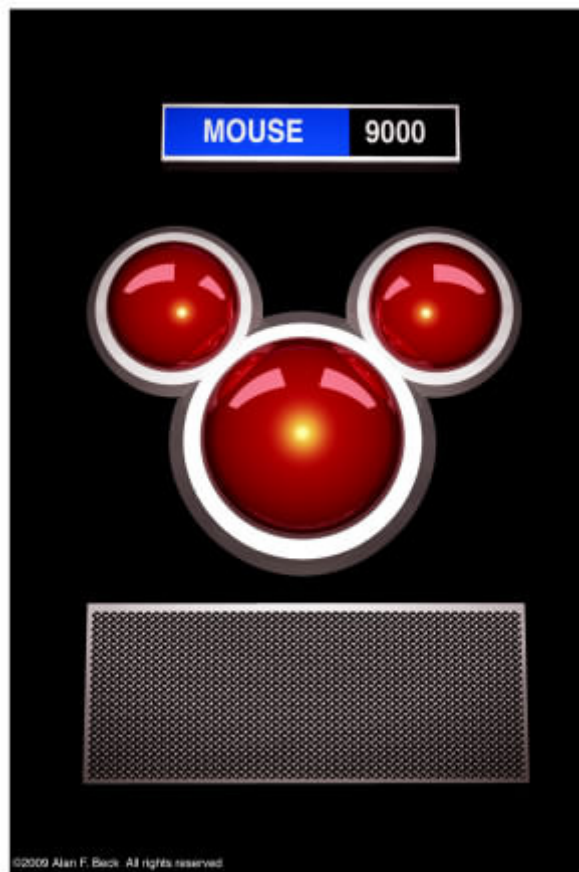


SOUTHERN FANDOM CONFEDERATION UPDATE



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 12
DECEMBER 2009

Musings of a Faned

Hey, y'all! We've got a gorgeous cover from perennial Hugo nominee Alan F. Beck this month, plus an interior (page 7) cartoon from Kimm Antell! I'm finally learning how to ask folks for art for the zines, so you'll hopefully start seeing more on the inside. It's a slower month for Southern Fandom, and I didn't get as much reading done as I had before. I'm once again preparing this on the eve of a convention trip, this time down to SMOFcon, which is in Austin, Texas this year. With the University of Texas at Austin's football squad undefeated and playing Nebraska for the Big 12 championship during the convention, I'm expecting the consuite conversation to turn that way from time to time – maybe even catch a bit of a game on TV. I've watched TV at cons in Texas and Alabama (also undefeated, and playing this weekend for the SEC championship), so it won't surprise me if at least some fraction of the local contingent of SMOFs is interested in following the games. See, if you're not a member of the Church of the Pigskin, you might not know that if Texas wins, they're almost certain to play the winner of that SEC championship game for the national title. But enough about football – I've expanded the event calendar to show a few more months, so y'all can go ahead and start planning the beginning of next year's con season.

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Colophon:

Editor & SFC President: Warren Buff

warrenmbuff@gmail.com

(919) 633-4993

2412 F Still Forest Pl.

Raleigh, NC 27607

USA

All contents copyright their creators. This zine is free, either by direct email or www.efanzines.com. A letter of comment or other contribution will get you on my mailing list, as long as I remember to put you there. If I forget, bother me a second time, or however long it takes to add you. I haven't been printing this one, which leaves me free to use as many pages as I wish, and do things like color. It also lets me use all the contributions I can muster, so fire away!

Calendar of Events:

November 28-December 8:

Pirates in Paradise Festival (Key West, FL. Nine days of pirate-themed events, some free, some with a price-tag.)

December 4-6:

Kajonk-A-Con (Knoxville, TN – UT Conference Center. It's not clear whether this event is actually going to happen this year, as their website seems to be a placeholder ad claiming that the price is much lower than at other cons. I had to use Wikipedia to find out where it's even supposed to be held. I'd love to see Knoxville fandom organized enough to run an annual con, but I'd also call a friend in the area before driving in for this one.)

SMOFcon 27 (Austin, TX – Hilton Garden Inn. This is the premier con for conrunners, and the Texans are hosting it this year. I'll be there pimping ReConStruction, the Raleigh NASFiC, and folks from upcoming Worldcons, Westercons, DeepSouthCons, Eastercons, and bids for those sorts of things will, too. There's lots to learn, and lots of people to talk to. Also, I hear the annual Probability and Statistics Seminar will return in its usual form of a Texas Hold'Em tournament.)

December 5-6:

CatchupCon (Atlanta, GA – Holiday Inn Select Atlanta – Peachtree Corners. RPGA event, featuring Living Forgotten Realms, several indie games, Pathfinder, Shadowrun, and Legend of the Five Rings.)

December 5-10:

Furry Cruise (Miami, FL)

December 18-20:

Anime South (Destin, FL – Hilton Sandlestin Beach Golf Resort & Spa. Ashley Clark, Richard Epcar, J*Scape, Vic Mignogna, Ellyn Stern, and aniRAGE.)

January 1-4, 2010:

MAGFest 8 (Alexandria, VA – Hilton Mark Center. Armcannon, Armadillo Tank, Entertainment System, The Megas, Metroid Metal, A_Rival, Rare Candy, Select Start, Temp Sound Solutions, The OneUps, The Smash Bros., This Place Is Haunted. A video gaming and video game music convention.)

January 8-9:

ShadowCon XIV (Memphis, TN)

January 8-10:

GaFilk 12 (Atlanta, GA)

January 15-17:

MarsCon (Williamsburg, VA)

January 22-24:

ChattaCon 35 (Chattanooga, TN)

Siege of Augusta (Augusta, GA)

January 28-31:

WAM VIII (Baltimore, MD)

Game Fest 15 (Atlanta, GA)

January 29-31:

Creation Twi/Tour (Nashville, TN)

February 5-7:

What-The-Hell?! Con (Greensboro, NC)

AggieCon 41 (College Station, TX)

Williamsburg Muster (Williamsburg, VA)

February 12-14:

Katsucon (National Harbor, MD)

Farpoint (Timonium, MD)

ConDFW IX (Dallas, TX)

February 19-21:

ConNooga (Chattanooga, TN)

February 24-28:

PrezCon (Charlottesville, VA)

February 26-28:

SheVaCon (Roanoke, VA)

ConCave (Horse Cave, KY)

March 5-7:

StellarCon 34 (High Point, NC)

CoastCon XXXIII (Biloxi, MS)

March 12-14:

Kawa Kon (St. Louis, MO)

Madicon 19 (Harrisonburg, VA)

MegaCon (Orlando, FL)

MidSouthCon (Memphis, TN)

RevelCon 21 (Houston, TX)

March 17-21:

IAFA 31 (Orlando, FL)

March 19-21:

FantaSciCon (Chattanooga, TN)

March 25-28:

Furry Weekend Atlanta (Atlanta, GA)

March 26-28:

Enlightenment XIII (Timonium, MD)

June 4-6, 2010:
ConCarolinas/DeepSouthCon 48 (Charlotte, NC)

August 5-8, 2010:
ReConStruction/NASFiC 10 (Raleigh, NC)

September 2-6, 2010:
AussieCon 4 (Melbourne, Victoria, Australia)
September 3-6, 2010:
Dragon*Con (Atlanta, GA)

Reviews

***Turn Coat* by Jim Butcher** (Roc Hardcover, April 2009)
Warren Buff

I'm going to leave my usual academic tone aside for this one. When I told Lee Martindale that I'd read one of the Dresden Files novels, she asked if I'd started at the beginning, so I explained that I don't have time for a whole series, and that I'm sticking to current books for the zine. And to address both her concern and that of the portion of y'all who've been following the series, yes, it worked just fine that way.

Jim Butcher does a great job of filling in the necessary details without derailing his story into an infodump, which means that his pace stays high without confusing a new reader like me. Harry Dresden is a likeable character, too, which helps immensely.

In the proper hard-boiled style, Harry gets his ass handed to him a few times while things get up to speed and he chases several leads. He has to tangle with a monster so horrific he calls it "Shagnasty", which kills, maims, and psychologically damages the folks he's surrounded himself with. And of course, proves himself to be a good detective, a clever spy, and a rather powerful wizard, though still outclassed by his elders.

Overall, it's refreshing that Dresden wins not by purely overpowering his adversaries, but by outsmarting them and bringing allies into the fight. He does gain in power in the novel, but given that the series is focused on the development of a wizard, that makes sense, and is balanced by the emotional tolls the story takes on him. There are some problematic undertones in novel's treatment of women and minorities, but they don't quite come to the fore enough to keep me from enjoying the book. Overall, it's a good popcorn read, though not a serious high literature contender.

***Sandman Slim: A Novel* by Richard Kadrey** (Eos, July 2009)

Hope Evey

My rating: 4 of 5 stars

I picked this book up on a whim at the library; the title caught my eye. I started it without any expectations. I found it to be an excellent read.

The first line smacked me right in the attention, and dragged me into the rest of the book. Like the main character, the plot hit hard and hit often, maintaining a breakneck pace throughout. The whole thing drips with cynicism and sarcasm with a healthy side of dark humor.

The elements of this book shouldn't work together. If I outlined this novel, you'd probably laugh. Somehow, Mr. Kadrey manages to not only pull it all together, but make it perfectly reasonable. As the cosmology flies past, it makes perfect sense.

The characterization is much of what makes this book work. There are no placeholder or cardboard-cut-out characters. Everyone's a real person, even if you don't see everyone's story. You have a good idea of what the main character is like on the first page. Like a quick-sketch artist, the author only needs a few lines to show someone to you.

If Terry Pratchett, D. H. Lawrence, and Dorothy Parker had a love child, and that child knew far more about the back-streets of LA than could legally be admitted, Sandman Slim could be that love child.

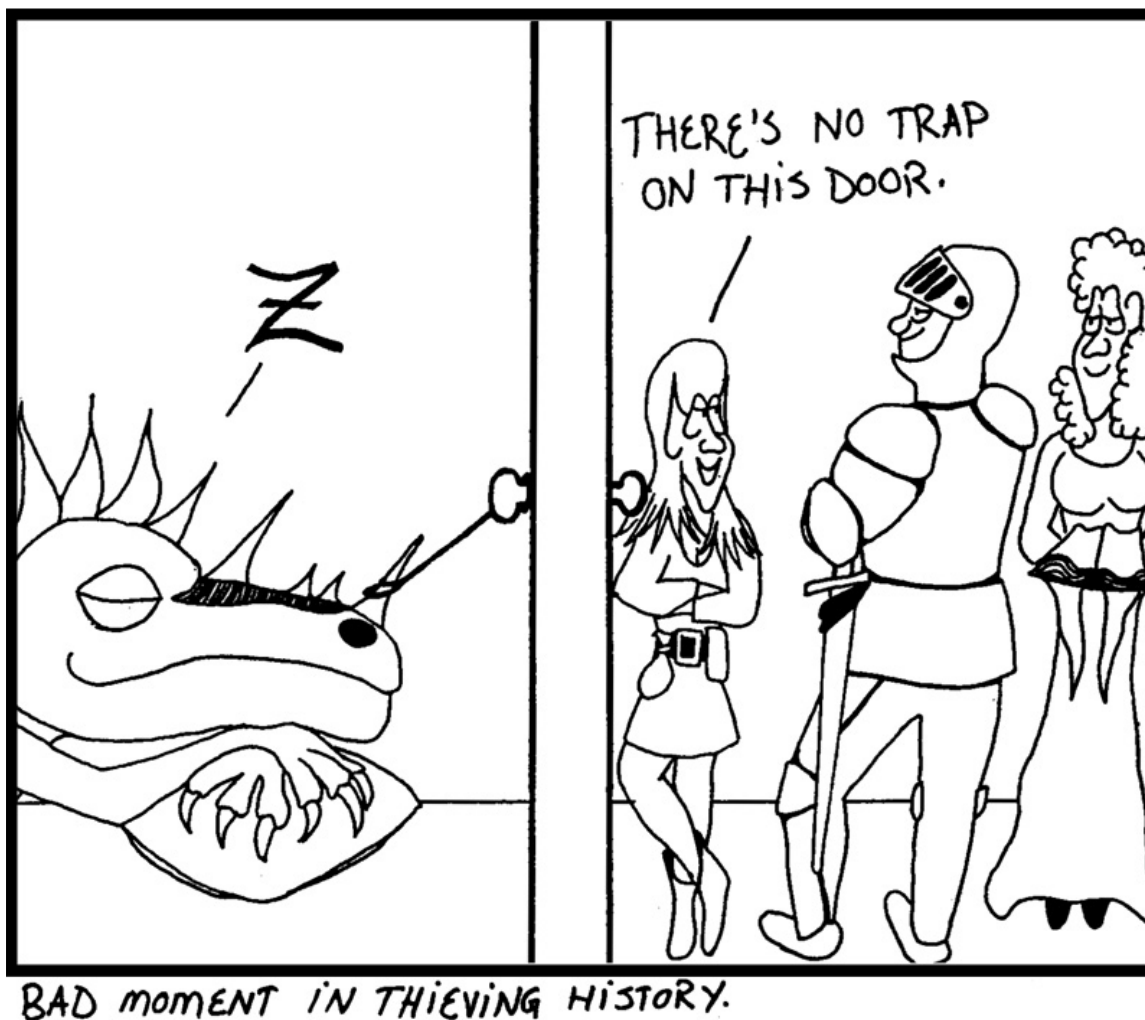
***The Zombie Survival Guide: Recorded Attacks* by Max Brooks & Ibraim Roberson** (Three Rivers Press, October 2009)

The Zombie Survival Guided: Recorded Attacks comes from the mythos of Max Brooks, author of the popular *War World Z*. It is a graphic story, recounting historical zombie attacks ranging from 60,000 BC through World War II and the 1990's.

The title is an apt description of the content. It reads like government after action reports on zombie infestations. That is to say lifeless and clichéd action scenes with terse descriptions. It uses a narrator in place of dialog. Graphic stories told without dialog, and even less narrative text, can be beautiful. This is not the case with *Recorded Attacks*. The first stories are disjointed, while the last few are tied together in a loose narrative. As a consequence it is neither a solid narrative nor effective episodic fiction. Brooks makes no attempts at characterization, and the repeated action sequences possess neither campy fun nor tension and horror.

What praise I do have is for Roberson's art. The illustrations show the pathos of the characters, if these outlines of people can be called characters. If the pacing, or other story telling elements, matched the bleak art this would be an enjoyable

pulp horror comic. As it stands it is a series of fluff that could have been good short horror fiction.



**Rebel Yells:
News and Notes from all over**

We've got a couple of letters this ish from Joy V. Smith:

Warren,

Cute alien cartoon by Brad Foster--nice twist. Thanks for listing all those upcoming cons! That is a great list to share. And what an interesting variety of reviews. Soulless sounds intriguing, despite the vampire and lycanthrope characters, which I'm so tired of!

Thanks to Jeffrey Thompson for the Prince Sirki explanation. Maybe some editor could resuscitate the character. And I enjoyed hearing about more local TV

horror hosts. (I remember vaguely some horror hosts who may have been local, including a guy with a coffin. Tampa maybe?)

The Comic and Horror Fest sounds like fun, though I'd like some tracks, but meeting all those guests is a rare opportunity for fans.

Must sign off now. I'm taking part in the National Novel Writing Month, and I haven't written my quota for the day. (We have to write 50,000 words by the end of November.)

Appreciatively,
Joy V. Smith

Warren,

In case you're interested, I reached and passed my 50,000 word goal last night and got my official validation from National Novel Writing Month and printed out my certificate and got my virtual badge. I'm glad I did it. Sometimes I wondered if I'd make it, especially when I ran out of story...

Joy
My other blog (media tidbits and more)
<http://pagadan.livejournal.com/>

I'm hoping that the lack of a fourth review won't turn anyone away this month, but with all those days off work I'm sure y'all are getting, maybe someone out there can send some our way. Congrats on making your goal for National Novel Writing Month!

Next, we heard from Laura Haywood-Cory, who has an announcement to pass along:

After the success of my first heart-related fanzine, A Change of Heart, I've decided to put out another issue.

This one will be timed to come out during February, which in the US is American Heart Month. If that issue does well too, then I may have an annual fanzine on my hands...

So if you wanted to submit something for the first one but didn't get around to it, or if you want to send me a letter of comment on the first issue (pdf version available from [efanzines.com](http://www.efanzines.com) here: <http://www.efanzines.com/ChangeOfHeart/index.htm>), now's your chance.

I'm looking for essays, poems, artwork, and short fiction--from fans with any type of heart disease/heart failure, on the topic of being a fan with heart problems (see first issue for examples).

As before, emailed submissions are greatly preferred--to laurahcory at yahoo, but if you know someone who doesn't do email, ping me and I'll get you my snail-mail address.

Deadline for submissions is Jan. 15th, 2010.

Feel free to re-post in other fannish places.

All bests,

Laura

--

Laura Haywood-Cory

Durham, NC

<http://a-changeofheart.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.inspire.com/laurahc/>

*Thanks, Laura! For those of you who haven't seen it, Laura's **A Change of Heart** fanzine was fantastic, and I'm quite glad she's doing another. If you have a story to share, please send her a submission.*

And of course we heard from the consummate letterhack, Lloyd Penney:

1706-24 Eva Rd.
Etobicoke, ON
CANADA M9C 2B2

November 18, 2009

Dear Warren:

Another SFC Update has arrived, so let's crack open Vol. 1, No. 11 to see what's inside. How do you crack open a .pdf?

I have sent in our TAFF votes, and I've also purchased our conversions so we can attend the Reno Worldcon. Every year, we go to our local conventions...Ad Astra, Polaris, Anime North. Next year, a new one, SFContario, starts up. Most years, we go to Con*cept in Montreal, Astronomicon in Rochester, NY (that was a few weeks ago) and Eeriecon in Niagara Falls, NY. We are thinking, though, that in 2010, we may have to mightily cut back and perhaps just do local cons only. There's so much to save for, including retirement.

I am extremely picky over the books I read, and I am tempted by so many of them. The Gail Carriger book sounds ever so good, and I read other reviews of it, too. I've gotten heavily into steampunk over the past year or so, but it will be a test of how much of a steampunk fan I am if I decide to spend the money on related books. Oooo, tough...

My loc...I am happy to announce that I have found daytime work. I am wrapping up my second week as a Editorial Production Assistant in the Professional Development & Competency Department of the Law Society of Upper Canada, established in 1797. It's good work, a great office and the best pay I've ever gotten in my life, so I am a happy guy. Plus, I am keeping my evening job, so I am happy and busy. My bank account will thank me for this...

Yvonne and I are tempted by Dragoncon, and by the Steampunk World's Faire, taking place in Parsnippany, New Jersey. I haven't been to Atlanta since the 1986 Worldcon. Only problem would be in getting the costumes down there. There might be the chance of carpooling down there, and sharing a room sounds like the best way to afford all this...

(I am gonna age myself terribly when I say that I remember Gailard Sartain from HeeHaw. Two Canadians created that show, Frank Peppiatt and John Aylesworth with Yongestreet Productions, and two Canadians starred in it, Don Harron as Charlie Farquharson, and Gordie Tapp.)

Gotta fly, work's coming. Take care, and see you with the next Update.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

*You crack it open with Adobe Acrobat Reader. I'm glad you enjoyed the reviews, but even more glad that you've landed a day job! If you can keep it up, maybe I'll see you at ReConStruction or Dragon*Con (and you can take a wild guess where I'd prefer). I may try to make that Steampunk World's Faire, too. It just sounds fun.*

And finally, we had some bad news via Uncle Timmy:

The Passing of Bobbie Irene Wilson Rice

David Weber sent this to me because he wanted me to get this out to all of the family. On November 27, 2009, Sharon Rice-Weber's mother, Bobbie Irene Wilson Rice, passed away. The Weber family are doing fine but they all still miss Bobbie.

Tim Bolgeo

I'd like to tell you about a remarkable lady.

Her name was Bobbie Irene Wilson Rice, and she was my mother-in-law. She was born February 29, 1928, she saw three quarters of the 20th century, and she was one of the finest, strongest people I have ever known.

She was never wealthy, never one of the great and “important” people . . . except to those who knew and loved her. In a time and a place where it simply wasn’t done, she ended an abusive marriage and raised two children: Robert Michael Rice, who gave the United States Marine Corps 22 years of his life, then went into law enforcement, and Sharon Lynn Rice-Weber, my wife. Bobbie’s daughter. Megan and Morgan and Michael Paul’s mother.

I met Bobbie when she was in her mid-sixties, and I remember what she told me then about all the terrible things that would happen to me if I ever hurt her daughter. That was typical of her. I don’t believe I ever once, in all the years I knew her, heard her put herself first. She defined her life in terms of her responsibilities to those she loved, and she did her level best to meet those responsibilities. Oh, she had a temper! And there were times when she could be cranky, grumpy, and downright irritating. But that wasn’t what made her who and what she was to all of us who loved her. What made her who she was was love, humor, courage, stubborn determination, and kindness.

I don’t think she ever really understood fandom. She thought it was cool (although she did have just a few concerns about having her daughter going gallivanting off to conventions with me before we were married), and we actually got her to World Fantasy in Providence, and to ConDFW in Dallas, this past February. She always wanted to hear about the conventions, and I think she was both perplexed and amused by some of our friends and their (and our) . . . oddities. But, overall, she approved. I like to think she approved of me, too, despite the fact that I wrote all that strange stuff. At least she came to our vow renewal last April, and having her there, which we hadn’t really anticipated, given her health, was one of the great joys of that day which we also shared with many of you.

Over the last few years, her body began to fail her. She had several strokes and heart attacks. She had a hip replacement, and her scoliosis and osteoarthritis got progressively worse. She had pneumonia, and we saw her being stolen away a little bit at a time. She rallied again and again – she was always a fighter – and we were deeply blessed to have her clear and strong and alert for our trip to Dallas for ConDFW, but eventually it began to grind down even her indomitable spirit. We who had known and loved her for so long felt her slipping away from us, and we didn’t want to let her go.

I won’t be talking to her again – not and hearing her response, at least. She died Friday morning, on November 27, 2009. It wasn’t easy letting her go, but much as we loved her, we realized that there comes a time when love means releasing the hawk, freeing the dove, allowing the weary traveler to go home at last. She was tired, and she was lost, and we loved her. And because we loved her, we said goodbye.

I’ll miss her. I’ll miss her humor, her smile, the love she had for those about her. And I’ll treasure her, for the very same things. And my world will be a little

poorer for her absence. But I'll also look into her daughter's eyes, and that's where I'll see the echoes of Bobbie Irene Wilson Rice. There and in my son's red hair and freckles and blinding smile. And in my daughters' huge brown eyes, sandalwood complexion, and beautiful faces.

We are the people we touch. Our reality is the echo we send down the years of our families and loved ones. Our touch is in the memory of children and grandchildren, passing on the hugs and kisses we gave them. My mother-in-law touched a lot of people, including me, and I celebrate her life and every day I got to know her. I rejoice for her, for her freedom from pain and fatigue, for the greater joy I truly believe she's found in the completion of that journey we all must take. And I grieve for her son, for her daughter, for her grandchildren, for her great-grandchildren, and for myself, because of what her freedom has taken from us.

Goodbye, Bobbie. We love you.

WAHF: John Purcell, Arnie Katz, Regina Kirby, Calvin Powers, Alan F. Beck.