

Sunday, March 27, 2005

ALIEN PLAGUES

Blane Bellerud (M), Pat MacEwen, Misty Marshall

Will we give or get novel diseases when we meet aliens? Alien life may pose a biological threat through disease, toxicity, and allergic reactions, or their biochemistry could be similar enough to our own to cause other interesting problems.

ANOTHER KIND OF IGNORANCE

Robert L. Slater (M)

A story of colonists on a far-off frontier planet, beautiful, safe, no life forms larger than a squirrel. But the original survey team may have missed a thing or two.

ANYWHERE BUT HERE

Jerry Oltion (M)

An interstellar exploration novel, the sequel to The Getaway Special.

BACKUPS: ETERNAL LIFE OR DEATH?

Robert J. Sawyer (M), David Nasset, Sr., Eve Gordon

Let's say we could record a person's mind and play it back into a new body, so that the new person couldn't be told from the old. Would that lead to immortality? Or would it lead to an endless series of deaths followed by the creation of a new person who just thinks he's the old one? Essentially, what does it mean to be oneself?

BIG WITCH ON CAMPUS

John P. Alexander (M)

2000 years of memoirs of an immortal witch currently teaching Classics in Canada

COSTUMING BLOCK

Lori Edwards (M), Julie Zetterberg, Janet Borkowski

Renewing your inspiration. What do you do when you are in the middle of a costume and your brain suddenly goes numb or you are desperately trying to come up with a great idea for an event or a contest and you keep hitting your head on the creative wall? Need to know when to continue or just step away? Join us to explore different methods/ideas for renewing your creativity and inspiration.

CREATING ALTERNATIVE HISTORY

Stoney Compton (M), L. Timmel Duchamp, Michael A. Martin

How, why, and when do you change history to tell your story? Verisimilitude isn't possible, but what makes the story believable?

DAEMON

Bridget McKenna (M)

A civil servant in Hell discovers a man who seems to be there by mistake. [unpublished novel]

DAYS OF SMOKE

John A. Pitts (M)

Psychological horror by John A. Pitts

DEFINING SOCIETIES AND CULTURES WITH LANGUAGE

David M. Silver (M), Robert L. Slater, David Moles

From general semantics through modern linguistics with Heinlein. An examination of how Heinlein created his "other worlds," such as Stranger in a Strange Land, The Moon Is a Harsh Mistress, and Time Enough for Love.

DIGITAL ART INTEGRATION

Matthew Harpold (M), Eden Celeste, Kenneth Huey

Integrating digital tools and media into your work. Between the poles of all-painted and all-digital techniques lay a host of ways for the artist to use digital media to facilitate aspects of the creative process. Our panel of artists share their tips and techniques.

ELIZABETH ANN SCARBOROUGH

Elizabeth Ann Scarborough (M)

A very special reading and interview with this wonderful Pacific Northwest author.

FABULOUS HEADPIECE WORKSHOP

Lauryn MacGregor (M), Joanne Kirley, Julia Clayton

Create a wearable headpiece from buckram and milinary wire base up to finished product.

FANTASY ON THE WWW

Eden Celeste (M), Cheryl Lynn York

Where will the web take us next?

FORCE MAJEURE

Julie Hoverson (M)

A private eye gets hired to stop a guy from getting killed, but is in over her head when demons start showing up.

FUTURE HUMAN LANGUAGES

Tim Smith (M), Robert L. Slater, Cheryl Scott

The last millennium took English from an island-bound Germanic dialect to a world-spanning behemoth with a ridiculously large adopted vocabulary. Languages have evolved, died out, melded in creoles, and split into sometimes mutually incomprehensible dialects. What new languages might be spawning now?

GET STARTED DRAWING NOW (DAMMIT)!

Blane Bellerud (M)

Do you have art supplies sitting around the house gathering dust? Piles of empty sketchbooks? Transfixed in horror by the empty page? This panel will work on some of the basic principles of drawing, especially people. For rank beginners, wannabees and anyone else who really wants to get started drawing but . . .

GETTING BEYOND THE TECHNIQUE

Wolf Lahti (M), Betsy Mott, Raven Mimura

Going the extra step beyond the realism to put emotion and meaning into a painting. This is a discussion about creating art that is more than just a commercial endeavor; guiding the viewer with brush strokes, color control, and composition to feel for the characters.

GIZMOS, PROPS, AND WEAPONS

Dave Tackett (M)

Show and tell. All the cool stuff you carry with your costume – audience participation! Bring something to share.

GODS AND MONSTERS

Beverly Marshall Saling (M), Donna Barr, Eris The Unorganized

My religion; your superstition. I'm going to heaven, you should go to prison, or preferably be beheaded. Who gets to draw the line? Especially after the 2004 election.

HOW DOES LANGUAGE INFLUENCE THOUGHT?

Ken Rand (M), David Lunde, Eva Carlstrom

The Sapir-Whorf hypothesis (no, not the Klingon) states that language completely determines thought, i.e., if your language doesn't have a word for the concept, then you can't even conceive of the concept. Many linguists consider this nonsense, but all agree there is some truth to it. How does the language we use shape the thoughts we have? Why is it impossible to completely understand the concepts of another language without learning it? What gets lost in translation?

HOW TO DRAW CATS

Roberta Gregory (M), Yeechi Chen, Jacqualynn D. Duram Nilsson

They're slinky, and graceful, and sometimes seem to be made of rubber! Come and bring your sketchbook as Roberta walks you through capturing these amazing animals on paper.

HUMAN-ANIMAL INTERVENTION

Margeret H. Bonham (M), Kathy Watts, Mary Rosenblum

Humans have intervened in animal species for thousands of years. Has this been for good or ill? And is the answer different from the animals' perspective?

I CREATE FANTASY ART

Christine D. Winters (M), Abranda Icle Sisson-Mudd, Butch Honeck

But I don't want to be an Illustrator. There are ways to make a living doing fantasy art that don't include books, magazines, games, comics, or movies. Discuss promoting yourself to stores, galleries, designers for fashion, linens, dinnerware, and other products for the home, etc.

INTERVIEW WITH SPECIAL GOH ALAN DEAN FOSTER

Thomas P. Hopp (M), Alan Dean Foster, John P. Alexander, Arinn Dembo, Casey Dorman

ISLAND BIOGEOGRAPHY

Bridget Coila (M)

A woman on a small Caribbean island must discover how to cope with an influx of creatures that don't belong there.

KAFKA'S UNCLE, EDWARD

Bruce Taylor (M)

Kafka's Uncle and the novel, Edward: Dancing On The Edge Of Infinity, two new books featuring tales of Magic Realism.

KIDDIE LIT FANTASTIC ANKLE BITERS

Beverly Marshall Saling (M), Cymbric Earlysmyth, Spring Schoenhuth

Educators differ on how soon to introduce fantasy to children. Can it be too soon? Come learn about some of the best examples of kiddie lit fantastic.

LAÁDAN LANGUAGE SEMINAR

Dr. Suzette Haden Elgin (M)

A discussion of the constructed language Láadan, in a linguistics framework. The sound system. How words are constructed; how new words can be added. Basic grammatical patterns. Reasons for decisions made during construction. Lessons learned.

LITERARY DOA

Syne Mitchell (M), Marti McKenna, Bridget McKenna

Books that died despite everything. Well-known author, well-developed plot, thorough marketing plan, yet the book fails to thrive. Why? Did it show too much ambition or too little? Was it old-fashioned, or ahead of its time? Were the stars wrong, or the season, or were we simply coming down with the flu? Let us count all the sad ways good books go bad. Our panel will discuss the phenomenon from multiple viewpoints.

NEHEMIAH SCUDDER RETURNS?

Stoney Compton (M), Burt Webb, Bobbie Benton Hull

In his 1939 novel "If This Goes On", Robert A. Heinlein described a future America under a religious totalitarianism. Could this really happen? Is it happening now?

NORWESCON 28 PRESENTS: ANIME TODAY

Angela Suryan (M)

Come and see a full length feature Anime Film. Be prepared to discuss how it went afterwards.

NORWESCON 28: THE POEM

Andrew Dolbeck (M), Robin Ashley Smith, Blythe Ayne

A reading of poems written during and about Norwescon. Come hear works from this year and from past cons. Participants in the poetry workshops encouraged to come and share their creations. And, of course, the latest Norwescon fashion report.

NOT WITH A BANG AND OTHER SHORT STORIES.

Dave Bigelow (M)

Airport security of the future (Published in 1994 "Canadian" World Science Fiction Convention program book).

NWC28 AND SCA MEDIEVAL FAIRE

Bryan Hawkins (M), Anita Taylor

Knights! Camelot! Action!

NWC28 MASQUERADE DEBRIEFING

Audrey Schmidt (M)

A chance for all those who worked on and/or participated in this year's Masquerade to tell how they think things went and to listen to their peer's experience.

NWC28 ONIONS AND ROSES

Cheryl Ferguson (M), Shawn Marier, Ali Grieve

What did you like? What didn't you like? Come tell us. Please. If you have ideas how to fix something, thought something could have been done better in a way that you know about, or have suggestions on how to improve this convention, we want to hear it.

NWC28 OPEN FILK CIRCLE

Karen Rall (M)

Come and join friends old and new for an evening of music and storytelling.

ONLINE JOURNALING

Janna Silverstein (M), Marti McKenna, Michael Montoure

Why do we live our private lives in public places? Are we merely emotional exhibitionists or are we continuing (in a different form) the venerable art of journaling? Sure, it's also a great way to network but what can journaling do for you? Or, to you? As more and more people do it everyday, is it turning into a problem?

OUTSIDERS

Donna Barr (M), Dane Ballard, Heather Candelaria

Just how "alternative" do you have to be? Alternative in America starts with women -- and includes blacks, first nations, and people with the wrong hairdo. Especially in today's political climate, is everybody who isn't a male in a suit "Alternative?"

PATTERN BASHING

Janet Borkowski (M), Joanne Kirley, Lauryn MacGregor

More fun than Frankenstein's monster and using the same techniques! How to mix and match pieces of different garment patterns for the ultimate in cool costuming.

PERFECTING THE HUMAN HABITAT

Burt Webb (M), Judy R. Johnson, Misty Marshall, Cheryl Lynn York

How will cities evolve? Will urban sprawl continual or will we build higher and narrower? How can we integrate parks and other elements of the natural landscape? Or will we live in technotopian megalopolises?

REB THE FIRST AND ONLY

Edd Vick (M)

A story harking back to my Texas roots. It's got good ol'boys, Cracker Jacks, and a secret subway to the Vatican.

REPLACING THE SPACE SHUTTLE

Charles F. Radley (M), David Stuart, David Franklin Shoemaker

The Columbia accident has grounded the shuttle fleet for over two years. Is it worth putting more money into keeping up the old shuttles, or is it time for NASA to put serious effort into replacing them? What are the options out there right now to replace them with?

RICHARD'S PANEL

Judy Suryan (M)

This is a fan memorial: an event where fans can gather to honor and remember those in fandom, and all the SF/F field, who have died during the previous year. We invite all of you to join us in celebrating the lives of those fan who have joined long-time fan, Richard Wright, for his panel.

SPIRITUAL AND/OR RELIGIOUS THEMES

Heather Candelaria (M), David M. Silver, Mark J. Ferrari

Is this content in Sci-Fi or Fantasy Lit allowed? What are the merits or pitfalls of going there in our kind of stories? Why would or wouldn't a SF-Fantasy writer want to do so?

STEAM PUNK/DIESEL PUNK

Melissa Quinn (M), Julie Hoverson, Amanda Harris-Forbes, Alisa Green

Costuming inspired by such movies as Sky Captain, Wild Wild West, Van Helsing, League of Extraordinary Gentlemen, and others.

STORY-CRAFTING FROM YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS

Lizzy Shannon (M), V.E. Mitchell, Kathy Oltion

Do your characters surprise you? Is your outline giving you fits? Do strange things keep happening in your narrative? Find out why that's a good thing, in this light-hearted program item.

STRAWBERRY SPRING

Savannah Goodwin (M)

The false spring known as "Strawberry Spring" brings a lovely, creeping fog--and something homicidal with it--to a small university campus.

TAI-CHI

KinShan (M)

No better way to begin the last day of Norwescon 28.

THE FUTURE OF BOOKS

Duane Wilkins (M), Vladimir Verano, Cheryl Scott

Is the paper novel on its last legs? Will e-book readers ever become the norm? Is there a future for interactive fiction?

THE FUTURE OF ENGLISH

Matt Pearson (M), Tim Smith, Burt Webb

English has changed substantially since Chaucer, and quite radically since "Beowulf". How much, and in what ways, is it likely to change in the future?

THE MIS-INFORMATION HIGHWAY

Michelle Garrison (M), Eva Carlstrom, Robert L. Slater

Is the internet an important research tool, a device for disseminating mis-information, or some of both? How does the teacher communicate to the student how to tell what is real and what is not?

THE NORWESCON 28 CLOSING CEREMONIES

Richard Stephens (M), Shawn Marier, Ali Grieve

Closing ceremonies is a relaxed, fun way to say goodbye to our wonderful Guests of Honor and recap our happy memories of the weekend. This is a great chance to maybe snag an autograph, shake hands with greatness and glean some final wisdom.

THE NORWESCON 28 FANDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

Edward Martin III (M), Ryan K. Johnson, Brian Oberquell, Leopoldo Marino, Eric Morgret Director Maelstrom Productions LLC, Christopher J. Garcia

Come one - come all, to not only the final show-it-off stage of the Let's Make a Movie Workshop, but also the best fen film festival this side of the Waking World. Come marvel at this year's collection of strange, bizarre, and fantabulous shorts! And no limo required!

THE NORWESCON 28 MOVIE PREVIEWS

Russ Rudesill (M)

See the latest previews, straight from Hollywood!

THE NWC28 ART AND MZB CHARITY AUCTION

Prudence Bohnas (M)

The Norwescon 28 Art Auction and Marion Zimmer Bradley Northwest Harvest Charity Auction.

THE PRESIDENT'S EXPLORATION INITIATIVE

Brian Tillotson (M), Michael J. Laine, Gregory R. Paddock, Carlton Rhoades

A discussion of the President's initiative to refocus NASA toward human and robotic colonization of the Moon, followed by manned exploration of Mars. This new initiative gives NASA a reason for existence, for the first time in about 25 years. Is it well placed? Would private enterprise do better? Should we risk human life or is the scientific justification dubious? There is plenty of meat for discussion here.

THE SECRET FLEETS

Ted Butler (M)

On their way to their home asteroid in a captured transport with prisoners of war, they discover they are paralleling enemy fleets headed there too.

THE UBER ART CURATOR

Larry Lewis (M), Jeff Sturgeon, H. Ed Cox, John R. Gray III

How to curate the ultimate F/SF art exhibition. You've been called upon to put together the F/SF art show of the century, the definitive exhibition. Unfortunately, the museum has only space for 20 paintings, though an unlimited budget for acquiring works. Where would you start? Which artists and works would be considered absolutely essential?

THE WORLD OF THE MODERN VAMPIRE

Lorelie Shannon (M), John Pelan, Diana Vick

Anne Rice, Laurell F. Hamilton, and Nancy Collins are not the only authors writing in this genre. Lestat needs to move over and make room for Anita Blake and Sonja Blue and the others waiting in the wings to take his place.

V. BEARD RAFFLE

Victoria Shaffer (M)

VERBAL SELF-DEFENSE WORKSHOP

Dr. Suzette Haden Elgin (M)

Establishing a language environment where incidents of verbal violence almost never happen, and those that can't be avoided are dealt with efficiently, effectively, and with no loss of face on either side. Result: human relationships thrive; tension and stress decrease. An overview of verbal violence plus a set of practical techniques for dealing with it.

WHAT CAN WE DO WITH A GENE

Bridget Coila (M), Misty Marshall

Now that the Human Genome is sequenced, along with the mouse and many other creatures, what is the next step? Obviously, just having the sequence didn't suddenly cure all genetic diseases. This panel will talk about what scientists are doing with all that information and what's on the horizon.

WHAT MAKES A GREAT CON?

Prince Ka (M), Chris Nilsson, Savannah Goodwin

What makes a great con? What makes one suck? What are the top reasons for attending a con--and why on earth do you masochists put them on?

WHEN A SONG IS YOUR STORY

Michelle Dockrey (M), Yoon Ha Lee, Karen Rall

Fiction that uses music. What happens when music becomes a character in a novel? Music as metaphor and main character.

WIZARD COSTUMES

Richard Stephens (M), Amanda Harris-Forbes, Julie Zetterberg

Wizards are a mainstay in fantasy. This costuming is versatile, easy to wear; and the possibilities for style, color and detail are endless!

WORLD BUILDING WORKSHOP #4

Silven Read (M), Wolf Read, Jim Funaro, G. David Nordley, Pat MacEwen

Norwesconia unveiled. Detailed exploration of one or more of the many possibilities developed in the previous World Building Workshops.

WRITING ESSENTIALS 102

Joseph Paul Haines (M), L. Timmel Duchamp, Ken Rand

Common problems with submissions that can dismiss you as an amateur. Panelists will share common writing and submission issues that can lead to immediate rejection. Includes submission flaws, ignoring market guidelines, poor spelling/grammar, pastiches, bad/desperate attitudes. Also, how do you keep records, do follow-up, close unresponsive submissions, etc.

WRITING ESSENTIALS 103

Syne Mitchell (M), Patrick Swenson, Kathy Oltion

The pains (and promises) of rejection slips. How can they actually be constructive (and why are so many of them anything *but*)?