

# RUTH-CHAN'S STATION

E-APA DIVISION, NO. 6

A PIECE OF RUTHIE-CHAN'S WORLD  
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background:

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Ruth R. Davidson - October 2005



## Random Stuff

Does anyone remember one of my first postings about my very young cat needing serious medical attention etc.? Either way, Torakun is doing pretty good (rare heart condition he was born with was the cause). He was supposed to be dead a few months ago. I'm very happy he's made it past his first birthday! He's on three heart meds which seem to be doing the trick. Happiness!

He's our Christmas cat. We found him huddled against the front door, sick and shivering from cold. How could we say no to that!?

Hazel (2yr old daughter) and Kittyrat (the other cat) adore him.

I've obtained a job at the Vons on Twain. It's great that I can walk there (forced exercise?), and I start Monday at noon. It's very odd to say "I gotta find out my work schedule for the rest of the week" before I can make any commitments! When I moved to Vegas, I immediately became pregnant. I was sick for much of it and by the time I could get a job, no one wanted to hire me since I was three months to term. \*sigh\* Alas. So, it's been three years since I've had a job.

Robert still hasn't found work and is still having issues with unemployment, but we're looking for a way to use this as an opportunity to get him back into school. :D

The only real thing that sucks is that for this entire week I've been struck down by migraines! Yesterday was the first day I didn't have to take any medication. YAY! Before that I had to take extra strength Excedrin (which has caffeine, aspirin and Tylenol in it) and Ibuprofen to kill it. The early warning signs were defective this week.

Last night (Sept. 30th), I went to the buffet with the family and my father in law and his girlfriend at the Aladdin. Ohhh, SO GOOD!

I also can't wait to see Serenity. Once I find out my work schedule (so weird!) then I'll going out on a date with the man of the house to see it. We're both itching to get to the theatre!

Halloween is going to be fun this year. VSFA is putting on a Halloween party, and I hope to be there (depends on the little one) but I'm gonna grace them with my culinary skills whether or not I get to go. Heehee.

Speaking of which, I told someone in EVE that they earned oodles of brownie points with me, and they asked if those could be traded in for real ones. I said, how about cookies since they're easier to ship.

He ended up being surprised that I would send him cookies! He said no in the end, because that would "feel weird."

I also have been making pumpkin bread with REAL pumpkin. What? Carve pictures into a pumpkin!? NEVER! Boil the thing and mush it (leave out strings, seeds, and outer shell please) for pumpkin bread and pumpkin pie. Mmmmm. So much better than the canned pumpkin. Ick.

## That's Not the Fannish Way

Yes, I've been told that before. . . So what? As long as we're all having fun, why does it matter that it deviates from the fannish norm?

I really can't stand it that some fans insist that there is only one way to be a fan. . . Wasn't the whole point of finding people who are interested in the same things as you was so you would have a group of people that wouldn't harass you or make fun of you? What happens if that group starts making fun of the newbies or of people who like to enjoy sci-fi and fantasy in different ways?

Being a fan was once an act of rebellion, but what happens if the rebellion becomes the institution? Why does anyone have to be on the "true path of fandom"?

I'm sorry, but if the true path of fandom is as outlined in the Enchanted Duplicator, and is exclusionary, then I don't want any part of it.

It's this sort of attitude that explains the buttons you find at WorldCons that says, "I'm not a fan, I just read the stuff."

To me, being a fantasy, and especially, a science fiction fan is about looking to the future and forward thinking. While I appreciate what went before, as it makes me grateful for what I have now, there's no one way to be a fan or engage in fanac. There's great diversity in the genre now, and so many new ways to explore the possibilities of the future, and foster growth.

Why be narrow minded? Why stuff fandom into a box? Burst it open and let it run wild! See where it goes! I guarantee you there'll be more fun that way.

It is ironic that I am feeling this way right now, since I wrote an article about how wonderful it is to be a fan (featured on the next page and originally in VSFA Valley Voyager Vol. 1 No. 3). And, it really is great, until you encounter the close-minded fans.

Yeah, can you tell I've been dealing with this a lot lately? It is frustrating and yet, it also makes me sad. And really, to be fair, it's only a few people that are driving me crazy right now. Thankfully, none of them are members of this APA. ^^

### A Lonely Fan No More

I was sitting at the café in the Tuscany Casino with Woody Bernardi before he departed, that Tuesday night of August 9th, to return to Boston. Dining with us was Kent Hastings, Rebecca Hardin, Carol Kern and late arrival Joshua Andrews.

We were having a grand ol' time talking about whatever came to mind when somehow the subject of the abuses we endured in middle and high school came up.

Carol, gesturing towards those sitting at the table, said, and I paraphrase, "We are the outcasts. We were the ones, scorned and laughed at." I looked around the table, and thought of other fans I had the pleasure of acquainting myself with and I realized she was right.

We truly were the outcasts. The ones who were made fun of in school. We were truly laughed at, scorned, even spat upon. Harassment for not conforming to our peers abounded. We were lucky if we found a true friend. Blessed if we found two. We're the day dreamers, the bookworms, the geeks, the nerds, the weird, the eccentric.

I was sitting amongst comrades, we had each other. Then it occurred to me, that we don't have to be lonely anymore. So I said, paraphrased again "Ya know, you're right Carol. You know that popular quote "It is a proud and lonely thing to be a fan" [Rick Sneary, Former N3F President]? Once upon a time, that was probably true, but fandom has gotten to be so big and more inclusive, that it doesn't really ring true anymore." I gestured towards those at the table, indicating that I was including them. "We have each other. We became friends with each other," I said.

Everyone nodded in agreement, I assume, since no one said otherwise.

So instead, I would like to shorten Rick Sneary's quote to simply say, "It is a proud thing to be a fan."

As I am ending this, I think to myself, it is also a beautiful and wonderful thing to be a fan. We have no need of separatism, we know

what it's like to be back stabbed and trodden down on. We know what it's like to be excluded so we include every caliber of fans, our fellow outcasts, in our circles. We're forward thinkers, and we dream big, and it is good to be a fan.

### I Was Called a Nazi in Middle School.

We were about to read the Hiding Place and our teacher asked us if anyone was born in a different country. I was one of the students who raised their hands. I was born in Germany while my father was based there in the US Army.

We were then being taught about the similarities between English and German. We had to match 20 German words to their English counterparts. I got every one correct (so did two others in the class).

I also had blue eyes (still do) and light brown hair (a bit darker now) that looked blondish in the sunlight.

Some idiot had the bright idea that all this combined made me a Nazi. Of all the things that people made fun of me for in school that one hurt the most. It was the only one that shocked me frozen. It wasn't until a girl said, "that's mean" did I come out of it (which is funny because that same girl would make fun of me sometimes with her friends).

So yeah, it's not fun. Never had it done to me in a legal context, but it still was not amusing.

This came up on a listserv, and thought I'd share this snippet.

### Mailing Comments

*Peter Sullivan – Pleasantly Random*

Because you're a punk and now I have to include my thoughts on the series. . .

I loved and hated Return of the King. I loved it because it was so well done, the actors did a fabulous job. I hated it because there were far too many unnecessary changes! Not only did Denethor's death make no sense but nor did the following:

1: The seeing stone was high up in the tower, I repeat, HIGH up in the tower, so how in hell's bells did it get to be OUT of the tower

and conveniently in the water for Pippin to find and pick up?

2: When King Theoden says, "Why should we go to Gondor's aid when they did not come for us?" What the flip!? He didn't ask for their aid so of course they didn't come! I hated how they made him seem bitter instead of noble like he was in the book.

3: The Paths of the Dead was NOT scary enough. It should have invoked the same sort of feeling that the Black Riders did in Fellowship.

4: Sam would NEVER have left Frodo's side, even if he had been told to (which he wasn't in the book). The actor played the part wonderfully, but the script was TOTALLY out of character.

5: They should have reminded the audience that Gollum "may yet have a part to play." Otherwise the ending of the quest to destroy the Ring feels a bit unsatisfactory.

I should mention that I loved Fellowship of the Ring. I thought it was as close to perfect as you are going to get. I understood that they had to make Arwen a more vital character. Otherwise the audience wouldn't understand why Aragorn didn't go for Eowyn.

Galadriel wasn't as beautiful as she should have been, but I don't think any human is beautiful enough. I liked Liv Tyler as Arwen.

The first half of Two Towers was perfect and wonderful. The second half made me want to shoot things. My biggest two biggest beefs with that movie are the elves at Helms Deep and the complete 180 on Faramir's character.

It's amazing what kind of groups are out there, but yeah, it's definitely a human trait. Somehow though, being into SF/F is more interesting than water. . . But I'm sure those people are needed in the world too.

I too am into gaming! My favorite RPG is Shadowrun, and I've recently obtained Risk 2210. I've never played Diplomacy though I used to sell it when I worked at the Game Keeper. I'm currently playing an MMORPG called EVE. It's a space-faring empire building game.

*Chris Garcia – Alternate Wildly*

Do you think that the Drink Tank has so many readings because it's on efanazines.com?

Do people really think that Glasgow is in Ireland? Maybe I know

where it is because Glasgow is my maiden name.

I didn't know you were VP of BASFA. There's the possibility of my family moving back to the bay area so I did a web search on local groups and I found them. Do you still meet at the one restaurant in the Pruneyard (I believe it's that Italian one, but the name escapes me). I used to live 2 walking minutes from the Pruneyard. I often went to Johnny Rockets.

That's a good art piece. Much of what's on deviantart.com sucks in my opinion. But that one is neat.

*Laurraine Tutihasi – Feline Madness*

It is a cruel thing that I have to wait until January to find out what happens next in Battle Star Galactica.

I wish I had a garden. I can't even have indoor plants because I the roaches would destroy them. It is very frustrating. The place has been sprayed and bombed and they're still here! I keep the place pretty clean too, so it must be because of other people in the complex.

I'm sorry about your troubles with the cats. \*hugs\*

*Steven Silver – Plata*

I want a cave kiss! That's really neat. I've always wanted to check out spiffy caves, but never had the chance.

*David Burton – Blue Jaunte*

Eh heh. That was my fault about the e-APA being in the Neffy Awards. N3F members are the ones who do the nominating. The top five are picked from each category, and then is voted upon by the N3F membership. Ties are voted on by those who are part of the Neffy's Bureau.

Anyway, at the time I made my nominations, I read very few fanzines, and for some reason I stuck e-APA on there. It wasn't until did I realize that was kind of retarded of me. (I'm not an idiot, really I'm not.) >.<

More details are here: <http://www.n3f.org/neffys/indexa.html>

I am so glad you are okay, and that you've reduced the nicotine intake. A pack a week is certainly better than two packs a day! It also frees up money for other stuff, I'm sure.

I hope you find a calmer job, and if you don't mind you'll be in

my prayers. It is certainly understandable to experience such great fear when you're used to being in fantastic health. But one thing I've learned, is that a life lived in fear is a life half lived, so I do my damndest not to let fear rule my actions or thoughts (though easier than said sometimes).

*Dave Locke – Trial Balloon*

The cover of Trial Balloon was once my desktop background.

You are now on the DAMN YOU, I HATE YOU FOREVER List because I will **never think of using my mouse the same way ever again** and it's all your fault! I showed it to my husband. He found it amusing and wanted to know where I got it. I told him, and I think he was surprised it was in a fanzine, since in his opinion, fanzines suck. Or, he wanted to be able to show it to other people easily.

So, where'd you get it? I must inflict my pain on others.

I also really liked your saturn in the sky pic. Where's it from?

This issue does look a lot better and was easier on the eyes (the large font probably had something to do with that).

Aw, shoot, we just had cat drama interrupt this and now I can't remember what else I was going to type and looking through your zine again didn't help. Oh well. I guess it wasn't that important then.

*Garth Spencer – Thursdays*

Interesting how sometimes, the plight of others make our lives seem pretty good.

FOSFAX is out of production now isn't it? I looked it up online and it seemed to be, which was a bummer. I was told it was one of the worst fanzines out there. This of course made me want to read it even more. Maybe I should try Alexiad. . .

I like Taras Wolansky. We agree on many things politically, and even when we don't he's not mean about it. He also comes up with really interesting articles about books, authors, movies, etc..

Adding humor to life troubles is a wonderful thing. It's how we deal with things that would otherwise cripple us.

*Janine Stinson – Northern Raptor*

You are still in my prayers.

It was hard on my mom to give up being able to lift things,

though often she'll say, "darn it! I'm going to pick up my grandchild!" I only let her get a way with it once in a while (which is easy since we're in different states).

I really miss Peregrine Nations. It's one of my favorite zines.

**After Thoughts**

So, it's 2am on Tuesday, and I have to be at work for my second day at 10:30am. Their computer where they have their orientation and all that jazz was painful. The screen is old, and the refresh rate is too slow.

However, I survived and my daughter has dissed my hardcore today. She plays this game where she'll say "Bye bye, be good, be nice, have fun", we repeat her, and then she'll leave the room. When she returns she says, "I'm back!" and we say, "welcome back."

Tonight, she would completely ignore me. She wanted all the responses from her daddy (never mind the fact that earlier she wanted to be with me after I got home). She's quite mad at me for working.

This is amusing since she was like that with her Daddy. He says it's nice to have it be the other way around for a change. :P

Oh well, at least it gives me time to finish this up before going back to bed, even though it may or may not be in time for the next mailing. Erk.

**Auditorial Pleasures**

HUZZAH! I found a name for this section of my zine. It suddenly came to me whilst I slept. Hell, that could be a zine title all on it's own! Hmmm. . .

Anyway, I've discovered E. S. Posthumus. Their music is, really cool. It's, hard to describe. There are epic qualities as well as adventurous quality. Sometimes there will be voices, which has classical chant-like qualities it.

When I listen to them, something stirs inside me. I feel more energized, and often feel inspired (often to write my story).

I suppose you could describe them as a theatrical or classical version of Nightwish. Maybe when I figure out how to describe ESP, I'll let you know. ^^