

Science Fiction/San Francisco

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News and Notes

By **Christopher J. Garcia**

Editor

Westercon's over and I'm betting España and others have already written up lovely little reports. I've got a short, weird one too.

Hey, guess who is the coolest person ever to live? Me. You see, I've been asked to present a Hugo! An honest to Ghod Hugo! Now, I'm nominated for two, and I'll never manage to win one, but at least I get to give one away. I believe that it's going to be one of the Best Artists. I'm kinda hoping that it's Best Pro Artist because it would be very cool to give one to Mr. Phil Foglio. Wow! I couldn't believe it when they told me it was happening either.

SiliCon is coming up in October. It's going to be a good time and there's probably going to be a lot of great parties. There's a rumor going around about a possible presence of the Little Men. If you were reading a year or so ago, you will remember that this was not first time this has been said, but it seems like it might happen again. More details to come. Also, it turns out that Johanna Mead's running the Masquerade, which means it should be a good one.

Worldcon is shaping up. I've heard that a lot of local folks are going, though not that many Brits. I love the Brits, they were quite nice to me, but most of the folks I was talking with said that they're waiting for Montreal. I'm waiting for it too, but I'm going to both!

Speaking of the Englishski, my man

John Coxon came to town...the 19-year-old mastermind who puts out one of the best zines in the world, *Procrastinations*. I met up with the guy at the Arcade at Pier 39 and we headed out to the Wharf. I exposed him to the sumptuous knowledge of Chris Garcia. I explained how Hearst Castle in San Simeon was built entirely by Little People, how to Chris Garcia is to pour lye into the eyes of some poor fool (and is the leading cause of blindness among those on my enemies list), and how the hills of San Francisco are actually concealing the ancient tombs of the Welsh coal miners of the City. We did Ripley's Believe It or Not Museum, which is very cheesy scientific, and had sundaes at Ghirardelli. And what would a trip to San Francisco be without watching a movie at the Metreon (the movie being *Iron Man*)? It was a nice night and I'm hoping that we can get the boy out here again to visit and maybe even attend a con!

If you're an artist and think you can be awesome, here's a challenge for you. I'm doing a giant cross-over event called Fandom on Infinite Earths, a strange series of issues of fun from around the world. The art for the issues is all going to be one thing: versions of the "Crisis on Infinite Earths" issue where Superman is carrying Supergirl and crying like a little girl. You know the issue. It's one of the most famous modern covers in the history of comics, right up there with the *Showcase* cover with the Justice League and Starro and the exact same cover done

to introduce the Fantastic Four replacing Starro with Moleman. You should send something my way.

Steampunk convention on Halloween weekend is going to be awesome! I'm saying this knowing that they've got Abney Park and there's the fact that I'm a speaker as well. One thing that'll be amazing is the fact that Jeff Vandermeer will be there, who is a great guy to have. There's also the fact that it's been getting a lot of press with articles in *SFGate* and *Wired* last week. It's weird to see my name in *Wired* after all I've done to stop their reign of tyranny over the hip and ironic.

No word on GoHs for BayCon yet. I'm always trying to find out about who's gonna be the GoH so I can report on it, but alas, I cannot.

There's an *X-Files* movie. I love the *X-Files*. I really do, but I've been hurt so many times before by films made of TV shows. I am also heartened by the fact that we've got an *Arrested Development* film coming out.

Hey, there's gonna be a Mimeograph Demo at WorldCon. I'm gonna write a little thing for it, and you should too. Stop by the Fanzine Lounge at the con and join up with the gang on the Gestetner!

TAFF (which I'm trying to re-brand as The Awesum Fan Fund!) has been eating my soul with sending out my first newsletter. The news is the Fund is in good shape and I'm working on making more for the Fund. The best part of it all

is that I think it's better exposed than it has been in a number of years. I'm planning on a blitz of conventions and chat-'em-ups that'll help raise the profile!

A fair bit of action of late on eFanzines, highlighted by the getting-less-rare appearance of *Vegas Fandom Weekly*. I thought it was a decent issue, with a good amount of tribute to Mr. Jack Speer, who I really think was a major force in the history of fandom. There's an interesting discussion about the meaning of being a fan, or at least the wording of being a Fan, which was sparked by my letter. Good LetterCol and a really nice bit of writing from Dick Lupoff. There's a really nice Harry Bell piece on the cover which really sets the whole thing off.

You can't go wrong with *The Drink Tank*. That is to say you know it's gonna suck at least a little. This issue has some nice art from Steve Stiles, Jason Schachat and a cover from Brianna Spacekat and Frank Wu that's just great. The articles are mostly LoCs, a piece from John Purcell about snakes, and my little thoughts about Vegas and Westercon. Take a look.

There's a new issue of *Time & Again*, which is the walking future life self of *Pixel*, one of the best Web-based fanzines ever. Dave Locke puts out another really good one, and futures the return of *Found In Collection*. I'm thinking it'll find itself snug on the list of FAAn Award vote-getters.

Do you like smut? I'll admit it, I do, and there's some eSmut on eFanzines! Dick Geis, multiple Hugo winner and writer of some of the best erotica you'll ever find, has posted several stories on eFanzines of a cross-over nature. I thought they were pretty good, and his zine

Taboo Opinions has had a couple of issues too. Go and take a look...I won't tell!

One of the most interesting panels at Westercon was the one on Core Fandom and how it relates to Big Tent fandom. There weren't a lot of Core Fans on the panel, which instead featured Kevin Roche, Mike Glyer, Lynn Gold and John Hertz. I was programmed up against

it so I couldn't check it out, but what I've been told is that it was a good overview of the idea, and that it really wasn't a Crap on Core Fandom panel, which that sort of panel could have easily become if folks didn't take it seriously. I'd love to hear more about it at a Worldcon, and if Arnie had showed up, it probably would have been much different.

Letters Of Comment

Lloyd Penney writes:

The hurrieder I go, the behinder I get. And now, I'm three issues of *SF/SF* behind. I think that if I was ever to catch up with my fanzines, it would be a sign of the Apocalypse. So, to bring that Apocalypse that much closer, here comments on *SF/SF* 67, 68 and 69.

Jean Martin replies: Then by all means, please don't catch up! But thanks for writing to us about every single issue. We feel so important!

67...Some years ago, Roger Zelazny was to come to Toronto to be the Pro GoH at Ad Astra. We found out the hard way that he had died in his sleep at his home in New Mexico the night before he was to board a plane for Toronto. We know how hollow inside the Marcon committee feels at having their GoH die before he can get to the convention.

That is a very sad story.

I think Anticipation is well-named...I hear the same things about it that you do. People maybe couldn't afford to go to Japan for a Worldcon, but Montréal is just exotic enough to

want to go. By the way, PR2 is now available for download, or you may get it in the mail.

When I first started reading SF anthologies, the Hugo was the gold standard for quality in SF, and while the pointy trophies are attacked regularly, they still are a pinnacle of achievement to me. I hope there'll be plenty more silver rockets to come. And FAAn Awards, too.

There are always people that will knock awards, but they serve a purpose, and I think that's great that there as such things as Hugos and FAAn Awards. I've always wanted to go to Montreal. I've never been to French Canada, that might be something to look forward to for me for next year! And Neil Gaiman is going to be there... swoon. Ralph Bakshi too... wow!

Shall we paraphrase the late Arthur C. Clarke and say that not only is fandom larger than we imagine, it is larger than we can imagine? No one can keep up with all the clubs, cons, gatherings, activities, pubnights, and anything else fans gather at and take part in. I've

tried and failed, and that's why I say that there's always something new to learn. I've dabbled here and there, and had 25-year careers in convention running and Worldcon bidding, and now in fanzines. There's always fun to be had. Nothing says you have to take part in everything, but at least you can put out the illusion of having your fingers in most pies.

Well, Chris and I certainly try to keep all our fingers, and toes, in as many pies as we can realistically handle. There's just no other way to do it... I think if I didn't, I'd feel like I was missing out on something.

It's July already, and as I write this loc, today is the first day of Polaris 22, the annual media SF convention once known as Toronto Trek. The committee was generous to us this year, and awarded Yvonne a lifetime



membership in the convention. I still gotta pay up, but that's okay. I expect we'll spend most of the weekend at the hotel looking for old friends, especially when there's very little at the convention that interests us. But then, it's always been the people, the friends to greet, hug and flirt with, the old friends to catch up with, and the new friends to make. I suspect I will have a very good time this weekend.

Yes, cons are really about hanging out with friends who are all into the same things we are. It's so awesome that we have these events that enable us to get together as frequently as possible.

Yvonne recently participated in a pirate pose-off at her office. That may sound a little strange, but when I say that she works at Diageo Canada, distributors of Captain Morgan rums, I hope she wins something good. We'll find out. Jean, when you say that the pirates and Browncoats are on their way out, such as it always was. Star Fleet officers, B5 officers, Jedis, the series or movie of the day comes and goes, and our creativity and interest goes to the next big show or franchise. I wish there'd been a big fan following of shows like *The Twilight Zone* or *The Outer Limits*. Those shows are more my speed. Costumers in Toronto seem to be very heavily into anime, even though there are some die-hard Klingons around.

I guess I don't mean that these things are on their way out but more that they've reached their peak. And as we all know, everything that peaks has to decline at some point. I may have to revise my statement about pirates, though, as it looks like they're still going strong as evidenced by the recent Vallejo Pirate Festival, which I'm

covering in this issue. But even though trends come and go, there are always stalwarts. The Klingon contingent here in the Bay Area is very active, and the Browncoats are always doing something.

I'd like to read that Richard Morgan book *Altered Carbon*. The button "I haven't lost my mind, I've got it backed up on disk" comes true. One series of books I've enjoyed is by Wil McCarthy, author of the series that begins with *The Collapsium*. In these books, humanity travels the cosmos by fax, which does allow copies of yourself to exist, be killed, etc., with little record of who's the original.

Sounds scary... more copies of one person! Although if there were more of me, it would be easier and less exhausting for me to do all the things I want to do and more!

If pirates are fading, BayCon may be bucking the trend. At least you have an art show... some of our local cons have done away with the art show, and have gone to the anime convention's artists alley. As successful and interactive as the artists alley is, I miss the gallery-style show you could peruse at your leisure.

*I love art shows at cons...they showcase the talents of local artists and I think sci fi and fantasy art is fabulous. I'm drawn to novels because of the artwork on the cover. The first sci fi novel I ever bought when I was a little girl was *Moon Maid* by Edgar Rice Burroughs because it had a painting of a beautiful maiden riding a minotaur-like alien creature.*

Chris, I think I would enjoy your Denvention fanzine lounge very much. Unfortunately, I'm not going, not unless one of the provincial lotteries decides to burden me

with untold wealth. However, I've got much the same thing in mind with the Anticipation fanzine lounge. I still have to find out what my limitations are, but I have a fair idea of what needs to be done. I would recommend that you get a few hosts to relieve you every so often, so that you don't spend your entire Worldcon in your lounge. You've got to get outside, wander a bit, see the show and party until you're rigid. I've gotta get to a BayCon one of these days. Need an extra GoH, Chris? I'm cheap, and I'm housebroken, too, and know enough not to beg at the table or jump up on the couch.

I'll pass along your offer to Chris... we'd love to see you at BayCon!

Chris was in a dragon Hawaiian? Say it ain't so...when we leave to go to Polaris this afternoon, I'll be in a bright orange t-shirt and a red/yellow/green tropical. It's just the most comfortable conwear there is. Besides, there's a birthday party we've supplied serving equipment to, and we must be there tonight...have you ever met anyone who didn't know how to throw a party?

68...First of all, congratulations on Andy and Kevin on getting married. The best thing you can ever do for someone you love, guys, never regret it. And congrats to California on the Supreme Court decision. We attended the four-couple wedding ceremony at Torcon 3...eight scared guys walked into it, and four happy couples walked out.

Congratulations again to Kevin and Andy!

A steampunk convention sounds like an interesting idea...I'd like to hear details just in case someone here might like to get something



going. I can think of some local costumers who might like to try their hand at it. Xanadu now at the Plaza Hotel at Main and Fremont? I'd love to come back just to see it! Henry Welch and family should enjoy the BArea...please do welcome him and Letha and the kids.

I'm very interested in how the Steampunk Convention turns out. There's a great lineup of people involved as well as appealing activities and events. I'm not sure if I'll be able to attend the entire con due to scheduling conflicts. I would at least like to see Chris's talk on the Babbage Difference Engine and maybe the ball featuring Brassworks, the same band that plays at the Gaskells Ball.

I do not go to professionally run

conventions. Usually, they feature actors from shows I don't watch, and I also do not trust these professional organizations (who usually call themselves fans) to deliver what they promise. They demand a lot of money up front, and they usually fail to deliver to the expectations of those who spend far too much. In fact, I must check to see if Creation is doing business in Canada again, they are in trouble with several provinces re not paying their taxes to do business there. When it comes to financing for a convention, we always use what we can worst-case scenario budgeting. What's the worst that can happen?, and then we budget on that. Usually, it's what's the smallest number of people who could arrive, and what if they all pre-reged?

I haven't been to a Creation convention in ages. I used to go to those because that's the only ones I knew about. And they got old after a while and I never connected with anyone. I do prefer fan-run conventions too.

Hey, there's the whole masthead on page 9! Congratulations to all of you on a fine publication. It sounds like it is becoming the *TV Guide* for BArea fandom. What's on this week? Anything good? Lots...

Thanks...That's what we're here for. And it's become quite a thing for us to have our photo taken when we're all together for our staff meetings at cons. Just to prove that we do exist, all know each other, and do like each other as people and as co-SF/SF conspirators.

I have SF/SF 69, but Yvonne is coming home from work and we'll be off to Polaris, so I will save 69 for the next loc, and see you all then. Quick exit, and off we go to the con.

Looking forward to your future LOCs!

Editorial

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

San Jose is bidding for another Westercon. Good for them. It's SFSFC that's doing it and as I understand it, it's going to be running with a high profile. There's a lot of talk about Westercon and the possible future. My call is to turn it into a Boutique Convention, a vacation-centered convention where the programming is limited, there's a pair of awesome con suites, and you try to draw smaller numbers. The idea doesn't have a lot of traction with the SMOFs, but I think they'll come around when someone actually tries to do one like that.

In a way Vegas proved that the concept could work. Now, they didn't go for that idea, they put on a traditional Westercon, but only drew a little over 300. That's not a bad thing, because I know so many folks had a great time. The con suite was jumping, there were nice parties, a lot of folks spent some great time in the Pub or around the casino, and there was a good time for a lot of folks.

The panels were good, though many were very lightly attended. The Masq was small, though not the smallest I've ever been to, and the winner was awesome, so it had that going for it. The Dealer's Room was OK, though I don't know if folks managed to make much money. The "Match Games" drew pretty well, were very entertaining (I even got to watch one, as Jason Schachat was filling in my seat on the first show), and we led to something of a movement surrounding bidding for Kevin Standlee's Pants.

What they did best was, they took advantage of where they were. The con was almost made for folks to come out and stay at the con hotel, go to some events, and then head out and see a show, hang at the Strip, maybe go to the casino. It was a smart way to do things. Kevin Roche, The Lovely and Talented Linda, Jason Schachat, Leigh Ann Hildebrand, Lisa Deutsch Harrigan, Andy Trembley and myself all had a blast going to the Pub and singing along with the Irish singer. Not at all involved with the con, but we had a great time and we wouldn't have been if we hadn't been at the con. Looking at that sentence, it only partly makes sense, but I stand by it.

The idea of going to a con and not being at the con the whole time isn't exactly new. Think of CorFlu. Folks go to chat with others, but often folks make non-con plans and the con is set up to allow for a lot of time away from programming and the like. There are long dinner breaks (which folks usually take great advantage of) and that allows for some great exploration. I know of at least five different groups that went to see *Love* (the Cirque du Soliel show with Beatles music) and others who went out to visit Arnie and Joyce and the Vegrants meeting over at their place. That sort of thing makes you wonder if people really came for the convention, or simply for Vegas.

And that's not a bad thing.

What was something of a bad-ish thing was the fact that almost every author in the known world ignored the convention. There was

Kage Baker, which was nice, as she's a classy lady, and there was Larry Niven. That's about it. John deChancie wasn't there, and he's got deep Vegas connections. None of the LA writers made the trip save for Niven, and there was no Steven Brust (who I think lives in or around Vegas) and almost none of the BArea writers (who sometimes don't even attend BArea conventions).

The Big Name Fans that made it were folks like Mike Glycer, who is quickly becoming my hero, and there were Christian McGuire, Tadao Tomomatsu, Elayne Pelz, John Hertz, Milt Stevens and Ed Green. All of them LA fans. You have to add Sharon Sbarsky to that list as well. A bunch of us BArea folks showed up, though there were some notable absences.

Westercon can be seen as the place where the Western tribes come together. It's where the BArea and LA and Seattle and San Diego and Vegas fans should be gathering. Or at least a fair sampling from all of them. But it really wasn't that this year.

Speaking of Seattle, they lost one of their own on the trip down to the convention. Bert, their con treasurer, was killed when a car rolled over. She was a nice gal, though I only met her once or twice. That's a terrible thing to have happen in your fandom, and my heart goes out to all of the wonderful people in Seattle fandom who were hurt by this tragedy. There have been some terrible tragedies like this in the history of fandom, and it never gets easier.

This Old Fanzine

The NYCon Souvenir Book

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

There are moments in history that are terribly important to record with publications. One of them was certainly the first Worldcon, held at Caravan Hall in New York City. I've never found out where Caravan Hall was (or is) and I've looked over the years. The FANAC.org site put up a copy of the souvenir book, which is good because the actual item that was up on eBay a few months back went for a couple of hundred more than I'd ever have been able to pay.

The opening is a greeting from Chairman Sam Moskowitz, also known as SaM. The message was that he wanted everyone to have a good time and if they didn't, it would be their own damn fault! Well, that's a good point, although I'm sure the members who were blocked from entry after SaM found the Yellow Pamphlet (that's another edition of *This Old Fanzine* waiting to happen) would have had a much different idea. The greeting said almost everything that a Chairman's letter should say and has always said. It was one of those moments where you realize that, as generic as it seems, it was also the first time that it was done.

There's a brief tribute to Stanley G. Weinbaum. It says that his hobby was Science

Fiction. That's a good little tribute, and another tradition that continues to today (though the list is much longer now)

The oddest piece is a section called "Sciencefictionists," which is a long list of names provided by a Mr. Forrest J. Ackerman. There are names you may recognize (Morojo, Pogo, Ray Bradbury, Jack Agnew, Paul Freehafer, Jack Speer, Bob Tucker, Walt Daugherty), and some that don't even seem to ring a bell from when I last read *All Our Yesterdays* (Carmen Mares? Russ Hodgkins? Roger Starr? Trudy Sweet?). I'm not 100% sure what this section is supposed to be listing, but it must be something important to the history of fandom, that's for sure. I'd love to go and do an article just finding out about these guys.

There are a lot of full-page ads from *Amazing Stories*, "RAP" (whoever that is), and the publishers of Ralph Milne Farley. The best of them is a spread for the *Thrilling* Group of publications. It's a great little ad that recalls an older time of science fiction when things like that were regularly done. And then I remember: this is from the time when things like that were regularly done. Post-modernism has really messed with my head. (I mean, folks wouldn't have had this probably in the 1950s. Or maybe they would have. Who knows?)

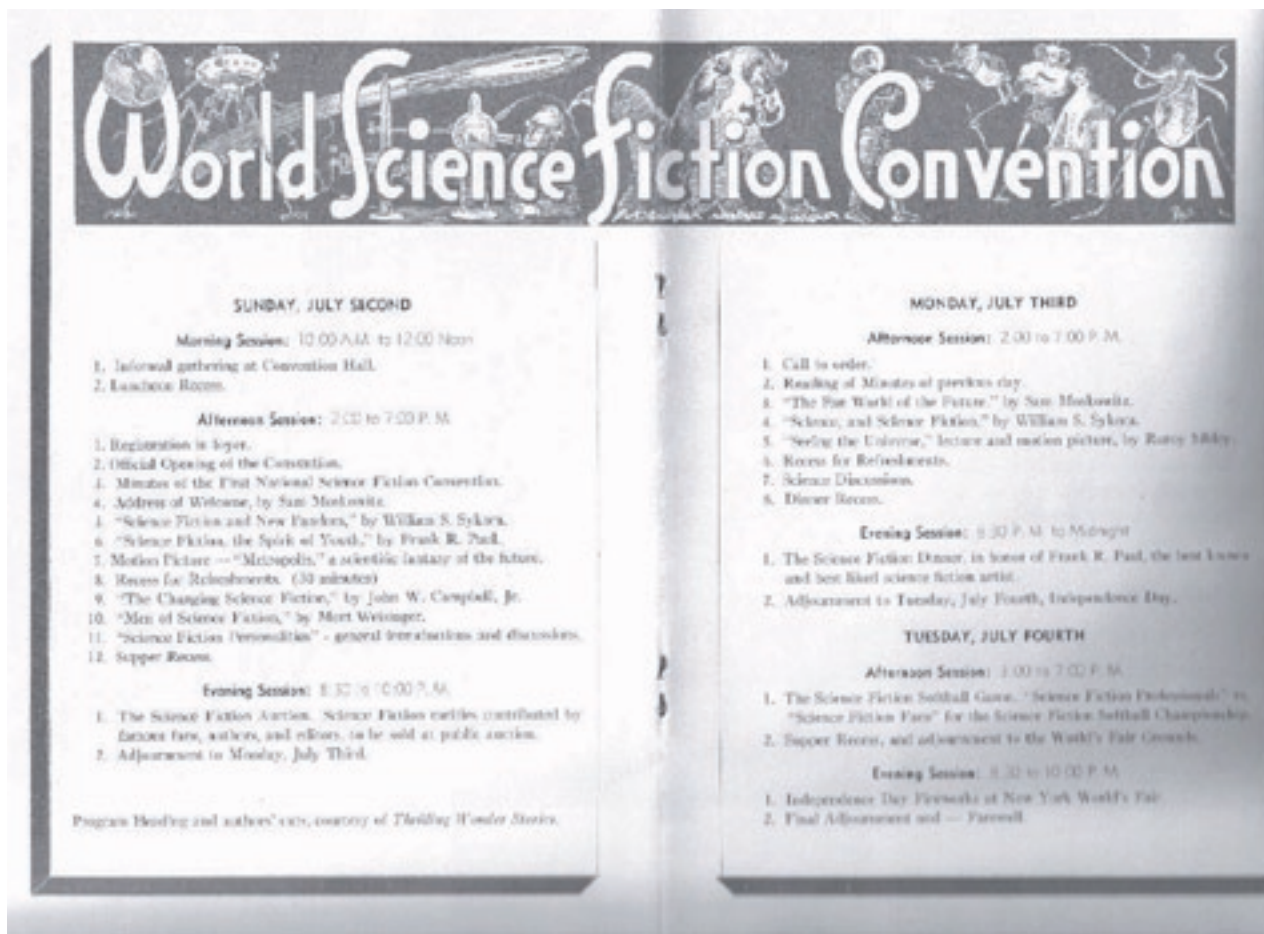
The meat is the schedule of events for the convention. The con started on a Sunday (and people thought it was weird that the 2007 Westercon started on a Saturday!) with an

informal gathering between 10 a.m. and noon on July 2nd, 1939. That's when SaM found the pamphlets that Dave Kyle (who said you can't sit there) had printed up which had a certain Socialist bent to them. SaM found 'em and wouldn't let in other members of the Futurians, including Fred Pohl and Don Woldheim. That led to a rough start for the Worldcon, but hey, it's hardly like it didn't happen again after.

The main session happened between 2 and 7 p.m. Starting with registration, it ran through a few bits of business and then ended up with real content. There was Science Fiction and New Fandom by William S. Sykora which I wish I had a video tape of so I could see what the thoughts of the time were. There was a Frank R. Paul talk called Science Fiction: The Spirit of Youth. Paul, being the GoH and one of the most influential artists in the history of science fiction, gave an exceptional talk that's been preserved in a couple of different spots. That was followed by *Metropolis*.

That's right: at the first WorldCon, there was a *movie* shown. And it wasn't off in a separate room: it was in the middle of the convention as a part of the one programming track. It's interesting, as some folks seem to think that media has been pushed to the side (and others that Media has taken over), but it's always been there in the middle of things.

One interesting panel must have been the Changing Science Fiction talk given by John W. Campbell. He was the editor of the most



influential magazine at that moment, and would be the one to take science fiction in a series of new directions over the thirty or so years he was around. The stuff he was putting out at the time really was state-of-the-art for the moment, and what he said often affected the direction of the field. It was amazing to read the first five or so issues of *Analog* after he turned over the reins. It's a real jarring experience.

They ended the day with a big auction: a tradition that endures, though without Fan Funds

(like TAFF = The Awesum Fan Fund!) I have no idea where the money went. Maybe to paying for the con? Perhaps to one of Harlan's pet projects. (Wow, I just made a nearly 40-year-old joke, talking about a nearly 70-year-old con. Who knew I had such depth?)

OK, Monday brought a more scientific view, with a section just called Science Discussions. What they were, I dunno. There was also a panel that I do know a little about. Ruoy Sibley did a lecture and motion picture

presentation about Seeing The Universe. This was done all over the place and I've heard several people talk about it. Hal Clement even did a reconstruction in 1992 at MagiCon. He was a film director and producer and he did all sorts of productions around science. We don't get folks like Sibley much anymore at the Worldcon, though when we do they tend to draw a crowd.

The Science Fiction Dinner took place as the evening session, which ran until midnight. It featured Frank R. Paul's official speech and who knows what else. I've never found the record of the First Worldcon and I've talked to a bunch of folks who were there and their stories often don't seem to jibe with one another. I had Isaac Asimov tell me that there was a "Pros Day," as he called it, and others dispute that. There certainly wasn't anything like that listed, though there was a Pros vs. Fans Softball game on the 4th of July.

One thing I missed was that it was July 4th, 1939. That's the day that Lou Gehrig gave his famous speech. Several fans skipped out and went to that game. There was also the 1939 World's Fair in New York, which is where the afternoon and evening session of the Convention took place on the Fourth of July. It's a shockingly good piece of timing, though I understand that was one of the reasons that they held the convention in the first place.

The rest of the book is mostly sold space. There are some photos of well-known pros and a list of Science Fiction Celebrities (Frank Belknap Long, P. Shuyler Miller, the Binders, etc.) but it's mostly just filler. Other than the program, it was kinda a lightweight piece.

And I'm glad I didn't shell out the money for it!

Music, Singing, Blood at ‘Evil Dead’ Show

By España Sheriff
Staff Writer

Who can say no to a musical version of the *Evil Dead* movies, with a bit of *Army of Darkness* tossed in for greater fannish satisfaction? Not I, that’s for certain.

The show started as a Toronto-based production by the Diesel Theater with approval from Sam Raimi and Bruce Campbell. Judging from the video on the evildeadthemusical.com web site, the Toronto production is slightly more elaborate, with a larger stage (and probably budget) to work with. Apparently the Toronto show has been an audience favorite, and has been extended three times past its original end date of June 2007. In fact, the notice on the web site somewhat desperately mentions that they really, really mean it this time and cannot extend the date past September since, y’know, they need to put on other shows now.

Our local version is great fun. The cast of the Willows Theater Company in Martinez does a fine job and the show relies on some clever and hilarious tricks that are very effective both as work-arounds for impossible-to-stage special effects and as gags simultaneously. Not unlike the early Raimi B-movie sensibility of the *Evil Dead* films, the show works its low budget atmosphere and horror movie awareness to good effect.

The writing, by George Reinblatt, is clever and extremely fond of its source material,

plugging everyone’s favorite lines into the script periodically with a nudge and a wink that the audience seemed to appreciate, loudly. And like the movies themselves, it plays fast and loose with the shaky movie continuity and takes the liberties it needs to in order to make the story zip along and keep folks entertained.

The musical numbers are all good and while some cast members are better singers than others, they are all good in their roles. Michael Scott Wells as Ash does well in the

It’s never too early to learn about the perils of reading demonic passages aloud in remote cabins in the woods.

iconic Campbell role and displays some daring physical acrobatics during the “possessed hand” sequence that must be hard to maintain for the two months of the run. Jenny Angell as Cheryl has a great number with “Look Who’s Evil Now” — the title of which is emblazoned on the T-shirts available for purchase in the lobby — and Lowell Abellon as Ed gets to have fun with “Bit Part Demon.” The only issue with the performances is the somewhat muffled sound while wearing masks for the deadite songs, during which I had difficulty making out some

of the lyrics.

Despite the smaller stage at the appropriately named Campbell Theater, the set design was excellent, with at least one surprise I didn’t see coming. The trapdoor to the basement worked well and the woods and outdoor scenes were handled nicely and with, uh... varying degrees of realism but a lot of humor. The show is definitely not for children, as the website says it contains “inappropriate language, fountains of blood, and nothing even remotely educational” and while I might quibble with that last part (it’s never too early to learn about the perils of reading demonic passages aloud in remote cabins in the woods), the former is entirely accurate. Not for nothing are the first rows designated as the “Splatter Zone” where audience members are literally drenched with fake blood by show’s end. The rest of the non-splattered crowd was equally raucous, roaring during several scenes as well as singing along to parts of others. Standout songs include “Good Old Reliable Jake,” “All the Men in My Life Keep Getting Killed by Candarian Demons,” and “What the ...?” And of course, “Do the Necronomicon.”

The show is currently only scheduled to run through the 26th so get down there while you can. It’s a long drive but a fun group outing and well worth getting a carpool together. Just eat before you go. While the theater does have table service and the drinks are pretty tasty, the food is your basic popcorn and hot dog fare.

Scurvy Dogs, Scalliwags at Pirate Fest

Story and Photos by Jean Martin

Editor

The second annual Northern California Pirate Festival came ashore on June 14th and 15th at the Vallejo Waterfront. I'd missed the first one last year but several of my friends who went said it was great and was very well attended. I made it a point to go this year and managed to make the long trek up to Vallejo all by myself on June 14th. I wasn't worried about going alone, though, because I knew several friends would be there and I was sure there were more I would run into.

There were already a lot of people when I got there in the early afternoon. I got there later than I'd hoped, but I was able to find good parking right in front of the entrance.

As soon as I got there, the first order of business was to get some lunch. I briefly admired a small section of a ship's deck complete with a mast that greeted patrons as they walked in. Admission was free and that was probably a big incentive for most of the attendees. I followed my nose and found the food concession stands. There were the usual Renaissance Faire and Dickens Fair comestibles, and I immediately enjoyed a tasty Scottish meat pie. The character I was playing for the day, a female buccaneer, is obviously not a vegetarian like I am.

I then espied some of my shipmates from the Black Fleet Star Pirates' Guild, including our illustrious captain, Alex "Obi-Juan" Diaz. Also there was his ladyfriend Shay, his brother Ralph,

two other female pirates, Steff and Bonnie, and angel fairy Debbie. Alex gave me a new Black Fleet ribbon to adorn my black pirate coat and then I sat and ate and hung out with the group. We enjoyed some people-watching, and seeing a

ship with dark red sails.

My friend Thad came by in a dashing pirate costume and together we raided the vendor booths for some booty. I was wearing a semi-new pirate outfit with a blue sash and



Musicians offer dockside diversions.



Three Jacks.

a blue tricorne hat, unusual for me because I usually wear red. I found a really stylish-looking leather holster for my pirate pistol that hung off my belt and wound around my thigh. I found a nice bottle for rum (I mean, water) that came with a leather water carrier and straps. I also embellished my coat with a couple of whalebone pins with saucy sayings. I'd seen these at other fairs before but I'd never actually seen the stall where I could buy some. Most of the vendors I recognized from other fairs. There were a lot of nice costumes for sale but I didn't really want to

try anything on and have to put the one I came with all back into place.

Thad and I also saw some entertainment, both on the big stage and randomly scattered across the fair. There were several groups singing pirate shanties and a couple of swashbuckling exhibitions. There were several performances scheduled but it was hard to keep track of them so I just saw what I happened upon.

I ran across a scary-but-authentic-looking gypsy fortune teller who had her own wagon trailer that was decorated like something

from a movie. She told me my fortune, which was a little alarming because she said a guy was going to come into my life and turn it upside down. For a second opinion, I went to a tarot card reader, one I've been to before, and she told me she didn't see anything in the cards for me as far as my love life goes. Well, they were both wrong... which was interesting because I usually get accurate readings.

Later in the afternoon, Thad and I went back to the food court and we had some chocolate fondue that came with fresh strawberries, bananas and pineapples and scrumptious cream puffs. They were heavenly! We hung out with some of the remaining Black Fleet crew as well.

Sometime during the day, I also ran into some fellow dancers, David and Scott, who were planning on going to the Gaskells Ball in Oakland afterwards. I wanted to go, too, but I was worried they wouldn't let me in with my pirate costume. It's quite a formal event, and I was not relishing a late night drive all by myself.

I met up with my friend Christopher who had a very impressive, albeit weighty, pirate costume on. But the best was saved for last. As I was on my way, out toward closing time, I caught site of my, and everyone's, favorite pirate — Al "Captain Jack Sparrow" Megas. It was a triple treat, actually, as he was with two other Captain Jack Sparrows.

As I left, I thought to myself what a great fair it was. It was well-run and well-organized... an amazing feat for just its second year. I'm looking forward to more of the same pirate fun next year.

For more information, visit: <http://www.norcalpiratefestival.com/>

Heat, Smoke, Big Bathtubs at Westercon

By España Sheriff
Staff Writer

The drive out to Las Vegas was quite pleasant if you like watching the landscape, which I do, but the temperature was already high for my tender San Franciscan sensibilities even before we left Los Angeles, and by the time we crossed the Nevada border it was sweltering. I asked Tadao to stop at one of the big malls along the way so I could pick up some sandals, and changed from my black tee and jeans into white skirt, tank top and flip flops, which helped immensely and became my daytime uniform for the rest of the week.

Arriving at the JW Marriott Resort, we pulled into the lot in front of the convention area and immediately ran into (or almost over) Chris Garcia, and seconds later Leigh Ann Hildebrand. We all complained about the heat for a minute and then ran off to unpack and get settled in.

The place was pretty swank and the rooms impressively large. The walk-in closet and the lovely large tub were the highlights, and went a long way towards making me feel better about the comparatively high price of the room. The beds seemed nice and comfy, to me anyway (there were complaints from others), and the staff were all very friendly. The only rub, room-wise, turned out to be the AC, which turned on and off loudly and randomly no matter what settings were changed and even when I attempted to turn

it off entirely. Being woken up repeatedly by what sounded like a giant truck rolling through the room made me less than chipper in the already tricky mornings.

Once unpacked I headed down to get my badge, hang my art, and get the lay of the land. The convention center was in an adjacent building accessible, Vegas-style, through the casino area. Along the way were the restaurants, first the swank ones where I did not eat, and then the Irish Pub, the Buffet, a Starbucks and a 24-hour cafe. The pub turned out to be surprisingly good, with a good singer one night and a terrible band the next, and the buffet was middling but cheap. The fact that the cafe was open all night gave me the warm fuzzies, and the food was surprisingly decent and reasonably priced by Bay Area standards.

Faced with the choice between going through the smoke filled casino or the unreasonably hot outdoors, I generally split the difference and passed through the casino on the way in and the heat on the way back, griping about both equally. The convention center itself appeared to be appropriately sized for the Westercon needs. Registration and the fan tables were in a large hallway space surrounded by the ballrooms and meeting rooms, so that everything was quite near everything else. The Art Show was past the Dealer's Room in a divided large room, which seems to be a common layout at

Westercons and one which I rather like. I was a little alarmed when I walked into the Dealer's Room and saw that there were only about a dozen tables; however, I did end up buying some reasonably-priced pulp magazines.

The Art Show, on the other hand, was a pleasant surprise, not huge but larger than I had expected — partly because of the IATSE display, and with a good variety. Familiar entries like Theresa Mather and Elisa Mitchell were on display along with some presumably local artists that were unfamiliar to me. Chris Bauer helped me hang my stuff and we spent some time chatting about some of the art on display. Additionally I made a special point of walking through the entire show, since prior to the con John Hertz had gotten me to agree to do a docent tour on Saturday. I kept the tour on the DL and it ended up just being Hertz and I, thank goodness, but it was still interesting to take a more critical look at the various displays and I rather enjoyed my test runs as well.

Done with Reg and Art Show, my next stop was the Fanzine Lounge, which was going strong with Chris, Leigh Ann and Jason Schachat present along with Kevin and Andy, John Hertz, and a few other folks. Hertz immediately earned himself a hardcore fandom ribbon by donating a lovely bottle of gin to the lounge. Andy was busy writing something for the newsletter and things were pretty lively all around. I hung around for a

bit but sleep deprivation was kicking in so I went off to take a nap, missing opening ceremonies and Tadao's Elvis act, alas. I slept on and off right until nearly eleven, thanks to the aforementioned AC issues, but eventually headed out to see how the party floor was shaping up.

A pall was cast by the news of the car accident which killed Roberta "Bert" Carlson, treasurer of the Seattle bid, and things were generally quiet. I was disappointed to see that the Fanzine Lounge After Dark, located on the party floor, was closed, although I suppose I could have helped prevent that had I not been asleep and all. We wandered by the Con Suite where folks were playing jenga and chatting. All the seats appeared to be taken, though, so Tadao and I ended up heading for the cafe to grab some food, then checked the Lounge one more time on the way back and called it a night.

The rest of the convention picked up a little but generally followed a similar pattern. I spent time in the Fanzine Lounge but didn't hit any panels. "The Match Game SF After Dark" was very fun, if a bit longer than I expected. The party floor was livelier on the following nights, with even Seattle opening its doors to a very nice spread and a good party with a lovely steampunk ambience.

The After Dark Lounge was the last party open on Friday, but got beat by Xanadu on Saturday, and on Sunday we were open and active but mainly just catching up on the Venture Brothers. The Con Suite was going strong the times I dropped in, although I didn't discover until later that it had Internet access which would have been useful to me.

I skipped the Masquerade on Saturday,

which had a half dozen entries. With only a few parties I did make it to all of them at least briefly. I chatted with some new folks, some from Seattle and some from the Bay Area, but I'm not sure if I actually spent much time with anyone from Vegas. On Sunday the results from site selection came down and Confirmation in Pasadena won the bid, so Christian Maguire and the other LA folks were in high spirits.

So all in all I had a very nice weekend, although I'm not sure I had a great con. Attendance was reportedly in the low 300s, and hanging with other BAreans at the Pub is fun but not necessarily something I'd spend \$165 a night on again. The low attendance numbers were only partly the issue. Having the large spread-out hotel and convention center made it seem sparser than it was, with fannish activity clustered at two ends and a bunch of stuff in between that contributed to a somewhat disconnected feeling and allowed few opportunities for walk-by conversations. It felt as though I was visiting from elsewhere rather than being immersed, the way I am at a



The room may be pricey, but the tub wins Garcia's seal of approval.

Photo by Linda Wenzelburger

good con.

I'm not sure I'd rush back to Vegas, even at \$100 a night, but I enjoyed myself and sold two pieces in the art show, so for my first out-of-state con I could certainly have done a lot worse.

Regency Dances, Grass Skirts at Shipwreck Ball

Story and Photos by Jean Martin
Editor

The Bay Area English Regency Society (BAERS) held a very entertaining and colorful “Great Regency Shipwreck Ball” June 21st at the Arlington Community Hall in Kensington. It was co-sponsored by the Greater Bay Area Costumers Guild (GBACG). With two organizations behind it, the ball was well-attended and a smashing success. Not only was the turnout great, the level of costuming was also quite impressive.

When the theme was bandied about last year at one of our BAERS organizers meetings. I wasn't quite sure what the actual outcome would be like. It seemed a little eclectic to me and a little vague. Up to the afternoon of the ball, I wasn't sure what to wear myself! I didn't really want to tear up any one of my treasured Regency gowns. It was a very hot day and so I decided to come as a shipwrecked governess. So I wore a white cotton chemise and an unlaced red velvet bodice...both of which I got for free at the BayCon costume swap. Then I added a grass skirt, a lei and a floral headpiece that I had in my garage. This was probably my most casual and quickly-assembled costume ever!

Kensington is quite far but the long trek to the Berkeley Hills was worth it. There was a scenic view of the Bay Area right before I got to the Hall. The Hall itself is beautiful as it is surrounded by trees and vegetation. The entrance was through one of the French windows that led



Shipwreck survivors adapt to their surroundings.

into the ballroom. The other French windows opened into a nice patio that was decorated with flowers and waterfowl. It made for quite a picturesque and romantic scene.

As we came in, one of the czarinas for the evening, Sally Norton of GBACG, greeted me and my friend Jim warmly at a nautical-themed table. I noticed that there were several GBACG

folks at the patio and I went to say hello to them. These included newlyweds Kevin and Andy and a nice couple I had met at Costume-Con, Lisa and Chris.

I was completely blown away when I went inside and saw the décor. Sally and co-czarina Yvette Keller of BAERS simply outdid themselves. They had a lot of help from

GBACG and BAERS members, but I just didn't expect to see the entire ballroom transformed into a magical fantasy world.

The stage was draped with strips and bolts of cloth in shades of green in different textures; there were strings of shells with light bulbs in them; there were big and small shells all over; and a partial figurine of a merman. The whole effect was like a mermaid's grotto. It was just mesmerizing.

At the other end of the hall, there were several tables for food that had a tropical theme. There was a table for drinks with a pirate theme, and on it was a big dispenser of Grog as well as several types of elegant crystal flute glasses.

The Grog was courtesy of Rebecca Soley who looked fabulous in a new female pirate costume. Her husband Bill was in a very authentic-looking British Army uniform. There were also different kinds of alcohol-free fruit punches for the teetotalers.

Next to the drink table was a pirate alcove that had several tables with silver candelabras overflowing with booty. It was dark in there and quiet, providing a nice place for people to rest and talk, away from the music and dancing.

Surprisingly, very few people used the alcove. Several hung out at the patio, which I suppose was the best place to be as it was cooler



There be pirates at this ball, too!

outside. Still, most people actually stayed in the ballroom and danced despite the heat.

Yvette and her husband Mark blew two conch shells to start the evening off. Then we danced for several hours to music played by the Divertimento Dance Orchestra. Alan Winston was the caller for the evening and he led us through several fun Regency and non-Regency

dances that were appropriate for the event's theme.

Yvette organized a poetry reading during the intermission where several people got to read different portions of the *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* by Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

At another intermission, Yvette narrated a fashion show where she read the descriptions

that guests had written about their costumes. Some were serious and some were funny... all were very clever and creative. There were pirates, Hawaiians/Polynesians, shipwrecked passengers turned native, and Mr. Howell from *Gilligan's Island*. My favorite costume of the evening was one worn by a lady in a Regency costume that looked prettily and strategically torn. She had an amazing headdress made of flowers and coral as well as a parasol made of orchids. She even had a Maori tattoo on her chin.

I suppose eclectic did turn out well, as the variety just made the event more fun and really displayed what Bay Area costumers are capable of. It was also the perfect occasion to wear lighter clothing as it was warm until late in the evening.

Too soon, the ball ended and we all helped clean up. I can't wait for the next BAERS ball at the same hall later this year. That one will be a more dramatic and elegant *War and Peace* ball, which would be quite the opposite of the light-hearted romp in a tropical wonderland that the Shipwreck Ball turned out to be.

For more information, visit <http://baers.org/>

Join our crew!

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

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



Shipwreck Ball co-czarina Yvette.

BASFA Minutes: Meetings 936-937

Meeting 936

July 7, 2008

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

Began 8:00 - but nobody was here, according to Joe

21 people attended

A party jar was established

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 935 were accepted as 'between bites'

No Treasurer or treasurer's report

No VP or VP report

The President had nothing fannish to report

Announcements:

Fred announced that today is Heinlien's birthday [and Maureen's daughter's birthday, too]

Carole announced that they will host a house filk on July 12 at 2pm at their place

Reviews:

Julie reviewed a BASFA auction CD = 'Enchanted' with a bad track - as the music is stuck in her head and the CD was worth the

auction price

Maureen reviewed the latest Spook Fest as friends gathered, the food was delicious & it was worth full price - plus she announced that this next Friday will have showing of 'The Shadow' and 'The Phantom'

Joe reviewed the last half of the final season for 'Battlestar Galactica' as it was pretty good and worth watching & he reviewed 'Prince Caspian' as a pretty good job, entertaining, quite decent and definitely worth watching [there were some follow-ons]

Howeird reviewed the fireworks from the Shoreline as seen from his balcony as worth full price, reviewed 'Kung Fu Panda' as he truly enjoyed it, loved the art style, the score was excellent & it was well worth full price & reviewed 'Wanted' as they got the title wrong, that it was Morgan Freeman's most boring movie role ever, the score was atrocious & the best part of the movie was Angelina Jolie being naked for 5 seconds & rated it as a waste of his time

Fred reviewed Las Vegas Bellagio's Gallery of Fine Arts as the presentation is absolutely perfect

Adrienne reviewed the fireworks at SJ America as great, the fair was fun but she advised avoiding

booths with long lines that barely moved

Ken reviewed 'Wall-E' as astonishing and worth full price but commented that the first and 2nd halves of the movie did not mesh well together

Ed reviewed 'Hancock' as a bit unclear and murky but still worth watching & reviewed 'Saturn's Children' - a book by Charlie Stross as enjoyable and a fun read

We then did auctions: boxes for \$0.50; a mouse for \$4.00; a PSP shaped tin for \$2.25; & a book for \$0.25

We adjourned at = 8:50 - without a rumor.

Meeting 937

July 14, 2008

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

Began 8:03

25 people attended

A party jar was established

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 936

were accepted as 'BASFA-mous rumors'

The Treasurer reported that last week we took in \$4.00 in the regular jar & \$5.50 in the party jar

The VP reported that there is a new 'Drink Tank' out & he's looking for artists for his fanzine on infinite Earths

The President has seen fliers and welcomed Nancy to the club - plus we said 'hi' to Allison [Glenn's wife]

Announcements:

Adrienne announced that the last weekend of July will see the Gilroy Garlic Festival

Dave C announced that he outlived Tony Snow [yay! There were follow-ons including on that another Bozo had died]

Chris announced that he will be presenting a Dramatic Hugo at Worldcon

[evil] Kevin announced that he & Andy will be sponsoring goat dressing for the 5th year at this year's Gay Rodeo at Driscoll Ranch, the week after Worldcon; there were follow-ons - and Howeird recommended it

Lisa announced that there will be a Mythcon the week after Worldcon in CT - but no goats [check www.mythsoc.org]

Julie announced that ERPS is meeting tomorrow at Gerry Nordley's house; for more information, email her at = jporter@delectra.com

Andy announced that the Belgians just bought Anheuser Busch and this may be a sign of the apocalypse, as the Belgian PM resigned and the Belgium government has now just collapsed

Reviews:

[evil] Kevin reviewed the Obon festival in Japantown in SJ as lots of fun, lots of shopping, lots of eating and some drinking and reviewed 'Wall-e' as worth full price

Then Westercon was reviewed by [evil] Kevin as he was one of the 12 people there and he and Andy went to the spa twice and he had a very good time and was worth full price; various folks reviewed the Spintronics panel [evil] Kevin did as fantastic; the pub was full of win; Chris reviewed it as a destination con and did not need to have programming - except for the Match Game and [evil] Kevin's panel, he had a blast & it was worth full price; Glenn reviewed it as good even if it began with depressing news, it was small [313], the Match Game was fun; Lisa reviewed it as the heat almost killed her again, the Masquerade was small, & as worth getting out of the house; Dave C reviewed it was he did well there and 'god it was tiny'; [tall] Kevin reviewed it as the drive back was slow, the con was hot and small - worth the trip but not a great Westercon; Andy reviewed the hotel as it gave good space for the cost, con suite was beautiful, the fanzine lounge was a blast, it was a good con for 300 and there is 'very little difference in appearance from aging unkempt fans and aging unkempt gamblers'; there were more follow-ons, then the follow-ons were commented on - including a mention of black feral bunnies

Adrienne reviewed a writing website as interesting and the 1st review is free, but questions the judgment level of the critics

Lisa reviewed 'Love' as good and reviewed 'Spamalot' as very good, very silly and enjoyable and Vegas was too hot. Chris reviewed 'Chris Garcia's tourist hell' as he played upon the naivete of a visiting Brit and it was priceless and reviewed 'Iron Man' as still wonderful

Julie reviewed an outdoor production of 'Annie Get your Gun' in Martinez as the lead actress was perfect, it was well worth it and the 'Sons of Emperor Norton' are a good country band

Dave C reviewed the Vegas Strip 'Borg Invasion' as it was in 3D and they didn't give the audience glasses for it and reviewed 'Love' as very slow, abstract and beautiful - and indescribable in any concrete sense

Howeird reviewed Tom Stoppard's 'Rough Crossing' at the Dragon Theater as very good, recommends it and reviewed the DVD of 'Hardware Wars' as fun and worth full price

Glenn reviewed getting a mimeo as involved and an adventure - worth dead raccoon

We then did auctions: for \$5.25; \$0.75; \$0.25; \$0.50; \$0.75; \$4.00; \$2.00; \$1.00 & \$8.00

We adjourned at = 10:10

And the rumor of the week was: 'CoCo's summer menu will feature goat dressing and sheep dip'

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, July 23

Luna Philosophie: Open Source at NASA

Yahoo! Brickhouse

500 3rd Street

San Francisco

6 p.m.

colab.arc.nasa.gov

The ninth Luna Philosophie will feature Rusty Schweickart, Apollo 9 Astronaut, of the Association of Space Explorers-who will give a presentation about the threat of Near Earth Objects. Space is limited, so please RSVP
Free

Wednesday, July 23

Author: Leonard Susskind

NASA Research Park, Moffet Field

Eagle Room, Bldg 943

Sunnyvale

7 p.m.

www.commonwealthclub.org

The author reads from his book, *The Black Hole Wars: My Battle with Stephen Hawking to Make the World Safe for Quantum Mechanics*
\$15

Wednesday, July 23

Author: Naomi Novik

Dark Carnival Bookstore

3086 Claremont Ave

Berkeley

5:30 p.m.

Free

Novik signs her new Temeraire novel, *Victory of Eagles*.

Friday-Sunday, July 25-27

CommieCon: Vintacon VI

Hilton Sonoma Wine Country

Santa Rosa

community.livejournal.com/vintacon

\$75

Weekend event combining wine, science fiction and song.

Saturday, July 26

Author: Harry Turtledove

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

3 p.m.

Free

Turtledove signs his new alternate history novel *The Man With the Iron Heart*.

Saturday, July 26

Authors: Michael Louis Calvillo and Gabrielle S. Faust

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

5 p.m.

Free

Two apocalyptic stories for the price of one. Michael Louis Calvillo's novel *I Will Rise* was a Bram Stoker Award finalist this year and Faust presents her first novel, *Eternal Vigilance*.

Sunday, July 27

Author: David Williams

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

3 p.m.

Free

Williams signs his new book *Mirrored Heavens*.

Monday, July 28

Authors: Kelley Armstrong and Melissa Marr

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

7 p.m.

Free

Tuesday, July 29

Author: Charles Stross

Borders

400 Post Street

San Francisco

7 p.m.
Stross sings copies of his new book, *Saturn's Children*.

Thursday, July 31

Overnight Celebration: Total Solar Eclipse Live from China

The Exploratorium
3601 Lyon Street

San Francisco

<http://www.exploratorium.edu/eclipse/2008/programs.html>

9 p.m.

Overnight celebration featuring films, music, dragon dancers and storytellers. Astronomers will be on hand to answer questions.

\$16

Friday, August 1

The Phenomenauts

Valley Brew

157 W Adams

Stockton

9 p.m.

All ages show, also appearing Kepi Ghoulie: The Band (of the Groovie Ghoulies) and Vick Ruggiero (of The Slackers)

\$10

Friday, August 1

Book Release Party for Stephanie Meyer's Breaking Dawn

Books, Inc

3515 California Street

San Francisco

AND

Books, Inc

Stanford Shopping Center

855 El Camino Real #74

Palo Alto

11 p.m.

www.notyournothersbookclub.com

Release parties at two different locations for the latest book in the Twilight series. Costumes encouraged but not required.

Friday, August 1

Book Release Party for Stephanie Meyer's Breaking Dawn

Clayton Books

5433 Clayton Road

Clayton

www.claytonbookshop.com

12 a.m.

The publisher is providing Clayton Books with special Twilight series decals and buttons, available FREE with each preordered book! There will also be a trivia contest with FREE Breaking Dawn T-Shirts for the winners.

Saturday-Sunday, August 2-3

Ani-Jam

Fresno Radisson and Conference Center

2233 Ventura Street

Fresno

www.ani-jam.com

Central Valley Anime convention.

\$20

Saturday, August 2

The Phenomenauts

Ashkenaz

1317 San Pablo Avenue

Berkeley

9 p.m.

All ages show, also appearing Kepi Ghoulie Electric (of the Groovie Ghoulies) and Vick Ruggiero (of The Slackers)

\$10

Saturday, August 2

Author: David Weber

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

3 p.m.

Free

Weber signs his new book *By Schism Rent Asunder*.

Saturday, August 2

The Impressionists Picnic

PEERS Event

Lincoln Park

1450 High Street

Alameda

www.peers.org

Free

Le Salon des Refusés 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.

Wednesday, August 6

Ask A Scientist: Robots

Axis Cafe

1201 8th Street

San Francisco

www.askascientistsf.com

7 p.m.

Free

Lecture series featuring a speaker on a different scientific topic each month, a short presentation and questions from the audience.

Wednesday-Sunday, August 6-10

Denvention 3

Colorado Convention Center

Denver, Colorado

www.denvention3.org

\$225

The 66th World Science Fiction Convention. GOHs; Lois McMaster Bujold, Rich Sternbach, Tom Whitmore. Toastmaster: Will McCarthy. Music Guest: Kathy Marr.

Friday, August 8

Midnites for Maniacs

The Castro Theater

429 Castro Street

San Francisco

www.midnitesformaniacs.com

7:30 p.m.

\$10 for all three films.

Freaky Fantasy Films of the 1980s triple feature; Return to Oz, Beetlejuice and Meet the Feebles

Saturday, August 9

Kin-Yoobi Con

Chabot College

25555 Esperian Blvd

Hayward

www.gzronline.com

9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

\$15

Sunday, August 10

The Phenomenauts

Nickel City Arcade

1711 Branham Ln

San Jose

9 p.m.

All ages show, also appearing Kepi Ghoulie Electric (of the Groovie Ghoulies) and Vick Ruggiero (of The Slackers)

\$10

Monday, August 11-Sunday, September 14

Little Shop of Horrors

Willows Theater

1975 Diamond Boulevard

Concord

Check theater for prices and showtimes.

Friday-Sunday, August 15-31

The Listener

Ashby Stage

1901 Ashby Ave.

Berkeley

www.crowdedfire.org

Check theater for prices and showtimes.

Saturday, August 16

Author: Jeff Carlson

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

3 p.m.

Free

Weber reads from and signs his new book *Plague War*.

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

Tuesday, August 19

Author: Greg Bear

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

7 p.m.

Free

Bear signs his new book *City at the End of Time*.

Wednesday, August 20

SF in SF Double Feature: Galaxy Quest and Raiders of the Lost Ark

Variety's Preview Room in the Hobart Building
582 Market St.

San Francisco

www.varietync.org

7 p.m.

Free

Refreshments will be available for purchase, and your purchase benefits Variety Children's Charity of Northern California, a non-profit organization that supports children in local communities who are dealing with poverty, neglect, violence, and physical disabilities.

Saturday, August 23

Mark Millar and Tony Harris

Isotope Comics
326 Fell Street
San Francisco
www.isotopecomics.com

8 p.m.
Free
Millar, author of *The Ultimates* teams up with Harris, the artist on acclaimed titles *Ex Machina* and *Starman*, for their new series *War Heroes*.

Friday-Sunday, August 29-31

Sac-Anime
Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street
Sacramento
www.sacanime.com
\$25

A celebration of Japanese/Asian music, comic books, toys and animated films, video games and costuming.

Friday-Monday, Aug 29-Sept 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.
\$50

Saturday, September 6

Time Tunnel Super Toy, Comic and Record Show
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds
344 Tully Road
San Jose
www.timetunneltoys.com/toyshow.html

\$5
General toy and collectibles show with special guests R. Black, Ben Walker and others TBA.

Saturday, September 6

Northern California Renaissance Faire
Casa de Fruta
10031 Pacheco Pass Hwy
Hollister
www.norcalrenfaire.org
10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sat-Sun
\$25

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.

Wednesday, September 10

Author: Neal Stephenson
Moe's Books
2476 Telegraph Avenue
Berkeley
www.telegraphbooks.com
Stephenson sings copies of his new post-apocalyptic novel, *Anathem*.

Wednesday, September 10

SF in SF Double Feature: The Princess Bride and Ghostbusters
Variety's Preview Room in the Hobart Building
582 Market St.
San Francisco
www.varietync.org
7 p.m.
Free
Refreshments will be available for purchase, and your purchase benefits Variety Children's\ Charity of Northern California, a non-profit organization that supports children in local communities who are dealing with poverty, neglect, violence, and physical disabilities.

Wednesday, September 10

Ask A Scientist: How Computers Look at Art
Axis Cafe
1201 8th Street
San Francisco
www.askascientistsf.com
7 p.m.
Free
Lecture series featuring a speaker on a different scientific topic each month, a short presentation and questions from the audience.

Friday, September 12

Author: Neal Stephenson
Keplers
1010 El Camino Real
Menlo Park
www.keplers.com
7:30 p.m.
Stephenson signs copies of his new post-apocalyptic novel, *Anathem*.

Friday, September 19

*Book Release Party for Christopher Paolini's
Brisingr*

Clayton Books
5433 Clayton Road
Clayton
www.claytonbookshop.com

Midnight party to celebrate the release of
Brisingr, book #3 of the Eragon/Inheritance
series by Christopher Paolini
12 a.m.

Friday-Saturday, September 26-27

From the Land Beyond
Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street
Sacramento
www.sacramentocomics.com

\$15
Sacramento's Horror and Sci-Fi show with
guests Doug Jones, Vince Locke, Dan Brereton
and others.

Sunday, September 28

*The Great West End and Railroad Square
Handcar Regatta and Exposition of Mechanical
and Artistic Wonders*

Historic Railroad Square
Santa Rosa
handcar-regatta.com
10 a.m.

The Handcar Regatta invites builders and
artists to create and race a Human Powered
Rail Bound Vehicle. The event will feature live
music, performers, magicians, fortune tellers,
etc.

Sunday, September 28

Sac-Con
Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street
Sacramento
www.sacramentocomics.com
\$6
The Sacramento Comic, Toy and Anime Show

Friday-Sunday, September 26-28

Yaoi-Con
San Mateo Marriott
1770 South Amphlett Blvd
San Mateo
www.yaoicon.com
18+
\$50 before August 22

Friday-Sunday, October 3-5

Silicon 2008: A Salute to FanAc
DoubleTree Hotel
2050 Gateway Place
San Jose
\$50 until September 14

Saturday, October 4

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.

Friday-Sunday, October 31-November 2

*Steam Powered: The California Steampunk
Convention 2008*
Domain Hotel
1085 East El Camino Real
Sunnyvale
www.steampunkconvention.com
La Legion Fantastique and Steam Powered
Events present the California Steampunk
Convention.

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.

Saturday, November 1

APE Aftermath

Isotope Comics
326 Fell Street
San Francisco
www.isotopecomics.com
8 p.m.
Free
With featured guest Josh Cotter.

Friday, November 28-Sunday, December 21

The Great Dickens Christmas Fair

The Cow Palace
2600 Geneva Avenue
San Francisco
www.dickensfair.com
\$22 each day
Victorian London is recreated for the four weekends after Thanksgiving.

Ongoing:

Daily

San Francisco Ghost Hunt Walking Tour
Begins: Queen Anne Hotel

1590 Sutter at Octavia
San Francisco
www.sfgghosthunt.com
7 p.m. – 10 p.m.
\$20

Sundays

Sakramento Anime Society
Rancho Cordova Library
9845 Folsom Boulevard
Rancho Cordova
3-7 p.m.
Meets every Sunday to watch old and new anime and anime music videos, play collectible card games, practice artwork and make AMVs.

Mondays

Bay Area Science Fiction Association
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.
Group meets weekly to play German-style strategy board games such as Settlers of Catan, Carcasson and other games, plus an occasional game of bridge breaks out. Meet up at 8:00 p.m., figure out who wants to play what, and typically start playing games no later than 8:30

p.m.

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

Fanboy Planet Podcast

Illusive Comics and Games
2725 El Camino Real, Suite 105
Santa Clara
6 p.m.

Free
Live from Illusive Comics and Games, it's the
Fanboy Planet Podcast with your host, Derek
McCaw.

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.
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
6:30 p.m.
Meets the 4th Wednesday of the Month. The book for July 23rd is When Gravity Fails by George Alec Effinger. For August 27 it will be Someplace To Be Flying by Charles DeLint

Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia
San Francisco
6:00 p.m.
Free
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.ussefiance.org

7 p.m

Free

Star Trek fan group meets the third Friday of the month.

USS Northern Lights

Contact firstjedi2000@yahoo.com for location.

www.geocities.com/Area51/Cavern/4096/

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.



The Crab Nebula as photographed by the Hubble Space Telescope's Wide Field Planetary Camera 2.

Photo by NASA/ESA/JPL/Arizona State University