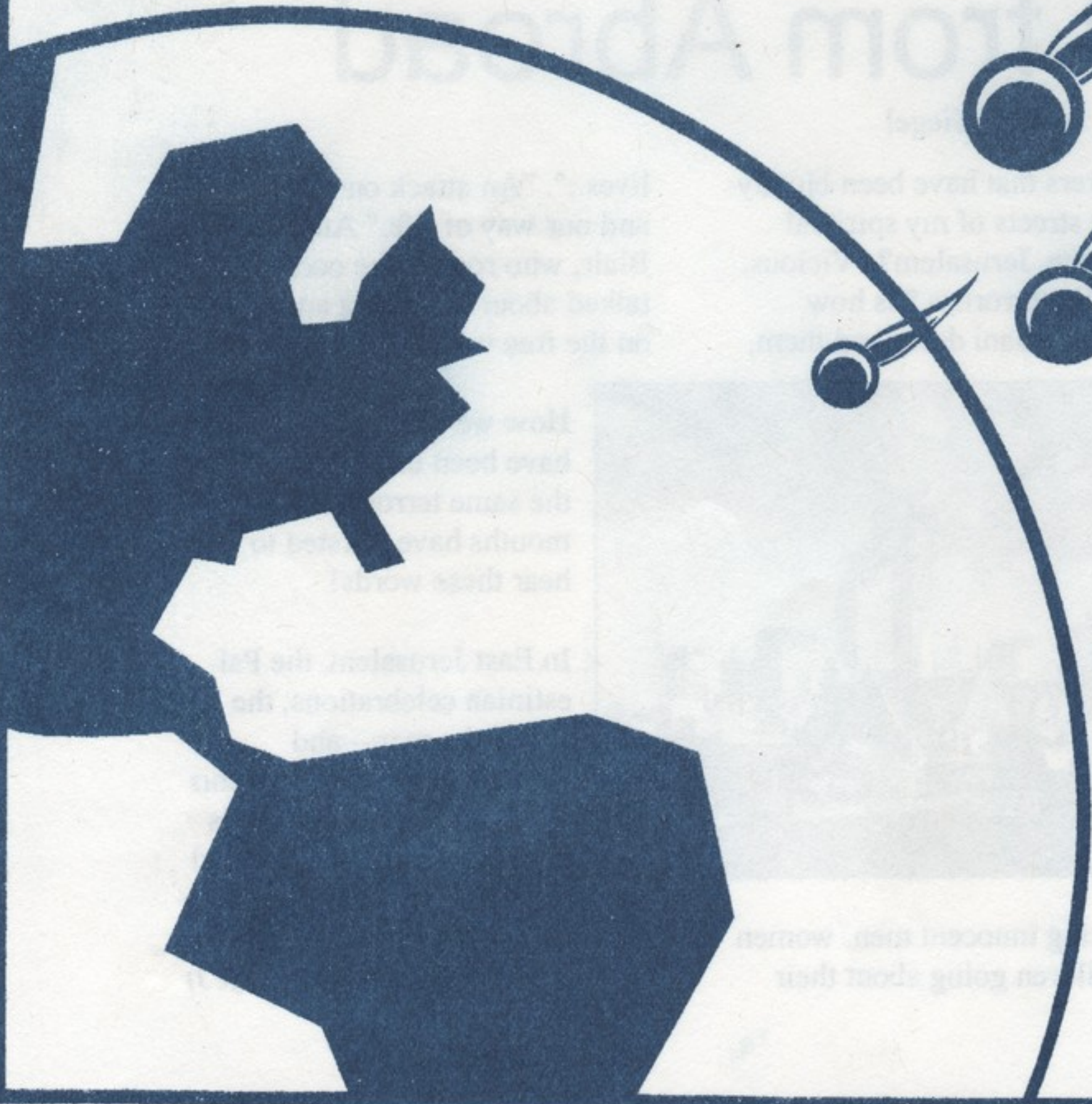


the escape pod



Can we go home again?

The New York Skyline has been indelibly marked. A 30 year landmark has fallen and no one will ever be the same. There are feelings of horror, grief, despair and loneliness that are gripping the nation. One New York City native told this newsletter, "I was watching the news and they were showing a picture of some city, I was shocked when I realized it was New York and that I hadn't recognized it." The airwaves have been flooded with pictures of horror and words of grief. Mayor Rudolf Giuliani called the attack an "act of faceless cowards." President Bush said, "It was no less than a declaration of war." And it seems that

the American people are behind him. His approval ratings have soared to an amazing 91%. Approval ratings for the president haven't been that high since the height of the Gulf War, when his father, George Bush Sr. was president.

In a country where just months and weeks ago people were worried about patriotism and recruitment for the armed forces, there has been, almost a

whiplash type turn around in the last few days. Stores have received a flood of requests for American flags. All over America people want to show their patriotism and love for America.

The following are opinions and reactions about the terrorist attacks. They may or may not express ideas that this newsletter agrees or disagrees with. But we thought it was important to print them.

**"September 11, 2001.
A day that no one will forget."**

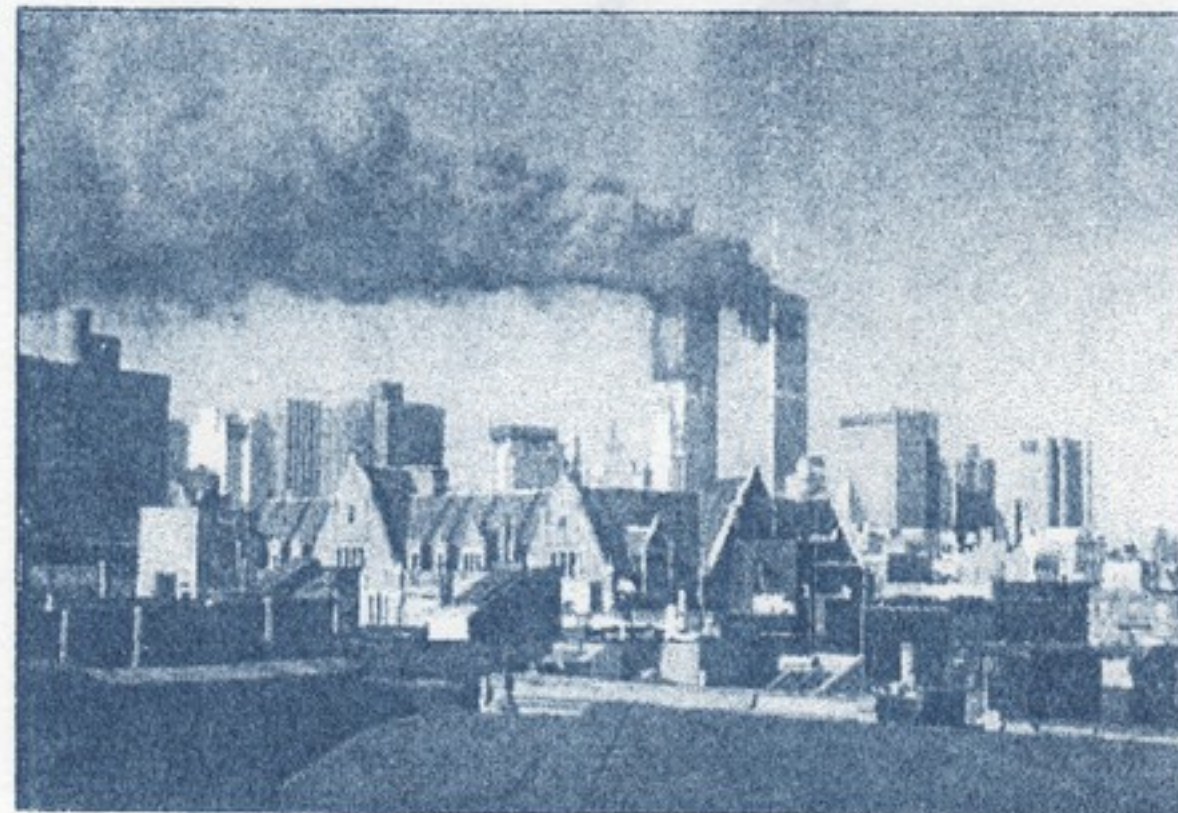
Feelings from Abroad

by Judy Siegel

Just yesterday, a day after three suicide bombers blew themselves up all over Israel, killing five more innocent Israeli civilians, I sat writing how I longed for America. From my home in Jerusalem, it shone in the distance, a beacon of stability and safety, its shores so secure and inviting. Can it be that only twenty-four hours later my birthplace, the City of New York, the place that educated and nurtured me with its thrilling diversity and endless promise; the place my brothers and their families still live, is now a graveyard of thousands of innocent people cut down by the same

murderers that have been bloodying the streets of my spiritual birthplace, Jerusalem? "Vicious, cowardly terrorists," is how Mayor Giuliani described them,

lives..". "An attack on freedom and our way of life." And Tony Blair, who rose to the occasion, talked about this being an attack on the free world, on democracy.



"attacking innocent men, women and children going about their

How we in Jerusalem who have been under attack by the same terrorists for months have thirsted to hear these words!

In East Jerusalem, the Palestinian celebrations, the joy of the man-- and woman-- in the street at this savage act of barbarism, is now broadcast by CNN and the BBC which has been wallowing in sympathy for Pales-

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

tinian suicide bombers for months, interviewing their parents; examining their delicate sensibilities, their noble motives.. How, I wonder, do these networks feel now? Are they embarrassed? Are they enlightened? I'd really like to know.

Just the other day in reporting Sunday's multiple suicide bombings in Israel, the BBC reported: "Eight died in Mideast violence." And this is what they meant: Three suicide bombers and their five Israeli victims who were murdered in cold blood. I imagine they won't be counting the suicide pilots in the body count of the American victims, or say that they died in a continuing cycle of violence. Not now when Britain itself feels that the ground beneath its own feet is suddenly less solid than before. Why do we have to learn these lessons of history again and again: that tolerance for anti-Semitism and the murder of Jews inevitably leads to a hundredfold number of casualties among innocent people of all races and religions all over the world? That evil and immorality and racism always chooses the Jews as its first target, but never its last? If the attack is tolerated, it grows in strength and begins to devour the rest of the world. Appeasement, Churchill said, is feeding a crocodile in the hope that he will eat you last. It doesn't work. And now, just days after the debacle in Durban which unleashed the most vicious racism of modern times, comes the physical attack on the leader of the free world and its people.

I feel no satisfaction that the world which has been so blind, so wrong-headed, in its abandonment of the Jews of Israel, feeding us to the crocodiles, must

now experience the horrors we have been living with on a daily basis for months, even years. But it is my hope, as I wearily type these words, that a new light will come out of the billowing evil smoke of destruction and darkness that has claimed so many innocent lives, destroyed so many, many innocent families.

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And to all of our columnists, and to Dee Dreslough for the use of her artwork (everything that's not the cover! Even if it was mostly to fill space while looking pretty. Like the jumpy lil kitty cat below.)



Book Corner

Page 57 Reviews Book Reviews

By Dawn Boniface

So just what is a page 57 Review? Well as the Librarian for the Forum, I am constantly checking in new books. When new books are checked in they get stamped front, back, edges and on page 57 (the years of the schools founding). Overtime as I was checking in books I would get hooked on a story just by what I read on that page. So here I offer up a selection of new books that have come in. If you like what you read come check them out.

The Glass Harmonica
by Louise Marley

Eilish pulled off her shapeless dress and then her even more shapeless shift. Beneath these she wore nothing, and she looked down at herself as she stepped into the hip bath. She was surprised to see that her breasts had begun to fill out, though the rest of her body was thin and flat. She shivered with cold and flushed with embarrassment all at the same time Bessie picked up her clothes, holding them at arm's length, and disappeared with them. Mrs. Stevenson had already left the kitchen on some other errand, leaving only Eilish and Cook. Cook was even plumper than Bessie, with red cheeks and soft brown hair. She gave Eilish a cake of fragrant yellow soap and a brush with a

long wooden handle, and then turned away to her baking. Eilish took the soap and brush and sank slowly down into the water. She had never felt such a warm wetness, and after her first fear, the sensation was delicious. The water reached just to her chest and her bent knees poked out above it. Little by little, she began to lather herself. When she had soaped her whole body and rinsed it, she did it again. Bessie came in with a pile of clothing and stood beside the tub. "Hair," she said shortly. Eilish said, "What?" "Hair," Bessie repeated sourly. "Wash your hair, too."

Eilish didn't bother arguing. She dropped her head backward into the water until it was thoroughly wet, and applied the soap to her tangle of black hair. So pleasant was this experience that she didn't even mind Bessie's tone. Not until the water began to grow chilly and slightly scummy with the soap did she want to think about getting out. When she was dried, and her hair wrapped in the towel, Bessie began to hold out items of clothing. They were obviously well-worn but clean. There were Bloomers, a scratchy wool shift, cotton stockings, and the loveliest pale blue petticoat. Over it all went a dark blue wool sack gown, much too long, but marvelously warm. Bessie took the.

(Continued on page 6)

'A Resurgence'

MasterHarper Of Pern, by Anne McCaffery

Parallel Earth Resources Negligible

A series that shows just how fine the line is between science fiction and fantasy. Most readers start with Dragonflight or Dragonsong, although Dragonsdawn is the first chronologically (Chronicles of Pern has a short story titled: First Fall, that predates Dragonsdawn). The series is based on a planet colonized by a group of settlers from Earth, where, over the generations such roots were forgotten. Loss of such knowledge being partially due to lack of technological device, and part to do with the menace that killed the early settlers-Thread. An unnatural 'rain', a silver-grey organism that will eat anything organic. Stopped by stone and metal, killed by fire and water. The saviors of the seemingly doomed colony became the 'dragons', engineered from a small indigenous avian reptile, and their riders, taking to the skies to char Thread mid-air. Society changed to accommodate, with the rest rose the Harpercrafter, dedicated not only to music, but to history....

I have read, I believe, all

(Continued on page 6)



(Continued from page 4)

of the Pern books (and including "The Smallest Dragonboy", the short story about K'vans impression, in Get Off The Unicorn). Despite my adoration of all things Pernese, I was at first loathe to read Masterharper, as it had begun to seem that the Pern series, although still good, was declining in quality...or perhaps it was just the switch to a more science oriented story frame, in which I myself had less interest, that made me think such. However, I did read it about two or three weeks after it came out...I couldn't resist. And it turned out to be better than any I'd read to date (Dragonseye, my favorite, I read after). With all the character depth of the Harper Halls trilogy, and twice as intriguing a storyline, following the ever elusive life of the later to become Masterharper, Robinton. To top of the wonderful story, well worth reading on its own, was the fact that it gave new dimension to the first two trilogies (Dragonriders, Harper Halls) and the other books written of the time period upon Pern.

To those who have read the Harper Hall, there is further story on Petiron, Menolly's early mentor, as well as Silvina and Camo. For readers of Dragofilght and Dragonquest, there is final illumination upon the history of F'lon, F'lar and F'nors elusive sire, and of C'gan the old bluerider. The cover of the book I have illustrates what I think of as one of the most important events of young Robinton's life- a dragon speaking to him. A few within the weyr have been known to hear dragons other than their own, yet for a dragon to speak to a non-rider, non-weyrman...an incredible honor, as well as rare.

The Hero And the Crown by Robin McKinley

I re-read The Hero And The Crown not too long ago and I had not expected it to be as good as I found it to be. I read it the first time six or seven years ago, and as I picked it up from the library to re-read, I thought to myself it couldn't possibly be as good as I remembered. I had read it at one of those perfect times, where my mind set was so close to that of Aerin (the protagonist), and the effect it had on me could not be duplicated. However even in the rereading it was a wonderful book, though this time for different reasons. McKinley weaves a wonderful story, and more noticeable to me, well-rounded and complete characters. I liked it as well for a reason not many others would share- the depiction on the king's old horse, now Aerin's. I happen to love horses and the personality given this old warstud was just as complete as any of the human characters, more so than some. The story is very classical in many ways- Aerin is a young princess, unhappy with her lot... largely because she lacks the 'gift', the magic-type talents that run strong in her royal blood. She falls to her father's old horse for support, comfort, and friendship. She also discovers an ancient 'recipe' for a fire proof ointment during her time perusing the library for old stories, largely about dragons, which she reads in the horse pasture. After several years of experimentation she actually succeeds in creating the ointment- and decides to use it.

Occasionally bothering the peasant folk are pony-sized dragonish creatures. When the notice comes in of one of the creatures whereabouts, and a re-

quest for a team of men to go after it - she rides out ahead, unbeknownst to her father, to tackle it herself, alone. The encounter goes not as smoothly as expected, yet nevertheless it was successful. This event sets the stage for her battle with Maur...a true dragon, thought to be long dead... and then with a wizard, of sorts, that, as things come about, turns out to be her uncle...the brother of her outlander mother.

(Continued from page 4)

The House in the High Wood by Jeffrey E. Barlough

"An elderly clergyman," Mr. Ives repeated slowly, with a frown and a thoughtful rub of his chin. "Surely not the vicar there, sir? Our Mr. Scattergood? He's the most likely clergyman to happen on roundabout, and the only one, to speak truth, though he's not elderly as I make out." "Rather not. This clergyman proceeded to approach us with a few of questions, and when we could provide no satisfactory answers he and his companion walked off without an exchange of introductions. As a result neither Mark nor I has the slightest notion who they were, but it seemed reasonable to suppose they were guests here at the Arms." "Mr. Ives shook his head. "To my knowledge, sirs, there's no aged clergyman with us now, nor has been at any time recent. But if you will pardon me a moment I'll consult the final authority." Looking round he hallo'd for his daughter, who arrived at the bar in short order, a picture of bustle and efficiency in dark hair and ringlets." "Cherry, m'dear," said her father, "have we a clergyman lodged in the house?"

The Day the Skies Emptied

S L B Brothers.

The first fall rose opened outside my door
As people were divided from loved ones
By an empty sky.

A heartpain too deep for tears rent the air
With silent eyes muted by shattered lives
Filling an empty sky.

Like a conjurer's well done mirror trick
Whole buildings disappeared in flaming smoke
Against an empty sky.

The East was painted in crimson and gray
Counterpointed by electric sirens and panic
Swelling an empty sky.

A tremor raced across the land from sea to sea
Composed of words: comforting, frightened, angry
Beneath an empty sky.

Innocent lives taken by the Heartless Ones
Have paid the entry fee of an unwanted war
To fill the empty sky.

Do you want to help, but aren't sure how? Here is
some contact information to help you get started.

The American Red Cross - Greater New York
World Trade Center Disaster Fund
P.O. Box 3755, Church Street Station
New York, NY
10008
United States

To Give Blood:

American Red Cross 1-800-HELP-NOW
New York Blood Center 1-800-933-BLOOD

To Make Financial Contributions:

American Red Cross 1-800-HELP-NOW
United Way 1-212-251-4035
Salvation Army 1-800-SAL-ARMY

To Volunteer Services (New York):

FEMA World Trade Center Relief 1-800-801-8092

Falling

-anonymous

Falling, Deeply
Falling, Steeply

Where do, I go?
When the, world knows

That I, Can't Care
It's been, Too much

I've been, Reeling
Too much, Feeling

I can't, Go on
Till this, Pain's gone

I'm falling, Deeply
I'm falling, steeply

Where will, I stop?
When will, it stop?

Is this, Bottom?
I can't, See

This dark, Blackness
This strange, empty

Is that, a light
At the ending

I'm falling, Deeply
I'm falling, steeply

Want to submit something?

Come to Harriman Hall 020/029
And ask for Rachel or Cat

Or

Call (631) 632-6598

Drow's Report

Well I've been doing this for a few years now, but I must admit that the 2000-2001 TV season will be remembered as the Season of Casualties. Lets take a look at the current sci-fi shows and see all those who bit the big one this season and the implications for each series.

Farscape: Now in its third season, this series is in my opinion, the best sci-fi series out there. In all its time on the air, the writers have only made one, no make that two big mistakes. First, THEY KILLED OFF ZAHN!! Argh! Of all the people they could've killed, why did it have to be her? She was my favorite character and they killed her off! Mistake number two: They introduced Jool, the most annoying character in the entire universe. All of the most obnoxious traits of Chiana and Rygel wrapped into one and unlike Rygel, you can't punt Jool. Couple that with the fact that Jool is the only medic aboard Moya and you have a character that is not only bitchy and obnoxious, but also indispensable (and she knows it). Currently the crew has split up (half are on Moya and half are aboard Moya's son Talyn), an odd choice but then again, the whole series has an element of weird in it.

The Casualties: Zahn (though at least she died for a good cause.)

Stargate SG-1: In the third season finale of this galaxy-spanning series, the Earth is threatened by a horde of nasty techno-bugs called Replicators. They have taken over an Asgard ship (the Asgard are the Grays who incidentally inspired the Norse Pantheon, go figure) and locked in on a course for Earth. The SG-1 team blows up the ship but the Replicators survive.

The Casualties: The Stargate. It wound up on the bottom of the ocean when the crew used it to make a quick get-away from the Asgard ship.

Andromeda: You may look at this show and its star, Kevin Sorbo, and think its "Hercules in space", but no, it's actually not as bad as you might think. Yes, it's cheesy, but it is cheesy in a good way. In this series' season finale, a horde of carnivorous, feral, wingless bat creatures called the Magog attacks the casts' ship, The Andromeda Ascendant. The ship winds up wrecked in a battle with the critters.

The Casualties: Lots of Magog wind up, blasted, fried, hacked up, or otherwise killed by the crew and the Andromeda gets all messed up in the process.

Dark Angel: From the mind of James Cameron comes this show geared towards all those who enjoy some good T&A. Genetically engineered "super-woman" May (Jessica Alba), after years of running from the people who created her, joins up with a few of her fellow enhanced super-soldiers to destroy their creators once and for all. However, May gets seriously wounded and then captured by Nana Visitor (who portrays one of the people responsible for May's creation) and the attempt fails.

The Casualties: Zack, one of May's "brothers". In order to save May's life, Zack sacrifices his own so May will be able to get a new heart (her own was destroyed by a more advanced gene-engineered super-soldier).

X-Files: The series that just won't end concludes another season. Scull's baby is born...and it's human. I used to like this show back in the early goings, but after 8 seasons (with a 9th in the making), I think its about time Chris Carter gives this show a rest.

The Casualties: Krycek. The duplicitous double agent meets his end...at the end of a bullet, that is, from no other then FBI assistant director Walter Skinner. A fitting end to a guy who served so many different people you couldn't keep up with them all.

Earth: Final Conflict: After a disappointing third season, this story seems to be reaching a climax in its fourth season finale. A means has been found to allow the remains of the Taelon and Jaridian races, but it means that the two factions must rejoin together as the plan requires both of them to accomplish.

The Casualties: The key word here is Implied! As there are no confirmed kills in this case, although you do see Zo'or reduced to a puddle of goo, it's possible his energy escaped. Among the other implied deaths include; Sandoval and the

the Taelon Mothership (the ship gets hit by a nuke with Sandoval on it), Liam and the last 6 Taelons' and 6 Jaridians' (including Da'an), who are caught near the heart of an exploding volcano. Who knows this could be the series finale, we'll just have to wait and see.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer: You've heard the rumor mills, you've seen the finale, and you know the show's moving to UPN. I'm wondering how their bringing this one back from the dead. However if you haven't seen the finale, here's what you missed. The evil hell-goddess Glory (who has a male alter-ego named Ben) sets up a ritual whereby she can return to hell by sacrificing Buffy's sister Dawn (who isn't her real sister but a multi-dimensional key). So in order to save Dawn as well as prevent the end of the world (AGAIN!) Buffy and the Scoobies go to defeat Glory. Buffy succeeds in this by kicking the crap out of Glory (though Giles finishes her and Ben off). One of Glory's worshippers starts the ritual and, as the walls between dimensions come crashing down, Buffy sacrifices herself in order to prevent the world from falling into utter chaos. Thus leaving the rest of the cast to pick up the pieces!

The Causalities: BUFFY! I loved the epitaph on her tombstone though (She saved the world... a lot.) Also Glory/ Ben bought it in the finale, but we expected that.

Angel: Ok, so no one died in this shows second season finale, but after escaping from the Host's (a.k.a. Krevlorn Swath of the Deathwalk Clan !) home dimension, our friendly vampire with a soul must come to terms with his ex-girlfriend Buffy's untimely demise.

The Causalities: Angel's timeslot. The show moves to Mondays at 9pm this fall.

Xena: Warrior Princess: After six ass-kicking, god-spanking seasons, Lucy Lawless has chosen to hang up her Chakram in a finale that passes the torch of hero from the Warrior Princess to her girlfriend, The Battling Bard of Potedeia, Gabrielle. As they say , where one journey ends , another is about to begin.

The Causalities: Xena. She gets "Highlandered" by some peon samurai. In fact , a lot of people lose their heads in this finale, making it the most violent Xena episode ever. However, Xena gets to do the ol' Obi-Wan Kenobi thing with Gaby at the end (she's a ghost now) and Gabrielle keeps Xena's trademark Chakram in memory of her girlfriend (come on, you know they were lesbian lovers all along).

Star Trek: Voyager: At last, after seven seasons of retarded plots, the addition of 7 of 9's T&A, and generally annoying the hell out of me, Voyager ended its run by returning our interplanetary castaways to Earth. Still, this didn't have to be a time travel episode (I guess Temporal Investigations is going to have to nail Capt. Janeway for this offense against the Temporal Prime Directive). It was also nice to see Alice Krige back as the Borg Queen (I didn't like Susannah Thompson's portrayal much) for the finale, it seemed appropriate. With Voyager wrapped up we must look forward to the new "prequel" series Star Trek: Enterprise starring Scott Bakula as the captain of the prototype USS Enterprise.

The Causalities: Admiral Janeway (Captain Janeway's future self) and the Borg Queen (Again!). They both die when a Borg Transwarp Nexus goes BOOM! Taking out all the Borg on board as well.

Well, that's about it. The Season of Causalities killed a great number of recurring characters and even a couple of series. Hopefully, next season will prove less lethal to Sci-Fi/Fantasy characters; otherwise there won't be any series left to continue. See you next year.

"Drow"

David Rapp
Science Fiction Forum
Activities Co-ordinator
and
TV Night Commissar

Nice People

Monkey Head Games, Inc.
1244 Route 25 Selden,
New York 11784 Phone
631-451-7000

Hey, go visit. See for yourself. I don't have a blurb, but trust me, they're good.

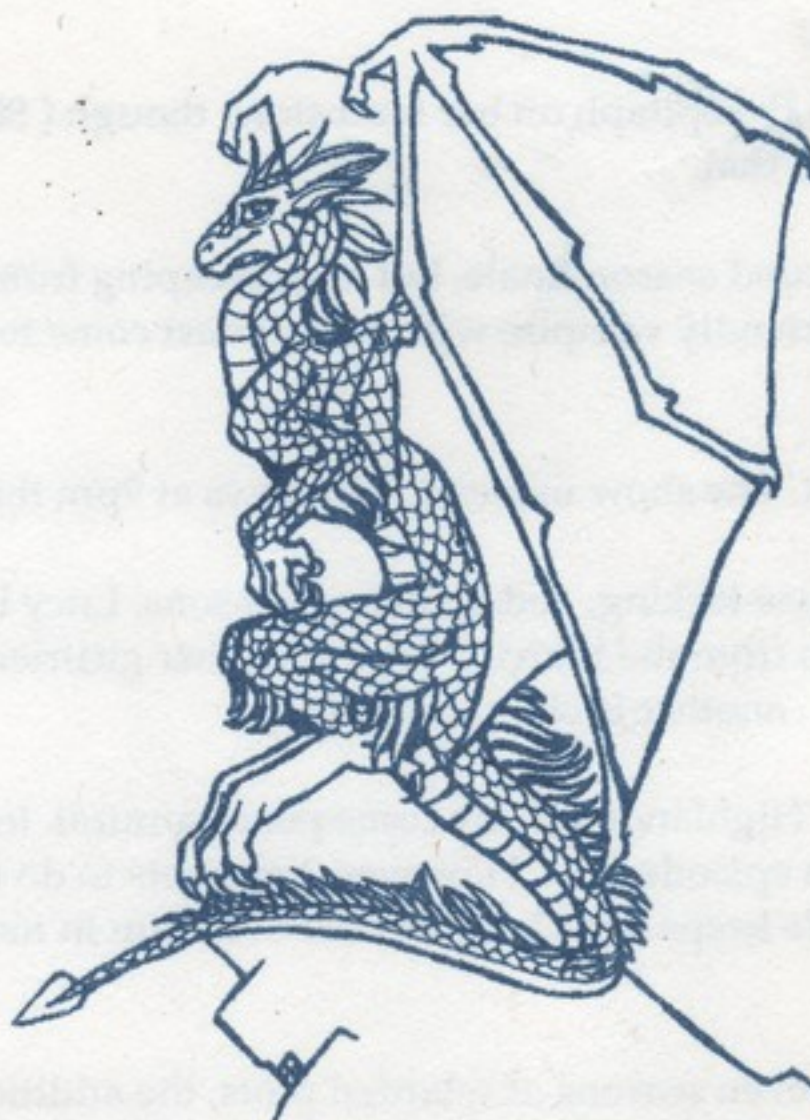
I-Con
<http://www.iconsf.org>

Organizational meetings are held every Tuesday at the SUNY Stony Brook Student Union Building, upstairs in room 231, from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM. (This occasionally changes due to scheduling conflicts. We will usually be in another room on the same floor, and the exact location will be posted on the I-CON office door.) Immediately after the meetings we can generally be found in the I-CON office, room 031, in the Union basement, next to the video arcade. Anyone interested is welcome to attend.

Animated Perspectives

Due to a loss of club space, they're running out of the I-Con office. So go talk to those guys.

Dee Dreslough
<http://www.dreslough.com>
She's a wonderful artist and let us use her work. So go visit!



**The
Science Fiction
Forum**
<http://www.sf4m.org>

Because we sent you this, free of charge!
The *least* you could do is visit!

Harriman Hall
020/029

SFForum@yahoogroups.com

D6 Gaming Club
<http://d6gamingclub.com>

Meetings are Mondays at 7 in Union rm 237, on SUNY Stony Brook campus. Mud-wrestling anyone?

Roth Pond Regatta
<http://rothregatta.org>

Hey, wouldn't you love to race across a muck encrusted pond in a fragile cardboard boat? I thought so. Go on. It's okay.

WUSB 90.1 FM
<http://www.wusb.org/>

There are a few forumites on that station, but they don't love us anymore. They haven't stopped by in a long, long time. But they're fun anyway.

Society for Creative Anachronism
<http://www.sca.org>

I needed *something* to put here! And a lot of our member play with them. Medievalist, renaissance type people. Funny clothes, big weapons.