

# Unremembrances

The Fiction of Norwescon 39

## The Foulest Thing

by Madison Keller

Edmund's hand trembled on the handset before he got up the courage to dial. His son answered on the fifth ring; he could hear music and laughter in the background.

"David, don't hang up. I miss you." He paused. "Please come over. I'd like to see—"

"Look, old man. I don't want your money. I don't ever want to see you again. Stop calling me."

Silence. The line went dead.

He ripped the jack from the wall and threw the phone across the room.

His steps echoed in the emptiness as he wandered through the mansion, he found himself in front of his parent's old room. He hadn't been in there since they'd died.

The hinges screeched open and he shuffled forward, fumbling for the switch. Dust puffed up from the carpet with each step. The light flickered then stayed on, illuminating the retro seventies orange shag carpet. Something sparkled, half hidden under a dusty floral print hat. He crossed the room and revealed a white horn, slightly curved with a corkscrew spiral edge.

The horn was warm under his fingers. He marveled at how clean it was.

In the brighter light of his study he set it on his desk, next to the framed photo of Maggie holding little David on her lap. After her death there had never been time enough for friends, work, or even his son. Their recent estrangement only exacerbated the hole she'd left in his life.

Sunlight sparkled about the horn, creating shifting rainbows on the walls. Maggie would have loved it.

It was the most beautiful thing he'd ever seen.

The folks at the antique mall were just as impressed. "We'll give you a thousand for it."

The horn was too unique to sell and he had enough money; the curiosity consumed him. He asked around. He found no answers, but the horn gained many fans.

For the first time in his life he found himself invited to a party. "Bring that fabulous

horn of course," they gaily said in the invitation.

At the ball he showed off the horn; when he brought it out the room brightened and rainbows shone. The guests pressed forward, clamoring for more.

When he'd tired of holding and put it away the crowd returned to their hors d'oeuvres.

Edmund mingled, approaching a woman and her friend.

"Wonderful show. How much?"

"It's not for sale."

"Of course not, it's the only thing you have going for you." They tittered, heads together, as they walked off.

That was the best exchange he had that night.

Before he'd found the horn he'd been lonely, but not discontent, not empty and hollow as he was now.

The horn was the foulest thing he'd ever seen.

Edmund twisted his hands around it, the sharp edges of the conicals biting into the palms of his hands. "I wish my son knew how I felt, how it feels being all alone."

It pulsed in his hands then crumbled away into ash. As the last of it dissolved he lost consciousness.

He awoke to his son's boyfriend shaking him awake. "David, you're having a nightmare. Wake up."

# Temporal Anomaly

Daily Zine for Norwescon 39 • Saturday, March 26

## Guest of Honor Schedules

TANYA HUFF, WRITER

*Autograph Session*

Grand 2 12:30 - 1:30pm

*Reading*

Evergreen 1&2 3 - 4pm

*Character Driven/Plot Driven*

Cascade 10 4 - 5pm

*Writing With Authority*

Evergreen 1&2 6 - 7pm

JANNY WURTS, ARTIST

*The Art of Janny Wurts*

Evergreen 1&2 1 - 2pm

*Autograph Session*

Grand 2 12:30 - 1:30pm

*Reading*

Evergreen 1&2 5 - 6pm

WILLIAM K. HARTMANN, SCIENCE

*Autograph Session*

Grand 2 12:30 - 1:30pm

*The Art and Writing of William K. Hartmann*

Evergreen 1&2 2 - 3pm

*Art & Astronomy: Space Art through the Decades*

Cascade 13 4 - 5pm

*Mining the Sky*

Cascade 5&6 7 - 8pm

BETSY WOLLHEIM & SHEILA GILBERT,

PUBLISHER

*What's New From DAW*

Evergreen 1&2 4 - 5pm

*Masquerade*

Grand 2 7:30 - 9:30pm

For the most up-to-date schedule, as well as maps and other useful information, check out the Guidebook app available on the Android, Apple and Windows platforms. Or visit <http://guidebook.com/g/NWC39> from any web browser.

## Philip K. Dick Award Winners

Congratulations to the winner of the 2016 Philip K. Dick Award, *Apex* by Ramez Naam (Angry Robot Books), with a Special Citation to *Archangel* by Marguerite Reed (Arche Press)!

The award is presented annually for distinguished science fiction published in paperback original form in the United States.

## Science Fact

A photon takes 40,000 years to travel from the center of the sun to the sun's surface (about 430,000 miles), but only 8 minutes to travel from there to Earth (about 93 million miles).

## Contribute to the Zine

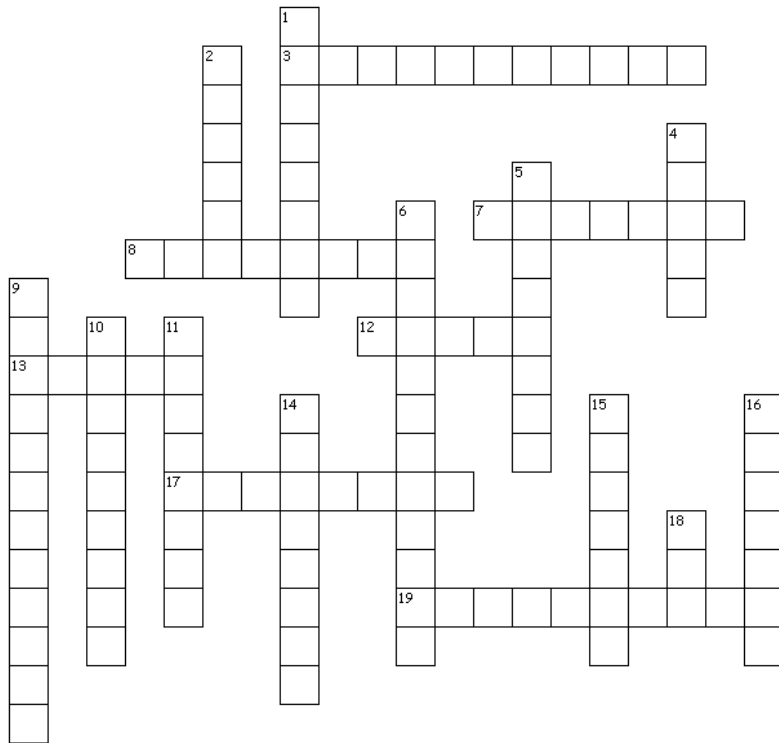
The editorial staff of *Temporal Anomaly*, your daily zine for Norwescon 39, invites you to submit content to appear within our pages! If you overhear something interesting in the halls, want to rant or rave, or if you'd like to submit a 50-600 word microfiction story to our daily anthology *Unremembrances*, contact us at [zine@norwescon.org](mailto:zine@norwescon.org) or drop us a note at one of the boxes at Information or in the Convention Office.

We accept submissions from all attendees, staff and guests. Submissions must be made by 9pm the day prior to publication.

All bylined content remains the property of the author.

## Crossword Puzzle

How well do you know your science fiction and fantasy literature?



### ACROSS

3. the biggest, most powerful city in Bas-Lag
7. planet covered in living ocean
8. frog xenians
12. how it feels to pet a hedgehog
13. it must flow
17. fast food restaurant chain in far-future Korean dystopia
19. Earth, in the Space Trilogy

### DOWN

1. D-503's spaceship
2. the handmaid's home country
4. where the hobbits live
5. life, the universe, and everything
6. sequency and ...
9. the world controller for Western Europe
10. she becomes immune to the hypnosis
11. the altered language of 1984
14. Strugatsky picnic
15. disingenuous art dealer of an alternate San Francisco
16. representative of the Ekumen to planet Gethen
18. Sparrowhawk

## Late-Breaking Changes

Ivy Yap will be attending the convention; Elizabeth Sampat and Mickey Schultz will not.

## Attending Pro Changes

*Costume Foundations III: Fitting It To You* (COS26): Tammie Dupuis (M), Kathryn Brant, Anita Taylor, Margo Loes, Lori M. Edwards.

Cascade 10 1 - 2pm

*Horror: Not Just for White Dudes Anymore* (HOR04): Arinn Dembo (M), J. F. High, Lisa Bolekaja, Cheryce Clayton.

Cascade 9 5 - 6pm

*The Force Awakens: Costuming's New Hope* (COS02): Bethany Roulett (M), Julie Zetterberg, Deborah Strub.

Cascade 10 10 - 11am

*Naughty Hotties: The Fashion Season of the Witch* (COS05): Lori M. Edwards (M), Bethany Roulett, Margo Loes, Victoria Shaffer.

Cascade 10 11am - 12pm

*The Broad Universe Rapid Fire Reading* (MISC11): Marta Murvosh (M), Jude-Marie Green, Brenda Carre, S.A. Bolich.

Cascade 10 7 - 9pm

*First Page Idol* (EP09): Phoebe Kitanidis (M), Frog Jones, Nicole Dieker, Paul Constant, Joshua Bilmes.

Cascade 9 1 - 2pm

*Comic Book Movies* (POP01): Rafeal Richardson (M), Paul Constant, J. Rachel Edidin, John Lovett, Joshua Bilmes.

Evergreen 3&4 3 - 4pm

*Writing With Authority* (WRI01): Kristi Charish (M), Tanya Huff, Steven Barnes, James C. Glass.

Evergreen 1&2 6 - 7pm

*Scene & Variation* (WRI02): Erik Scott de Bie (M), Gregory A. Wilson, Raven Oak, Sonia Orin Lyris, Sam Morgan.

Cascade 10 5 - 6pm

## Gaming Adjustments

*Magic: The Gathering Tournament* (added!)  
Maxi's Bar 2pm

*Curse of Strahd* (added!)  
Maxi's Ballroom 12 - 5pm

*Daifugo* (added!)  
Cascade 12 9 - 11pm

*Identico Punk RPG* (added!)  
Maxi's Ballroom 12 - 6pm / 10am - 7pm

*Deadfall: A Pairs Variant* (added!)  
Maxi's Ballroom 9 - 11:30am

*TAK* (added!)  
Maxi's Ballroom 1:30 - 4pm

*Pathfinder*  
Rotunda 1 (location!) 9am - 2am

*Zombie Mosh!* (cancelled!)  
Cascade 12 12am - 1am

*Smash Up* (cancelled!)  
Cascade 12 10 - 11:30pm

## Westercon 69

On July 1-4, 2016 Westercon will combine with Portland's annual steampunk arts and music festival, GEAR con, for one spectacular weekend.

Drop by the party, or the Westercon 69 fan table across from the coffee bar, to learn more and purchase memberships. One pass, two cons. Purchase your event membership passes today! Find out more at [www.westercon69.org](http://www.westercon69.org).

## Tweets 'n Such

I love all the women in fandom panels this year! Great program lineup at #Norwescon! #nwc39

~ @EdenCelesteArt

So far the most entertaining moment of the day was watching an airline pilot's face as he navigated around @norwescon-goers. #nwc39

~ @posiegirl