember that teaser trailer of the Enterprise under construction in spacedock? Turns out it's orbiting the Genesis Planet! But, as we all know, there's no way the Genesis Planet existed when the Enterprise was built!

While they wait for the construction project to finish, the newly acquainted crew members explore a shoreline on the planet. All around are pieces of their starship that get beamed up to the assembly.

What of other famous features of the

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Dreams of the City

A Column by España Sheriff

The idea of turning a Warren Ellis title into a TV show was both pure genius and doomed to failure.

His comics are cutting edge, sexy, and intelligent, and he is one of those authors whose work seems to exist, Max Headroom-like, 20 minutes into the future. But the man writes comics for a reason; his mind is tuned to a frequency that is four-color glorious but clinically insane, chemically altered and gleefully anti-social. *Transmetropolitan*, *Nextwave*, *The Authority*... are these really the sort of works that the vast American television audience is clamoring for? More to the point, even if they were, do you think they'd be happy to actually get Spider Jerusalem in their living rooms on a weekly basis?

But Ellis does have range, and although it can be hard to remember sometimes, not every single page of his work is infested with blasphemous anarchy and sexual deviance. From time to time he shows some restraint and settles for frantically paranoid conspiracy cake instead. *Global Frequency* was one of those comics, and it's easy to see how it could have been a hit: Sexy paranoia spy thrills dressed up in shiny black leather and tasty electronics. *The Matrix*, *The X-Files*, *Spooks* and *Torchwood* rolled into one, with the boring bits left out. Except that unlike Captain Jack Harkness and his crew MIBing it's way clumsily through Wales, the players in *Global Frequency* are a wikicabal,

extending AKICIF/LJ overmind concepts to their ultimate conclusion. Salvation through smart mobs, Anonymous as the ultimate James Bond. Some of the themes have been floating around in books like current Hugo nominee *Halting State*, Vinge's *Rainbow's End* and the Bruce Sterling story "Maneki Neko," and they work wonderfully in the comic.

In 2005 a pilot for the series was made for Warner Brothers, with Michelle Forbes (Admiral Caine on *BSG*) as Miranda Zero, the head of Global Frequency. The pilot was slick and fun and well put together and it's hard to see why the network would not have gone for it, apart from maybe the potential expense of a show based around a high-tech international espionage network, and anyway, in retrospect, the network's merger with UPN was just a year away.

In the pilot our everyman hero, who turns out to be an ex-cop unusually skilled in improvisation, runs across half of a cleanly bisected corpse holding a weird looking cell phone. He picks it up, Global Frequency is on the other end of the line, and with time being of the essence he is recruited and finds himself teamed up with another local specialist on the hunt for an old Soviet black project on the loose in San Francisco. The action is fast-paced and takes us across the city and eventually under it (although naturally it was shot in Vancouver-as-SF, rather than in the actual city).

The concept is such that it could have been huge, high concept and very current. The product placement possibilities alone seem endless. It could have finally been the show to make the Internet exciting after years of shows and movies that failed horribly, all those endless scenes of people typing to suspenseful music and teenagers breaking into mainframe computer by guessing the mind-bogglingly simple password.

Of course, maybe it would have ended up just being Masquerade with laptops.



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WonderCon and Other Wonders

By Jean Martin
Editor

WonderCon is the San Francisco version of the immensely popular Comic-Con in San Diego. While smaller than Comic-Con, which draws around 100,000 people to sunny San Diego, WonderCon is probably the biggest pop culture convention in the Bay Area. This year, WonderCon was held at the Moscone Center South last February 22-24.

I was only planning on going for one day, as I did last year, because I tend not to like big conventions. I get too overwhelmed with the cacophony of thousands of people milling about and the wide array of vendors and activities. I first attended WonderCon in 2006 when it was at the brand new and modern Moscone West. That year, I hung out with the SF Browncoats and was there from Friday evening until the place closed down on Sunday afternoon. I had a great time because even though the event was huge, I had people to be with and things to do. The masquerade group I was with, doing a *Firefly* number of course, won Best Presentation, and that was quite a thrill.

Last year was the first year I was able to register as Press. That was actually quite helpful because I was able to get into the con even when capacity restrictions prevented others from getting in. In 2007, the con was at the Moscone Center South, which seemed smaller in size, and therefore more crowded to me. I only went one day due to scheduling conflicts and so I wasn't



Girl Genius author Phil Foglio and fan.

Photo by Jean Martin

able to connect with very many friends and acquaintances. Thus, I didn't have as much fun, but at least I was able to concentrate more on covering the con for *SF/SF*. And remembering Gerard Butler gazing in awe at his own movie, *300*, still brings a smile to my face.

So this year, I wasn't expecting much and only opted to go for one day again. I'm also not as much into comics as I was when I was a kid. WonderCon is geared toward comic books, and the vast majority of attendees are strangers I will never see again. At smaller cons, I tend to

know most people and there's more of a cozy, family feeling.

But sometimes fate steers us in unexpected directions for our own good. A week before the con, a friend of mine asked me to attend the Miss Chinatown USA Coronation Ball. I'm always up for something new that I've never done before, and it involved dancing, and so I enthusiastically agreed. As luck would have it, the ball was going to be held the Friday of WonderCon at the Hilton San Francisco, just a few blocks away from Moscone Center. Then I received an email from a publicist saying that Brendan Fraser was going to be doing press interviews that Friday for his new movie, *Journey to the Center of the Earth 3D*. I'm a fan of his, and loved *The Mummy* and *The Mummy Returns*. I was also invited to a *Star Trek* party where a friend's band was playing in Sebastopol that Saturday night (see my article about this party in this issue as well). Then I found out there were panels on Sunday that I was interested in.

So I decided to just spend the entire weekend in San Francisco, splurge on a hotel room somewhere between the Hilton and Moscone Center, and attend the con all three days. I'm glad I did, because that weekend would rank in my list of top weekends in recent memory if I kept track of these things!

WonderCon itself was amazing. I have so many fabulous different memories from the con. I feel like I experienced it to the fullest. Actually, coming into the con, I was quite anxious about how packed my schedule was, including all the other events I wanted to do. But once I checked into the Mosser Hotel, a quaint Victorian across the street from the Marriott, I felt relaxed and

just went with the flow. My room was small but it had character. I was surprised how such a calm atmosphere could exist in the middle of the hubbub that was Moscone Center, the Metreon, the Museum of Modern Art, the Westfield San Francisco Centre, and lots of hotels.

One of the other reasons I got a hotel room is because I needed to do a couple of costume changes that weekend. I don't usually wear costumes to cons unless they are at a hotel where I'm staying, or at least close by, because it's so inconvenient to change several times. I also don't like walking around in costume in public, not so much because I don't like being

It involved dancing, so I enthusiastically agreed.

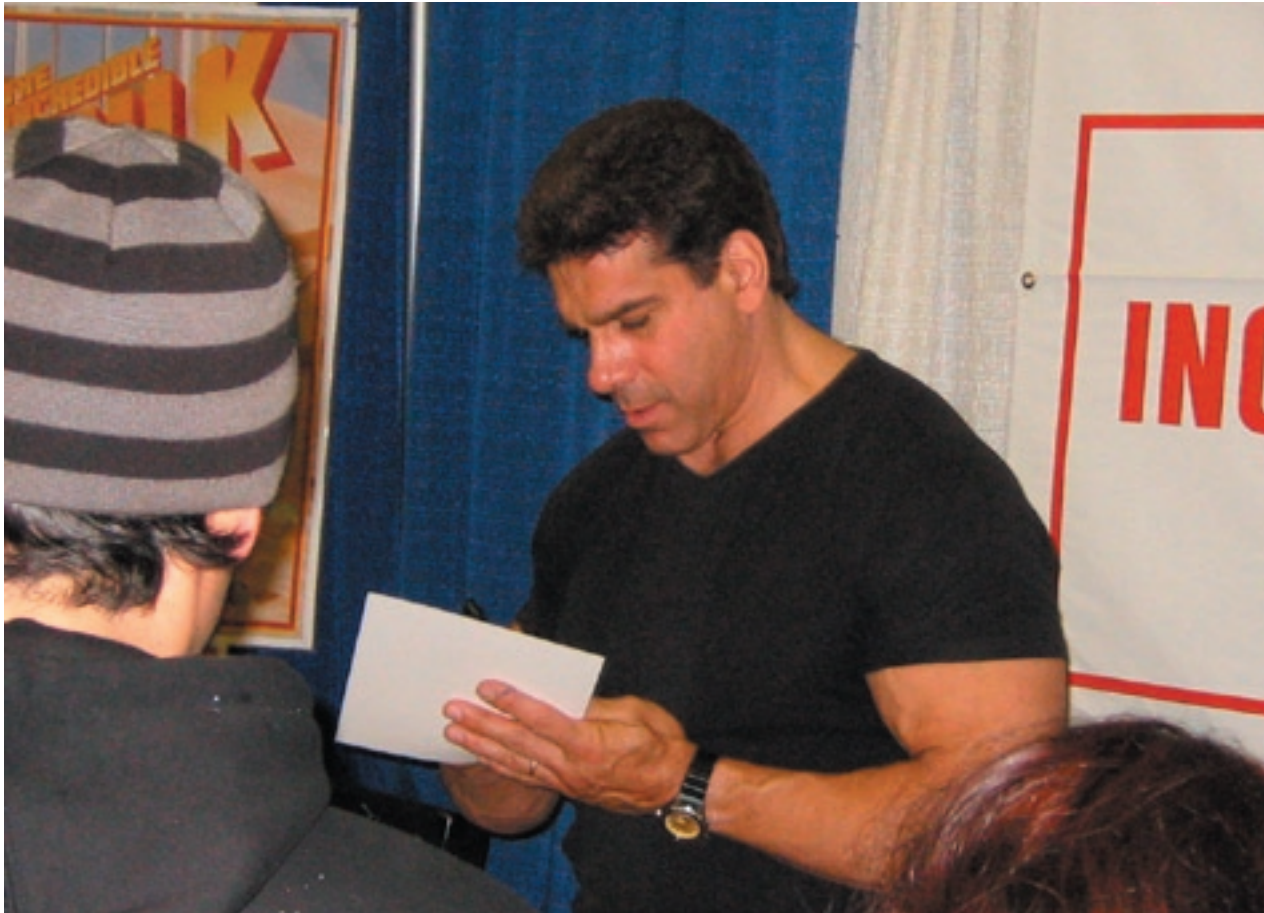
seen in them, but more because most of my costumes aren't that comfortable to walk in, and I don't like getting them dirty. The forecast was for rain that weekend, so I was glad I did have a hotel room. Fortunately, I was able to find a friend, Scendan, to share it with me the night before the con.

I checked in around 3:30 p.m., then ran to Moscone in my regular clothes to pick up my press badge. Then I ran around the huge exhibit hall. Of course, it was overwhelming, but I suppose that's because I'm the type of person that has to see it all. I went through all the aisles and saw vendors of comics and other genre

memorabilia. There also were booths of well-known comic book publishers as well as movie studios and video game producers. There was a section devoted to up-and-coming artists as well as fan tables. I took a photo of Lee Hester from Lee's Comics, which I always do whenever I see him at cons. He is quite photogenic, and his stores are probably the only comic book stores I ever go to. Then I ran into Steve, the husband of an old friend I haven't seen in a while, who was manning a comics booth with his brother. What a surprise to see someone from my old heavy metal days! Steve still has long hair and he still plays in a metal band, which is very cool.

I found a booth for *Girl Genius*, a series of steampunk online and hard copy graphic novels. I recently bought the first *Girl Genius* compendium at Lee's Comics. I'm into steampunk right now and trying to pick up reading comic books again. I got to meet the creator of *Girl Genius*, Phil Foglio, and was fortunate enough to take a photo of him with someone dressed as Agatha, the Girl Genius, standing beside him. Phil is the usual emcee for the Comic-Con and WonderCon masquerades and I told him about my experiences as a participant in masquerades at both cons. I also told him that I just ordered one of his goggles for my yet-to-be-worn steampunk outfit.

I went around looking for something for my nephew and settled on a red car from the movie *Cars*. I promised myself not to buy anything for me as most collectibles I buy end up in storage or at Goodwill — a total waste of money, especially since I was already spending a lot on my hotel room and the outrageous parking rates in the city.



Lou Ferrigno, the Incredible Hulk.

Photo by Jean Martin

Running around seemed to be the order of the day as I still had the Miss Chinatown USA Coronation Ball to prepare for. So I whizzed through the autograph tables and saw Richard Hatch, whom I would have wanted to converse with as he's quite friendly and interesting, but I just didn't have the time. I saw the usual suspects, Herbert Jefferson Jr. (Boomer from the original *Battlestar Galactica*), Peter Mayhew (Chewbacca from *Star Wars*), Chase Masterson (Leeta from *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*) and

BarBara Luna (Marlena Moreau from *Star Trek: The Original Series*). I'd met them before so I didn't need to meet them again. A newbie was Lou Ferrigno, who played the Hulk in the TV series from the 70s. I had to meet him as I loved that show when I was a kid. I missed meeting Noel Neill who played Lois Lane in the 1950s *Superman* TV series. She seemed like a nice lady.

I usually leave the fan tables for last as that's where I spend most of my time just

hanging out and socializing. I stopped by the Rebel Legion (who costume as *Star Wars* heroes and which I just recently joined), the 501st (the well known Dark Side *Star Wars* costuming group), and the Browncoats (who always have an amazing display, worthwhile charities to support, and shiny goodies to buy). I also got to meet a few new groups including folks from the East Bay Star Wars Fan Club and Scifihero.net, a general costuming group. Dave Wong was in charge of the latter and he had the most amazing *Battlestar Galactica*, *Stargate* and *Ghostbusters* costumes and props whenever I saw him that weekend. It became a running joke between us that every time someone stopped by his booth, they would say hello to him and then to me. And we'd look at each other and wonder how we could know all the same people but only just met that weekend!

It's also amazing how, even with all the people at a con, you run into friends all the time. I ran into my co-editor, Chris Garcia, which was great because we hardly ever see each other.

While I was talking with Chris near one of the doors to the humongous exhibit hall, I saw this guy walk through who bore a striking resemblance to the actor James McAvoy. I had just seen *Becoming Jane* again the night before so his image was fresh in my mind. Later a Browncoat friend said that she saw James at a panel for his new movie *Wanted*. I hadn't seen his name listed in the programming schedule and so I didn't know he was going to be at the con. I was so bummed to have missed his panel! I've been a fan of his since I saw him as Leto in *Children of Dune*, one of my favorite TV miniseries of all time. Then my friend said that

James was spotted walking around in the exhibit hall, which was when it clicked in my head that it truly was him that I had seen walking past, and not just a lookalike! At least I got to see him if not hear him. Apparently, he was in town just that one day and then he was off to L.A. to present an award at the Oscars. He's really come a long way from his *Dune* days.

Too soon I had to rush back to my room to dress up in my pink rose gown for the Miss Chinatown USA Ball at the San Francisco Hilton. It was a little bit of a culture shock being around such a distinctively Chinese event with mostly Chinese people in attendance. I'm so used to being around a more mixed group of people, especially here in the Bay Area. I do love experiencing different cultures, but I'm glad it wasn't the actual pageant, just the coronation ball. Growing up in the Philippines, where beauty pageants are quite popular, I've enjoyed watching them in the past, but now I have mixed feelings about them. On one hand, it's a celebration of womanhood and dressing up in fabulous clothing; on the other hand, it is a little bit outdated and portrays women as sexual objects. Still, I was drawn in by the glamour as the new Miss Chinatown USA, a young and tall woman in black, was introduced along with her court, which included the previous Miss Chinatown USA. They paraded around the dance floor several times like models on a catwalk. They were presented with trophies, tiaras and flowers, and then they were introduced again and again.

That got tiresome after a while, but at least I got to see Willie Brown signing autographs for his new book *Basic Brown: My Life and Our*



Chris and Jean in Dealers Hall.

Photo courtesy of Jean Martin

Times. I also got to enjoy a delicious dinner, and afterwards, good music by a Filipino singer backed by a DJ. The music and dancing was wedding-style, which means that there were standards and some more modern popular tunes. It didn't seem like ballroom dancing skills were required but since Thad had invited me as someone to dance with, I dragged him onto the dance floor and showed him a few moves. He caught on well, and we had a good time dancing for the short amount of time before the

ball seemed to wind down — a good thing because I in turn had invited him to the special screening of Brendan Fraser's new movie at 10:00 p.m. at the Metreon. (See my article about the screening, and why I couldn't get an interview with him after all, in this issue.)

After the screening, I wound up at the pub at the Marriott and at Mel's Drive Inn. Mel's is such a fun late night spot for yummy food and people-watching. Oh, and staring at huge murals of George Lucas on the walls. I got back to my hotel room past the Cinderella hour, and was looking forward to some good shuteye as the weekend had just begun and I had so many things to do in the coming days. However, I didn't get any sleep at all as I had severe stomach cramps. I'm not sure

if it was from something I ate or if it was from the stress of preparing for the con and running around all day.

So I told myself I was going to try my darnedest to get a few winks and not wake up for the Rebel Legion photo shoot at 11:00 a.m., which was one of my reasons for going to WonderCon in the first place, other than covering the con for *SF/SF*. I had so many other plans that day that I needed to get some rest, but I really couldn't sleep at all. When my roommie,



Rebels assemble for a group portrait.

Photo courtesy of Jean Martin

Scendan, woke up for the photo shoot, I figured I should just go since I was awake anyway. She and I had breakfast at Mel's, which apparently was the only place open for breakfast at that time, other than Denny's, that is. But Mel's is just as fun in the early morning. I felt better after some warm oatmeal and chamomile tea. Then we dressed in our *Star Wars* outfits. I wore my Princess Leia medal ceremony outfit and she

wore her Jedi Knight costume. Together we walked to the convention center. It was strange walking around San Francisco in costume and crossing the streets with cars driving by. I had a big, black raincoat with a hood on, which made me look like Darth Vader, albeit a short one, next to Carolyn who was wearing her warm and authentic-looking Jedi robe.

We assembled at the Rebel Legion's fan

table. It was so exciting meeting other people wearing *Star Wars* costumes. I felt like I was part of something big and important! The photo shoot itself was also a lot of fun. I didn't quite know what to expect but I'm so glad I did it. The photo shoot was organized by new Endor Base (Northern California) CO Kathy Skirmont. The official photographer was her husband, but there many other photographers there too. Well-known Cosplay photographer Eurobeat King was there, as were official con photographers. It was so amazing being photographed by dozens of people... I felt like I was a movie star! There were a lot of us and so we did group shots with everyone and then by type of costume. There was even an Elvis Stormtrooper.

The photo shoot took about an hour. Then I went back to my hotel room after lunch at the packed Jollibee, a Filipino McDonald's-like fast food joint, and dessert at the adjacent Filipino bakery Red Ribbon. I usually don't like Filipino food but both always make me feel nostalgic about food I used to have when I was a young girl.

I was hoping to take a nap in my room but housekeeping came by and so I barely had enough time to don my Next Generation Starfleet uniform for the *Star Trek* party later than evening. I was so glad to be out of my white Princess Leia gown with its tight silver pumps. My Captain Janeway-style Starfleet uniform was so much more comfortable, and warmer too! I didn't realize when I wore my costume that it would be quite appropriate for meeting John Cho, who's portraying Sulu in the upcoming *Star Trek* prequel.

When I got back to Moscone, I mostly

hung out with friends until it was time for the interview with John Cho. I was offered the interview by the same publicist who was handling Brendan Fraser, but since I hadn't seen the first *Harold & Kumar* movie, I didn't think I was the right person to do the interview about the sequel. Dr. Noe had seen the original, *Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle*, and he was available. I met up with him at the door to the backstage area where press interviews were being conducted. I felt like I was finally part of the industry as I was let into the inner sanctum. This was quite an unexpected treat! I even saw Gillian Anderson. She's shorter than I thought she'd be but is quite stunning! Too bad I didn't get to see David Duchovny though.

Dr. Noe and I waited for a little bit until John Cho and the two writers and producers, Jon Hurwitz and Hayden Schlossberg, were seated for the digital press roundtable interview. It was quite amazing that Dr. Noe and I were with the journalists from *Starlog* and *Scifi.com*. Dr. Noe held his own with the big guys, and I had fun taking photos of everyone and meeting John Cho. The interviewees talked about *Harold & Kumar Escape from Guantanamo Bay*, and John talked a little bit about the *Star Trek* prequel, as reported by Dr. Noe in *SF/SF* #62.

While the roundtable interview was going on, we could hear loud booms next door. Apparently, the *Iron Man* panel was happening at the same time and the preview was quite noisy. I've seen this preview already and the movie looks interesting. I'm not sure how appropriate Robert Downey Jr. is for the role but I'm keeping my mind open on the matter.

I didn't get to any panels that day either.

I missed the *Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian* panel, which I wanted to see. But at least I've also already viewed the trailer for that. I'm looking forward to that movie as the actor playing Prince Caspian was briefly in *Stardust*. I also enjoyed the first movie so I have high hopes for this second one.

Then I met up with friends for a birthday party at the View lounge at the top of the art deco Marriott Hotel across the street. The top of the Marriott is shaped like a fan which you can see through as it's all glass. For people who are afraid of heights it's not a good thing. Even I get nervous when I look down, as the floors literally



Starfleet Lieutenant Sassy meets John Cho.

Photo by Dr. Noe

end at the glass walls. But the view is absolutely breathtaking with the lights of San Francisco spread out around you. I could see Market Street with its street lamps and all the landmarks of the city. I always feel a tug at my heartstrings, a lump in my throat and tears in my eyes when I see the sights of San Francisco at night. It's especially poignant to me this time, as I have lost my one constant connection to San Francisco with whom I spent a lot of time exploring the city with for two and a half years. I love San Francisco and I suppose I'll have to enjoy it in other ways now, like I was doing that weekend.

Raven throws this birthday party at the View at WonderCon every year as far as I know. I attended it last year as well. It's too bad because it's at the same time as the masquerade competition, but I would rather hang out with friends, since I wasn't in the masquerade this year or last. Raven is so generous as to have a cake for herself and another for all the people with birthdays in late February and early March, which includes myself. So I got to blow out candles on a cake and started my birthday celebrations early. More and more people I knew showed up, and it was a lovely party. I didn't want to leave but I had a *Star Trek* party to go to. (For my story on my friend's band, Boudicca, and the *Star Trek* party where they played, see my article in this issue.)

I got back to my hotel around the same time as the night before. Scendan was already asleep when I came in. I truly am a night owl! I tried my best not to wake her up but it was hard in the tiny room and in the dark. I was so exhausted that I fell asleep immediately. I couldn't believe I actually made it through the entire day and

night, and did all the things I did, with no sleep! But I'm no longer in my 20s when I could have done this with impunity, so it was good that I got enough sleep and woke up feeling much better and ready to face the next day.

Sunday morning, Scendan and I wound up at Mel's Drive Inn for breakfast again. It was nice to hang out with her as we'd never really done so before. We're usually in a big group. It was nice to catch up with each others' lives. I didn't wear a costume on Sunday but Scendan wore her impressive Sith Lord Darth Revan costume.

As we walked into Moscone South, I ran into friends I hadn't seen all weekend. Bonnie was in a fabulous new pirate outfit and Chris was in a great Tom Baker *Doctor Who* getup complete with long scarf and Jelly Babies. There were a lot of great costumes even on Sunday including a group in Jules Verne steampunk-inspired costumes and a colorful team of DC superheroes.

I finally went to a panel that Sunday. I caught the end of the *Jericho* panel, which I've never seen but have heard good things about, but I was really there for the *Terminator: Sarah Connor Chronicles* panel with Thomas Dekker, Summer Glau and Brian Austin Green. I didn't even realize that was Brian Austin Green portraying Derek Reese while I was watching the show! He's grown up into this rough and tough-looking hunk, a far cry from his *90210* days. It's always nice to see Summer Glau although she usually doesn't have much to say. She's just so beautiful and sweet, it's hard to imagine her kicking a** in her role as River in *Serenity* and now as Cameron in the *Terminator* TV series,

but she is quite believable in both roles. I'm actually enjoying the new series. It has the feel of the movies and the story line is getting more complicated and is really very original and well-written.

I went around the exhibit hall one more time, and finally broke down and bought one thing. I've always admired the artwork at the Heroic Fine Art booth. We're talking serious art here, some of which costs hundreds and even thousands of dollars. I bought a lovely Arwen print by Mark McHaley who just happened to be at the booth. He signed the print for me and I was the proud owner of another collectible I don't know what to do with.

I hung out with friends for a little bit more and then went home. I was exhausted but quite happy. My first big convention of the year (and first weekend in San Francisco since my last relationship ended) was quite a huge success. As I walked out, Noel Neill was leaving at the same time. She is still quite beautiful, luminous and cheerful at her age. She obviously still enjoys being in fandom. May we all live to have such long and vibrant lives, doing what we love to do, and being with people we love being with.

For more information on WonderCon as well as some vendors, fan groups, TV shows and movies mentioned in this article, visit:

<http://www.comic-con.org/wc/>

<http://studiofoglio.com/>

<http://www.rebellegion.com/>

<http://www.haroldandkumar.com/>

<http://www.fox.com/TERMINATOR/>

<http://www.heroicfineart.com/>

Journey to a Brendan Fraser Sighting

By Jean Martin

Editor

When I got an email from a publicist saying that Brendan Fraser, the star of the *Mummy* and the *Mummy Returns* (two of my favorite movies), was going to be in town for WonderCon and was available for interviews, I literally did a happy dance. What made me even more excited was that Brendan was going to be promoting his new movie, *Journey to the Center of the Earth 3D*, which is based on the Jules Verne novel. I've been working on some Steampunk costumes (and watching Steampunk movies) because I feel like this is the next big thing to break out soon. Steampunk combines my interest in the Victorian era and my love of sci fi. After I stopped grinning and was finally able to get back to my computer, I dashed off an email saying I was definitely interested in scheduling an interview for *SF/SF*.

Brendan was available the Friday of WonderCon. That was one of the reasons I decided to get a hotel room in San Francisco and attend the con for the entire weekend. However, when I didn't hear back I started to get worried. It turns out that Brendan wasn't feeling well and canceled his interviews. He was, however, going to show up for two scheduled panels: one at WonderCon at Moscone Center South early Friday evening, and the other at the AMC Metreon Theatre later that same night.

Since I had already accepted an invitation from my friend Thad to attend the Miss Chinatown USA Ball early on Friday evening,



Brendan speaks.

Photo by Jean Martin

I couldn't attend the first panel. Luckily, Thad agreed to go to the Metreon panel with me. We walked to the Metreon in our formal attire, and felt quite special. The panel would also include an exclusive 30-minute preview of the movie.

When we got there ten minutes before the 10:00 p.m. start time, they weren't letting people in anymore as the room was full. I told them I

had a Press RSVP for the screening, and they let us in. We even got to sit in middle section of the front row. Apparently, there would be a second screening that was hastily planned, but I don't think that one included a question and answer panel with Brendan.

Brendan walked in looking like a rock star in black leather jacket, black shirt, black pants and even black sunglasses. He is quite as tall, muscular and handsome as he looks in his movies, but there is something boyishly charming about him and so he didn't look like an intimidating movie star. He was quite a ham and immediately started talking about the movie. I had great visibility with no obstructions so I took lots of photos.

Introducing the preview, he said that we were going to be the first to see parts of the finished movie. I felt quite privileged to be a part of this! He also said that the 3D technology used to film the movie was brand new, state-of-the-art, and would not cause headaches. I wanted to believe him, I get terrible motion sickness from lots of movies so I rarely go to the movie theaters (hence my dependence on Netflix), so with fingers crossed I donned a pair of 3D glasses.

Well, so much for no headaches and nausea. I felt a little ill afterwards. But I suppose it's because they showed action scenes, including a rollercoaster-like ride in a mine shaft. I was also in the first row, so that could have a lot to do with it. However, the 3D images were quite impressive and realistic.

I was a little disappointed, though, to find

out that the movie is set in the present day and not in Victorian times. I was looking forward to seeing Brendan in Victorian garb, just as he was dressed in Indiana Jones-like attire for the *Mummy* movies. Also, it was hard to get a sense of the movie's story line since all we saw were action scenes. First there was the rollercoaster mine ride, then there was a raft ride through an ocean with humongous carnivorous sea creatures, then there was a dinosaur chase, and lastly a fight with a Venus flytrap-like creature. I don't think I'm giving out spoilers here. Not much plot was revealed.

I do hope that the movie itself isn't just one action scene after another. There was a sense of mystery, magic and genuine danger in the *Mummy* movies that I loved. I'm looking for a sense of wonder at discovering a fantastical world in the middle of the earth, full of amazing sights and creatures. Two elements I'm sure will be there from what I saw at the screening: There will definitely be a romantic angle, and a family angle, which would both be very welcome.

After the preview, producer Charlotte Huggins and 3D consultant Ed Marsh joined Brendan at the front of the room. Nancy Miller from *Wired* magazine was there as well and served as the moderator of the panel. The discussion revolved mostly around the groundbreaking 3D technology created and used for the movie. Charlotte mentioned that 3D has in the past been a fad that has come and gone but that's because the technology just was not good enough. But now with digital filming and the new and rapidly-advancing technology, 3D is an easy and viable option. Movies are cut the same way and it's not any different for the director

or the actors. Several big name directors were mentioned as jumping on the 3D bandwagon: Sam Raimi, James Cameron, George Lucas and Robert Rodriguez. I wonder how these 3D movies will translate onto DVD. I suppose I'll find out in the future.

I was surprised that a lot of questions from the audience were related to the technology behind the movie. I suppose a WonderCon crowd is very tech savvy. I tend not to be as interested in how movies get made myself. I like enjoying movies as they are without knowing about the reality of how it was done. I want to be absorbed into a movie and the environment where the story is taking place, detached from ordinary, everyday reality. It's more enjoyable for me to think that, for instance, the sea creatures in the movie are real, as opposed to being digitized images created on a computer. Some of the romance and mystery are dispelled when I find out about these things.

I am interested occasionally in how a movie is made but I generally have to be in the mode of wanting to learn how to do it in case I ever get involved in making movies myself. Or else to admire the talented and creative people responsible for making the movie. Or even sometimes, as was the case at that panel, if the technology and/or craft is revolutionary.

Someone asked Brendan what it's like to work as an actor in movies that require a lot of CGI. He said that he's gotten a good education from past movies on how to behave in a blue screen environment — that you have to believe what you're doing. He was quite believable fighting the huge Venus flytrap creature. He was happy that we all enjoyed that scene because,

he said, he had to fight to keep it in the movie. He said that basically the plot of the movie is that they fall into a hole and then they get out of the hole. He convinced the powers that be that he had to at least fight something to keep it interesting!

After the panel, we were told that Brendan was not available for autographs or photos. But someone jumped up right away and asked for a photo with him, and so I worked up the nerve to ask for his autograph right after. He really didn't say much to me but he did oblige me with an autograph. Having just been being "on stage" he seemed more quiet and withdrawn. I suppose a lot of performers are like that, I've seen it happen when they just "turn off" their public persona. I did remember that he wasn't feeling well, so I certainly didn't take it personally. I also was asking for an autograph when we were told not to. I never assume that celebrities are amenable to being approached by the public. They are just regular people, after all, and they're probably inundated with the same requests over and over. I was quite contented that I got to meet him after all, even for a few seconds, and was able to get his autograph as well.

I'm looking forward to seeing the movie, and I will probably see the Pat Boone version beforehand as well. Thad said it's a great version, and Brendan mentioned the old movie, and how funny the scene was with Pat Boone playing the ukulele. That scene is definitely not going to be recreated in this latest incarnation.

For more information on *Journey to the Center of the Earth 3D*, which comes out in theaters on July 1st, visit www.journey3dmovie.com.

Journey of a TAFF Traveler - Day Five

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

Editor's Note: As even a casual reader of SF/SF (or any of the other zines Chris Garcia writes for) must surely be aware, Chris recently visited Britain thanks to the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund (TAFF). Here's an excerpt from his forthcoming TAFF Report. Chris wants folks to know they can email him (SFinSF@gmail.com) to find out how to get access to the full report.

Chapter 5: Tuesday - I'll Do Graffiti if You Sing to Me in French.

I started out the day waking up and taking a bath. Not a shower, but a bath. There's nothing more relaxing than a bath, plus it's easier to deal with me hair as such. I charged my laptop and started a little reading before I made my way downstairs, said goodbye to Steve and Jonathan, and then headed to the Underground station.

It's funny that I really started to feel the differences between home and England on the fifth day. I hate UK soda. It's not nearly sweet enough. I know they use real sugar, but I find it disturbingly striking. Even regular tastes a little bit like diet. I did have a bottled orange juice that made me happy. It was better than Minute Maid back home. I also had a muffin that turned out to be banana nut, and was most pleased. Good things do happen.

I made my way to the Natural History Museum. Monday night, I was talking with Steve and Alison and mentioned that I wasn't impressed with the museum. I told them I thought it was too science centre-ish. It turns out I had only seen one zone of the museum, that used to be the Geology museum. Ah, that made sense, I thought, and headed out early on Tuesday to find the real deal.

And I did.

Once inside, I discovered the place was crawling with fossils. Lots of ichthyosaurs and plesiosaurs and so on. There were a bunch of Ice Age mammals too. I love that stuff. I went to get a drink and to start typing. I found a Pepsi (my dear, I dislike it even more than the Coke) and took a seat right in front of a stuffed panda. Not a stuffed animal panda, but a taxidermic one that looked like it had seen better days. I guess I would look like that too if I had been stuffed and put on exhibit for a few decades. In fact, it reminded me of the panda in *Balls of Fury* — the one that Dietrich Bader goes back to save, only to return to the scene telling everyone that the panda was dead. You should see the movie if you don't mind stupid comedy written by really smart people.

I will say that museums like the California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park and the National Museum of Natural History must have way better conservation and maintenance staffs. These taxidermic animals were looking

way bad. They need serious work. True, some of these things have been around for a century or so, but that's no excuse to not have kept them up. Granted that it would be difficult to get a new panda to stuff, but really, they could have at least tried!

This brings up the concept of eating pandas as the way to save them. I've written of it before, about the way that we must make it lucrative for the business world to breed pandas and sell them as foodstuffs. That way, we'll have business behind us, a way to get rid of all that damn bamboo that's sitting around, and the world's cuddliest agribusiness holdings!

I went and had a look at the red panda, which also looked like hell. I kinda like red pandas better. They're more racoony and comical looking. Plus, color almost always replaces black and white if you look at the history of things. I got up and headed for the next floor. I was hoping for better upkeep, but I might have been asking for too much. (It's the Musicological way: we pick at other people's problems so that we feel better when we hear about them picking at ours.) I was sitting right next to the entrance to the offices and I heard people using museum-speak. I wanted to say that I totally understood what they meant when they were saying that they found a cuss under the back (meaning a kid had managed to weasel behind one of the cases and gotten himself stuck in the area on the bottom.), but I thought better of it. I had work to do.

I wandered about and enjoyed the exhibits. This is what old museums used to be like back home. The faded and tattered animals in one hall had notes saying that since they didn't collect animals for Taxidermy any longer, they had to keep the ratty ones out. They could fix them up, but I understand the theory. I walked through the Dinosaur room and was pretty impressed. There was something for hard core dino fans (and I'm not talking about Pete Weston here) and there was something for kids to play with and take away. Since I play more on the Dino Fan team, I went through it much faster than if I had had a kid or something.

After that, I kinda needed to head over to the V and A again. It was a lovely day for it, slightly less crowded than it had been the day before, but it was a wonderful day. I started in the Islamic room. Glory. I love Islamic art and the tapestries were incredible and there were swords. You gotta love swords. The clothing was very interesting, and I was shocked to see that there was a robe with an image of Christ on the Cross. I read the label, because the last thing anyone who works at a museum wants to do is read a label, and discovered that it was Armenian, the hardest of the hard-core Christians. I also discovered that this was a Middle Eastern room and not merely an Islamic room. I stuck around for a while, enjoying the art. I blitz through a lot of rooms in museums, only pausing when there's a single magnificent piece. Then, after I've sucked the marrow from it, I continue on my way.

I got Roast Pork and Potatoes and Veg. The veg equaled carrots and cooked leeks which were beautiful. Yes, it was pricey, a little over

twenty bucks after conversion, but it was tasty and filling. There was also a girl who made for good theater.

I had seen her in the Renaissance gallery as I was walking to the cafe, and she was deeply involved in the pieces there. She had hair as wild as mine, but stark black. She was maybe 23. I got my lunch and took a seat. She came along a little later and took a seat in the center of the dining room, all by herself. There were a number of mural pieces on the upper portions of the walls at 360 degrees. She was trying to eat, but people kept coming up to her. First, it was a woman looking for brown sugar cubes. She didn't

I saw the tombs of four of my fave monarchs: Liz 1, Mary Queen of Scots, Hank VII, and Edward the Confessor.

understand what she was saying. Then an Italian guy, and he used a form of English that was not recognizable as such without the lucky chance that he used the word Tupperware. After that, a woman came wandering in staring at the murals. She tapped the poor girl on the shoulder and started asking her questions. She was speaking in very rapid English and the poor girl obviously wasn't catching much. She looked over at me and I gave her the "I'm so sorry" smile. She was then descended upon by a mob of jabbering English women who took the rest of her table. That led to her getting up and moving elsewhere.

These things happen.

Say what you will about Christianity, but I love early Christian art stuffs. The VeeAndAy had a bunch of things that I fell in love with. A wooden Christ on an ass that was once dragged through the streets of some German village on feast days caught me harder than most. There was a great four dial table clock that I enjoyed. There was a lot of carved wood from Germany and The Netherlands and so on.

Something odd happened. I felt sleepy. Far too sleepy. I didn't know what to do about it, since I was way out and didn't have a way to hook up my CPAP anyhow. Sleep wouldn't happen, so I figured a trip to the Tate Museum. That was a ways off, it would give me a chance to rest my feet while I was on the train, and it's an art museum with free admission. I took the train and then when I got off, I was right at the base of Big Ben.

My ghod...I'd become a tourist.

I started walking and I came across Westminster Abbey. It's the most famous church in the world that's not in Rome. I figured what the hell, I might as well take a look and see what they've got. I paid up and walked in and realized that there was a lot to see. I saw the tombs of four of my fave monarchs: Liz 1, Mary Queen of Scots, Hank VII, and Edward the Confessor. Sadly, I didn't get up close into the Shrine of Edward the Confessor, my second favorite English King (after Alfred the Great), but you could see the tomb and a few pieces from the floor below it. I walked around and found many others I was interested in. I went through Poets Corner, which had a lot of awesome names attached to it. Gerard Manley Hopkins. TS Elliot. Longfellow.

Handel. Dylan motherfuckin' Thomas! You name a big British poet and they were there, either in body or simply in recognition. And there was Olivier. I love his work.

I went to the Abbey Museum which was kinda cool and I saw the other Coronation Chair (the regular one I had already seen) and I enjoyed the story of how they fixed things up and the work they were doing to keeping things running. I love that kind of content. At one point, I remembered that I had yet to add that story about the Scrubbing Bubbles. I was in the middle of Westminster Abbey and I knew if I waited, I would forget. I ducked into one of the side chapels just as a Russian tour group was leaving a massive vacuum, as they had managed to fit about 40 people in the space. In the Cena was the tomb of King Henry VII (His friends called him Hank7) and the only place where I could set my iBook to be able to type was on top of the tomb. Yes, I know, I know. I'm supposed to be the cultural ambassador and all, but in the end, I'm still just a stupid American. A member of the Cloth passed by and said for me to get off the thing, and I did, since I was done. I believe, though I am not sure, that this will be the first TAFF report of which a part was created directly over the remains of a British Monarch.

I spent about an hour and I figured that it was time to go and see the Tate.

I started typing this at the Tate surrounded by the paintings of JMW Turner. He's a big name round these parts. I always thought his stuff was really stuffy and dull. What do I know?

I came across town by the Circle Line. I actually sorta lucked into it as I had no idea that I was on the wrong line at first, but they made

us detrain and the next train that showed up was the right one in the right direction with the most direct service. Win!

Tate Britain isn't bad. It's all English painters so there's no Motherwell, Rothko, Klee, Picasso, Warhol, Dali, Miro or Basquiat. There was a David Hockney, which is good, but I wish they'd had more. There was this great Pop Art piece of a slot machine that I really enjoyed. Nothing will get my vote faster for fine art than a reference to gambling. I took a seat in the Reading Area and heard two curators (or it may

I know, I know, I'm supposed to be the cultural ambassador and all, but in the end, I'm still just a stupid American.

have been one curator and a prospective curator) talking museum theory. They claimed that the integration of live object and web content is the most massively important thing there is, but that at some point it will all but completely replace the live interaction experience. I am thinking that is not the case and was about to go over and say something, but I thought better of it and went along my way to see the rest of the museum.

That's when I ended up in the Turner room, staring at the piece with a deer that looked like it would have been in a paint-along PBS series, and typing on this iBook, a piece of design that rivals almost any other consumer product. I typed up this section and stopped. The guard came around and had a look at me.

"What that?" he asked, pushing his chin

at my iBook.

"It's my laptop," I said.

"Why you got it here?" he responded.

"I'm typing up a report," I said.

"Oh, you work for the museum then. I'll leave you at it," he said, wandering across the room.

Oh, what I could have done if I weren't so tired.

Yes, and I'm supposed to run a test on the lickability of this painting.

I'm supposed to write about the darkest portions of the warehouse. Take me there now!

Yes, I'm supposed to have a group coming to take this one away. Will you help me get it down?

All things I could have said. I wish I had that much clarity. Then again, if I had that sort of wit, I'd have come up with a much different career path.

After the Tate, I walked down to Victoria Station. It didn't take nearly as long as I thought it might, so I just wanted to grab a seat and rest my feet a while. I was sitting there, watching the giant screen and the newscrawl when I saw what I thought was Mark Plummer. I was sure I was mistaken, all Britons looking alike as they do, and went back to the screen. Then I caught a glimpse of another fan from the BArea who I knew was staying with them. I was right! I caught up with them and we chatted. The point was made that there were only 20 people in all of London, so I had to run into them sooner or later. They headed off, and I headed to Steve and Alison's.

I got on the train and my head was lolling. I was beat. I got to their house and

headed upstairs to just get off my feet. After that, we went to Eat 17 for waffles. Dinner waffles. I was very happy. I had chicken and mushroom waffles that were amazing. The chicken was well-cooked, the mushrooms were great and the wine sauce was without failure. Another boffo meal from the Brits. We chatted and Jonathan was a bit rambunctious. He had to go out a couple of times, but he settled a little once he got the food in him. Marianne was snarky and hilarious. She so reminded me of Evelyn. I started to miss her very badly.

I got an eMail from my Mom saying that Evelyn wanted to call to make sure I was OK. I wish my cell phone actually worked, or that I could at least send a text to her. The Open sign was turned so that the Closed part was facing us. Jonathan quite rightly noted that meant that the Outside was closed. That was a good laugh. They closed the restaurant a little later so we could leave now that the Outside was open.

After that, we walked home, talking about Video Game theory and the need for evangelists. Alison would do that well. I would make a great host for a show that basically said “Man, gaming is awesome!” And so it goes.



Journey to the Center of Celtic-Arabic-Bellydance- Heavy Metal Star Trek Music

By Jean Martin
Editor

I’ve been wanting to see my friend Angelena’s band, Boudicca, since I found out about it. Boudicca, “the quintessential multicultural fantasy dance party band” according to their web site, has been playing a few gigs in the North Bay recently. They also just released their first CD, *Boudicca*.

I have been busy with other events and the distance has been quite an obstacle, but I vowed to myself that I would see the band at some point. When Angelena sent me an email saying that they were playing at a Star Trek party in Sebastopol the Saturday during WonderCon weekend (February 23rd), I thought this was the perfect opportunity. I would already be traveling almost an hour north of where I live to attend the con, so Sebastopol would only be less than two hours away. I also couldn’t resist the Star Trek theme, and the fact that there would be a costume contest. Not only that, but the other group playing that evening was a Black Sabbath tribute band.

The promotional flyer for the party

had a drawing by Angelena with Kirk saying, “Celtic-Arabic-Rock Fusion, Bellydance, Heavy Metal and *Star Trek*?!!!,” Spock saying, “Quite illogical,” and Sulu thinking, “Sounds like my kind of party.” The interesting thing is, I’m into all these genres! I adore Celtic music, both traditional, modern and rock-influenced; I love Arabic music and bellydancing; I’ve always been and still am into Heavy Metal; and I’m a huge *Star Trek* fan. Oh, and I like to party too! So this was an event that I just could not miss.

I asked around to find someone to go with as I didn’t want to drive alone at night so far away. My friend Debbie, who along with myself and Angelena is part of the Black Fleet Star Pirates’ Guild, wanted to go too. When I was in my 20s, driving alone to the North Bay was not a big deal. I guess I’ve become more cautious as I’ve gotten older. But trekking all the way up there reminded me of my old Heavy Metal days when I used to have band friends up in the North Bay. The area is very peaceful and rural. It’s the last place you’d expect Heavy Metal to thrive, but being so far away from the city, lots of people entertain themselves by playing music.

Which is actually a good thing especially in this day and age when most entertainment is passive or synthesized.

I met up with Debbie at Raven's birthday party at the View Lounge at the top of the Marriott Hotel in San Francisco that night, and we left a little later than planned because we were having such a great time. Lots of our friends kept showing up. We were also waiting for the Chinese New Year Parade crowd to disperse so we wouldn't have to deal with traffic. San Francisco was truly the place to be that weekend! Poor Miss Chinatown USA and all the other parade participants must have been soaked as it was raining that evening.

With the distance, the rain and no sleep (I hadn't slept a wink the night before), I almost didn't want to go, but I had promised Debbie and Angelena and I didn't want to disappoint them. We recruited friend and fellow Black Fleet member Dakron Slaxx to go with us. I was glad Debbie drove as I didn't want to go through the hassle of getting my car out of my hotel's valet parking, and I couldn't drive after not getting any sleep anyway. We had an enjoyable and pleasant drive up north to Sebastopol. There weren't many cars on the road, as it was pouring out. And the drive over the Golden Gate Bridge and through the green and hilly Marin County is always beautiful, even in the dark.

It took us almost two hours to get to the Subud Center, where the party was. We made it for Boudicca's last song, *Enta Omri*, which luckily was a long one and one I liked a lot. We paid the entrance fee (10% of all proceeds were going to the American Cancer Society) and went up to the front to enjoy the song.



Boudicca featuring Angelena and Redshirts.

Photo by Jean Martin

Angelena was seated in the middle of the stage with her Arabian dumbek, a small hand-held drum, wearing a fabulous bellydance outfit. A multi-talented lady, she sings, plays lots of different instruments, bellydances, and also draws. She and her band sounded tight and very professional. I was quite impressed. The rest of the band, which included her husband John Crowhurst on guitar, were all wearing *Star Trek* red shirts.

I wish I could have seen and heard more of them but I suppose we were lucky to even catch

one song! It would have been terrible if we had driven all the way to Sebastopol and completely missed seeing Boudicca perform. The band, named after the Celtic warrior queen who defied the Roman Empire, plays Celtic music too, but the song I got to see was definitely of the Arabic-bellydance variety.

After their set was a costume contest. I suppose it was good that my group of three came because there would have been only two contestants otherwise. The emcee called us all up to the stage and asked the audience to clap

for who they thought should win. I won third place for my *Star Trek: The Next Generation* red Starfleet uniform and my prize was Boudicca's new CD — which was great because I was going to purchase one anyway. Debbie won second place for her lovely Nurse Chapel costume, and she got a really cool *Star Trek* collectible watch. The first place winner was a woman in a very elaborate Andorian outfit. She won a set of Khan and Kirk action figurines.

After the contest and a long break when we were able to chat with Angelena and her band backstage, the second band took to the main stage. Electric Funeral is a 1970s Black Sabbath tribute band, and I do like several Black Sabbath songs from that era. The lead singer was Lance Ozanix, the frontman for the band Skitzo in the early 1990s.

It really is a small world as the Heavy Metal magazine that I published during the height of that music genre's popularity covered Skitzo in one of our issues. One of my staff writers at the time did an interview with Lance, but I do believe that Lance and I corresponded to set the interview up. That was in the days before the Internet, so things like these were done using snail mail. I didn't get to meet Lance then, so it was really quite funny to be meeting him now, almost 15 years after the interview was published!

Lance remembered me and my magazine. He was surprised to find out that I'm still doing zines. I told him I'm surprised he's still doing Heavy Metal. He said that it's his life and what

he loves to do. And I told him ditto on that for me. Except now, publishing is so much easier and so much cheaper online!

I wasn't sure if my friends wanted to stay to see Electric Funeral as I didn't think to

his own interpretation of Ozzy Osbourne, but in a style all his own. What I was most in awe of, however, was the band's female drummer, Liz Daniels, who was the backbone of the band with her energetic drumming.

I recognized most of the songs and, surprisingly, knew a lot of the lyrics. I'm not that big of a Black Sabbath fan but I suppose I hear them a lot on the only hard rock station left in the Bay Area, 107.7 The Bone. My favorite was *N.I.B.*, which I actually like in different versions than the original. The version I like most is the one by Ozzy and Primus on the *Nativity in Black II* tribute CD. So I actually liked *Electric Funeral's* version a lot as well. I suppose it's because of the more modern instrumentation and pace that's not so 1970s. For their encore, Lance welcomed the Boudicca band members on stage and they all played together.

What with running into an old Heavy Metal friend at WonderCon and going to see a Heavy Metal band in Sebastopol, I could be forgiven for thinking I had traveled back in time. My old friend, Steve from the Thrash band Imagika, even said I looked exactly the same as when he'd seen me last! Well, I was in a Starfleet uniform, and in the *Star Trek* universe time travel has been known to happen.

For more information on Boudicca and Electric Funeral, visit:

<http://boudiccamusic.com/>

www.chadwickisdead.com/electric-funeral



Costume contest winners.

Photo by Dakron Slaxx

ask if they like that kind of music, but Debbie and Dakron enjoyed the songs and we were all up at the front dancing and head banging. Electric Funeral was so much fun. Lance did

BASFA Minutes: Meetings 921-923

Meeting 921

March 24, 2008

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

Began 8:03

24 people attended

We did not establish a party jar

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 920 were accepted

Treasurer's report was that at meeting 920 we took in \$31.00 in the regular jar & \$5.35 in the party jar

There was no VP

The President had nothing fannish to report

Announcements

[tall] Kevin announced that the Hugo nominations came out and that both Cheryl and Chris were nominated; and also announced that Cheryl was currently on a plane flying here and should be here next week

Fred announced that that the Worldcon hotels have had some cancellations, so check with them if you couldn't get in before

Joni announced that season passes for Great America are on sale now for good prices in groups of 4+

Julie announced that she got to bar-tend at Bella Roma [a place she helped with an organ transplant before] & that Contact is coming up on April 4-6 at NASA-Ames, check www.contactconference.com

Mike announced that baseball season starts at 3am

Andy announced that he did a bunch of updates on the Hugo recommendations LJ today

I announced that I'll be away next week so someone will have to take meeting minutes [Glenn? ^_^]

Reviews:

Howeird reviewed the Psychotronic Film Festival at Foothill as he won a DVD there that was not a B movie - but was more of a C minus and worth full price except for the loud mouthed idiot behind him

[tall] Kevin reviewed Norwescon as the Match Game went off well, although it only gelled an hour beforehand, that the performance of Girl

Genius Radio Theatre was great and he saw Part 3 of 'Revenge of the Weasel Queen,' that the con is way too big for the function space, he enjoyed himself and felt it worth the trip; Dave G follow-on'd that he spent much of the con on an airplane and that the con was 'interesting' [and various other comments made]

Joe reviewed trying to quit caffeine as it mostly sucks and is grim

[evil] Kevin reviewed Part 1 of 'The Colour of Magic' as beautiful and wonderful and definitely worth stealing and then buying

Andy reviewed spending a part of the weekend converting from Windows to Linux as Ubuntu installs quickly & it's worth it to be free

Julie reviewed 'Torchwood' as like chocolate - dark and satisfying but boring at times

John Hertz phoned in a greeting and reports that Lunacon also fails the badge test

We then did auctions: birthday auctioned off Joe for \$6.00 to Garth, cupcakes for \$1.25, cookies for \$1.00, books for \$0.50 for [evil] Kevin and \$0.50 & comics for \$1.00

We adjourned at = 9:19

And the rumor of the week was: 'pina colada rumors of the week, now with rum.'

Meeting 922

BASFA meeting #922 was called to order at 0801 on May 31st, 2008.

It was moved that a party jar be established and this failed 6-7.

Following this was a move for a TAFF jar, which passed 9-8.

There was no President, Secretary or Treasurer at the start of the meeting. Glenn filled in as Emergency Holographic Secretary. Chris, in his VP as President report, reported that Chris is back. The sergeant-at-arms was present and proved that he needs to have his toys taken away from him.

The party committee reported that Furcon can't figure out how we got a room ahead of the block. As it turns out, we went around the system as got a room via the manager. Andy followed on by noting that the Baycon party maven is starting to contact people.

Site selection reported that our usual manager Richard is not here, but our room is.

Treasury, having arrived, gave the following report:

Last week: TAFF 0, Party 0, regular jar: \$31.31

Total: TAFF: \$90.28, Party \$294.85, regular \$9,714.98

The sports committee reported "Go Sharks" and that the less said about the local baseball teams,

the better. There was a derail when someone (Dave Clark?) noticed that Tall Kevin's polo shirt had a Seattle bid logo that looked like the Starbucks logo. This is apparently intentional, however, as was noted, there can be no confusion as Starbuck is a girl and thus, the logo cannot be Starbuck.

Announcements:

Evil Kevin announced that the CostumeCon room block is almost gone and that he had finished his entry for the Future Fashion Show. Dave Clark announced Con-X-treme, to much general derision. Chris said he will go. Cheryl announced that Challenge Cheryl questions are needed, see her blog for details. She also put forth evidence that the Terminal 5 disaster was linked to Eastercon.

Reviews:

For reviews, Chris handed out "numbers" as silly combinations of numbers, letters and nonsense words. This was fine up until the point where even he couldn't remember the ordering.

Lisa: "Penelope" was a well-done modern fairy tale.

Evil Kevin: Part II of the "Color of Magic" was very good and worth stealing.

Fred: "1776" is at the San Jose for a few more performances. Kevin asked if it was the full version and after some discussion (surprise) of what constituted the full version, Fred answered

in the affirmative. Adrienne said she liked the small theatre better than the CPA and got away with making a tax time pun and not getting buzzed. She thought this performance was more intimate and worth full price.

Dave Clark: "Shock Value" by John Waters. Pre-1980's, what it is like to be a notorious trial groupie, follow dogs around for Divine's dietary supplements, and early party life. He was mock upset that it had been out for some years and he hadn't known about it and said to go buy it.

Glenn: Glenn reviewed Enterprise as selling the car he had rented as being a pain as they had to swap cars, but loved the quiet of the hybrid they gave him. Reviewed the Nissan Maxima as having the turning radius of a wounded battleship. There were many follow-ons to this, some of which were: Dave Gallaher said the Suzuki is very quiet and related how his company invested in the infrastructure for electric vehicles and then got rid of all of their electric vehicles. Glenn told a story about shocking a Fry's clerk out of his skin and Tall Kevin related a close call with a train.

Cheryl: Was in Orlando for FCFA. Despite the pool being close to the gator pond, there were no feedings and she seemed somewhat disappointed by this. She did say that everyone came home safe and she is definitely going again next year.

Spring: Reviewed OMSI as having a pretty good dino exhibit, slightly better done that

the two times she had seen this exhibit in Vancouver. She, to the shock of many, bought a shirt that said “Carnivore” on it. It was bought for the exhibit logo stuff on the back and there were no herbivore shirts. She had dinner with John and Ruth during which absolutely no smoffing occurred, no sirree. John is trying out to be a contestant on Jeopardy! Glenn related the ‘what’s a ‘ho?’ video clip from the show.

Tall Kevin noted that Orycon is moving.

Dave Gallaher: Fox is joining Comcast and he got a free hot dog at the park which was worth full price. Joe said that the bratwurst is better than the hot dogs at the park. Cheryl liked the 40 clove garlic sandwich and clearly needs to be taken to Gilroy. Tall Kevin noted that whatever disappointments we might have with the food, it is still vastly better than anything at Wrigley Field.

Dave Clark, Part Deux: Went to Norwescon. Due to more draconian policies, the parties all went to the La Quinta across the street. Girl Genius Radio Theatre was a good time for all. Cheryl added that there were a lot of corsets and leather goods at Nowescon and was assured this is typical.

Chris: Went to England. Did not drink any tea while there. He stayed at the homes of various British fen and surprisingly met many people under 50. Saw a pair of Babbage Machines (the second with some help) and ran into his boss there. Thought it was very cool that he could (using his laptop) write part of his TAFF

report on top of the remains of Henry VII. He also related how he pulled a stunt at the British Museum where his laptop and TAFF report became a temporary display. He reported that England has a vast array of different kinds of bathroom stall locks. Eastercon was good and spent a lot of time with “younger” fen, e.g., James Bacon. Worth total full price: what he paid plus the TAFF fund. He announced that his report is finished and with addition of three words at the bottom is exactly 50,000 words.

Andy reviewed/announced that there is a new Beard Papa cream puff store in San Jose and at the Oakridge Mall. The vanilla is worth full price and he is going back to check out other flavors.

Spring, Part Deux: The Friday night match game at Norwescon was a lot of fun.

Auctions:
cush bar: \$4 to Chris
Xenophile Button Men games: \$3.50 to Adrienne
Gumbo manga anthology magazine: \$1 by Joe to Glenn
Spring birthday auction: \$35 to Dave Gallaher

The rumor of the week was “braaaaaains” and the meeting was adjourned.

(dis-)respectively submitted,
Glenn

Meeting 923

April 7, 2008

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

Began 8-ish - with our own sound fx

25 people attended

We established a party jar

Secretary’s report: the minutes of meeting 921 were accepted as ‘unread’ & the minutes of meeting 922 were accepted as ‘the sum of 2 difference machines’

There was no Treasurer or Treasurer’s report this week

There was no VP or VP report

The President reminded us that CostumeCon 26 will be in 3 weeks

The Party Committee reported that he’s in negotiation for rooms for parties at Baycon & Furcon

Announcements

[evil] Kevin announced that CostumeCon needs your help to unload trucks or watch the unloading the Thursday before con - please

contact CC26's volunteers

Glenn asked if there were any good Korean BBQ places in Santa Clara

Lisa announced that pre-reg for CC26 closes April 15 and she can take money here [Galen follow-on'd that he also can take money]

Dave C announced that General Petreus appears in front of Congress tomorrow

Mike announced that Geoff Muldaur will play at the Cayuga Vault, Friday 8 pm in Santa Cruz

Howeird passed out pretty fliers, saying that 'Man of La Mancha' starts May 17 [and he plays both the Governor & the innkeeper] - call 408-266-4734 for more information

Cheryl announced that April 15 is closing day for the Locus poll & announced that the 'Challenge Cheryl' series is up at cherylmorgan.com and is a good excuse to answer silly questions

[tall] Kevin announced that he has 3 pairs [2/ each] of Giants tickets that he would like to sell since he can't make those games; the days are for May 9, May 15 and June 16

Dave C made a motion that failed

Reviews:

Ken reviewed 2 weeks spent on honeymoon in the United Kingdom as they saw a lot of people they knew, got hailed on, Jerry drank whiskey,

they shopped, it was a fun trip, if pricey

Joe reviewed bailing out his water bed as the end of an era

Andy reviewed 'French and Saunders' = 'Let them Eat Cake' as absolutely hilarious and crude & hysterically stupid - and if you can find it, it's worth full price

Adrienne reviewed Danielle Steel's 'The Ghost' as bad - even for a romance novel & reviewed 'Ghosts of San Francisco' as fun, but folklore and not well researched & reviewed that net puffs hurt

Maureen reviewed being a con guest for Icon 27 as really nice & she got to meet her hero, Murphy Anderson - who was just amazing & worth full price

Ed reviewed Ringo's 'A Deeper Blue' and 'Unto the Breach' as he enjoyed them, the 2nd was a really excellent book and he's been really enjoying the series & reviewed 'A Scanner Darkly' as schizophrenic and strange & worth dollar rental, just barely

Lisa reviewed '21' as a lot of fun & worth matinee

Fred reviewed 'Lysistrata' at City Lights [somewhat modernized] as worth full price and recommended

We then did auctions: books for \$0.50, \$1.00, \$1.50, a video for \$1.00 by Galen for Joe that

was given to [tall] Kevin, a comic for \$2.00, & Dr. Who stuff for \$2.00 & \$1.00

We adjourned at = 9:43

And the rumor of the week was: 'Free Tibet with purchase of China'

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, April 9

SF in SF Double Feature: Dark Star and Tron
Variety Preview Room in the Hobart Building
582 Market Street
San Francisco
7 p.m.
Free

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.

Saturday, April 12

Yuri's Night
NASA Ames Research Center
Moffet Field
www.yurisnightbayarea.net
\$50
This year, NASA's 50th anniversary, the Bay Area will be home to the largest Yuri's Night celebration ever, with 8,000 people joining astronauts, artists, scientists, engineers, and musicians to pay tribute to our global space heritage and to celebrate how much more is out there to be discovered!
2p.m.-2 a.m.

Saturday, April 12

Author: Peter F. Hamilton
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia
San Francisco
www.borderlands-books.com
4 p.m.
UK author Peter F. Hamilton makes a rare state-side appearance.

Saturday, April 12

Other Magazine presents Writers With Drinks
The Make-Out Room
3225 22nd Street
San Francisco
www.writerswithdrinks.com

7 p.m.

This month's WWD features science fiction sensation Peter F. Hamilton and theremin-playing author Elliot Fintushel.
\$3-\$5 sliding scale.

Sunday, April 13

Author: Peter F. Hamilton
Books, Inc.
301 Castro St
Mountain View
www.booksinc.com
3 p.m.

Tuesday April 15

The TomorrowMen
El Rio
3158 Mission St
San Francisco
<http://www.myspace.com/tomorrowmen>
8 p.m.
Free

Friday-Sunday, April 18-20

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

Saturday, April 19

Author: Ray Garton

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

www.borderlands-books.com

3 p.m.

Saturday, April 19

Author: Peter Beagle

Clayton Books

5433 Clayton Road

Clayton

www.claytonbookshop.com

2 p.m.

Sunday, April 20

SF in SF: Patricia McKillip and David Lunde

Variety Preview Room in the Hobart Building

582 Market Street

San Francisco

6 p.m.

Free

Ongoing monthly reading and discussion series sponsored by Tachyon Publications and moderated by Terry Bisson. There is a cash bar which opens at 5 p.m. and books will be provided for sale by Borderlands Books.

Sunday, April 20

Cherry Blossom Festival Parade

Civic Center to Japantown

San Francisco

www.nccbf.org

1 p.m.

Free

A cosplay contest traditionally precedes the

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

Friday April 25

Second Skin: Imaginative Designs in Digital & Analog Clothing

The Exploratorium

3601 Lyon Street

San Francisco

www.exploratorium.edu/2ndskin/

Fashion show of wearable art that also offers demonstrations of the latest trends in electroluminescent wire, soft circuitry, and green innovations. Wear or bring your own full-body wearable art (non-Members doing so will receive a 50% admission discount).

Admission to the event is included in the price of admission to the Exploratorium.

7:00-11:00 p.m.

Friday-Monday, April 25-28

CostumeCon 26

Doubletree Hotel

2050 Gateway Place

San Jose

www.cc26.info

\$95 in advance (through April 15, 2008)

Saturday, April 26

Author: John Stanley

Clayton Books

5433 Clayton Road

Clayton

www.claytonbookshop.com

2 p.m.

Bay Area host of *Creature Features* and author of *I Was a TV Horror Host*

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

Free Comic Book Day

Illusive Comics and Games

2725 El Camino, Suite 105

Santa Clara

www.illusivecomics.com

Free comic books and costuming event to help promote literacy. Local schools will be participating to have their kids come in and increase comic book appreciation, literacy and all things good about sci fi.

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.

Monday-Tuesday, May 12-13

Author: Brandon Mull

Clayton Books

5433 Clayton Road

Clayton

www.claytonbookshop.com

3-5 p.m.

Wednesday, May 14

Author: Michael Chabon

Diesel Books

5433 College Avenue

Oakland

7:30 p.m.

Signing for *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*

Saturday, May 17

Anime Street Pavillion

Japantown

San Francisco

www.eigomanga.com/ahsc/

Free

11-6 p.m.

eigoMANGA proudly produces the Anime Street Pavillion, featuring j-rock bands and cosplay, at the Fourth Annual Asian Heritage Street Celebration.

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 p.m.

Thursday-Sunday, June 12-15

RoboGames

Fort Mason Festival Pavillion

San Francisco

www.robogames.com

\$55

Saturday-Sunday, June 14-15

Northern California Pirate Festival
Vallejo Waterfront

Vallejo

www.norcalpiratefestival.com

Details to follow

Saturday, June 21

The Great Regency Shipwreck Ball

Arlington Community Church

52 Arlington Avenue

Kensington

www.baers.org

8 p.m.

\$15 advance, \$20 at the door

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, August 2

The Impressionists Picnic

PEERS Event

Lincoln Park

1450 High Street

Alameda

www.peers.org

Free

Le Salon de Refuses invites painters, models, artistic subjects and interested members of the public to join us for an outdoor picnic, fete and dance. Picnic begins at 11:30 a.m.

Formal dancing 1 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 9

Kin-Yoobi Con

Chabot College

25555 Esperian Blvd

Hayward

www.gzronline.com

9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

\$15

Saturday-Sunday, August 16-17

Golden Gate Renaissance Festival

Speedway Meadow

Golden Gate Park

San Francisco

www.sffaire.com

10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday/10am-5pm Sunday

\$15

Friday-Sunday, August 29-31

Sac-Anime

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street

Sacramento

www.sacanime.com

Details to follow

Friday-Monday, August 29- September 1

Con-x-Treme

San Mateo Marriott

1770 S. Amphlett Blvd

San Mateo

www.con-x-treme.org

Con-x-Treme returns for a second year (no, really).

Details to follow

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.

Friday-Sunday, September 26-28

Yaoi-Con

San Mateo Marriott

1770 South Amphlett Blvd

San Mateo

www.yaoicon.com

\$40 until May 31st

18+

Friday-Sunday, October 3-5

Silicon 2008: A Salute to FanAc

www.siliconventions.com

Details to follow.

Saturday, October 4th

Swingin in the Rain

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 North Ellsworth

San Mateo

www.peers.org

\$15 in advance (until September 27), \$20 at the door.

An evening in 1929 Hollywood at a ball inspired by that most joyous of musicals! Dance lesson at 7 p.m., dancing begins at 8.

Saturday, October 11

The War and Peace Ball

Arlington Community Church

52 Arlington Avenue

Kensington

www.baers.org

\$15 advance, \$20 door

Natasha and Prince Andrei dance at the 1812 ball from Tolstoy's classic. Russian nobility, Russian military, and civilians and military from friendly countries (English welcome; Frenchmen at their own risk.) Set dances and waltzes led by Alan Winston. 8 p.m.

Saturday, November 1

Le Bal des Vampires

PEERS Event

Alameda Elks Lodge

2255 Santa Clara Ave

Alameda

www.peers.org.

\$17.50 in advance (until October 25), \$25 at the door.

Waltz the night away in a beautiful candlelit

ballroom with SF Bay Area's most glamorous Undead at the 15th Annual Le Bal des Vampires. Dancing on two separate floors; Bangers and Mash performing live in the upstairs ballroom 7:45-Midnight and free-style dancing downstairs in the Dracula's Daughters Discotheque 6:30-Midnight.

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.sfghosthunt.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

Coco's
1206 Oakmead Parkway
Sunnyvale
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

Wednesdays and Saturdays

Hayward Collectibles Show
22300 Hathaway Ave (rear bldg)
Hayward
www.toysandbaseballcards.com
Wednesdays 3 p.m.-8 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m.-5 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.

East Bay Star Wars Club
Central Perk
10086 San Pablo Ave.
El Cerrito
510-558-7375
www.ebstarwars.com
Meets the second Friday of every month at 7:30 p.m.

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 April 13th is *Grey* by John Armstrong. 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.

Other Realms Book Club
Books, Inc.
1375 Burlingame Ave.
Burlingame
Free
www.booksinc.net
Meets the 4th Wednesday of the Month. The book for April 23rd will be *Matter* by Ian Banks.

Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia
San Francisco
6:00 p.m.
Free
The book for April 27th is *Harrowing the Dragon* by Patricia McKillip. 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
groups.yahoo.com/group/scifisantarosa/
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.

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.

Star Trek XI

From Page 5

show? The origin of the Universal Translator and an appearance of an alien dog are both revealed before the last reel.

And here's a rundown of the business of each Enterprise crew member:

Hikaru Sulu (John Cho) - Did you know he only speaks Japanese? For the entire series as we've seen it so far, the Universal Translator was helping him communicate with the many cultures represented. In interacting with the others for the first time, Sulu must find a way to overcome the communications barrier. In a later revelation, though, we discover he can understand more English than we think. He's wearing a prototype UT!

Pavel Chekov (Anton Yelchin) - On the other hand, Cha...err, Chekov seems perfectly capable of communicating and seems only too anxious to do so. He mysteriously goes on about some song he claims the Russians wrote and hopes to find someone impressed by this fact. When no one proves to be a fan of his singing, he settles down and looks after a pregnant Nurse Chapel.

Nyoto Uhura (Zoe Saldana) - In the show, she was the glue that held the crew together. One of the most bold moves made in the new movie is expanding upon the one time she kissed Kirk. We'll see a full-on love triangle between Kirk, Uhura, and (of all people) Dr. McCoy! Will she end up with the rogueish Kirk, the doctor, or neither?

Montgomery Scott (Simon Pegg) -

Predestined, of course, to be ship's engineer, Mr. Scott is the most eager of the characters to get off the planet and on to the rest of the galaxy. Since the construction crews can't seem to finish the Enterprise fast enough, he proposes building a "shuttle raft" to explore nearby systems.

Leonard "Bones" McCoy (Karl Urban) - When he's done with the crew's examinations, Bones assembles an away team of his own. First, his group goes in search of a transceiver that might shed light on their situation. Then, they must climb a mountain high enough for good reception. Curiously, the only sound they hear is a message repeating in the Minbari language.

NFN Spock (Zachary Quinto) - Mr. Lo...err, Spock can be seen but not heard with his customary, no-nonsense demeanor for the first hour of the movie. When, at last, Uhura gives the Vulcan a worried stare, he smiles, exposing a peace of fruit in a curious Godfather homage.

James Tiberius Kirk (Chris Pine) - Though I've saved the future Captain for last, the movie presents him first. He's discovered waking up in Genesis Planet grass. In his pocket are a couple of single-serving Romulan Ale bottles. Has the officer been drinking? In a curious plot hook that won't be explained for a few episodes, an Orion Labrador stands a few feet away, panting happily.

Where is all this boldly going?

If, by this point, you have figured out that all of the above spoilers are completely bogus and loosely based on events in the pilot episode of J.J. Abrams' hit TV show *Lost*, congratulations. Hope you've enjoyed this commemorative April Fool's joke.