

Science Fiction/San Francisco

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Water Dragons

by Lucy Huntzinger

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Art Credits

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News and Notes

By Christopher J. Garcia
Editor

Another name is carved into the table of TAFF winners. Steve Green, who you may have read in zines like *The Drink Tank*, won a solid victory over Mr. Tom Womack last week to become the latest European TAFF winner. He'll replace Bridget Bradshaw as the TAFF administrator out there. Steve's a good guy and his early itinerary includes a stop in the BArea. I'm hoping it's over a weekend so I can get him to meet folks in the city on a Friday. Who knows what'll happen, but you can read about it here when I know!

BayCon is coming up and there's a lot of talk. If you only go to one Masquerade this Memorial Day, make it the BayCon Masquerade. There's the traditional costumes, which are always fantastic (and I think The Lovely and Talented Linda's going to be in it) but there's also going to be a radio drama! That's right, the Raven Players are going to be re-enacting *The War of the Worlds*! It will be awesome!

Also, be sure to stop by the Fanzine Lounge to experience the Scarf, to chat with the *SF/SF* team and friends, and to perhaps put some words on the scroll with the IBM Selectric II typewriter and the long roll of paper I've

secured to create a long scroll which will be read on Sunday night! It's gonna be fun.

Also, I'm hoping that Tim Kirk will stop by and we'll get to chat with him. He's the artist



guest of honor, a Disney Imagineer, a designer of museums and such, and he happened to have won a few Hugos for Best Fan Artist. In fact, he held the record for the most wins until Mr. Brad Foster broke that record last year.

Since Eastercon, where Mr. Bill Burns, along with his wife Mary, was the Fan Guest of Honor, there's been a flood of zines out of the UK on efanzines.com. Also, along with *Journey Planet* issue 3, edited by James Bacon, me, Claire Brialey and Pete Young, there were a

pair of *Drink Tanks* and an *SF/SF*. That's a lot of me on the site, isn't it?

There's a new issue of Nic Farey's *This Here*. It's a fun perzine with a really nice lettercol. Apparently, I upset the world order by noting that Claire would be a member of the UK's Powerpuff Grrls. I think I may need to get myself a bullet-proof vest and walk with a mirror in my hand. It's also got a good look at current wrestling. I love when fans talk about wrestling.

There's a new zine out from James Shields, a fine dude I met on my TAFF trip. He's doing a zine called *Brick Fix*, and it's dedicated to Lego. It's a great zine, lots of good stuff, and I've got to start to think of writing something for the next issue. I love Lego!

John Neilsen-Hall, that English master of awesome, has sent out another *Motorway Dreamer*. It's a fine zine and I'm always a fan of it. I don't think I managed to comment on the last one, but I read it not that long ago in one of the Fanzine Lounges. I wish I had the chance to meet him when I was out there.

John Coxon. Man, I like that guy. He's awesome and he put out an issue of *Procrastinations*. I haven't read it yet, but I'm so very excited because he always does good stuff and he can't even legally

images courtesy of eFanzines.com

drink in the US! I'm hoping that John will get another out for Worldcon. John also put up the newsletters that he edited for Eastercon. Jim Mowatt did a daily zine at LX called *Lost in Space*, which was also really good stuff.

The last *Vegas Fandom Weekly* is out and it's both sad and great. A large hunk is Arnie Katz looking at every issue of *VFW*. I loved that zine, I had a fair amount of writing appear in it and I was name-checked quite a bit. I'd say that it had a big part to play in my winning TAFF. I'll miss it. I've already been missing it since Arnie took it off of a weekly sched.

The Montreal Worldcon is comin' up fast and that means that Reno will probably be named the site for the 2011 Worldcon. That's practically a BArea Worldcon and it should be good stuff. I'm excited already because it also

means that I can probably wrangle a couple of days in Tahoe before the con and there's nowhere I love more than Lake Tahoe!

Journey Planet's looking for some words about...science fiction. If you've got a sercon streak in ya or have something about science fiction to say, send journeyplanet@gmail.com a note.

The latest *File 770* has a bit by Taral Wayne about the past winners of the Rotsler Award. It's a fine collection of pieces and he talks about fan artists who should be considered in the future. As this is probably my favorite award, I've got opinions on that too, including the fact that Dan Steffan should be on the shortest list possible to get him that recognition, as should D West out in the UK, Tim Kirk and Alicia Austin. There are a lot of names who are

no longer with us, including Joe Mayhew, Ian Gunn and Lee Hoffman, who should also be considered, though I understand they don't like giving the award posthumously.

Fandom 2.0, a social networking sort-of site, has opened its doors and a fair number of BAreaites are on it, including myself. You can find it at fandom2.ning.com. It's good stuff, with some high-level talk about how to incorporate Web 2.0 (which I call Dos Web!) into cons and fandom and such.

I'm addicted to the MySpace app Mobsters. That has nothing to do with news, but I wanted to come clean to y'all. First Step: admitting you're powerless over your addiction.



Kate Kenyon

Letters of Comment

Let us Begin the Beguine with The Honorable Lloyd Penney!

Dear Chris and Jean and España and David and Tom:

Thanks to all of you for another stellar issue of *SF/SF*, issue 84 this time. Hard to believe you've gotten to such numbers. Not only is it a fun zine to read, but it's also very useful to just about anyone who reads it. Aces in my books, folks. I've tried to do Toronto fandom directories in the far past, and all I got for my trouble was open doubts if I could do the job, or who is this guy, anyway? I hope your reception over the years has been much more positive.

Chris Garcia responds: Aw, you made me blush! I recently purchased the Directory of Fandom from 1983. It was really cool, especially since several BASFAns were still living in the same addresses that were published back then!

Journey Planet 3 came out fairly quickly, Chris...was there a reason why you didn't think it would see light for some time? I want to see lots of pictures from SteamCon in Seattle. Did you get the pictures of us in our steamy costumes?

I figured since Bill was Fan GoH at Eastercon, he'd be out of commission. Also, the issue was really big (7M I think) and we were having trouble making it smaller. Got the photos and they're awesome!

As said in *eI*, Mack Reynolds is a well-known name from the past. He wrote what is considered the first of hundreds of *Star Trek* novels, a young adult hardcover novel called *Mission to Horatius*, published by Whitman Books. This is but a footnote to lots of fine SF novels published in the 60s and 70s.

I think my Dad had it, because he had a ton of them. My mom's favorite fly-off-the-handle move when they got in a big fight was to either break an 8-track from his truck or rip up one of his Star Trek books. Then they'd go to me!

We can only go by what we know and have read; so many fanzines are unavailable to us. Some are being scanned so that we can read them, true, but so many others are snapped up into private collections, and are often never seen again. Rather than shame us, teach and illustrate, and we will all be more educated for it.

There are getting to be fewer and fewer that aren't available for many. The Eaton, McGill, Iowa, they all allow access to their collections, but there are some folks who have huge collections that may have a great many one of a kinds. These are more likely to go to a collecting group, which is a good thing.

I rarely use my phone as well, Jean; I see some people with their phones almost surgically attached to their faces, but I carry

mine as a just-in-case. It has come in very handy in the past, but Yvonne and I discuss balancing the merits and disadvantages of a cellphone. We've almost gotten rid of them a couple of times. If Twitter is phone-based, I can only imagine the phone bill at the end of the month. Jean, I sent two photos of our Steampunk costumes to Chris; hope you get to see them. We did have a great time at Ad Astra, so much that even after retiring a few years ago



from the committee, we plan to return and help out.

That's exactly what I use my phone for. I'm not a great communicator in the best of times, but with the phone, I'm at my worst. And I think you can see that we all saw the photo!

It's easy to complain about any set of awards, especially when the final results do not reflect your own opinions about who should have won what. The main thing is to participate, and we all make the final decision. I know there are people who want to see the Fan Hugos done away with, and some of these folks have won at least one in their lifetimes. I am not sure I understand, but I do know that the Fan Hugos have history on their side. The FAAn Awards are great, and I look at them as a Fan Nebula, given to you by your peers. In many ways, we have gone headlong into the future we read about; did anyone ever think we'd be here in that SFnal year 2009? Did we think there'd be a Worldcon in this time? We must change with the calendar, or simply shut down the Worldcon as an anachronism. (There, that ought to get some discussion going...)

The FAAn awards aren't the Fan Nebulas...I have respect for the FAAn Awards! Well, Ben Yalow doesn't think that the Worldcons will last another 30 years, and who knows. If Westercon dies, and it could happen, then there'd be a fine precedent of a major touring con going under. To date, that hasn't really happened.

In Toronto, *Doctor Who* fandom is represented by DWIN, the Doctor Who

Information Network, one of the oldest Whoclubs in the world. Coming up on June 13 is Who Party 14, an occasional Whocon, usually with writer guests. I am not a Whofan, and probably won't attend, but with the resurgence of the Doctor, no matter who plays him, Whofandom is busy and pleased to have new episodes to enjoy. Jean, if you hadn't captioned that photograph on page 10, I wouldn't have known that was Colin Baker. As Time Lords must know, time affects some more than others. (I see the name Toby Hadoke on page 16, he's one of Who Party 14's guests.)

I gotta make it to a Legion of Rassilon meeting again one of these days. Whofandom is a long-standing and fun bunch, and with all the spin-offs and tie-ins, it'll only get stronger. My only worry is, what happens after the final regeneration?

Plokta's always been one of my favorite fanzines, mainly because of their sense of humour, and nothing is serious here. Extremely British, and extremely silly. I'm lucky to be Canadian, and stuck in between the British and American zines, and being of Scottish extraction myself; I get all the jokes. I have glasses at home with the Guinness toucan on them; Yvonne worked for Diageo Canada for a year or so. (Diageo owns and produces lovely stuff like Guinness, Johnny Walker, Bailey's and more.) Also, Sue Mason is one of my favorite fan cartoonists.

I miss many of the jokes, which is always sad, but I enjoy it all the same. I really like the layout and art. Sue Mason is a fantastic artist

and I hope that I'll get to run a piece or two of hers sometime soon.

I want a report of the Starry Night of Steampunk last weekend! Lots of pictures, and I will try to return the favour. In Rochester, New York this coming November will be Astronomicon 12, which will host the First Grand Great Lakes Cotillion, Symposium and Tea Social. Should be some fun. In May is Anime North in Toronto, and we may be participating in a fashion show. Ad Astra was the site of the First Ad Astra Steampunk Fashion Show, staged by Adrienne Everitt, and she has been asked to re-stage it at Anime North. We'll be on-stage models, showing off our Steampunkish fineries.

Awesome! Sounds like good stuff and with those outfits, I'm sure you'll be an absolute smash!

It is late in the afternoon here, and I have to think of dinner and going to work tonight... Yvonne starts a new job in a week! Yay! It's with Masonite Doors, and in this horrible economic climate, we are both relieved. Off this goes to you and my LJ, and you all have a great weekend.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

Thanks much, Lloyd!

Editorial

By Jean Martin

Editor

Truth is stranger than fiction... well, science fiction in this case.

I have been meaning to read the Hugo- and Nebula-award-winning novel *Doomsday Book* by Connie Willis for a while now. The premise is time travel to the Middle Ages, two of my favorite themes. But as I've mentioned in the past, I haven't had much time these last several years to just sit and read, and most of the time my eyes are worn out after work. Serendipitously, I espied an unabridged audiobook of the novel at my friend Cordelia's house when I went there to practice for the upcoming BayCon masquerade. (Cordelia just happens to be Connie's daughter.)

On the cover was a colorful medieval painting, much more attractive than the cover of the book, so I was quite excited. The format was cassettes, though. I often listen to audiobooks on CDs in my car. But the timing couldn't have been better as I was planning on taking a week off to unpack, organize and clean out my garage, a project I've been meaning to do for a few years. I've moved so often lately that boxes have just been moving from place to place. I have lots of costumes, media, memorabilia and housewares that need to be sorted to be used or just tossed out. And

BayCon was already coming around again, and the suitcase I brought with me to BayCon last year still remained full and untouched. Listening to an audiobook would make the task much more enjoyable. Clocking in at over 28 hours, that would be just about enough time to keep me entertained in my garage. The whole Spring cleaning project truly took almost that long!

The story was quite different from what I expected. Half of it takes place in a future-day Oxford that is quite similar to our own time. The other half is in the Oxford-Bath environs in the 14th century, during the Black Plague. There isn't much science fiction in it, other than the time travel portion. It's more of a medical history as well as an exploration of human interaction and responses to contagious diseases.

Hospitals, illnesses and doctors are not among my favorite things, but I persevered, as I do like expanding my knowledge about a variety of subjects. I thought I knew more than I'd need to know about quarantines, immunization, the CDC, researching the origin of an outbreak, isolating a particular virus, developing antivirals, etc. However, synchronicity once again played its card.

Emerging from my garage sometime mid-week to check my email, the headline on

Yahoo! News caught my eye. It said that a deadly new flu virus, the Swine Flu coming out of Mexico, has the potential to become a global pandemic.

The name is quite unappealing, unlike the much more romantic sounding but terrible Spanish Flu of 1918 that decimated millions around the world. The Spanish Flu in San Francisco was the setting for one of the best episodes of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, "Time's Arrow." That was the one where Data meets Mark Twain and Jack London. Could this horrific scenario happen again? The Spanish Flu, I mean, not Data meeting Mark Twain and Jack London.

Anything is possible. Which reminds us all of our mortality and how truly uncertain the future is, no matter how much we as humans like to create the illusion of stability and security. Also, it makes us realize that despite our intellectual superiority and accomplishments, we are part of nature. We are not the top of the food chain. We are not immune to these lethal microbes.

A flu pandemic has been predicted by the medical community for some time. But on top of everything that the world is grappling with right now, the global recession and various wars, this is an added burden to our already fearful, anxious and weary psyches.

But are we completely helpless? No. For one thing, as the *Doomsday Book* clearly illustrated, scientific and medical advances have come very, very far indeed from the Middle Ages. I have high hopes that prevention and treatment of the Swine Flu will be successful in mitigating its devastating effects.

The second lesson I learned from the novel is that when one's time is up, one's time is up. Everyone deals with the subject of death in their own way, but I think what is more important is the subject of living — how we live in the time we are given, as Gandalf says in *The Fellowship of the Ring*. We can choose whether to live a life full of love and personal fulfillment, or live in fear and in quiet desperation.

The third concept I came away with is that when things get tough, some people rise up to the challenge and are there to support other people. I don't know how I'll react when it comes to it, but I certainly admire those who have already devoted their lives to taking care of the sick. I personally try to avoid Western allopathic medicine when it comes to more common and mundane ailments and conditions, and prefer alternative and even Eastern methods. But when it comes to life-threatening diseases, the medical field is the undisputed leader. I am amazed that there are doctors and nurses who put themselves in harm's way to treat the flu victims.

One suggested way to stop the spread of the disease and not get infected is to avoid people who are sick and refrain from attending large, public gatherings. Restricting travel has also

been advised. I suppose it is smart to cut down on these things but it's impractical in the long run. As I mentioned earlier, we should not stop living just to escape dying.

I do love traveling and going to conventions, and with BayCon coming up and a possible trip to Montreal for Worldcon, this concern has come up in my mind for consideration. On the other hand, I really have naturally been wanting to just stay home more, and have been opting for activities that involve less people as opposed to big events. A couple of weekends ago, I decided to go to a cult movie marathon at a friend's house instead of going to the Gaskell Ball. I finally got to see *Escape from New York* and *Tank Girl*. Very different takes on a dystopian, post-apocalyptic world, which seems more probable in this day and age. But if there will be hot heroes like Kurt Russell and glamorous heroines like Lori Petty, all hope is not lost!

I also decided to stay home to watch the latest *Doctor Who*, "Planet of the Dead," and *Red Dwarf*, "Back to Earth," instead of going to the Legion of Rassilon meeting in San Jose. Both shows were very good and not so good in different ways. But in the end, they were both highly enjoyable and entertaining just for the mere fact that they ARE new *Doctor Who* and *Red Dwarf* episodes.

Back to *Doomsday Book*: the last piece of insight I gained is how interconnected our world has become. The Black Death slowly made its way through Europe but apparently didn't even make it to Scotland and parts of Eastern Europe. The Swine Flu has made its

way around the world in a matter of days. But as in the book, we are all in this together and we need to take care of ourselves and each other, on the personal level as well as on the global level. And it does seem to be happening that the nations are cooperating, and not imposing panic quarantines or drastic inhumane measures.

I've just finished reading a notice from Human Resources at my work (and in the news) and it says that if one is sick and possibly contagious, one should stay home. The novel kept repeating that "it's a disease... it's nobody's fault." But I think for others' sake as well as one's own, the responsible thing is to rest and not expose other people to this or any other contagious disease.

In the meantime, let's all keep doing the things that we love and be with people we love, and we'll all survive and get through this current tough phase in human history. And let it be known to future generations that we handled these crises with dignity and resilience. Maybe someone in the future will write about us like Connie Willis did in *Doomsday Book*.

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

Dreams of the City

A column by España Sheriff

Someone Comes to Town, Someone Leaves Town was one of my favorite books of the last couple of years, so I was already looking forward to reading Cory Doctorow's new Young Adult novel *Little Brother* when I saw it made the Hugo ballot, but not having paid attention to the advance press I wasn't aware that it's set in San Francisco until I actually started reading it.

The story follows Marcus Yallow, a smart-assed likeable seventeen-year-old local high-schooler with a penchant for hacking, gaming and other computer related activities, who chooses to skip out of school with some friends on what turns out to be the worst day possible and gets swept up in the Department of Homeland Security crackdown immediately following a 9/11-level terrorist attack on the Bay Area.

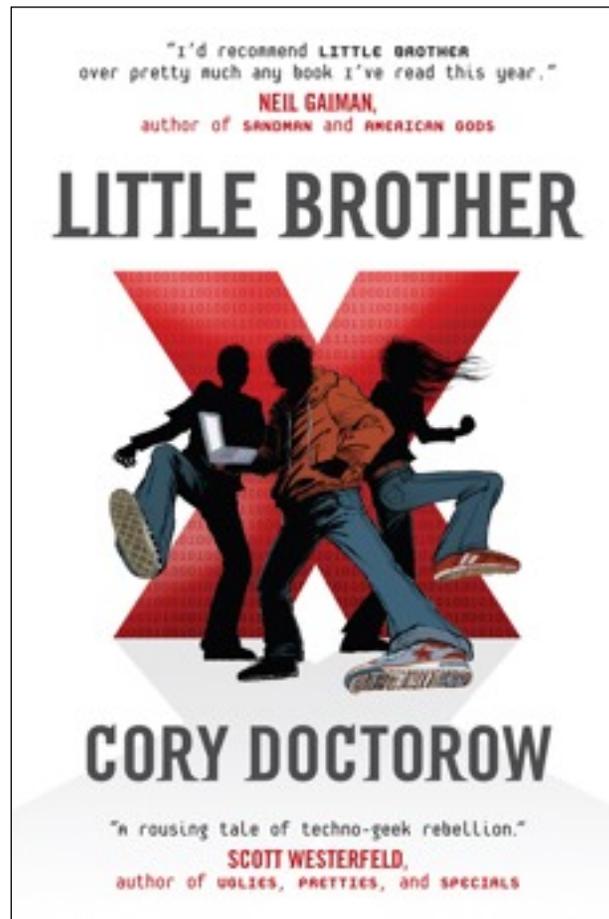
With a couple of very minor quibbles (“the” BART?), the Bay Area setting is portrayed very credibly and is well used. The story would have been different had it played out in a different geographical location. Doctorow lived here a few years back and has visited recently, and it shows, with the character of different neighborhoods and the feel of the people and places coming through quite well. The Mission is most lovingly portrayed, with several local landmarks making appearances and little nuggets of local information and history

coming into play throughout the story. The online releases of the book were all dedicated to different independent bookstores, including our very own Borderlands Books over on Valencia Street.

The story itself is a breathless ride; intelligent, fast-paced and very entertaining,

clearly written during some of the more depressing portions of the Bush tenure but with a still-vital message about the power and responsibility of the individual when the state oversteps its boundaries. It also makes a compelling argument that the issues in the book are dramatized by the attack, but that they pose a real and present problem even before it happens, which is essentially our contemporary reality. The idea of a book like this aimed at radicalizing a YA audience perked me up immensely and I found it amusing that it seemed to be more in the general spirit of Heinlein juveniles than other recent tributes to the old man: Partly a wakeup call to complacent youth (and adults), partly a love letter to the art of programming, and partly addressing the methods by which strong-arm policies by the state create enemies out of its own citizens.

The characters are all nicely rounded and realistic; the kids in particular appear to be quite intelligent but occasionally naive and with motives that range from idealistic to simple human responses such as anger, fear or exhaustion. The idealism of youth is portrayed, but so are the unintended consequences and emotional toll of Marcus's journey. Excepting the main villains of the story, which are pretty much shown as evil, there are dissenting



courtesy of Cory Doctorow

continued on page 11

This Old Fanzine: Jane's Fighting SMoFs

By Christopher J. Garcia

Editor

Bidding for cons is an art. It's an art that has been mastered by many, and has evolved over the years. Look at the League of Evil Geniuses. It was a brilliant concept and it redefined the way cons should start thinking about bidding.

I follow many of the bids that come and go, and have been a part of a couple of bids and have hoaxed a couple myself, too!

I was given a box of fanzines this week that held many SMoFish treasures, including several issues of *Jane's Fighting SMoFs: The Magazine of Convention Bidding*. I grabbed one (Number 5, Summer 1986) and found that I was fascinated by not only the contents, but the concept. Why, I wondered to myself, is no one doing this anymore? I mean, this is perfect for those folks like me who want an easy way to come to all the info that's fit to print. True, you could read *File 770* and troll the smofs mail list, but who has the patience to go through all those messages? This would be my hero zine!

The front page was the announcement that New Orleans had been chosen to host the 1988 Worldcon. This was the race with the Bermuda Triangle, or Cruise Con, bid and New Orleans managed to win. I wasn't around at that point, my Dad having dropped away from FANAC in 1984 or so. I didn't remember that Roger Sims had been Fan GoH, but in fact, he was! I like

that guy. This, of course, would be one of the most remembered Worldcons of the last thirty years due to the troubles with programming and the incredible times people had just being in New Orleans. It reminds me a bit of the Las Vegas Westercon. But this was all before anyone had any idea about what it would be like and there was a lot of enthusiasm for it.

This was obviously a newsletter and not a fanzine. The difference is subtle, but huge. There was a part called "W.H.I.F." standing for We Heard It From, where they specifically said that they didn't want to run a letter column. That's a big deal for most fanzines. The We Heard It From part was to give information that had been fed to them from their readers. The first one was a note from Don Eastlake about the need for noting that Hugo Awards and Worldcon are registered trademarks of...well, you know, or at least Kevin Standlee will tell you if ask!

There was a note from a guy I've never met named Dan Murphy, about Sacramento withdrawing its bid for the 1989 Westercon. I love looking through these old zines and finding stuff I never knew and people who were a part of the fandoms that I've been a part of more recently. The number of challenges that faced that bid sounded pretty nuts. It's always somewhat disappointing to hear about a bid

folding early. We've seen a couple of those in recent months. It's never fun.

There was a Focus on Facilities that had a mention of Michael Siladi and a planned Worldcon bid for San Francisco in 1989 (and the New York bid for the same year). I kinda remember hearing Michael talk about that at one point, but I certainly don't remember hearing anything about a 1990 NASFiC bid for the Santa Clara Convention Center.

The talk about the various considerations and how to make sure you get a shot at it is a good one, even today, but the best part was Six Questions to Ask Before Bidding for a Worldcon. The six rules are really smart: Do you know what you're getting into, how many of the regulars are willing to help, do you have real facilities, are there at least 2000 committable hotel rooms, can your group afford a deposit, and do you have a lawyer? Those questions are never going to change.

There's a great explanation about what happened to the New York in 1989 bid. There hasn't been a major push for a New York City bid in ages, and I'm going to announce mine: NYC in 2039: The 100th Anniversary of the First Worldcon.

The Bids-at-a-Glance section is a table with all the bids for the biddable cons listed. It's a

continued on page 11

Star Trek: *The Prequel Problem*

By Al “Rackstraw” Megas

Contributing Writer

It began with *The Phantom Menace*.

After over twenty years of waiting, the long-awaited Episode I of the most famous science fiction movie series ever was released. In the opinions of most fans, it didn't live up to expectations.

However, it seemed to start a trend. The *Hannibal* series did an adaptation of its first book, *Red Dragon*, and later an even earlier prequel, *Hannibal Rising*, was written. James Bond rebooted with *Casino Royale*, scrapping twenty years of the character's convoluted movie history. The Nolan-directed *Batman* films wowed audiences but bore strikingly little resemblance to their comic book inspirations.

And what about *Star Trek*? Rick Berman and company jumped on the prequel bandwagon by creating *Enterprise*. Somehow they squeezed in this early story of a ship and captain no one in the Trek universe had ever mentioned before. The series most definitely had its moments, yet fans didn't seem all that interested. It was the first time since the original that a Trek show failed to reach the seven-season mark.

So the question on everyone's mind now is: How will the franchise fare now that Trek is in for a new kind of do-over? The new film *Star Trek* (no subtitle) is at once a sequel, prequel,

and a reboot to the existing Trek media. It's the story of young James Kirk and crew on an early adventure as affected by time travelers from the post-NextGen era.

The story could potentially invalidate any and every episode or movie thus far. However, instead of blaming writers that make no excuses for liberties taken, audiences will be able to trust the premise. Time travel has caused these changes in continuity. The story will be at once a complete rewrite of *Star Trek* history, yet perfectly canon.

I felt like quite the cynic in recent years for not liking fan favorites such as *Transformers* or *Dark Knight*. When I first heard that *Star Trek* was getting rewritten from the era of Kirk's youth, I felt considerable trepidation. (This feeling is still harbored by many who would have preferred to see *Deep Space Nine* or *Voyager* movies.) However, the more I've learned about the upcoming *Star Trek*, the more enthused I get. The film's creators seem to be paying the utmost respect to *Star Trek* standards and it's got the stamp of approval from Leonard Nimoy himself.

Will *Star Trek* be a much needed win for the grand, old franchise? I, for one, am cautiously expecting perfection!

Here's what other Bay Area Trek fans are expecting from the new *Star Trek* feature.

“Upon viewing the trailers, my expectation is for this Trek to be the resurrection of the franchise. Anything short of this will be devastating.”

-Todd Oliver

Favorite Series: NextGen

“Good, bad, or mediocre, I will continue to support the franchise. It is what I have done all my life, and I benefited by the experience. Why change now?”

-Rick Day

Favorite Half-Alien: Mister Spock

“The trailers look pretty damn good. I hope Uhura will have a larger part than in the original series, though.”

-Lis Scarpace

Favorite Captain: Picard

“Everything I've seen of the new movie preview-wise makes me roll my eyes to the point of pain. Trek aside, I'm very picky about my sci fi movies, and it seems to be catering to the lowest common denominator on every possible front. I'll still probably see the film, because it is Trek. But I'm really only doing it because I'm a masochist. I'm not a *Lost* fan, as well (I find the writing and directing to be sloppy and hamfisted), so I doubt that seeing the film will change my mind. However, if for

Star Trek: The Prequel Problem

some reason I see it and it's amazing, I will happily eat my words.”

-Sarah Donovan

Favorite Automaton: Mister Data

“I've never seen Star Trek but I'm anticipating this one because I love Zachary Quinto on *Heroes*.”

-Brittany Heideman

Favorite Ship: The Original *Enterprise*

“It's going to be too different from other Trek to judge by the same standards.”

-Jean Batt

Favorite Alien: Odo

“I'm also cautiously expecting perfection!”

-Jason Brand

Favorite *Enterprise*: NCC-1701-E
(*Sovereign Class*)

Dreams of the City

opinions from the secondary characters which are generally showed as understandable if incorrect from the protagonist's perspective. Meanwhile, the actions taken by the enforcers of order might have made me skeptical only a few years ago, but seem chillingly familiar and maybe even tame after having watched footage of the police crackdown on May Day immigration reform gatherings in Los Angeles in 2007.

Doctorow is of course a well-known geek, technology activist and creative commons advocate, and the book is pretty much a manifesto for all these things — but a terribly entertaining and compelling one, and as I agree with most everything in it, you won't find me complaining much. Putting some of these ideals into practice, the book was originally released online under a Creative Commons License and you can check out the various trailers, art and other remixes which readers have created over on Doctorow's website, Craphound.

The technology and software used in the book is mostly currently in use, although it's clearly supposed to be set twenty minutes into the future, with the “Xbox Unlimited” having been released shortly before the book is set and some other not-quite-real-yet technologies being mentioned. Doctorow takes the time to educate the reader on some of the history of hacking and cryptography, and at the end of the book he turns things over to Bruce Schneier to encourage those who were interested in the subject matter to explore it further.

This Old Fanzine: Jane's Fighting SMOFs

great thing because it shows all the details and makes it possible to draw comparisons between the bids and to find the possible reasons they failed or succeeded. This is a fun one. I have to remember to study all the issues in the box fully to absorb their tabled goodness. Lloyd Penney, ever the LoCster, even replied that he thought Bids-at-a-Glance was a good thing. Lloyd and I think alike!

There's a great little piece about bids that start as hoaxes and turn real. There's a strong point that the Minneapolis in '73 bid was the greatest hoax ever! I totally agree. There's talk about the Bermuda Triangle bid which went both ways. It's an interesting case of fun turning into weird fun turning into serious fun!

The zine is slightly out of kilter. There's a lot of “continued on page...” and that leads to some weirdness in getting into it. The information is golden, simply presented, and thorough, but it's done as a newsletter — which is OK, but if there had been a fanzinista at the helm, it would have been even better presented.

Peter Beagle's Birthday Party

Story and Photos by Kathe Gust
Contributing Writer

Duplicating the party he held last year in New York during the annual SFWA Awards, Peter Beagle invited all his Bay Area fans to celebrate his birthday with him.

Golden Gate Park was the venue for Peter Beagle's early birthday party on April 19th. The day was perfectly delightful; warm enough to leave the coats at home and cool enough to enjoy the sunshine. The dozens of fans who turned out for the potluck affair also brought kids and dogs to join what turned out to be a big "family" party. Vintage Baseball teams playing at the Big Rec Baseball Fields nearby

provided fun viewing for sports fans in the group.

Beagle, the Hugo and Nebula Award-winning author of *Two Hearts* and other sci-fi/fantasy novels, was at the center of a literary circle that talked about writing books, telling stories, the meaning of words, his recent book tour through Texas, and life events. He also collected quite a pile of presents!

As usual, Peter was delighted to see his fans — taking and posing in photos and signing books and DVDs of the animated film *The Last Unicorn*. He also announced the completion of two upcoming novels, and hints were dropped about the mysterious 52-50 Project which launched on Peter's actual 70th birthday, Monday, April 20th.

Fellow author Deborah Grabien, who gave him a complete set of her wonderful "Haunted Ballad" series books, came in for her own share of



conversation about the early bay area rock 'n' roll scene which is the setting of her current novels, and her writing routine. She discussed "drabbling" as a cure for writer's block for a new novelist who was "stuck on chapter seven."

Those who missed the party will be able to catch Peter in May at BayCon and other bay area events listed on his website or in his monthly e-mail newsletter. You can find them at the Conlan Press website: www.conlanpress.com

Star-Struck at WonderCon

By Jean Martin
Editor

WonderCon is usually the start of the con-going year for me, but this time, it came in second. I went to Gallifrey One, the annual *Doctor Who* convention earlier that same month on President's Day weekend. I was still tired and recovering from the Gallifrey flu (no, you don't get it from a Time Lord) so I wasn't sure if I was even going to be able to go to WonderCon, which was held from February 27 through March 1 this year.

I was feeling better a few days before WonderCon, but was still not too excited about going. WonderCon has become bigger and bigger each year. And even though I have fun when I do go, it also takes a toll on me, and it's expensive to get a hotel room and park to boot.

I was seriously considering not going until I found out that Mark Hamill, (Luke Skywalker from *Star Wars*, in case anyone has been living on a deserted island these last 30 years or so), was going to be there and signing autographs. Mark was my very first and most memorable childhood idol and I just had to go and meet him, especially since he rarely makes public appearances (a friend at work joked that the recession has hit Mark hard and he needs the money), and also because I missed seeing him play the *Elephant Man* in 1978 (because my

parents said it would just be too weird for a child).

Then I realized other stars were going to be there too, I think more than there have been in the past few years since I started going. As I've mentioned in the past, I have mixed feelings about meeting celebrities and getting their autographs. But the little girl with stars in her eyes in me won out. Whatever Mark's reason for being at WonderCon, I was glad that I had the wherewithal and the opportunity to meet him.

So I decided to go for just one day and only went on Saturday, February 28. I skipped Friday because I had to work during the day, and the con was only really a half-day on Friday. And Sunday was "TV day," and I tend not to watch too many TV shows anymore. So Saturday, "movie day," was perfect for me.

I got to Moscone Center and walked into the Dealer Hall and immediately ran into Browncoat friends. It's amazing how, in a huge venue with thousands of people, one can run into friends almost immediately.

But I excused myself quickly as I wanted to check out the autograph lines for Mark Hamill as well as Carrie Fisher. I was told that I had to buy tickets to get their autographs so I went to the counter to buy them. If I had known how much they cost beforehand, I might not have done it, but I was already paying when I found



Bumblebee from the Transformers

by Thad Gann

out it was \$100 for Mark and \$30 for Carrie. I'm not sure why there was a huge discrepancy between the two, but that made the line for Mark quite short and the one for Carrie extremely long.

So I waited in line for Mark, who wasn't there at the moment. As I waited, several people in *Star Wars* costumes (Chris, Richard and Tom) who were guarding the front of the lines said, "Hi, Jean!" Which was so funny when I realized who they were. And it was great because I felt like people knew who I was in this sea of humanity. I wasn't just an anonymous fish swimming along by myself.

Mark finally arrived, and when it was my turn, he messed up my name on the photo I purchased (I have no idea why people do this all the time since my name is so simple!). The photo shows the medal ceremony scene at the end of *Star Wars*, which holds special significance for me because I costumed as that particular Princess Leia for the Best in Show-winning "L-11" routine at BayCon in 2007. Mark had someone go grab another one from the photo table. So I chatted with him while we waited, and made the \$100 I paid go a long way. I was surprised that Mark wasn't at all what I expected him to be like. He was quite gruff and flirty, making brash jokes as I had my photo taken with him. He was not the sweet and innocent Luke Skywalker I knew and loved as a little girl. Not exactly surprising or disappointing, just surreal.

Mission accomplished, I finally could relax a bit. I decided to wait for Carrie Fisher's line to die down a bit, so I went to see who else was there.

Adam Baldwin (Jayne from *Firefly/Serenity*), who is so much more handsome (and taller!) in person, was at a table signing autographs and I ran into Louise, Thad and



Jean with Mark Hamill

by Jean Martin

other Browncoats who were there to see him as well.

Across the aisle was Adam West from the 1960s *Batman* series, one of my favorite TV shows when I was a kid. He was charging \$50 for autographs, which I would have been willing to pay had I not spent so much already on Mark and Carrie. I couldn't justify spending more money for autographs and I didn't have enough cash on me either. It was good enough for me just to see him in person.

Ray Park was on the same aisle. Ray who, you might ask? Well, it was quite interesting to

me that I knew who he was even though I didn't see his name anywhere. He's in full makeup as Darth Maul in one of the *Star Wars* prequels (the ones that don't exist). Louise recently said to me too how strange it is that we all know what he looks like in real life. That must be one true test of being a geek. Ray is quite a handsome gentleman and it's such a shame that you can't see that on screen. He also played Toad in the first *X-Men* movie.

I had met half-Filipina BarBara Luna (Marlena Moreau in the *Star Trek* episode "Mirror, Mirror") a few times before, but I had



Elijah Wood at 9 Panel by Jean Martin

to tell her that I just saw her recently in an early B&W episode of *Wild Wild West* doing a fabulous flamenco dance in a saloon. Richard Kiel was also in another episode. Richard played Jaws in the Roger Moore James Bond movies.

It was great to see Erin Gray from *Buck Rogers in the 25th Century*, another of my favorite childhood TV shows. I just watched the pilot episodes again after last seeing them decades ago! She is still beautiful and quite elegant.

That day, I was armed with my newish Canon Rebel XT, my first DSLR (I had a film SLR when I used to take photos at heavy metal concerts for *Nocturne Magazine*, my music zine from the early 1990s). The mechanics of the camera were familiar, but it's been a long time since I've used an SLR so I took a one-night class at the College of San Mateo beforehand. I usually don't like bringing an expensive camera

with me if I will be dancing and/or performing because I don't want to leave it somewhere where it could get broken or stolen. Or I could come out with terrible photos that my reliable and easy to use point-and-shoot would have done a better job of. But WonderCon, I thought, would be a good place to practice as I was not costuming or performing, and there were lots of other photographers I could get photos from just in case.

I did quite well and got fantastic photos of Elijah Wood (Frodo from *Lord of the Rings*, again, for recent island dwellers) at the 9 panel. 9 is Tim Burton's latest CGI film. I didn't get to meet Elijah, unfortunately, but enjoyed gazing at his big blue Frodo eyes. The only other main LOTR cast member I've seen is Karl Urban, and that was at WonderCon a few years ago. I did meet Bruce Hopkins (Gamling) in New Zealand, but he didn't have major billing.

Speaking of Karl Urban, Karl has the role of Dr. McCoy in the upcoming *Star Trek* movie. He wasn't there for the *Star Trek* panel, which I couldn't get into anyway because the line was so long, even with a press pass! But I managed to get into the big hall, which is way too small for the growing number of attendees, at the end of the panel when they were all saying goodbye. I caught a glimpse of producer J.J. Abrams, Chris Pine (Kirk), Zoe Saldana (Uhura) and Zachary Quinto (Spock). I had seen and met John Cho (Sulu) last year at WonderCon, and then I saw Anton Yelchin (Chekov) at the *Terminator: Salvation* panel later that afternoon. Anton, a young Russian actor, seems to have nabbed a couple of major

roles in blockbuster franchise movies one after another. I wonder how these things happen when someone comes seemingly out of nowhere and gets big roles right away. Anyway, other than Simon Pegg (Scotty), who I think is super-talented and hilarious, I've seen all the new *Star Trek* crew in person.

The *Terminator: Salvation* panel had director McG, Anton, and the beautiful Eurasian Moon Bloodgood (who starred with Kevin McKidd in the San Francisco-based time travel series *Journeyman* and with Karl Urban in the Viking/American Indian adventure *Pathfinder*). I didn't stay long after I figured out that Christian Bale was not going to show



Chris Pine at Star Trek Panel by Jean Martin



Felicia Day at Browncoat Booth by Thad Gann

up. The chances were slim but I was hoping he would be there. I did witness McG trying to call Christian on his cell phone. The question on everyone's mind about this movie is, will Christian resurrect the *Terminator* franchise like he did *Batman*? We shall see. Bryce Dallas Howard, Ron Howard's daughter, was also on the panel. I just recently discovered this talented red-haired actress in a Kenneth Branagh Shakespeare movie, no less. But she seemed low key at this convention.

Then finally, as I always save the best for last, I dropped by the Browncoat table where I saw my friend Kim. Felicia Day from *Dr. Horrible* was at the colorfully decorated and very well-organized booth. I didn't get her autograph but I said hello and thanked her for accepting my Facebook friend request. I don't usually friend people I don't know, but several friends were friends with her, and she keep popping up in my friend recommendation section, so I sent her a request. She was very pretty and sweet.

After all the celebrities and panels, I was tired and hungry, so I went to the View lounge at the top of the San Francisco Marriott to go to Raven's yearly birthday party for herself and other Pisceans (which includes myself). Raven was wearing a Dallas Cowboys cheerleader costume as she just recently relocated there for work. She also generously had two cakes, one for herself and one for the other celebrants. Several of my friends from the Black Fleet Star Pirates' Guild were there, and it was a fun time. Stephanie and I reminisced on past WonderCons and we both agreed that seeing Gerard Butler at the *300* panel three years ago was one of our most memorable highlights. After some food and drinks, I realized I was exhausted and was starting to get a migraine.

I was hoping to go to the masquerade afterwards to support several friends who had entries. I'd already seen Bryan and Mette's *World of Warcraft* routine at Costume-Con last year, but I hadn't seen and was looking forward to Cordelia, Nina, Kelly, Angie and Carolyn's *Star Trek* song and dance number. But it wasn't



Silk Spectre and Rorschach from *Watchmen*
by Thad Gann

meant to be. I headed home, after paying a very expensive parking fee, contented with the jam-packed and amazing experiences of the day, full of stars and friends and more WonderCon experiences to savor until next year.

Food, Friends and Fun at Browncoat Meetup

By Jean Martin

Editor

Every year after WonderCon, the San Francisco Browncoats and the Silicon Gulch Browncoats organize a joint meetup. This one is held in between the two groups' usual meeting places, which works well for me since I live on the Peninsula.

This year, it was at Little India in Redwood City. I'd never been there and I think it's always great to try new Indian places as I love Indian food, especially buffets. My favorite one is the Bombay Garden in Santa Clara. At Little India, there was an all-you-can-eat buffet with lots of variety and many vegetarian items. There were great desserts too.

The place was reserved entirely for us and it was half-packed when I walked in shortly after noon. It became full a little later.

There were mostly regulars in attendance, but it was nice to see a smattering of new people. I was at a table with Thad, Chris and a new Browncoat, Mary. After indulging in the delicious food, I took photos at each table and mingled with everyone.

Close to 2:00 p.m., we all posed for a group photo, and then Arielle and Kim, two of the organizers and officers of the California Browncoats, the umbrella non-profit organization for all the Browncoat groups in California, thanked everyone for coming. They



also handed out goodie bags for those who helped out at the Browncoat booth at WonderCon.

Most people left soon after 2:00, and I thought that two hours was quite short for a Browncoat meetup, but several people had

other plans. But I was happy I was even able to make it to an official Browncoat afternoon meetup, which I rarely get to go to. I scampered off to hang out in Redwood City after enjoying great food and wonderful company.



Ammy and Thad



Ido, Kim, Brian, Mary and Arielle

BASFA Minutes: Meetings 976-978

Meeting 976

April 13, 2009

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

Began at 8-ish

18 people attended

A TAFF jar was established

Secretary's report: we dispensed with the minutes - waving hands at them

The Treasurer was late and did not give a report when he did arrive

The Vice president showed us the as-yet unpublished *Journey Planet 3* - that has within it work by Alan Moore and that there is a new *Drink Tank* out - & he's been instigating things

The President had nothing fannish to report

Announcements

Ken announced that this Saturday is the KFJC's Psychotronic Film Festival at De Anza College, doors open at 6pm

Reviews

Norwescon was reviewed - [tall] Kevin 1st presented a present to [evil] Kevin and Andy = a Thirst Aid Kit from Lisa - and said Norwescon was the most energetic he's seen it be for years, lots of people wore costumes, he enjoyed doing the Match Game & it went well - and included a proposal - tho it strained his voice - mostly worth attending; then Dave G follow-on'd that he spent most of his time there behind a dealer's table but found the con generally enjoyable and had diverse programming

Chris reviewed *Dollhouse* as a show without plot development, stuff happened on Saturday, then on Sunday he saw *Twilight* - found it perfect and enjoyed every frame

Adrienne reviewed Thursday night TV programming as she watched *Harper's Island* and she was glad it was on TV because it kept the gore level down - and will try seeing it again next week

Andy reviewed what he's seen of the new Red Dwarf series as it seems to be very Red Dwarf like - fun but not great TV

Joni reviewed *Some Girls Bite* as some books bite, too

Trey reviewed *Knowing* as it may be underrated, as interesting but not compelling and thought it worth full price because it made him

think - and therefore it will be a commercial catastrophe

We did auctions: anime DVDs for \$6.00, soaps for \$1.00, CDs for \$2.00, toys for \$2.00; cupcakes for \$1.00, cookies and a pin for \$0.25 & cookies and books for \$0.25

We adjourned at = 9:18

And the rumor of the week was: *Ninjas 0, Pirates 0, Seals 3*

Meeting 977

April 20, 2009

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

Began at 8-ish - with a beat

25 people attended

A party jar was established AND a TAFF jar was established

Secretary's report: we accepted the minutes of meeting 976 as "Oooo yummy, thank you!"

The Treasurer reported that we took in \$10.00 in the regular jar last week

The Vice president says there's a new *Drink Tank* out that talks about SMOF-racing, there's a SF/SF out too & there's a new TAFF winner: Steve Green

The President had nothing fannish to report

Announcements

Chris announced that there's an Eaton conference coming up in 2 weeks and he'll be there and JG Ballard died

Ken announced that this Friday is the Legion of Rassilon meeting at 1st and Trimble at 7:30 pm.

Adrienne announced that Bay Area Ghost Hunters will have a book signing at the Old Spaghetti Factory on May 2, noon for David Lee's book *Ghosts of San Jose*

Lisa announced that SJ in 2011 is the only bid on the Westercon ballot

Andy announced that Costume Con 27 is in Maryland in 2 weeks and the Anticipation Hugo voter's assortment is now available for download

I announced that the cheesecake was -fresh-

Reviews

[evil] Kevin reviewed the Cafe Press Costume Con 26 embroidered shirt as made with infinistich and worth full price and reviewed Spin Currents 09 - organized with Stanford - as 75 attended, which is really good and that all were favorably impressed and it was worth full price

Dave C reviewed Norwescon as he got a

speeding ticket getting there at a speed trap [there were follow-ons about such like]

Stellen reviewed last week's CSI - set at a sf con - as *Galaxy Quest* was way better, it was silly and he wishes normal sf cons were that exciting [lots of follow-ons]

Chris reviewed his weekend as he spent much of it watching *Twilight* - reviewed *Observe and Report* as the most mediocre script he's ever seen, spent time practicing his brooding, ate waffles at Ole's, saw Scandinavian movies - including *Let the Right One In* which was a very quiet vampire flick and worth going to Sweden to see - then went back home and watched *Twilight* some more; the follow-on's included Dave C's recommendation of Ole's Waffle House

Fred reviewed *Shall we Kiss* [a French romantic comedy] as it was kind of interesting and enjoyable - worth full price

Lisa reviewed Norwescon as the con was good size, with great costumes - quite a good convention - that they took the monorail to the sf museum and it and the museum were great fun and worth visiting

Mo - was tired - but reviewed the Psychotronic Film Festival was fun and she won in the raffle, it was worth full price; Dave C follow-on'd that he also won the single BEST thing in the raffle ever - *Sons of Kong* and Ken had heat exhaustion and didn't enjoy it as much as he could - and had his 1st ever interview today

Carole reviewed *Duplicity* as Julia Roberts frightened her and reviewed a fashion show in the valley as nice, she had a good time and also

won a raffle [her 1st]

Glenn reviewed Hula's Island Grill in Santa Cruz as really good and the Bay Area's radio is better than LA's

[evil] Kevin also announced that Jon DeCles has just published *Storm Wars* - go check www.piswyck.com

Bill reviewed repelling termites as it took lots of prep time, including boxing the kitties and now they are unpacking again

We did auctions: anime DVDs for \$7.00, magazine and a slinky for \$1.00, a basket of stuff for \$0.25; CDs for \$0.25, \$0.25; cows and stuff for \$1.00; a box of magazines for \$0.50, a fandom book and fan for \$0.27; a floppy and record for \$0.50; Valentines and stickers for \$0.50; stickers for \$0.10; conbooks for \$0.25; magazines for \$0.25, various stuff for \$2.00 & a bag of books for \$19.00

We adjourned at = 9:47

And the rumor of the week was: *50 cents for Barbara*

Meeting 978

April 27, 2009

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

Began after 8

23 people attended

A party jar was established

Secretary's report: we accepted the minutes of meeting 977 as "accepted"

The Treasurer was at the Giants game

The Vice president says there's a new *Drink Tank* out now - then another new *Drink Tank* out soon - stuff's happening - and it's been 3 days since he last saw *Twilight*

The President had nothing fannish to report

The voices in my head had nothing to report

Announcements

Chris announced that Bea Arthur died

Ken and Geri announced that Frankie Manning died

Mo announced that *Spook fest* will be at their place this Friday at 8pm and show *El Santo vs the Martians* and *El Santo and the Blue Demon vs Frankenstein*

Reviews

I reviewed *Dragonball Evolution* as surprisingly not sucky - it was fun to watch and worth full price; Trey follow-on'd that it was mindless eye candy and worth seeing if you like the source material and worth matinee

Chris reviewed getting a donation at the museum as it was awesome, reviewed a documentary on DVD *Bigger, Faster, Stronger* as really well done; reviewed *Obsessed* as all 3 leads were great but the plot was every cliché ever seen; reviewed *Bust* as a great book; reviewed *Man from UNCLE - Sceptre Affair* as worth putting up with - saw *Twilight* again on Saturday; saw some *Jeeves and Wooster* and commented that *House* does a great English accent

Mike reviewed the *Dreamworlds* exhibit at the Natalie and James Thompson art gallery [thru May 15] as it's difficult to park there but worth seeing - and reviewed a Mexican seafood place, *Dia de Pesca* on Bascom and San Carlos - as the food is great

Glenn reviewed a song about flying cars as fun and reviewed *Scream for Jeeves* as well worth reading

Fred reviewed *Breaking the Code* [at Bus Barn] as a good script, well performed and recommends it

Dave C reviewed *The Doomsday Brunette* by John Zakour and Lawrence Ganem as he recommends it whole heartedly

Joe reviewed *Doubt* as really, really good - worth full price and reviewed *Pride and Prejudice* and *Zombies* as pretty good

Ken reviewed chocolate chip/bacon cookies as **good** and the KFJC appreciation party was fun - worth full price

[evil] Kevin reviewed dinner as very nice at *Peking Duck* and reviewed *You don't Mess with the Zohan* as ... it's an Adam Sandler flick

We did auctions: anime DVDs for \$12.00, magazines for \$0.50 & \$0.25, a bag of stuff for \$1.00; CDs for \$0.25, \$0.25; books for \$0.50, \$1.00, \$3.50, \$0.25; a cap and license plate rim for \$0.25, videos for \$0.25; indy CDs and buttons for \$0.25; & Greek chocolates for \$0.25

We adjourned at = 9:36

And the rumor of the week was: *your motion is important to us ... please hold*

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 highlighted in red.

Ongoing events are toward the back.

Through Monday, May 30

Dark Porch Theater Presents: The In-Betweens.

EXIT Stage Left

156 Eddy St., San Francisco

www.myspace.com/henthemusical

The year is 1885, Silas Danforth, young, rich, and magnetic, has built an industrial empire, alienating friends and lovers and infuriating dogooders in the process. And yet, unbeknownst to all of them, he has maintained a private passion for the occult. Infused with magic, music, and wit, *The In-Betweens* is a celebration of the inconceivable in this world and the next.

Check website for tickets and showtimes.

Through Saturday, June 23

The Many Faces of Manga

NJAHS Peace Gallery

1684 Post St., San Francisco

www.njahs.org/

A celebration of the current richness and diversity of manga and anime as an expression of Nikkei culture in the Diaspora.

Free

Thursday, May 7

Movie: Neverending Story

Rialto Cinemas

551 Summerfield Rd, Santa Rosa

www.conservationaction.org/events/calendar.html

SCCA benefit, featuring live music by The Crux, a silent auction, raffle and more. Please buy tickets in advance. RSVP to 707-571-8868. 6:30 p.m. \$10

Saturday, May 9

Author: Rick Riordan

Kepler's Books

1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park

www.keplers.com

Family event. Riordan signs the latest in the Percy Jackson series, *The Last Olympian*.

5 p.m.

Free

Saturday, May 16-Sunday, May 17

Scottish Games & Celtic Celebration

Robertson Park, Livermore

www.livermoregames.com

\$15

Saturday, May 21

Author: D.J. McHale

Kepler's Books

1010 El Camino Real, Menlo Park

www.keplers.com

McHale reads from the final book in the Pendragon series, *The Soldiers of Halla* 7 p.m.

Free

Sunday, May 17

The Tomorrowmen

Hotel Utah

500 4th Street, San Francisco

www.myspace.com/tomorrowmen

The instro-surf rockers from the future participate in Surf Battle of the Bands, with up to 14 bands duking it out for the reverb crown. 8 p.m. \$10

Tuesday, May 22-Sunday, July 5

Spamalot

Golden Gate Theater

1182 Market Street, San Francisco

www.shnsf.com

Check website for tickets and showtimes.

Friday-Monday, May 22-25

FanimeCon

San Jose Convention Center
www.fanime.com
Bay Area anime convention, this year’s guests include Carl Gustav Horn, Gilles Poitras, Jonathan Osborne, Keith Burgess, Ric Meyers and Ryan Gavigan. \$50

Friday-Monday, May 22-25

Baycon

Hyatt Regency
5101 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara
www.baycon.org/2009
This year’s theme is ‘The Search for Pyrocumulon’. GOH are Larry Dixon and Mercedes Lackey, Tim Kirk, and Fred Patten. \$65

Saturday, May 30-Sunday, May 31

Valhalla Faire

Camp Richardson
1900 Jameson Beach Road, South Lake Tahoe
valhallafaire.com
Renaissance Faire \$18

Saturday-Sunday, May 30-31

Maker Faire

San Mateo Fairgrounds
2495 South Delaware Street, San Mateo
makerfaire.com
Maker Faire is a two-day, family-friendly event that celebrates the Do-It-Yourself mindset. It’s for creative, resourceful people of all ages and backgrounds who like to tinker and love to make things \$25

Saturday, June 6-Sunday, June 7

Valhalla Faire

Camp Richardson
1900 Jameson Beach Road, South Lake Tahoe
valhallafaire.com
Renaissance Faire \$18

Saturday, June 6

The Secret Agent Ball

PEERS Event
Masonic Lodge
100 North Ellsworth, San Mateo
www.peers.org
Spy themed event with live performance by Sara and Swingtime. \$15 (till May 30)
7 p.m.

Sunday, June 7

Sac-Con

Scottish Rite Center
6151 H Street, Sacramento
www.sacramentocomics.com
Sacramento’s toy, comic and anime show. \$6
Events include gaming tournaments, costume contest and amateur art contest.
10 a.m.

Friday-Sunday, Jun 12-14

Robogames

Fort Mason Center, San Francisco
Details TBA, dates tentative \$20

Sunday, June 14

Mrs. Darcy’s Tea

GBACG Event
The Lobby Lounge at The Ritz-Carlton
600 Stockton St, San Francisco
www.gbacg.org/current/mrs-darcys-tea.html
Afternoon Regency Clothing, between the years 1800 to 1830. \$57.50 (non-members)

Thursday, June 18

Thrillville Tribute to Creature Features

El Cerrito Speakeasy
10070 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito
Thrillville pays tribute to the late great BOB WILKINS of “Creature Features” fame, as well as the late BOB SHAW, with a special screening of the first movie ever shown on the legendary local KTVU program “Creature Features”: HORROR OF PARTY BEACH (16mm, 1964). Live surf music from The Aardvarks, and more! \$9
9:15 p.m.

Saturday, June 20

SF in SF: The Brazen Hussies

Hobart Building
582 Market Street, San Francisco
www.sfinsf.org
Reading by local authors Michaela Roessner-Herman, Lisa Goldstein and Pat Murphy. Bar proceeds benefit Variety Children’s Charity
7 p.m. Free

Saturday, July 11

Bustles at the Beach

GBACG Event

Pescadero Beach, San Mateo

www.gbacg.org

A day at the seaside where we will enjoy the wind, waves, and a picnic with friends.

Suggested costume: 1870s-1880s afternoon attire or bathing costumes.

Details TBA

Wednesday-Saturday, July 15-18

Fire Arts Festival

The Crucible, Oakland

www.thecrucible.org/fireartsfestival

Each July The Crucible's Fire Arts Festival celebrates creativity through fire and light with a spectacular open-air exhibition of interactive fire art, performance and sculpture.

Friday-Tuesday, July 17-21

Azkataz, A Harry Potter convention

Park 55 Hotel

55 Cyril Magnin Street, San Francisco

www.hp2009.org

\$165 (till May 31)

Saturday, August 1

The River City Picnic Dance

PEERS Event

Lincoln Park

1450 High Street, Alameda

www.peers.org

Music Man, Edwardian themed event with live music by Bangers and Mash

1 p.m.

Free

Saturday, August 8

Kin-Yoobi Con

Chabot College

25555 Hesperian Boulevard, Hayward

www.gzronline.com/kin-yoobi-con09.htm

Anime convention, featuring a vendor room, cosplay contest, gaming and much more.

Guests include Robert Axelrod and Steven Savage.

9 a.m.

\$12 (till August 1st)

Saturday, August 29-Sunday, August 30

Golden Gate Faire

Speedway Meadow

Golden Gate Park, San Francisco

ggfaire.com

Renaissance Faire

\$18

Saturday, September 5

The Sweeney Todd Ball

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 North Ellsworth, San Mateo

www.peers.org

Victorian themed event with live performance

by Bangers and Mash

7 p.m.

\$15 (till August 30)

Friday-Sunday, September 25-27

From the Land Beyond

Scottish Rite Center

6151 H Street, Sacramento

www.sacramentocomics.com

Guests announced so far include Ray Park, Crispin Freeman, Jake Busey and more. Friday night concert by Warp 11.

Saturday, September 26

Seelie and Unseelie Fairy Court Gathering

GBACG Event

Redwood City

www.gbacg.org

Are you a good fairy or a bad fairy? Pick your side at the gathering of the Seelie & Unseelie Fairy Courts in an end of summer evening garden party! Location in Redwood City.

Suggested costume: Fantasy

Details TBA

Sunday, September 27

Handcar Regatta

Railroad Square

Santa Rosa

handcar-regatta.com

The 2nd Annual 2009 Great West End & Railroad Square Handcar Regatta & Exposition of Mechanical & Artistic Wonders. Featuring live music, craft show, vendors and other entertainments. Costumes encouraged.

Free

Saturday, October 3

The Space Cowboys Ball

PEERS Event

Masonic Lodge

100 North Ellsworth, San Mateo

www.peers.org

Firefly, Western themed event with live performance by Bangers and Mash

7 p.m.

\$15 (till September 27)

Saturday, October 17

Dark Shadows Picnic

GBACG Event

www.gbacg.org

Gather for a reunion of all the members of the Collins family (of the *Dark Shadows* TV show) from past, present, future, and parallel time.

Honor the dead and undead alike with a pleasantly vampiric picnic. Suggested costume: 1795, 1840-41, 1897, 1966-71, and 1995 ("the future"), Vampire.

Details TBA

Saturday, October 17-Sunday, October 18

Folsom Renaissance Faire

Folsom City Lions Park

403 Stafford Street, Folsom

folsomfaire.com

Renaissance Faire

\$12

Saturday, October 24-Sunday, October 25

All-Hallows Fantasy Faire

Mother Lode Fairgrounds

220 Southgate Drive, Sonora

sonoracelticfaire.com/hallowsfaire.html

Sonora Celtic Faire presents the first annual All Hallows Fantasy Faire. Details TBA

Thursday, October 29-Sunday, November 1

World Fantasy Convention

The Fairmont Hotel

170 South Market Street, San Jose

www.worldfantasy2009.org

The World Fantasy Convention is a professional networking event that regularly attracts several hundred of the top authors in the field every year. It is the home of the World Fantasy Awards and this year will be celebrating Edgar Allen Poe's 200th birthday. Garth Nix will be the GOH.

\$125

Friday, October 30-Sunday, November 1

Yaoi-Con

San Mateo Marriott

1770 South Amphlett Blvd, San Mateo

www.yaoicon.com

A celebration of male beauty and passion in anime and manga. 18+

\$40 (till May 31)

Saturday, November 7

Le Bal des Vampires

PEERS Event

Alameda Elks Lodge

2255 Santa Clara Ave, Santa Clara

www.peers.org

Vampire themed event with live performance by Bangers and Mash

7 p.m.

\$20 (till September 30)

Friday, November 27-Sunday, December 20

The Great Dickens Fair

Cow Palace Exhibition Halls

2600 Geneva Ave, San Francisco

www.dickensfair.com

A holiday adventure into Victorian London.

\$22

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

MGI SF&F/Horror/Speculative fiction Writing Group

Personal Residence (email for details)
Emeryville
groups.yahoo.com/group/MGISFFWriters
7:30pm

Free

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

Dukefish

Jake's of Sunnyvale
174 E. Fremont Avenue, Sunnyvale
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.
8 p.m.

Free

Mondays and Wednesdays

Silicon Valley Boardgamers

Mountain View Community Center
201 S. Rengstorff Avenue, Mountain View
www.davekohr.users.sonic.net/svb
Group meets regularly to play mostly German-style strategy boardgames such as Settlers of Catan; also multi-player Avalon Hill-style, historical war games, and others.
6:30 p.m.

\$2

Tuesdays

MGI Boffers & Outdoor Games

Codornices Park
1201 Euclid Ave, Berkeley
mgisciaf.angelfire.com
groups.yahoo.com/group/MGIFamilyclub
Bad weather we meet the same time at 33 Revolutions Record Shop & Cafe, El Cerrito for boardgames.
3 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

Free

Wednesdays

Bay Area Role-Playing Society

Go-Getter's Pizza
1489 Beach Park Boulevard, Foster City
www.BayRPS.com
Hosts a weekly game night. For club and game night details email GM@BayRPS.com
6 p.m.-10 p.m.

Free

East Bay Strategy Games Club

EndGame
921 Washington, Oakland
www.michaeldashow.com/eastbaystrategy/home.html
7:30 p.m.-11 p.m.

Free

Fanboy Planet Podcast

Illusive Comics and Games
2725 El Camino Real, Suite 105, Santa Clara
Live from Illusive Comics and Games, it's the Fanboy Planet Podcast with your host, Derek McCaw.
6 p.m.

Free

Wednesdays and Saturdays

Hayward Collectibles Show

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

Free

Fridays

SF Games

Muddy's Coffeehouse
1304 Valencia Street, San Francisco
vax.hanford.org/dk/games

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. 7 p.m. to midnight

Free

Fridays-Mondays

Haunted Haight Walking Tour

Meets at Coffee To The People
1206 Masonic Avenue, San Francisco
www.hauntedhaight.com
Reservations required.
7 p.m.-9 p.m.

\$20

Fridays and Saturdays

Vampire Walking Tour

Meets corner of California and Taylor, San Francisco
www.sfvampiretour.com
Led by Mina Harker. Tour is canceled if there is heavy rain.
8 p.m.

\$20

Saturdays

Rocky Horror Picture Show

Parkway Speakeasy Theater, 1834 Park Blvd., Oakland
www.parkway-speakeasy.com

Barely Legal Productions presents the classic midnight movie every Saturday night. No one under 17 admitted.

Midnight \$7

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

Clockwork SF

Julie's Supper Club
1123 Folsom, San Francisco
www.myspace.com/clubclockwork
A Steampunk Parlor: Gothic/Darkwave/Synthpop w/DJ's MzSamantha, Fact 50, Melting Girl and Greg. 21+
9 p.m. \$5 after 10 p.m.

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.
7:30 p.m. Free

East Bay Steampunk

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

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
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.
12 p.m. Free

The Gay Men’s Book Club

Borderlands Books
866 Valencia, San Francisco
Please contact Chris, the group leader, at
cobalt555@earthlink.net for more information.
5 p.m. Free

Legion of Rassilon

Giovanni’s Pizza
1127 N Lawrence Expy, Sunnyvale
www.legionofrassilon.org
Doctor Who fan group usually meets the fourth
Friday of the month: Episodes of Doctor Who,
news, discussion of recent movies, and a raffle.
7:30 p.m. Free

Micro Gods, Inc.

Berkeley Public Library, West Branch
1125 University Ave, Berkeley
mgisciaf.angelfire.com
groups.yahoo.com/group/MGIFamilyClub/
Family Club for fans of Science Fiction,
Fantasy, Movie, Anime & Manga. Meets every
3rd Saturday, please check Yahoo group for
updates.
2:30 p.m-5:30 p.m Free

No-Name Anime

Saratoga Library
13650 Saratoga Avenue
Saratoga
www.nnanime.com
Anime screenings usually take place on the
second Saturday of the month.
Free

Other Realms Book Club

Books, Inc.
1375 Burlingame Ave, Burlingame
www.booksinc.net
Meets the 4th Wednesday of the Month.
6:30 p.m. Free

Religion & SF Book Club

First United Methodist Church
1183 “B” Street, Hayward
Meets the 4th Sunday of the month. Please
contact Rev. Randy Smith at
RSmith2678@aol.com for more information.
7 p.m. Free

Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club

Borderlands Books
866 Valencia, San Francisco
The book for May 17 it will be Heinlein’s
Stranger in a Strange Land. The Please contact
Jude at jfeldman@borderlands-books.com for
more information.
6 p.m. Free

SF Browncoats

Cafe Murano
1777 Steiner Street, San Francisco
www.sfbrowncoats.com
SF Firefly/Serenity fans usually meet up on the
second Saturday of the month.
Noon Free

Science Fiction Santa Rosa Meetup

Borders Books
2500 Santa Rosa Avenie, Santa Rosa
groups.yahoo.com/group/scifisantarosa/
Regular meetup for North Bay fans on the
second Sunday of the month.
1:30 p.m. Free

Silicon Gulch Browncoats

Various locations (see website for details)
www.silicongulchbrowncoats.org
Silicon Valley fans of Firefly/Serenity meet up
on the first Saturday of the month.
Noon - 2 p.m. Free

Tangential Conjectures: The Science Fiction Book Club

Books Inc.
301 Castro Street, Mountain View
650-428-1234
Generally meets the third Thursday of the month.
7:30 p.m. Free

USS Augusta Ada

Round Table Pizza
3567 Geary Blvd, San Francisco
trek.starshine.org
Augusta Ada is both a chapter of Starfleet International and a Linux and *BSD user group. Usually meets the fourth Saturday of every month.
1 p.m. Free

USS Defiance

Round Table Pizza
1566 Howe Ave, Sacramento
www.usdefiance.org
Star Trek fan group meets the third Friday of the month.
7 p.m. Free

USS Northern Lights

Contact firstjedi2000@yahoo.com for location.
www.geocities.com/Area51/Cavern/4096/
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.
7 p.m. Free

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.
6 p.m. Free



Bay Area Fannish Calendar – May 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MGI SFF/H Writing Sakramento Anime	BASFA Dukefish SV Boardgamers	MGI Boffers	SV Boardgamers BA Role-Playing Soc E.Bay Strategy Games		SF Games	Rocky Horror
26	27	28	29	30	1	2 Warp 11 Unseen Univ. Ball Silicon Gulch Browncoats
3 Foothill Anime	4	5	6	7 Movie: Neverending Story SF&F Writers' Group	8 East Bay Star Wars USS Northern Lights	9 Author: Rick Riordan Fantastic Frontiers No-Name Anime SF Browncoats
10 Gay Men's Book Club SF Santa Rosa Meetup	11	12	13	14	15 USS Defiance	16 Scottish Games & Celtic Celebration (thru Sun) Micro Gods, Inc Clockwork SF
17 The Tomorrowmen SF/F Book Club	18	19	20	21 Author: D.J. McHale Tangential Conjectures	22 Baycon (thru Mon) FanimeCon(thru Mon) Spamalot (thru July 5) Legion of Rassilon	23 USS Augusta Ada
24 Religion & SF	25	26	27 Other Realms	28	29	30 Valhalla Faire (thru Sun) Maker Faire (thru Sun) Veritech Fighter Cmd 13
31						