

THE SENTINEL 5

Saturday morning 3 April 2010

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IT'S FULL OF FANS

The audience loved the Space Odyssey intro to the Opening Ceremony, and awarded it with a roaring applause! Thank you, Tech and Crew!

Commonwealth held up beautifully to a crammed attendance, so it bodes well for the Doctor Who showing on Saturday. Hint hint. Chris O'Shea 'The Magician' did a fine job presenting the Odyssey committee, and improvising when Guest of Honour Mike Carey was reported to

still be in the bar – when his name for presentation was called. Then a hand went up in the front row, and there was the man himself, not dallying in the bar, but freaking out the MC and entertaining himself and the audience.

The Magician also told us which European country won the Eastercon attendance race, Odyssey also being an official Euroconvention. Sweden won, only just beating the Norwegians – who tied with the Dutch.

We Dutch are everywhere; two of us are in The Sentinel team. It is truly international anyway, so don't be scared to offer your writing services to the Newsletter, as we know you can do it. We can, after all!

-Ilana

#Eastercon Internet is running at 1998 Porn speeds. This is better than I expected... @jonnyenponymous

OVER THE TOP QUEUEING!

The 4pm Whiskey Tasting with Iain M. Banks had a line that started late last night and by 9:15am, there were already more than the tasting could handle. The queue for the queue to queue is also over-subscribed.

If you still want to be a part of the action, here's a suggestion: Buy yourself a whiskey at the bar. Go and watch Room 12 at 4pm. Close your eyes and pretend you're one of them up front.

If you're a stand-by, check-in with Ops around 4pm for any up-dates.

Rumours that Iain Banks is planning a Harvey Wallbanger tasting are, at present, unconfirmed.



Photo: Bo Hansen

ODYSSEY-BY-THE-NUMBERS

By Christopher J Garcia

Number of Registered People, Apocraphals, Beeblebears, Infants and Scallywags Registered – 1306

Americans confused by the phase 'Half-Seven' – 3.5

Hugos won by Dave Langford – 28

Hugos won by Dave Langford-Smith – 0 (as of today)

Parallel Universes in which Dave Langford is the cricketer and Dave Langford-Smith is the Hugo-winning writer and fanzine editor – 73,201

Bondage/BDSM panels attended – 0, but that's because I was all tied-up...

Jokes stolen from Steve Green for this article – 1

TRANSATLANTIC IMMUNITY

Introduction to Allergies talk: TAFF delegate and immunologist Brian Gray informed a packed room that he has an interchangeable bottom half for performing multiple functions.

FANTASTIC

Free copies of the F&SF magazine, courtesy of Gordon Van Gelder (ed.), available at Fantast Three table in Dealer's Room.

THE A-MEN: SPREAD THE WORD!

For this competition drop by John Trevillian's table in the lobby of the Dealer's Room to check out the 'sexy, dancing, ultra-violent' novel *The A-Men* and get a chance to win a pair of Bose Quiet Comfort headphones or visit www.trevillian.com.



STARGATING!

The sign-up sheets for Monday's Stargate game are on the wall by the door that connects the Games Room to Royal B.

MERCHANDISE PICK-UP

Some people still need to come pick up (and pay for) your pre-ordered merchandise at registration: Craig Arnush (1002), Gaspode (105), Tony Hammond, M. Hutchison (93), Rita Medany (104), Judith Proctor, Neil Summerfield (306).

DOUBLY RECOMMENDED

Six early arrivals had dinner at the London Hong Kong on Thursday. The food was good, some dishes better than others, but the special honey roast pork was excellent. The restaurant was busy, so make sure to book first. -Cristina Pulido Ulvang

London Hong Kong restaurant may be a bit pricey, but the food is well worth it!

For starters the Shark Fin soup was quite good, and the crispy duck with pancakes was excellent, the sea bass too, and the South Australian wine was fine. A large part of the clientele were Chinese people, so that must count as a good sign as well. -Niall Gordon

SAY WHAT?

Last night's 'It's Sh*t But We Like It' panel came to a startling conclusion. We like film and TV-series with a pretty cast, preferably taking their kit off, and big explosions. It was also noted that any movie with dialogue like 'If I am not back in 5 minutes, call the pope.' is not sh*t.

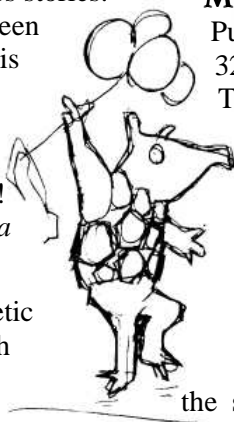
BAR(T)ITSU

Let's say that you're a gentleman of the 1890s and you need to defend yourself against the ruffians of London. If you've got a walking stick and an overcoat, you can turn yourself into a indestructible defending machine using the style Bartitsu, later immortalized by Arthur Conan Doyle as Baritsu in his Sherlock Holmes stories.

Recently, this long-dormant style has been revived around the world and Odyssey is proud to be able to present this demonstration at 4pm in Royal B + C.

Come and see how the gentlemen of yesteryear would have clocked a sucka!

-Chris Garcia



CÉILIDH

Last night's dance was a fun and energetic céilidh courtesy of Pigeon English, with Liam Robinson calling. The music was top-notch as always. They played two full sets with an hour-long intermission featuring music and singing by Gwen and *Playing Rapunzel*. A lively crowd of fans packed the dance floor for a succession of familiar and a few slightly less well-known dances, concluding at 1am with an Orcadian *Strip-the-Willow* and a variation on the *Circassian Circle*.

The Saturday night dance will be a *New Romantics* themed disco with Marwan DJ-ing. Dressing up is optional but highly encouraged - the more outrageous the better! -Alex Holden

"Morris is not an airy-fairy dance!" Judith Proctor.
@jonnyenponymous

MEANWHILE, ELSEWHERE

Punjabi Spice

320 Bath Road, Hounslow - 2.5 miles

This place is not on the Outside Readme list but is worth a short drive. The food is very good (the *murg saagwala* and basmati rice were excellent), there's nothing wrong with the service and the prices are reasonable; for two starters and two main courses plus two Pepsis and two Kingfisher lagers we paid £40, including a generous tip. The vegetarian menu is exceptionally long and the spiciness of main courses can be specified when you order. I didn't particularly enjoy the Bollywood soundtrack but you may, and it wasn't overbearing.

MUTTERINGS FROM MR. SORENSON

I am reliably informed that Harry Potter and the Half Cut Prince features 4 entirely new and novel jokes, unless you've been to Novacon or read Dave Langford's SFX column, in which case they'll be no new jokes or two new jokes to look forward to respectively. In spite of this the work has its normal compliment of plagiarisms, sorry, homage to others, humorous offerings and looks to be a suitable entertaining show continuing in the tradition of such masterpieces such as *A Fist Full of Hobbits* et al.