

SOUTHERN FANDOM CONFEDERATION UPDATE

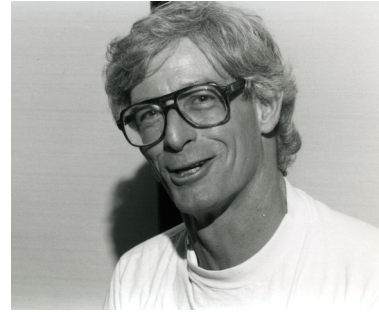


IN MEMORY OF KEN MOORE

Volume 1, Issue 7

July 2009

Okay, folks, here's another issue of the SFCU, sans the happy colors in the title because we've had some bad news in Southern Fandom. I delayed this ish so I could get some decent information on the passing of a Southern fan known to many of us. Ken Moore was a winner of both the Rebel and the Rubble, and had been actively involved in Southern Fandom well before I was even born. He was involved in the Louisville NASFiC, and the L&N bid for Worldcon, for which he developed the infamous "Swill". He ran Kubla Khan for a few decades, which by all accounts was quite fun. He was 66. All of the photos of Ken I've got here are by Andrew I. Porter, all rights reserved.



I had the pleasure of meeting him a few times at Southern cons, though by the time I did, he was already in his decline. Even so, he had quite the forceful personality, and taught me all about the way cons used to get the word out (and in his opinion, should – directions on the website weren't a substitute for having them on the flyer). He'll be missed. I'll forgo my typical ramblings about what I think you ought to be doing in Southern Fandom, and leave you with Tom Feller's write-up of Ken's funeral.

Ken Moore's Funeral

Tom Feller

Naomi really did an excellent job at organizing the funeral. We left the house about noon and stopped at a Kroger's to buy flowers. (Ken was always a strong proponent of sending flowers to funerals, so Anita felt we should take some to his.) Our next stop was to a Burger King two buildings from the funeral home, but while we were in the drive-through line, we got a call on my cell phone from Debbie Hussey that Dan Caldwell's car battery was dead. He was supposed to pick up Charlie Williams and Patsy King so we got them instead. Dan ended up riding with Debbie and Sherry Norris.

When we arrived, the visitation was in full swing. People came from as far away as Indiana and Georgia. The highlight for me was getting to meet one of Ken's cousins, whom Naomi had located. The cousin mentioned that Ken's father had drunk himself to death and was verbally abusive, which explained quite a bit about Ken's personality as well as his great achievement in becoming so well loved by so many people.



There was an open casket, and Ken was dressed in a T-shirt from the Oshkosh experimental aircraft show.

The actual service lasted about two hours and consisted of volunteers going to the podium and telling stories about Ken. Pat and Naomi taped it for the SF Oral History people. The man with whom Ken flew to Oshkosh for many years also spoke. Unfortunately, neither anyone from Avco, Ken's employer, or one of his relatives spoke. I think that Ken's fannish friends were more comfortable with the funeral's informal format.

Then we adjourned to the Gersthaus, a nearby German restaurant which is also convenient to I-24 for people who had long drives home. We raised a glass to Ken, of course.

Rebel Yells:

Notes from around the South – if you've got comments or announcements, send them on in to warrenmbuff@gmail.com, and I'll print them and respond.

I was pleasantly surprised that the first LoC I received on lastish was from a fellow North Carolinian, D. Gary Grady:

Warren,

I just wanted to say you're doing a fine job with SFCU.

A couple of very brief comments:

Re your response to Lloyd Penney, you're of course right that there are a number of well-established cons in the northeastern U.S., though whether Baltimore and DC and even Philadelphia count as northeast is a matter of definition, and they're a pretty long trip for those coming from Canada. The usual dates of Lunacon (March, I think) and Boskone (February) might also sometimes present weather-related problems for people traveling from Canada.

Re your reply to Rich Dengrove, Plato's dialogs are works of didactic fiction, and I agree with you that there's no reason to think his Atlantis corresponds to a physical place any more than El Dorado in Voltaire's CANDIDE.

I never got into DARK SHADOWS on television or comic form, but I still found Jeff Thompson's piece on the series very interesting. I definitely recall Gold Key comics, but I didn't realize they had avoided the Comics Code Authority -- an interesting bit of comics history.

--

D Gary Grady
Durham NC USA
DGaryGrady@verizon.net

Thanks, Gary! As a matter of where the Northeastern US is, the government tends to split it in a way that puts Pennsylvania in the region, but Baltimore outside of it (in the South). This is the same set of maps that put Oklahoma in the South, though, which is a somewhat dubious assignment. I tend to think of the "Northeastern Corridor" as the line of metro areas stretching from Boston to Washington ("BosWash"), where urbanization, taking the train to get around, and a particular set of bad driving habits (distinct from the bad habits of Southerners) prevail. I can see how that wouldn't work so well for a Canadian, though. But then, Lloyd's coming from Ontario, which I tend to think of as closer to the Midwest than the Northeast. Here's a regional assignment brain-buster: where does Pittsburgh belong?

Next, we have a press releast from Corie Ralston:

Press Release #26

**SPECULATIVE LITERATURE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES OLDER WRITERS
GRANT WINNER**

SPECULATIVE LITERATURE FOUNDATION
PO Box 1693 Dubuque, IA 52004-1693
info@speculativeliterature.org - <http://www.speculativeliterature.org/>

For Immediate Release: June 1, 2009

**SPECULATIVE LITERATURE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES OLDER WRITERS
GRANT WINNER**

Karen L. Simpson wins the Speculative Literature Foundation's Older Writers Grant

The Speculative Literature Foundation (SLF) is delighted to announce that its sixth annual Older Writers Grant is to be awarded to Karen L. Simpson. The \$750 grant is intended to assist writers who are fifty years of age or older at the time of grant application, and who are just starting to work at a professional level.

A resident of Ann Arbor, Michigan with a master's degree in Historic Preservation, much of Simpson's speculative fiction contains elements of both her professional and personal her experiences. A historian by profession, Simpson has designed exhibits for museums and other historical institutions that address the issues of cultural diversity and racial reconciliation. She often finds inspiration for her speculative fiction with the discoveries she makes during her research.

But Simpson's inspiration is not limited to her professional life. The writing sample she submitted for the Older Writers Grant, an excerpt of her unpublished novel *Act of Grace*, is based on a violent incident that happened several years ago in her hometown during Klu Klux Klan rally. In the novel, the main character Grace Johnson, a bright, perceptive African American high school senior living in Vigilant, Michigan, takes two bullets to save the life of Klansman Jonathan Gilmore. Both black and white residents of Grace's hometown struggle to understand her actions, but Grace, guided by ancestral spirits who come to her in visions, strives to lead the town towards reconciliation and redemption. Grant Administrator Malon Edwards said of Simpson's entry, *Act of Grace*: "Grace's intimate narration and folksy-but-modern-Southern-down-home voice immediately pulls the reader into the story. You can't help but like her: she's sassy, she's smart, and when her Nana explains to her that she is to be a conduit for their ancestral spirits, you know immediately that the right girl was chosen for the task."

Honorable Mentions go to S.H. Gilbert, Phillip Kaldon, David Shifren, K.P. Graham and Ada Milenkovic Brown for their unique and thought-provoking submissions, which made the selection of the eventual winner a difficult but enjoyable process.

PR Contact: managing_dir@speculativeliterature.org

The Speculative Literature Foundation is a volunteer-run, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the interests of readers, writers, editors and publishers in the speculative literature community.

"Speculative literature" is a catch-all term meant to inclusively span the breadth of fantastic literature, encompassing literature ranging from hard and soft science fiction to epic fantasy to ghost stories to folk and fairy tales to slipstream to magical realism to modern mythmaking -- any literature containing a fabulist or speculative element.

More information about the Speculative Literature Foundation is available from its web site (<http://www.speculativeliterature.org/>) or by writing to info@speculativeliterature.org.

Quite the informative bit there, and I'm sure some of you will find it in your hearts to nit-pick about "Speculative literature".

Next up, we heard from Joy V. Smith:

Warren,

Fun cover and lovely Hypericon poster. Thanks for the con listings (I didn't make it to Oasis this year. Drat!) and the miffed cat illo. Wow! That's really thorough background on Dark Shadows. I saw a few episodes, but wasn't a fan. However, speaking of comic books, I got some Dark Horse posters, an X-Men Forever comic, and the Marvel 70th Anniversary Celebration magazine from a friend.

The Marvel and X-Men copies have autographed covers; the Marvel magazine is full of fun and historical background--how it started; the Marvel Hall of Fame (sidebar) of artists and writers; well-known and unknown characters, collectibles; sketches; costumes and fashions; the official handbooks background; and more, plus an early Sub-Mariner and a Captain America story. This issue is marked Not for Resale, but it must be available somewhere. I really enjoyed it, and I think any fan of any Marvel character will too. Anyway, thanks for the update, and I hope you keep those colorful letters in your title.

Appreciatively,
Joy V. Smith

*The cover was definitely one of my favorites. Jeff's a real expert when it comes to **Dark Shadows**, and I'm happy to print his articles when he sends them my way. That Marvel 70th Anniversary Celebration sounds like a blast! Anyone out there know where something like that can be found?*

And of course, we heard from the inimitable Lloyd Penney:

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

July 2, 2009

Dear Warren:

I think all the e-mail pluggage is cleared up...did you send me a large e-zine? If you did, send it to lloyd.penney@email.com instead. In the meantime, I do have issue 6 of the SFC Update.

Great con flyer...how was Hypericon and the DSC? Haven't heard any reports yet.

Many thanks for your good words, Warren. I am still having fun with writing locs, storing them on my LJ, and seeing how many I can produce. I hope I can add some quality to the quantity. Anime North came and went, and even non-anime fans like us had a good time because of the variety of costumes, and even non-anime activities. The steampunk fashion show was great fun. If you have fanzines for the fanzine lounge, bring them along for sale or reading or takeaway, and I'll take you up on your offer of help in the fanzine lounge.

I do remember the original Dark Shadows, seeing it occasionally on ABC television, but I remember more the dedicated fandom that sprang up around it. Clubs, fanzines, conventions...don't recall the comic books, though. The Comics Code restricted so many publications; I suspect that so many themes that were prohibited as obscene or dangerous to children in the 60s would be seen as quaint in this more sophisticated era. Was Barnabas Collins a tortured soul like SpiderMan, perhaps? A comprehensive article, well done.

Yesterday was a fun day for us here...Canada Day is July 1, and yesterday was the country's 142nd birthday. Parties, parades, fireworks, all of that and more, and a day off in the middle of the week. A very good time. Also, two days ago was a second interview with a corporate software training company, and I am hoping. Funniest thing is that a friend of mine may also have interviewed for the job...guess I'll find out in a week or so.

Off this goes to you...if you do have a regular issue of the SFC clubzine on hand, send it to my Gmail account, and it will get through. Allstream is being very picky these days, but at least they tweaked my account so that large files will be held back without plugging up my account entirely. Take care, have a great summer, and see you in Montreal...next month!

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

Hypericon/DSC was a blast! I wish I'd had time to write a report, but how's this for a review of how much fun I had: I ran into so many friends, I couldn't make it to any of the programming. I even missed the one-shot. I only attended the Awards Ceremony (congrats to Randy Cleary on his Rebel Award!), and the two Business Meetings (SFC and DSC). Mike Rogers is the new Vice President of the SFC. FenCon, in Dallas, Texas,

won the 2011 DSC. Some committees are exploring things like t-shirts and whether Missouri fans consider themselves Southern. Those will report back next year.

I'll see what I can bring to the fanzine lounge – I've been receiving stuff all year, and I'm more than happy to share it for folks to read. Good luck with the job interview! I haven't gotten an issue of the SFCB out yet, but will do so soon. I just need to compile all the LoCs from last time, along with bothering folks for relevant material. It's gonna be a big one. See you in Montreal!

And finally, Laura Haywood-Cory wanted to pass the word about a special zine she's doing that she'd like contributions for:

Hey Warren,

If there's room and time, would you be able to put this announcement in the SFC Update?

Since my heart attack and angioplasty/stents, I've been trying to think of a fannish way to get the word out about heart disease, which as I'm sure my readers are aware, is the #1 killer of men and women both in the US.

Well, on my way to work the other morning, a lightbulb went off. Fans don't want to read brochures, we want to read *fanzines* (duh). So I figured I'd try to solicit as many stories from as many fannish heart patients as I could, put them all together in a one-shot, and distribute it far and wide. Maybe even make a nifty, limited-edition button to give to all the contributors.

The last page would be an "In Memoriam" page, or as one my favorite TV shows, Babylon 5 says, "To absent friends, in memory still bright..." with a list of fans who've passed on from heart disease/heart attacks/etc.

Toward that end, this is a call for submissions to my one-shot, to be called A CHANGE OF HEART.

What kinds of submissions am I talking about here? Well, statistics are dry and boring. I could throw a bunch of numbers at you, tell you that many more men than women get referred for cardiac rehab, for example, but it's more entertaining to craft an anecdote about being the only person in my cohort dealing with PMS.

Essays, poems, letters of comment, and artwork from fans who've had heart-related illness and/or surgery are welcome. If you yourself aren't the heart patient, but an immediate family member is/was, I'd also be glad to hear from you.

Emailed submissions are strongly preferred; please send to laurahcory [at] yahoo -- but if you know someone who doesn't do email, ping me and I'll send you my snail-addy to pass along. And I need names for the "In Memoriam" page.

Deadline for submissions is July 24th. That gives me a couple of weeks to pull it together and have it ready to send some copies up to WorldCon and other late summer cons.

Permission granted to forward this to other fannish places.

--

Laura Haywood-Cory
lauraghaywood.cory@gmail.com

Thanks, Laura! I hope you get plenty of contributions, and I look forward to reading it when you publish!

WAHF: Nurit Janovich, Randy Cleary, Naomi Fisher, Uncle Timmy, Arnie Katz, Frank 'FilkFerret' Parker, Tom Feller, Jeffrey Thompson.

July Events

July presents a somewhat lighter calendar than June, particularly telling in the lack of any Southern events over the weekend of the 4th. With that absence in mind, I didn't mind taking an extra week to make sure I had some material on Ken's passing.

July 10-12:

LibertyCon 22 (Chattanooga, TN, Comfort Inn & Suites. Ben Bova, Darrell K. Sweet, Toni Weisskopf, Tom Smith. This is probably my favorite Southern con, and I'll be there year after year, Ghu willing and the creek don't rise.)

Shore Leave 31 (Baltimore, MD, Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn. Jason Momoa, Rachel Luttrell, Robert Picardo, Ethan Phillips, Clifton Collins, Adrienne Wilkinson, Christopher Heyerdahl, Vanessa Angel, Miracle Laurie, Johnathon Schaech. Oh, and there are plenty of authors, artists, and musicians, too. One of the highlights will be a charity roast of Keith R.A. DeCandido.)

Creation Twi/Tour (Atlanta, GA, Westin Buckhead. Kellan Lutz, Ashley Greene, Billy Burke, Peter Facinelli, Catherine Hardwicke. A Twilight themed event from the folks at Creation.)

July 11-12:

Yasumicon (Miami, FL, Florida International University – University Park Campus. Free anime convention with a cyberpunk theme.)

July 17-19:

BabelCon (Baton Rouge, LA, Cook Hotel & Alumni Center. Rekha Sherma, Tiffany Grant, Patrick Burns. General interest convention with a media focus. I was surprised to see that their guest list also includes a member of SFPA – not the Southern Fandom Press Alliance, but the Science Fiction Poetry Association.)

Otakon (Baltimore, MD, Baltimore Convention Center. Crispin Freeman, Kikuko Inoue, Noboru Ishiguro, Yukio Kikukawa, Masao Maruyama, Hidenori Matsubara, Mary Elizabeth McGlynn, Misako Rocks!, Tony Oliver, Frederik L. Schodt, Travis Willingham, Yutaka Yamamoto)

Vidcon (St. Petersburg, FL, Hilton Bayfront. Fan-fiction gathering, sounds like they'll have a good consuite.)

July 24-26:

Megaplex (Kissimmee, FL, Radisson Worldgate Hotel. Anthropomorphics convention. **BigBlueFox** is their Guest of Honor.)

Mechacon (Lafayette, LA, Hilton Lafayette. Chris Ayres, Greg Ayres, Garry Chalk, Samantha Inoue-Harte, Adam Jury, David Kaye, Kevin McKeever, Vic Mignogna, Wendy Powell.)

PersaCon (Decatur, AL, Holiday Inn & Suites. Walter Jones, Blake Shepard, Kyle Hebert, Mark Musashi, Electric Attitude, The Man Power, Tsubaki Stars. Focus on anime and the surrounding pop culture.)

July 31-August 2:

Anime Festival Orlando (Orlando, FL, Wyndham Resort. Robert Axelrod, Christopher Sabat, Colleen Clinkenbeard, Doug Smith, Jason David Frank, Reuben Langdon, Vic Mignogna, Sonny Strait, Aaron Dismuke.)

August 6-10:

Anticipation, the 67th World Science Fiction Convention (Montreal, QC, Canada, Palais des congres de Montreal. Neil Gaiman, Elisabeth Vonarburg, Taral Wayne, Tom Doherty, David Hartwell, Julie Czerneda. It's Worldcon. If you haven't been to one, this is the closest it will be to the South for a while. Australia's got 2010 – so vote for the Raleigh NASFiC! Reno looks like a sure thing for 2011, no one's running against Chicago for 2012, and that's the next time it comes close to us. Texas has a reasonably good shot at 2013, which would be nice, too. Everything I've been saying about DeepSouthCon and how you ought to go? I feel the same way about Worldcon. It's a gathering place for our community, and it moves every year so that eventually, wherever you are, there'll be one close to you – at least, if you live in North America, Europe, or on the Pacific Rim. Maybe someday it'll go to farther flung locales. In the meantime, I wouldn't mind seeing it come to the South at least once a decade. Texas in 2013!)