



**NOTES FROM THE
UNDERGROUND
JANUARY 2006**

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*

SEVERAL UNLIMITED P.O. Box 1766 Bellaire, TX 77402-1766

President	Jamie Ritchey (713) 729-8639 jamie.ritchey@att.net
Vice President	Margaret McNickle (713) 522-5439 mmcat@ev1.net
Treasurer	Carolyn O'Neal (713) 667-4929 CarolynONeal@cs.com
Secretary	Steve Dial (713) 771-6297 scififan@hal-pc.org
Editor	Doris Beetem (713) 729-4716 DDBeetem@AOL.COM
Webmaster	Sanjay Mediwala (832) 452-5193 sengrif@yahoo.com

Several Unlimited Web Page: <http://www.severalunlimited.com>

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Meeting Announcements

The December Meeting will be hosted by Elizabeth Knauel. The Video Party will be hosted by Dee Beetem. I may decide to have a birthday cake at the Video Party. Or not...

January Birthdays

January 30	Dee Beetem
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Editor’s Announcement

We are exchanging newsletters with the Prydonians of Pryncton as PDFs (via email). If any Several member would like a PDF instead of, or in addition to, their paper newsletter, please email me (Dee Beetem).

Message From the President

by Jamie Ritchey

A New Year has begun, hopefully filled with new challenges and new opportunities. But in the meantime, we have traditional matters to keep us busy. It's time to rev up for Revelcon. This is our major yearly project and we have a well deserved reputation of doing a great job. We need to get our promo letter out to all our lists to help drum up some new interest in the Orphan Zine Table. We already have some regular sellers checking in with us in preparation to sending us their wares. I'm looking forward to this year's con.

P.S. The Sentinel comes out on DVD on April 18th! I'm doing the happy dance!

New Year's Day Open House

by Steve Dial

Charlcie and I want to thank everyone who attended the New Year's Day Open House. Everyone seemed to enjoy it. I know that I did. Special thanks to everyone who brought food and/or gave me cards and/or presents at the Open House. They are very much appreciated.

This year we set a record for attendance: seventeen guests, the largest turnout yet. I look forward to doing this again next year.

News and Reviews

The Lion, the Witch, and the Review

by Erika Frensley

<http://adisney.go.com/disneypictures/narnia/index.html>

Is there another movie that lends itself to such punnery? The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe is a grand fantasy, lushly detailed and wonderfully acted. Unfortunately it left me quite a bit flat.

For those that don't know the story, one day little Lucy Pevensie crawls thru a wardrobe and finds herself in the land of Narnia, where it is always winter and never Christmas. The White Witch has taken over the land, and only Aslan, the great Lion and his forces hold her back. And Lucy and her sister and brothers are the major figures in a prophecy, you see... and her brother Edmund makes an unwise decision that helps the

Witch for a box of Turkish delights.

The story is written for children, and reminds one of Oz. Much has been made of the Christian allegory in the tales; yes, it's there, yes, it's subtle, and yes, you don't need to worry about being subverted by it. The problem for me is the beautiful costumes and special effects. The special effects were done by Richard Taylor, of WETA (yep, there's the Lord of the Rings connection). They're gorgeous, they're stunning, they're absolutely convincing, and in a way as disturbing as watching the Wizard of Oz and seeing Dorothy's dress become rags thru her journey to the Emerald City. The special effects just seems too real for the story.

The film is very true to the book, which highlights a point in the book that always puzzled me: Can you really be a traitor if you have no idea whatsoever that you are telling secrets (as Edmund does)? But all doubts aside, the movie is very well-done, with no dull spots, the children actually act like they are related, and the special effects are spectacular.

As a tidbit, when Dee and I went to Disney MGM studios, they had a bit of a display for The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, with videos of the movie special effects, a convincing mockup of the snowy forest with the lamppost and the wardrobe, and a display of some of the props. As with Lord of the Rings, the props that WETA built and created were incredibly detailed and beautifully crafted.

Doctor Who News

Canadian release of new series box set.

The new series of Doctor Who will appear on Region 1 DVD on February 14 2006. This is obviously a Canadian release, rather than an American one, but is enormously good news.

It will be a five disc box set, with the same extras as the UK (but with no audio description tracks or subtitles for the commentaries). And, we are told, it will be "available in fine stores nationwide".

New season of Doctor Who started

The new season of Doctor Who has started in England. The first episode, The Christmas Invasion, aired on Christmas Day. The Tardis falls to Earth on Christmas Eve. While the Doctor's regenerating, Rose is powerless to save the planet.

The episodes are already available on the Internet.

Upcoming Events

RevelCon (March 17-19 2006) Houston, Texas

Check out convention news and progress reports at their homepage at: <http://www.majorcrimes.freesevers.com/REVELcon.htm>



For 2006, the con is under new management, F5 Productions (of which our President Jamie Ritchey is a member). We hope to introduce some new things and certainly plan to continue well-established traditions. You can read, watch your favorite TV episodes on a big screen, meet old friends, discover new friends and fandoms, or find that new or used zine in our dealers' room.

The THEME for REVELcon 17 is ENSEMBLES. There will be prizes given out for great "Hall Costume" Ensembles at the Sat. Night Cabaret and Costume Contest.

The con hotel room rate is \$69 and is good for March 17-19, 2006. If you need more information, please email with an age statement and someone will be happy to answer any questions.

This year both the GEN PJ Party and the "OTHER" PJ Party will be on *Friday* night after the Remembrance party and song vid contest/viewing. The parties will be held in hotel rooms for a more comfy and relaxed atmosphere. Prizes will be given for best jammies and best readings so try to wow us! Short fic please - nothing longer than 3 pages. Anyone can read a favorite scene or short short story -- authors are encouraged to read their own fic.

Also, we're looking for good "gen" panel discussions as well as the "other" <g>. Please email me if you have any suggestions. The more input from you the greater the success of our discussions. So put your thinking caps on! Choose a fandom and fire off a question.

If there's an episode of a show you'd like to see, let me know. If we can find it, we'll show it! I love music videos and I'd like to show lots.

OwlCon XXV, February 10-12, 2006

RMC/Ley Student Center, Rice University, Houston, TX
<http://www.owlcon.com/>



OwlCon is an annual gaming convention at Rice University, Houston, TX, dating back to 1980. We will feature table top and live action roleplaying 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 Warhammer40k, 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

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

ConDFW V, February 24-26, 2006

Radisson Hotel Dallas North, Richardson, Texas, (Metroplex area)
<http://www.condfw.org/>

Guests: Don Maitz, F. Paul Wilson, and Janny Wurts, and featuring the Bedroom Bards

Also Attending: (In alphabetical order) C. Dean Andersson, Paul Black, Renee Brown, Lillian Stewart Carl, Bill Crider, Scott Cupp, P. N. Elrod, Rhonda Eudaly, Melanie Miller Fletcher, Brad W. Foster, Bill Fountain, Christopher Fulbright, Bob Gunner, Beverly A. Hale, Angeline Hawkes-Craig, Charlee Jacob, Katharine Eliska Kimbriel, Julia Blackshear Kosatka, Lee Martindale, Gloria Oliver, Teresa Patterson, Dusty Rainbolt. Nina Romberg/Jane Archer, Selina Rosen, Davette Shands, Rie Sheridan, Bradley H. Sinor, T. M. Wagner, Richard

D. Weber, MarthaWells, K. D. Wentworth

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

For more information, write:

ConDFW

3009 Eric Lane

Farmer's Branch, TX 75234

Or send email to info@condfw.org

Website of the Month

The Forbes Fictional 15

by *Michael Noer*

http://www.forbes.com/2005/11/29/forbes-fictional-rich_cx_mn_de_05fict15land.html

Collectively, we are fascinated by the super-rich. We devour their biographies. We hang on their advice. Maybe we even hope for their downfall. But in our attempts to explain the ultra-rich--and their super-inflated bank accounts--we are often guilty of reducing real people to mere caricatures. There is the monopolist. The oracle. The genius. The thief.

With the Forbes Fictional 15, we have taken the opposite approach--fiction's caricatures are elevated to the status of real people.

1. Santa Claus	8. Bruce Wayne
2. Oliver "Daddy" Warbucks	9. Thurston Howell III
3. Richie Rich	10. Willy Wonka
4. Lex Luthor	11. Arthur Bach
5. C. Montgomery Burns	12. Ebenezer Scrooge
6. Scrooge McDuck	13. Lara Croft
7. Jed Clampett	14. Cruella De Vil
	15. Lucius Malfoy

This year's list includes: Santa Claus; Oliver "Daddy" Warbucks; Richie Rich; Lex Luthor; C. Montgomery Burns; and new contender:

Lucius Malfoy's wealth detailed in Forbes' Fictional Fifteen

Posted by CHEESER (The Leaky Cauldron)

<http://www.hpana.com/news.19152.html>

In Forbes' list of rich fictional characters, Lucius Malfoy came in at #15.

Through brisk trading of Dark Arts artifacts on eBay to his stock holdings in Wal-Mart and Halliburton, Malfoy saw his fortune increase 30%, even while behind bars at Azkaban:

Much of Malfoy's gain can be attributed to surging commodities markets. The price of gold is at its highest level since 1987, up 16% since January alone. Malfoy's stores of gold galleons and silver sickles--among the purest mintings of those metals known--have appreciated significantly.

Despite these material gains, it's clear Lucius' imprisonment has been personally painful. His wife, Narcissa, has reportedly begun making midnight visits to a "family friend," a tall, thin and greasy-haired professor at the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. And Draco, Lucius' only son, disappeared this year following the murder of Hogwarts headmaster Albus Dumbledore.

But don't count out this cunning conjurer just yet. With Voldemort's power on the rise and the future of the wizarding world very much in question, it would be naive to dismiss the possibility of a comeback by Lucius Malfoy.

"I don't know how long Azkaban's going to hold him," says Nymphadora Tonks, an Auror who was present the night Malfoy was arrested breaking into the Department of Mysteries. "I expect we haven't seen the last of that git."

Calendar and Maps

January 13, 2006	Several Unlimited Meeting Elizabeth Knauel 13438 Harpers Bridge 77041-5860
January 27, 2006	Video Party Dee Beetem 4737 Kingfisher
January 30, 2006	Dee Beetem's Birthday



