

Notes from the
Underground
September 2006

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 typed (or very legibly handwritten). Please don't send original artwork by regular mail. The deadline for submissions is the first of every month.

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Back issues of Notes from the Underground are available by written request to the Several Unlimited's P.O. Box. The cost is \$1.00 per issue, including postage.

In Hoc Signo Vincas,
Dee
Editor, *Notes from the Underground*

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Table of Contents

<i>Meeting Announcements</i>	3
<i>September Birthdays</i>	3
<i>Editor's Announcement</i>	3
<i>Message From the President</i>	4
<i>Several Elections—Important Notice</i>	4
<i>Several Officer Platforms</i>	4
<i>Several Unlimited Dues</i>	4
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	5
Downtown Aquarium.....	5
Renaissance Festival Time.....	5
<i>News and Reviews</i>	6
Jamie Ritchey Nominated for Songvid Award.....	6
Don Knauel Obituary.....	6
Shunya Review - The Talk.....	7
<i>Websites of the Month</i>	8
Star Trek Inspirational Posters	8
Longmire Does Romance Novels	9
<i>Calendar and Maps</i>	10

Meeting Announcements

The September Meeting (and elections) will be at Jamie Ritchey's house. The September Video Party will be hosted by Elizabeth Knauel.

September Birthdays

Amy Denton	September 5
Erika Frensley	September 9
Elizabeth Knauel	September 25

Editor's Announcement

We are exchanging newsletters with the Prydonians of Prynceton as PDFs (via email). If any Several member would like a PDF instead of, or in addition to, their paper newsletter, please email me (Dee Beetem).

Message From the President

by *Jamie Ritchey*

There's sad news to share this month. We lost a long time friend and member. Don 'Kodiak' Knauel was a unique personality, with a never ending supply of stories from when he was in the Navy. We'll miss him.

Elections for officers are now in effect. Let the best man/woman win.

Several Elections—Important Notice

Several elections will be held at the September meeting (September 8). So that everyone has a chance to vote, we'll send out the newsletter and ballot electronically to all members that we have an email address for. If you won't be attending the meeting you can email your ballot to:

The President, Jamie Ritchey: jamie.ritchey@att.net

Please cc the Secretary, Steve Dial: scififan@hal-pc.org

Do not email your ballot to Dee Beetem or Erika Frensley—we won't be able to attend the meeting either!

Several Officer Platforms

Jamie Ritchey (President): Hey, I've done almost nothing for several years now, and the club is still here.

Dee Beetem (Vice President): We need more club activities! But I guess you don't **have** to participate in them....

Steve Dial (Secretary): I have been club secretary for eleven (11) years. To the best of my knowledge, no one has any complaints about my job performance. I am willing to continue doing this job.

Erika Frensley (Editor): Aha, my ticket to ultimate power... er... Anyone else want the job?

Several Unlimited Dues

Yearly dues are here -- \$12.00 per year. You can pay via check or via PayPal from the Several Unlimited website at www.severalunlimited.com. Remember, if you don't pay your dues, you can't vote!

Member benefits include:

❖ Monthly newsletter

- ❖ Monthly meetings and video parties
- ❖ All members in good standing receive a discount of 5% off any zines we sell for you. Remember, last zine sale resulted in about \$6000 in sales! Please renew your membership!

Upcoming Events

Downtown Aquarium

410 Bagby

Tickets 9.25 (rides separate)

We're also planning a trip to the Downtown Aquarium (home to white tigers as well as fish!) It's open until 10 (11 Fri-Sat) so week nights are possible if people would prefer that to a weekend excursion.

Note from Dee: Probably our last excursion, the Orange Show, should not have been attempted in the heat of summer. But the Aquarium is indoors! There's no doubt that the Aquarium has far more to look at than the Orange Show, and I understand also that food venues are available.

http://www.aquariumrestaurants.com/downtownaquariumhouston/flash_content/index.html

Renaissance Festival Time

by Steve Dial

It is time to plan for the Texas Renaissance Festival.

The opening weekend is September 30 - October 1. Do any of you want to attend the festival on the opening weekend? I remember that some of you cannot make it that weekend.

I plan on buying the tickets on Thursday, September 14. At that time, we can still get the lower advance ticket price:

- ❖ Opening Weekend (September 30 - October 1)
\$11.00 for each adult ticket
- ❖ All Other Weekends
\$16.00 for each adult ticket

<http://www.texrenfest.com/>

News and Reviews

Jamie Ritchey Nominated for Songvid Award

By Dee Beetem

Jamie Ritchey has received word that her songvids have been placed on the Light My Fire Award ballot in the Gen category. The songvids that have been nominated for this Sentinel songvid contest are:

- ❖ How Far
- ❖ No Matter What
- ❖ Sharp Dressed Man

Congratulations, Jamie!

Don Knauel Obituary

by Elizabeth Knauel

He was born May 19,1926 in Moline, Illinois to Gustav and Elizabeth (Iglehart) Knauel and raised in Davenport, Iowa. His father was a baker and learned the baking trade at an early age. He grew up during the Depression, but rarely spoke of how hard it was for his family during that time.

He enlisted in the Navy in 1944 and saw action in the Pacific. When he did discuss the War, it was usually about cute incidents that occurred to him. He separated from the Navy after the war, but stayed with the reserves. He met and married his wife, Virginia, during those years when he was a "civilian baker." Then the Korean Conflict occurred and he was called back to service. This time he was a Marine. He never saw action overseas, but was a recruiter in Chicago, Illinois. After his required service, he again became a "civilian baker" but the pull of the Navy was strong and he returned to service in 1956 and remained in the Navy until 1984 when he finally retired with 40 years of service.

He was not content to be a retired guy, and he worked in bakeries in Houston for a number of years.

The last years of his life found him puttering around the house, and creating little wooden objects, and caring for homeless cats. He loved jokes of all kinds. He enjoyed talking about history, especially the 1940s. He loved to watch game shows like "Millionaire" and "Jeopardy" and took delight when he knew the answers to the questions when the panelists didn't.

He was a husband, lover, father, friend, baker and jokester.

He died after a brief illness.

We miss him.

+++++

Erika Frensley

Don was a fixture at the Several Unlimited meetings -- wherever we'd find Elizabeth we'd also find her father. Many times he'd sit and listen, working on his crossword puzzles. Then there were the times that he'd tell stories from his military past, or trade puns with the best (or worst) of us. More often than not, he'd beat the worst punsters among us, and leave us laughing.

Shunya Review - The Talk

You may not know it, but Sanjay Mediwala is a budding theatre mogul. He's the current managing director and part-time stage manager for Shunya, a Houston-based non-profit theatre troupe, dedicated to providing a voice to the South Asian American experience through the visual and performing arts.

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

Their latest production was "The Talk", and played to mostly sold out audiences in August. The Talk is a series of playlets, all based on THE TALK. You know, the one that you get when your parents sit you down and say, "We have to let you know something", or the one that your significant other starts off with... "Honey, we need to talk".

The playlets travelled from anguishing (what happens when the talk goes horribly wrong, and you find out the man of your dreams is your worst nightmare?) to comedic (a sex farce based on Indian religion) to science fiction (what happens when parents divorce their children, or a computer chooses the perfect mate for you)?

If you get a chance to see a Shunya production, I highly recommend it.

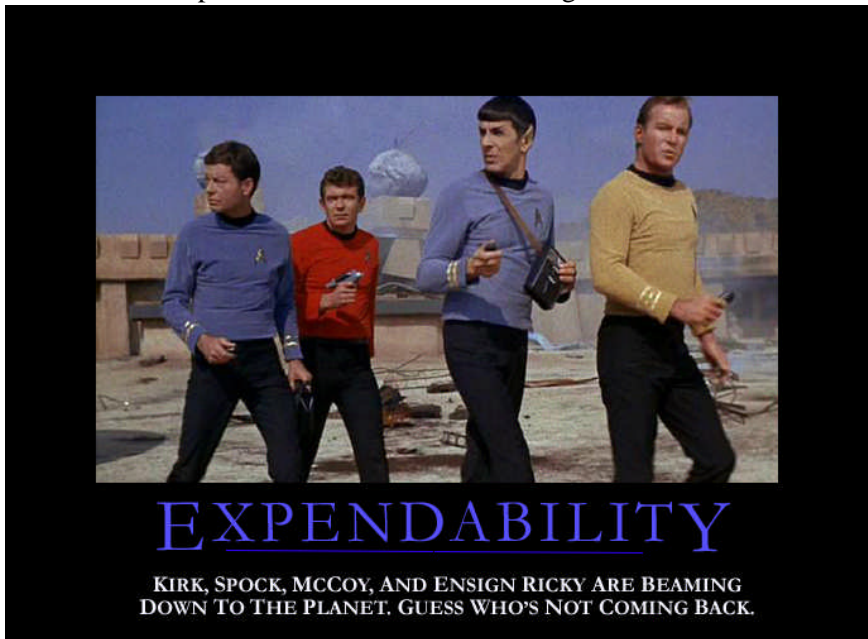
Websites of the Month

Star Trek Inspirational Posters

http://echosphere.net/star_trek_insp/star_trek_insp.html

In the footsteps of the (annoying) Business Inspirational Posters, here's Star Trek Inspirational Posters! The Classic Trek images chosen for these posters make them well worth the wall space in your living room—or even office—but the captions themselves are a hoot:

- ❖ **Expendability:** Kirk, Spock, McCoy, and Ensign Ricky are beaming down to the planet. Guess who's not coming back.



- ❖ **Tantalus:** You don't have to be crazy to work here, but it helps.
- ❖ **Ingenuity:** Yes, it is perfectly reasonable that Kirk had the know-how to make the gunpowder and put together the bazooka to defeat the Gorn. That's why he's the goddam Captain.
- ❖ **Vulcans:** So brilliant. So logical. So pointy.



DIPLOMACY

WORDS DON'T ALWAYS SOLVE PROBLEMS.
SOMETIMES YOU JUST HAVE TO PUNCH AN ALIEN IN THE FACE.

Longmire Does Romance Novels

http://www.worldoflongmire.com/features/romance_novels/

Source: The Wonderful World of Longmire

If you devour romance novels, but know that many of them are, frankly, idiotic, this website's for you! Longmire 'retitles' actual romance covers and hilarity ensues with titles like:

- ❖ The Blind and Buttonless Horseman
- ❖ Lord of the Hissy-Fit
- ❖ The Legend of the Totally-Lost Mountie
- ❖ Chili Supper for Satan

Calendar and Maps

September 8, 2006	Several Unlimited Meeting Jamie Ritchey 4729 Kinglet 713 729-8639
September 22, 2006	Video Party Elizabeth Knauel 13438 Harpers Bridge Dr. 713-937-3306

