



*No. 1, For N'APA February 2006 distribution, by Ruth R. Davidson*

*www.ruthiechan.net ruthiechan@ruthiechan.net*

So, I'm sitting here, thinking, YES! All my fanac with deadlines are done! I was uploading VSFA Valley Voyager (V3), and Ruthiechan's Station for the e-APA. I went to update my Fanzine's page that has all the fanzines I've ever edited and created available for download; when I saw that I had previously gone ahead of myself and had added this zine to the file-awaiting-uploading! WAGH! Good thing I did that, otherwise I would've missed the deadline and that would've made me sad.

However, I have a bazillion things to do. I gotta clean my room, go to the welfare office to get some gov'ment aid, do laundry, and help my mother clean the house for an appraiser who's coming tomorrow. So yeah, full day, on 6 hours sleep thanks to the little one. Therefore, pardon the stream of (un?)consciousness.

A brief bio here in case someone new is about, and since I feel like we're starting over, it seems appropriate.

My name is Ruth R. Davidson and please remember the middle initial if you could when writing more than my first name (there are many Ruth Davidson's in the world - I'll give you the full rant/explanation later if you want).

My daughter, Hazel (who turns three on May Day), and I live in

Yuba City with my mother and four of my siblings. I used to live in Las Vegas and was getting active in Las Vegas Fandom; especially with the Vegas Science Fiction Association (VSFA). I still edit the news/fanzine VSFA Valley Voyager (V3) and their website [www.vsfa.net](http://www.vsfa.net). So I get to still be a part of it in some ways. I miss Vegas' Fandom, and the buffets. It is strange living in a city that sleeps at night (though Yuba City is really more like an overgrown town).

Why am I in Yuba City? My husband and I separated. It was the best thing for us. There was no hope for our relationship otherwise. Now that we're three hours away from one another we get along so much better now. There's more hope for our relationship than there was before. I see this as a good thing. He visits every other weekend, talks to Hazel and me everyday, and is going to school in San Jose (paid for by his Dad).

I'll be returning to school as well, once I have residency, to become a music and English teacher. I'm still job hunting though. It is difficult getting a job around here, especially after the Christmas season.

Hm, I'm looking at the time here and I'm gonna need to leave in about an hour and twenty and I know if I don't get this done NOW, it

won't get done at all. So, I'm going to borrow bits and pieces of writing that I've done elsewhere and if you've seen them before, I apologize. The following is from my blog at ruthiechan.net.

## 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.

## Auditorial Pleasures

From Ruthiechan's Station 2 for the e-APA:

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.

## Regarding Anne McCaffrey

From Ruthiechan's Station 5 for the e-APA

I love Anne McCaffrey. I met her at a book signing about 10 years ago. I was in high school and near the end of the line. We were told she would leave in two hours, and I knew there was no way she'd get through all of us within that time period.

I was so worried that I wouldn't get to meet her, that I found a piece of paper and a pencil and wrote her a note with my address. I turned to the guy in line behind me and asked him if he would be kind enough to hold my place in line. He said yes; bless him.

I went right up to Anne and when she finished with the person she was on, I touched brushed her shoulder and said, "Anne." She turned to me. I said something along the lines of "I just want to give this note." About an hour after she was supposed to leave, I was able to walk up to her and get her to autograph my book. I was so pleased.

I was even MORE pleased a few months later when I got a personal letter from her. She gave me writer's advice too. (I must have mentioned being an aspiring writer in the letter.)

## The following got me in trouble!

I even heard a nasty rumor that it offended dead people! HA!

## That's Not The Fannish Way

From Ruthiechan's Station 6 for the e-APA

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 below and originally in VSFA Valley Voyager Vol. 1 No. 3). And, it really is great, until you encounter the close-minded fans.

## 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.

Well, fellow N'APAan's, I hope you enjoyed something that I put here (if not, one of us is horribly insipid \*wink-smile\*).

So as not to leave a horribly jarring blank space (which annoys me when someone else does it) below is a picture of my daughter Hazel having far too much fun in her new Cinderella dress I found at Target for a great bargain three weeks ago. See you next disty.

