

# *Ruthiechan's Station*

*E-apa division, No. 7*

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*February 2006*

**Below is what I wrote way back in November when I was attempting to get ahead of myself and failed miserably.**

Now, I need to say, OMGWTFBBQ over that dreadfully abysmal thing I wrote for Auditorial Pleasures. It's utterly ghastly ("I should have proof read it before sending it off" would be saying it lightly). The only thing good about it was the title. Ugh. I am so embarrassed.

I'm also embarrassed over the fact that I didn't even get the title of my zine right. I called it Ruth-chan's Station instead of Ruthie-chan's Station. \*crumples\*

### **In the Land of Mundane**

It amazes me how many times I encounter people who can't add, or who can't be bothered to weigh their produce and are then stunned that something weighs more than they thought it could and therefore costs more than they anticipated (wishful thinking?). Merciful heavens people. The scales are there for a reason.

Take a calculator if you must but don't hold up the line because you went \$20 or more over your budget (or because you're trying to find change that may or may not exist in your bag – if takes longer than 10 seconds to find the required change just give me another dollar). A Vons card doesn't mean you'll get a discount on every item in the store. If you only save \$0.38 cents it's because you weren't paying attention!

I'll call out "Check stand 6 is open, no waiting" on the intercom and people will walk right past me to WAIT IN LINE. The hell? And then the supervisor will say to me, "hey Ruth, call out." @\$#^%\*!

I've been sick twice because of customers who decide to go grocery shopping while blazingly ill. No, not just a bad cold, but full blown bronchitis one time, and the last time a lady was saying to hurry up because she had a fever of 102 and felt like she was about to throw up. ARGH! IF YOU'RE THAT SICK STAY HOME!

There's a coworker who has no tolerance for new people. If I ask her a question about an item I've never seen before let alone ring up (not all products have bar codes or PLU's on them), she tells me she can't do my job and hers so to do my job. WTF!?! I'm freakin' new, cut me some slack. Geez.

The break room is also the room where loss prevention deals with thieves. I got to see one dude who tried to steal tons of meat hidden in his jacket. On the same day, two ladies were double teaming on stealing about \$70 of hair products. While searching one gal's purse they found meth! Oh the stupidity! I got to see them get busted, and some of the aftermath with a cop doing some drug testing of the meth. Fun!

The good thing about working though is that I was able to buy my hus-

band a birthday present with money that \*I\* earned, and teach Hazel how to deal with my absence and that "mama always comes back" (unless I get run over by a truck, but we don't talk about that part).

### **We're not the only ones!**

Remember the discussion we recently had about immigrants not bothering to learn English? It's not just us monolingual Americans who get annoyed with it! I had this discussion with Sandra Bean (the new VP for VSFA – a neofan with oodles of energy and spunk) who's a resident alien from Mexico. She can't stand it either!

I've also discussed it with a few coworkers some of which are of Latino (it's not PC to say Mexican or Spanish, gag) descent and speak both languages.

There's one gal who is thoroughly Americanized. She's 18, and Spanish/Mexican/Latino folk will walk up to her and start talking to her in Spanish, which she doesn't speak. She looks like she should, so they assume she does. That led to an interesting conversation about stereotypes.

### **What I've Been Up To**

Welp, I've decided to start writing more LoC's, well at least one to each fanzine I read regularly or semi-regularly. I've discovered that if I don't do it as near to immediately after reading a zine, it likely will not happen.

At the same time however, I've had to cut back on some fanac that really take up a lot of my time. One is being the President of N3F. I wanted to do it for one more year, but alas, that is not to be. Another is my fanzine, The MANGAVERSE. I have to cut it back to a quarterly publication. I figure if I have some extra time I can always put out a "special issue" or an "extra ish" or something. It's kind of a bummer, because I liked the every other month thing, but oh well.

I've had to cut back because there are so many other things I want to do with my time. Working really cuts into my available time, especially when they have me working nearly 40 hours a week some weeks.

I have games to play, books to read, music to practice (relearn?), art to create, stories to write, and a kiddo who wants my attention more than she used to because I'm not around her all the time.

There are other things I've cut back on as well. A major one is forum





reading. I used to read literally dozens of forums all the time. That's where 99% of my socializing was. I used to live and breathe on these forums. I had little to no life outside of them. Now? I only read a few, and even then, it's very sporadic. Hell, some of that time got used up with fanac instead (like writing about this for an APA).

Now that I work, I think if I were to become a stay at home mom again, I'd be MUCH better at it, and better at managing my time. There are some things that I didn't do, or did very little of, and now that I don't have the time for them I think "YOU IDIOT!" I seriously took my time for granted and wasted so much of it. I shake my head at myself.

And I just saw my cat tackle and eat a roach. . . . .

I ended up not taking the little one out trick or treating due to her having a bit of a cough (gee, I wonder why), but I made up for it by making pumpkin pie with REAL honest to god pumpkin. None of this canned crap. You take the pumpkin and gut it like you would if you were carving it for Halloween, only with more care because you don't want any stringy bits left. Then you chop it up into little pieces, cut off the hard shell and boil the sucker for two hours. After that, it's mashing time (Yay for electronic mixers!). Then you use it in whatever you want, pie, bread, pancakes, cookies, and it'll taste WAY better than the canned stuff. Oh yes.

**This is the end what I wrote way back in November**

**And here be WHAT I AM WRITING NOW yo!**

So yeah, life is different. I live with my Mom now in Yuba City CA. I am still job hunting, it sucks. I've been here since the weekend before Christmas, and still nothin'! The hell is up with that? Oh, yeah, they call this a city when really it's more like an overgrown town. >.<

I miss Las Vegas. I miss VSFA. I miss the glorious buffets. However, it is good to be around family. Hazel has adjusted well, she loves having a bunch of people wrapped around her finger. ^^

Robert and I are getting along much better since our separation. This is a good thing. We're not getting into old habits. So we're having a lot of fun together. Hazel talks to her Daddy every night before bedtime as well. That definitely helps, along with his every other weekend visits (he's three hours south in San Jose and going to school – his dad decided to pay for it).

My personal website went down due to getting hacked in and used for a phishing scam. This caused my host not to do webhosting anymore. So, now I have actually have to PAY for my website so I can get everything I want for it. I am at [www.ruthiechan.net](http://www.ruthiechan.net).

Welp, I'm not going to have time for any Mailing Comments, though I

did enjoy reading what others wrote. At the end here I'll be sharing with y'all a post in my blog regarding the nascar analogy.

## The Nascar Analogy

Posted by Ruthiechan in SFF Geekery  
Wednesday, January 25, 2006

I hate the Nascar analogy. I feel it is obnoxious. What is the Nascar analogy? "Just because a Science Fiction/Fantasy (SFF) fan likes Nascar doesn't make Nascar a part of SFF fandom."

I despise it because it is given to me when I say to other SFF fans that SFF Fandom at large has totally missed the awesome-ness of Anime and Japanese comics (Manga). They spew that forth and it angers me. **There is NO scifi or fantasy in car racing! But there is in Anime and Manga!**

It's like saying TV shows or movies don't count because most of them aren't SFF based or aren't "traditional" venues for the genre (it used to be that books and comics were "it" - and some even debate comics having anything to do with the growth of SFF). The hell!? What about books? 90% of books have nothing to do with SFF. It's ridiculous. There's TONS of science fiction and fantasy in anime and manga. TONS! Escaflowne, Crest of the Stars, Ranma 1/2, Bleach, Planetes, Ah My Goddess, Neon Genesis Evangelion, Macross, and so many more.

Not everyone likes books, not everyone likes TV or movies, not everyone likes comics or animation.

Just because you don't like a medium used doesn't mean it's not a part of SFF Fandom at large.

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And that's all for now folks.

Image on the front cover is a screenshot from the game EVE Online.

To the right is Hazel in her Cinderella dress that was a steal.

Oh, and Peter I'm glad you're able to get back to work so soon. That is awesome!

