

Notes from the
Underground
June 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 doristheyounger@yahoo.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 June Meeting will be hosted by Erika Frensley. Due to date conflict with ApolloCon, there will be no Video Party—let’s meet at the con!

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 (Dee Beetem).

Summer Chills at the Alley Theater

If you’d like to see Wait Until Dark (6/30-7/16), contact Dee or Erika.

Message From the President

by Jamie Ritchey

June is the beginning of summer and, except for work, it gives me some down time to relax and do fannish things. Revelcon and MediaWest Con tend to give me lots of fannish ideas and a burst of creativity. Hopefully I'll be able to carry out some of the projects that spring to mind. How about you guys? Will we be able to announce any new fic, songvids, artwork or other projects of our members as they are completed over the summer? Let us know what you are working on.

News and Reviews

MediaWest Con 2006 Review

by Jamie Ritchey

The annual con held in Lansing, Michigan on Memorial Day weekend was as enjoyable as ever, although the weather was hot as Houston. The abundance of panel tracts, the great art show, the smaller than usual but wonderful vid contest, and the gatherings with fellow fen friends from all over the country are the best parts of this con. I attended a few Sentinel panels and envied the skill of the vidders. I wish I knew how they found all the wonderful songs they used in their songvids. Based on the new zines and artwork, the hot new fandom is Supernatural. This con and Revelcon make spring and summer a fun time of year.

By Dee Beetem and Erika Frensley

This year Erika and I slugged out and didn't sign up for any panels. I'm not into any hot new fandoms, so I went to panels on old faves like LOTR and RGP, plus a few on the perennial unresolved fannish topics:

- ❖ Do you have to follow the show's canon in fanfic? How about historical accuracy?
- ❖ Are grammar and spelling necessary in fanfic? Yes....please! Spellcheck is not enough but it's a start.
- ❖ Plus slash issues like "What do gay guys think about slash?" and "I'm not gay he's just my partner".

Erika saw a number of younger fans in the hall blaster battles and the anime panels. Some were the children of MWC vets but others were probably newbies. Yay! We also talked to a lot of dealers—Erika hopes to convince more dealers to send new zines to the 2007 Revelcon.

I (Dee) actually bought two pieces of art this year: a LOTR photomanip

of Boromir and Faramir and an art print of a chickadee. It seems to me that there were fewer X-rated pictures in the art show this year—not none, but less. At the auction, Paula Smith, the auctioneer, called for applause for people’s faves and demonstrated that more femmefans are interested in cats than in any given hot guy.

Upcoming Events

ApolloCon 2006, June 23-25, 2006

Several Unlimited will have a seller’s table on Saturday. Contact Kim G. Kofmel, Programming Head, at kgkofmel@gmail.com, if you want to volunteer for a panel. This is our local SF con, folks—let’s enjoy it!

DoubleTree Hotel Houston Intercontinental Airport

15747 John F. Kennedy Blvd.

Houston, TX 77032

Email info@apollocon.org

❖ GOH: Peter S. Beagle

ArmadilloCon 28, August 11-13, 2006

Doubletree Hotel North

6505 N. IH-35

Austin, TX 78752

Sponsored by FACT

For more information, call **512-477-6259**

ArmadilloCon 27

P.O. Box 27277

Austin, TX 78755

email: dillochair@armadillocon.org

❖ GOH: Judy Czerneda

❖ Toastmaster: Esther Friesner

❖ Special Guest: James Hogan

Websites of the Month

Ye Olde Soul Mates

By Shannon Sutcliff. April 4, 2006, Dallas News.

http://www.biography.com/home_page/dead_celebrity_soulmate.jsp

The Dead Celebrity Soulmate Game is the Biography Channel's parody of matchmaking sites like Match.com—using historical figures.

Players choose a male or a female ‘date’, check off interests from a list

ranging from "fine arts" and "traveling" to "public disturbances" and "world domination", then pick their partner's ideal physical traits: hair (bewigged, nonexistent, etc.), body type (elfish, frumpy, etc.) and so on.

Three images (an historical photo, drawing or a painting) are displayed with a black bar across the eyes and a screen name such as "Raven," "Sunflowers," "Frock_the_Vote" or "KissMyAsp".

The match's profile is eerily similar to ones on a real dating site. "vini_veggie_vinci" answered "My most humbling moment" with, "My plans for the flying machine didn't quite work out." "Hemlock" filled in "The celebrity I resemble most" with "Uncle Jesse from The Dukes of Hazzard." "Raven" answers "In my home you will find" with, "A brick wall, which you must never go near. A moist spot on the floorboards, which must be kept covered at all times. A black cat, which will torment you with the madness-inducing mews of hell. I call him Fluffertop."

This addictive Flash game combines history, parody and pop culture, revealing facts about notorious figures in history in a strangely appropriate way while also lampooning online dating.

Superheroes in Renaissance Art

The Worth1000 PhotoShop contest: Superhero ModRen 2

http://www.worth1000.com/cache/contest/contestcache.asp?contest_id=10424&display=photoshop

Look! Up in the sky!

It's a bird!

It's a plane!

It's.....a Bouguereau?

Apparently there were no supervillains during the renaissance period, so superheroes were not needed. That would explain the lack of superheroes in fine art. The Worth1000 contest aimed to fix that.

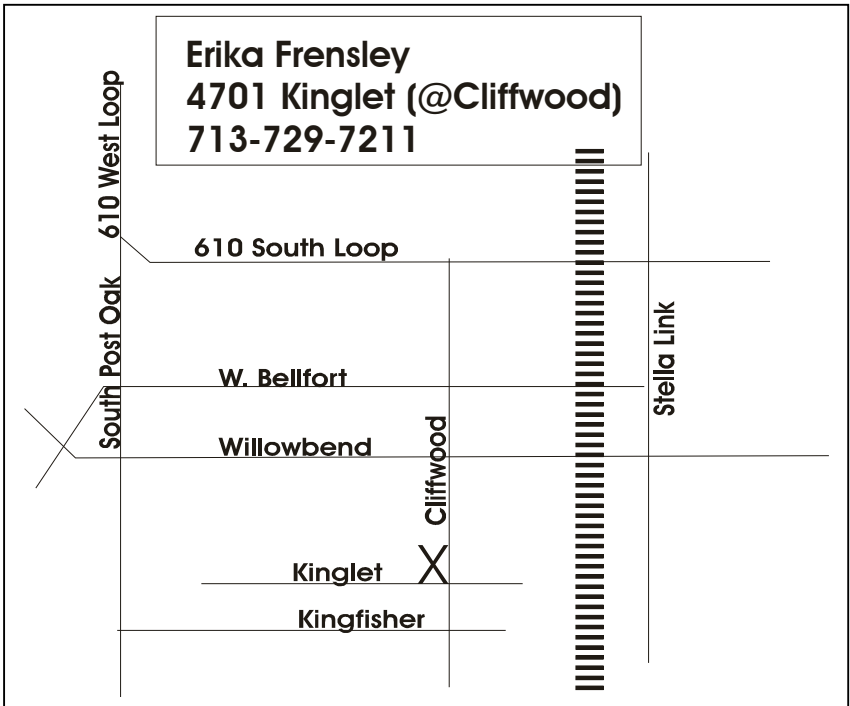
The rules of the contest were to use PhotoShop on any piece of fine art to incorporate a superhero (or supervillain). Contestants had only 48 hours to send in entries which included items like:

- ❖ Mona Xena's Smile
- ❖ Wondering Woman
- ❖ Madonna and the Incredible Child

We'll try to print at least one picture on the back cover, but go look at them! They're super...

Calendar and Maps

June 9, 2006	Several Unlimited Meeting Erika Frensley 4701 Kinglet 713 729 7211
June 23-25, 2005	ApolloCon-no Video Party



Madonna and the Incredible Child

