

THE GEEK GAZETTE

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...AND THE GEEK SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH...

Geek (noun)

1. *someone who is considered unattractive or socially awkward*

2. *an outrageous carnival performer*

3. *an obsessive computer user*

While a lot of geeks that I know fall into the last definition there is one more I think pretty much captures the very essence of being a geek.

4. *a creative, intelligent person who passionately enjoys an activity or hobby*

Ok I made that last definition up but I think it holds true and it should be added to the dictionary or at least societies definition of a geek.

Geeks aren't just those guys that live in their parents basements collecting comics and playing roleplaying games. The types of geeks in the world is as varied as there are things to be geeky about. We count men, women and respected professionals among our ranks. While there are exceptions to every rule, generally geeks are some of the most intelligent and crea-

tive people you will ever meet. Not only does the "geek community" have creativity in abundance, but you should never doubt that geeks are intelligent, just ask one and they will probably be happy to tell you how smart they are, as well as the stats on their favorite character.

While I will try to include any news and rumors I come across, there will be a great deal of opinion as well. My views, ideas and concerns about the hobbies and interest that I have enjoyed these many years.

Why didn't I just put this on the net like everybody else? The key phrase there is everybody else. While the numerous blogs

and fans sites are fun and informative, there is nothing quite like being able to hold what you read in your hands. You can get much of the same type of content as you can from the net without any equipment or internet connections.

So that is why I decided to put out this little zine. I have a strong inclination toward geekiness, something my lovely fiancé is fond of reminding me, I play RPG's, read comics, love sci-fi & horror, and I wanted a place where all things geek could come together. It doesn't matter if you are a gamer, collector or just a casual geek, your geekiness is not only welcome here, but encouraged.

THE REEL DEAL

Superman Returns

After five years in space exploring the remnants of the planet Krypton Supes returns to find that the world has pretty much forgotten him. This includes his main squeeze Lois Lane who now has a five year old son and is engaged. Basically Superman comes back, is hurt because the world, meaning

Lois, moved on. So he sets about stealing the woman he loves from the man she is engaged to. Meanwhile good old Lex Luthor is up to his normal evil hijinks and soon sets out to destroy the returned hero and most of the U.S. along with him. Guess who wins.

Superman Returns is basically Superman III, Bryan

ARTICLES AND STUFF OF INTERESE

- *The Reel Deal: Theatrical and DVD news and reviews.*
- *Comic Vault: Reviews and articles concerning the comics industry.*
- *Gamers Unite: How you can help save an independent publisher*
- *Geek Speak: a look at geek lingo and what it means.*

Do you have questions or comments you would like to share? Any stories or topics you would like to see covered or added to the Gazette? Then feel free to let me know.

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I may even print the occasional reader e-mail.

Singer had the right idea and continued the story from Superman II forgetting the embarrassments that originally followed the second movie.

Overall I enjoyed the movie, Superman's powers remained true to his comic roots, unlike Superman I & II, and the story, while it was some what forced, seemed to

Continued page 2



LOIS LANE: "BUT BILLIONS OF PEOPLE WILL DIE!"

LEX LUTHOR: "BILLIONS? ONCE AGAIN THE PRESS UNDER ESTIMATES ME."

SUPERMAN RETURNS
2006

NEWS AND RUMORS

It's official Topher Grace will play Venom in Spiderman 3....

Superman IV again? Bryan Singer has been rumored to say that with the success of Superman Returns another sequel is a very good possibility....

Thor is said to be one of the upcoming movie projects from Marvel along with Captain America and Ironman.

The original voice of Optimus Prime is said to be returning for the upcoming live action movie...

THE REEL DEAL

continued from page 1.
be a fairly natural evolution of the original movies. After all in the comics Superman did go looking for his lost home world which is something most of us would probably do.

While no one could take the place of the late Christopher Reeve, Brandon Routh came very close. He may look a bit young for the part, but Mr. Routh did an excellent job of mimicking many the quirks and nuances that his predecessor brought to the character(s).

There were times that I almost forgot that this was a different Superman.

Lex Luthor, played brilliantly by Kevin Spacey, was the true star of the movie. Mr. Spacey's Lex mixed a touch of Gene Hackman's humor, with the added evil and cunning you would expect from a supervillan.

The biggest disappointment for me was Lois Lane played by Kate Bosworth. I just have a hard time believing that a witty, tough as nails, Pulitzer prize winning journalist who also

happens to be a mother is played by someone who looks more like a student teacher than a star reporter. Beauty and star power does not a Lois Lane make.

As you would expect from a big budget Hollywood summer blockbuster, the special effects far surpassed anything in the original movies and for the most part the actors not only met but exceeded my expectations. It reminded me of when I went to see the original Superman, for those 2 hours I truly believed a man could fly, again.

DVD RELEASES

July

Dr. Who: The complete first season

7/4/2006

Adventures of Brisco County Jr.:

The complete Series

7/18/2006

Final Destination 3

7/25/2006

The Bench Warmers

7/25/2006

Amazing Stories: The complete first season

7/18/2006

The Incredible Hulk: The complete first season

7/18/2006

Ultraman-Series one: Volume one

7/18/2006

Tales from the Crypt: The complete fourth season

7/18/2006

August

Black Hole

8/1/2006

V for Vendetta

8/1/2006

Podcast Querorner

For those of you that are scratching your heads saying "what the heck is a podcast??" Think free internet talk radio and you get the gist of it. For the other 99% of you out there I will be dedicating this section to a different geek centric podcast each issue. This month's podcast is one of my personal favorites, The Round Table.

The Round Table focuses on the ideas of folklore, fantasy, and mythology. While they generally steer the discussions toward roleplaying there is enough variety to make them appealing to a wider audience.

Occasionally, they have guests on the show and they often venture into other

geek topics so there is something for most listeners. While they are not above being a little silly many of the topics are discussed in a very intelligent and thought provoking way.

The podcast is part of The House of the Harping Monkey community and shares the website with their other podcast Misfit Brew.

Continued top of page 3

PODCAST QUORNER

Continued from page 2

The site is very user interactive and gives registered users the ability to post reviews of products, movies, etc. The site's message boards are also a great place to interact with other listeners and it is not unheard of for a post to affect the content of the podcast.

I highly recommend this site if you love gaming, but also if you are a fan of my-

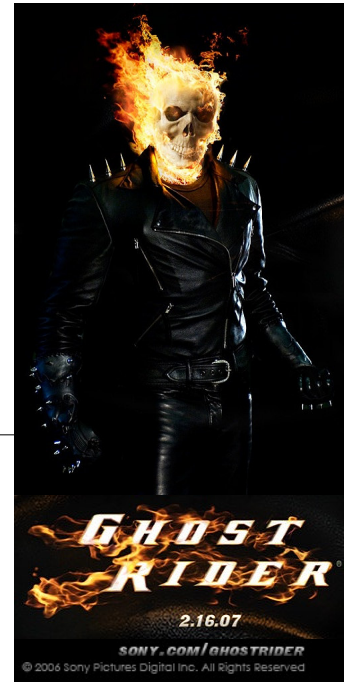
thology and its meaning.

<http://harpingmonkey.com>

Misfit Brew is the Round Table's sister podcast and is much less familiar to me than it's older sibling. It seems to have a lot of the same flavor although in a slightly less organized fashion. The podcast is just as interesting as The Round Table but not as focused on one topic or ideology. Still what I've heard so far has been interesting.



Download these podcast and give them a listen. I definitely think you'll enjoy them as much as I do.



were there for the original Ice Age and just want a taste of the way it was way back when.

PLEASE DO THAT VOODO YOU DO SO WELL,

If you have been a gamer for more than five minutes there is a good possibility you know what Magic: The Gathering is about. This collectible card game (CCG) has been around for quite a while and in this time has seen many evolutions. New game mechanics and numerous expansions have overwhelmed some players to the point where they either quit playing

or quit caring about the newest expansion. Let's face it some of the expansions haven't been that good (Fallen Empires ring a bell?) and some of the game mechanics have been a little less than stellar. Take the early expansion of Ice Age, while it wasn't a completely bad set many gamers were left scratching their heads over the real use of snow covered lands.

That should soon be remedied with the release of Coldsnap. From what I can tell it looks like a fairly good expansion. It's not exactly a separate expansion or re-release, but more like an extension of the original Ice Age set. The few cards that I have seen seemed balanced and very playable. I would recommend picking this up, especially to those of us that

GAMERS UNITE!

Palladium Books, publisher of the RPG Rifts, is in trouble and they are asking us the gamer community for help. In an open letter on the company's message boards Kevin Siembieda is asking the company's supporter's, the fans, to rally behind them and save them from going under. It seems that due to betrayal, theft and embezzlement the company has lost somewhere

over \$850,000.

In order to keep the company from floundering they are selling limited edition "A Megaverse United" prints to raise money. The message boards are full of fans and new comers alike that are pledging their support by purchasing the prints or other products.

Having a variety of

systems on the market for gamers to choose from is one of the great things about this hobby. Independent publishers need the support of gamers to keep the market open for new and creative ideas.

So for those that wish to participate in helping Palladium Books, go to the website and join the crusade to stop another indie publisher

from disappearing.

www.palladiumbooks.com

I encourage everyone who has never played Rifts to at least check it out as well as the many other independent systems on the market.

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**GAMING, COMICS, MOVIES,
AND GENERAL GEEKINESS**

The Comic Vault

52, one long year or worth the hype?

At the time that I am writing this DC's mini-series 52 is in its eighth week and so far so good. The stories are interesting and I look forward to each issue. Unfortunately, like many company events I really don't think that it's anything more than a chance to rake in some extra cash. Which you can not fault DC for wanting to continue capitalizing on the events of the last 2 years. Identity Crisis and Infinite Crisis were both good stories, with Identity Crisis being the better of the two, plus there is the added benefit of giving creators the opportunity to focus on characters that usually get swept under the rug. One of my favorite B-listers, Booster Gold, actually seems to be one of the primary focal points of the series and I can't complain about that.

While a year in the DC universe without the big guns, Superman, Wonder Woman and Batman is a chance to see how the other half lives I'm afraid the ramifications of this story will be forgotten in the near future. This does give the company the chance to breath a little life into characters like the Atom, the Creeper and the new Blue Beetle (Ted Kord BB 2 was my other favorite B-lister), will it be worth it? Will the events of the last few years really set the ground work for the next ten or twenty years of DC comics. Many thought the original Crisis on Infinite Earths was going to do that and to an extent it did, for a while. All the crap that screwed up DC continuity was eventually brought back, in essence they repeated most of their past mistakes and undid what made the original crisis great.

I definitely think any comics fan, especially DC fans will completely enjoy the series I just hope that in a few years everything you read in 52 won't be wiped out of continuity by the Crisis of Infinite Continuity Screw Ups.

WE DON'T NEED NO CIVIL WAR...OR DO WE?

The stand alone, best mainstream event since the original crisis has to be Marvel comics Civil War.

The premise is fairly simple, a team of B-list superheroes doing a reality TV show are involved in an explosion that kills a very large number of people in small town America. Everyone naturally gets pretty PO'd and the government decides that the masked vigilantes need to be registered and monitored by big brother. This divides the heroes into two camps, the pro-registration group led by Ironman and the anti-registration group led by Captain America.

The way that the series' writers evolve the story and the choices made by the characters, while occasionally shocking, Spiderman revealing his identity on national TV, seem to be realistic and believable. While many fans may have thought of Captain America as the government's lap dog, the character proved what he and this country is really about, freedom. While Ironman represents the mechanistic conformity that seems to reflect what our society has become.

In truth the series seems to be a fantastic depiction of real life, only they have capes and superpowers.

Personally I could see these events playing out in reality. The writers have done a wonderful job using our own paranoia and popular culture against us. If the series' quality stays at the level of the first three issues this series is sure to be a classic.

While Civil War will naturally appeal to regular comic readers the high quality of the story telling could easily be enjoyed by non comic fans. I personally can't wait to see how the story pans out and if Marvel will uncharacteristically stick to their guns and allow the stories ramifications to stay a part of Marvel continuity. I sure hope so.

Geek Speak

D20:

1. a twenty sided die used in roleplaying games.
2. an game system used by Wizards of the Coast and other publishers, primarily known for 3rd edition Dungeons & Dragons.

WOTC

Wizards of the Coast.

Nat 20

To roll a twenty on a twenty sided die.

RPG