

**SOUTHERN  
FANDOM  
CONFEDERATION  
UPDATE**



**VOLUME 1, ISSUE 9 - SEPTEMBER 2009**

Welcome to another issue of the *SFC Update*! This month's cover is by Mike Moon ([www.catgirlisland.net](http://www.catgirlisland.net)). I'm composing this editorial as I sit around with Glug, about to head down to Dragon\*Con, so I'll be brief. We've got some good letters this month, a fine run of conventions to tell you about, and an article by Dr. Jeff Thompson on Forrest J Ackerman.

The big news this month is that Raleigh won the bid for the 2010 NASFiC, and we'll be hosting ReConStruction August 5-8, 2010. Our Guest of Honor is Eric Flint, Artist Guest of Honor Brad Foster, Fan Guest of Honor Juanita Coulson, and Toastmaster Toni Weisskopf. I hope to see y'all there. I'll probably talk quite a bit more about ReConStruction in the coming months, so I'll leave it at that for now. Oh, and check out our website – [www.reconstructionsf.org](http://www.reconstructionsf.org).

## **Rebel Yells:**

News and Notes from All Over

*First, we heard from Arnie Katz:*

Thank, Warren!

Always glad to get this window on the doings of all my friends in Southern Fandom.

IDLE MINDS #4, the special "Why I Am a Fan" issue, is nearly ready. I think fans will enjoy it and I am hoping that we will have plenty of discussion and, perhaps, a second wave of contributions in the following issue.

Faanishly,

Arnie

*I've been working my way through that ish in my downtime. It's a great one, and well worth the time to digest. For those who don't know, it can be found at [www.efanzines.com](http://www.efanzines.com).*

*Next, we have the return of Rich Dengrove:*

Dear Warren,

I agree Lovecraft's monsters exist in a universe of purposelessness, and that adds to the effectiveness of his horror. In fact, it is classic horror. However, at bottom I don't think Lovecraft took his horror stories and novels that seriously. I once had occasion to read some of his letters and he was laughing at his horror stories. In fact, he often parodied his style. It wasn't that he thought his readers were dupes -- especially since he was writing to readers. Instead, he considered his stories

fun and figured that's the way they considered them too. Thinking about it, that's why I like them too.

Something else I consider fun is Jeff Smith's article on Dark Shadows. In addition, from it, I learned something about the Dark Shadows show @show and Dark Shadows phenomenon. Previously, I had only seen the show in snippets. As to the actual series, the idea is the same idea as nearly all modern horror. To push magic in your face. People really fear that magic doesn't exist and have to continually be reinforced. I find the Victorian approach more fun: did something strange happen or is it our imagination? That's far scarier than that vampires, werewolves, Ancient Egyptian magicians and mutant gnomes exist. It also delves deeper into us.

Yours,  
Rich D.

*I'll grant you that Lovecraft's stories are a lot of fun. I've never had a particularly visceral reaction to horror, so I think I enjoy them more because they're something I can ponder slowly. The ideas underlying the stories are much more potent than the stories themselves – Lovecraft's language doesn't do much to spook folks, and I can appreciate that even he would parody it. Dr. Jeff's articles are always a blast for me, too, and we've got another one (albeit shorter) this ish. I do like the Victorian approach to horror, although I just can't get into the language they use to write about it – or anything else, really.*

*And, here we have another letter from Joy V. Smith:*

Warren,

Thanks for the August con listings. Lots going on!

Wow! Dark Shadows, part II. I hadn't realized how long it continued. I hope both parts get printed in a chapbook or something. I hate to see accumulated information and background not made available to other people who'd enjoy it.

Thanks for taking the time to put out another ish with everything else you have to do.

Appreciatively,

Joy

(My blog includes helpful house hints & publication news)

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

My other blog (media tidbits and more)

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

*Well, given that Dr. Jeff has written not just these articles, but also a book on the subject, it may be entirely possible that he included them (or something like*

them). While I don't know about printing them, I reckon having both parts available in free downloads at [www.efanzines.com](http://www.efanzines.com) will help for folks who're interested in reading them. Always happy to hear from you and the rest of the crowd!

And now we've got a new appearance in this column, Bill Lawhorn:

Oh great and wise Lord Chesterfield,  
May your ale always have plenty of barley and your sword only be drawn to slay cakes.

Congratulations on bringing NASFIC 2010 to North Carolina. I know you, Mike, and your crew will be busy.

I wanted to send you a reminder that Capclave is coming up. We are in Rockville MD again at the Rockville Hilton right next to the Twinbrook Metro Station. We have Harry Turtledove as author Guest of Honor. Sheila Williams of Asimov's is the Editor GOH. Rob Balder and some of the other FUMP members will be performing. There will be writer, writing, and reviewer workshops. There are many other authors on our program as well. For more information see [www.capclave.org](http://www.capclave.org).

A returning activity at this year's Capclave is the publication of a GOH book. "Reincarnations" by Harry Turtledove with an introduction by Sheila Williams will coincide with the start of Capclave. Preorders for the book can be found at <http://www.wsfapressbooks.org/>. The entire print run is only 1000 books. 250 of them are limited numbered and signed editions. The other 750 are trade hard covers. Get them while you can...

Have a great month.

Bill Lawhorn  
Capclave Chair 2009

*Thanks, Bill! For those of you wondering about Bill's strange salutations, I'm known in some parts as "Lord Chesterfield" for being the only one willing to down an entire can of Lord Chesterfield's Ale when someone brought it to Bill's party at Capclave last year. It's a foul brew that tastes of barley, barley, and more barley. As for the bit about cakes and swords, well, you'll have to ask me that one at a con sometime. The bid was a lot of work, and the con will continue to be more, but it's also been a lot of fun, and a great excuse to get out and see cons in far-off places. Capclave is in my plans for the Fall, and I'm looking forward to seeing you and the gang there.*

*And finally, we've got a bit of news from Lloyd Penney – the streak remains unbroken, although not quite with his usual LoC. I'll just figure that running the fanzine lounge at Anticipation was enough work for him.*

First of all, apologies if you get this message more than once, and please pass it along to anyone you think may be interested.

Lloyd Penney here, and the daytime fanzine lounge at Anticipation is done, and it seems to have been a success. I brought a big box of zines home, and I'd like to get rid of them, preferably by sending them to you. I have a list of zines I have at home, including a limited number of WOOF 2009, assembled at Anticipation. If you are interested in finding out what zines I have, contact me at penneys@allstream.net, and I'll send it to you. If you ask for any zines from the list, I will send them along, but I will ask that you send some cash along to your favorite fan fund, like TAFF, DUFF, CUFF or the Corflu 50 fund. There's also NAFF, GUFF, not sure if FFANZ is still around...

Also, in July, I talked to Diana Harlan Stein, who I haven't seen in fanzine in some time, and I asked if she might like to get some artwork in fanzines again, and she expressed interest. Contact her at [redacted – I'll let you get this one from Lloyd].

Lloyd Penney

*That's quite the offer, Lloyd! I'm familiar with most of those acronyms, and I can puzzle many of the others out, but I'm curious – what does NAFF stand for? I'll probably be contacting Diana soon, and hopefully, we'll see some of her art in these pages.*

*WAHF: Tom Feller, with congratulations on the NASFiC bid;*

## September Events

### September 4-6:

**Chibi-Pa: Evolution** (West Palm Beach, FL – Crowne Plaza Hotel. Tom Fischbach, Carlo-Rufino Sabusap, Domo)

### September 4-7:

**Dragon\*Con** (Atlanta, GA – a Hyatt Regency Atlanta, Atlanta Marriott Marquis, Atlanta Hilton and Towers, Sheraton Atlanta Hotel. Patrick Stewart, William Shatner, Leonard Nimoy, Lois McMaster Bujold, Terry Gilliam, Bruce Boxleitner, James Marsters, Mary McDonnell. It's huge, pushing into the range of 50,000 people, which will either make you want to be one of them or run away screaming at the thought. They've got both Shatner and Nimoy, which should make this year's draw even more massive than usual. Love it or hate it, it's the 800-lb. gorilla in the room. I'll be there, having a blast.)

**Mephit Furmeet** (Memphis, TN – Holiday Inn Select Memphis Airport. Isfacat.)

**TCEP 16** (Laurel, MD – <http://barkingmad.org/>)

**AnimeFest** (Dallas, TX – Hyatt Regency Dallas at Reunion. EYESHINE, Shinji Kimura, Junichi Taniguchi, tsutchie, Dai Sato.)

**September 11-13:**

**ScareFest** (Lexington, KY – Lexington Convention Center. Doug Bradley, Gunnar Hansen, Dee Wallace, Danielle Harris, Ken Foree, Leslie Easterbrook, Kane Hodder.)

**OutSideCon 22** (Burns, TN – Group Camp #1, Montgomery Bell State Park. Stephanie Osborn, Brenna Walters. This relaxacon is held at a campground in a state park. \$45 covers everything – membership, meals, and a bunk in the cabins, with a \$10 discount if you bring your own tent. Plentiful food provided, BYOB.)

**September 18-20:**

**Con\*Stellation XXVIII: Vulpecula** (Huntsville, AL – Holiday Inn Express on University Drive. David Weber, Jack McDevitt, John Picacio, Gary Shelton. They've got an excellent crew down in Huntsville, and they put on a fine con. I've got a lot of friends who will be there, and if I weren't gonna be in Texas – see below – I'd be hard-pressed to find something better to do than go to Con\*Stellation. Maybe I'll just have to go next year instead.)

**Anime Weekend Atlanta** (Atlanta, GA – Renaissance Waverly Hotel and Cobb Galleria Centre. Yasuhiro Imagawa, Tsuyoshi Nonaka.)

**FenCon VI** (Dallas, TX – Crowne Plaza Dallas Near the Galleria. Lois McMaster Bujold, Carla Ulbrich, Warren Buff, Kurt Miller, Paul Cornell, Keith R.A. DeCandido, Howard Waldrop. Yep, I've been invited as Fen Guest of Honor, which came as something of a surprise to me back when I first got the word. The guys behind this are great, and in addition to putting me in the middle of a seriously awesome line-up, they'll be hosting DSC in two more years, so come check them out for a taste of what's to come!)

**September 19-20:**

**Mothman Festival** (Point Pleasant, WV – Downtown Point Pleasant. Free Admission.)

**September 21-26:**

**Fall for the Book** (Fairfax, VA)

**September 24-27:**

**Hurricon** (Cocoa Beach, FL – [http://www.hmgs-south.com/hmgs/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=50&Itemid=61](http://www.hmgs-south.com/hmgs/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=50&Itemid=61))

**September 25-27:**

**GameCon Memphis** (Memphis, TN – [www.gameconmemphis.com](http://www.gameconmemphis.com))

**Horrorfind Weekend 11** (Hunt Valley, MD – Hunt Valley Marriott. Margot Kidder, Adrienne King, Danny Trejo, Jason Mewes, Ken Foree, and many more.)

**REMEMBERING FORREST J ACKERMAN**

**Jeff Thompson**

Forrest J Ackerman was “Mr. Science Fiction” to several generations of fans of science fiction, fantasy, and horror. In his highly influential magazine *Famous Monsters of Filmland*, Forry once published a short story written by 14-year-old reader Steve King—the Stephen King who went on to write *Salem’s Lot* and *The Shining*. (King and Forry were the guests at Ken Moore’s 1980 Kubla Khan in Nashville.) Another teenaged reader, Joe Dante, wrote movie reviews for *Famous Monsters* and grew up to direct the films *Gremlins* and *Matinee*.

Forry knew everybody who was anybody in the sci-fi universe, from Vincent Price to Ray Harryhausen to Ray Bradbury. He lived in Jon Hall’s former home in the Hollywood Hills. On the day (in the summer of 1990) when I first visited Forry’s legendary “Ackermansion,” Forry received a phone call from Oscar-winning makeup artist Rick Baker. Then, Forry’s doorbell rang, and in walked Julius Schwartz, long-time DC Comics editor.

Despite his moving in such rarefied circles, Forrest J Ackerman always made time for everyday people, the so-called “monster kids” who grew up reading *Famous Monsters*, watching *Dark Shadows*, and assembling Aurora monster models. Forry’s Ackermansion in “Horrorwood, Karloffornia,” was almost always open to visitors who would come to hear “the Ackermmonster” tell stories about his famous friends from literature, radio, cinema, and television and to stagger wide-eyed and open-mouthed through his basement museum of movie props, autographed books, Hollywood costumes, and stop-motion miniatures from *King Kong* and *Earth vs. the Flying Saucers*.

I visited the Ackermansion in 1990 and 1997, and I ran in to Forry at numerous sci-fi conventions—Fanex, Dragon Con, World Horror, and his own *Famous Monsters* ’93 gala—throughout the 1990s and the 2000s. Forry always remembered every fan as if he or she were his closest friend. Even after several health crises that almost killed him, the Ackermmonster was an enthusiastic fixture at many sci-fi conventions until the end of his life last December (2008). Futuristic Forry, who always wanted to live to be at least 100, came close to that goal when “Prince Sirki” finally came for him at age 92. Forrest J Ackerman’s influence on countless past, present, and future writers, artists, filmmakers, costumers, make-up artists, scientists, and teachers cannot be calculated. He and his multimedia creations, including *Famous Monsters of Filmland*, *Spacemen*, *Monsterama*, and the sexy super-woman Vampirella, will be remembered for many years to come. To paraphrase what Forry himself always said about Lon Chaney Sr., “Forrest J Ackerman Shall Not Die!”

**Dr. Jeff Thompson** teaches English at Tennessee State University and announces at WAMB-AM 1200, Nashville’s big-band/easy-listening radio station. He is the author of *The Television Horrors of Dan Curtis: Dark Shadows, The Night Stalker, and Other Productions, 1966-2006* (McFarland, 2009). Forrest J Ackerman is mentioned on pages 6, 7, 12, and 193.