



**NOTES FROM THE  
UNDERGROUND  
MAY 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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In Hoc Signo Vincas,  
Dee  
Editor, *Notes from the Underground*

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## Meeting Announcements

The May meeting will be held at Erika Frensley’s house. The Video Party will be held at Carolyn O’Neal’s place.

## May Birthdays

- ❖ Jamie Ritchey            May 21
- ❖ Anita Haddock         June 4

## 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*

Sorry I haven't been able to attend the last few meetings. My work schedule has caught up with me again and I'm working nights on that Friday for awhile. Hope you all had a great time. The Internet Sale is over for another year and Erika should have a report for us. Revelcon was a success with many new members, new to Revelcon and new to cons in general. The vid contest was the best ever with entries from some amazing vidders. Revelcon now has DVD's of the songvid contest from this year and last year available. See [www.severalunlimited.com/revelcon](http://www.severalunlimited.com/revelcon) for more info.

## Veepster Message

*Dee Beetem*

This month some of us are going to the MediaWest convention in East Lansing, Michigan. While we're up there, I hope that the rest of you have a good time at the Video Party. The club needs to decide ASAP what we want to do at ApolloCon (June 22-24). Several of us will be attending--is anyone getting a room? The Inner Loop Group is planning a wine and cheese party--possibly we could coordinate with them if we won't have space of our own. In any case, I think we ought to chat with attendees, put out fliers and publicize our activities.

Speaking of activities--Summer Chills is doing one Christie mystery play this year (thanks for the info, Steve!)--what other upcoming productions look interesting? Spamalot is coming to town but it may be pretty pricey. In any case there are a lot of big summer movies coming up--Spidey, Pirates, Shrek. Let's get together to see at least one of them.

## Internet Sale Ringmaster Sez...

*Erika Frensley*

The Internet Sale is over for another year. We had over 30 orders this year, and 5 orders from overseas. Quite a drop from last year... However, we sold quite a bit for folks, and sold quite a bit of Several zines and items.

By the meeting we should have closed out everything and be starting the process of returning the zines, then Carolyn gets the fun job of writing the checks.

## Upcoming Events

### SoonerCon 2007, June 8-10, 2007

Science Fiction, Fantasy, Gaming Con <http://www.soonercon.com/>

The Biltmore Hotel, 401 South Meridian (1-40 and Meridian)  
Oklahoma City, OK 73108

- ❖ **GOH:** Stephen R. Donaldson
- ❖ **Artist GOH:** Keith Birdsong
- ❖ **Toastmaster:** Selina Rosen

**Additional Guests:** Bill Allen, David Lee Anderson, M.T. Bonham, Gary W. Babb, Peter Bradley, James K. Burk, Kimber Chessmore, Tim Chessmore, Deborah Chester, Sherri Dean, William Eakin, Rhonda Eudaly, Jan Sherrill Gephardt, Lazette Gifford, Bennie Grezlik, Talia Gryphon, Beverly A. Hale, W.J. Hodgson, Kevin Hopkins, K. Hutson-Price, Gary Jonas, Mike Kennedy, Julia Blackshear Kosatka, William Ledbetter, Lee Martindale, Mel Odom, Cary Osbourne, Jeff Provine, Ray Roberts, Susan Satterfield, Rie Sheridan, Brad Sinor, Sue Sinor, Glenn Sixbury, Shanna Swendson, Rachel Vincent, Steven Wedel, K.D.Wentworth, Craig Wolf

For more information, write:

SoonerCon  
6006 S. Western  
Oklahoma City, Ok 73139

### ApolloCon 2007, June 22-24, 2007

Houston's Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror Conference  
<http://www.apollocon.org/>

DoubleTree Hotel Houston Intercontinental Airport  
15747 John F. Kennedy Blvd.  
Houston, TX 77032

- ❖ **GOH:** C.S. Friedman
- ❖ **Editor GOH:** David G. Hartwell
- ❖ **Artist GOH:** Jeff Sturgeon
- ❖ **Filk GOH:** Graham and Becca Leathers
- ❖ **Fan GOH:** A.T. Campbell, III

A single event for fans of speculative and imaginative fiction of all kinds,

including literary, media, and interactive.

Panels, Art Show, Masquerade, Dealers Room, Gaming (including LARP), Filking, Book Exchanges, Short Film Contest, Media Room. Writer's Workshop.

For more information, write:

ApolloCon  
P.O.Box 541822  
Houston, TX 77254-1822  
Or send email to [info@apollocon.org](mailto:info@apollocon.org)

Sponsored by the Houston Science Fiction Association, a 501(c)(3) organization.

## News and Reviews

### Surfing TV on the Internet, Technology Review

*By Kate Greene, Wednesday, April 18, 2007 - excerpted*

<http://www.blinkx.com/>

Blinkx announced a new search tool that it hopes will allow people to more easily find entire episodes of television shows such as *Lost*, *24*, and *Desperate Housewives*. The tool, called *Blinkx Remote*, offers a quick, concise way to find TV and related information instead of having to wade through video-search results that include partial clips of shows, commentaries, and random collections of episodes in no particular order. *Blinkx Remote* lets people pin down the exact season and episode that they want to find. The tool also offers links to information about the shows from online sources such as Wikipedia and IMDB.com, as well as links to sites, including Amazon and iTunes, where users can purchase DVDs or high-quality downloads of the show. Essentially, *Blinkx Remote* is an attempt to create a one-stop shop for all online TV surfing.

Typically, online video search relies on a handful of approaches, such as looking through text metadata associated with a video, which includes file names and extra bits of identifying information; looking at text labels, called tags, which users assign to clips; and looking at the text around the video on the site where it is displayed. But these approaches have drawbacks. For instance, metadata often doesn't have enough information to identify a video, and the weakness of user tags is that anyone can label a video with "Britney Spears," whether or not it has anything to do with

the pop star. And increasingly, sources of long-form shows such as ABC.com have very little information on the site around the video. Many completely use Flash, which makes for a cool-looking interface, but makes it very hard for search engines.

The Blinkx search engine uses speech-recognition technology in addition to standard metadata and surrounding text searches. For each video that the Blinkx engine encounters, it extracts audio information that it uses to create a searchable index of words. The recognition system assembles these phonemes into words by taking into account which words typically appear in which contexts; "sail" might appear with "boat," for instance. Also, the system uses all other information, from metadata to surrounding text, that provides clues as to how the phonemes fit together.

Blinkx has developed software that can automatically match a searched television show to other types of information from resources beyond the one that supplied the video. This requires being able to identify and assemble disparate pieces of information from around the Web--video, text, and links from numerous different sources, such as ABC.com and IMDB.com--to automatically create a concise result for a single show

Right now, Blinkx has found about 300 online shows that can be accessed using Blinkx Remote. In total, Blinkx has indexed more than seven million hours of video and audio content. And while the debate over copyrighted material rages around YouTube, Blinkx avoids these issues because users don't upload videos. Instead, Blinkx indexes videos that are hosted by other sources (including YouTube). It has partnerships with more than 100 content providers, indexing video from sources ranging from A&E Television Networks to Rollingstone.com.

Copyright Technology Review 2007.

## **Websites of the Month**

### **Superdickery**

<http://www.superdickery.com/galleries.html>

In the 50's and 60's, Superman went thru a period in which, simply put, he was a dick. This site is devoted to those wonderful moments, as well as other great comic book images such as idiotic covers, Wonder Woman bondage, wartime propaganda, and the infamous monkey covers. Really. Take a look...

## Calendar and Maps

<b>May 11, 2007</b>	<b>Several Unlimited Meeting Erika Frensey, 4701 Kinglet 713-729-7211</b>
<b>May 25, 2007</b>	<b>Video Party Carolyn O'Neal, 114 Beverly 713-667-4929</b>

