

Thursday, March 24, 2005

9 OUT OF 10 CULTURES PREFER POLYGAMY

Heather Candelaria (M), Susan Stern Grossman, Eris The Unorganized

It is an innocuous remark made by an anthropology professor, makes one pause. What is the most natural state of human relationships? What kind of societies, imagined or real, give rise to polygamous relations.

ALIEN LINGUISTICS

Wolf Lahti (M), Andrew Dolbeck, Robin Ashley Smith

Why would someone from light years away sound, or talk like the folks just down the street? Many human cultural assumptions are reinforced by the language used to express them. If a culture is truly alien, what would its language be like?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Michelle Garrison (M), Thor Osborn, John P. Alexander

Drugs like Prozac are already available to change aspects of brain biology. The next step is genetic manipulation. But how far should we go with mind manipulation? Is it ok to cure a low IQ? Prevent criminal tendencies? Give your child musical talent?

CLAY-O-RAMA

Betty Bigelow (M)

My critter can whip your monster's butt! Come and have fun with Betty Bigelow.

COMPUTER HUMOR

Chris Nilsson (M), Christopher J. Garcia

Come and share scary computer/user tales, 101 things to do when the computer is down, BOFH, and any other computer humor you can think of.

CORSETS, BUSTIERS, AND MERRY WIDOWS

Lori Edwards (M), Melissa Quinn, Julia Clayton, Lauryn MacGregor, Margo Loes, JoAnne Kirley

An overview of the evolution of the corset and a demo on corset/bustier construction techniques, supplies and pattern resources.

FANSPEAK 101

David Nasset, Sr. (M), Cheyenne Wright, Savannah Goodwin

"What did he just say?" We speak a different language than some of the rest of the population, but what does it all mean? Learn the basics of FanSpeak in just one hour, then go forth and wear your beanie proudly!

FANTASY CLOTHES

Abranda Icle Sisson-Mudd (M), Heather Hudson, Raven Mimura

It's hard enough to depict a fantasy world that doesn't just look like "Merry Olde England." How fantasy artists come up with clothes that are more than Renaissance Festival costumes.

FILK AND THE MAINSTREAM

Jeff Bohnhoff (M), Maya Kaathryn Bohnhoff, Karen Rall

What are the differences between filking and mainstream music? Isn't filking just a sub-genre of music? A discussion of what takes filk out of the mainstream.

FORWARD INTO BATTLE!

Mike Shepherd-Moscoe (M), Irene Radford, Margaret H. Bonham

Against that? You're kidding. Fantasy means guys in chain mail and gals in fur bikinis; right. So of course we charge into battle against . . . hold it -- who in his right mind charges a castle shoulder to shoulder when the dang wizard on the wall is blasting away with balls of energy that take you out fifty at a time? How do you do that and make it seem real?

FRIENDS OF BILL W.

FUN AND EASY FAIRY HEADPIECES

Amanda Harris-Forbes (M), Alisa Green, Cherie Harris, Terri "Sprite" Specht

. . . from craft foam. Our craft experts will lead you in making and decorating creative headwear from sheets of craft foam.

GAMING FOR FUN AND PROFIT

Chris Bruscas (M), Sharon Turner Mulvihill, Lisa Pondsmith, Mike Pondsmith
An insight into the business end of fun'n'games.

GIRL GENIUS RADIO THEATRE

Kaja Foglio (M), Phil Foglio, Cheyenne Wright, Savannah Goodwin

The Continuing Adventures of Agatha Heterodyne: Girl Genius! Phil and Kaja Foglio's Gaslamp Fantasy with Adventure, Romance and Mad Science is now a series of (rather silly) radio plays. Come and see what the crew of Studio Foglio's Airship Entertainment has come up with this year.

HOW BOOK COVERS ARE MADE

Michael Whelan (M), Jeff Sturgeon, Stephen Hickman

Experienced illustrators and successful publishers discuss how it's done. Mysteries revealed.

HOW TO PRESENT FOR SALE PURPOSES

Abranda Icle Sisson-Mudd (M)

Matting Techniques - demonstration of how to mat pieces of art specifically for convention art show display; choosing colors, decoration, and fancy matting techniques. Where to get supplies.

HOW TO START A MAGAZINE

Patrick Swenson (M), Gordon Van Gelder, Deborah Layne

... And why you shouldn't. So, you need a business plan and seed money, and (oh yeah) readers. Plus you need to create? Exploit? A new niche in the market, so you seem fresh and relevant? Are you sure you've got what it takes?

IS MYTHOLOGY JUST A LEGEND THESE DAYS?

Philemon Vanderbeck (M), Karen D. Fishler, Mark J. Ferrari

Is mythology any different from legends, folklore, fantasy etc? What purposes did or does it play in the world? Is true mythology still being generated, or have mythology's headwaters dried up for good in our empirically scientific world? Is there still any functional role for it, or is mythology just another frivolous anachronistic knickknack for fan geeks to buy and sell at cons.

JOAN OF ARC

Matthew Rossi (M), Patricia A. McKillip, Louise Marley

The maid and the myth. One of the most exciting and controversial female figure in history, Joan of Arc continues to amaze and inspire us 500 years after her death. This panel will highlight some of Joan's remarkable accomplishments and debate her portrayal in history.

JUST GIVE THE KID A BOOK

David-Glenn Anderson (M), Bobbie Benton Hull, Cymbric Earlysmynth

They're highly motivated, or disaffected; they're top readers, or they've never read a book; they want to reach higher, or just need the extra credit to pass. They're students, and you need to reach them somehow. Why not with a science fiction/fantasy book?

LEGALITY OF THE BODY

Gregory R. Paddock (M), Heather Candelaria, V.E. Mitchell, Cheryl Lynn York

Who has the right to it? My living will says that no extreme measures are to be taken to keep me alive - what right do The US Courts have to override this measure. Do I have the right to die if I have a disease that there is no cure for, and which leaves me in terrible unrelenting pain? Who has the right to tell you what to do with your own body?

LOW BUDGET FEATURE FILMMAKING

Edward Martin III (M), Ryan K. Johnson, Eric Morgret Director Maelstrom Productions LLC, Matthew Dockrey

Want to make you own epic, but just don't have 100 million floating around? Join this filmmaker's roundtable, explaining how to make movies on the cheap. Writing, casting, shooting, and production can all happen for approximately the price of a used car, if you know how to play your cards right, and apply the tricks and techniques these folks talk about.

M.R. JAMES'S "CASTING THE RUNES"

Philemon Vanderbeck (M)

The original short story that the classic horror film "The Curse (or Night) of the Demon" is based on.

MITIGATE THE ASTEROID THREAT

Carlton Rhoades (M)

Although there are no known asteroids expected to impact Earth in the near future, such an event, even of a small asteroid (100 meters) can have serious, long term effects. Should we wait until an asteroid is determined to be on a collision course?

MY STARSHIP CREW IS NAKED

Dave Tackett (M), Melissa Quinn, Julia Clayton, Donna Barr

The return of an old favorite. Choose your type of ship and crew and design practical (or impractical) uniforms for them to wear.

NANOTECHNOLOGY AND RESOURCES

Stephen Gillett (M)

Why we will NOT be mining the asteroid belt. A PowerPoint presentation.

NORWESCON 28 SF/F Pictionary

Ed Stiner (M), Roberta Gregory, Raven Mimura, L. Kirsten McElligott, Russell D. Campbell, Marcus Rieck

Come play the popular game with a sci-fi twist. Guess the movie, book, TV show, etc. along with your favorite artists.

NWC28 MIDNIGHT HORROR READINGS

John Pelan (M), Matthew Rossi, Cheryl Scott, Bruce Taylor, Eric M. Witchey, Loren W. Cooper

The witching hour is back at Norwescon as readers spin dark tales of the macabre. Come and find out the true meaning of horror!

NWC28 OPEN FILM CIRCLE

Karen Rall (M)

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

ONE DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN EDITOR

Greg Cox (M), Sharon Turner Mulvihill, Jak Koke

It's been said by some that editors were hired to go to meetings. Here's an hour by hour account of what an editor actually does. It's 11:00 AM — do you know where your manuscript is?

PARLEYING WITH ALIENS

Matt Pearson (M), Dave Bigelow, Gregory Gadow

In the absence of a Star Trek translator or Martian Rosetta Stone, how will we understand extraterrestrial intelligences when we meet them? What's the best approach to initial contact?

POLY - A BASIC PRIMER

Karawynn Long (M), Alyxx "Panther" Feltser, Jak Koke

Science fiction has been exploring new relationship models since Heinlein and arguably further. Many fans have been discovering "poly" relationships, where love is not an exclusive, limited resource. Come learn about these relationship models. Bring your thoughts and questions for this popular topic.

RESEARCHING YOUR STORY

Greg Cox (M), James Rollins/James Clemens, Renee Stern

When do you quit? The family tree covers three sheets; the glossary needs extensive cross references; the map has 16 color codes. Have you overdone it, or is this all necessary to provide verisimilitude? And haven't we all read stories where the writer gets so involved with building the world that the story got lost? Learn when to drop the books and pick up the pen.

REVISITING MARS

Tanya Harrison (M), Robert P. Suryan, Ron Hobbs

Spirit and Opportunity have been making their way across the Martian surface for over a year now, much longer than expected. What new clues have they given us to Mars' past?

RUNES 102: DIVINATION

Philemon Vanderbeck (M)

How to use the ancient Runes for divining the future.

SCREENPLAY READINGS

Julie Hoverson (M)

Actors wanted! Audience members will be selected to read roles in an unpublished screenplay written by Julie Hoverson. Reader's theatre-style, no stunt work required.

SEX AND SEXISM IN F/SF ART

Larry Lewis (M), Jul Lacquement, Christine D. Winters

Navigating the tricky seas of taste, popular morality, and fun.

SF CHEESY CHICK CULT CLASSICS WITH CASCADIA CON

Peter DuFault (M)

Come join Cascadia Con and enjoy some of the cheesiest Science Fiction Cult Classics ever produced!

STANDING WATER ON MARS?

Stephen Gillett (M), Tanya Harrison

Where's The Proof? Come hear the latest evidence for standing water on Mars in the past.

SURVIVING THE RUMOR MILL

Bobbie DuFault (M), Marcus Rieck, Dane Ballard

It's common in small communities for there to be a persistent rumor mill. This is especially true in areas that aren't considered "normal". How do you avoid becoming a victim of this phenomenon? If you do fall prey to it, what is the best way to deal with the situation?

TEACHING MARS

Christopher Erickson (M), Cheryl Lynn York, Spring Schoenhuth

How to keep current. How can a teacher or parent keep the curriculum-connection current? How does a busy teacher or parent navigate all the available resources to find the ones most suited to his or her children? What are the best websites and other resources for you and your students.

THE ART OF STUDIO FOGLIO

Kaja Foglio (M), Phil Foglio

Attendees are invited to view a slideshow showcasing the recent work of author/artists Phil and Kaja Foglio; including work from their comic book series *Girl Genius* as well as various card and board games. Questions are encouraged, as this is an informal showing and the panelists will often veer wildly off-topic without guidance.

THE ART OF THE SPACE ELEVATOR

Nyein Aung (M), Michael J. Laine

The Liftport Group presents an artist's conception of the future of orbital transportation. What will the Space Elevator look like? How will it dock with the Space Station? A video presentation and discussion.

THE CURSE OF HARRY POTTER?

Louise Marley (M), Bobbie Benton Hull, Duane Wilkins

So, maybe Harry Potter isn't the best fiction. Are there actually people that don't think Harry Potter is the best children's literature there is? Do you feel you could edit them to half the length and not hurt the story? Come in disguise if you wish. A chance to talk about what's wrong with Harry Potter.

THE ELEGANT GOTH

Richard Stephens (M), Veronica Lavenz, Anita Taylor, Lori Edwards, Margo Loes, Diana Vick

Does being a Goth/vampire, mean you have to dress in moldy tatters and the color black? Join us for a discussion/examples of what the well-dressed Goth's wardrobe can entail. This will be a discussion AND gothic-fashion show.

THE FUTURE OF TABLETOP GAMES

Chris Bruscas (M), Cheyenne Wright, Lisa Pondsmith

With the game play of computer games becoming more and more like the tabletop versions what does the future hold for our favorite pen and paper games. Do games like *Neverwinter Nights*, with its online capabilities and GM controls, foretell the end of tabletops?

THE NORWESCON 28 OPENING CEREMONIES

Richard Stephens (M), Shawn Marier, Ali Grieve

It's time to begin four days of examining the Language of Fantasy and Science Fiction, the theme of this weekend, and all the other wonderful things that make this a great convention. Come and help us launch *Norwescon 28* as we welcome Guests of Honor Michael Bishop, Stephen Hickman, Suzette Haden Elgin, Alan Dean Foster, and Tom Doherty to our convention.

THE NORWESCON 28 THURSDAY NIGHT DANCE

Todd Clark (M)

Come and dance the night away.

THE UNIVERSE AS SEEN BY WMAP

Eric Schulman (M), Elton Elliott

Thanks to the WMAP satellite we now know the parameters of the universe to amazing precision. What does it tell us about the universe and its ultimate fate?

TOLKIEN VS JACKSON

Maya Kaathryn Bohnhoff (M), Vladimir Verano, Robert J. Grieve

Some say that the good Professor was just learning his trade as he wrote the greatest fantasy of the 20th century. Other say Jackson has taken great and made it better. No, he took great and wrecked it! Come and state your point of view. This is a weaponless panel ... we really mean that. We'll even take the walking stick from the old guy in the gray cloak.

TRIPPING THROUGH HISTORY

Elton Elliott (M), Bridget Coila, Craig L. Figley

Join us for an interesting discussion of the origins and uses of drugs throughout history.

WHAT WENT WRONG WITH THE DREAM?

Thor Osborn (M), Gregory R. Paddock, Stephen Gillett, Judy R. Johnson

If we can put a man on the moon, why can't we keep a man on the moon? We're a bit late for our rendezvous with the space station Kubrik helped us dream of in 2001: A Space Odyssey (let alone the Moon-base or a manned Jupiter mission). Will we ever get into space to stay? Is the discovery of water on the moon and Mars a ray of hope or just another promise that will go unfulfilled?

WHY SHOULD WE PURSUE AI?

Matthew Dockrey (M), Christopher J. Garcia, G. David Nordley

Computer scientists work hard to try to develop Artificial Intelligence. Why? What is the point -- can't AI just say "no" if we ask it a question?

WRITING ESSENTIALS 101

Ken Rand (M), Patrick Swenson, L.J. Bothell

Markets and marketing for the writer who is ready to submit work: where/what are the markets? What do they really need from you? How to find writer's markets, understand what the editors ask for, and maximize your chance for jumping out of the slush pile or avoiding it altogether. As well as what are successful marketing and promotion strategies writers can incorporate into a busy life? Panelists can discuss forming relationships, mentoring, cross-genre writing, sharing resources, etc.

WRITING ESSENTIALS 104

L.J. Bothell (M), Marti McKenna

About author scams. The idea of this business is money comes to the author, not the other way around. When to run, not walk away, when people ask you for money to get you published.

WRITING ESSENTIALS 105

Kevin Radthorne (M), Loren W. Cooper, Ted Butler

Self-editing secrets. For the writer who is getting ready to submit work: final formatting, self-editing checks, how to trim and tighten prose so it demands to be published.