

SOUTHERN FANDOM CONFEDERATION UPDATE

*Volume 1, Issue 8
August 2009*

Yow! It's getting down to the wire! I don't have time to do a proper zine, but I'm still pubbing my ish. I don't know how Chris Garcia does it, putting out four different titles within the same week, all while working on Reno's PR Zero – and he claims efanzines has been slow lately! I've been spending most of my time on the bid lately, so this zine, in spite of good content, has no art in it, as I just don't have time for editing that sort of thing. So here goes the ish, and, if you're reading this and going to Anticipation, I hope you'll vote for Raleigh for the 2010 NASFiC!

Rebel Yells:

Notes and Commentary From All Over

Jeff Thompson:

How are you? Thanks for your latest e-zine. I was so sorry to hear of the death of Ken Moore. Ken was one of a kind. I last saw him at my aunt Elva Griffin's estate sale in 2005.

I am overjoyed that your readers liked my Dark Shadows comic-book article so much! You are welcome to print the second part of my article, if you think your readers would enjoy it, and/or my short essay about Forrest J Ackerman.

This summer, I have been writing a second book about producer-director Dan Curtis. My follow-up to *The Television Horrors of Dan Curtis* is *House of Dan Curtis: The Television Mysteries of the Dark Shadows Auteur*. I have already written 80% of the book. Thanks again, Warren, for your hard work with SFCB and SFCU. Have a good weekend and keep in touch! F.I.A.W.O.L.

Well, then, here we go with the second part of that article. I'll save the Forry essay for nextish. Thanks for providing us with more interesting material for the SFCU!

Steve Green, this year's TAFF delegate, wrote in about Worldcons:

Hi Warren,

In SFCB#7, you wrote "I wouldn't mind seeing [the worldcon] come to the South at least once a decade", which is pretty much the schedule European installments have adopted. The UK managed eight-year gaps during the closing decades of the C20th (1979, 1987,

1995), then slipped a little before running 2005's (to be fair, though, there was extensive British involvement in the 1990 Dutch worldcon). In case you haven't heard, there are plans in motion for another European bid, this time for 2014/15, with venues in England, Scotland and Holland among the lead candidates.

Not sure if you're planning to get another issue out before Anticipation, but I'm looking forward to meeting plenty of Canadian and US fans during my TAFF trip in August. Any SFC members on LiveJournal are welcome to check out my ongoing diary / videolog on <http://community.livejournal.com/taff2009/>.

Kind regards
-- Steve Green

stevegreen@livejournal.com

I have indeed heard about the next European bid, which as of SMOFcon sounded more likely to go for the UK in 2014, though the city was undecided – with London as a real contender! I'd be happy to see Southern Worldcons with a similar frequency to European Worldcons – especially if the continent can manage to get in on the action while the UK keeps up its pace. I know the Texans are getting ready to announce their bid fully, and I plan on pre-supporting them at Anticipation. Maybe a few years after that, the moment will be right for another Southern bid to launch. In the meantime, I'm more than happy to support them in any way I can. I'm looking forward to meeting you at Anticipation, should we run into each other there.

Next, we heard from Rich Dengrove – twice!

Dear Warren,

I read July first and then I found out that you had done a June and, for some reason, it fell through cracks. Nonetheless, I'm starting with June.

Love the cover! It's also true. Few stories in the Chtulhu mythos actually scare us. Even Lovecraft's work. Maybe that really isn't the idea. It really isn't the idea either when some authors try to gross us out. I think the one writer with the idea was Lovecraft because you read his stories and say, "Great blarney!!"

About Hypericon/DeepSouthCon, I wish to hell I had come to you for a roadmap to the parties.

About Atlantis, Atlantis is a great idea. The problem with it, like a lot of great ideas, is that we can't be satisfied with it being the product of our imagination. It has to be factually -- in this case, geologically, archaeologically or philologically -- true. I can't conceive of why, though. We get a lot more fun from our imagination than we do from the facts. One would think we would be proud that such a great idea just appeared in people's imagination alone.

About Dark Shadows, I guess writers are always tempted to make great changes in the original, and the characters and plot their own. I'm glad at least some people have resisted. It was enough, I hear, Wonder Woman, in one incarnation, lost her fantastic powers and took up the I-Ching.

Also, one of these days, I'll have to see the 1991 Dark Shadows with Barbara Steel, the horror movie queen. I am fascinated by her.

Yours,
Rich Dengrove

I do enjoy the Cthulhu cartoon, which is why I ran it as a cover piece. I don't think it was Lovecraft's stories themselves which were supposed to scare us, but the idea embodied in them: there are things in the universe powerful enough to crush us with a flick of the wrist, and alien enough to not even notice us. The idea that, ultimately, we are cosmically unimportant. That's a frightening concept to beings who want to believe they've got some significance and purpose. As far as bad superhero makeovers go, I'd put the electric version of Superman (with a mullet) among the very bottom of the barrel.

Dear Warren,

Warren, those were great pictures of Ken Moore that Andy Porter took. From the hairstyles, it looks like a lot of them were taken during the '70s.

About the Gertshaus, on weekends in particular, could you call it Oompah Cool? I think then I and Lee Gilliland had the right idea about the place. Since the sound was too loud to talk, we grooved on the music. We would have danced to it but there was no space.

About BosWash, I think that's been around since the '50s or '60s. At that time, somebody divided the country up into segments based on the train lines. My experience is that BosWash could be something like BosPensacola if there was halfway decent passenger train service past DC. It took me six hours to get to Raleigh when the schedule said four. That was because the passenger train had to defer to the freight trains.

That's it.

Yours,
Rich Dengrove

If we ever get that high-speed rail service they say they're going to extend to Raleigh, we could possibly see an extension of BosWash. There's supposed to be a line down to Raleigh, going south to Jacksonville, Florida, and passing through Richmond on the way to Raleigh, and Columbia and Savannah on the way south. That's not the really interesting line out of Raleigh, though – another will go west through Greensboro before

turning south towards Charlotte, Greenville, Atlanta, and Birmingham on the way to New Orleans.

And of course, we heard from Joy V. Smith, who sent three letters this month:

Warren,

Good tribute to Ken Moore (he was right about putting con directions on the flyers, not just the website), and thanks to Tom Feller for his report on Moore's funeral. (I didn't know him, but I can see he was involved in cons and the Oshkosh air show, among other things, and he's going to be missed by a lot of people.)

Thanks for the July events listing and the other announcements, and the LOCs were full of more interesting info. I enjoy more background on everything!

Appreciately,
Joy V. Smith

<http://pagadan.livejournal.com/>

<http://pagadan.blogspot.com/>

Joy

Interviews with SF authors

Expressions 107

Warren,

In case you're interested, I received my copy of Realms of Fantasy (August 2009 issue) this week and have reviewed it on my media blog: <http://pagadan.livejournal.com/>

Note: I was one of the fortunate ones who got a free issue.

Joy

Warren,

Since I didn't make it to Oasis this year, I have a lot of accumulated fanzines, books, etc. that maybe a club or con could use--if anyone could pick them up here in Lakeland. They'd be too expensive to ship. Otherwise I'll just keep accumulating them...

Joy

Interviews with SF authors

<http://samsdotpublishing.com/expressions/mayexpressions.htm>

The hard thing about putting directions on convention flyers is that they take up room on the page which could go to more eye-catching bits. They don't have this problem if you put them on the back, but that requires a two-page flyer, and most cons don't have that in the budget. Hopefully, someone will have some good ideas for where all those things can go...

And Lloyd Penney managed to get a loc in just before the end of the month, keeping up his streak:

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

July 30, 2009

Dear Warren:

Many thanks for Vol. 1, No. 7 of the SFC Update. Good to see Khen Moore on the cover, just wish it wasn't his passing that put him there. Worldcon's coming in mere days, and it won't be Worldcon without Khen there.

I also hate to read about funerals, but these days, they are one of the common events that cause people to gather. Something like this should be as information as Khen was. We didn't know that Khen was a pilot; that's a passion of Yvonne's, and while she never completed her training as a pilot, she has been in the air a number of times.

When it came to the old Worldcon zone rotation, Ontario was classified as being in the Midwest, and was therefore part of the good old Wimpy Zone. I would need to dig up those old geographic zones, but I think that Pittsburgh was considered Midwest as well. On a map, Pittsburgh is further west than Toronto.

My loc...that software company I interviewed with give me two interviews...and I still didn't get the job. The resumes keep going out, with no responses coming back in. We've got to find something right after we come back from Montréal. Bring some zines, by all means, but please be prepared to take back whatever's left. I'm bringing a box, and as many as six or seven other boxes are promised. I may not be able to bring them all home.

I have read online that two Worldcon bids will be formally announced at Anticipation, Japan in 2017 and Texas in 2013. The Texas bid will announce which city they will be bidding for. San Antonio again? Dallas? Houston? Who knows?

Short zine gets short loc, I guess. See you soon! I will most likely be in the fanzine lounge, not all of the time, but I expect I'll be there.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

I'd be surprised if Pittsburgh landed in the Central zone – it wasn't a “Midwest” zone, really – it included Texas, New Orleans, etc. The zones, as I've seen them defined, went by whole states and territories, so there are some silly overlaps – Atlanta is even further west than Pittsburgh, and it was clearly in the Eastern zone. Second interviews can really get your hopes up. I had two friends who both had second interviews for the same

position, and it seemed rather unfortunate. And you mention Texas in 2013, which I look forward to learning more about, and supporting. See you at Anticipation!

WAHF: Tom Ely, Andrew I. Porter, Bill Savage, Randy Richards.

August Events:

August 6-10:

Anticipation, the 67th World Science Fiction Convention (Montreal, QC, Canada, Palais des congrès de Montreal. Neil Gaiman, Elisabeth Vonarburg, Taral Wayne, Tom Doherty, David Hartwell, Julie Czerneda. It's Worldcon. I'll be up there, having a great time, supporting the Raleigh NASFiC bid. We'll have a table with the other bids, and parties up on the fifth floor of the Delta, right next to Reno in 2011. Come check us out!)

August 6-9:

Starfleet International (Greensboro, NC, Greensboro-High Point Marriott Airport Hotel. Includes celebrations of Starfleet's 35th anniversary and the 40th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing.)

August 7-8:

Pirate Invasion (Beaufort, NC. This is something of a town takeover, with grub, grog, and entertainment, centered on Front Street.)

August 8-9:

Pirates & Wenches (Rock Hill, MD. Another town takeover, you'll want to check the map on their website for event locations.)

August 13-16:

Game Fest South (Chattanooga, TN, <http://gamefestsouth.com/>.)

August 14-16:

Fright Night Film Fest (Louisville, KY, www.frightnightfilmfest.com.)

San Japan 2.X (San Antonio, TX www.san-japan.org.)

ArmadilloCon 31 (Austin, TX, Doubletree Hotel North. Scott Lynch, Chris Roberson, Karen Meschke, Scott A. Cupp, Joan D. Vinge.)

August 21-23:

Mizucon (Miami, FL, Hyatt Regency. Vic Mignogna, David Williams, Robert & Emily DeJesus, Doug Smith, Ilich Guardiola, Mike Sinterniklaas.)

August 22-23:

BrickFair (Tysons Corner, VA, www.brickfair.com.)

Mini-Megacon (Orlando, FL, www.megaconvention.com.)

August 27-29:

Animation Attack! (Atlanta, GA, Midtown Art Cinema and Eyedrum.)

Mid-Atlantic Nostalgia Con (Aberdeen, MD, The Clarion Hotel.)

**FOUR-COLOR SHADOWS: THE *DARK SHADOWS* COMIC BOOKS AND
NEWSPAPER COMIC STRIP (Part Two) by Jeff Thompson**

While Dan “Marilyn” Ross’s *Dark Shadows Series* for Paperback Library numbered thirty-two books (plus *House of Dark Shadows*), Gold Key Comics published thirty-five issues of a *Dark Shadows* comic book (plus one *Story Digest Magazine*). Issue number one of the comic book was dated December 1968, and *Dark Shadows* #35 was dated February 1976.

Every issue was edited by Wallace I. Green, Gold Key’s managing editor. The (uncredited) writers included Denise Van Lear, Donald J. Arneson, and Arnold Drake. Don Arneson also wrote the prose adventure in the one-shot *Dark Shadows Story Digest Magazine*. Arnold Drake had created the popular DC Comics characters Deadman and the Doom Patrol and had scripted the comic-book adventures of Batman, Challengers of the Unknown, Little Lulu, and Bullwinkle.

All thirty-five issues of *Dark Shadows* were illustrated by Joe Certa. In the 1940s, Certa had drawn Doc Savage; in the 1950s, Certa had illustrated Robotman, Martian Manhunter, and other DC Comics super-heroes.

George Wilson painted or drew the usually impressive covers of *Dark Shadows* #8 through #35. The covers of the first seven issues of the comic book featured photographs of Jonathan Frid as Barnabas Collins from the 1966-1971 ABC-TV series. *Dark Shadows* #1 and #3 included pull-out posters of Frid.

DARK SHADOWS #1 (December 1968 [first-issue special]). “The Vampire’s Prey.” Written by Don Arneson. Illustrated by Joe Certa. Dave Trask, great-great-nephew of the bricked-up Reverend Trask, comes to Collinsport to solve the mystery of his ancestor’s disappearance two centuries earlier.

DARK SHADOWS #2 (August 1969 [now quarterly]). “The Fires of Darkness.” The ghost of the witch Angelique, taunting the vampire Barnabas Collins, engulfs Barnabas in “hellfire”—a particular brand of flame which baffles Collinsport Fire Marshal Marc Hull. (See also DS #13.)

DARK SHADOWS #3 (November 1969). “Return for Revenge.” Barnabas Collins journeys back in time to 1769 in an attempt to put to rest the vengeful ghost of Setauket, a murdered Native American.

DARK SHADOWS #4 (February 1970). “The Man Who Could Not Die.” In one of the best stories of the comic-book series, Barnabas time-travels to the London of 1665 in order to free the soul of Devlin Collins, a wandering immortal.

DARK SHADOWS #5 (May 1970). “The Curse of Collins Isle.” William Starbuck, a werewolf, escapes his confinement on Collins Isle, off the coast of Collinsport, Maine.

DARK SHADOWS STORY DIGEST MAGAZINE #1 (June 1970). *Interrupted Voyage*, a full-length illustrated novel, written by Don Arneson. Illustrated by Joe Certa. The ghost of Annabella Collins implores Barnabas to return with her to 1811 to free

Annabella, her father Captain Daniel Collins, and her fiancé Michael from the sorceress Calandra.

DARK SHADOWS #6 (August 1970). “Awake to Evil.” In one of the best stories in the series, Barnabas and his cousin Quentin Collins, a werewolf, battle an Egyptian mummy and superstitious townspeople.

DARK SHADOWS #7 (November 1970). “Wings of Fear.” Angelique turns Collinsport citizen Pamela Cordon into a vampire; however, Professor Stokes finds a cure for her state. (See also DS #23.)

DARK SHADOWS #8 (February 1971). “The Vampire Trap.” In one of the greatest stories in the series, Barnabas and Quentin must grapple with suspicious townspeople, their own personal curses, and an unscrupulous student of the occult.

DARK SHADOWS #9 (May 1971). “Creatures in Torment.” Barnabas and Quentin are dogged by Hans Silber, a zealous vigilante who hunts down supernatural creatures and destroys them with silver bullets.

DARK SHADOWS #10 (August 1971). “Souls in Bondage.” Quentin Collins and Dr. Julia Hoffman attempt to rescue Barnabas from Termina, high priestess of an army of zombies on St. Lucifer Island.

DARK SHADOWS #11 (November 1971). “The Thirteenth Star.” In one of the best stories in the series, Barnabas must travel to the year 2071 to put to rest a golem, awakened in 1971 by Collins Comet.

DARK SHADOWS #12 (February 1972). “The Glove.” Barnabas returns to Leeds, England, on 1 November 1724 to aid his cousin Chesire Collins in a duel. (In 1974, a small Western Publishing [Gold Key] promotional booklet [sometimes called a *Dan Curtis Give-Away*] contained an abridged version of “The Glove.”)

DARK SHADOWS #13 (April 1972 [now bi-monthly]). “Hellfire.” When hellfire reappears inside Collinwood and consumes Constance Collins, “the last innocent Collins,” Barnabas leaps into the blaze and follows his lovely cousin to the Netherworld. (See also DS #21.)

DARK SHADOWS #14 (June 1972). “The Mystic Painting.” A painting of the English estate Collingreen sends Barnabas back to 1743, where he must put to rest the spirits of Sara Collins and Owen Roberts, her artist-lover.

DARK SHADOWS #15 (August 1972). “The Night Children.” Cali, girl queen of demons, and Andras, boy marquis of Hades, battle Barnabas and Quentin both at Collinwood and in the Netherworld.

DARK SHADOWS #16 (October 1972). “The Scarab.” Potiphar, an immortal Egyptian sorcerer, enslaves Barnabas.

DARK SHADOWS #17 (December 1972). “The Bride of Barnabas Collins.” In one of the best stories in the series, Barnabas slips through “the foggy mists of time” and emerges in Limbo, where he meets—and falls in love with—Hope Forsythe.

DARK SHADOWS #18 (February 1973). “Guest in the House.” New York’s crime kingpin, Erik Mica, hiding out at Collinwood, courts Elizabeth Collins Stoddard and learns the secret of Barnabas Collins in one of the best stories of the comic-book series.

DARK SHADOWS #19 (April 1973). “Island of Eternal Life.” Barnabas is taken aboard a phantom pirate ship to the Island of Eternal Youth, where he meets Lani, a Polynesian ghost-woman.

DARK SHADOWS #20 (June 1973). “Quentin the Vampire.” When Julia injects Quentin with a “blood serum” meant for Barnabas, Quentin becomes a *vampire* during the full moon!

DARK SHADOWS #21 (August 1973). “The Crimson Carnival.” The arrival in Collinsport of Dr. Karl Ruthven’s Carnival of the Occult coincides with the visit of Elizabeth’s lovely cousin, Constance Collins Harker (from DS #13), and her new husband, Garry Harker.

DARK SHADOWS #22 (October 1973). “Seed of Evil.” Written by Arnold Drake. Illustrated by Joe Certa. Warlock Osmond Kalyustin grows “devil pods” which hatch replicas of Dr. Hoffman and Professor Stokes.

DARK SHADOWS #23 (December 1973). “The Cult of the Dasni.” Pamela Cordon (from DS #7), Barnabas, Quentin, and Stokes visit the tiny village of Amenti, which is inhabited by a cult of vampires—and by Garm, a giant, two-headed hound!

DARK SHADOWS #24 (February 1974). “On Borrowed Blood.” Written by Arnold Drake. Illustrated by Joe Certa. In one of the greatest stories in the series, an emergency blood transfusion from Barnabas turns the ruthless millionaire Andre Markovian into a vampire—and Barnabas must stop the now-superhuman madman from overthrowing an island nation.

DARK SHADOWS #25 (April 1974). “The Immortal!” Xanis, a sorcerer whose immortal soul transfers itself to a strong, new body every eighty years, chooses vampire Barnabas Collins as his next host body.

DARK SHADOWS #26 (June 1974). “The Witch Dolls.” Angelique, disguised as old Granny Bumpers, shrinks Quentin and two other Collinsport citizens to the sizes of dolls!

DARK SHADOWS #27 (August 1974). “My Blood or Yours.” A possible cure for Quentin’s lycanthropy lies in the distant past, so Barnabas journeys to the Collinsport of two centuries ago to retrieve an “anti-evil potion” from alchemist Isaac Salter and his kindhearted daughter Sarah. (See also DS #35.)

DARK SHADOWS #28 (October 1974). “The Visitor.” This routine story about a fortune-hunter empowered with mesmerism is distinguished—notoriously!—by its horrendous error of portraying “Elizabeth and Roger Stoddard” as *husband and wife* instead of as brother and sister.

DARK SHADOWS #29 (December 1974). “Stolen Centuries.” Barnabas is reunited with Zachary Firestone, a boyhood friend who has survived the centuries because of an elixir of longevity—a potion which is about to wear off.

DARK SHADOWS #30 (February 1975). “The Weekend Witch Hunters.” Written by Arnold Drake. Illustrated by Joe Certa. In this disconcerting *comedy* story, Quentin (clad in a pirate’s costume) helps Elizabeth host a “witches’ party” for a group of middle-aged tourists on a “witchcraft tour” of New England.

DARK SHADOWS #31 (April 1975). “The Doom of Helgi Kolnison.” In one of the best stories in the series, Barnabas and Roger Collins are hurled back in time to a savage Iceland in the year AD 975, where they meet their Norse ancestor, Helgi Kolnison; his daughter, Sigurd; Morath, a crafty wizard; and King Hrolf Thormussen, Helgi’s enemy. (See also DS #32 and DS #34.)

DARK SHADOWS #32 (June 1975). “The Secret of the Light-House.” In one of the best stories in the series, Roger has nightmares about his experiences in Iceland (see DS #31); Collinsport District Attorney Peter Hang opposes a gun-running ring; an aging lighthouse keeper is comforted each new moon by the phantom of his drowned beloved; and Barnabas Collins develops amnesia! (See also DS #34.)

DARK SHADOWS #33 (August 1975). “King of the Wolves.” Quentin Collins treks to the Canadian wilderness—where the wolves bow down to him as their king.

DARK SHADOWS #34 (November 1975 [now quarterly]). “Collinwood Possessed.” In this sequel to “The Doom of Helgi Kolnison” (DS #31), a battle for Collinwood and its supernatural energy is fought between Angelique and the Norse wizard Morath.

DARK SHADOWS #35 (February 1976). In this seriocomic story, Barnabas explains his absences during the daylight hours by declaring that he is writing the biography of Sarah Salter Collins (from DS #27). Problems ensue when a mischievous Angelique sends a pompous book publisher to Collinwood to inspect Barnabas’s non-existent “book!”

Halfway through the run of Gold Key’s *Dark Shadows* comic book, Barnabas and Collinwood enjoyed a *second* four-color incarnation—in the “funny papers.” Syndicated by Newspaper Enterprise Association (NEA), the beautifully drawn *Dark Shadows*

newspaper comic strip appeared in newspapers seven days each week between 14 March 1971 and 5 March 1972. The comic strip presented six different stories, each lasting two months.

Although the writer of the *Dark Shadows* newspaper comic strip was never credited, the story editor was Elliot Caplin, younger brother of *Li'l Abner* creator Al Capp (Alfred Gerald Caplin). Yale graduate Elliot Caplin also scripted the newspaper comic strips *Abbie and Slats*, *Big Ben Bolt*, *Doctor Kildare*, and *The Heart of Juliet Jones*.

The illustrator of *Dark Shadows* was Kenneth Bruce Bald, who had drawn the *Doctor Kildare* strip in the 1960s and *Judd Saxon* in the 1950s. Ken Bald, a Pratt Institute graduate, first made his mark illustrating the comic-book adventures of Captain Marvel, Bulletman, the Black Owl, and Captain Battle in the 1940s. In the 1971-1972 *Dark Shadows* newspaper comic strip, Ken Bald (who signed the comic strip "K. Bruce") achieved a remarkable likeness of Jonathan Frid as Barnabas Collins.

Storyline #1 (14 March—16 May 1971). Elizabeth and Carolyn welcome their long-lost cousin Barnabas to Collinwood. Soon, Barnabas is locked in battle with Lucas Penrose Bell, a 310-year-old warlock who blames the Collins family for his mother's execution for witchcraft.

Storyline #2 (16 May—11 July 1971). In one of the best stories told in the comic strip, Barnabas finds romance with the Egyptian goddess Isis, who believes that Barnabas is the seventh reincarnation of the god Osiris.

Storyline #3 (11 July—12 September 1971). In one of the best stories told in the comic strip, Barnabas, Elizabeth, and Carolyn meet Collinsport's new librarians, Azrael and Erik Fabian—one of whom is a werewolf. Barnabas journeys to Europe to confront Count Karoly, the powerful wolfman who cursed the Fabians.

Storyline #4 (12 September—7 November 1971). Angelique aids her beloved Barnabas in his fight against Mr. Sinestra, "Monarch of Darkness," who covets Barnabas's soul. (Artist Ken Bald patterned Mr. Sinestra after actor Charles Laughton.)

Storyline #5 (7 November 1971—3 January 1972). Barnabas matches wits with a Caribbean voodoo cult threatening Collinwood.

Storyline #6 (3 January—5 March 1972). Barnabas travels back in time to the Collinwood of 1772.

Finally, *Dark Shadows* returned to comic books very briefly in the early 1990s. In 1991, *Dark Shadows* was reborn on NBC-TV as a nighttime serial starring Ben Cross, Barbara Steele, Roy Thinnes, and Jean Simmons. Although the new *Dark Shadows* was a superb remake with fine production values and clever new twists, it was cancelled after only a two-month run. One year later, in mid-1992, Innovation Comics launched a *Dark Shadows* comic book based on the new series.

Although the intricately painted illustrations (by E. Silas Smith and later Jose Pimentel) were often exquisite and highly faithful to the likenesses of Cross, Steele, and

the other TV cast members, the lackluster *writing* of the nine issues was the comic book's undoing. The Innovation comic book's only redeeming qualities were its gorgeous artwork (in the first eight issues) and its brief flashbacks to 1790 (in the first four issues).

DARK SHADOWS #1 (June 1992). "Dark Shadows." Written by David Campiti and Scott Rockwell. Illustrated by E. Silas Smith. In a promising beginning to an ultimately disappointing four-part storyline, Barnabas Collins remembers (in a flashback) how Willie Loomis helped him assimilate into twentieth-century culture when Willie released Barnabas from the chained coffin. Dr. Julia Hoffman tells Barnabas about her hometown, Barrettstown, a Colonial-style village of people who are nearly immortal.

DARK SHADOWS #2 (August 1992). "A Time of Innocence...and Confidences." Written by David Campiti and Scott Rockwell. Illustrated by E. Silas Smith. In 1790, Barnabas commissions a craftsman to construct one of the world's first music boxes. In the 1990s, Barnabas and Julia travel to Barrettstown, Maine, and find the village overrun with small, gnomelike, mutated freaks!

DARK SHADOWS #3 (November 1992). "Old Friends." Written by David Campiti and Scott Rockwell. Illustrated by E. Silas Smith. In 1790, Barnabas gives Josette DuPres the music box while a jealous Angelique fumes. In the 1990s, the gargoyle-like creatures of Barrettstown overpower Barnabas and Julia. Dr. Hoffman encounters her great-uncle Vincent Hoffman and her still-youthful great-aunt Lara Hoffman (drawn intentionally to resemble Lara Parker, who played Angelique on the 1966-1971 ABC-TV series).

DARK SHADOWS #4 (spring 1993). "Swann's Way." Written by David Campiti and Scott Rockwell. Illustrated by E. Silas Smith. In Barrettstown, Barnabas, Julia, Vincent, and Lara are held hostage by the freaks' overlord, the Reverend Redmond Swann, a centuries-old religious fanatic, who prepares to execute the four "heretics." However, Willie rescues Barnabas and the others, and Vincent Hoffman traps Swann and his flock of gremlins in a burning building! (This heavy-handed, preposterous storyline unfolded like a bad remake of "The Cult of the Dasni"—Gold Key Comics' *Dark Shadows* #23 [December 1973]—the one about the village full of freakish vampires and a giant, two-headed dog! This issue's only high point was a 1790 flashback which revealed that Angelique put a curse on Josette's music box before she cursed Barnabas himself.)

DARK SHADOWS #5 (summer 1993). "Touchy Situation." Written by Maggie Thompson. Illustrated by Jose Pimentel. As the second four-part storyline begins, it is Christmastime in Collinsport, Maine, and Victoria Winters and Barnabas Collins meet an enigmatic young man named Nathan Fairfax.

DARK SHADOWS #6 (incorrectly identified as #5, summer 1993). "Very Touching." Written by Maggie Thompson. Illustrated by Jose Pimentel. Nathan Fairfax meets the Collinses' neighbors, the sisters Grimm, whose mansion, Asulon, and its grounds are filled with lifelike stone statues. Nathan tells Willie that he can read the thoughts of "anyone I touch with my bare hand."

DARK SHADOWS #7 (identified as June 1993). “Touch Me Not.” Written by Maggie Thompson. Illustrated by Jose Pimentel. Nathan Fairfax learns that “Allie” and “Thenno” Grimm, who always hide behind their sunglasses, are actually Euryale and Sthenno, two of the original Gorgons! (As comic-book fantasy/horror, this storyline was intriguing, but it veered farther and farther away from the mood and tone of *Dark Shadows*. Wouldn’t most of the readers of Innovation Comics’ *Dark Shadows* much rather have read stories about the established *Dark Shadows* TV characters instead of tales about the “fictitious,” non-DS Nathan, “Allie,” and “Thenno”?)

DARK SHADOWS #8 (identified as July 1993). “Touch and Go.” Written by Maggie Thompson. Illustrated by Jose Pimentel. As the Gorgon storyline concludes, contact with Euryale’s (“Allie’s”) mystical, healing blood erases Nathan’s empathic condition and allows Nathan to live a normal life—unlike the Grimm sisters, whose “lives drag through empty centuries, ignored or...forgotten.”

DARK SHADOWS #9 (November 1993). “A Motion and a Spirit. Part One: Visits and Visitations.” Written by Scott Rockwell. Illustrated by Felipe Echevarria. Maggie Evans visits an old dollmaker, Granny Whitlock. (Shades of Granny Bumpers, from Gold Key Comics’ *Dark Shadows* #26 [June 1974, “The Witch Dolls”]!) Julia continues to treat Barnabas in an attempt to “cure” him. The ghost of Sarah Collins visits Granny Whitlock, whose favorite doll *talks* to Granny. Sarah also visits David Collins, witnesses domestic violence, and meets Robin, the spirit of another young girl. (Disjointed storytelling and drab, murky artwork hindered this new, third *Dark Shadows* storyline, which never was continued. On 31 December 1993, a bankrupt Innovation Comics abruptly went out of business.)