

**NOTES FROM THE  
UNDERGROUND  
FEBRUARY 2007**

# NOTES FROM THE UNDERGROUND

*Notes from the Underground* is a bi-monthly newsletter published by Several Unlimited. Dues are \$12.00 per year in the US, \$16.00 overseas, payable September 1. Submissions of articles, reviews, and artwork are welcome. All written submissions should be typed (or very legibly handwritten). Please don't send original artwork by regular mail. The deadline for submissions is the first of every month.

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Back issues of Notes from the Underground are available by written request to the Several Unlimited's P.O. Box. The cost is \$1.00 per issue, including postage.

In Hoc Signo Vincas,  
Dee  
Editor, *Notes from the Underground*

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## Meeting Announcements

The February meeting will be held at Carolyn O'Neal's house. The February Video Party will be held at Dee Beetem's house.

## Editor's Announcement

We are exchanging newsletters with the Prydonians of Prynceton as PDFs (via email). If any Several member would like a PDF instead of, or in addition to, their paper newsletter, please email me (Erika Frensley). The PDF of each newsletter is also posted on the Several Unlimited website.

## Message from the President

*Jamie Ritchey*

We're revving up for Revelcon. The Orphan Zine Table seems to be getting a slow start this year, but that probably means we will be getting a lot of last minute drops offs at the con. We can really use people being there to help set up the table and sort the zines dropped off on Friday morning.

The next two months are going to be super busy for me, with concom duties and my granddaughter showing her heifer in state fairs and rodeos all over Texas, as well as the Orphan Zine Table, so if you need me for something, persist, nag even. I'm not ignoring you, I'm distracted. Charlee, the heifer, is being shown at the Houston rodeo the Thursday before Revelcon, so I'm going to have to budget my time extremely closely in order to help set up the Dealer's Room, haul the Orphan Zine Table stuff in my truck, and get a chance to see my girl and her cow at the rodeo that day. Your understanding will be much appreciated.

## Veepster Message

*Dee Beetem*

Reiterating from last month – we'll have a Several Unlimited party room (sadly, the suites are all gone) this year. Besides our usual breakfast and the Pizza Party, I'd like to throw an 'intro to anime video party'. Erika and I have some first episodes of our favorites--would anyone else like to loan us an interesting anime disc?

## Orphan Zine Sale Ringmaster Message

*Erika Frensley*

Well, what else would you call it? This year I'm taking over for Carolyn and running the Orphan Zine Sale and Internet Sale. We need bodies, preferably with minds attached, folks. We need folks to help man the tables during RevelCon, transport the items to the hotel, and helping with setup and breakdown (of the tables, not the folks).

This year we'll be trying to schedule the table hours a bit better, and have backup instructions in case we need to use another MacGyver computer. Please help us out, and volunteer your time and energy as you can! At the February meeting, we'll be organizing the dealer memberships. If you

buy a dealer membership, you must help out with the zine sale (but remember, the dealer memberships are cheaper than the regular memberships!

## **Congratulations Sanjay and Parul!**

On February 3, Sanjay Mediwala (Several member) and Parul Shah (potential Several member) were married in a traditional Hindu ceremony.

Hindu weddings run longer than Christian weddings and there are a lot more components to them. Fortunately for the fans who attended, we were given a program that explained the ceremony in some detail. In the course of the wedding we heard chanting in Sanskrit, Sanjay and Parul walked around a ceremonial fire to represent a proper direction in life, and all of us tossed petals in the air in their honor. The priest spoke in both English and Hindi but I think most of the jokes were in Hindi. It was a lovely ceremony and Sanjay looks terrific in a turban.

Afterwards there was a dinner reception and we fans were seated at a table of our own. We heard speeches by Sanjay's and Parul's family, then there was dancing, and all of us toasted the new couple and wished them a very long and happy life together. It was so cute, a little later, to hear Sanjay say, "Did anyone see where my **wife** went to?"

And someday I want to find out more about what he was doing with that coconut.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **OwlCon XXVI, February 9-11, 2007**

Gaming, Fantasy, & Science Fiction Convention <http://www.owlcon.com/>

OwlCon is an annual gaming convention at Rice University, Houston, TX. We will feature table top and live action role playing games, miniatures games and events, historical miniatures, board games, card games, a dealers' room, and more. OwlCon 2k2 gaming events will include RPGA events, official tournaments for Warhammer 40k, Warmaster, Shadowfist, and Mage Knight, Matchbox-scale Car Wars, World of Darkness tabletop games, a Vampire LARP, a Call of Cthulhu LARP, a Crossroads fantasy LARP, and many other games with prizes galore! OwlCon will once again be swarming with official demo folks for various

game systems to give you a chance to try some of their great games. We will also have open gaming, an anime room, a TV lounge running movies, some "all nighter" events, and our second annual OwlCon party and costume contest in Valhalla.

For more information and/or here is the shipping address:

Rice University  
Fast Warp MS-526  
c/o Office of Student Activities  
PO Box 1892  
Houston, TX 77251-1892  
ATTN. OwlCon  
Or send email to [owlcon@owlcon.com](mailto:owlcon@owlcon.com)

### Corflu 24 (aka Corflu Quire) February 9-11

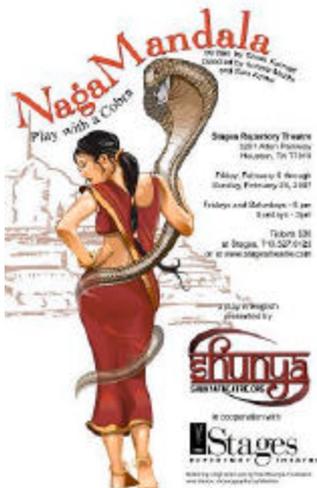
The 24th annual gathering of the fanzine fan community  
<http://www.corflu.org/>

Doubletree Hotel Austin, 6505 IH 35 North  
Austin, Texas 78752  
Sponsored by FACT (the Fandom Assn. of Central Texas)

### Shunya Theatre presents Naga Mandala, February 9-25

**Note:** Sanjay Mediwala is Managing Director of Shunya Theatre.

February 9th - February 25<sup>th</sup>, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 PM, Sundays at 3PM



Combining two traditional Indian oral tales, Naga Mandala features a story-within-a-story. A cursed playwright must stay awake all night in the temple, and as he attempts to do so he meets the spirit of a Story who slipped out of an old woman’s mouth as she snored. The Story is that of a young bride who is neglected by her indifferent husband and attempts to win his affection with a love potion; instead, she enchants a King Cobra who begins to visit her every night while her husband is away.

Stages Repertory Theatre

3201 Allen Parkway

Houston, TX 77019

Purchase online at [www.stagestheatre.com](http://www.stagestheatre.com), or call 713-527-0123.

For additional information, contact [info@shunyatheatre.org](mailto:info@shunyatheatre.org).

## **ConDFW 2007 February 23-25**

A Literary Science Fiction & Fantasy Event <http://www.condfw.org/>

Radisson Hotel Dallas North

Richardson, TX (Metroplex area)

- ❖ Guests of Honor: Emma Bull, Will Shetterly, Harry Turtledove.
- ❖ Artist Guest of Honor: Bob Eggleton.

Art Show, Book Swap, Dealers Room, Panels, Gaming, and more!

For more information, write:

ConDFW

2117 Tulane Drive

Richardson, TX 75081

Or send email to [info@condfw.org](mailto:info@condfw.org)

Sponsored by the Texas Speculative Fiction Association

## **ChimaeraCon 2007 March 9-11**

The Annual South Texas Gaming & More Fest <http://chimaeracon.com/>

Crossroads Convention Center

San Antonio, Texas

Gaming con. Warhammer 40k roguetrader, tentative Warmaster roguetrader, tentative Blood Bowl tournament, Sanction Warlord CCG Tournament, Sanction L5R CCG Tournament, Seven Seas RPG, OmniQuest RPG, D&D 2nd RPG, RPGA Living Grehawk, Living Force, tentative BK interactive and more. Mortori, DBM tournament, Giant Circus Maximus, Formula De', LARP run by the Camarilla, Parallel Worlds, Xenome, Costume Contest, and more surprises to come. Plus charity event, dealers room, etc.

For more information, send email to [mailto:chimaeragaming@aol.com](mailto:mailto:chimaeragaming@aol.com)

## REVELcon 18 March 16-18

The Little Con with the Texas-Size Heart

<http://www.severalunlimited.com/revelcon/>

REVELcon is a long standing zine con in Houston that is a great weekend of fanzines, fun, and food. We are a bifictional con that caters to both genres and slashers. This con is pre-registration only and is also for adults only.

A relaxacon whose main emphasis is fanzines, fun, and food. Brought to you with help from fans from Houston and the world. A fun weekend where you can read, watch your favorite characters, meet old friends, discover new friends and fandoms, find that zine or episode/series you've been looking for, laugh during the Saturday evening entertainment, or buy that special piece of art on Sunday morning.

For further information write:

Revelcon 18

c/o E.D. Pearlman

P.O. Box 130602

Houston, TX 77219-0602

Or send email to

[Revelcon2007@gmail.com](mailto:Revelcon2007@gmail.com)



## AggieCon 38 March 22-25

Oldest & largest student-run science fiction convention in the U.S.

<http://aggiecon.tamu.edu/>

Texas A&M Memorial Student Center

College Station, Texas

- ❖ Comic Artist GOH: James O'Barr
- ❖ Artist GOH: Ruth Thompson
- ❖ Major Guest: Jana Oliver
- ❖ Voice Actors: Tiffany Grant, George Manley
- ❖ Musical Entertainers: EYESHINE BAND

Guests will include: Todd McCaffrey, Mark Worrel, Alan Porter, Scott Cupp, Bill Crider, Rie Sheridan, Jeff Turner, Jayme Blaschke, Gloria Oliver, Julia Kosatka

Charity Auction, Costume Contest, Cosplay Contest, Anime Rooms, Live Performance of the Rocky Horror Picture Show, Dealer's Room, Network Computer Gaming, Platform Gaming, Board Games, Tabletop RPGs and LARPS and more!

For more information write:

AggieCon (958460)

P.O.Box 5688

College Station, Texas 77844

Or call (979)268-3068

Brought to you by Cepheid Variable

### **SciFi/Fantasy/Comic Book Blowout Event March 31**

The Texas Store [Bookstore and Coffee Café] invites you to join us for our SciFi/Fantasy/ComicBook Blowout Event!

The SciFi/Fantasy/Comic Book Blowout Event is officially scheduled for March 31st from 10am-6. Our special guest authors conducting Book Signings at this event include:

- ❖ **Roxanne Conrad/Rachel Caine** (Multiple works including The Morganville Vampires Series, The Weather Warden Series, and Buffy, Angel, Harry Potter and Stargate SG-1 Anthologies)
- ❖ **Robin Gillespie** -DB Pro/Marvel Comics ( The Wood Boy/Burning Man)
- ❖ Epic Fantasy Author **Danny Birt** (Ending an Ending: First Book of the Laurian Pentology)
- ❖ **Mari Atherton** ( Merari and The Dreamers Way)

Please join us for a fun filled day that's centered around Science Fiction, Fantasy and Comic Books and don't miss our special sales and guest authors! For further information concerning events or other questions such as store location, please visit:

<http://www.thetxstore.com> or <http://www.myspace.com/thetxstore>

Or contact me directly at

Sarah Hunt

The Texas Store: Events

P.O. Box 964 Bullard, TX 75757

903-894-9247

[txstore.events@gmail](mailto:txstore.events@gmail.com)

## News and Reviews

### Night at the Museum

*By Dee Beetem*

It was based on a kid's book, and the trailer tells the story: dinosaur bones and cavemen wake up and scare the night watchman at a museum. So, why did I like this movie so much?

First off, it 'plays fair' with its fantasy premise: at night the museum exhibits magically come alive. Some interesting plot twists turn up because of this as the movie progressed; it began to feel like real fantasy, not just a special effects mush. And second, because the movie is very positive in a non-smarmy way about history, science, and the learning thereof. This is a Good Thing, for both children and adults.

Ben Stiller is the lead actor in this movie and he plays a Ben Stiller character. (Because of this, the first twenty minutes are somewhat winceable.) But by the end he grows out of being a Ben Stiller character and becomes a worthwhile person. Whew!

Robin Williams, Dick Van Dyke, Mickey Rooney, and Owen Wilson were there to add a pinch of pixie dust and comedy to the proceedings. And finally, the sprinkling of 'over the kid's heads' lines were amusing to identify. Gotta catch 'em all!

It was "fun for all ages", and there was a happy ending.

### Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows

The last Harry Potter book will be published July 21, 2007. Here are some predictions and leaks from the author herself at a reading in August 2006:

- ❖ Headmaster Albus Dumbledore, who was murdered in Half-Blood Prince, has an important role in the final book - even though he is dead...
- ❖ Severus Snape (played by Alan Rickman in the Harry Potter films) is actually a good character.
- ❖ Harry's aunt, Petunia Dursley, will have a very important part in the final book.

- ❖ Not said at the reading, but strongly implied... Harry, Ron and Hermione will survive book seven.
- ❖ Stephen King, reading from his work at the same New York benefit, asked whether Harry Potter's rival Draco Malfoy would be redeemed. Rowling answered that all her characters except Lord Voldemort, "appear redeemable" and that Harry firmly believed that Draco Malfoy was not evil.
- ❖ Book seven will explain the deep connection between a wizard and his wand.

# Calendar and Maps

<p><b>February 9, 2007</b></p>	<p><b>Several Unlimited Meeting Carolyn O'Neal 114 Beverly, 713-667-4929</b></p>
<p><b>February 23, 2007</b></p>	<p><b>Video Party Dee Beetem 4737 Kingfisher 713-729-4716</b></p>

