



*Peregrine Nations 5.2 July 2005*



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**This ish is dedicated to my medicos: thanks to them, thish is actually getting done.**

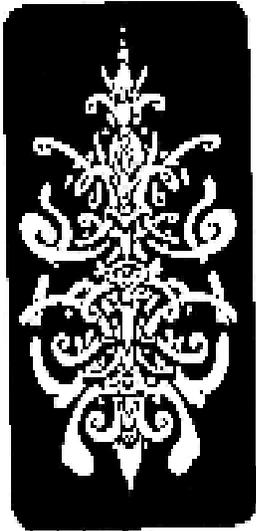
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**peregrination**, n., *L.*, A traveling, roaming, or wandering about; a journey. (The New Webster Encyclopedic Dictionary of the English Language, Avenel Books, New York: 1980).

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Contributions (LoCs, articles, reviews, art, etc.) can be sent via e-mail to [tropicsf@earthlink.net](mailto:tropicsf@earthlink.net) (please use Peregrine Nations in the subject) or via regular mail. **No attachments unless previously arranged.** Clearly scanned artwork is also welcome. Queries welcome. LOCers' addresses intentionally left out (unless otherwise instructed); if you need one, ask me. Fanzines reviewed will have their addresses included from now on, unless I forget again. **Next editorial deadline: Nov. 10, 2005.**



## Silent eLOCutions

[editorial comments like this]

Sheryl Birkhead 6/19/05

Um...er...I know another ish arrived today - but I just (finally) sat down to reply to a few zines and...well...um...er...Pn was at the top of the pile...yeah - the one with the nifty lepidoptera ( I *did* scan the new ish before putting it in another zine pile - and yes, I too have been known to use the word - but it isn't easy to sneak into daily conversations). That Foster cover is niiiice! I look at all that detail and just give up...beautiful (I can picture a different version - iridescent blues, greens, pinks...) [Oooohhh, shiiiiineeee...]

I still need to thank **E. B. Frohvet** for setting up a visit with **Lyn McConchie** while she was in the area. As an even greater bonus, I came away with two of her farming books and one with Andre Norton - and yes, I did get them autographed.

I admit that I do not "get" ezines... I mean what I see on the screen usually just is not satisfying - admittedly I have looked at only a very few zines - but when that is coupled to the fact that I am very rarely online, I think I'll stick with the traditional format. [Well, there's always downloading and printing for later, if one has the equipment, money and desire for it; otherwise, asking for a sample print copy is still possible in several cases.] I also am more than a bit remiss in replying to zines. In looking at paper zines, I think my influx had dropped - but I admit I do not get the majority of zines being pubbed - so, all in all, I think the fanpubbing state of health seems to be fairly ghod.

I'll have to look for Survive Safely Anywhere. Don't think I mentioned it, but in the spirit of being prepared, I got all sorts of

relatively inexpensive, short-term survival stuff for the basement - toilet, homemade light/heat source - then it suddenly dawned on me, if there is an emergency, it is closing in on a 100% sure thing that the basement will be flooded. So much for that idea! I did get the portrayed backup generator but that is only for the very short term. My next (only half-baked so far) idea is to see if I can rig a waterproof barrier method on the doors in the basement, so the office down there would stay relatively dry [*Submarine airlock?*].

In case anyone is interested in the husbandry of cattle, specific-purpose (i.e. milk, beef) bovines are relatively new, hence the dual purpose coe was the norm, and they are in between in size, shorter than our milk cows and lighter than our beef cattle. Take a look at the Highland cattle for an idea of size and I'd think it would not be all that difficult to breed down to a comfortable hobbit-sized bovine.

At least in Maryland, wolf-dog hybrids are not considered dogs, and as such there is no licensed rabies vaccine (they cannot be legally vaccinated) and are considered wild animals (it is illegal to own them), so veterinarians are bound to explain this to anyone who has one of the hybrids.



Ned Brooks 6/18/05

I doubt that **Sheryl Birkhead** will be able to discover how to make matches by hand - like many other elements of our civilization, the technology is a bit too complex and hazardous for the basement workshop. A magnifying glass is a durable firestarter, but useless at night or in cloudy weather. Flint and steel are apparently tricky to learn. Perhaps the most feasible way of making fire with a durable device would be a friction bow and a stash of dry starter material. We have an advantage over our ancestors - modern materials are much more durable. Or you could cheat a little; a selection of cheap cigarette lighters sealed in plastic and stored in a cool dry place would probably serve to start a fire for the normal lifetime.

I remember when my old Atlanta book-hunting friend Emory

Bradley was no longer able to look at the books on the lower shelves. I am beginning to feel the strain of getting down there myself - my knees don't like it. But what can you do? Few of us are rich enough to afford special bookcases, or the larger space that would be required for the same number of volumes. *[I'd think anyone with a sizable personal library would be willing to keep reference materials on CD-ROM and thus save space for books intended to be re-read primarily for pleasure.]* Where I used to work there were some old motorized storage systems that rotated so as to bring file boxes to a convenient height. I suppose they would have worked for small books such as paperbacks, but again, the expense would be significant. *[Maybe not; most medical records offices seem to use them.]*

I will have to look up David Icke (how does he pronounce that? Hard to believe anyone goes about calling himself "icky"! ). But the alien lizard people were described in the TV documentary "V." *[Documentary? I recall that as a TV miniseries drama. Where did you get the idea of it being a documentary?]*

Well, I am mortified - you list the fanzines linked from efanzines.com and leave out my *It Goes On The Shelf!* *[Hmmm. I thin I was listing the ones directly available from that site, and not the ones to which offsite links were provided. Everybody go read Ned's zine!]*

I remember seeing a rerun of the BBC's "spaghetti tree" hoax - I thought it was funny, but couldn't believe anyone was taken in by it. As to the attempt to legislate the value of pi, no such bill was ever passed - but I think one was once introduced by an innumerate politician, not in Alabama but Indiana or Tennessee.



Jason K. Burnett

NOTE: COA (ask me for the new one)

If I could suggest a new FAAN award category, it would be for Best Lettercol, and you would get my vote. Editing the lettercol

is, I think, the most under-rated part of producing a zine, but readers can so easily tell which editors put care into the selection and order of letters in the lettercol and which just print everything they receive with no thought to communication between the letters. In your lettercol, helped (I'm sure) by having a regular crew of LOCcers, you have created the feel of a miniature APA within you zine. My hat is off to you! *[Oi, very kind of you, sor, but I'm sure I don't deserve it.]*

I can greatly sympathize with Jim Sullivan's "Plea for Higher Volumes," and as an aspiring librarian I will keep it in mind when I'm out in the field. I remember going to one library that, instead of having a separate children's section, had the children's books shelved on the bottom two shelves, under the adult books in the same category. I doubt many libraries would be willing to implement such a scheme, especially after all the money they've spent on upgrading children's and YA sections in the past decade, but surely there must be something that can be done. {puts on thinking cap} *[Several loccers commented on this problem, and it seems I was the only one considering it who hit upon the idea of using the type of shelving system employed in medical records offices. The shelves are revolving, and since the records are paper, I presume the shelving systems are built to hold serious weight without breaking down too often. Does anyone else think this is a workable solution?]*

I enjoyed both of Helen Spiral's articles. David Icke has always been one of my favorite nutcase conspiracy theorists because he's basically harmless (except for his insistence that everyone should wear turquoise track suits - nobody looks good in a turquoise track suit).



Sue Bursztynski

Thanks for PN 5.1, which arrived in time to cheer me in my sickbed. *[May you be well when reading this.]* Loved the cheery cover - the art reminded me of the style of Gordon Carleton, whose cartoons graced such fanzines as Paula Smith's Menagerie in the

1970s.

**Ruth Davidson:** I've already scanned "The Pleasures Of The Hobbit Table" and would be pleased to send you a copy. E-mail me with your details - sbursztynski at gmail.com - and I'll send it along accompanied by my own recipe for scones, which is simpler than the one in the article.

**Ned Brooks:** There were indeed ponies in the Shire - the hobbits set off on them into the Old Forest as you might recall.

I enjoyed the April Fool's Day article - I had heard of some of the jokes mentioned, including the one about the "spaghetti harvest"; I have seen a bit of it, with people picking spaghetti draped over bushes. When we were adjusting to the new metric system here in Australia, years ago, a local TV station did a news item on a plan for "metric time" with an interview with a clockmaker who complained about the problems this would cause.

**Lyn's** story about her geese doesn't surprise me; there's a Roman tale about how the city was saved from a barbarian invasion, in its early days, by the warning of Juno's sacred geese. I bet those invaders were cursing and swearing as much as Lyn's burglar!

**Jim Sullivan:** I work in a library and it is indeed, alas, a case of space being at a premium. The ideal, of course, would be having everything at eye level, but you'd need a huge library to accommodate this.

**Joe Major:** The spy book is finished, but if my editor hates a chapter, I'll certainly get back to you. It's only 10,000 words long and I had to choose carefully from an embarrassment of riches. Kids tend to enjoy the weird and wacky, so I chose such tales as the one about the cat wired for sound which was killed on the road before it could be used, spy gadgets such as a listening device disguised as tiger droppings and a CIA plan to use telepaths to spy on the Soviet Union.



*Paul Di Filippo*

Loved the cover on the latest PN. It caught Deb's eye too!

Thank you & **Helen Spiral** - I think - for alerting me to the existence of David Icke. My life is now complete!

Loved hearing the details of your daily doings. Music is one of life's graces. [*Indeed it is. I've noticed a distinct lack of it in my life lately, going about my day-to-day routine, so perhaps it's time to fire up the stereo more often. Then again, I have to make sure I don't dance too much; still recovering from illness, dontcha know.*]



*E. B. Frohvet*

**Lyn McConchie** came to visit [*as per plan*]. The most apparent problem was getting in and out of the airport: all the access roads have been changed since the last time I was there, and the signs have not caught up to reality. Eventually we found our way out of the maze, due mainly to blind luck. I had dropped a note to **Sheryl Birkhead** about Lyn's visit, and Sheryl came up for an afternoon. Lyn kindly autographed copies of her new book for us. **Steve Stiles** works at Daedalus Books in the area, so we got a chance to talk with him and congratulate him on his Hugo nomination. A good deal of the visit was devoted to local bookstores, among which Lyn found enough books to fill a carton, which we sealed up and mailed back to New Zealand (The trainee postal clerk was heard to mutter under her breath, "New Zealand? Where's New Zealand?"). Most of the rest of the time we just sat around talking. [*As, being among fen, you do, as Brit might quip.*]

What's this about pink? "Can't stand it," did you say? [*Yes, I did. Loathe the color. Only time I tolerate it is when I use pink yarn for making baby jackets, as I am now doing for a friend who's due this month.*] Surely you're not going out of your way to affront the fan whose Pink Shirt is practically a TradeMark (TM)? (I bought the pink shirt, which is very atypical of my wardrobe, in order to be conspicuous.) I gratn you that pink is more effective on a brunette.

**Ned Brooks:** There may not be a specific reference to hobbits keeping cattle, but there are enough mentions of cheese, butter, cream, etc., as normal items of diet, that the inference is obvious. In

European practice, making cheese has been generally confined to cow's milk, goat's milk, and very occasionally sheep's milk.

**Joe Major, and Janine:** Agreed that wolves are more dangerous than cutesy, I would think the wolf had decided the girl was a pack member [*Or a threat to its pack; the physical altercations between pack members are most often bloodless and meant to ensure the dominance structure. In cases where two alpha males contend for pack leadership, it can get more serious in terms of injury, but it's rare, as in most dominance conflicts among group societies in nature. One male has to lose the battle, but can always go off and start a new pack, and I think this is how the gene pool depth is maintained. After all, if all the second bests died in dominance battles, the genetic strength of the species in question might decline at a faster rate. That's my theory, anyway.*] In general, I'd guess that wolves have learned to avoid humans. [*Indeed they have; they are notoriously hard to spot in the wild.*] The smart ones who did live to reproduce; the stupid ones got shot. In parts of the east, naturalists are trying to reintroduce wolves to cut down on the surplus of deer. [*Yellowstone National Park is the most media-covered example of this technique, but there are other areas in the U.S. where it's being tried as well, despite local cattle owners' vociferous objections. Deer aren't the only surplus being aimed at with this program; elk have gotten particularly numerous and consequently dangerous to human visitors to parks, especially during rutting season in the autumn. To all cattle ranchers who object to wolves being potential predators on their stock, I say: get a bunch of guard dogs bred to protect herd animals, and see how few stock you lose to wolves. There are several dog breeds available for this purpose and plenty of reputable breeders and trainers willing to provide them. The stomp-on-it attitude of earlier times has to be replaced with smarter methods when it comes to wild-human interaction zones, and this is one where some forethought could make a really big difference.*]

**Jim Sullivan:** Much as one sympathizes with your problem, I imagine libraries (and book stores also) have only so much space in

which to store a maximum number of volumes. Check if your library has those small rolling stools on wheels - if not, perhaps they could acquire some. [*Or someone could donate a few. Take up a collection, Jim!*] My usual grievance with libraries involves dropping books on those rolling metal carts from heights of two feet, resulting in an echoing clang. Yo! Some of us are trying to read! [*Sounds like head-librarian complaint material to me.*]

**Helen Spiral:** Mr. Icke sounds like a nut, but a harmless nut. As long as he's not blowing people up or molesting children, I'd be inclined to ignore him. [*Hmmm. One wonders if you missed the point of the piece, which was intended to be humorous?*] There's a story about a supposed prank relating to the now-common word "quiz." According to the tale, a theater owner in Dublin wagered friends he could have the whole city talking about a new word. Reportedly he hired hordes of local boys for a few coins each to chalk the bizarre word "quiz" on walls all over Dublin. Eventually the word became so common that an accepted meaning for it was found. In fairness, we should observe the Oxford English Dictionary is skeptical of this account, but admits the origin of "quiz" is obscure.

I think your concept of a "family compound" is very 19th century, very tribal, and probably would not work. It presumes that people who have DNA in common also have other beliefs and preferences in common. In my own experience I can assure you that this is not always so, though I have never had to face the problems of single parenthood. [*Of course a family compound won't work in every case, but for those families where the majority of the members get along well with each other, I think it's a fine idea.*]

The custom of the World Wide Party seems either to have died out, or never to have caught on seriously. Still, I actually remembered it this year. Sitting on the deck with my cousin and her family, waiting for the moon to rise, I raised my mead (theme of the evening was Celtic) in a silent toast to fandom.



*Christopher Garcia*

Another great issue. I really think you've come across a great method with the Landscape fanzine. [*Not original with me, certainly, but I don't know where it got started.*] I really like the way it comes across.

I have a thing to point out with Dave Szurek's LoC. "Colossus: The Forbin Project" wasn't influenced by the Bletchley Colossus at all, mostly because it was still top secret at that point (it wasn't officially announced to the public until after 1975). It also happens to be one of my favorite SF films of all-time [*Mine, too.*], though I don't know if it's on DVD [*Yep - Netflix offers it.*]. I have an old VHS copy that I've nearly worn through.

There are strange coincidences afoot here. I had just finished typing much of *The Drink Tank* Issue 30 and did a small piece on Art Bell mentioning David Icke. I was handed the issue of *Peregrine Nations* as I walked out the door of my office a few minutes later. Strange. When I brought up a review of PN at BASFA (BArea Science Fiction Association) we had a nice long discussion about Icke, complete with half-a-dozen puns. By the way, I'm all in for a Neo-Luddite Resistance Army. The only good computer is a dead computer. Why else would I work at the only place in the world where I will be surrounded by dead machines all day?

The April Fool's Day article by **Helen Spiral** was great too. I love the strange April Fools Stuff, like the issue of the Boston Post in the 1890s that purported to be from the 1980s. My personal fave was the Fool where I had convinced people that there was a gathering for a secret screening of "Star Wars: Episode One." I even went so far as to setting up a big screen strung between two trees in a campground above the Santa Clara Valley. About 50 people showed up, this was right before "Episode 1" was released in 1999. I then played "Star Wars: Episode 1" (30 minutes of the original [*Episode 3, right?*] complete with vintage, 1977 commercials). I got a lot of hell for that one over the next few months.

Thanks for the note on getting things out of the photo albums.

First I gotta find them all, which is the harder part. Some of them I haven't seen in more than 15 years! Oh, and no sweat on the Chick Magnet article. If you run it later in the year, that's even closer to Hugo voting time! [*Well, sadly, things here got even further delayed, so I'll have to hold that article yet again; I hope to get it into the October ish. Apologies.*]

You know, it's nice to see an ad for Ditto 18 on the back. Sadly, it seems that Ditto takes a backseat to Corflu, and sadly I won't be able to attend this year (though it's real near to my birthday). [*I had also planned to attend, but my health took a bad turn along with my finances. As I understand it, Ditto was created as an additional fanzine fan con for those who were unable to attend Corflu when it was mostly a Left Coast con; now Corflu sites are more varied across the continent. It's still a good idea to have two fanzine fan cons a year, though; if a person can't attend one, they might be able to attend the other. There's also the matter of the Usual Suspects for each gathering, as each seems to attract the same folks on a regular basis, so I presume potential attendees for either event make their decision on which to attend on that basis as well.*] Good to see people pushing it in their zines.



*Alexis Gilliland* 6/20/05

Thank you for *Peregrine Nations* 5.1 The cover by José Sanchez is interesting and amusing, but it incorporates the title of your fanzine in the cartoon instead of the other way around. [*That wasn't the artist's doing, that was my text.*] Enclosed is my idea for a cartoon cover, using the Egyptian god Horus as the peregrine in question, with the title in 72 point Westwood LET, a font which came bundled with my computer. Note especially the subordinate position of the cartoon, with no heavy blacks. [*Readers will be able to enjoy the full effect in a future ish of PN. Thanks, Mr. G!*]

Brad Foster's interior artwork is, as usual, excellent. However, the one on p. 18 appears to be reproduced at a slightly lower resolution than the one on p. 7, or my cartoon on p. 12. The latter

two both have a very light grey background, and some of the curved lines are broken out in pixels so as to appear a trifle jagged. [At 400 resolution in the Acrobat reader {version 7.0}, this is true. At 100 or less, the difference is negligible, at least on my computer. However, I've rescanned the art and increased the dpi, so let me know if it looks better in thish.]

Re: **Lyn McConchie** and geese, my own first encounter with geese was in 1935 at my paternal grandparents' place, which was a wheat ranch out near Spokane, WA. We arrived in the early evening, and when I got out of the car to explore the barnyard, I was confronted by honking, hissing geese as tall as the four-year-old I was at the time. Two years later when I returned, the geese were gone. What else had happened? Well, in 1935 they were still pulling the farm machinery with mules, but in 1937 they had switched to a couple of tractors. Grandma Gilliland kept the geese mostly to annoy Grandpa Gilliland by their getting into the horse troughs when the mule teams came in from the field, and when the mules went, her geese lost their reason for being. [So were the geese given away or sold, or did they turn into dinner?]

We saw "Howl's Moving Castle" which is truly excellent and recommended as probably best animated film of the year. Four stars. Also "Batman Begins," which is okay of you like a comic-book plot. However, there is also comic-book science, i.e. the villains steal a battery-powered microwave device intended to vaporize the municipal water supply. An excellent supporting cast, though. Two stars. [Art sent is much appreciated!]



Amy Harlib

Enjoyed PN #5, especially the bit about famous April Fools Day pranks and I loved seeing that Big Name Pro writer Lyn McConchie contributes! Sort of wondered where my interview with Glenda Larke was! [As promised, it's elsewhere in these pages.]



John Hertz

Thanks for SET 4 and PN 5.1. Thanks also for helping B.G. [Appreciate the support. Another ish of SET should be out before the end of this year.] I didn't get a pumpkin-bomb explosion myself! Hence the title. [Ah, all is made clear now...] My vote against the horizontal Perry format. [Well, sorry, but using it means I don't have to reset two versions of the zine and it saves me time and headaches as a result, so editorial fiat rules.] You must have meant *Bumbling Burglar Beaked By Bold Birds*. [Oh, yeah, that too...] In fanzine reviews, I like better your saying what you like & why, than your merely listing them. [Understandable, as that's a major component of a review. But sometimes I run out of time to give an opinion, and as a backstop I run a list to let other faneds know I'm at least aware of what they're pubbing. This ish lacks myt review column due to time constraints and lateness of schedule, but I'll try to get back to it for October.]



Trinlay Khadro 6/21/05

We had a great time at Wiscon 29. I sold a lot of origami dragons & cranes in the art show. I'm sending some to Convergence with some friends. [Wahoo! May they sell as well or better there!]

**Sheryl Birkhead:** If the photo you are thinking of is the photo I'm remembering, it's a "storm in a bottle" lamp that was made by a local fan. In my opinion a magnifying glass is a better way to start a fire than making homemade matches. Making matches would mean being able to get and handle all the ingredients.

Locally there's been a fannish yard sale, and I've been to the Bead & Button Show with Henry Osier. [Envy, envy! Then again, there's a bead store here, and I can order online, but oh, the glories of wandering through aisles and aisles of pretties....ahhhh...]

**Ruth Davidson and Jan:** Color photos are notoriously ephemeral; when exposed to sunlight they fade rather quickly, particularly the older ('40s-'70s) prints. I find that some more recent printing methods seem to be much more color stable. With computer

prints, though, mileage varies.

**All zine eds who I owe a LOC:** Seasonal transition has been particularly rough on me this season. It's the solstice & I'm pooped still. Go figure. I've fallen behind on LOCs but should be catching up shortly.

Most of the cows I've met have been rather calm & gentle; then again I'm a bit bigger than a hobbit. (My sister is 4' 11", I'm almost 5' 3".)

**E. B. Frohvet:** KT tends more toward tidy than I do. I have to work at it and yes, I do follow after and gather up plates & cups. But for organizing, folding and putting away she needs little to no prompting. [*Can you ship her over to my house so she can teach my son this skill?*]

**Chris Garcia:** Layout isn't rocket science and I'm sure you do fine. The key thing is, "Is it legible and clear?" Far too many people get a graphics program & go wild with eacky fonts used for the text (rather than just titles) or try to be arty & "new wave" or hip and end up with muddled, illegible or just plain ugly. Some of these come from people who should know better. :) I suspect we all have to go through a "ransom note" stage before we get the hang of things ("If you send me your zine I'll eventually loc...").

Re: "mommy track" - one employer actually told me, "It's not fair if you get more time off because you are a mom and someone else isn't." Over several years, chronic fatigue and fibromyalgia were creeping up on me; besides being ill myself & having the occasional call "come get me I'm sick," I've actually lost a couple jobs because I needed so much sick time. With an illness like this, it's very disabling, and employers don't want to accommodate the sick time I need. [*Which is what makes certain U.S. laws for disabled persons still able to work so important. I think there are certain incentives provided by law for employers if they hire disabled persons, but I'd have to check on that. If a person can still work, they should be able to and not be penalized for the time they need to attend to getting well when necessary.*]

"Family compound" sounds like a good idea, but I think having my mom nearby all the time might make me nuts. It was terribly hard on us as the family elders started dying off. We lost 3 people we were very close to within as many years.

**Brad Foster:** I think Siren Sam and BoomBox Betty live in my building. :)

We've just been to see "Howl's Moving Castle" which we very much enjoyed, & later this week we'll be going to see "Batman Begins."

**Lyn McConchie:** Miss Megumi has a special canned cat chow we give her a couple times a week & it's 75 cents a can (3 ounces) but she is a very special kitty, having saved my life last year & taking care of us all the time. I suppose this is similar to Fluff's mince. If I cooked meat regularly for ourselves I'd just pull out some for her.

**Joy Smith:** I also think of "creepy" houses that a little fixing up [would] make them lovely.

**Jim Sullivan:** "A Plea for Higher Volumes" - in most cases space is at a premium. Would it help to ask a librarian to assist you? [*Sigh. It seems the humor I found in this article didn't translate in the same way to my readers. Not that I don't think Jim **doesn't** have trouble reading spines on bottom shelves at libraries, but I did think there was an intentional amusement factor in his style. Ah well.*]

**Helen Spiral:** So you're Godzilla/Gojira? :)

I enjoy the wildflowers [editorial], nice "bang" for little effort and with a good mix, *something* is always in bloom. I don't know who picks the season's "hot" colors - I like turquoise and teal though and they happen to have been "hot" this spring. I think you could get away with those colors or coral but not pink or green (minty...nope...seafoam...nope...). [*Reminds me of those ghastly class B uniforms I used to have to endure in the Army in the 1980s; polyester hell minty green skirt and blouse with that stupid bubble-head beret. Yech.*] Sounds like you had a fantastic birthday. LBM has

done some bits for "Sesame Street" which are really lovely. I try, to my disappointment, to sing along. Sigh. You won't be seeing me on "American Idol."



*Joseph Major*

John W. Campbell, Jr. June 8, 1910 — July 11, 1971. When you asked, "Who Goes There?" he had an answer. (He had an answer for everything else, regardless of whether or not you had asked.)

**Cover:** I think I saw that second guy from the left. He was involved in a shooting in a bar, and he and his buddy left town right away.

**Sheryl Birkhead:** You seem to have about five years on me, con-wise. My first con was MidWestCon in 1974. Oddly enough, I think I've never been back . . .

**Jack Calvert:** I don't know about "the golden age is now" but it's a better attitude to take than to long endlessly for the days when every day's mail delivery was chockablock with mimeo'd zines full of chat and gossip . . . I went to a panel on great fanwriting with a fellow faned and watched him stew as the panelists mentioned in great and loving detail fanwriters who had flourished and gafiated before he was born - and he has children in school.

**Ruth Davidson:** "Bureaucracy + technology = bad." I was just reading a book about that sort of thing, in Antarctica: Big Dead Place (2005) by Nicholas Johnson. I like his attitude.

**E. B. Frohvet:** So people in thrillers don't read thrillers, any more than people in horror movies don't watch horror movies. Somehow, according to detective novels, the thing to do upon finding a body is to pick up the weapon and do whatever else necessary to make oneself a prime suspect. But then the lone scorned detective will prove you innocent or your lawyer will get the real killer to confess on the witness stand or whatever.

Last guy who tried that was Tom Capano of Delaware, who explained how one of his mistresses had been shot by the other, so he disposed of the body in order to keep her out of trouble. He still got

convicted.

**Trinlay Khadro:** Robert Heinlein preached the virtues of family ties. Noting the weakening of them in this era, he proposed that polyamory would replace this. The usual futurist bit about how "in the future everyone will do what I like" bit, in other words.

On the other hand, last weekend I was at a family reunion with over a hundred people. And many more knew of it but couldn't come, like Elizabeth Garrott and her sister Alice. When the Thomas-Bridges Family Association (Lisa's family) has its reunion, they have over two hundred people from all over the country.

**Me:** Ralph the wolf (from the *Reader's Digest* Heartwarming Wolf Story) seems to have been very biddable, to the point of delivering a wolf pup to replace him when he lay dying.

You want more Frodo? [*I had to ask...*] I reprint the moving scene where Gandalf describes the stirring battle of Helm's Deep to Denethor:

*The Tragedie of Frodo Baggins*

by Will: Shakspur

Act III, Scene xvii: The throne-room of Minas Tirith

Enter DENETHOR with Attendants,  
meeting GANDALF and PEREGRINE

Den. What bloody man is that? He can report,  
As seemeth by his plight, of the strife  
That lieth to our north, in Rohan,  
The newest state.  
Why, 'tis Mithrandir, councillor of eld,  
Bearing upon his saddlebow a Holbytla,  
A legend from the shadowy north.

Hail, brave friend!

Say to the Steward the knowledge of the broil  
As thou didst leave it.  
Whence camest thou, worthy sage?

Gan. From Helm's Deep, O Steward,  
Where the wizard's banners flout the sky  
And fan our people cold.  
Saruman himself, with terrible numbers,  
Assisted by that most disloyal traitor  
Gríma Galmod's son began a dismal conflict,  
Till that Bellona's bridegroom, lapp'd in proof,  
Aragorn, Ranger of the North,  
Confronted him with self-comparisons,  
Point against point rebellious, arm 'gainst arm,  
Curbing his lavish spirit; and, to conclude,  
The victory fell on us.

Den. Great happiness!  
[aside] Yet he utters a name of trouble deep,  
Heir, perhaps to the crown that does sleep  
Within the tombs of our lost kings,  
It raises a question of lost rings.

Gan. Doubtful it stood,  
As two spent swimmers that do cling together  
And choke their art. The merciless Saruman —  
Worthy to be a rebel, for to that  
The multiplying villainies of nature  
Do swarm upon him — from the Wizard's Vale  
Of orcs and Uruk-hai is supplied;

And Fortune, on his damned quarrel smiling,  
Show'd like a rebel's whore. But all's too weak;  
For brave Éomer — well he deserves that name —  
Disdaining Fortune, with his brandish'd steel,  
Which smoked with bloody execution,  
Like Valor's minion carved out his passage.

Den. O valiant cousin! Worthy gentleman!

Gan. As whence the sun 'gins her reflection  
Shipwrecking storms and direful thunders break,  
So from that spring whence comfort seem'd to come  
Discomfort swells. Mark, Steward of Gondor, mark.  
No sooner justice had, with valor arm'd,  
Compell'd these skipping kerns to trust their heels,  
But the Wizard lord, surveying vantage,  
With furbish'd arms and new supplies of men,  
Began a fresh assault.

Den. Dismay'd not this  
Our Rohirric yokefellows, Théoden and Éomer?

Gan. Yes,  
As sparrows eagles, or the hare the lion.  
If I say sooth, I must report they were  
As cannons overcharged with double cracks,  
So they  
Doubly redoubled strokes upon the foe.  
Except they meant to bathe in reeking wounds,  
Or memorize another Golgotha,  
I cannot tell —

Den.[aside] What a haste looks through his eyes! So should he look  
That seems to speak things strange.

Gan. That now Saruman, the humbled wizard,  
Fac'd by Théoden, Éomer, and Aragorn,  
Was mastered by myself, in strife of spells,  
Deposed from his station, stricken from his rank,  
And pent, to stew in envy, in his mighty tower,  
Wherein all about is ruins.  
The king, my lord, bids you take these letters,  
Wherein is numbered the host of the Mark,  
Hot upon his speedy victory,  
Of horse, threescore hundred and more,  
Ride even now from Edoras, in token of their oath,  
And by our right, ancient Mundburg to succor.

Den. This host is greatly welcome.  
Perilous is our plight;  
Mithrandir, I have here received letters  
That the Corsairs, ousted heirs of our Kin-strife  
Come down upon us with a mighty power,  
Bending their expedition toward Lebinnin.

Gan. They of those marches, gracious Steward,  
Shall be a wall sufficient to defend  
Your riverland from the pilfering borderers.

Den. We do not mean the coursing snatchers only,  
But fear the main intendment of the Corsair,  
Who hath been still a giddy neighbour to us;

Would that we had our son, brave Boromir,  
To take up arms and stanch that tide,  
But rumor and more doth convey ill-tidings.  
Produces a broken horn  
Knowest thou this?

Per. That was indeed his horn, blown in desperate need,  
As the foul raiders of the river fell upon us,  
Worsted was Boromir the brave, pierced by arrows keen  
And savaged by their fell blades.

Den. O young and noble Boromir, art thou down?  
Why, now thou diest as bravely as Glorfindel,  
And mayst be honor'd, being mine own son.  
So be it.  
And thou, his final companion, be thou squire,  
Bearer of tokens, ward of small honors,  
Returning service to the father for service  
By the son giv'n. Accept thou?

Per. I do, great prince.

Den. And now, Mithrandir,  
Listen great things. Our great and ancient foe  
Is levying powers; we must straight make head;  
Therefore let our alliance be combined,  
Our best friends made, our means stretch'd;  
And let us presently go sit in council,  
How covert matters may be best disclosed,  
And open perils surest answered.

Gan. Let us do so, for we are at the stake,  
And bay'd about with many enemies;  
And some that smile have in their hearts, I fear,  
Millions of mischiefs.

*Exeuent.*

[*Bravo, bravo! More!*]

**Lyn McConchie** takes a line from Roman History. Read Livy some time about the Gauls attacking Rome, and how the Roman geese passed the word to the defenders.

Dave Szurek: IMDB (Internet Movie Data Base: <http://www.imdb.com>) is also your friend. Checking their entry on "Colossus: The Forbin Project," one learns that the computers shown there were real computers. The movie is available on both DVD and VHS.



*Lloyd Penney*

What happened to this April fanzine that we didn't see it until July? [*Inevitably, Life.* ]

My first convention was called Erincon 3, a one-day convention held at Erindale College (now the University of Toronto at Mississauga) way back in 1978. Yvonne told me about it, and we eventually got to it. Spider Robinson was the GoH, but he didn't know about it until he got there. He christened the convention Nonexistacon, which was pretty accurate. I was one of about 30 people who actually attended the convention, and the committee was convinced that if they printed a minimum of flyers, they'd save money. The dealers room was large, about 75 tables, and it contained only two dealers. One dealer took about half the tables, and put 500 copies of one issue of a comic on one table, etc., such a big room, with almost no selection. The film room ran 16mm copies of Star Trek episodes. On the way home, a friend told me that there were much better conventions out there. Thank Ghu he was right.

I'm still at the *Globe and Mail*. There's been several interviews since I have the right amount of experience, but not quite the right kind of experience, they say. Let me win the damned lottery, and be done with it! In September, I will be returning to Windsor to visit with friends, party my brains out, and spend a good portion of my weekend with Momcat curled up on my lap. As long as she doesn't knead with her claws, all will be fine.

The books on the bottom shelves: I wish shelves interchanged with themselves, much like the assembly-line-style moving hangers in a dry cleaners. The books will move along until the one you want shows up. This means all books are on Moebius-strip-style shelves, and the whole library is moving. [*This sounds like my idea, a bit...*]

I had heard a little bit of David Icke in the past. Based on his current beliefs, he is from a parallel reality, which certainly has nothing to do with yours or mine. I sometimes have the chance to hear Terry Wogan on the Internet. He does the morning show on BBC Radio 2, and mornings in London are the middle of the night here. Wogan has quite the tart wit, so I can certainly see how he'd react to Ickes ravings.

I remember the film about the Swiss spaghetti harvest, having seen it a couple of times. It was done all too seriously, and never once did they let on that the whole thing was a joke. It was an indication of how easily the public was fooled, and some were not pleased with the Beeb for taking part in this little jest.

**The Free Book Deal:** You've been very kind to me, and I've received so many books from you, it's best to let someone else enjoy a book, so I'll disqualify myself right here and now.

Temperatures are in the 90s Fahrenheit, and humidity is actually not bad, but still the best place to be is on one of the local transit buses, air conditioned to the point where they're four-wheeled fridges. And, the *Globe and Mail* is ACed as well, so that's not bad. We've got a small AC here, but this apartment is too large for it to cool properly.



Joy V. Smith

Fun cover. Jose '85 con art? [Mr. Sanchez didn't specify.]

Re: LOCs. Interesting, as usual, and then crowned with more of **Joe Major's** "The Tragedie of Frodo Baggins by Will: Shakspur"! I also enjoyed **Lyn McConchie's** reports of her travel preparations and the geese's routing of the intruders. I mentioned in my LOC that I planned to get her books, Farming Daze and Daze on the Land; and I did and really enjoyed them both; I empathized with her home hunting; and her animal stories are a lot of fun, though she also shows the hard work and problems involved on a farm. I do hope she writes another book so I can find out what happened next.

I enjoyed **Helen Spiral's** article on David Icke. I hope that now and then a reporter reassured his mother that they did believe he was born at a hospital in England and not on another planet. Good crop circles definition footnote too.

Thanks for the background on Ladysmith Black Mambazo. What a wonderful opportunity to hear them!



Helen Spiral

Thank you for the paper copy of PN 5.1 which arrived safely in my postbox escorted by the battalion of George Washingtons on the envelope.

I enjoyed the humorous cover although, somewhat worryingly, I think I recognise one or two of the depicted citizens from the late night checkout queue at my local supermarket...

**Sheryl Birkhead** might want to look at Ray Mears' books on basic survival. Making fire by rubbing two sticks together is considerably easier after someone has explained that the type of sticks you use makes a difference. A hard stick rubbed into a softer stick will make more embers and make them faster.

**Ned Brooks'** comment about hobbits using feet and miles is interesting as a foot was originally a body-based unit of measurement like an inch, a cubit, or a yard. I seem to recall that hobbits have a

different foot-length to height ratio than "the race of men" with hobbits being generally shorter but more prodigious below the ankles. I myself have often wondered precisely how Tolkien's "race of men" managed to reproduce? Perhaps he merely neglected to mention a genetically compatible race of women? Or maybe new men appeared by magic under gooseberry bushes?

The word nifty is in common usage around here although the Oxford English Dictionary etymology claims that nifty is mostly an Americanism (originating in the nineteenth century).

**Lyn McConchie's** trust in her guard geese doesn't surprise me. Geese are, in my experience, far more vicious towards humans than either goats or dogs. My poultry-keeping neighbour's dominant gander is known locally as Napoleon.

**Joy Smith** agreed with **Brad Foster** that the old houses in horror movies aren't creepy and she suggested that might be because, as a child, she explored so many with her mother. I have a similar non-problem with graveyards. One of my favourite childhood activities was exploring country churchyards with my mother and her mother. We used to read the more interesting or amusing gravestones out loud to each other as we found them. My local churchyard should be thoroughly creepy because it has the requisite huge ancient yew trees spreading their midday darkness across the crooked headstones and tumbledown tombs but I find it romantic and charming rather than gothic. The only cemeteries which horrify me are the vast military graveyards with row upon row of near identical memorials. Although my horror is, in that case, caused by the historical actions of live humans. I've never feared the dead who are beyond both doing harm and being harmed. [*Cemeteries also fascinate me for many of the same reasons you mention, and I also like seeing the changes in headstone design through the ages.*]

**Jim Sullivan** is lucky that his local libraries still have enough books to make floor-to-ceiling shelving necessary. My local library was like that, both in the public areas and in the stacks, until a few years ago. Now they have so few books that they no longer even fully

encircle the walls at head height. [*So what happened to the books?*] A couple of years ago I had to point out to the librarians that, when the reference section suddenly shrank from an entire large room to a single shelving unit, they had removed *all* the English dictionaries! There are plenty of chairs though, including adjustable office chairs on wheels, so Jim could simultaneously sit down and tour the lower shelves to his heart's content.

I'm glad you enjoyed the Ladysmith Black Mambazo concert. They're great. I love music but I couldn't put that love into words as you can.



*Peter Sullivan*

Here's another vote for the landscape layout - it makes reading on screen so much easier, and presumably doesn't inconvenience the "dead tree" readers much(?).

For what it's worth, I think your policy of not publishing LoC addresses is the right one, given that you have no control over who downloads it from the website. Interestingly enough, *The Times* (of London, that is) has just changed its policy - they always used to publish the full address on published Letters to the Editor, but now it's just in the format "John Smith, Tunbridge Wells." The stated reason for the policy change was to allow room to fit a few more letters on the page, but I wonder if privacy was an issue as well.

As a 6' 6" reader, I fully concur with my part-namesake **Jim Sullivan's** views on library shelves. I have the same problem in bookshops, too, which is even more bizarre, as they have an even clearer economic interest in getting you to pick books off the shelf (and hopefully not put them back). I am sufficiently non-self-conscious that I am prepared to just sit on the floor to see what's down below, assuming the floor is carpeted or at least clean, but there will come a day when I won't be able to get up again.

David Icke has really dropped out of the mainstream UK media since the early 1990s. His natural successor in the loony stakes was probably the Natural Law Party, but even they seem pretty much

off the radar these days. Their one party political broadcast (in 1992, if I remember rightly) is still a classic of the genre. (Transatlantic types may not be aware that no paid-for political advertising is allowed in the UK, but the mainstream parties and any other group with enough candidates to qualify can have free 5-minute slots. In the old days, these were on simultaneously on all channels, so there was no getting away from them.) Actually, I suspect that the principles of Natural Law are not that far away from those who claimed to be Jedi Knights on the 2001 Census - "Natural Law" and "The Force" sound like similar concepts, from my outsiders' perspective anyway. (See <http://www.snopes.com/religion/jedi.htm> for the Census story.)

I think you are right to point to the number of electronic fanzeens [*Interesting spelling variation; you're the only one I've seen use it, though in other reading matter I've learned that it's been seen before.*] as evidence that fandom isn't dead. Similar thoughts have been expressed in the postal games hobby (which is my background in fandom) over the last ten years, but the simple fact is that as many, if not more, people are involved, they are just involved via on-line/e-mail postal games rather than via dead tree fanzeens. The medium is *not* the message, whatever Marshall McLuhan might say. Although I have technology in my study that I wouldn't have dreamed of when I started my first postal games fanzeen twenty years ago, I still have no urge to restart a paper-based postal games zeen, nor would I expect many people have the urge to receive it.

Probably the most famous April Fools Joke on British TV was the Panorama documentary in 1957 on the Swiss Spaghetti Harvest. Certainly the Museum of Hoaxes website lists it as their #1 (<http://www.museumofhoaxes.com/hoax/aprilfool/>). The original footage, now converted to RealVideo, is still on the BBC website at [http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/april/1/newsid\\_2819000/2819261.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/april/1/newsid_2819000/2819261.stm)

**WAHF: Mark Proskey, Steve Sneyd** (thanks for the copy of *Data Dump*) and **Dave Szurek**. Thanks, everyone!



# The Aussies Are Taking Over

## An Interview with Fantasy Author Glenda Larke

by Amy Harlib

Australian-born, world-traveling, currently Malaysian-resident, ecological-activist, fantasy writer Glenda Larke's quirky, original, first novel, Havenstar was published under the nom de plume Glenda Noramly in the UK in 1998 by Virgin World which, for no direct reason, promptly folded - thereafter causing the favorably received book to vanish far too quickly into out-of-print scarcity.

Now Ms. Larke resurfaces with the highly acclaimed, award-nominated The Isles of Glory trilogy (Voyager, Australia) which was recently acquired by the USA publisher Ace Books and is slated for release in 2005. The Aware, Gilfeather, and The Tainted - set in an invented, multi-cultural, pre-industrial, magical otherworld, features a strong female protagonist and her fascinating experiences of self-discovery whilst embroiled in political intrigue and wide-ranging adventure in richly imagined settings.

Ms. Larke, excited about having her first grandchild and thrilled with her rising literary success, agreed to be interviewed while in NYC for a meeting with her American publisher.

**Amy Harlib:** When did you realize that you wanted to be writer and a writer of fantasy in particular?

**Glenda Larke:** Quite frankly I can't remember a time when I didn't want to be a writer. I can't remember ever learning to read, either. Both things just always seem to have been there. I was writing endless adventure stories while I was still in primary school and wrote my first novel when I was 11. It was set in Scotland. I have no idea why. My family hadn't a single Scottish connection. Maybe I was prescient. I now have a Scottish son-in-law and I go there quite often to see my daughter. I didn't write fantasy until I was in my

forties, though.

**AH:** What got you excited about the fantasy genre?

**GL:** I was brought up in the school of thought that there was something not quite proper about sf. You know, fantasy was just fairy tales for kids, and science fiction consisted of poorly written tales about space ships and weird aliens, written for pubescent boys. Even when I accidentally came across a great sf story, I thought it must be the exception. Then, when I was in my twenties, my sister - who was a teacher-librarian - kept plying me with sff recommendations. And my eyes popped wide open. Hey this stuff was good! I began to read widely in the genre, hopping between classics and modern, fantasy and sf, trying to make up for lost time. Then, when my kids were old enough I started reading the children's classics with them, the books I never had as a child - Susan Cooper's The Dark is Rising was one of the first I remember. The Narnia books. The Black Cauldron. Elidor. I enjoyed reading to the kids just about as much as they enjoyed listening - it was all new to me. Then came The Hobbit - which of course led straight into LoTR. My daughter and I fought over the books, I remember - she was nine and I was 35! (Little did I realize that twenty-five years later we would be going to see the movie together.)

**AH:** Which writers do you consider inspirations, influences and mentors?

**GL:** In one sense there were no mentors. I never met another writer until I was well on the way to being published. Now I am reveling in contact with my fellow Australian/New Zealand authors - Trudi Canavan and Russell Kirkpatrick in particular have been wonderfully helpful and supportive and we chat on the internet several times a week.

As for influences and inspiration - well, there have been way too many books/authors to count. Asimov was a model for the effectiveness of simplicity of style. Guy Gavriel Kay is a favourite of mine - Tigana I consider to be a brilliant stand-alone book, which I read every so often with awe. C.S. Friedman's Coldfire Trilogy -

great world, superb character study of a villain you can learn to care about. Who can forget the breadth of Herbert's Dune, the inventiveness of Julian May, the depth of Le Guin, the feminist storytelling of Sherri Tepper. Brian Stableford, Stephen Donaldson, Janny Wurts - I could go on and on. Now I love the so-called "new weird". I met K.J. Bishop recently and I am humbled to think that a writer so young could produce something as challenging as Etched City. Every time I pick up a book I learn something more about how to tell a story. In fact, one of the worst things about being a published writer with deadlines to meet is that there is so little time to read any more!

**AH:** How much of yourself and your work in environmental conservation finds its way into your books?

**GL:** A lot. Is there a writer in any genre who doesn't put pieces of themselves into their work? You find chunks of me all over the place - insecurities and stupidities and the not-so-pleasant bits included!

My environmental work is useful in that it has taught me how interrelated everything is, important to remember when world-building. If you are going to have two moons, what happens to the tide when they are in alignment with the sun? (Read The Tainted, and find out!) If you are going to have a world where even the land is unstable, what effect would it have on religious faith? On superstition? On which professions would be the most valued? (That's all in Havenstar.) If a port city goes on a binge of shipbuilding, just what might happen to the neighboring forests - and then what might happen if it rained a lot? And so on. We treat our environment with disdain at our peril, in this world, or in that of my novels. In Gilfeather I had great fun writing of a Utopian society in the environmental sense - it's a completely sustainable society and on that level it works. Trouble is, it drives the protagonist nuts, as it would most of us. I may be an environmentalist, but I am also pragmatic and I know just what it would take to be wholly sustainable.

As an ornithologist, I have an affinity to birds, and I have used this in The Isles of Glory trilogy, where one of the main characters is

a bird. I've used my work experiences in peat swamps (Gilfeather), on a barren island in the South China Sea (The Aware), in mangrove swamps and rainforest.

**AH:** What is your modus operandi when it comes to writing - a day in the life so to speak?

**GL:** Start work about 9 a.m. and continue until about 11 p.m. But every hour or so I go and do something else - housework maybe, or answer emails, read, go for exercise, eat - then back to the computer.

**AH:** What do you enjoy doing, what are your hobbies when not writing?

**GL:** I consider myself enormously lucky, I have two totally different jobs, both of which I am passionate about. When I'm not doing one, I'm doing the other. I'm either at my computer writing, or I'm in the field. And the field can mean anything from a tropical swamp or the top of a mountain. It can mean staying at a hotel at a luxury resort with enough stars to satisfy Joan Collins - or camping miles from anywhere and waking up in the morning to find cat or bear paw prints outside the tent. I enjoy my work so much that my ways of relaxing are connected - reading or bird watching.

**AH:** Do you make volumes of world-building notes and maps and character genealogies before you start writing the actual stories?

**GL:** No, in one sense I'm far too disorganized a writer for that. But that doesn't mean that I don't know what I'm doing. I spend a year or more thinking about a book before I ever start, and I have a picture of the world clearly in my mind. I know what the weather's like, and why. I know what the streets look like. I always have a map, although I'm not past altering it as I go along to fit the story! I like to get the geography more or less believable. I like my lands and cities to have economies that could work. I know a lot more about the place than ever finds its way into the book. But most of it is in my head, in the way we know the world around us. The Isles of Glory mentions another country (Kells) on a continent far away from the arena of the story. I could walk into the building for the National Society for the

Study of Non-Kellish Peoples and know exactly what it looked like - even though it is no more than mentioned in the trilogy. I could even tell you what the weather was likely to be like outside (it rains an inordinate amount in Kells).

**AH:** How do you feel about writing short fiction or are you strictly a novelist?

**GL:** Strictly a novelist. Never tried short fiction and wouldn't know where to start. I love the development that you get with a novel.

**AH:** Do you feel that your schooling helped or hindered your creativity as a writer?

**GL:** Well, it helped tremendously in one way - I learned grammar the old fashioned way - ask me about the agreement of a verb with a relative pronoun in a subordinate clause, and I know what you are talking about. In secondary school I was lucky to have teachers that loved the literature we discussed. I did one unit of literature at university and it was as dry as dust. There was no such thing as creative writing courses back in those days, at least not where I went to university (Perth, Australia).

**AH:** Your own life is as exciting as any fiction. Have you thought of writing a memoir?

**GL:** No, but I toyed seriously with writing fiction about the world I knew best - the years living in an Asian Muslim society, not as an expatriate, but as a member of the family. I did write a lot down in my early years of living in Malaysia. In the end, though, I decided that no matter how fictional I made it, just the act of putting down my take on things would hurt too many people that I cared about, and I couldn't do it. Even writing fantasy has made some people uncomfortable with me after they have read what I have written. However, my experience as an outsider, not looking in, but being welcomed in to live as they do - has been invaluable to me as a writer, especially a writer who has to create societies and cultures from scratch. Nothing like living immersed in someone else's way of life to understand how a society works!

**AH:** Do you think the Internet and electronic publishing is important in the future of genre writing?

**GL:** The internet already is important, enormously so. I think it has given a tremendous boost to sf. Electronic publishing? Something inside me says, ah nothing will ever replace books - that lovely feel of opening up a new purchase and turning the pages. Hmm. Do I hear someone muttering in the past: "Ah, Mr. Gutenberg, this new fangled printing thing - no one will want to read something so dull. Why, we still have to hand-draw all the ornate illuminated capital letters at the beginning of the chapters! It will never catch on!"

**AH:** Do you have any offers for film or gaming rights for your work?

**GL:** You're kidding, right?

**AH:** What is the next writing project that you are developing?

**GL:** I have several things underway. One is the next trilogy for HarperCollins Australia. It's called, tentatively anyway, The Mirage Trilogy and book 1 is Mirage Makers. Book 3 is Song of the Shiver Barrens and book 2 hasn't got a title yet! The trilogy is about half written and I hope the first book will come out some time in 2005, but dates aren't fixed yet. It is the story of an Imperial agent sent to discover why a rebel in a subject nation didn't die when he was put to death. I got the idea after wondering about whether the Roman Empire sent someone to check out all those stories about what happened to a man who was seen after he was crucified. It's a story of terrible betrayals that taint several generations, of the sacrifice and bravery needed for redemption. And there's magic and mirages, of course. The other book that is nearing completion is The Droughtmaster, a tale set in a desert land struggling with the effects of a treachery that has led to the end of rainfall. (And no, it is not another Dune!) The ideas for this one came partly from my own experiences with the Australian outback, and from the two years I lived in Tunisia, plus a trip into the heart of the Algerian Sahara.

[You can find out more about Glenda Larke and her works by visiting <http://www.glendalarke.com/> .]

# Conrails: Wiscon 29

Madison, Wisconsin, Memorial Day Weekend 2005 by Trinlay Khadro

I need to start by thanking several people for making my trip to the con possible... My parents gifted us the membership, the Drake family (Milwaukee Fans) gave us a lift to the con, & Jan Stinson gave us space in her room, and yet another Milwaukee Fan gave us a ride home. I was tickled to be able to meet Jan face to face, and to see Lyn McConchie again.

Despite being tagged a "Feminist SF Con" it's quite possible to go to panels and enjoy the con, without partaking of anything feminist or girly... that being said, I enjoyed both the girly and regular events. It's got a nice sized track of panels and events with a wide variety of themes. A moderate sized Huxter Room, and an Art Show of moderate size. This was my first time putting art work IN the art show and I was quite excited about that. I'd brought a flight of origami dragons, several origami cranes, as well as some journals and fannish scarves. Sales went well particularly the origami & the journals. It was pretty exciting to stop by the art show every few hours to count what had been sold.

KT brought a plushy penguin, Sushi, along to help break the ice, and over come her social anxiety. Soon after check in and setting up my part of the art show, he went off on his own, resulting in a bit of a panic and the publishing of a Lost Penguin Notice. I found him when I spontaneously looked under a "free books" table, where he's apparently stopped for a nap. We constructed a con badge for him - #556 1/2 - with the room and my cell number in case he became ad-venturous again. Eventually we may see Sushi post a con-report of his own on-line, as HE became quite a celebrity at the con with fans calling out "hey Penguin Girl!" to KT.

Friday dinner, Jan, KT and I met up with some Milwaukee Fans: Leah Fisher, Orange Mike, and Mary Prince-of-the-North at the

hotel restaurant. Leah shared a taste of her elk with me, and it was Very Good... but so was my Walleye. Eating in the hotel restaurants was a bit hard on the budget for the weekend, so we didn't do it much.

Friday evening, KT did some baby sitting for the Drakes, so that they could meet with publishers, and I could go to the panel "Using Alternate Mythologies". I was tickled to see my friend, and Milwaukee Author, Sue Blom on the panel. My comment from the audience that mythologies continue to evolve got quoted in the con newsletter on Saturday. (And a panel member cornered me later to say she appreciated my input! Gee wow!)

Saturday morning I awoke VERY early, wide awake and Hungry. Jan and I scouted the downtown of Madison for breakfast but nothing was open yet, and as we arrived back at the hotel the breakfast buffet was open. So we ate it. We finished in time to meet up with the gathering of fans planning to shop in the farmers market just outside the hotel. I missed a Buffy panel as, even though I was back in time, I needed a rest. Around noonish though my sister, Rosey, who lives in Madison met KT and me for lunch and we ate at a nice Italian place on State Street. Rosey day tripped for a few hours at the con, enjoyed the art show, and tagged along to laugh at us as we tried to shake our booties at the "Feminism and Belly Dance" panel... the basic point seemed to be, "I'm not doing this Belly Dance thing for my husband/boyfriend/S.O. I'm doing it for Myself..." Even at Belly Dancing I am a clutz, and never got the shimmy down, but I do have some new physical therapy exercises. I really needed 2 of me to get to all the panels I wanted too... Things I missed (choice #2 out of sometimes 3 things I was very interested in) included Buffy panels and papers, Chicks of Horror flicks, the clothing exchange...





And so much more.

Saturday evening was my turn to babysit the Drake kids, and KT went to the Haiku Earring party. The Haiku Earring party was quite an event, I was able to go after the parents returned... The host had crafted, and was crafting pairs and singles of earrings, and the guest picked a pair, handed them to the host, who gave the guest a title...to be turned into a haiku. Upon approval of the haiku (rule #4 It does Not have to be Good...) the guest is gifted the earrings. KT picked a pair with lotuses called "Buddha in Elfland", and gave them to me as a late Mother's Day present.

Her haiku rocked too! My haiku was pretty lame, but I got a pair of heart earrings from it. The host says the haiku from the party may soon become a chap-book.

Sunday morning, we met with Lyn & Jan for breakfast. Lyn regaled us with cat and farm stories. After breakfast I went to "SF & F films of 04" some recalled comments... re The Grudge "Imagine how happy the Real Estate agent must have been to see the gaijin and an opportunity to unload the haunted house." And "With Van Helsing, you have to go in with the realization that it's a 50's B movie...and then it's pretty good."

Lunch was in the Con-suite... Later I went to to the "Taoism & Buddhism in SF" panel and realized I should have volunteered to be ON the panel. KT went to "Meet the Weapons" and she really enjoyed it. Then an Anime panel, which was handled rather clumsily, there wasn't enough interaction with the audience... and people had good questions which the panel never bothered to answer. Groan

Then "Fannish Clutter", I hadn't realized this was such an extensive issue in our community. Some good recommendations: donate zine collections to libraries and historical societies (and make sure you can visit when you want...). If you haven't worn something in over a year, it's bored and needs someone to give it a good home...

Dinner and rest in the con-suite and chatting with some new friends, including some of KT & Sushi's new friends... then the Dessert Salon, and the Fancy Dress Party... where I met up with my ride home, and fell asleep during the festivities. KT & Sushi had acquired some minions who were sad to see them go. We headed at about 1am. Arrived around 2:30- 3 am, and were joyfully greeted by Megumi-hime and Sir Elric... who fussed over us the next few days. We had a great time, but were also glad to be home in our own beds.



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## Silly Kitty

crafts, art, photo

**Now selling on eBay as trinlayk!  
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# Will the Real Swamp Thing Please Stand Up?



Mostly random jotting this time, so as not to bore my readers with the Great Illness Siege which lasted from late June until about a week ago (this being early October). Anything to do with illness and the digestive tract is better left unilluminated, trust me. It's a lot of pain and waiting and endless moaning and groaning, and other things not easily mentioned. Anyone who's really interested can research ulcerative colitis. Let's just be happy that this episode seems to be coming to a close, and I can get back to whatever semblance of normalcy I can cobble together for the foreseeable future - and get those pesky hospital bills paid. Urgh.

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Thots on Hugos and fanzines: "Whatever, I find myself once again in the position of having to say, 'I am not a fanzine fan, and I'm proud of it.' " ---Cheryl Morgan, Emerald City, as quoted in *eI* 18, Feb. 2005. Here's a weird tautology for you. Cheryl Morgan is not a fanzine fan. Her electronic review zine has been nominated for and won a Hugo for Best Fanzine. She did not withdraw her publication from consideration. Can one be the editor/publisher of a fanzine without being a fanzine fan? Apparently, she thinks so.

"Have you ever looked at the results of the Hugo Awards and

said to yourself, 'Why on Earth did that get a Hugo?' " --Cheryl Morgan, "The Hugo Award Voter's Guide," Interaction. as quoted in *eI* 18, Feb. 2005. You know that saying about not being able to see the forest for the trees?

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There are articles submitted for thish that had to wait until the next ish or later, due to space constraints and the lateness of thish getting done and out. Apologies to Chris Garcia and E.B. Frohvet. I'll use what you've sent me, I promise!

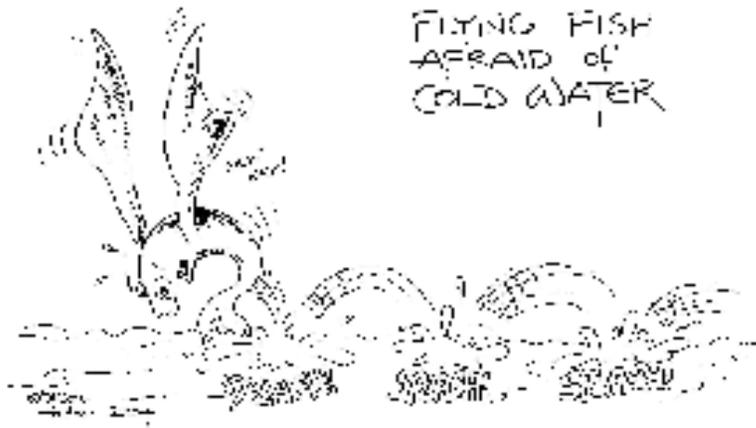
Artists Brad Foster and Ruth Davidson, you are being paged. I've run out of your work and would love more!

I could use some book/movie/etc. reviews, too. If you guys expect me to do all the work myself, you're barking up the wrong tentacle. 500 words is fine if brevity is your muse, but please don't go over around 1500 for anything in depth (i.e. comparing two items to each other). Accompanying scans of book jackets would be nice too, if you can access them. If you're not sure I'd want something you're considering writing, ask me first.

Since Joe and Lisa Major's *Alexiad* (where it first appeared) isn't available online, I've reprinted Trinlay's Wiscon 29 conrep in PN to give it wider distribution -- and run the photos. <g>

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Being sick for a few months gave me the chance to whittle down the books-to-read (for personal pleasure as well as review) stacks quite a bit. Now I have a dozen that have been read and are under consideration for review, and I'm sure not all of them will find paying-market homes. I may be sending some of the reviews to faneds, so y'all watch out - I'll just send queries first. I have other articles planned as well, mostly of a sercon nature, and those will likely end up here or in *Steam Engine Time*. See ya in a bit...



## The Free Book Deal

Contest 13 sonorously intoned: "In honor of my trip to Wiscon this year, here's a feminist SF question: 'What is the collective title for the tetralogy written by Suzy McKee Charnas which begins with Walk to the End of the World'?"

The correct answer is the Holdfast Chronicles.

By my count, I had only four entries for both contests, which is still a paltry amount. I'm beginning to wonder if I shouldn't just save myself some money and donate the huge stack of books I now have to the local library. <very large evil grin>

Jason Burnett was the only person to enter the regular-mail contest, so he wins the anthology Future Sports. The online prize of Judith Tarr's Queen of the Amazons has been snapped up by Ruth Davidson. Congratulations to you both; the books will be in the mail by Oct. 21.

**Contest 14 Is Announced:** This one is, I think, an easy one. The late astronomer and science writer Carl Sagan also wrote an SF novel which was turned into a movie. What's the name of the novel and who was the female star of the movie? **Both parts of the answer must be provided and both must be correct in order to qualify**

**for the winners' drawing (if there's more than one entry for the contest category, regular mail or online).**

**Deadline for responses to both contests is midnight (EDT) Nov. 10, 2005.**

The regular-mail prize for Contest 14 is Buffy the Vampire Slayer: Tales of the Slayer Volume 1, a refreshingly well-written, seven-item collection of short stories based on the Joss Whedon TV series of recent fame. Contributing writers are Greg Rucka, Christie Golden, Yvonne Navarro (with two stories), Nancy Holder, Doranna Durgin and Mel Odom. Whether you're a fan of the show or were only an occasional watcher but enjoyed the premise, this is a good read. I have to admit I was surprised at how good it is.

The online prize is The Jazz by Melissa Scott, an SF novel of a media-dominated future (like it isn't that way now? Hmm, maybe this is a near-future thriller after all...) "when the Internet is filled with Jazz: international misinformation and bewildering disinformation that are both an artform and a business...a road chase novel of the future filled with shady characters, close calls and colorful neat ideas." The book jacket blurb is mostly correct, although the ideas part is a bit tired (this book was first released in 2000).

Get those entries in, folks!

