

Notes from the  
Underground  
March 2010

## 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 sent online or typed. Please don't send original artwork by regular mail. The deadline for submissions is the first of every month.

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Erika

Editor, Notes from the Underground

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## Meeting Announcements

There will be no March meeting. The March Video Party will be held at Amy Denton’s house ([Map of 3510 La Costa](#))..

### March Birthdays

- ❖ **Tom Wells**                      March 22
- ❖ **Tom Towns**                     March 24

### Editor’s Announcement

Because of postage costs, we are sending out newsletters electronically. For a hardcopy, email [EEKfrenzy@gmail.com](mailto:EEKfrenzy@gmail.com). The PDF of each newsletter is also posted on the Several Unlimited website and on the Several Unlimited Yahoo group.

## Club News

### Prez Mez March 2010

Well, oops. None of us remembered that the date for our March meeting conflicts with Revelcon. I decided on a last-minute cancellation, because most of us will be there. I'll see you instead at the Video Party. If you go to Revelcon I may meet you there first—probably on Saturday.

Be seeing you! (as they say in the Village)

It's time to start thinking about spring and summer excursions. If you have any suggestions or locations for the Summer Party, let Margaret know!

### Several Unlimited Fan fiction Archive

We would love to receive and post your fanfic in our web archive. We would love to receive electronic copies of them—send them to [fanfic\\_archive@severalunlimited.com](mailto:fanfic_archive@severalunlimited.com). We can scan hard copy too-- email us first before you send us anything on paper.

### Free Gifts

*Dee Beetem*

As you go to cons, the stuff you picked up for free can matter a lot to other people. The hotel soaps, shampoos, lotions, etc., that you toss into your suitcase can be put to good use by the local food banks. (Full-size products too, of course.) Since the local food pantries are being pushed so hard, all their money is spent on food—nothing is left for toiletries. I will be glad to collect these items and take them to Braes Interfaith Ministries (5020 West Bellfort.)

## News and Reviews

### An SF/F Eye on an NZ Trip

*By Dee Beetem*

This February, Erika, my sister Rose, and I went to New Zealand on vacation. Yes, we have hundreds of photos of mudpools, sheep, albatrosses, and flowers (consider yourself warned) but here are my first impression from the POV of a fan:

Of course we went on some LOTR tours. At most sites they immediately pulled down all the sets ('Edoras' is still in the middle of the incredible Southern Alps, though) but parts of Hobbiton is still standing in a sheep

farm near Rotorua. We were able to view some of the remaining hobbit holes, but even more important, our guide told us that hedges are already being replanted for the upcoming movie, *The Hobbit*. It's really happening, folks.

New Zealand is a remarkable country. At about the land mass of Japan, it has the population size of metro Houston. So they're about to supply most of their electricity through green energy sources such as geothermal and hydroelectric. There's enough room, too, that they make preserving their environment a real priority, and they're vigorously combating invasive pest species such as the gorse bush, stoats, and the Australian possum. (New Zealand had no mammals until they were introduced, and some of the new mammals are wreaking havoc on the native birds.) One species brought in during the 30s that isn't wreaking havoc is the California redwood! We saw some in Rotorua, and in the New Zealand climate and volcanic soil they're already pretty tall.

New Zealand is beginning to think of itself primarily as a Pacific nation instead of British Commonwealth. The native Maoris compose about a quarter of the total population, and are politically and culturally important.

Finally, as an SF fan, I found one of our spur-of-the-moment tours surprisingly moving. My sister Rose wanted to see the Southern Cross while we were in the Southern Hemisphere, and our hotel concierge helped us to hire a taxi driver to take us to the outskirts of Christchurch and show it to us. It's the brightest constellation in the southern sky, and its two pointer stars are Alpha and Beta Centauri. So in New Zealand I got to see the next step outward after the Solar System.

Ad Astra!

## Upcoming Events

### [Revelcon 21](#), March 12-14, 2010

The Little Con with the Texas-Size Heart

#### Houston, Texas

Revelcon is THE only fan-run relax-a-con/zinefest in the Southwest US. It's a fab weekend of vids, panels, art, zines, merchandise, food and fun! [Note - Revelcon is an adults-only/18-and-over con.]

**Kamikazecon, March 19-21, 2010**

Houston's premier anime con

JW Marriott Hotel Houston, 5150 Westheimer, **Houston, Texas** 77056

Dealers Room, Artist Alley, KKC3 Pic Contest, KKC3 Uniform Contest, and more!

**Babelcon 4.5, March 19-21, 2010**

General science fiction, fantasy, & horror con

LSU Cook Hotel & Alumni Center, 3838 Lakeshore Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Dealers room, BabelCon Cosplay & Costume Competition, and much more!

**Comicipalooza , March 26-28 2010**

Houston's premier convention for comics, sci-fi and fantasy, horror, steam punk, New Media, movies, film, and gaming of all types.

George R. Brown Convention Center , 3rd Floor , 1001 Avenida de las Americas , Houston, TX 77010

**Guests:**

Phil Foglio	Ethan Van Sciver	Brea Grant
Tyrese Gibson	Dirk Strangely	Mat Johnson
Gene Wolfe	Humberto Ramos	Josh Howard
Larry Elmore	J. H. Williams III	Jim Mahfood
Rob Liefeld	Ben Templesmith	Bernie Wrightson
Catherine Asaro	John Moore	James Hampton
Jim MacKrell	David Mack	Chris Nicholas

**Anime Matsuri, April 2-4, 2010**

Anime con

Woodlands Waterway Marriott Hotel and Convention Center, 1601 Lake Robbins Drive, The Woodlands, Texas 77380

Panels, Gaming, Anime Theaters, Dealers Room, Artist Alley, Contests, Club AM (the ultimate anime dance/rave), and more!

## **Chimaeracon 2010, April 9-11, 2010**

South Texas festival for Gamers, Sci-Fi enthusiasts and Anime fans.

San Pedro Village Event Center, 9926 San Pedro Ave, San Antonio, TX 78216

Video games, miniatures, card games, RPGs, live action role play and much more. Join discussion panels, participate in the costume contest, and hang out with people interested in Gaming, Sci-Fi and Anime.

## **Delta H Con, April 23-25, 2010**

Gaming & anime con

University of Houston Main Campus, **Houston, Texas**

Dealers Room, Artist's Alley, Art Auction & Show, Anime&DVD Screening Room, Anime Music Video (AMV) Contest, CosPlay [by Anime No Kai of UH], Manga Reading Room, LARPs, Speaker Panels, Workshops, Bubble Room (Kid geared area), Collectable Card Games, PC Game Room, Role Playing events (RPG's), Terrain or Miniature Games (Mini's), & Board Games.

## **Conestoga XIV, April 23-25, 2010**

Oklahoma's largest literary science fiction & fantasy con

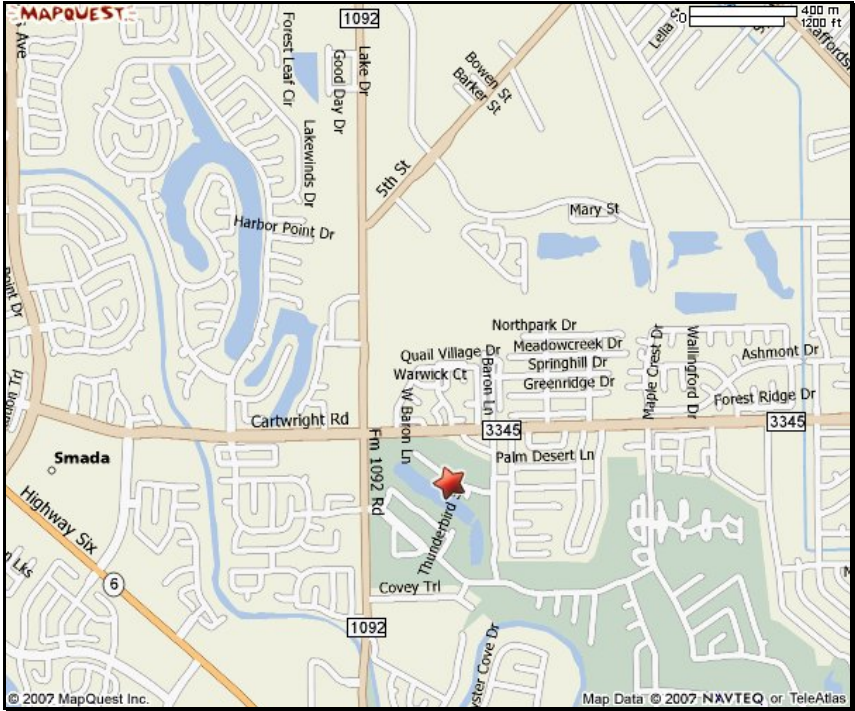
Radisson Tulsa, 10918 E. 41st Street, **Tulsa, OK 74146**

- ❖ GOH: S.M. Stirling
- ❖ Artist GOH: Bob Eggleton
- ❖ Fan Guest of Honor: Leonard Bishop
- ❖ Toastmaster: Travis S. Taylor

Featuring: Art Show, Panel Discussions, Writers Conference, Dealers Room, Short Film Contest, Gaming, Fangs Fur & Fey Mini-Con, Friday night concert, Filksinging, Author Readings, Masquerade, Charity Auction, Panels, Podcasts, and the inexplicably popular Penguin Playhouse Theatre!

# Calendar and Maps

<b>March 12, 2010</b> Several Unlimited Meeting	No Meeting
<b>March 26, 2010</b> Several Unlimited Video Party	Amy Denton, (281) 499-2455 3510 La Costa Dr Missouri City, TX 77459



**Figure 1. 3510 La Costa Dr**

**Note:** 1092 is known as Murphy Road north of S. Main (US 90)