



**NOTES FROM THE  
UNDERGROUND  
NOVEMBER 2008**

## NOTES FROM THE UNDERGROUND

*Notes from the Underground* is a bi-monthly newsletter published by Several Unlimited. Dues are \$12.00 per year in the US, \$16.00 overseas, payable September 1. Submissions of articles, reviews, and artwork are welcome. All written submissions should be sent online or typed. Please don't send original artwork by regular mail. The deadline for submissions is the first of every month.

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Erika

Editor, Notes from the Underground

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## Meeting Announcements

The November meeting will be held at Amy Denton’s house ([Map of 3510 La Costa Dr](#)). Because of Thanksgiving, there will be no Video Party this month.

## November Birthdays

- ❖ Steve Dial                    November 11
- ❖ Candy Pulleine            November 17
- ❖ Carolyn O’Neal            November 22

## Editor’s Announcement

Club Dues are due now. If you don’t want to write a check, use our handy PayPal link on our webpage.

Because of postage costs, we are sending out newsletters electronically. For a hardcopy, email [EEKfrenzy@gmail.com](mailto:EEKfrenzy@gmail.com). The PDF of each newsletter is also posted on the Several Unlimited website and on the Several Unlimited Yahoo group.

## Club News

### Prez Mez November 2008

*Dee Beetem*

As the end of 2008 approaches, I'd like to review at what our club has done this year. Mostly we've had some great parties. I'm thinking in particular of the New Year's Open House (thanks Steve) and the Summer Party (a tradition I want to continue.) I don't think we managed to go on as many excursions as we did in 2007—Real Life commitments (and Hurricane Ike) intervened.

Over the years the members of our club have taken part in a lot of activities. We've run cons, pubbed zines, run the Orphan Zine sale, thrown parties for all of Houston fandom, written and discussed fanfiction, and played games.

What would be fun to do in 2009? I think many of us are involved separately in various fannish activities that would be fun to do together. For example, I've gotten back to writing fanfic again. What about a fanfic writers' group? (Run away! Run away!) The important thing is, none of these activities need 100% club participation. Some people would want to be involved, while others would prefer to watch and admire. (I am NOT suggesting that these activities take the place of our regular meetings.)

Comments? Suggestions?

## News and Reviews

### Jennifer Hebert's Christmas Party December 6

**Pepper's Beef and Seafood, 3604 Fairmont Pkwy #C, Pasadena, TX 77057, (281) 998-1114**

As you may or may not know - Steak & Ale bit the big one this year and is (sadly) not available for us this year. However, Pepper's Beef & Seafood is! The service (when Sue and I tried it out) was good, the music was good, the atmosphere was good and the food was good! Pretty extensive menu, too. We have reservations for 11AM on Dec 6 for their Pepper Room. There was no deposit, but their was a set-up fee. So this year's RSVP fee is \$2/person definitely non-refundable. Pepper's is located on Fairmont Park-

way between Strawberry & Burke. It's a strip mall type so there's plenty of parking.

## **NaNoWriMo**

<http://www.nanowrimo.org/>

What is NaNoWriMo?

National Novel Writing Month is a national novel-writing event that sets the goal of writing a 50,000 word novel by midnight, November 30. Valuing enthusiasm and a seat-of-your-pants approach over painstaking craft, NaNoWriMo is a writing program for everyone who has ever thought about writing a novel but has been scared away by the time and effort involved.

Because of the time limit, the **ONLY** thing that matters in NaNoWriMo is output. The kamikaze approach forces you to lower your expectations, take risks, and write on the fly. By forcing yourself to write so intensely, you are giving yourself permission to make mistakes. To forgo endless tweaking and just create. To build without tearing down.

This November, other National Novel Writing Month participants all around the world are frenziedly producing the Great Frantic Novel. Wrimos can meet throughout the month to offer encouragement, commiseration, and—when the thing is done—the kind of raucous celebrations that tend to frighten animals and small children.

In 2007, 100,000 people signed up to participate. More than 15,000 of them crossed the 50k finish line by the midnight deadline, entering into NaNoWriMo superstardom forever.

**From Dee:** For better or for worse, the 2008 event has already started. So don't panic! (Maybe next year.) This year, I was inspired by NaNoWriMo not to write a novel in 30 days, but to use their procedures and see if they help me to write. My much less ambitious goal: a mere 18000 words in a month. What have I discovered?

- 1) It's amazingly liberating to know you can't go back and edit until you're done.
- 2) I just **HAVE** to edit sometimes. I'll allow myself just a little tweaking...
- 3) Have to take off Thanksgiving week to visit family.

- 4) What I gave up to write: TV. Reading books (mostly) Gardening. Housework (Yay!)
- 5) THIS---COULD---WORK!!!

## MileHiCon 40 Review

*By Erika Frensley*

This year marks 40 years of MileHiCon in Denver ([www.milehicon.org](http://www.milehicon.org)). The special guests included Jim Butcher, Tim Powers, and Ed Kramer (ILM special effects whiz for many years). MileHiCon has great events--this year was the PokeCon. All GOHs were given special cards, which they could give out to attendees (and other guests – all the GOHs at the Opening Ceremonies had a complete set before the end of the Opening Ceremonies).

Dee and I won the Fannish Mashup—combine two TV shows:

- ❖ **Dr. House** – an extremely annoying Time Lord travels the galaxy curing exotic diseases (me)
- ❖ **Battlestar GalaxyQuest** – a crew of goofball actors must help the even more confused crew of a ragtag fleet (Dee)
- ❖ **Dead Like Earl** – Earl’s found out he’s the reaper in his trailer court, and he has a list... (me)

Jim Butcher provided the following story (heavily edited) to prove a point about belief. When he was younger, he was part of a Christian youth group that went to the Amazon. While enduring the trip (he is NOT a traveller) and while singing in a small village, he was cursed by a snake-wearing shaman. A death curse. The villagers figured he was dead right then, but he didn’t understand really what was going on. Later that night, he found a spider in his cabin—a very large spider. Being rather tired, he stomped it. The most-Irish looking Portuguese guide told him, “Well, Jimmy Butcher. We got a lot of spiders around here...and that’s one of the bad ones. You weigh, 175 maybe? Yup, about 25 minutes to the road, and another 25 minutes to the hospital—you probably wouldn’t have made it. But don’t you worry ‘bout that.” The next morning he found a snake in the shower. After alerting the guide, who rapidly dropped the normal snakehook and called the guys with the really long snakehook with straps, he was told, “Well, Jimmy Butcher, we got a lot of snakes around here. That’s one of the bad ones. But don’t you worry ‘bout that.” Jimmy Butcher did not take a shower that day. Later, as he was boarding the plane, the local police stopped

him. They wanted a picture of him, alive, and leaving. You see, the medicine man had killed 4 people with the death curse, and they thought a photo of Jimmy Butcher alive would break the medicine man's hold on the village. Which apparently it did – he got a report later that the villagers had beaten the medicine man and driven him out of the village. On the basis of the photo of Jim Butcher, alive, eating the last cookie from his girlfriend before getting onto the plane.

Many other events and stories – the creepiest Joker, Harley, TwoFace, and Penguin in the costume contest (which I convinced to crash the Harry Potter balls, in full character... they said that the kids were really creeped out by them).

## Websites of the Month

### The Force.net

<http://www.theforce.net/>

The best Star Wars fan site ever!

### The Unofficial Star Wars RASSM Page

<http://www.shavenwookie.com/urhp/>

Light bulb jokes, drinking games, pants humor, and other Star Wars lunacy that will keep you up until the wee hours of the morning... you have been warned.

### TV Tropes

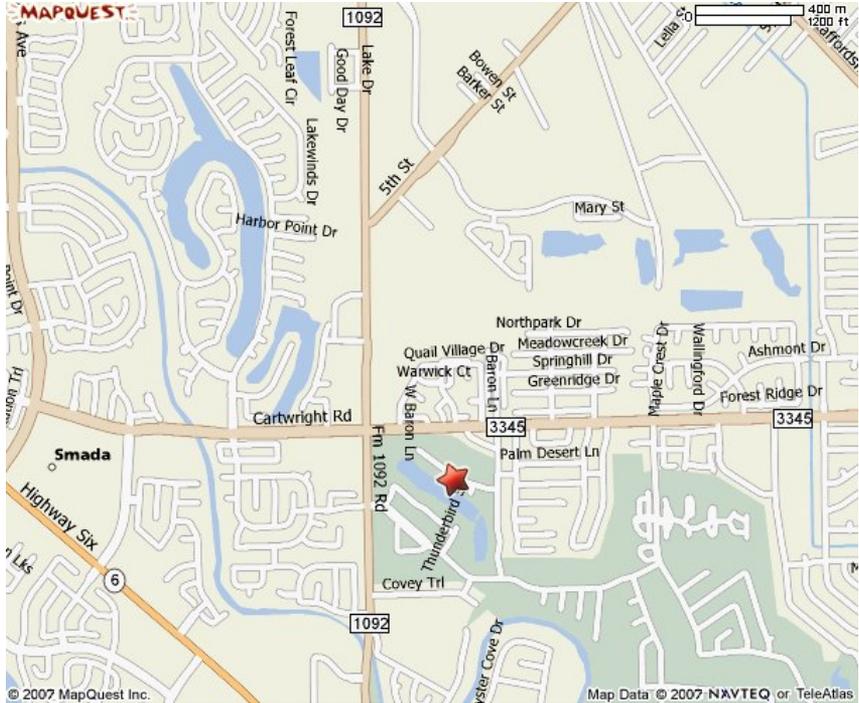
[www.tvtropes.org](http://www.tvtropes.org)

TV Tropes is a wiki that catalogs the tricks of the trade for writing fiction. [Tropes](#) are devices and conventions that a writer can reasonably rely on as being present in the audience members' minds and expectations.

Check out your favorite tv shows, manga, comics, and books to see their tropes (at least identified so far).

## Calendar and Maps

<b>November 14</b> Several Unlimited Meeting	Amy Denton, (281) 499-2455 3510 La Costa Dr Missouri City, TX 77459
<b>December 6</b> Jennifer Hebert's Christmas Party	Pepper's Beef and Seafood, 3604 Fairmont Pkwy #C, Pasadena, TX 77057, (281) 998-1114



**Figure 1. 3510 La Costa Dr**

**Note:** 1092 is known as Murphy Road north of S. Main (US 90)