



Tardum Flumen #2 — Actually Friday, Earlier



Agent 66 — by Meredith Branstad



Fireworks — by Craig Classner

Who Agent 66 Is!

It happens to the best of agents! Heck, in the first James Bond novel, he's told his cover's blown the moment he arrives at the site of his mission. Now, despite expectations that Agent 66 would remain undercover at least a few days longer, the mysterious operative has been identified. During their address to the Opening Ceremonies crowd, they announced that the mysterious person of interest was none other than convention member Cynthia Kloczko who was, indeed, in attendance. (The method with which she was discovered remains confidential.) In recognition of her secret service, Ms. 66 was awarded a high-tech cooler bag of goodies including a decoder mug, program photo proof sheet, the signature Agent 66 word balloon, a choice jar of Granzella's Sicilian Style Olives, and a star-spangled bowtie. She responded with a heartfelt thank-you, reprinted to the right. Salutations, Agent 66!

Al Megas

A Word From Our Agent

Westercon 66 crew: Thank you for finally allowing me to come out of hiding and let me once more regain my life without all that messy secrecy. Now my husband "Fixer" no longer will need worry about my late nights and curiously brief furtive phone calls explained as "wrong numbers" and "nobody there" calls. Whew! Thanks! Truly AWESOME!

Cynthia Kloczko, Agent 66

Fanzine Lounge Fun and Frolic

Westercon 66 is proud to invite you to the Fanzine Lounge! We're located in the Natomas room (223) and we're having whacky fun in a whacky way! Thrill to the variety of zines from around the world! Be astounded by the view over-looking the main Atrium stage! Find yourself enthralled by the variety of conversations ranging from the symbolism of Han Solo shooting Greedo as read through Marxist philosophy to the 1992 Royal Rumble. Swing by and join in the fun!

Chris Garcia

To Be or Not to Be ... Anachronistic

On Thursday afternoon, I had the pleasure of joining co-panelists Bjo Trimble, J. E. Ellis, John Trimble, Kent Bloom, and an enthusiastic audience to discuss the nature of anachronism in literature, film, and costuming. Does anachronism serve a purpose? How does one decide on where to “draw the line,” to instruct people on technique without becoming a “costume nazi?” Most of the conversation centered on costuming and reenactment, particularly as related to the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA). As someone uninitiated to the SCA and costuming, the hour proved extremely educational for me.

In general, the panelists leaned toward an attitude of acceptability. John Trimble further clarified this as the “ten feet rule.” Would someone appreciate your costuming acumen from ten feet away, or does it appear jarringly out of place? For example, wearing tennis shoes and jeans under your tabard certainly wouldn’t work. And in terms of building your costume, practitioners would even go so far as using a sewing machine or modern dying techniques, since many times documentation on period methods are lacking. Nonetheless, always strive for accuracy, and do your research! These tenets apply to literature and film too, but writers can get away with a bit more, because, as J. T. Ellis put it, they can say “the woman wore a green frock” without having to describe fabric or stitching patterns. As for film, well, movie makers unfortunately go for impact much to the detriment of accuracy, which leads to a plague of clumsy anachronisms.

Plenty of examples abound that illustrate successful uses of anachronism, such as the SCA and the rise of mash-ups like Steampunk. If you’ve ever lived in a foreign culture, you might have experienced what it feels like to be an anachronism in a way that could inspire you to appreciate different approaches to life. Have fun, experiment, but in the end please put thought into it! Bjo Trimble offered excellent advice on handling “costume nazis.” When some becomes hypercritical, she tells them, “Thank you! Would you be willing to hold a workshop to teach us the right way to do this?” If not, that person has lost the right to criticize. And thus, we were schooled.

Chuck Serface



The blackout from the fanzine lounge — by Kat Templeton

Blackout

Hundreds of fans were partying in the dark when the power went out after midnight last night. According to SMUD, 700 utility customers were affected. They initially estimated that power would be restored by 3am but it was back after only half an hour.

Tom Becker

Fanboy Planet Podcast!

You like comics. You love movies! TV makes you happy! Wrestling is something you’ve seen! Well, if you like any or all of those, you’ll enjoy the Fanboy Planet Podcast! Join Editor-in-Chief Derek McCaw, Ric Bretschneider, Christopher J Garcia, and special guests as they discuss all the happenings in the world of stuff!

Come and see us at the Atrium at 12:30 on Saturday! Hey, you might even win valuable* prizes!

Chris Garcia

*value is in the eye of the beholder...

Messages

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