

FanActivity Gazette

Volume 1 Number 11

April 2022

News of Fen of Interest to All Fen

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Editorial

Once a month: Now with more news of interest to all fen!

Letters of Comment

Dear Mr. Phillies:

While I'm usually able to read and respond to The Fan in a timely manner—it arrives in the mail, and so I read it almost immediately—I could be much, much better about commenting on our club's impressive array of e-zines. Here's a non-Fan letter of comment—and a step in the right direction!

The March 2022 edition of Fanactivity Gazette, #10, recently hit my email inbox. While I'm still getting a grip on the focus and purpose of the zine, I think the timely nature of its content is starting to gel quite nicely. Upcoming television programs and movies, a convention calendar, upcoming birthdays in fandom, and the new calendar—the Gazette is becoming a really useful tool to plan one's fan activities in the months to come!

In his letter of comment, Lloyd Penney mentions that the Canada edition of TV Guide has gone out of business. Before reading Cathode Ray's column regularly, I had no idea that there were so many magazines dedicated to TV in the United States. TV Guide I knew about—we get it ourselves (I have a friend who worked as an editor there)—but the others were largely new to me. I've especially enjoyed his recent inclusion of the British magazines Infinity, The Dark Side, SFX, and Total Film. The first two particularly focus on older cult programs, which broadens the aperture of viewing options nicely.

Kevin Trainor's con report on Confinement 3 was a welcome addition to the clubzine, offering a nice look back at one of the conventions that might have been included in a previous installment of the con calendar. Despite the driving difficulties, it sounds like the con attracted an interesting mix of professionals and fans. I know Baen publishes a good amount of military sf, but does the publishing company have some sort of connection to the veterans community or military otherwise? I would have welcomed more commentary on the programming track and Baen Roadshow. Kevin also floated the idea of a small con next year—a proposal he also made in the MeWe N3F group online. I think he should bring it up as an idea to the Directorate and see if the club would be interested in a gathering next year!

Justin E.A. Busch's column of fanzine reviews, "Fanfaronade," continues to impress, covering titles

distributed through the N3F franking service as well as others. It strikes me that Nic Farey, editor of *This Here...* and administrator of the FAAn Awards, is based in Las Vegas. That might introduce some programming ideas for Kevin's nascent con idea! Justin's review of John Thiel's Pablo Lennis prompted me to send him some of my recent apazines. And I didn't even know about Justin's *Far Journeys!* I'll have to send him—and John Purcell—some exchange copies, too.

I continue to enjoy Cathode Ray's TV column. There's certainly plenty available for fen to watch these days! His relatively new movie column, "Celluloid Sentience," is a worthy corollary. Of the films and DVDs listed in this installment, I've recently seen *The Batman* and *Nightmare Alley*—I even read the original novel immediately after that viewing. If any Neffers would like to see the writeup I included in my apazine *Telegraphs & Tar Pits #7* for LASFS's APA-L, let me know and I'll send that issue your way.

Mindy Hunt's convention calendar reminded me of the upcoming WonderCon in Pasadena. I just bought a supporting membership for Westercon 74 this summer in Nevada. I'll have to consider whether I'll be able to participate in WonderCon! And Bob Jennings new "SF Calendar" offering, pairing notable moments from history and a calendar-grid retooling perfect for printing and display in one's home is a fun new addition. I thoroughly enjoyed his commentary on *Amazing Stories*. Perhaps the calendar could be printed in landscape so it fills up more of the page!

Time to get out my daily planner and family whiteboard calendar for the month ahead. Between the content of this issue and standing meetings of BASFA and LASFS, there's a lot hopping.

Sincerely,
Heath Row

Letter Continued

More from Heath Row's letter in the last issue of *The National Fantasy Fan*

To return to the comments from Mr. Swycaffer, as erstwhile chair of the Directorate, I, personally, am glad we have "virtually nothing to do." I recently read a couple of Marion Zimmer Bradley-related books that highlight some of the problems that can arise in fandom. First of all, I read *The Last Closet: The Dark Side of Avalon*, a memoir by Moira Greyland, Bradley's daughter. I picked it up when I first learned about the Bradley/Breen scandal (I was slow to the jump!), but I hadn't read much of it. It mostly focused on the abuse Greyland experienced from Bradley and Breen, and Bradley's covering up of Breen's sexual activities and preferences over the years. About half the book was made up of depositions taken as part of related court cases. If you don't know much about the Breendoggle that happened in the Bay Area in the early '60s, or Greyland's subsequent going public, it's a pretty shocking read.

Inspired by Greyland's book, I also recently read *Dark Satanic*, a 1972 occult novel by Bradley that was named by her executor and former lover in one of the depositions reproduced in *The Last Closet*. (Bradley also dabbled in various religious movements and cultish activities, as well.) *Dark Satanic* was a decent book and would make a wonderful movie along the lines of *The Exorcist* or *Rosemary's Baby*, but Bradley has fallen out of favor in the sf community since Greyland went public. (I need to look into whether the *Mists of Avalon* TV miniseries happened before or after—I think before based on cursory research—the scandal came to light.) The edition of *Dark Satanic* that I read was a print-on-demand volume issued by Bradley's literary estate. Rather plain design and typesetting; I'd recommend reading one of the original paperback versions if you can find one—it'd be a more interesting reading experience.

In any event, we've had no such scandal or fall from grace to deal with in the N3F in recent memory—perhaps ever—and that's a good thing. Many hands make light work, and light work makes for a happier Directorate.

In other news, I participated in an online meeting of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society this week—my second since joining formally as a member during the pandemic. It's a fun bunch, Larry Niven was there, and I look forward to participating more actively as a member. They even hold an after-meeting social gathering online to replicate retiring to a nearby restaurant after the group meets face to face. I first visited the

clubhouse—when they still had a physical meeting space—in 2009, helped collate the apas, and participated as an apahack. So I recently rejoined APA-L submitting a new issue of my long-defunct apazine Telegraphs & Tarpits, as well as LASFAPA with my decrepit apazine (previously distributed via Slanapa) Faculae & Fili-gree. Who knows... perhaps I'll revitalize the moribund Snow Poster City apazine for N'APA! I think it's been about a dozen years since I last graced those pages, too.

In rekindling my inactive apazines, I found that I'd submitted a short story to *Weird Tales* in 2010. It was rejected but still shows some sign of life, so I've submitted it to Judy Carroll and the Writers Exchange. I figure that with some advice and feedback, I might be able to whip it into shape to submit to this year's Short Story Contest.

Sincerely,
Heath Row

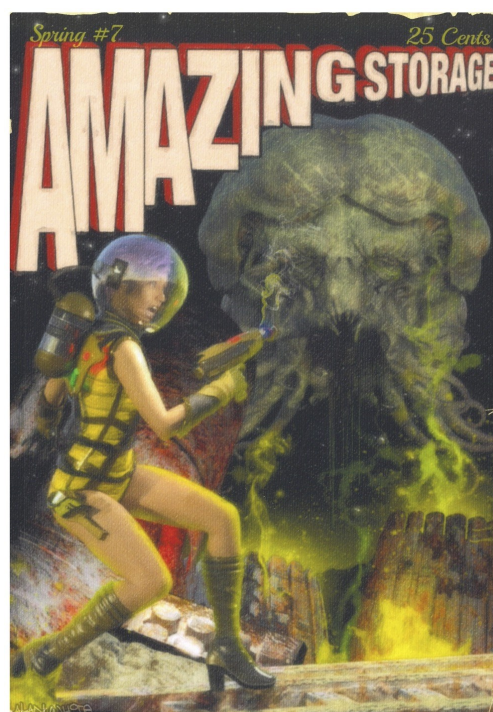
Fanfaronade: Celebrating Current Fanzines #21

Just two zines this column, but each is a 2022 FAAn laureate: *Portable Storage* as Best Genzine; *This Here...* as Best Perzine. Both visually and as regards content, the two have little in common, yet it takes only a brief reading to discover what links them indissolubly: each is, in its own way, passionate about fandom and its manifold interests.

Portable Storage 7: The Great Sercon Issue Part Two (Spring, 2022; William Breiding; the print edition is available “for the usual: letters of comment, trade, contributions and visuals, or endowments of cash;” contact the editor at 3507 Santa Rita Ave.#1, Tucson, Arizona 85719, or at portablezine@gmail.com. The digital edition will be available on efanzines.com and Amazon.com).

The print edition of William Breiding's sumptuous fanzine is, as I often comment, the one you really want to obtain. This has never been more true than with the current issue; it is difficult to imagine anyone enjoying scrolling through its 228 pages on a screen. This is a fanzine meant for reading slowly and carefully, with occasional pauses, finger inserted between two pages, to contemplate the description, the argument, or the poetic imagery of one of its thirty-three poems and articles, or the dozens of letters and excerpts occupying the thirty-one page lettercol.

Another thrilling Alan White pulp-inspired cover heralds the issue (although it must be noted that William hasn't quite topped *Amazing Stories* as regards page count; in the early 1940s some monthly issues boasted 276 pages). White has a gift for creating images which are rooted simultaneously in the storied past of prozine covers and in modern sensibilities. Although the woman—high heels, scanty space suit and all—has many predecessors in the 1940s, she is no shrinking violet; White's image, with its ray-blasted monstrosity, could quite easily be seen as a riposte



to Robert Gibson Jones's cover for the October, 1947 cover of *Amazing Stories*.

The ensuing articles are too many to explore here; a sampling will have to suffice.

The always reliable Cheryl Cline provides a survey of a variety of titles subsumed under the catch-all term "Space Westerns." She thought the article would be easy to write, only to discover, on beginning her research, "a hefty portion of SF Westerns," some of them quite bizarre (it wouldn't be a Cline essay without some samples of the bizarre). Take *River of Teeth*, for example: "it's about feral hippos in 19th century America." And that's just the beginning; Cline samples dozens of space westerns (using the term broadly), ranging from Edward S. Ellis's proto-robotic *The Steam Man of the Prairies* (1868) to splatterpunk Wile E. Young's *The Magpie Coffin* (2020), in which the protagonist "has a Gun that whispers to him." Gore ensues. Nor is this all; Cline was compelled to trim her article, meaning that unused notes are pointing toward two sequels, one on noir westerns and the other on "how perceptions of westerns changed from one period of "revision" to the next." I look forward to them.

Andy Hooper's "Original Staples: A Column About Fanzines," takes up fan fiction; Hooper, like Cline, quickly discovered that his blithe promise to William included considerably more territory than expected, having not included "the exhaustive and existential queries concealed in my suggestion." In order to limit the territory, Hooper chose a "more eccentric" definition of fan fiction: "fiction by fans that is also *about* fans." Conveniently, two substantial collections of fan fiction have recently appeared: *Fan Fiction 1930-2020: An Exploration*, edited by Rob Hansen (digital only, at TAFF.org.uk) and *Daangerous Visions: A Faanfiction Faanthology 1939-2009*, edited by Sandra Bond, Rob Jackson, and Pat Virzi (winner of the FAAn Award for Best Special Publication; available PoD from Amazon). The opening segment of Hooper's column reviews these two anthologies, after which he spins off into a personal survey of a wide range of fan fiction and reactions thereto, including rich brown's (and Rob Hansen's) argument that "fan fiction is a form in a long-term and likely permanent state of decline" a decline against which Hooper has fought for many years. He ends with an extensive consideration of many different types of fan fiction, touching on examples such as Sharyn McCrumb's *Bimbos of the Death Sun*, "the much better" *Now You See It/Him/Them* (Buck Coulson/Gene DeWeese), and David Emerson's *Crudnet*, "one of the first pieces of fan fiction that really stuck in my mind," although oddly enough he doesn't note the rather critical stance toward fan fiction embedded within the parody:

Jack: A while back, you said that offset wouldn't save genuine crud. Can you give us an idea of what you mean by "genuine Crud"?"

Tirebiter: Well, hell, Jack, there's so much of it around, I'm surprised you even have to ask. ((Audience laughter)). But— let's see— well, amateur fiction would be one thing; most of that's pretty putrid.""

The discussion, one presumes, will continue in *Portable Storage*'s lettercol.

A considerable portion of the articles are examinations of the work of single authors: Mark Plummer on Max Handley's little known 1971 novel *Sheep* (how little known? Not only is it out of print and hard to find used, there are fewer than twenty copies held by libraries worldwide, just five of them in the United States and only one in Australia); Darrell Schweitzer on Robert Graves's *Seven Days in New Crete* (aka *Watch the North Wind Rise*), a strange and sometimes moving utopian fantasy which is also an anti-utopia (unlike most of the latter, which are usually dystopias); Bruce Gillespie on Avram Davidson's short stories, neglected by most fans (and, for that matter, professionals), for which Schweitzer makes a strong case. "Did Davidson ever write an uninteresting sentence?" he asks, answering bluntly, "I doubt it. He was always brilliant, funny, and perceptive; in short, a great American writer whose stories are still to be discovered;" and F. Brett Cox making a similar, if less sweeping, argument regarding the stories of Sonya Dorman. "Why she wasn't more honored in her time, and has not as yet received major posthumous attention, is a question to which I have no answer."

However lengthy *Portable Storage 7* may be, you will likely finish reading it with considerably more reading to do.

This Here... 51 (Edited by Nic Farey; efanazines .com; “Locs & that to: 2657 Rungsted Street, Las Vegas NV 89142, or Email fareynic@gmail.com”).

Fannish controversy is rarely far from the pages of *This Here...*, but this issue features not one, but two, crackling controversies.

The first has to do with the very definition of a fanzine [full disclosure: inspired by Nic’s comments, I take up the same question in my editorial in the current issue of *Far Journeys*]. The immediate trigger for the question is the popular podcast *Octothorpe*, hosted by Alison Scott. The operational definition of a fanzine used for FAAn Award purposes comes from Bill Burns (of efanazines): “A “fanzine”, for our purposes, is defined as an immutable artifact, once published not subject to revision or modification. The fanzine might not exist in a physical form. A pdf, for example, is an artifact.” Alison Scott argues “that an mp3 is also an “immutable artifact” and thus qualifying, “ but Nic is having none of this: “my more key word in the given definition is not “artifact”, but “published”, which strongly if not wholly describes a written (or indeed artistically drawn) work.” Podcasts, Nic says, are designedly different from fanzines, and the suggestion that *Octothorpe* is a fanzine began as something of a joke, a joke which has gotten out of hand. “The idea that *Octo* is a fanzine (presumably as well as being a podcast, and for all I know a cookbook, an adjunct of the Marvel Cinematic Universe or indeed a duck-billed platypus) just started out as a bit of a larf, and in my view from there went into being a not atypical fannish wind-up.” As too often happens with fannish disagreements this has become rather personal, with Nic being accused of acting “less than honorably in the matter, a suggestion (not, I should make clear, from anyone directly involved with the podcast) that got my hackles up as far as somewhere in the Oort cloud.”

And so it is that he has invited comments: “I welcome discussion on the primary topic of “is *Octothorpe* a fanzine”(or indeed ancillary subjects including but not limited to duck-billed platypi) in these pages.” The topic will prove rather more difficult to settle than many may think, but it promises an exceptionally lively lettercol in the next issue....

The second controversy is a clash between Nic and Mike Glycer, of *File 770*. It began with comment by Sandra Bond (winner, recall, of the FAAn Award for Best Special Publication) that, “Quite frankly, I’d almost rather have that than a Hugo. The Hugos are voted on by any old hobbledoys who happen to have a Worldcon membership, and are notorious for campaigning and log-rolling. The FAAns are voted on by my peers, whom I (mostly) respect.” For some reason Mike Glycer took offense at this, issuing a blast against Sandra: ““Shitting on the Hugo is just a sad plea for attention.” Sandra responded calmly, but Nic (and others) took offense at Mike’s comment; details are provided in the second part of the FaanWank column. As you might guess, the ensuing arguments occupied much space at *File 770*, generating rather more heat than light (neither of the central combatants gained much glory from the exchanges, although there were calmer and thoughtful interventions from a number of other reliable fan editors), but there is a key question here, related to the first controversy above: ought anything which calls itself a fanzine be treated as one for awards purposes (Hugo, FAAn, Neffy, or whatever)? The last word for now, it turns out, came in the form of an amusing verse by Sandra Bond: “What is the matter with Michael Glycer?/He’s burning up with a furious fire,” and so on.

Expect more letters....

The usual columns provide some relief from the turmoil, as does much of the lettercol, with its accompanying illustrative oddities from Brad W. Foster (a “Sumo M&M” indeed!). The best news in the issue is that Jen Farey, herself a fine writer (recall my enthusiasm for her delightful essay on the persistent freezer in the last issue of TH...), has decided to create her own perzine (to be entitled (what else?) *JenZine*. I look forward to seeing it.

However one responds to some of the many quibbles, quarrels, and brawls in the columns and letters (fannishness might at times be more dangerous than footy), few will deny that *This Here...* is one of the liveliest and most engaging of fanzines. I find it hard to imagine anyone reading this column who does not also read *This Here...*, but if you, perchance, are such a person, you ought to rectify the omission soon.

Television

Rabid Ears: Ravings of a TV Fiend

By Cathode Ray

Turn on and tune in, you vicious Easter bunnies, for this month's edition of "Rabid Ears: Ravings of a TV Fiend." Like a foretold newborn rising from a nest made of dirty laundry and Spritz Crinkle Easter Grass, this is an occasional column about the newest and most notable science fiction, fantasy, horror, and other genre television programming options. Let's see what's what—now, and next—on the old boob tube, shall we? Unlike the Bruce Springsteen song "52 Channels (And Nothin' On)," which correspondent Will Mayo recently brought to my attention, there is absolutely plenty to tune in to.

Speaking of correspondents, in the April 2022 issue of Channel Guide, a reader named Evelyn—if that even be her real name—writes in to ask for more information about the stars of OUTLANDER. Are the actors who play Claire and Jamie Fraser on the show dating in real life? They are not. (Also in that issue, SHINING VALE's Greg Kinnear shares a celebrity ghost story he experienced with Luke Wilson.)

The March 28 to April 10, 2022 issue of TV Guide included a "25 Top Shows" list in the TV Insider section. GHOSTS remains on the list, most recently at No. 12, with 5.5 million viewers watching live the week of February 28 to March 6, 2022. The "Smart Watch" sidebar anchoring that page recommended OUR FLAG MEANS DEATH, a comedic pirate program starring Taika Waititi as Blackbeard. (That show also made Entertainment Weekly's most recent Must List.)

TV Weekly interviewed GHOSTS's Rebecca Wisocky in its April 3-9, 2022, issue. The brief Q&A explored the actor's ghostly experiences working at the Merchant's House Museum in New York, her favorite TV shows ("I was a big MUPPET SHOW kid."), and women from throughout history that she respects and admires—were she to host a dinner party seance.

Channel Guide's "The Top 25" tipped hat to THE MAN WHO FELL TO EARTH, which premieres April 24 on Showtime; and ROAR, a new Apple TV+ anthology series based on a book of short stories by Cecelia Ahern that sometimes veers toward magical realism and "futuristic worlds." The eight-episode series will become available April 15.

That magazine also reported that Disney+ added the live-action Marvel series DAREDEVIL, THE DEFENDERS, IRON FIST, JESSICA JONES, LUKE CAGE, and THE PUNISHER in mid-March. Originally produced for Netflix between 2015 and 2019, the shows—along with 2013-2020 series MARVEL'S AGENTS OF S.H.I.E.L.D.—are now available on the streaming service's dedicated Marvel brand page. Disney+ also added new parental controls because of the programs' adult themes.

Recent weeks saw some noteworthy premieres, finales, and cancellations. MOON KNIGHT premiered March 30 on Disney+. SNOWPIERCER's finale hit the small screen (relatively speaking, given the size of today's television sets) March 28 on TNT. That finale also earned a mention in What's Worth Watching: "Season 3 ends as the train's old adversaries clash, threatening the idea of a future salvation in a warming New Eden." And Paramount+'s STAR TREK: PICARD will end after its third and final season. Notable renewals include CREEPSHOW (Season 4 on Shudder), GHOST BROTHERS: LIGHTS OUT (Season 2 on Apple TV+), HALO (Season 2 on Paramount+), and PEACEMAKER (Season 2 on Disney+).

The fifth and final season of THE LAST KINGDOM is now streaming on Netflix. Focusing on the adventures of a 9th-century Saxon raised by Viking Danes, the show reportedly rivals GAME OF THRONES in its characters, production values, and storytelling. It doesn't seem to be a fantasy, but Neffers might still find the program interesting. The seventh season of DC'S LEGENDS OF TOMORROW is also now available on Netflix. HBO Max added the four-episode limited series DMZ, based on the DC graphic novel.

HALO is now available on Paramount+: "Set in the 26th century against the backdrop of a human-alien war, the sage follows Master Chief, who never questions ... military orders..." As mentioned above, MOON KNIGHT premiered on Disney+ on March 30. "[A] museum gift shop employee ... with dissociative identity disorder gains the powers of an Egyptian god." And on March 31, a live-action sequel to THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS, THE FAIRLY ODDPARENTS: FAIRLY ODDER, launched its first season on Paramount+. The

cartoon originally aired as a series of shorts on Nickelodeon from 1998-2001 before becoming a half-hour animated show that ran for 10 seasons from 2001-2006 and 2008-2017. The godparents will remain animated in the new live-action program.

In recent days, you might have missed some quality television. SNOWPIERCER's season finale earned a cover line on the March 27 to April 2 issue of TV Weekly. The magazine's Best Bets blurb for March 28 says, "Season 3 has devoted a good deal of story time to New Eden, a vision of a warming and renewed Earth that has repeatedly haunted ... the leader of the rebels on the titular super-train." LOST GOLD OF THE AZTECS premiered on History on March 29. In the new series, which also earned a cover line and Best Bets callout the March 27 TV Weekly, three groups of explorers follow clues to locate Aztec gold rumored to have been left in the Southwest while fleeing Spanish conquistadors 500 years ago. Reportedly, the gold was cursed by Montezuma.

Editors recommended THE FLASH's March 30 episode on The CW, especially because of a "certain verdant DC Comics character." GHOSTS was called out for its March 31 episode. And on April 3, FETV aired a seven-hour marathon of the 1972-1977 drama EMERGENCY! to recognize the show's addition to its lineup. FETV will feature two hours of EMERGENCY! nightly beginning April 4. COLLECTOR'S CALL: "LOST IN SPACE" also aired April 3 on MeTV featuring LOST IN SPACE fans and collectors.

Pencil these in your calendar, fen and fellow freaks: Season 2 of the original Hulu series THE HARDY BOYS becomes available April 6. That program earned the cover image—as well as a full-page feature and item in Rick Gables's "Did You Know?" column—in the April 3-9, 2022, issue of TV Weekly. LEGACIES, a spin-off of THE VAMPIRE DIARIES and THE ORIGINALS, received a Best Bets blurb for its April 7 episode. The season premiere of PORTALS TO HELL, featuring paranormal investigators, airs on the Travel Channel on April 9. Stage magic program MASTERS OF ILLUSION returns to The CW on April 9. The last midseason finale of THE WALKING DEAD airs on AMC on April 10. "Is anyone safe...?" Season 2 of ULTRAMAN arrives on Netflix on April 14. Two Season 1 episodes of OUTER RANGE, a supernatural western, debuts on Prime Video on April 15. And a season finale for THE GHOST TOWN TERROR airs on Travel on April 15.

Further ahead in the month, GHOST HUNTERS reboots on Travel on April 16. MeTV offers COLLECTOR'S CALL: "WONDER WOMAN" on April 17. SHINING VALE'S season finale hits Starz on April 17. And THE MAN WHO FELL TO EARTH premieres on Showtime on April 24.

Two genre programs earned a Cheers in the "Cheers & Jeers" column ending the most recent issue of TV Guide. RESIDENT ALIEN received a Cheer for "delivering the anti-Baby Yoda," a "humalien" newborn that is definitely not as gentle as Grogu. And UPLOAD was Cheered because of the strength of the cast of the Prime Video comedy, which focuses on a "newly deceased tech bro living it up in a digital afterlife resort."

The April 2022 issue of Entertainment Weekly—the magazine's last print issue—featured OBI-WAN KENOBI on the cover. The edition opened with a piece by Devan Coggan titled "Is the Magic Gone?," which considered what the HARRY POTTER franchise needs to overcome a "sputtering spin-off and a now-controversial author." A grid compared three moon-themed films and programs: MOONSHOT, MOON KNIGHT, and MOONFALL. A 10-page feature was dedicated to OBI-WAN KENOBI, which will premiere next month. That issue's Must List also mentioned the BIG MOUTH animated spin-off HUMAN RESOURCES on Netflix, and What to Watch gave a nod to Apple TV+'s ROAR and SHINING GIRLS.

The April 2022 issue of Remind magazine included a full-page comic strip riffing on THE A-TEAM, AUTOMAN, MANIMAL, and STREETHAWK. The Time Capsule "Back in 1986" noted the premiere of ALF (Sept. 22, aired on NBC from 1986-1990) and the finale of KNIGHT RIDER (April 4, aired on NBC from 1982-1986). Among April birthdays: Jessica Lange (KING KONG, April 20) and Lee Majors (THE SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN, April 23). There are also pieces on ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN, THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, and MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE.

In the June 2022 edition of Otaku USA, there are reviews of the anime BLADE RUNNER: BLACK LOTUS (Crunchyroll), FUTURE BOY CONAN (GKIDS), THE HEIKE STORY (Funimation), POKEMON JOURNEYS (Viz), PROJECT A-KO: PERFECT EDITION (Discotek), and TSUKIPRO: THE ANIMATION (Crunchyroll). Feature articles focused on DIGIMON GHOST GAME, IRODUKU: THE WORLD IN COLORS, JOJO'S BIZARRE ADVENTURE: STONE OCEAN, NEEDLESS, and PLATINUM END. And the al-

ways excellent Tokyoscope review section featured ALONG WITH GHOSTS, GAMERA VS. GUIRON, and GAMERA VS. JIGER.

Additionally, the March-May 2022 issue of Filmfax (#161) included a feature story by Ron Miller titled “Femaliens on Film!: Female Aliens in Science Fiction Cinema & Beyond,” as well as an interview with Rebecca Holden, who starred in KNIGHT RIDER and POLICE SQUAD! Photographs included in that edition’s “Just for Fun!” piece highlighted Gerry Anderson’s THUNDERBIRDS and Linda Carter from WONDER WOMAN.

From across the Big Pond, several recent British magazines included articles of potential interest to Nefers. Infinity #46 featured an item on the musical production Gerry Anderson in Concert, which showcased music from CAPTAIN SCARLET, SPACE: 1999, SPACE PRECINCT, TERRAHAWKS, THUNDERBIRDS, UFO, and other programs. A feature story focused on the 1966-1967 TV series IT’S ABOUT TIME, which was about two astronauts trapped in the stone age. The magazine also included an article on the modeling done for the BBC’s original QUATERMASS serials and reviews of DVDs and Blu-rays for BRITANNIA: SEASONS 1-3, HAWKEYE: SEASON ONE, STAR TREK: DISCOVERY—SEASON THREE, STAR TREK: LOWER DECKS—SEASON ONE, and SUPERMAN: THE COMPLETE ANIMATED SERIES.

SFX #351 (April 2022) included short items on a Gerry Anderson documentary and the program UPLOAD. The cover story focused on HALO, offering a 10-page piece on the show. There were also feature stories on DOCTOR WHO’s “Legend of the Sea Devils,” media tie-in novels, MOON KNIGHT, and the 1990s series SEAQUEST DSV. The Close Encounters interview engaged PEACEMAKER’s Jennifer Holland in conversation. Reviews addressed THE BOOK OF BOBA FETT, THE BOYS PRESENTS: DIABOLICAL, THE GUARDIANS OF JUSTICE, THE LEGEND OF VOX MACHINA SEASON ONE, SILVERPOINT, TRANSFORMERS: BOTBOTS, UPLOAD, and the audio dramas DOCTOR WHO: MIND OF THE HODIAC, STAR TREK: PICARD—NO MAN’S LAND, and TRIFFIDS! The issue ended with a page-long feature on the Sontarans from DOCTOR WHO.

And Total Film #323 (April 2022) touched on the art of the teaser, as well as the eight-part time-travel thriller THE LAZARUS PROJECT, THE MAN WHO FELL TO EARTH, THE MIDWICH CUCKOOS, and SHINING GIRLS. The issue also featured articles on the 2003-2009 BATTLESTAR GALACTICA and BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA.

The March 28 TV Guide crossword, Puzzle #1437, tickled the brain stem: 1 Across is “BATTLESTAR GALACTICA commander.” 12 Across is “STAR TREK: VOYAGER’S _____ of Nine.” 40 Across is “Laurie of THE WALKING DEAD.” 42 Across is “Name of the hand on THE ADDAMS FAMILY.” 46 Across is “Marianne of THE INCREDIBLE HULK.” 22 Down is “Shrek, for one.” 24 Down is “WANDAVISION witch.” 30 Down is “Actor Hayes of Q-FORCE.” 32 Down is “_____ CARTER.” And 44 Down is “Barry’s wife on THE FLASH.”

TV Guide Magazine Puzzler Vol. 2, No. 8, focused on “’70s TV Comedies.” The issue didn’t include much of what’s generally on our collective radar, but two pages were devoted to MORK & MINDY, the 1978-1982 ABC sf comedy that spun off of HAPPY DAYS. “Inspired by the 1960s hit MY FAVORITE MARTIAN, the series was said to be an attempt to capitalize on the newfound popularity of STAR WARS.”

To end this installment of the column, I’d like to share a couple capsule reviews sent in by Neffer Will Mayo:

“THE INVISIBLE MAN: This short-lived TV show from the 1970s featured an agent of the U.S. government who slipped in and out of his clothes—and in and out of visibility—to take part in all kinds of adventures to secure peace around the world. Perhaps the best remembered line from the show: ‘My dear, you could stand stark naked in front of the Washington Monument, and no one could see a thing!’ It’s true. No one ever did. The man was completely invisible. Worth a sight if you can hunt it down on one of the video channels. (Ray sez: The full series is available on DVD and Blu-ray from Visual Entertainment Inc.)

“The Tasmanian Devil: This was one of the curious creatures featured in Saturday morning cartoons on our suburban television set that most fascinated me as a young boy. Named after the animal of the same name, the animated creature brought a gleam to my weekend eyes—and occupied my weekday dreams, as well. He frightened me to the core. Regardless, I could not keep my eyes off of him as he spun around in a blur and caused trouble wherever he went. The Tasmanian Devil was an object of fear for years until I grew up and re-

alized that there was more to be concerned about in real life. While I left cartoons behind for other creature features, I still keep an eye out for devils.”

What are other Neffers checking out on the old boob tube? Write in, care of this clubzine, and share your recent favorites.

Until next time, you lop-eared lycanthropes, this is “Cathode Ray,” your guide to the best of what’s hidden in the grids. Turn on, tune in, and blast off!

Motion Pictures Celluloid Sentience By Cathode Ray

Celluloid Sentience

By Cathode Ray

This column, “Celluloid Sentience,” is a spinoff of the TV-themed column “Rabid Eyes.” It is a periodic listing focusing on upcoming movie and DVD releases of potential interest to fans of science fiction, fantasy, and horror. Release dates occasionally change, and we will do our best to update them in this listing. (Movies labeled with an * are particularly recommended.) Please check your local listings before you go to the movie theater. And tell ’em Ray sent you! (That’s got to be good for a free Cherry Coke, at least!)

If you become aware of any movie or DVD release dates, send them in care of this clubzine, and we’ll do our best to verify and include your submissions. And if you see any of these fantastic flicks, consider writing a review to share with other Neffers.

Movie Release Dates

The Bad Guys (Animated/Fantasy, theatrical, April 22)
A Broken Bond Mended by Means of Murder (Horror, streaming, April 15)
Bubble (Animated/Fantasy, streaming, April 28)
The Cellar (Horror, theatrical, April 15)
Charlotte (Animated, theatrical, April 22)
* Everything Everywhere All At Once (Science Fiction, theatrical, April 8)
* Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore (Fantasy, theatrical, April 15)
* Green Ghost and the Masters of the Stone (Fantasy, theatrical, April 29)
Hatching (Horror, theatrical, April 29)
Hunting Ava Bravo (Horror, streaming, April 1)
Hunting Souls (Horror, streaming, April 5)
The Ice Demon (Horror, streaming, April 5)
Irregular (Science Fiction/Horror, streaming, April 15)
John Wynn's One Hour (Science Fiction, theatrical, April 22)
* Morbius (Horror, theatrical, April 1)
My Sweet Monster (Animated/Fantasy, streaming, April 12)
Painted In Blood (Horror, streaming, April 5)
Petite Maman (Fantasy, theatrical, April 22)
* Pompo the Cinephile (Animated, theatrical, April 29)
Prototype (Science Fiction, streaming, April 5)
Reign of Chaos (Science Fiction, streaming, April 12)
Sonic the Hedgehog 2 (Animated/Fantasy, theatrical, April 8)
Split Ends (Horror, theatrical, April 21)

Tell Me What You See (Science Fiction/Horror, streaming, April 15)
* Vicious Fun (Horror, streaming, April 5)
We're All Going to the World's Fair (Horror, theatrical, April 15)
You Won't Be Alone (Horror, theatrical, April 1)

DVD Release Dates

Chucky: Season One (Horror/TV, DVD and Blu-ray, April 12)
The Exorcism of God (Horror, DVD and Blu-ray, April 19)
* Edgar G. Ulmer Sci-Fi Collection (Science Fiction, Blu-ray, March 29)
Expired (Science Fiction, DVD and Blu-ray, April 26)
The Handmaid's Tale: Season Four (Science Fiction/TV, DVD, April 5)
The Humans (Horror, DVD and Blu-ray, April 19)
The Ice Demon (Horror, DVD and Blu-ray, April 5)
The King's Daughter (Fantasy, DVD and Blu-ray, April 19)
Last Survivors (Science Fiction, DVD and Blu-ray, April 26)
* Moonfall (Science Fiction; DVD, Blu-ray, and 4K; April 26)
Scream (Horror, DVD and Blu-ray, April 5)
* Spider-Man: No Way Home (Science Fiction/Fantasy; DVD, Blu-ray, and 4K; April 12)
* Superintelligence (Science Fiction, DVD and Blu-ray, April 26)
V/H/S/94 (Horror, DVD and Blu-ray, April 19)
* Vicious Fun (Horror, DVD and Blu-ray, April 5)
WarHunt (Horror, DVD and Blu-ray, April 12)
* The Wonderful World of the Brothers Grimm (Fantasy, Blu-ray, March 29)

Until next time, double feature creatures, this is "Cathode Ray," your guide to the best of what's crawling in the aisles and on the big screen. Ticket, please!

Conventions for May Mindy Hunt

Each month we will provide a list of conventions from around the world.

This list is constantly being updated throughout the month. You can find our full events list as well as a calendar at <http://scifi4me.com/conventions-events/>.

During the week, we provide regular updates on our TV channel <http://scifi4me.tv/> with any schedule changes or cancellations.

These updates also include any COVID-19 requirements the events are requesting. These requirements are also listed on our calendar for each event.

We are always looking to keep the list and calendar as current as possible.

If you know of a local event, big or little, send us and email at events@scifi4me.com so we can add it and make it the most comprehensive conventions list on the internet.

Apr 28-May 2

VIRTUAL

[Glasgow International Fantasy Con](#) – Glasgow, United Kingdom Apr 27-29

ON-SITE

[Chicago Steampunk Exposition](#) – Schaumburg, IL Apr 28-May 1

[Furry Weekend Holland](#) – Sleen, Netherlands Apr 29-May 2

[Texas Nightmare Weekend](#) – Dallas, TX Apr 29-May 1

[Avalon Expo](#) – St John's, Newfoundland, Canada Apr 29-May 1

[Causeacon](#) – Beckley, WV Apr 29-May 1

[Fan Expo](#) – Cleveland, OH Apr 29-May 1

[Great Plains Game Festival](#) – Lincoln, NE Apr 29-May 1

[ICCC](#) – Nashville, TN Apr 29-May 1

[Kameha Con](#) – Dallas, TX Apr 29-May 1

[Midwest Gaming Classic](#) – Milwaukee, WI Apr 29-May 1

[RavenCon](#) – Richmond, VA Apr 29-May 1

[Artic Comic Con](#) – Anchorage, AK Apr 30-May 1

[BrickUniverse Maine](#) – Portland, ME Apr 30-May 1

[Four State Comic-Con](#) – Hagerstown, MD Apr 30-May 1

[New Orleans Comic Con](#) – Kenner, LA Apr 30-May 1

[Oddities & Curiosities Expo](#) – Columbus, OH Apr 30

[Oshawa Comicon](#) – Oshawa, Ontario, Canada Apr 30

[Wirral Comic Con](#) – Brighton, United Kingdom May 1-2

[Capital Trade Shows](#) – Ottawa, Ontario, Canada May 1

[Fangaea](#) – San Diego, CA May 1

May 5-8

VIRTUAL

ON-SITE

[Alchemie de Jeu](#) – Toulouse, France May 6-8

[AniMinneapolis](#) – Minneapolis, MN May 6-8

[Comic Con Costa Rica](#) – San Jose, Costa Rica May 6-8

[Expectocon](#) – Madison, WI May 6-8

[BrickUniverse Dayton](#) – Dayton, OH May 7-8

[Portsmouth Comic Con](#) – Portsmouth, United Kingdom May 7-8

[Surrey Steampunk Convivials](#) – New Malden, United Kingdom May 7-8

[Concord Micro-Con](#) – Concord, NC May 7

[Covcon](#) – Coventry, United Kingdom May 7

[Mini-Mini Con](#) – San Antonio, TX May 7

[Wayne NJ Toy Show](#) – Wayne, NJ May 7

[London Comic Mart](#) – London, United Kingdom May 8

May 12-15

VIRTUAL

ON-SITE

[Geekway to the West](#) – St Louis, MO **May 12-15**

[AtomaCon](#) – North Charleston, SC **May 13-15**

[Fan Expo St Louis](#) – St Louis, MO **May 13-15**

[Motor City Comic Con](#) – Novi, MI **May 13-15**

[Halfway to Halloween Con](#) – East Moline, IL **May 14-15**

[Conklin Con](#) – Binghamton, NY **May 14-15**

[Cradle-Con](#) – Garden City, NY **May 14-15**

[Tidewater Comicon](#) – Virginia Beach, VA **May 14-15**

[Ultimate Toy Fair Fall](#) – Victoria, British Columbia, Canada **May 14-15**

[Microcon](#) – Mounds View MN **May 14**

[Nashvillcon](#) – Nashville, TN **May 14**

[Midwest Comic Book Con Springfield](#) – Springfield, IL **May 15**

May 19-22

VIRTUAL

ON-SITE

[MegaCon Orlando](#) – Orlando, FL **May 19-22**

[Starcon](#) – Bellaria, Italy **May 19-22**

[Anime Central](#) – Rosemont, IL **May 20-22**

[Anime Oklahoma](#) – Midwest City, OK **May 20-22**

[Anime Fest](#) – Brno, Czecha **May 20-22**

[Comic Con Baltics](#) – Vilnius, Lithuania **May 20-22**

[Horror Con](#) – Sheffield, United Kingdom **May 21-22**

[Bak-Anime](#) – Bakersfield, CA **May 21-22**

[Japan Con Brussels](#) – Brussels, Belgium **May 21-22**

[Comic Con Liverpool](#) – Liverpool, United Kingdom **May 21-22**

[Comic Con Revolution](#) – Ontario, CA **May 21-22**

[Otafest](#) – Calgary, Alberta, Canada **May 21-22**

[Oz Comic-Con Adelaide](#) – Adelaide, South Australia, Australia **May 21-22**

[Zomerspeil](#) – Merelbeke, Belgium **May 21-22**

[Eckman's Card, Comic & Toy Show](#) – San Antonio, TX **May 21**

[Milton Keynes Brick Festival](#) – Milton Keynes, United Kingdom **May 21**

[Oddities & Curiosities Expo](#) – Minneapolis, MN **May 21**

[WNC Comic Con](#) – Fletcher, NC **May 21**

[Bowling Greencon](#) – Bowling Green, KY **May 22**

[Comicverse](#) – New Berlin, WI **May 22**

May 26-30

VIRTUAL

ON-SITE

[Acon](#) – *Mariehamn, Aland Islands* **May 26-29**

[MomoCon](#) – Atlanta, GA **May 26-29**

[Star Wars Celebration](#) – Anaheim, CA **May 26-29**

[Fantasy Basel](#) – *Basil, Switzerland* **May 26-29**

[MisCon](#) – Missoula, MT **May 27-30**

[Animazement](#) – Raleigh, NC **May 27-29**

[Anime Boston](#) – Boston, MA **May 27-29**

[Anime North](#) – Toronto, Ontario, Canada **May 27-29**

[Anime Onsen](#) – Colorado Springs, CO **May 27-29**

[ConQuest](#) – Kansas City, MO **May 27-29**

[MCM London Comic Con](#) – London, United Kingdom **May 27-29**

[Phoenix Fan Fusion](#) – Phoenix, AR **May 27-29**

[Satellite](#) – Glasgow, United Kingdom **May 27-29**

[Thy Geekdom Con](#) – Oaks, PA **May 27-29**

[WisCon](#) – Madison, WI **May 27-29**

[EM-Con Nottingham](#) – Nottingham, United Kingdom **May 28-29**

[Mini Con](#) – Wheeling, WV **May 28**

[Oddities & Curiosities Expo](#) – Milwaukee, WI **May 28**

[Collector Con Campbelltown](#) – Campbelltown, New South Wales, Australia **May 29**

Science Fiction Pro and Fan Birthdays

Science Fiction Pro and Fan Birthdays

This list of fandom-related birthdays was first published by Bruce Pelz in the Fantasy Amateur Press Association. Andrew Porter published and updated the list for Science Fiction Chronicle. Updates are welcome!

Unless stated otherwise, all birthdays are in the 20th century.

May

E. Mayne Hull, 5/1/05; Joel Rosenberg, 5/1/54; E.E. “Doc” Smith, 5/2/1890; Bob Null, 5/2/38; John Collier, 5/3/01; Daryl Mallett, 5/3/69; Ernie Wheatley, 5/4; Pat Frank, 5/5/07; Lee Killough, 5/5/42; Dave Locke, 5/5/44; Ingrid Neilson, 5/5/58; Dave Pollard, 5/6/24; Walt Liebscher, 5/7/18; Gene Wolfe, 5/7/31; Mike McQuown, 5/7/40; Frank Olynyk, 5/7/42; Romain Gary, 5/8/14; Roy Tackett, 5/8/25; Jane Roberts, 5/8/29; Neyir Cenk Gökçe, 5/8/71; Richard McKenna, 5/9/13; Kris Neville, 5/9/25; Richard Cowper, 5/9/26; Olaf Stapledon, 5/10/1886; Alex Bratmon, 5/10/36.

Michael Walsh, 5/11/59; Alice N. Lewis, 5/11/79; Philip Wylie, 5/12/02; Robert “Buck” Coulson, 5/12/28; Roger Zelazny, 5/13/37; A.J. Austin, 5/13/51; George Scithers, 5/14/29; Ron Bennett, 5/14/33; Lois Newman,

5/14/34; George Lucas, 5/14/44; L. Frank Baum, 5/15/1856; Maria Ozanne, 5/15; Fred Saberhagen, 5/18/30; R-Laurraine Tutihasi, 5/18/48; Claude Degler, 5/19/20; Gardner F. Fox, 5/20/11; Mike Glicksohn, 5/20/46; Adam-Troy Castro, 5/20/60.

Manly Wade Wellman, 5/21/03; Arthur Conan Doyle, 5/22/1859; Wallace West, Ed Earl Repp, 5/22/01; Fred Hollander, 5/22/46; Marc Glasser, 5/22/52; Bill Wagner, 5/22/55; Mark R. Sharpe, 5/22/57; James Blish, 5/23/21; Phil Castora, 5/23/34; Isadore Haiblum, 5/23/35; Bobbi Armbruster, 5/24/49; Deedee Lavender, 5/25/15; Charles Hornig, 5/25/16; Phyllis Gotlieb, 5/25/26; Robert W. Chambers, 5/26/1865; Mordecai Roshwald, 5/26/21; Howard De Vore, 5/26/25; Mike Horvat, 5/26/63; John Barth, 5/27/30; Harlan Ellison, 5/27/34; Jackie Causgrove, 5/27/40; Sheila D'Amassa, 5/28/48; Kees Van Toorn, Betsy Mitchell, 5/28/54; Richard Knaak, 5/28/61; T.H. White, 5/29/06; Neil R. Jones, 5/29/09; Bob Peterson, 5/30/21; Hal Clement (Harry Stubbs), 5/30/22; C. Ross Chamberlain, 5/30/37; Nancy Lebovitz, 5/30/53; George R. Stewart, 5/31/1895; Brian Burley, 5/31/42; Tom Collins, 5/31/46; Ian Slater, 5/31/52.

To update this list, contact Heath Row at kalel@well.com via email with the subject "Science Fiction Pro and Fan Birthdays" or something similar.

May 2022 SF Calendar

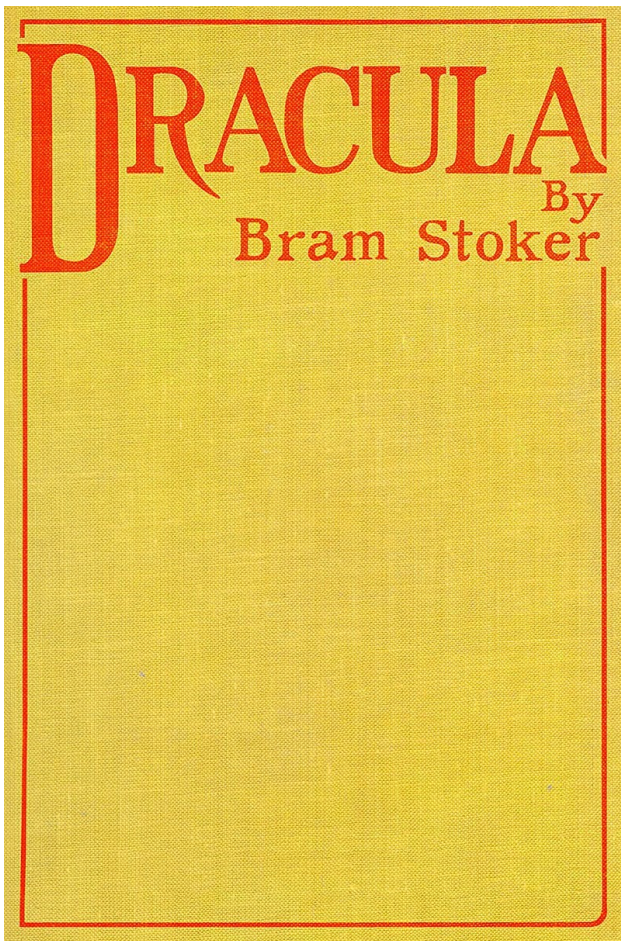
Arguably the most significant and influential work of supernatural fiction written in the past two hundred years, *Dracula* first appeared in May, 1897 and was an immediate critical and popular success despite a rather plain cover and being issued without a dust wrapper. Even with its continued steady sale, and the expectation of his mother and family that the novel would make his fortune, Bram Stoker did not become fabulously rich from the novel. He continued to write adventure and sensational fiction until his death in 1912 at the age of 65.

The novel was serialized in the United States by several newspapers, with the Doubleday hardback edition appearing in 1899. Some slight changes were made in the American edition making sexual implications somewhat more explicit in the narratives.

Most of the literary critics considered the book terrifying and too horrific for sensitive readers. This was considered a serious fault of the novel. Reading the book today it is difficult to understand what the commotion was all about.

There had been vampire stories written in the English language before *Dracula*, some popular, but most ignored and forgotten. *Varney the Vampire*, a penny dreadful weekly serial novel appeared in 1845 and ran 876 parts, over 667,000 words long. More significant was *Carmilla* by Sheridan La Fanu, which was serialized over the course of 1871 and early 1872 in "The Dark Blue Magazine", eventually published in book form in 1872. Stoker himself stated that he was impressed by *Carmilla* and took some ideas from its story background, but later abandoned most of them when he finally finished *Dracula*. Before *Dracula* vampires had been considered gruesome peasant folklore. After the publication of *Dracula* the Vampire became a central figure of supernatural literature.

Hundreds, perhaps even thousands of scholarly papers and books have tried to decipher the historical and sensual motivations behind the creation of this novel. Luckily Stoker's



extensive notes used for his research and his trial writings survived, showing that while Carmilla was an obvious influence, there is no evidence that he relied on any historical personalities, real or otherwise, in his creation. He used the word “Dracula” because in the Romanian language “Dracula” means “Devil”.

Much of the modern popular folklore about vampires was not part of the book. They were added by the motion picture industry, which adapted the story over thirty times to film, beginning in 1922. Bram Stoker’s widow successfully sued the German producers of “Nosferatu”, that 1922 adaptation, for copyright violation. Universal Studios paid \$40,000 for the rights to the novel and the stage play when they filmed their big budget adaptation starring Bela Lugosi. “Dracula” the movie was released in 1931 and became a huge box-office hit.

The idea that vampires only travel at night, that sunlight can kill them, that anybody they suck blood from automatically becomes a vampire themselves, and many other elements of modern vampire folklore were invented by the movies and were never part of the original novel.

Dracula, the undead monster executed in the last chapters of the story, continues to live forever in the pages of his novel. Since Dracula was published in 1897 the book has never been out of print. The novel is in the permanent collections of most public libraries, and the full text is available for free reading at Project Gutenberg and many other on-line sites, its extraordinary legacy and influence still echoing more than 125 years after it was first published. And that legacy will undoubtedly continue far into the future as well.

May 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 National Save The Rhino Day	2 Brothers and Sisters Day	3 Garden Meditation Day	4 National Candied Orange Peel Day	5 Cinco de Mayo	6 International Tuba Day	7 Free Comic Book Day (observed)
8 Mother's Day	9 Lost Sock Memorial Day	10 National Clean Up Your Room Day (Yes--YOU!)	11 National Twilight Zone Day	12 Limerick Day	13 National Blame Somebody Else Day	14 Dance Like a Chicken Day
15 National Chocolate Chip Day	16 National Sea Monkey Day	17 Pack Rat Day	18 No Dirty Dishes Day	19 Boys' Club Day	20 Be a Millionaire Day	21 National Memo Day
22 World Goth Day	23 Lucky Penny Day	24 International Tiara Day	25 World Otter Day	26 Sally Ride Day	27 Sun Screen Day	28 National Hamberger Day
29 Learn About Composting Day	30 Memorial Day	31 National Macaroon Day				

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