

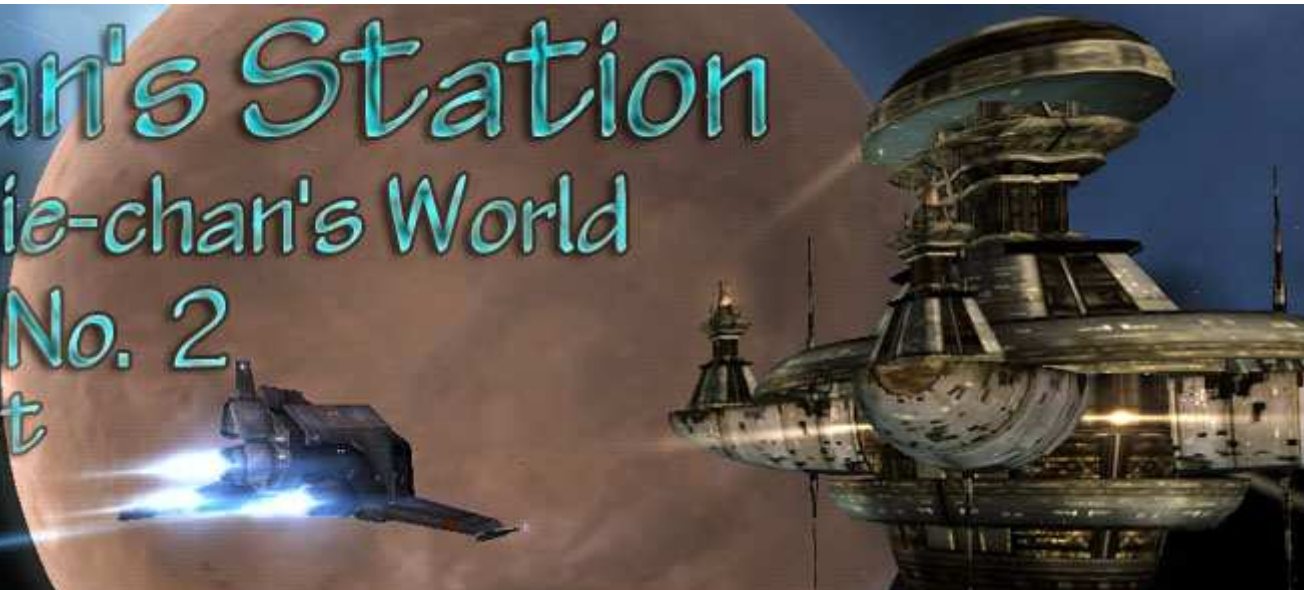
Ruthie-chan's Station

A piece of Ruthie-chan's World

e-APA Division, No. 2

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An FYI: I'll be experimenting with layout, section titles and such, to make things look and sound nice/neat etc., yet, at the same time, simple so as not to give headaches to those who print everything out. :wink:

I have found that for reading in .pdf; larger and darker fonts (not necessarily bold) makes for easier reading. What I like about the horizontal layout is that I can use columns without making people scroll up and down.

The Auditorium

I have discovered a music group called Nightwish.

Imagine metal meets opera to have a party. The best parts of each genre are present. Their music is epic, grand scale, and incredibly AWESOME.

They're from Finland, and the band consists of four men and a female singer. Besides the typical drums, electric guitar, and bass they have a keyboardist and they employ an orchestra as well to fill in the musical gaps. Tarja, the female singer, sings operatically, and it's FANTASTIC. She has a powerful voice.

If you go to their website Nightwish.com they have some of their songs available for download in .mp3 format.

I suggest the following: Bless the Child, Planet Hell, Dark Age of

Wonders, and Ever Dream first.

The lyrics are also available on their website, to every song of theirs in fact, which I think is quite nice.

Some metal-heads say that Nightwish is cheesy or are pansies. I deem any who say such things as foolish and musically stunted since it's apparent they only like growling as opposed to real singing.

I personally am in possession of their entire discography, which consists of 10 albums (including four live albums) and 3 singles.

The Bookshelf

I seem to be semi-absorbing books lately. I've finished Dune, it was FANTASTIC. I can't believe it took me so long to read it. Soon after we started dating, my husband told I needed to read it. He was right.

I finally finished the first half of The Great Book of Amber, which is comprised of 2 series, 5 books each. The first 5 is about Corwin, the last about his son (or so my husband tells me). Great reading. Because it's LONG reading I decided to take a break from that universe after finishing the first story arch.

I went on to read Komarr by Lois McMaster Bujold, which is a Miles Vorkosigan novel. I finished it in 3 days. Would've been done sooner, but

being a mother slows my reading down some. I was required to finish it and I'll admit that I let some house cleaning go, so I could do just that. Ha!

Now I'm reading *A Civil Campaign* which takes place right after *Komarr*. I'm enjoying it thoroughly (I'll be done by the time you read this). How can I not? It's a Miles Vorkosigan novel! I like Bujold's new style for the later books. While I love Miles, I do like to get to see other points of view.

I'm not sure what I'll read next. I have lots of books to choose from!

Hunter S. Thompson Tribute

July 18, 1937 – February 20, 2005

I was first exposed to the works of Hunter S. Thompson, when the movie "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas" came out and I was told by some friends that I MUST see it.

I did, it was a scream and the best anti-drug movie ever.

I later read some of his articles available on the internet (just do a google search for Hunter S. Thompson and you'll find all sorts of archives and other HST info.)

Much of his writing was fictionalized (including his self written biography *Kingdom of Fear*) but I think that's what made him unique.

He changed the face of journalism, called New Journalism or "gonzo journalism" where the writer became an integral part of the story being written about.

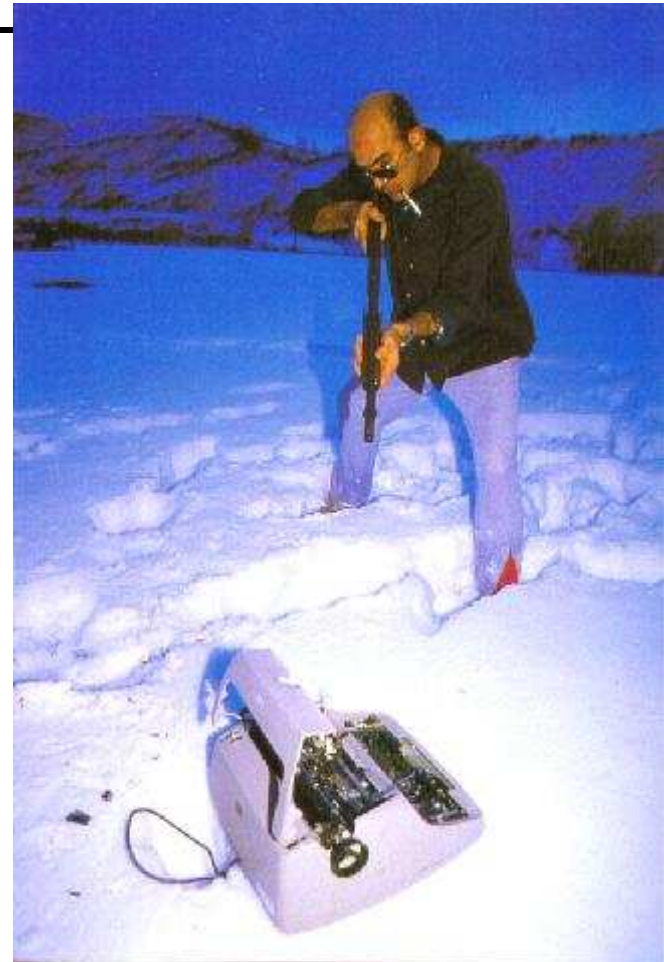
He was also known as Doctor Gonzo and Raoul Duke.

He was an inspiration (albeit sometimes a vulgar one) to the public. The character Uncle Duke in the comic strip "Doonesbury" is based on Hunter. So was the character Spider Jerusalem from the comic book "Transmetropolitan".

I was saddened to read the news story about Hunter's death, especially since he fatally shot himself in his own home. I want to believe it was an accident, that he took one too many drugs, but somehow I get the feeling this was not the case. He seemed a very deliberate man . . .

I am saddened by his departure in this world. My tribute doesn't do him justice in the least bit. (He would probably agree with me if he saw this to boot.)

Hunter, you will be greatly missed.



"Perhaps he found what he came here for, but the odds are huge that he didn't. He was an old, sick, and very troubled man, and the illusion of peace and contentment was not enough for him . . . So finally, and for what he must have thought the best of reasons, he ended it with a shotgun." -- Hunter S. Thompson, "What Lured Hemingway To Ketchum?", reprinted in *The Great Shark Hunt*.

COMMENTS

I Never Got the Hang of Thursdays #10 – Garth Spencer:

I find genealogy interesting, but really, if I were related to Ku Klux Klan members, I wouldn't care too much. I would be of the opinion, "I'm not like them, they're just people who contributed to my genetic material."

Is Frong like role-playing? It sounds interesting, but I'm uncertain about the implementation.

Pilcrow #10 – David Burton:

Regarding the bible, the King James version is closest to the original (other than the original scrolls but they aren't readily available to everyone), but because changes were made, this is why, in my faith, "we believe the Bible to be the Word of God as far as it is translated correctly."

Also, in the old testament, some of the laws given were not necessarily God's laws but the law of the land (like the one where a woman has to marry the man who rapes her).

I believe in the creation story told in Genesis, but I also believe that God used the processes of Evolution (except for man coming from apes, I don't believe that one species can turn into a completely different one). I think that Moses was told a very simple version of what was done.

The only time I have luck proofreading my own work is when I don't touch it for a week after writing it. Unfortunately for me, I'm always so busy that this doesn't get to happen as often as I'd like. If it did my last contribution (and probably this one as well) would have been written better. Even then, I miss stuff, cause ya know, I'm inside my own head. It all makes sense to me. This is why I'm a part of the Writer's Exchange. It really does take a village to write a good story!

Plata #4 – Steven Silver:

That was a lovely Tribute to your grandmother. I'm glad you got to know her well and some things about her past. My Grandfather died when I was a senior in high school. He was living in Utah for 3 or 4 years and I hadn't seen him in all that time. I regret not being able to visit to hear all his

wonderful stories when I was old enough to properly appreciate them. I believe I'm the youngest e-APAAan now. In 1988 I was 9 years old.

Scattered Words #2 – Anna Davour:

Hon, don't worry about your English. You write better in English than some native speakers I know!

I too often find that I have to change the way I word things when speaking to non-fans, and non-gamers. There's so much they don't understand. I care about my friends at church, but they're all . . . mundane.

Thanks for finishing up your fannish history. It was great to read, especially since it's about Fandom outside of America. That's always fun to read about!

Feline Madness #10 – R-Laurraine Tutihasi:

I like Smallville. Unfortunately I have no cable TV. I don't watch it enough to justify the money. I did see the first episode of Lost. Once the whole dinosaur thing happened, I lost interest (pun intended).

Catchpenny Gazette #6 – David Burton:

I really like this zine, and I actually hope that you change your mind about not offering it in .PDF. I prefer it simply because I can't afford to spend \$2 for each ish, especially since it seems (I could be wrong) a monthly publication? If you keep doing .PDF I'd love to be on the mailing list. How often is it published, and what's the submission deadline?

I also don't see the big deal of just having readers. I put out a fanzine called The MANGAVERSE (mentioned previously). I have a few regular or semi-regular contributors, others just read (at least I assume so since they asked to be on my distribution list).

Your crossword puzzle made me feel very much a neo-fan. I did not know a single answer. Do you have the questions and answers in a more readable format than just the answer key on the last page?

I think the problem with the old style LoC's is the lag time. Everyone by now has read my first contribution, yet I don't get to see any comments on them until March. This is especially noticeable now that we have message boards and various groups and listings without the lag time.