

Southern

Fandom

Confederation

Update

Volume 1

Issue 5

May 2009

Editorial: You Should Attend DeepSouthCon!

This ish is fairly barebones, owing to a busy schedule on my end. I've tried to make up for a lack of illos with some color in the titles. Hopefully, it won't burn out your eyes. I promise a return to better production values nextish.

But before we cut to the Convention Calendar and Letter Column you all expect, I want to encourage each and every one of you to attend this year's DeepSouthCon, at Hypericon 5, in Nashville, TN. It's on the first weekend in June, the fifth through the seventh, and I've listed it in the Convention Calendar in spite of it not being a "May Event". This is DSC. It's our big one, where we gather from all corners of the South to celebrate Southern Fandom.

You've got the Rebel and Phoenix Awards, honoring fan and pro service to Southern Fandom. You've got the Rubble, for whoever has done the most *disservice* to Southern Fandom (thankfully a tongue-in-cheek award most years). You've got the Hearts Championship of the Known Universe. And the site

selection of DSC for 2011 (vote for Fencon!), as well as the SFC Business Meeting. Oh, and did I mention there's a great Southern convention going on there, too? Come out to DSC this year – it'll be a great mix of the younger and older generations of Southern Fandom, and it'll be all the better for you being there.

May Events

This May is one of those rare months which encompasses five whole weekends, so this will be one of my longer con roundups. To make it even better, one of those weekends is Memorial Day weekend, which will feature eight distinct weekend-long cons in the South, so you've got no excuse not to find something to do. And I figured I'd just make this that much longer by taking a look at the first weekend of June, since it features the most important Southern Fandom con of the year – DeepSouthCon. All this and more awaits you, gentle reader!

Let's start off May with four days of gaming at the Holiday Inn in Timonium, MD, where they'll be having **Game Days**, April 30-May 3. That's right, if you're reading this, you could already be at a con! But don't worry, even if you're not ready yet on Thursday, there's still plenty to do. For the mere three day weekend of May 1-3, check out **Malice Domestic** in Arlington, VA at the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel, where you can see such luminaries of the mystery genre as Guest of Honor Nancy Pickard, Toastmaster Elaine Viets, and Lifetime honoree Anne Perry. Down in Chattanooga, check out the **Dicehead Siege** at the Country Hearth Inn, where you can get your game on if Maryland's a bit out of range. And for those looking for a con designed to appeal to queers and their allies, check out **OutLantaCon** in Atlanta, GA at the Holiday Inn Atlanta NE, where they've got a great mix of authors and media. Another great subset of Fandom, those incredibly talented costumers who grace the stages of our masquerades and the halls of cons everywhere, will be having their big annual event, **Costume Con 27**, in Timonium, MD at the Crowne Plaza Baltimore North. The theme for this year will be Vampires, Villains, & Vixens. Down in Greenville, SC, fans of *Firefly* will want to check out the **Browncoat LARP & Shindig** out at Camp Buckhorn in Paris Mountain State Park. Your membership covers your cabin, food, and game materials, too! And out on in the Lone Star State, check out the **Texas Nightmare Weekend** in Irving, TX at the Sheraton Grand Hotel. Believe it or not, they've got Alice Cooper and Linda Blair schedule to appear. This should be a great weekend, folks!

Well, unfortunately, I left the complete sentences I'd written about these conventions languishing in a file on my computer at work, so I've really got to go ahead and crank this out if I want these listings to be of use to anyone. They're separated out by week, with the things I thought important enough to mention included. If you want to find out more, I direct you to the Southern Fandom Resource Guide and the Texas SF convention listings. Both are excellent resources for our region. They both list many events I don't take the time to write up.

May 8-10 – LouisiANIME, Baton Rouge, LA (Baton Rouge Marriott – Kyle Herbert, Vic Mignogna, Wendy Powell, Samantha Inoue Harte); EyeCon, Orlando, FL (Florida Hotel & Convention Center – Jackson Rathbone, Peter Facinelli, Kellan Lutz, Edi Gathegi. Twilight-centered, billed as an autograph convention)

May 14-17 – Star Fleet Region 1 Summit, Pigeon Forge, TN (Mainstay Suites – big club event)

May 15-17 – Mobicon, Mobile, AL (Ashbury Hotel & Suites – Sharon Green, Theresa Mather, Larry Elmore, Nathaniel & Sebastian Moss, George Lowe, Tiffany Grant)

May 16-17 – Maryland Faerie Festival, Upper Marlboro, MD (Patuxent 4H Center – a largely outdoor event celebrating Faeries and also featuring Dragons); Wonderfest, Louisville, KY (Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport – Veronica and Angela Cartwright, William Stout, and a whole ton of folks who've worked on the ALIEN and Predator franchises)

May 22-24 – Animazement, Raleigh, NC (Raleigh Convention Center, Raleigh Marriott City Center – Yusuke Igarashi, Jun Shishido, Noriko Hidaka, Tomokazu Seki, Koichi Tsunoda, Masao Maruyama, Keiko Han, Rtuusei Nakao, Yasuo Yamaguchi, Maya Yamao); TimeGate, Atlanta, GA (Holiday Inn Select – Mary Tamm, Brad Greenquist, Terrance Dicks. Stargate and Dr. Who centered.); Oasis 22, Orlando, FL (Sheraton Orlando Downtown – Peter David, John Ringo, Toni Weisskopf, Johnny Atomic); Jacon, Kissimmee, FL (Ramada Orlando Celebration Hotel & Convention Center – Stan Bush, Steve Bennett, Richard Horvitz, George Lowe, Dough Smith, Brett Weaver – final year); Rocket City FurMeet, Huntsville, AL (Embassy Suites Huntsville – Joecifur, Susan Rankin, aka SueDeer); ConQuest 40, Kansas City, MO (Hyatt Regency Crown Center – John Scalzi, Ellen Datlow, Oberon Zell, Jerry Gelb, Ed deGruy)

May 22-25 – Play On Con, Birmingham, AL (Alta Vista Hotel & Conference Center – gaming, programming, and parties centered around the idea that the main attraction of a con is to be surrounded by Fandom.); Balticon 43, Baltimore, MD (Hunt Valley Marriott – Charles Stross, Kurt Miller, Mary Crowell, Scott Sigler, Mark Van Name)

May 29-31 – ConCarolinas, Charlotte, NC (Hilton University Place – Katherine Kurtz, Alan Welch, Kathy Mar, James Cawley, Anthony Forrest, Brandon Stacy, Travis S. “Doc” Taylor); Wrath of Con, Panama City, FL (Marriott Bay Point Resort & Spa – Jerry Doyle, Andrea Thompson, J.G. Hertzler, John Billingsley, Bonita Friedericy, Chase Masterson); A-Kon 20, Dallas, TX (Sheraton Dallas – LM.C, camino, Keith Baker)

May 30-31 – CreatureCon, Orlando, FL (Central Florida Fairgrounds – comic book convention)

June 5-7, Hypericon / DeepSouthCon 47, Nashville, TN (Days Inn Stadium – Brian Keene, Steven Gilberts, Bob Embler, Kathy Mar, Glen Cook, Jonathan Maberry)

Rebel Yells

Letters from around the South

We started off this month with a far-flung LoC, from Arnie Katz in Fabulous Las Vegas!

Dear Warren:

Thank you for the latest issue of SOUTHERN CONFEDERATION NEWS. I was surprised to find a LoC by me leading off your inaugural letter column, mostly because I didn't think I'd written one. The one you printed might more justly be termed an "acknowledgement" than a true letter of comment.

Fair enough to call it an acknowledgment. There was information in it, though, that I felt was worth passing along, so I ran it. That's my editorial policy: if I think someone might like to know it, and you don't ask for a DNQ/DNP, and it was either in response to this zine or looked like a general news item, I run it.

I greatly appreciated the plug for the oneshot, HOME KOOKIN' #1, that the Veg-rants did over the Corflu Zed weekend. We've gotten enough positive feedback on it that we will probably attempt another when Nic Farey visits Las Vegas at the end of April. The Vegrants are also winding up work on another issue of the group's genzine, IDLE MINDS/ I imagine it'll be available as a free download on Bill Burns' efanzines.com by the beginning of May.

My appreciation is more than a response to the scent of egoboo. As someone with a long history of enjoyable contact with Southern Fandom, I am very much in favor of more wide-ranging contact between Core Fandom and Southern Fandom. There's already a significant overlap in participants and I think both subcultures would benefit from cultural exchanges.

I don't think I'm alone in that view, either. I've had generally good response from non-Southern fans to appearances by prominent Southern Fandomites in my fanzines -- and I think my zines have also pulled quite a few readers from Southern Fandom.

They sure have – and heck, you were one of the first faneds to run my material, strange as my initial offering (on the subject of cravats) was.

In the past, back when "Core Fandom" was known as "Fanzine Fandom," I think mutual ignorance caused some lamentable frictions. Some fans, unfamiliar with

the history and culture of Southern Fandom, misconstrued things they saw and heard.

Now, thanks to the efforts of people like Curt Phillips (and you), Core Fandomites are learning that Southern Fandom is an entity, like British Fandom or Australian Fandom and that its subculture must be respected. That more enlightened attitude makes a lot of difference.

*It does, thanks. While there's some contact with outside areas in the fringes of the South, the deeper you go, the weirder we get. Heck, we've still got mammoths in the swamps, if the size of **Challenger** is any indication. But I'm glad that we're getting more contact with other regions, and the influx of northern fans into the cities of the New South helps a lot, too.*

Southern Fandomites have a wonderful opportunity to gain, too. Core Fandom is rich in history and literature, including much that dates from before Southern Fandom split off from North American Fandom.

I would like there to come a day when Core Fandom has as close and cordial relations with Southern Fandom as it does with UK Fandom. There's so much that unites us.

Faanishly,

Arnie

I'll second that sentiment you end on, even if I'm still uncomfortable with the name 'Core Fandom'. But heck, I like what y'all do, so the name's hardly something to start a fight about. We'll both still pub our ish, and that's a lot of what counts.

So, on that note, our next LoC came from another fine faned, John Purcell!

Just perused the latest *Southern Fandom Confederation Update* - the fourth one now; you're on a roll, Warren - and thought I'd give you and your readers a bit of a prelude on my Aggiecon 40 report for *Askance* #14.

In short, it was a great disappointment. For anyone who reads my LJ, the postings of March 27th and 28th were notes and rant about the con. There were a number of things wrong with the con, the worst being the concommittee's inability to update Aggiecon's website with very important information, such as scheduled events and changes. My son Daniel and his friend Peter went with me on Friday evening the 27th, and were supremely depressed when they learned there was no computer gaming room this year.

When I double-checked with concom members, I discovered that the MSC (Memorial Student Center, on the Texas A&M campus) had sold all of their older

computers to get ready for a multi-year renovation. These were the computers that, in the past, the MSC willingly donated to the con for LAN gaming, always a major attraction. Not knowing this in advance would have given us a chance to prepare ourselves. Finding out by the seek-and-question method -- no signs at registration, either! nor in the program book - was Not A Good Thing. It cast a pall over the weekend.

Attendance was down, too, possibly because of the economy, but talking to folks both during and after the con revealed that the host club, Cepheid Variable, had fallen very flat on the publicity side of things. Again, bad form. Overall Aggiecon seemed to lack direction and a spark; it felt like the folks were simply going through the motions, and I didn't like that at all. It was a real downturn from the past three Aggiecons, which I enjoyed a lot.

Now with their main venue undergoing a multi-year, multi-million dollar renovation (3 years, for sure), the location of next year's and afterwards are in doubt. I hope the club starts negotiating Real Soon Now with the College Station Hilton and Convention Center because that is like the only real facility in the area that can host Aggiecon, which usually numbers in the 400 to 600 member range. Stay tuned for further developments.

I look forward to reading the full report!

Say, I will be glad to pub your StellarCon report. If you have it ready for my May ish (#14) that would make a very interesting Convention Issue: con reports from a poorly run con (Aggiecon 40), a well-run con (Stellarcon), and a Virtual Con Report (Corflu Zed). It promises to be a good ish already.

I swear I'm gonna write this – I just keep getting buried under zines to read, deadlines to meet, and pretty girls to talk to. FIAWOL!

See you then, and thanks for the SFCU. It is appreciated. If you make it down to Apollocon in June - I'm planning on driving down for Saturday, definitely - look me up. Al Jackson is the Fan GoH, and I have been hearing very good things about Apollocon from people. They threw a couple of great parties at Fencon V last October up in Dallas, too, so that's a good sign.

All the best,

John Purcell

I doubt I'll be able to make Apollocon, but I know I'll be in Texas in September for Fencon VI. Hopefully, we can hang out there.

Next, we have an announcement from Edward F McKeown:

Hello everyone,

This is my first pro work as an editor and I have the lead story in it.
kind regards

<http://www.sfreader.com/authors/edward-mcKeown/>

Subject: Beware! The Sha'Daa is coming!

The Sha'Daa: Tales of the Apocalypse by Michael Hanson is on it's way and scheduled for official release on May 1, 2009 but you can pre-order copies now by visiting this page:

<http://www.cyberwizardproductions.com/alterred/shadaa.html>

The Sha'Daa has its dark, eerie, terrifying roots anchored deep in the soil of fictional horror and mythic apocrypha. The end-of-days is a concept reinvented multiple times by each generation of writers with every new century, and our own 21st is no exception. We offer up this humble tribute to those who came before us.

A gruesome shout out is given for Edgar Allen Poe, Robert Bloch, H.P. Lovecraft, F. Paul Wilson, Stephen King, Clive Barker, Bram Stoker, Charles Dickens, Brian Lumley, Homer, Arthur Conan Doyle, and all the rest who have given us reason to fear the night.

Be warned. The Sha'Daa is coming.

"Even in a field that prides itself upon being unique, Sha'Daa: Tales of the Apocalypse, is a most unusual book...a world visited by hideous things every ten thousand years...stories ranging from those involving Greek and Norse mythology, to one about video-gaming warriors...it's a hell of a book." - Mike Resnick

From The Dive by **Ed McKeown**:

As I met Johnney's gaze, the tunnel around me faded and I felt as if I was floating in air. A gray fog enveloped me, then a few seconds later images appeared below. With a shock, I realized I was floating over an immense stone city. A ghastly, greenish light emanated from walls of the buildings, pallid and somehow unclean. A foul odor wafted from it. Foul even by the standards of sewer workers. I drifted down and then... I saw them. And I frantically prayed to the Virgin that they did not see me. Things shuffled and lurched through the ghost-lit streets, hideous horned-and-tailed things. Some had green, leathery-looking skin, while others walked upright like men, yet had heads like alligators.

"They see you not," Johnny whispered in my ears, "because you are not. Long ago this place ended. Many of your kind died in its walls as a sacrifice... as food... as entertainment... for these."

I whipped my head around and searched frantically for him, but he was invisible. "Dread Falkaya this was," Johnny's theatrical whisper continued. "Once linked to your world. Those that lived here feasted on your distant ancestors. Sometimes they did worse, mating with them to produce demonic half-breeds. Some humans

they broke the souls of and made them into the Shadalka: servants of demons. The Shadalka seek to outdo their masters in cruelty. Because they are part human, they can cross more easily to your world."

From *The Way of the Warrior* by Arthur Sanchez

The General chuckled. "A true warrior is ever vigilant. We've been watching your kind since before you lived in caves. I know about video games. Let us begin!" Shinzo gulped hard.

Two-player games are different than playing the computer. There isn't as much finesse. A player chooses an avatar and tries to use its strengths while protecting against its weaknesses. Shinzo chose a fighter who was fast and precise. That came at the cost of strength and endurance.

General Kra'tchaz' chose a fighter with limited mobility but a devastating punch. I guess, Shinzo thought, people stick to what they know.

Shinzo wiped the sweat from his hands on his pants and held his controller pad. General Kra'tchaz' stared at the screen. He looked as immobile as a house. "Let's do it," Shinzo said.

From *Talking Heads* by Nancy Jackson

Professor Veronica "Ronny" Johns stared at her grandfather's picture on the wall of her tidy study at Exeter University. He'd been everything to her as a child, after her parents died in a car crash. The resemblance between her tall, elegant grandfather and herself was clear in the reflection from the portrait's glass. The same long, straight nose, brown hair and dark brown eyes, the same gangling body that looked better on him than it did on her.

"But you left me something else, Gramps," she sighed. "You left me a terrible burden that even now I only half believe in. Perhaps we're both mad." She turned back to her laptop, where she was working on the details of the Exeter University expedition to Easter Island. It was a long way from Devon, UK, to the Pacific.

*We also got a reminder from Shelby Vick about his zines, **Planetary Stories** and **Pulp Spirit**. You may not know it, but ShelVy's something of a legend, having been a participant in Sixth Fandom, a merry prankster at NOLAcon I, and the fellow who ran the first con in the South, at least as far as I've ever seen documented – the LynnHaVention of 1948. There's some great stuff going on over in his zines, so check them out!*

This time the PS stands for not only Post Script, but also Planetary Stories and Pulp Spirit.

We have always been a changing medium, making changes after the original issue. This time the change is fantastic (not to mention astounding, thrilling and wonderful).

To begin with, Ron Wilber just sent us some very outstanding illos for Bug-Eyed Monsters that you shouldn't miss. In addition, a new item has been added to the Editorial we think all will enjoy. . .and Johann Kuester has added to his

contribution to Ether.

Well worth checking out.

www.planetarystories.com then slide down to each of the PS entries, #14 and #5.

Shelby

And to keep up the string of awesome faneds writing in, here's Chris Garcia!

Hugos and Hops. What a great name. Great concept too. I've gone through and made sure I've read at least most of the Hugo Winners from the last 50+ years, and sadly, I'm missing a few. Blue Mars, The Diamond Age, A Deepness in the Sky, Forever Peace, Green Mars, Ender's Game, Ringworld (though I tried), Double Star and Dune (which I've never made it more than 1/2 way through). Really, the winners in the 1960s weren't my faves, though I think the 1970s were a great decade for Hugo-winning novels.

*We're gonna have to disagree about the 60s Hugo Winners, then. I absolutely adore **Lord of Light** – it's probably my favorite SF novel. I find the Heinlein reads in the list at the very least entertaining, and in the case of **Stranger In A Strange Land**, literary, too. I've not yet read **Stand on Zanzibar** or **A Canticle for Liebowitz**, but I'm seriously looking forward to the experience. Oh, and I can't let myself forget about **Dune** (which I know I'm kind of weird for thoroughly enjoying) and **The Man in the High Castle**, which has some of the most brilliant imagery out there, and is a forerunner, in my opinion, to the sorts of language we start seeing in the cyberpunk era. Even the novels I suspect will be weaker come from respected authors, so I'm really looking forward to that run.*

APazines are my weakness. I can never get them finished and they take me forever, it seems. I can do an issue of the Drink Tank in an hour or two and APazines take me three or four times as long. I don't know why. It's always been that way. And forget about print APAs! That's a massive pain. It looks like I'll be out of all but maybe one APA by the end of the summer. Such is my shame...

Can't wait to read your Stellarcon report. I love Askance, which I totally thought was going to bump me off the Hugo ballot. Deservedly too, I might add.

I can't wait for Montreal, either! Linda and I have booked our flight, booked our room, and planned some fun. I'll be helping out in the Fanzine Lounge and helpin' y'all out with the Bid. It's gonna be a good time.

I totally wanna go to that Pyratecon. We've got a pirate festival up here, but it's three times as big as our biggest Renn Faire! It's impressive that it's only been around for a couple of years and it's already over 20k people a day!

Good ish, but I miust run back to work...and Party Poker!
Chris

Party Poker, eh? Yeah, sounds like work. Your Computer History Museum gig sounds better and better every time I think of my data entry job.

And then, with impressive regularity, we heard from Lloyd Penney!

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

April 12, 2009

Dear Warren:

It's issue 4 of the SFC Update I have here, and there's just enough time to whip up a quick loc on the issue. I've been watching the Eastercon festivities on the Virtual Fan Lounge, and chatting up those in the chatline. I hope to see more about the convention in the British zines.

I'm ashamed to say I keep missing all the fun in the Virtual Fan Lounge. I've ducked in a few times, but never during the big events. And I love the British zines I see on efanzines.

Yes, cons are great fun...we just had our own local litcon, Ad Astra 2009, and it was a great time. Yvonne ran a track of programming, we debuted some new costumes, ran a tea party Saturday evening, and did about \$125 worth of business at our dealers' table. This coming weekend is a con just for attending and enjoying, Eeriecon 11 in Niagara Falls, New York. I lie actually...Yvonne and I will be two of the masquerade judges, something we haven't done in years.

Have I ever mentioned that I envy Toronto for the name of their convention? Too cool.

That's right, Arnie Katz will have one last VFW to publishing the last of the locs, and then he starts a new title. Katzines are always good for commentary; hope we see it soon. I am getting caught up with recent fanzines...

After Eeriecon is the local media SF con, Polaris. I don't watch any modern SF shows, so I usually don't know who the guests are, but this year, there's a guest I definitely know of...Matt Frewer. Namely Max Headroom, plus a number of interesting roles, including a Star Trek: The Next Generation, and a stint as Sherlock Holmes. We will be doing the tea party and dealers' room table again, too.

Going to fold it, send it off, and look forward to the next Update, or Bulletin, whichever appears. See you soon.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

*Well, I'd meant to get a **Bulletin** off, but it looks like the **Update** hit first. My finances are rough, so I'm going to put the **Bulletin** together, get it online, and then send them out as I can. Not my preferred method, but it'll get the information to more folks faster.*

And then, we heard from Joy V. Smith twice!

Warren,

Cute cover! I like the idea of the Hugos and Hops club, and I admire you all for working your way through the Hugo winners! That is a fantastic and challenging idea. Thank you for the con info and listings. I put a link to your calendar in my media blog. And I enjoyed the LOCs; I think I'll sign up for the Cafe Press newsletter. I've bought a few t-shirts from them over the years for some of my books.

Appreciatively,
Joy V. Smith

Thanks for spreading the word, Joy! I'm happy to see the stuff I put together spread as far as possible, especially if it means more folks find out about things that might interest them coming out of the South.

Warren,

I have interviews with Hal Colebatch and Matthew Joseph Harrington upcoming in the May issue of *Expressions*. For Man-Kzin Wars (created by Larry Niven) fans, these are must-reads, but I think most writers and readers will enjoy them.

Expressions link: [Expressions](http://samsdotpublishing.com/expressions.htm) <http://samsdotpublishing.com/expressions.htm>

Joy
My other blog (media tidbits and more)
Joy's Live Journal

And that'll wrap up this month's letter column. Keep 'em coming folks, and I'll keep printing them!

WAHF: Corlis Robe, Brandy Spraker, & Tom Feller.