

Science Fiction/San Francisco

Issue 73

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News and Notes

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

I'm waiting for a guy to come and paint my door. It sucks. I hate when I'm stuck at home, no Internet, and it's pretty much the only time I'm going to have to write News and Notes. Of course, it means that I'm at home, working on stuff and watching *Love, Actually*. It's one of the great movies of the last century and until I actually made my way to London, it was what I based most of my vision of the UK on.

But back to business. There's a new zine on eFanzines.com called *Journey Planet*. It's edited by James Bacon & Claire Brialey and I do the layout. It started out at Eastercon as the "Fanzine in an Hour" and Claire came up and helped us whip the material into shape and we've started it as a regular zine. The first issue features a lot of great UK writers: Flick, Ang, Max (aka Steve), John The Rock Coxon, James Bacon, Peter Sullivan, James Shields, Tubewhore (tube whore.livejournal.com), and others. It's a pretty good zine, actually. The second issue should be out in a month or so.

What else do I remember...there's SiliCon coming up. It's got a good guest list, including Larry Niven, Chase Masterson, Frank Lurs (who's won a couple of Hugos!) and various others. It's going to be a good time. I'll be working the Fanzine Lounge (open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. or so) and there's gonna be an *SF/SF* party, yo! It should be a great time.

OK, I've gotta have something else in me. There's a new *Vegas Fandom Weekly*, but I

think I mentioned that in the last update. There's a new *Drink Tank*, but you can always count on one of those every week or so. This one's got a cover from Ditmar (brilliant Australian artist) and writing from me and James Bacon and various others. It's fun stuff.

Worldcon also saw the awarding of the Sidewise Awards, the Alternate History Oscars, as I look at them. The *Yiddish Policeman's Union* won the Novel category, which makes it the first novel to ever win the Hugo, Nebula, and Sidewise awards in the same year. I never thought it'd happen, but I do think that if any novel deserved it, it's *The Yiddish Policeman's Union*.

Hmmmm...Mercedes Lackey is the BayCon Writer Guest of Honor. I think I've mentioned that before too. It's good to point out again, even if I have.

Hey, the painter's here! That's a nice thing.

Further Confusion is coming along. They've got a Surfin' Safari theme which sounds like a lot of fun.

The 2009 TAFF Race's first step, the nomination phase, has begun. This race'll bring one European over to attend the 2009 Worldcon in Montreal. Each nominee needs two North American nominators and three European nominators. You can contact bugshaw at gmail.com to send in a nomination. Anyone may nominate, except for seated TAFF Administrators...like me.

I'm staring at The Scarf. You know the

one. I'm just looking at it and realizing that it's the most awesome scarf in the history of mankind. It's being auctioned at the Montreal Worldcon, where the European TAFF delegate will be attending! We've also got a first day issue of an Australian stamp that is on a card signed by folks like Gaiman, Pratchett and others.

Hey, that's Heathrow on *Love, Actually!* I love that airport. I spent a lot of time in that airport on my TAFF trip. I almost certainly have the record for the most time spent at Heathrow.

If you haven't already, go and read *Ansible* for this month. There's talk about the book *I, Robot* by Howard Smith. It's nothing like the Isaac Asimov book, or the Will Smith film. It's just a new, and may I add, terrible book by this Smith fellow. We read some passages from it at BASFA and it was difficult to keep a straight face. Langford's look at the book is downright perfect.

Hey, I totally forgot to mention that *Journey Planet* has an interview with John Scalzi. He talks about fan writing, fanzine and basically being John Scalzi. And he then went and won the Best Fan Writer Hugo. Go figure.

Steampunk Convention is getting a lot of press and a lot of folks will be attending from all over the place. I was shocked to hear from a few journalist friends of mine who were workign on stories about it. I was quick to mention that I was going to be speaking and made sure they noted it. You gotta make sure you keep the press on point at times like these. I'm excited to see Abney Park and I've heard tons of folks saying that they're

planning on attending. It could be the big do of the year. I've had a lot of folks ask me if this is going to be an annual thing or a one-off. I dunno, it might be best as a shining moment in history. Who knows what'll happen?

And you might have heard about the 100 Grilled Cheese Sandwich Project. It's the evil plan I've got to eat 100 Grilled Cheese Sandwiches with 100 (well, there are some groups) interesting people. On the list are folks like Bella Freud, Kat Dennings, the designer of the Kismet Artificial Intelligence system, Ric Flair, Penn & Teller, Gavin Newsom, the Amazing Rhandi, Cat Cora, Jim Jarmusch, William Gibson, and various others. It's going to be a weird project, and you'll be able to find it in *The Drink Tank* and probably a few other zines since I won't be able to shut up about it.

OK, I think I'm officially out of stuff to say. I can't come up with anything more. I've wrung as much as I'll ever be able to wring out of not having that delightful web at my fingertips and having to rely on my particularly awesome brain. It's sad, really.

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

TAFF 2009 Westbound Race Nominations are Open

Nominations are now open for the 2009 Europe-to-North America TAFF race. The winner will attend Anticipation, the Worldcon, being held on August 6-10, 2009 in Montréal, Canada. For convention details, see www.anticipationsf.ca

To become a candidate for this race you must provide:

- Five nominations from known fans, three of whom must be European and two North American (nominators should send a signed nomination via postal mail OR if sending the nomination by e-mail, include a phone number for verification);
- A written platform, not to exceed 100 words;
- A £10 bond and a pledge that you will take the trip if you win.

All nominations, platforms, pledges, and bonds must arrive with an administrator (addresses below) by midnight, November 5, 2008. So long as at least two prospective candidates have satisfied these requirements by that date, distribution of ballots, in both electronic and paper form, will begin immediately thereafter.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the administrators; if you plan to run, please alert them as soon as possible.

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WHAT IS TAFF? The Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund was created in 1953 for the purpose of providing funds to bring well-known and popular fans familiar to those on both sides of the ocean across the Atlantic. Since that time, TAFF has regularly brought North American fans to European conventions and European fans to North American conventions. TAFF exists solely through the support of fandom. The candidates are voted on by interested fans from all over the world, and each vote is accompanied by a donation of not less than US \$3 or UK £2. These votes, and the continued generosity of fandom, are what make TAFF possible. More information about TAFF's history, customs, and practices may be found at the unofficial site maintained by Dave Langford at <http://taff.org.uk/>.

Letters of Comment

You can't go wrong starting your lettercol off with the words of Mr. Lloyd Penney!

Dear Chris and Jean:

I am trying my best to jam as many locs as I can into the month of August, and here's my last gasp attempt. And, even though the calendar says there's three weeks of summer left, there's a big difference between August 31 and September 1. Off I go into *SF/SF 72*.

Chris Garcia replies: Well, we're always glad to hear from ya. I managed to put out more issues of various fanzines in August than any month this year so far!

As soon as Yvonne and I get our steampunk costumes ready, we'll see if we can get a picture taken, and we'll relay it to you. Used and vintage clothing shops are a great place to go and get some bits of costume. I'll need a quality white shirt, and Yvonne may make the suit jacket for me.

I'm going with a pith helmet for the Steampunk Convention, and then a suit coat with a gear on the pocket to wear during my panel.

I would have liked the Glyers to have his 'n' hers Hugos, but it wasn't to be. Diana's got an armload of awards for that great book on the Inklings, so there's a lot of consolation on losing the Hugo.

I walked up to Mike when I got done presenting the Hugo to Brad Foster and congratulated him. A few minutes later, they announced that Diana had lost and I was furious.

I found her the next night and told her she was robbed. Flat-out robbed! She's got a very good article in the next issue of Journey Planet about writing the book.

Ah, there's lots more Worldcon bids, which improves my outlook on the future of Worldcons, even if I now think that Montréal may be my last one. One never knows... The Seattle bid looks good to me, especially with its own steampunk motif and theme. I am hopeful that they might have the chance to stage a Worldcon. Why 2011? It would be the 50th anniversary of Seacon, the 1961 Worldcon. Definitely a good reason for me.

There's a possible hoax bid coming up for Portland in 2011 with it being run by fans from Seattle and Reno! I think Worldcon's just fine, and I'm looking forward to your fanzine lounge at Anticipation. I'm at your disposal, you know!

When we embrace a larger fandom, we learn more about how they enjoy themselves, and there is always the possibility that they have some ideas we could take home and use with our club, our fandom, our other events. I can understand why some might want fanzine fandom to have more attention than it does, given it's one of the oldest forms of fanac. But fandom has changed, and we must accept it and learn as much as we can about it to enjoy its activities to the fullest. I've seen local fandom be divided up into sections with no connection, and Yvonne

and I tried to meet up with the various fandoms, and bring them together. I'm not sure how successful we were, especially when we tried to do the same to bring awareness of a Toronto Worldcon bid to all the local groups, but we did try to make everyone one large Fandom.

Indeed. That's one thing that the Fanzine Lounges I've done have been trying to do. You'll find a lot of different people just hanging out and chatting. I think we're all better off if we think of fandom as a big wave that crests and crashes on many different shores.

I had heard that Denvention was a small Worldcon, but still a lot of fun. Based on the photos I saw, you had the same kind of room we had in Winnipeg, an unused lounge that we put a bar into. It was a great place to be. I did not place on the list of people also nominated for Best Fan Writer, so I guess I got less than 10 nominations, if any. Hope that will change next year! I wonder if anyone attending the Democratic National Convention saw anything that Denvention members left behind?

It's funny, my buddy Brad Lyau was at Worldcon, and two weeks later a delegate to the DNC. I wonder if'n they found my socks. I left my second favorite pair behind. And I can guarantee that you got at least one nom for Best Fan Writer. I know that for sure!

I never saw anything about the Laney anthology of fan writing, at least, not that I recall. I should pester Robert to see if there are

any copies left over. Corflu Silver was a good place to hand out fanzines, but there was nothing set up for any zine sales, such as what Robert put together. I should see what I can get. I've read some of the writings of Laney and Burbee...fine examples of how to fill fanzine pages.

You'll find out more about the Laney thing in a bit. I'd wanted to buy one for ages, and I finally did for the Fanzine Lounge collection.

I love Burbee's stuff. I've got two different Burbee anthologies that are just super.

The California Steampunk Convention badge...a group in Seattle is staging a similar convention in 2009. I sent to you a badge through your Facebook page!

I'm excited. I dunno if I'll be able to make the one in Seattle, and I'm not sure the California one wasn't done specifically to head them off, but I hope they both do very well.

Klingons laugh at Federation types? Hey, Feds, laugh it off, question the Klingons' heritage, and dig at them for having foreheads you can grate Parmesan cheese on. Once the niceties are out of the way, it's party time!

I'll say nothing in fear of our fantastic layout editor leaping out and destroying me when next we cross paths.

Well, summer will soon be done, which means that the fall activities will begin soon. Yvonne and I will be going to Con*cept in Montréal in October, and part of our trip there should include a side trip (I hope) to go to the Palais des Congrès to see what the layout is like, and if I can see what space I might have for the fanzine lounge. I'll try to pass along impressions of the space available, and what's coming up. By all means, check out Anticipation's website and

sites on LiveJournal, FaceBook, MySpace and any other site they're on. Forums have started up on the site, and with Denver done, the panic may be setting in; they're NEXT! EEEEEK!

I can't wait for Montreal and I envy y'all for getting' to go. Of course, it's a lot closer for you than for me!

Take care, folks, and looking forward to issue 73. Have a great long weekend! Yours, Lloyd Penney.

You can read about our adventures in this issue, you can!

And now here's increasingly regular SF/SF LoCer Robert Lichtman on the Laney anthology and more!

Hi, Chris—

Thanks for the great 2-page review of *Ah! Sweet Laney!* in *SF/SF* No. 72—it came as a surprise and is much appreciated. However, one thing that's missing and should be there is...how to get a copy. They are still very much available. The information (and a link to sample pages) is at <http://www.efanzines.com/ASL/index.htm> ...and both Pat Virzi and I would love to see more of them out of the boxes she keeps them in and into the hands (and eyetracks) of fans.

I wrote that bit on the plane back from Worldcon, so I didn't have the Internet and I couldn't remember the contact for buying them. I really do think it's an essential for anyone who wants to see what fandom was writing in the 1940s and early 50s. Now we just need a new version of "Ah, Sweet Idiocy" and we can sell them as a block!

In your response to my LoC published in *SF/SF* No. 71 you wrote: "I can't say that I've read nearly enough Bradbury from fanzines,

though. It's a gap I need to fix at some point!" Once you do, you might find the experience on the underwhelming side. At least in my own reading of his early stuff, he's clearly a neofan making his way in the mimeo and hekto venues of his day. (And he was a fan artist, too.)

Now, I knew he was a doodler, but I didn't know that he'd had fanart out there. I must investigate!

Continuing this topic, I wonder if you're aware that in 2007 a hardcover book was published containing full-sized facsimile reproductions of all four issues of Bradbury's fanzine, *Futura Fantasia*. In addition, there's a preface by Bradbury and an interview with Bradbury and Forry Ackerman conducted by publisher Craig Graham. Contributors to the fanzine include Forry, Guy Amory, Henry Kuttner, Emil Petaja, Ross Rocklynne, Damon Knight, and Robert Heinlein (under his pseudonym of Lyle Monroe). Covers of all four issues are by Hannes Bok (although the first three are very sketchy).

I had heard something about it, but I didn't think of buying one as I'm pretty sure I'll be able to get a copy of it when I do my research pass for the special project.

Copies of this are very much available. Do a search at Bookfinder.com and they turn up as cheaply as the original cover price of \$35.00. Or, if you *must* have the originals, someone is offering all four for a mere \$8,500.00.

The prices some folks come up with for old fanzine stuff. I admit, I don't help when I pay 50 bucks for something like The Loyal Opposition, but still, it's outrageous!

Thanks much, Robert!

Editorial

By Jean Martin

Editor

This Summer has been a hard one for me. I've never gotten sick around this time of the year but this time I got sick twice. I came down with bronchitis after my trip to Portugal...Well, that, then the Fire Arts Festival and Eva's Regency wedding all in a row. Then I got a cold after my more recent trip to Las Vegas to see the "Star Trek Experience" one last time.

So I think my poor body is telling me to slow down. But how do I do that? I have a busy job, which keeps getting busier, several fandom commitments, creative projects piling up, and a boyfriend. My family doesn't even get to see me anymore... my parents, sister and nephew exist in a completely different world and I don't really have much in common with them.

Anyway, there are so many things I need and want to do that there don't seem to be enough hours in the day, days in the week, etc. But my health has always been fragile and if I don't take care of myself, I won't get to do all these things anyway. For instance, I was sick all throughout Labor Day weekend and so I had to stay at home and miss a lot of things I wanted to do. It's a Catch-22 situation. It's clear to me, however, that I need to cut back, at least for now. I need to be well for SiliCon, where *SF/SF* will have a party room, which will be my sleeping room too. That will entail a lot of prep work as well as late night partying. Then there's the BAERS

"War and Peace" Ball (where I'll be playing Natasha Rostov and wearing a gown just like the one Audrey Hepburn wore in the movie version) the weekend after that. So I really need to be in pretty good shape by the end of this month.

Besides, I'm behind on reporting on several interesting events I've been to lately. So I suppose I shouldn't go to any more until I'm caught up! In this issue, I finally have my report on my Portugal trip. I'll have a few more coming up in the next few issues, including one on the "Star Trek Experience," so stay tuned.

While I was sick this last time, I really made an effort to just stay home, so I got better quicker and it didn't escalate into something worse like in July. It was actually nice to just catch up on my scrapbooking and watch TV. Well, DVDs really. I don't really watch TV much as I've mentioned before. The two current shows I do follow, *Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles* and *Dancing with the Stars*, are unfortunately both shown on Monday nights at 8:00 p.m. Thank goodness both are shown online pretty soon afterwards.

I finished watching all of Season Four (the first available half) of *Battlestar Galactica*, and watched all of Season Two of *Coupling* (the British version by Steven Moffat of *Doctor Who*). I also viewed online on Netflix some episodes of *Hardy Boys* and *Nancy Drew* from the late 1970s. I loved these shows when I was young (remember Parker Stevenson and Shaun

Cassidy, anyone?) but they seem too simplistic for me now.

Then I finished watching two British TV shows that are not yet available in the U.S. There's Billie Piper (Rose from *Doctor Who*) in two Sally Lockhart Victorian fantasy mysteries by Philip Pullman (*Golden Compass*): *The Ruby in the Smoke* and *The Shadow in the North*. I didn't like the first one as much, which I think has already been shown on PBS, but I did like the second one, which has definite Steampunk elements in it. These Sally Lockhart Mysteries are a trilogy so I hope they do one for *The Tiger in the Well* too. I miss Billie Piper, she's awesome.

The other BBC series was *Ashes to Ashes*, the sequel to *Life on Mars* with John Simm (the Master from *Doctor Who*). I saw the first episode of *Ashes to Ashes* on one of my plane rides to Portugal on British Airways, and I was hooked. I also saw the last episode of the second and final season of *Life on Mars* but I didn't like it as much. Maybe because I identify more with the 1980s where *Ashes to Ashes* is set, whilst *Life on Mars* takes place in the 1970s. But both have the same premise of the main character being transported back in time. They're both cop shows with surreal, David Lynch-like atmospheres, and popular songs from their respective eras serving as their soundtracks. Very unique and cool stuff. I hope these become available in the U.S. for everyone to see.

On the plane to Portugal, I finally got to see one episode of *Flight of the Conchords* from New Zealand. A lot of my LOTR friends like it. It's about two Kiwi musicians in New York trying to make it in the music industry. Fish out of water story with occasional music video numbers thrown in. Kind of like *Blackpool* with David Tennant (*the Doctor*). I wasn't too impressed by *Flight of the Conchords* but maybe it's just not my style of comedy.

Speaking of my flights to Portugal, I stopped over at London Heathrow on the way there and back. I was afraid it would be too painful to be in England and not be able to stay there, but it actually wasn't too bad. Heathrow's new Terminal 5 was fantastic. It was like a little city unto itself so I felt like I got a taste of England... twice! I got to do a little bit of shopping at Harrod's, bought British souvenirs, and ate at my favorite Japanese fast food chain, Wagamama. I bought *Ashes to Ashes* at one of the video stores at Heathrow.

Even in Heathrow, you can feel that England is still, even after the collapse of the British Empire, the cosmopolitan center of the world. You can hear so many different languages spoken, and the destinations on the arrival and departure screens included every possible nation in the world. Some of them were so out-of-the-way and exotic that I just marveled at all the places one can go.

Back to *the Doctor*. I found out that there recently was a special *Doctor Who* mini-episode entitled "Music of the Spheres" (of which Pythagoras and Kepler were two famous proponents) that was shown at the BBC Proms show at Royal Albert Hall last July. It's

really quite funny, and I enjoyed the Doctor talking about music. Besides, I'll take anything *Doctor Who* to tide me over until the upcoming Christmas episode. "Music of the Spheres" is available on YouTube if anyone is interested.

On this note, I'll leave you all with

Entertainment Weekly's photo gallery of the 20 Greatest Sci-Fi TV shows: <http://www.ew.com/ew/gallery/0,,20224286,00.html>. Not a bad list at all, but I would rate *Doctor Who* much higher, of course. (Thanks to Mikey for sending me this link just in time for the writing of this editorial.)



Bay Area costumers strut their stuff at Comic-Con in San Diego. More Comic-Con coverage starts on page 14.

Photo by Thad Gann

This Old Fanzine

Locus:
The 1970 Art Book

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

I've often said that *Locus* is one of the most painful things in the world of Science Fiction.

It's a good resource for writers, it's got some good articles and interviews, and it's completely divorced itself from fandom for the most part. It's a sad thing for a zine that started out like any other fanzine in the 1960s. It's grown into a monster that even caused the creation of a category in the Hugos (Best Semi-Pro) and has continually become more and more sterile, sadly. I look back at old issues and I love them, they were worthy winners of Best Fanzine, and now I read issues and it's just not that interesting.

Now, while going through the TAFF archives, I came across an interesting cover. It was a series of circles. It looked really cool and I didn't recognize it at all. I picked it up and looked it over. It was the End of the Year Art Book from *Locus*.

I was blown away because I had no idea that such a thing existed. It looked very cool so I pulled it out and gave it a look. No one really does these anymore, though I know that the *N3F's* Art Bureau put one out in 2006 and that Brad Foster did *LOC*, a compilation of artists

doing pieces with the initials LOC. It was a fun piece.

This was big, 31 pages of art on heavy, awesome paper. It was miraculous to see such a great collection of art from a period that I wasn't alive for, but I have read many zines from that period that made me want to find more.

And here, in this issue, was more.

The covers that were so nifty were by Mike Symes. I've seen one or two pieces from him in the past, and it's nice to know that I can find more of his stuff now. The interiors featured all the names you'd think of from 1970: Tim Kirk, Alicia Austin, George Barr, Grant Canfield, Bill Rotsler, Jim Gaughan and Vincent DiFate, as well as a few names I did not recognize. Helmut Pesch, Derek Carter, Howard Green...names I was not quite familiar with. That's what's good about things like this; they give you a solid look at what was going on in a time when you weren't around.

There are, of course, folks who were doing work at the time that weren't represented, ATom being the one that comes to mind first, but this is a good overview.

The individual pieces are very nice. There's a great piece by James Schull on the Table of Contents page that says, "I remember when Newszines had news." The other Schull pieces are very good too, especially the piece showing a Frog-dude in a nest with some bird-thing. I've gotta look for more of his stuff.

Grant Canfield, a BArea boy as I

understand it, provides several pieces. He's a legend, a Rotsler winner, and the stuff he does is immediately recognizable. His stuff is still great, though you don't see as much of it as you used to. It's great.

Steve Stiles has two pieces, including one of them that features an IBM computer and is one of my favorite pieces from Mr. Stiles. It's got his signature style, but is a little different and there's something, I dunno, more illustrative than the stuff we see today. I can't figure it out, but I really like it.

The Alicia Austin stuff is great, and I'd say that the single best piece in the entire collection is from Tim Kirk. His stuff from the 70s was among the greatest in the history of fan art. The whole thing is very nicely put together and it's wonderfully mimeographed. The thing seems to have been put together pretty quickly, as there are smudges and press-spots on the backs of various pages. (That's one thing that I'm sure I don't miss having to deal with.) It's really a nice example of art and the techniques that were used to reproduce it.

There were four separate pieces of paper included with the Art Book. One of them was a flyer for the 1971 Mondo-Con. They ran a list of the advance membership which included a few well-known names (Frank Frazetta, Berni Wrightson, Arnie Katz, Lester Del Rey and about 20 other big names), and on the back was an ad that asked "Are You Ready For New York in '74?" It was interesting to read about a 1974

Worldcon bid for New York. It had been only three years since the NYCon.

One of the other ads was for Stanislaw Lem's *Solaris*. It was odd that things like that were put into things like fanzines. It was a different time, wasn't it? On the back there was a thing for Presi-Con, an LA convention run by Bruce Pelz for President's Day Weekend. I'd never heard of it, but it was advertised. I'm always looking for news of conventions I've never heard of. Dave Clark has often told me the story of Petuniacon, which he considers the worst con ever.

The two pages that were most interesting were the 1970 *Locus* Poll and Survey. To see how things have changed, read the *Locus* Poll these days and look for the following categories: Best Fanzine, Best Single Issue, Best Fan Artist, Best Fan Cartoonist, Best Fan Writer and Best Fan Critic.

That will show you how much things have changed and how *Locus* has abandoned fandom to get a bigger readership. While you can't blame a guy for going for bigger fish, I certainly will do just that.

The last piece was the most interesting. It was the Artist's Letter, the letter sent to each of the artists who sent in art for the Art Book. It explains the kind of paper that they used, the reasons some of the pieces that aren't listed in the Table of Contents are there (stuff from this year's Rotsler winner Terry Jeeves and an Eddie Jones page) and there is a section about pieces that they couldn't use from Dany Frolich, Rudy der Hagopian and Helmut Pesch. There were some problems with electrostenciling. Technology always presents problems.

There's also a lot of talk about *Locus*. They used 250 pieces of Fan Art in 1970, compared to just about 0 in 2008. They announced they were going to photo offset reproduction. That's a big deal, and they said that they'd be spending about 50 dollars more an issue to do that. They also mentioned that they'd be doing an auction column. That's something you don't see anymore.

There's a lot of talk about *Locus* submission business in the letter and it's numbered: 18 of 80. That's a low number and it

explains that numbers 1 through 35 are for artists and 36-80 are the ones that were for selling. That means that this one was one of the issues given to artists. I've not figured out whose this was but I'm going to somehow, and I've got to get my own copy of it so that when the TAFF Archives go to the next administrator, I'll still be able to enjoy it.



Two Views of Con-X-Treme Two

A Second Go-Round

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

The problem with Con-X-Treme is that I got what I expected.

It was far better than the last one, and it was small, very small, and it was disorganized, and there were unhappy dealers because they couldn't make money off of the few attendees there were. That's a shame, because this year had a lot going for it...even if it wasn't what we tend to expect.

Friday was simple: I arrived at 5:30 or so and got my badge, well, I mean the wristband. They said that they were going to be getting badges for Saturday, which was OK. I figured they were having printing trouble.

There was also no program book. That was slightly more worrying, but I've been to a couple of cons that had no program book. They all had schedules they handed out. but there wasn't one at check-in. That was a bad sign. Oddly, that was the last bad sign of the evening, really. I walked around and I found myself sitting at a table in front of the room where there was supposed to be a reception. I got to talking with Joey Jordan, the Artist Guest of Honor, and her husband. She's a nice gal and a helluva artist. We were also joined by Scott and Alicia, two folks I met at Illusive Comics and Games, a store owned by our mutual pal Anna. After a while, they invited us to come in for the



Photo: David Moyce

reception. I don't think I was initially supposed to go in, but Terry saw me and waved me in. That was a nice touch.

There ended up being about 20 of us cycling through the reception. The food was really good — the San Mateo Marriott is a good place for food, as it had been during Westercon and BayCon in 2007. They had crab cakes and Beef on a Stick, and that was good eatin'. We stood around one of the tables and enjoyed the kind of company you find at all cons. This set the

con up for good vibes.

We headed upstairs and David called and we got together and headed down to the bar, where we ran into España and Tadao Tomomatsu! That was a shock! I didn't expect to see him, and he's a really good guy to have around. We entered the bar and found ourselves enjoying the booze and chatting about all sorts of things. We talked about SiliCon and various Fanzine Lounge concepts (like the Fanzinista Lounge) and enjoyed ourselves greatly. We had

tasty quesadillas and booze and what more could you ask for?

We figured we should see more of the actual con and headed up to the ballroom where we found that a band was playing. Playing really well, actually. Playing really well for a crowd of about 30. Even with that, they were still putting it all out there and I thought they were great. They were called Silver Griffin and the Family Crest and I thought they reminded me of bands like The Tragically Hip and Phantom Planet. Very good Power-pop stuff. I enjoyed them and España liked them so much, she bought their CD.

After the band finished, we were treated to cake! It had just been the birthday of GOH Antonio Fargas (Huggy Bear from *Starsky & Hutch*), so they brought him a cake and after that they put a chair in the middle of the floor and had Antonio sit. They then had some tech problems as they were trying to get the music going for the belly dancer. Then Angel, who was running much of the stage stuff, asked us to clap. I saw it as the perfect time to start clapping the rhythm beat to the theme from *Car Wash*, which Mr. Fargas had appeared in. The entire crowd was clapping along. I was so happy.

The belly dancer finally got her music, and the show started. She treated Antonio to the first two dances and then got him up to dance with her. It was really fun. She played the crowd OK, and Antonio looked like he was having a really good time.

We headed back down to the bar, and I

was getting sleepy, so I called it a night after the other folks had one last drink.

I didn't get back to Con-X-Treme until after 1 p.m. on Saturday. I walked around to see what there was to see. There certainly weren't many people. I'm not sure if I expected there to



Photo: David Moyce

be a lot of people, and maybe that's why there weren't more people: There was an expectation that there wouldn't be many people at Con-X-Treme, and that doesn't help in trying to get more people to your convention. Of course, it makes it hard to grow if you're stuck with the label that you're a con that doesn't draw a lot of people. Not having a party floor or even a con

suite also failed to give people much to think about when it comes to bringing in more people and making sure that those who are there have a good time.

Walking around, I saw that they had a small room for video games, which was cool, and there were people in there every time I came by. There was a card and board game room that had no one in it any of the times I walked by. I walked past the registration table and noticed that there was a program booklet — a single folded-page booklet that listed the entire program. That was a good sign, though it would have been nice to get that information out ahead of time, and that's the kind of thing that might get more people interested in showing up. I saw that there were a number of classes being held in a classroom set-up, so I looked around and found the classroom. It was very nicely set up, with tons of computers and a good layout. It was really nicely done. I've never seen a con do it like that.

After that, I headed into the Dealer's Room. It wasn't much of a Dealer's Room. There was a guy selling some *Star Trek* stuff and some rocks and coins (and he had some really nice stuff!), and there was a guy selling shirts and bags and such (which looked really good, and were selling for far less than I expected). There was an energy drink dealer there, for some reason. There were a couple of artists, there was another T-shirt seller, a few of the guests were signing, and that was it, except for the SiliCon

table where Mo Starkey was sitting. I ended up taking up a position behind the table with Mo. That was nice as there wasn't much else I saw that interested me and I'd have someone to talk to. I spent the rest of the time at the SiliCon table, save for my trip to the table with the books where I bought eight *Star Trek* books, all Book Club editions, but books I'd like to read at some point.

Dave Clark and Dave Moyce joined me for a while and we all chatted. It's always nice to have folks to talk to, especially when there aren't that many other people to try and chat with. I left around 6. I knew there were evening festivities, including a Cosplay thingee that I'd have liked to have seen, but I went across the Bay to see The Lovely and Talented Linda for the evening. We ended up seeing *Tropic Thunder* again and it was as good the second time.

I ended up coming back Sunday evening because I'd read in the sched that there was a Dinner/Charity Auction at 6pm. I made my way across the San Mateo Bridge to the San Mateo Marriott. I have to say I loved it that the parking was free all weekend. You can't go wrong with free parking. In fact, the hotel was really good to me and other folks. I heard tell of them doing some Stupid Hotel Tricks, but that always happens no matter what the convention is. Sadly, they wouldn't give me the password for the wireless, so they did miss that, but I kinda understand that you've gotta protect your revenue streams.

I got there and there was one of the dealers waiting in front of the room where the dinner was supposed to be, but no one else was there. We chatted for a few minutes and then Rob

Miles and Co. showed up and the feast began. It was delicious. I will always remember that Con-X-Treme was the best free food that I've ever had at a con. Hands down!

I sat down and was joined by Joey, Scott, Alicia, Oni (a really nice guy who I had met so many times before and had never had a name to put with the dreadlocks) and a couple of the dealers. We were the fun table. You can always count on free food bringing out the best in everyone who shows up. The chicken and the beef were excellent. That's where I got my count of how many people were there at the con. I figured there were 50 or so people in the room, ten more away from the event, and there were probably 20 or so folks who had bought one-days. So, it might be a stretch to say they had 100, but it's not out of the realm of possibility. There were more folks around than at the con last year, but there was no party floor, which was a problem.

The Charity Auction never happened. I'm not sure what happened, or if they'd announced it earlier, but it never happened. It's little things like that that make it difficult to see Con-X-Treme lasting. True, it drew more than the year before, and the event was far better than last year, but you have to be able to believe that the events that are laid out will happen unless they announce and post signs or something to let folks know.

After that, Scott, Alicia and I walked upstairs. There was a wedding up there and there were kids running all over the place. That was weird. They had the internet up on a couple of machines and I checked my mail and did a little bit of work. After that, realizing that there wasn't

going to be anything else going on of fun and frolic, I headed off.

If there's another Con-X-Treme, I'll totally go, without question. I had a good time, and while there were flaws, serious flaws, it wasn't a hopeless con, nor was it a bad time. There are things I'd love to see them do in the future (party floor, more dealers, program book, schedule up on the web site), but I think it's a con that could, in theory, fly.

Signs of Improvement

By España Sheriff

Staff Writer

Once I again I had a good time at Con-X-Treme that had little to do with the convention itself.

I spent time hanging out with David Moyce and Chris Garcia on Friday night, half of it during opening ceremonies and the other half in the hotel bar. Saturday Tadao and I swung by the Marriott for a few hours on our way to Santa Barbara and spent some time hanging out with Maureen Starkey in the hotel restaurant and an hour or so chatting with her and Chris Garcia in the dealer's room/art show area.

Friday night Tadao and I arrived at the San Mateo Marriott sometime past 8 p.m. and right away found Chris and David. David had already picked up my "badge." Instead of the customary badges, the convention was using color-coded paper sticky wristbands of the type sometimes used to confirm age at events that serve alcohol.

The convention itself occupied the second floor, where BayCon and Westercon had had their dealer's rooms, and this worked better

than the comparatively sprawling Doubletree. Another improvement was simply the general atmosphere of the convention, which was much more positive than last year with an upbeat and energetic vibe. The chair, Rob Miles, appeared to be everywhere at once chatting with folks and generally looking like he was having fun.

Opening ceremonies had a good band called Silver Griffin followed by the presentation of a birthday cake for the GOH, Antonio Fargas. We all sang Happy Birthday and afterwards the convention had a belly dancer come out and dance for him/us. She was quite good and Fargas and the audience seemed to be enjoying themselves. Someone mentioned that there was supposed to be music for a dance after opening ceremonies, but after a while it looked like that was not happening, possibly for technical reasons, so we headed down to the bar for the next few hours.

The next day we arrived too late for breakfast at the Marriot restaurant so we grabbed lunch in their lovely patio area for old time's sake. Maureen was there promoting SiliCon and popped by for a little while ,but otherwise I didn't notice any other convention attendees using the restaurant. Done with lunch, we headed upstairs to see what Con-X-Treme II looked like in the daytime. The answer was kind of like Con-X-Treme I, but in a smaller space and therefore much better looking. On the way we picked up the program book, which simply consisted of a folded one-sheet paper schedule with an introductory paragraph on the front, and I initially mistook it for a daily newsletter.

The large room in which BayCon and Westercon held their dealer's room was again

looking Deleter software program which looks pretty hot. serving that purpose, as well as housing the art show in one corner and some fan tables beside that. There were about half a dozen dealers, including a table for JStore out of San Carlos which had lots of nice drawing tools, a t-shirt vendor called Juror 2, a vendor selling signed actor photographs, and a couple of other miscellaneous vendors who mostly seemed to be passing the time talking with each other. I bought a couple of cute fridge magnets from Juror 2 and the guy at the JStore table had plenty of time to give me a walk-through of a very nice

“All other forms of media communication” is a rather broad category.

looking Deleter software program which looks pretty hot.

The art show consisted of two artists, one of whom was Artist GoH Joey Jordan. Jordan had some very nice pieces up and I hope to see more at future conventions. Just like last year, the art was mostly laid out flat on tables, but at least someone had worked on the display and put some of the larger pieces leaning up vertically against the walls, so it looked much better. The bid sheets were printed with PayPal information but that was crossed out and a note to speak to them about purchasing was written in marker on top, so who knows what that was about.

Aside from the diminutive size of the convention, it still suffers from the issue of

identity. Con-X-Treme doesn't seem to know what it really wants to be. Last year it was about martial arts and anime, but didn't really do much to push those themes successfully.

This year the website stated, “Con-X-Treme promotes the creation of animation, 3D modeling, video, digital art, manga and all other forms of media communication” — which, once again, was not terribly evident. “All other forms of media communication” is a rather broad category, but from the description one would have expected a lot of video, animation and film artist creator/creation promotion. But aside from the JStore table this was not much in evidence in the dealer's room. Neither did the art show include any digital art that I saw. The GOH was a television and film actor — a form of media, to be sure — but if he has anime or animation ties or even genre credits they were never mentioned during opening ceremonies. Of the bands scheduled to perform I only saw Silver Griffin, and while they were very good, they appeared to be a rock/pop band with no particular j-rock/j-pop or other genre/animation connection.

I didn't have time to attend any of the panels, so perhaps those were good. There certainly seemed to be a full roster of them on the schedule at least. Likewise I didn't see if there was a gaming area, so maybe everyone was hiding over there. Regardless, I doubt I'll be back next year. Maybe in a few years after it's had a chance to grow up a little I'll check it out, but for now there's really not enough going on to warrant a trip out of the house, much less out of the city.

Comic-Con: Do I Look Big in These Tights?

Story and photos by Dr. Noe
Staff Writer

Is Comic-Con getting too big?

In many ways: yes. Gone are the days of yore when you could move about on the dealer's floor without much difficulty, along with being able to hop from panel to panel, and being able to get into them. While the convention was still fun (being glass half-full here), there were some issues I had.

For the first time in years I had almost a full schedule from open to close. It seems the convention was punishing me for some reason by having way too many things I wanted to attend during any given day. This would not have been a problem if the convention was not packed wall-to-wall. It has become impossible to attend two panels back-to-back, unless one of the panels happens to be less popular with the masses. This didn't use to be a problem, however; it means you really have to decide which panels you cannot miss.

Add to that the long lines for almost any of the stars or comic book artists you hope to get an autograph from, and you're spending a good percentage of your day in lines. Especially if there's a booth where you want to buy something. It seems that despite the still present comic book world, another cause of mass people jams are the SDCC exclusives that several of the toy companies pump out every year. (This would be less of a problem or fervor if these items weren't



highly coveted by the second hand market who snatch up as many of these exclusives as they can.)

But, as I said, the convention was still fun. Costuming is still prevalent and the celebrities I did get to see definitely made the convention worth it. It's a matter of realizing that while you

may have missed certain panels or autographs, it's the ones you do get that make the experience worthwhile. Where (or when) will you get this chance again?

Thursday started off for me with the Hasbro/GI Joe panel, which was exciting as there were several representatives of the Cobra

Command in attendance. The panel, however, verified several of my fears. Following *The Transformers*, a GI Joe movie will be hitting theaters next summer, and from what was said at the Hasbro panel, things look to be just as bad as the Transformers movie. The choice of characters is one problem, relationships between characters that have never had such closeness in the comic or the 80s cartoon were added to the mix, and all the Joes are dressed in a sort of *Matrix* meets *Underworld* type. . . bodysuit, I suppose. But still, the other costumers were fun, especially when we met GI Joe writer Larry Hama.

That was really one of the only panels I could get into on Thursday (told you it was difficult) and I spent a good deal of Thursday late afternoon at the bar. This may seem like a bad idea. As I was getting ready to leave I heard a voice ask to take my picture (I was in my Crimson Guard form GI Joe, still). I turned around to be confronted by Seth Green, who was attending the con for *Robot Chicken*. Apparently, Mr. Green is also a huge fan of GI Joe and loved my costume. I have no idea how he knew what I was wearing as my back was facing him the entire time.

Friday began with *Batman: The Brave and the Bold*, a new animated series that is in the old *Superfriends* style of animation. Sam Register (*Teen Titans*); James Tucker (*Justice League Unlimited*); Michael Jelenic (*The Batman*); directors Brandon Vietti (*Superman Doomsday*), Ben Jones (*Teen Titans: Trouble In Tokyo*), and Michael Chang (*Teen Titans*), along with voice director Andrea Romano (*Superman Doomsday*) and the new voice of Batman,

Diedrich Bader (*Surfs Up*) were on hand to discuss the project. It's definitely a new take on the Dark Knight; mostly that he's not dark anymore.

The show is kind of a throwback to the 1970s Batman and the plan is to team him up with characters other than Robin, including Plastic Man and Green Arrow. Batman's traditional villains also will scarcely be present. Another interesting twist is taking Batman out of Gotham City as much as possible, to kind of break away from what has been the norm for the past couple of series. It looks good and may definitely breathe some new and different life into the character. Later was another Bat-panel that was basically just artists and writers discussing what they loved about the comic and how they took on certain roles and characters. An interesting panel but not altogether enlightening.

I unfortunately missed the next three panels as the *Watchmen* panel was an hour away and, even though it was in the biggest hall of the convention center, I knew it would fill up quickly. I missed the panel on *The Hobbit* and the new DCU vs. Mortal Kombat game, but from what was shown at the *Watchmen* panel, it was worth it. It looks like Warner Bros. and all involved really did their homework as the film looks amazing and seems very true to the original comic. After getting it wrong so many times, it's nice to see that one of Alan Moore's creations may get its due justice.

Saturday was, as always, the big day. The convention center was jam-packed for the



entire day, and kind of started off badly. For the fourth time I missed my chance to meet Summer Glau (*Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles*, *Serenity*, *Firefly*). By the time I made it to the booth where she and the rest of the cast were signing, the line had been capped. So, I meandered for a bit until my first panel.

Tori Amos was on hand with several artists who contributed to *Comic Book Tattoo*, a huge book of images based on Tori's music. The was an interesting panel to hear the artists



attending the *Dollhouse* panel (Joss Whedon's new show). The bonus for this (yes, a bonus) is that when I met Tori for her signing, I was in my Mal costume from *Firefly*. When I got to the table Tori asked me what I was dressed as. I gave her the capsulated version of *Firefly/Serenity* and she said she would have to remember the show and check it out. She took out a piece of paper and wrote it down. So, I may have turned Tori Amos into a *Firefly* fan.

Later in the afternoon I got to meet Mike Peters (the comic strip *Mother Goose & Grimm*), who did know what I was wearing. I have been a fan of Peters for years upon years and his strip is one of my all time favorites. It was great hearing tales of his youth and how

several people (including teachers) didn't think he would amount to anything. He was a joy to listen to as he would go on a spiraling tangent when someone asked a question, then somehow come back and answer it after the story was told. His panel ended with him showing some of his

favorite editorial cartoons and some of Grimmy, too. Then the Comic-Con staff surprised me. They saw that several people wanted to meet Peters and get an autograph, so they found a spot for him in the autograph hall. It's one of the coolest things I've seen the staff do. Usually I just see them running around putting out fires.

As I was walking away from Peters, I ran into someone who told me I was signing at the Browncoat booth (remember, I was in my Mal costume). I walked as quickly as I could and just barely eeked my way into the line to meet Nathan Fillion. But that was not the end of my happenstance run-ins. Later I was at the bar (yes, again) and I went to make a call. As I left I ran into Matt Groening (creator of *The Simpsons*). This is the fourth year in a row that I just happened to run into Groening while walking around the convention. Again, it's the things like this that make Comic-Con worth it, despite the negativity that goes hand-in-hand with the good.

In the past Sunday was usually the day of rest, even at Comic-Con. This is no longer true. Sunday was just as busy as all the other days. I spent most of the day wandering around and ended with the sing-along to the *Buffy the Vampire* episode "Once More with Feeling," which was also the last event of the convention.

So, yes, the con is getting a tad too big, but it is still enjoyable and I look forward to going as long as I can actually move around from place to place. But even then, as long as I get those choice experiences that I'll never get anywhere else, it's totally worth it.

talk about how they chose their songs and how project creator Rantz Hoseley was actually the inspiration for one of Tori's Songs ("Flying Dutchman," from which the title of the book is taken).

Again, mass hysteria prevented me from

Two Fannish Weddings and a Vacation

Story and Photos by Jean Martin
Editor

Four Weddings and a Funeral is one my all-time favorite movies. One might wonder, after seeing that movie, how many weddings can realistically happen all in a row. Well, this just happened to me this past July: Two friends decided to get married a week apart, one in Portugal and one in Fremont.

I almost didn't go to the one in Portugal as I've never really had a burning desire to visit that country. I didn't even know anyone who'd ever been or who'd talked about going there. People think more of Brazil, one of Portugal's former colonies, than of Portugal itself. In fact, there's a joke in an episode of *Arrested Development* where one character mistakenly refers to Portugal as being in South America.

One of the few things I knew about Portugal was that Ferdinand Magellan, the 16th Century explorer who attempted to circumnavigate the globe, was born in that country. He's also credited with "discovering" the Philippines. Well, he was killed by Filipinos before he accomplished his original mission. So being from the Philippines, I wasn't sure how the Portuguese would welcome me.

However, I met a couple of fun ladies from Portugal, Dulce and Florbela, during my New Zealand *Lord of the Rings* tour in March of 2006. And one of them met her future husband, Anthony from England, during that tour. That



Fellowship reunites for Dulce and Anthony's Wedding.

was just so romantic when we all found out that they had kept in touch and fell in love soon afterwards!

So, after much deliberation, a nudge of encouragement from the bride, and finding out that several of our tour mates would be going as well, I decided to make the trek to Portugal for the wedding.

I am so glad I went, and I suppose I am now grateful to have had the chance to go to

Portugal as it is quite an interesting country, and unlike any I've ever been to. For sure, there were French, Spanish, Italian and Moorish influences, but Portugal has a style and spirit all its own. I don't think I would have ever gone to Portugal if not for Dulce and Anthony's wedding.

Then I had another wedding to go to just after I got back from Portugal, when I was not even over the jet lag. This time, it was thankfully local and I didn't have to travel too far. Eva (yes,

SF/SF's very own former Layout Editor!) and John's wedding was an English Regency Jane Austen wedding (whereas Dulce and Anthony's had been a fantasy *Lord of the Rings* wedding).

It really made me realize how far I've come in making fandom my life, where all my friends are interested in the same things I am. It's quite amazing! Fantasy and the Regency period are two of my most enduring passions. The others are the Victorian age and science fiction. Hopefully, I'll get to go to weddings with those themes in the future.

Surprisingly, both weddings followed

ceremonies and traditions similar to other weddings I'd been to in the past. I suppose the Western world celebrates weddings in much the same way.

I'm sure a lot of people are curious about this less well-known nation next to Spain on the Iberian Peninsula. Come to think of it, I know a little bit more about Portugal from watching the *Sharpe* TV series starring Sean Bean (Boromir in *Lord of the Rings*). Some of the earlier episodes were set in Portugal during the Peninsular War against Napoleon, which coincided with the English Regency period. My vacation there

definitely combined a lot of history with fantasy and even science fiction elements.

It took almost a full day to reach Lisbon, the capital, as I had to change planes in Heathrow. My friend Bela picked me up from the airport in Lisbon. She took the scenic route to the hill town of Sintra, where the wedding was going to take place, so I got to see a little bit of Lisbon on the way.

Sintra is the town where Dulce grew up. I did a little bit of research before I left and found out that Sintra is a UNESCO World Heritage site, and a favorite weekend getaway of the nearby Lisbon city folk. In fact, Portugal's royal families (when they still had them) used to spend their summers at the much cooler higher elevation of Sintra. Also, Lord Byron extolled the virtues of Sintra in his breakthrough book *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*. (Yet another Regency connection!)

I spent most of my time in Sintra, and I was glad I did. Bela mentioned to me that the place was long known to be magical, and I found this to be true.

Sintra looked like a storybook town straight out of Disney. I could see castles and mansions interspersed among lush green forests from my hotel room's balcony. I could walk outside my hotel, which was right next to the Palacio Nacional, and walk on cobblestone streets with horse-drawn carriages, quaint street shops and outdoor cafes. More castles, mansions and palaces were visible on top of the hills around Old Town Sintra.

The other thing that struck me about Sintra is that it reminded me of Portmeirion in Northern Wales where I went last year.



Portmeirion is the setting for “The Village” in the TV series *The Prisoner*. Unlike Disney and Portmeirion, however, Sintra’s attractions have been around for centuries, and it is quite a real town where people live.

There were very few American tourists, but I couldn’t tell if this was because the dollar has been weak lately compared to the euro, or if Portugal is just not frequented by people from the U.S.

Here’s a rundown of the interesting sites I went to in Sintra:

- The Palacio Nacional had beautiful interiors with paintings, murals, tiled walls, chandeliers, courtyards, fountains, royal rooms, etc.

- The Palacio Nacional also had one wing with a special Pirate Exhibit. Even in Portugal, pirates are all the rage! The exhibit featured authentic weaponry, navigational equipment, and booty. There were also a few mannequins dressed in pirate garb.

- The Castelo dos Mouros was an amazing 7th Century fortification on top of a hill. It had real and very well-preserved towers and battlements that you could climb up to. The Moors used to occupy Portugal until the second Crusades.

- The Pena Palace, built in the 19th Century Romantic style, reminded me most of Portmeirion with its pink and yellow buildings with arches and domes. It was just as whimsical. But the rooms inside were fabulous with royal suites, sitting room, ballroom, galleries, chapel, dining room and library.

- The Lawrence Hotel, a five-star hotel near mine, is famous for being the oldest hotel



Fanciful Pena Palace

on the Iberian Peninsula. It is also the hotel that Lord Byron actually stayed at while in Sintra. The hotel had a very English cottage charm to it.

- Quinta da Regaliera, a garden estate in the Romantic style, was my favorite attraction in Sintra. Gardens and parks surrounded a palace and chapel as well as lakes, grottoes, wells, benches, fountains, follies, towers and statuary.

This was truly an attempt to recreate “Arcadia,” an imaginary idyllic paradise, immortalized by Virgil and Tom Stoppard.

- Another folly was the Moghul-inspired Monserrate Palace, built by an English lord most likely as a homage to England’s empire in India. Lord Byron was known to visit this palace often.

It was great touring around Sintra with



Monument to the Discoveries in Belem

The next day, several of us went to Oeiras beach, in the town where Bela lives. The beach was beautiful and there was a salt water pool area next to it. Portugal is blessed with an abundance of sun and water. Oeiras was on the way to Belem, which is part of the greater Lisbon area.

Belem had a lot of major tourist attractions including the huge and elaborate Mosteiro dos Jeronimos. You really can feel the power and riches of the Catholic Church from the olden days when you see something as grand as this. The newly refurbished Cloisters (and I visit any cloister when I travel) is the best and biggest I've ever seen but in a very different style, which was all Portuguese.

Belem also has the Monument to the Discoveries, which stands guard on one side of the Tagus River.

my March 2006 Fellowship friends. Including the bride and groom there were ten of us in total from the tour who were there for the wedding. We all stayed at the same hotel, and met spontaneously to have breakfast or lunch and to visit the different sites. Michele and Jason, with their newborn Lilu (the leading lady's

name from the *Fifth Element*), from Portland, Oregon arrived the day after I did. I went to their wedding in 2006, which was held at a beautiful haunted mansion (and which I reported in the pages of *SF/SF 25*). Jacqueline and Martin from England arrived two days later. Eight of us met for dinner one night.

The monument includes statues of 30 famous Portuguese personages who were involved in the country's navigational and exploratory efforts in the 16th Century. These included Vasco da Gama and the aforementioned casualty Ferdinand Magellan. The monument also looks over a bridge that looks suspiciously like the Golden

Gate Bridge and a Christ statue on a mountain just like the Christ the Redeemer in Brazil. Lastly, Belem has a unique and beautiful tower, Torre de Belem, on the water that was used for defense.

Next stop, finally, was Lisbon. Bela and I took trains and subways to get there. To get around, we used trams. Public transportation in Europe is so much easier and more convenient. Not to mention more picturesque. Bela told me that some of the older trams were sold to San Francisco and one can see them on the Embarcadero, in perfect working order.

Lisbon is just like any big European city: busy and chaotic. A mix of Old World and New. I only had an afternoon there so we rushed around like mad. At least Bela works in Lisbon and so it was great that a local showed me around. Again, it felt like a cross between Spain, Italy, Greece and France. I do like the Southern European countries a lot.

Here are some of the highlights in Lisbon:

- Bela took me up the Elevador de Santa Justa, which is an elevator from a higher part of the city to the lower part. The elevator was designed by a student of Gustav Eiffel and thus looks similar in style to the Eiffel Tower. The view from the top, where there was an outdoor café, was quite spectacular. You can see Old Lisbon as well as the river and the Castelo de Sao Jorge on the opposite hill. I also saw a view of the beautiful Rossio Square, which holds a sinister past. An auto da fe was conducted there after the big earthquake in 1755. Witches were burned as a result of this Inquisition, which Voltaire wrote about in his novel *Candide*.

- Castelo de Sao Jorge (St. George's Castle) is located on the highest hill in the historic center of Lisbon. The Castle was taken from the Moors by the Christians during the Second Crusade in the 12th Century. King Afonso Henriques, the first king of Portugal, led this siege. There is a statue of him at the entrance. There is another statue of another famous Portuguese king, Manuel I, from the 15th Century. He was the king during Portugal's era of exploration.

- The Praca do Comercio with its Triumphal Arch, which looks similar to the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, leads into the pedestrian-

I already had a wedding bouquet at home, so I let it go.

friendly Augusta Street. This area looked very European and was busy with locals enjoying the end of the work week.

On the way back to my hotel in Sintra, Bela drove past San Pedro Square where there just happened to be a Medieval Fair in progress. I was surprised that they hold these Renaissance Faire-like events in the evening. I think it went on all weekend during the day as well but I guess the Portuguese, like the Spanish and Greeks, do Siesta in the middle of the day and stay up late to enjoy life afterwards.

I was curious to see how different their

fairs would be. They had vendors, food stalls, entertainers and people in costumes, but it had a more decidedly Middle Eastern theme throughout. I grabbed a quick dinner at a Middle Eastern food stand and had a delicious veggie pita and couscous salad.

The next day was the wedding, and wedding guests staying at the hotel were carpooled to a nearby estate, the Quinta dos Alfinetes.

The estate was gorgeous and romantic. You could see the Moorish Castle on a hill to the left and the Pena Palace to the right. There was a big elegant white tent where the tables were set and the ceremony took place under a small tent in the garden.

Dulce wore a red dress styled after one of Arwen's gowns from *The Fellowship of the Ring*. The cake had collectible ceramic figurines of Arwen and Aragorn. The tables were named after places in the novel, and our names were written in regular form and in Elvish on the place cards.

The March Fellowship table, which was set in the British half of the tent, had special *Lord of the Rings* treats. Dulce made Lembas bread (shortbread cookies wrapped in leaves) and she even made Miruvor, an Elvish wine. Still, the *Lord of the Rings* motif was subtle and the wedding was quite elegant and a lot of fun.

Rick and his daughter Jen, from Ontario, Canada, arrived that day so I only saw them at the wedding. I have missed them both, especially Jen, as I hadn't seen them since our tour in New Zealand. The others I'd seen in Portland or in London last year for the *Lord of the Rings* musical.

Eva and John share a waltz.



The wedding lasted ten hours, which I was told is typical in Portugal. The Portuguese guests left earlier though, while the British contingent stayed to drink and dance. Jen and I danced for hours to some really good DJ music. There was some talk in our group that one of us

three single gals should catch Dulce's bouquet so we can all have another reunion. Well, guess who caught her bouquet! Now they all are looking forward to going to San Francisco! As a backup plan, we're planning on doing a reunion tour in New Zealand for the 2011 premier of *The*

Hobbit.

Back in the San Francisco Bay Area, another wedding awaited on July 6th. This time, it was Eva's Regency wedding at an estate in Fremont with a picturesque Tudor mansion. Yes, in Fremont! It was a lovely day wedding with a radiant Eva arriving, with her father, in a romantic horse-drawn carriage.

John, the groom, looked dashing in a Regency outfit. Only four ladies, including myself, came in Regency attire. We were all friends and fellow dancers. We all were at the same table and enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch. After the ceremony and lunch, there was, of course, Regency dancing. The Divertimento Dance Orchestra provided the beautiful and lively music, and Bay Area English Regency Society (BAERS) dance master Alan Winston called the dances.

Eva and John had held a rehearsal dance a month before so that their wedding guests could learn the dances. I attended to help out. But the dances are easy enough and a lot of people at the wedding enjoyed the dancing.

And yes, I caught the bouquet at this wedding too. Well, I had it in my hands but a girl next to me also had her hands on it and grabbed it tightly. It was definitely closer to me (I have a picture to prove it!) but she seemed like she really wanted it, and I already had one at home, so I let it go. Interestingly, the garter toss usually works the opposite, where the men are all reluctant to catch it! Too funny.

In any case, I had my fill of weddings for the year... well, for a while. But I did enjoy my two (fannish) weddings and Portugal vacation.

The OC Finds Serenity



By Dr. Noe
Staff Writer

A long time ago (three years), in a galaxy far, far away (well, ours, actually) fans of the ill-fated show *Firefly* did the impossible. They resurrected their show in movie form, and *Serenity* was born. Since then, there have been annual charity screenings of the film, proving you can't stop the signal.

But what is a charity screening without a charity? Since the screenings began, they have raised more than \$226,000 (including reported numbers for '08) for Equality Now, the women's rights advocacy group and *Firefly* creator Joss Whedon's favorite charity.

A "Can't Stop the Serenity" screening was held June 21st at the Starplex Cinemas Woodbridge 5 in Irvine, California – the first

time Orange County was able to host such an event.

Most of these screenings have several events, auctions, raffles, and costumes to add to the festivities, and OC was no exception. Aside from a cadre of fans, some costumers were on hand to enhance the event and there was an appearance from Little Damn Heroes.

OC had the mini-River figure which is different from the one that will be commercially released. The prototype has "My Turn" printed on the base. The general release will not.

These maquettes are prototypes created by QMx that are based on fan favorite artist Adam Levermore-Rich's famous designs. The rarity of these items is unbelievable.

First, there are only three of each in existence, and one of each now belongs to Adam. So that means QMx is letting go of one of only two that they have left. Next, you have the catch-phrases on the base, which will not be on the production models. And lastly, on the River maquette, the axe is being held upside down, and will be turned back up on the production version.

I was down in Orange County visiting a friend, so my first requirement for the visit was going to a screening. It was the first time I'd seen a *Serenity* showing outside the Bay Area. Although small, it was a lot of fun to have the *Serenity* experience in another area, just to see what other cities do.

BASFA Minutes: Meetings 943-944

Meeting 943

August 25, 2008

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

Began 8:00 - with shineys

27 people attended

A party jar was established

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 942 were accepted as 'crossing our L's and dotting our C's'

Treasurer report was that last week we took in \$32.40 in the regular jar and \$10.76 in the party jar

The VP reported there's a new 'Drink Tank' out & he has started a new project to eat 100 grilled cheese sandwiches with 100 very interesting people

The President read us a letter from an author [sent to him care of Coco's] - and there was much reaction in response to this

Announcements

Dave C announced that Disney World's

Adventurer's Club is closing & asked that both versions of Kungaloosh recipe be included in the minutes. Old version: 1 1/4 oz vodka, 1 1/4 oz Malibu rum, 3/4 oz Midori, 2T pineapple juice, splash cranberry juice; Revised version: 1 cup Daily's Strawberry Daiquiri mix, 1/4 cup orange juice, 1/4 cup Captain Morgan's spiced rum, 1/4 cup blackberry brandy

Ken announced that there will be a Legion of Rassilon meeting this Friday at the usual place [Carl's Jr at 1st & Trimble]

[evil] Kevin announced that at Gallifrey 2009 their party [to replace the Evil Genius party] will be 'Volcano Day'

Maureen announced that she'd been published in Baen's Universe = the latest for her illustration of 'Shopping Spree' by Beth Bernobich - and she just got a commission from them

Andy just paid for 3 BASFA club memberships for Derek Miller, Letha Welch & Henry Welch

Reviews:

Glenn reviewed Stephenson's 'Quicksilver' as a bug crusher and enjoyable to read & reviewed the Mongolian BBQ on El Camino as awesome - Chris follow-on'd that it is a wonderful place

Chris reviewed being broke as Netflix is his best friend & reviewed DVDs - said he fell asleep during 'The Hoax' and the DVD of 'Wordplay'

was a fun little film, reviewed 'Wrestlemania 2' as WoW & reviewed 'Thinking Triple X' as fascinating and fabulous

Bill reviewed searching along the road for lodging while en route to Denvention as he ended up going to Bags, Wyoming as the intervening towns ended up being full

Stellen reviewed the noodles and sea bass here as a very good addition to the menu and worth full price

Howeird reviewed 'Here Bullet' - poetry and a journal from a soldier in Iraq - as some good, some not so good & reviewed 'Bikini Planet' as it's a new novel every few pages, with about 30 predictable plots and 4 endings and worth BASFA auction

Dave C reviewed Denver's sales tax form with math errors as worth downloading from their website

[evil] Kevin reviewed 'Leprechaun 4 in Space' as cheesy, shot in bad video and with bad CGI

Adrienne reviewed 'Dark Knight' as awesome, worth full price - with good acting & script, with excellent production values; & I follow-on'd that I enjoyed it, found it visually stunning and also thought it worth full price

Carole reviewed Denvention as she got a

workmanship award [for her 2nd ever entry] and the Masquerade was well run; reviewed a place called Balcony House as too difficult to get into and another place - Cliff House - as better and worth full price but hard to get out of and reviewed the Grand Canyon as pretty and worth full price

Andy reviewed seeing the Olympics closing ceremony - without sound - as it looked like they hired a Burning Man camp to do a Dr Suess tribute - he was not impressed

Eric reviewed a filming of 'Delirium' as he was disappointed and it was worth Netflix

Ken reviewed 'season 3 of the Venture Brothers' as 'bwuh?'

Dave G reviewed his colonoscopy as it went in-depth and while recovering he saw an On Demand movie - 'Dr Who and the Tomb of the Cybermen' and it was superb; Spring follow-on'd that Dave was under the influence of painkillers at the time

We then did auctions: birthday auctioned off Bill for \$5.00 to Trey; auctioned off 2 videos for \$10.50; then swag for \$0.75; misc stuff for \$1.00; a CD for \$2.00; & books for \$11.00; \$0.50; \$1.25 and \$0.25

We adjourned at = 9:50

And the rumor of the week was: 'and he eats waffles with that mouth'

Meeting 944

September 1, 2008

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

Began 8:02 - because Ambush Bug rocks

18 people attended

A party jar was established

Secretary's report: the minutes of meeting 943 were accepted as 'the soup is a lie' with 1 abstention [yes, we're looking at YOU, Chris]

No Treasurer

The VP is in denial and reported he's conspiring with the Unholy 3 on journeyplanet on efanzone.com ['Ambush Bug rules!']

The President had nothing he could follow -that-with

Announcements

Barbara announced that she'll have a story entitled 'Slow Burn' in a new anthology called 'Space Sirens' [due out around Christmas]

Dann announced that this week's Spookfest will feature a showing of 'Sampson and Delilah'

Dave C announced that he is in love with Sarah

Palin and go see Ron Paul's convention at the -other- Twin city, if you are able

Lisa announced that 'big Harold lives' and he is slowly getting better and for everything else see her LJ

[tall] Kevin announced that the reason for his eyepatch is that he developed labyrinthitis in his eye and he's not practicing for Sept 19 - and that thanks to [evil] Kevin he now has a parrot to go with the patch [there were follow-ons] and he is VERY grateful that Cheryl has been his seeing eye person

Reviews:

Chris reviewed Con-X-Treme, the Quickening, and found it kind of interesting - the band Silver Griffin on Friday night was quite good, on Saturday he went back and saw there were only about 35 people there who weren't staff or dealers; he reviewed 'Tropic Thunder' as still the best movie ever made; and he had a good time at the con and thought it worth \$17.50; Dave C follow-on'd that he also went to Con-X-Treme ['aka con-stay-they-hell-away' sayeth Andy] and felt it was not nearly as exciting as it was last year

Lisa reviewed Denver Health as the food was bad, the care mediocre and St. Joseph's had real food with better doctors and real care

Dave C reviewed the Sonic drive-in at Evanston Wyoming as being the kind of clean pleasant squalor found near a university pizza place and his food was . . . nice - but did not live up to his

expectations [there were then Sonic location follow-ons]

Stellan reviewed this season's 'Myth Busters' as very well made and worth full price and that new on Discovery was a new show about terraforming parts of this planet and the science and engineering was not bad - Discovery Project Earth

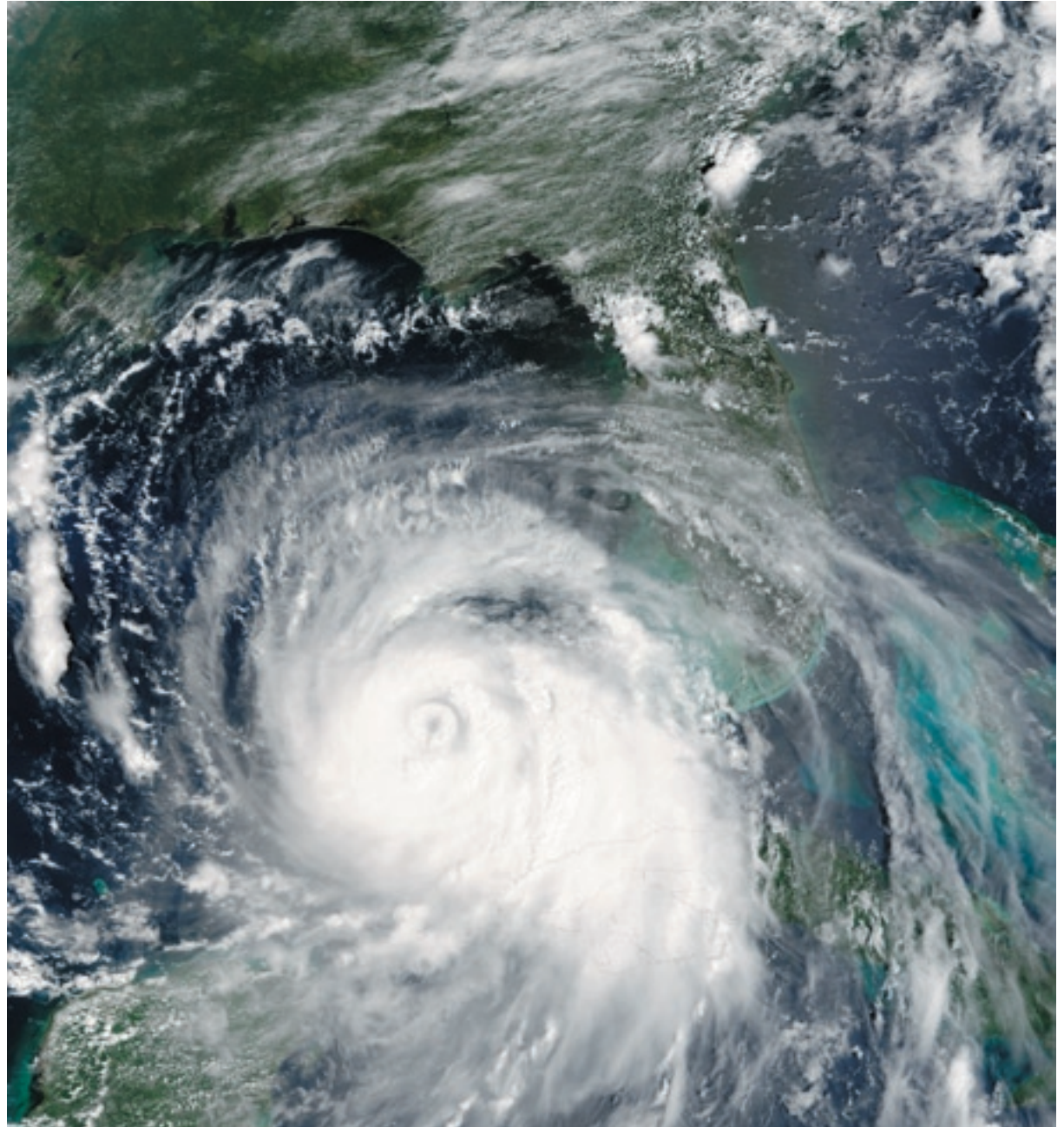
Maureen reviewed Con-X-Treme as Terry was very gracious to her and she made lots of money for SiliCon there and ate their Dealer's room and con staff and had a good time

[tall] Kevin reviewed his train trip to Sacramento as the extra expense of the train was worth it - that it wasn't difficult to get a rental car at his destination and was worth full price

We then did auctions: birthday auctioned off [tall]Kevin for \$20.00 to Cheryl; auctioned off 2 videos for \$2.25; decorations & a Tshirt for \$0.50; scones for \$0.25; misc stuff for \$0.25; a book & tshirt for \$0.50; videos and a hub for \$0.25; cups for \$0.75; & books for \$3.00 and \$0.25

We adjourned at = 9:25

And the rumor of the week was: '[tall] Kevin's next trip will be to climb the twin peaks of Mt. Kilimanjaro'



Hurricane Katrina, August 28, 2005. Credit: NASA/Jeff Schmaltz, MODIS Land Rapid Response Team

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.

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.

Saturday, September 20

Brisingr Breakfast Celebration

Keplers
1010 El Camino Real
Menlo Park
www.keplers.com

9 a.m.
Family event celebrating the release of Christopher
Paolini's latest book

Saturday, September 20

SF in SF: David Levine and Nick Mamatas
Variety's Preview Room in the Hobart Building
582 Market St.
San Francisco
www.sfinsf.org

9 p.m.
Free
Science Fiction in San Francisco (A Perfect Fit)
stages a monthly series of readings hosted by
Terry Bisson as well as monthly movie screenings.
Proceeds from the events go to the Variety
Children's Charity

Sunday, September 21

Tachyon Publications 13th Anniversary Party
Borderlands Books

866 Valencia
San Francisco

2 p.m.

Free
sfinsf.org

Tachyon celebrates its Bar Mitzvah! Included in the
fun: the annual Emperor Norton Awards, a drawing
for a Tachyon T-shirt, some Tachyon books, and a
special freebie giveaway

Monday, September 22

Both Eyes Wide Open: Large Binocular Telescope
Jewish Community Center of San Francisco
Kanbar Hall
3200 California Street
San Francisco
www.calacademy.org
7:30 p.m.
\$5

Lecture by Richard Pogge, Professor and Vice
Chair for Instrumentation, Ohio State University
Department of Astronomy

Monday, September 22

Author: Kevin J. Anderson and Brian Herbert

Borderlands Books
866 Valencia
San Francisco
9 p.m.
Free
www.borderlands-books.com
The authors sign their latest collaboration, *Paul of
Dune*

Thursday, September 25

Author: Stephen Erickson

Borderlands Books
866 Valencia
San Francisco

7 p.m.

Free
www.borderlands-books.com

Erickson signs the latest in the Malazan series, *Toll
the Gates*

Friday, September 26

Erotic Science Fiction
Center for Sex & Culture
1519 Mission Street
San Francisco
www.sexandculture.org

8 p. m.

Free
Carol Queen and Borderlands Books present an
erotic Science Fiction reading with Charlie Anders,
M. Christian, Richard Kadrey, Thomas Roche, Rudy
Rucker, and others

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.

Saturday-Sunday, September 27-28

California Academy of Sciences Grand Opening
Golden Gate Park
Music Concourse
San Francisco
www.calacademy.org/events/openingweekend
9:30 a.m.

\$24.95 (regular admission price, Saturday
admission is free)

Two day event celebrating the grand opening of
the new CAS building. Enjoy live music and dance
performances. Sample sustainably-sourced food
from all over the world. Marvel at Chinese acrobats.
Browse the latest in green technologies. Scale the
rock-climbing wall. Admission inside the Academy
is free on Saturday, September 27th. Plus, hours are
extended both days.

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+
\$60

Friday-Sunday, October 3-5

Silicon 2008: A Salute to FanAc
DoubleTree Hotel
2050 Gateway Place
San Jose
www.siliconventions.com
\$55

Saturday, October 4

Author: Richelle Mead
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia
San Francisco
3 p.m.
Free
www.borderlands-books.com
Mead signs her latest novel, *Succubus Dreams*

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.

Sunday, October 5

Author: Neil Gaiman
Sundance Kabuki Theaters
1881 Post Street
San Francisco
www.booksmith.com
3-5 p.m.
\$28 (price includes a signed copy of *The Graveyard
Book*)

Gaiman reads from his new book, followed by
a Q&A. Due to time constraints, he will not be
signing at the event.

Wednesday, October 8

Endgame October Minicon
Endgame
921 Washington
Oakland
endgameoakland.com
Gaming minicon, details TBA.

Thursday, October 9

SF in SF/Litquake
*Steampunk: Impossibly Fantastic Victorian Science
Fiction*
San Francisco
Details TBA
SF in SF will be participating in San Francisco's
Litquake event! Confirmed this far are Joe Lansdale,
Kage Baker and Rudy Rucker, with more to come.

Friday, October 10

Midnites for Maniacs
The Castro Theater
429 Castro Street
San Francisco

www.midnitesformaniacs.com

7:15 p.m.

\$10 for all three films

Back to School Special triple feature; *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Romeo & Juliet* (1996) and *Starship Troopers*

Saturday, October 11

Litquake Litcrawl

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

Free

www.litquake.org

Borderlands hosts Richard Kadrey, Ellen Klages and Pat Murphy as part of the annual Litquake pub/bookstore crawl. See the LitQuake website for the full schedule.

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.

Sunday, October 12

Reading: Contributors to the Book of Lists

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

3 p.m.

Free

Editors/Contributors Scott Bradley and Amy

Wallace, as well as contributor Alan Beatts, will talk about putting together *The Book of Lists-Horror*

Wednesday, September 15

SF in SF Double Feature: Shaun of the Dead and Repo Man

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, October 18

SF in SF: Kim Stanley Robinson and Cecilia Holland

Variety's Preview Room in the Hobart Building

582 Market St.

San Francisco

www.sfinsf.org

9 p.m.

Free

Science Fiction in San Francisco (A Perfect Fit) stages a monthly series of readings hosted by Terry Bisson as well as monthly movie screenings. Proceeds from the events go to the Variety Children's Charity.

Saturday, October 25

SF in SF Double Feature: The Haunting and Don't Look Now

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.

Sunday, October 26

Author: Tom Kirkbride

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

2 p.m.

Free

www.borderlands-books.com

Kirkbride reads from his latest novel *Gamadin: Word of Honor*

Monday, October 27

Authors: David Farland and Brandon Sanderson

Borderlands Books

866 Valencia

San Francisco

7 p.m.

Free

www.borderlands-books.com

Farland reads from his latest novel *The Wyrmling Horde* and Brandon Sanderson from *The Hero of Ages*.

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-Sunday, November 7-9*Bascon*

Embassy Suites San Francisco Aiport

250 Gateway Boulevard

South San Francisco

www.bascon.org

\$85

Bay Area Slash convention.

Saturday, November 8*Writers With Drinks*

The Make-Out Room

3225 Mission Street

San Francisco

Writers in Drag: writers read works they've written outside their normal genres. Austin Grossman reads fantasy, Annalee Newitz reads SF, Michelle Tea reads cyberbunk and Stephen Elliot reads something TBA. All proceeds benefit the No on 8 Campaign.

Saturday, November 15*SF in SF: Ellen Klages and Geoff Ryman*

Variety's Preview Room in the Hobart Building

582 Market St.

San Francisco

www.sfinsf.org

9 p.m.

Science Fiction in San Francisco (A Perfect Fit) stages a monthly series of readings hosted by Terry Bisson as well as monthly movie screenings. Proceeds from the events go to the Variety Children's Charity.

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.

Thursday-Monday, January 22-26*Further Confusion 2009: Surf Safari*

Doubletree Hotel

2050 Gateway Place

San Jose

www.furtherconfusion.org

\$40 until December 30th

GOHs this year are animator Jeff Pidgeon, puppeteer Anita Coulter and author Clare Bell.

Saturday-Sunday, February 14-15*AOD 2009*

Cathedral Hill Hotel

1101 Van Ness Ave

San Francisco

www.aodsf.org

\$25 until November 30

Animation on Display (AOD) is a San Francisco-based convention that celebrates the animated arts from around the world in all mediums

Details TBA

Friday, February 27-Sunday, March 1*Potlatch 18*

The Domain Hotel

Sunnyvale

www.potlatch-sf.org

\$55 until February 14

Literary convention, with panel discussions, writer's workshops, consuite. Books of Honor for 2009 are *Always Coming Home* by Ursula K. Le Guin and *Growing Up Weightless* by John M. Ford.

Friday-Sunday, April 3-5*Contact 25*

NASA Ames Research Center

Mountain View

\$175

www.contact-conference.com

Interdisciplinary gathering of scientists, artists and writers. Details TBA.

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.

Tuesdays

MGI Boffers & Outdoor Games
Codornices Park
1201 Euclid Ave
Berkeley
mgisciaf.angelfire.com
groups.yahoo.com/group/MGIFamilyclub/
Free
1:30-5:30 p.m.

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.

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.

East Bay Steampunk
Various locations (see website for details)
www.steamfaire.com
6 p.m.–8 p.m.
Free
Steampunk fans meet up on the third Friday of the month

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 September 14th will be The Lathe of Heaven by Ursula K. Le Guin. 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.

MGI Family Board Game Night
Its Your Move
4920 Telegraph Ave
Oakland
mgisciaf.angelfire.com
groups.yahoo.com/group/MGIFamilyclub/
Free
5 p.m-8:30 p.m
Every 3rd & 4th Fridays

Micro Gods, Inc.
Berkeley Public Library, West Branch
1125 University Ave

Berkeley
mgisciaf.angelfire.com
groups.yahoo.com/group/MGIFamilyClub/
Free
2:30 p.m-5:30 p.m
Family Club for fans of Science Fiction, Fantasy,
Movie, Anime & Manga. Meets every 3rd Saturday,
please check Yahoo group for updates.

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.

Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club
Borderlands Books
866 Valencia
San Francisco
6:00 p.m.
Free
The book for September 21st will be *Little Brother*
by Cory Doctorow. The 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. The next meetup is
September 6th at Harry's Hofbrau in San Jose.

South Bay Steampunk
Various locations (see website for details)
www.steamfaire.com
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Free
Steampunk fans meet up on the second Thursday 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.usndefiance.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.