

Nameless News

Volume 1 Number 2

July 2021

Covering News of Interest to Fen

And welcome to the second issue of Nameless News, the N3F News Zine. Nameless News doesn't actually have a name yet, so we hope the membership will come up with one. Last issue I asked: Please send proposals to phillies@4liberty.net. This issue I have received suggestions, on which your recommendations are welcome.

Fanactivity Gazette

N3F News

Fen Files

Gen Fen

Fendemic

Fenado

Fen Fam Flotilla

Fen-O-Rama

From the Fen Front

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Conventions: Read Conventions for August by Mindy Hunt

Television: See Rabid Ears: Ravings of a TV Fiend by Cathode Ray

Fanfaronade: Celebrating Current Fanzines #12 Justin E. A. Busch

I suspect that very nearly all the readers of this column are editors looking to see whether I've mangled their zines or made a mistake needing correction. I try never to do the former, but an example of the latter appeared a couple of columns ago; I managed to reduce the address for William Breiding's *Portable Storage* to useless gibberish. Since this is a fanzine you really do want to send away for rather than read online, here's the correct address: 3507 N. Santa Rita Ave., #1, Tucson, Arizona, 85719. If you haven't got a fanzine to offer in trade—and few people do nowadays—you should do the right thing and slip him a fiver to assist with expenses; his lavish productions don't come cheap, and they weigh more than your usual ten-pager. . . .

This column features five familiar titles, each doing what it usually does and doing it well. If you have an interest in the scope of contemporary fanzines (and if you don't, or aren't an editor yourself, why are you reading this?), I would really recommend seeking each issue out and giving it careful consideration. As John Thiel wrote some time ago (*Pablo Lennis* 274), "One of the most difficult things in life, I think, is the achieving of meaningful contact with other people." Fanzines have become a small and diminishing niche

within fandom, but the possibilities of deep and thoughtful interaction with a wide range of different attitudes and viewpoints are rarely found as powerfully as they are in a random selection of fannish writing and the responses evoked by that writing. We need but seek it out.

*Christian*New Age Quarterly* (edited by Catherine Groves; four issues for USD 12.50, to PO Box 276, Clifton, New Jersey, 07015-0276)

This issue is a bit choppy than usual due to an oddity of layout: practically every article or section is interrupted by some other article; following the thread of a discussion can require jumping over several pages. There are no specifically sf/fnal articles in the issue, but the lettercol is even more extensive and livelier than usual. Robert M. Price offers a brief but fascinating article on the competing lists of the Ten Commandments found in various books of Scripture. The motivation seems quite modern; the authors “chose what they considered the ten greatest commandments.” Price invites the reader to create their own list; it would be interesting to see the results of this. Jacquie J. Higinbotham presents a discussion of the significance of the Aquarian Age, marred slightly by its apparent assumption that everyone agrees on when the Age is presumed to have started, or to be going to start. They do not.

The Obdurate Eye 11 (“what Garth Spencer does at 4240 Perry Street, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V5N 3X5 if nobody stops him. You can send complaints and kudos and rants to him by mail, or by email to garth.van.spencer@gmail.com.” See also efanzines.com).

The first several pages are taken up with news of fannish interest (convention schedules, the Winnipeg Worldcon bid, and suchlike). These are followed by news of some specific fans (Hugh Spencer, who promoted his website fantasticwriter.net/opinions, and R. Graeme Cameron, who has a story forthcoming in *Polar Borealis* 18). A letter from Lloyd Penney (who keeps alive more than one lettercol these days) and some miscellaneous matters follow, with the most substantial being Spencer’s personal essay beginning, “A curious thing happened in late April: I woke up without instantly starting to worry about what I had to do, and what problems the day might bring, and rehearsing all the self-defeating things I had done in the past and might do all over again today.” *The Obdurate Eye* is very much a perzine, but, unlike many of his colleagues, Spencer writes openly and deeply regarding his own emotional condition and development.

The proceedings also include a short notice of one Crad Kilodney, a legendary figure in the Toronto independent writers’ community, especially in the 1980s and 1990s, author of such chapbooks as *Putrid Scum*, *Bang Heads Here Suffering Bastards*, *Lightning Struck My Dick*, and an autobiography entitled *Excrement*. He’s rather like Chuck Tingle sans the internet, and definitely worth looking up. A series of brief fanzine reviews, including one of my own *Far Journeys*, concludes the issue.

Pablo Lennis 403 (June) & 404 (July); available for the usual, or 2.00, from John Thiel, 30 N. 19th Street, Lafayette, Indiana, 47904

The scheduling change from *Tightbeam* to the newszine created a gap in time, during which two issues of *Pablo Lennis* fell into my mailbox. There has been a shift in John Thiel’s long-running zine since the 400th issue; besides the regular poems, stories, and essays, he has acquired new writers (some from among his lettercol regulars) and has inaugurated a regular, and regularly interesting, column of his own in which he contemplates writers and issues (in both sense of the word) from *Pablo Lennis*’s well-filled past. The result is a considerable increase in variety. The June issue includes an article on gaming from Joanne Tolson, better known to regular readers for her fiction, an essay by Joe Napolitano in response to John Thiel’s comments on a letter of comment, and “two sightings outside the realms of normal experience,” one by well-known artist Jose Sanchez and the other by Will Mayo. Anyone who complains about a lack of material from which to choose must be reading some other zine.

The July issue brings John Polselli from the lettercol into the realm of fiction by way of his story “The Visitants of Rain,” an oneiric narrative of a most unusual trip to Paris. The first person writer discovers that he is being bitten by “micro-miniature hobgoblins” who, it will transpire, are merely the avatars of things far worse; the god Q’ug’umatz (not Lovecraftian, as it sounds, but rather the co-creator of humanity in Mayan mythology, although Polselli leaves this for the reader to discover on their own) seems to be reconsidering his earlier actions. Unexpected words and turns of phrase abound (when was the last time you encountered the wonderful word ‘hirpled’?), and the plot unfolds in a suitably whipcrack manner. This is a lot of fun, and, although indubitably contemporary in setting and tone, would not have been wholly out of place in the old *Weird Tales*.

There are few fanzines as open to so many different approaches, styles, subjects, and forms of expression as *Pablo Lennis*; as I’ve commented on earlier issues, you won’t like everything here, but I would be sur-

prised if you found nothing worth responding to.

This Here... 43 (edited by Nic Farey; “Locs & that to: 2657 Rungsted Street, Las Vegas NV 89142, or Email fareynic@gmail.com”)

Nic Farey’s perzine seems sometimes more personal than other times; this issue begins with “one of those all-over-the-fuckin’-shop personal update egotorials, which does represent a break from the different kind of ramble of spurious bollocks and philosophical musings of occasionally skiffy nature, ey“ Indeed; the opening ramble covers dogs, hair, neighbors, cops, and rent, all in Farey’s trademarked anthill-poking style. Somewhat later what amounts to a postscript takes up a key concern: “There is, I might contend, a puerile part of all of us that is still six years old and finds farts hilarious,” Farey writes, after which he gives a number of what we might call both practical and literary illustrations of the topic. “I’ll rely on the international readership of this here tawdry rag to provide their own country’s favored versions,” he concludes.

Lest our lips be tempted to curl in disdain at these lower class crudities, it would be well to recall that Ingmar Bergman, than whom no director is more highbrow, devotes an entire scene in *Fanny and Alexander* (1984) to the gas-driven performances of a favorite uncle, reaching the blackout when said uncle extinguishes the candles with, yes, a fart. Anyone interested in further details regarding the entertainment possibilities of flatulence should read *Le Petomane*, by Jean Nohan and F. Caradec (in multiple English editions since 1967, and still easily found), which describes the career of one Joseph Pujol, who, thanks to a remarkably talented anus, made a highly successful stage career as an odor-free flatulist between 1887 and 1914. “Petomanie,” a term coined by Pujol himself as a means of introducing himself to audiences, “means someone who can break wind at will but don’t let your nose worry you. My parents ruined themselves scenting my rectum.” His act included both mimicking musical instruments and depicting the kinds of farts produced by various types of people (nuns, businessmen, etc.). No brief description can do him justice.

But to return to *This Here...*— David Hodson’s football column seems at first to be following its usual line when suddenly the spectre of death raises its head. It seems that, during the course of a game, “Denmark captain and ex-Spurs player Christian Eriksen [. . .] suffered a cardiac arrest [. . .], collapsed, was briefly dead whilst CPR was administered, was revived using a defibrillator, and then transferred to hospital, where he was stabilised and, hopefully, started his fullest possible recovery.” This news leads Hodson to a series of recollections intertwining the personal (family history) and the professional (another player who was actually declared dead but then revived on the field). The shift is very powerful, and I suspect many a reader will remember these accounts far longer than the outcomes of the various games also described. Some powerful writing here.

I tend to say little about Hodson’s column because of my own utter indifference to sports, but its very presence is a central element in the mix that is at the heart of *This Here...*. In a sense, the entire zine, and in particular the lettercol, is very much akin to a raucous but generally friendly locker room conversation; there are many forcefully expressed opinions, a good deal of, as Nic would say, ‘taking the piss’, and, withal, a general sense of shared interests, experiences, and hopes and fears about the future, whether one’s own or that of friends and opponents (with the two by no means being mutually exclusive categories). It may fairly, despite the presence of various women fully capable of taking care of themselves in the general hurly-burly, be described as a ‘masculine’ atmosphere, but in an older sense now, alas, too often superseded by something more bitter and far less engaging.

That said, it must be admitted that no locker room of which I’m aware has ever been graced by such lovely art as that of Ulrika O’Brien (the wintry nighttime forest scene on page 9 is especially haunting), so my analogy goes only so far in suggesting the character of a zine you should definitely investigate, if you have not done so already.

Tommyworld 85 (May 16, 2021; edited by Tommy Ferguson; generally available on-line at <http://tommyworld.net>, but it may be possible for readers in the UK to obtain a print copy from 85125 Haypark Ave, Belfast, BT7 3FG, Northern Ireland)

This issue is devoted entirely to Ferguson’s thoughts on virtual conventions. He’s pretty blunt: “Inherently I think these are bad.” Even so, his approach is balanced (he has both attended and even served as a panelist at several such conventions); “I can see the benefits of virtual conventions from many angles,” he admits, but these, he argues, are outweighed by the problems. His reasoning is cogent, though it will probably present few surprises to anyone who has been to, or even thought much about, almost anything virtual. It’s a matter of making genuine personal connections; “My fandom is about people – meeting them new, getting reacquainted with old friends and enjoying the convivial hospitality that a convention offers.” The reverse seems too often to be the case with virtual conventions, with their necessarily tech-expertise-heavy committees. “The ability of the committee to deal with con-goers, guests and other participants on a social level with-

out non-physical clues is a real challenge; text on discord or via email is never the same as in person, tone and meaning is often lost.”

It would have been interesting to see the argument extended to the relative merits of virtual and print fanzines, where something of the same response can be found (although the victory of the virtual fanzine is, unlike the world of con-going, nearly complete). Holding an artifact which some particular person designed, created, and published is an experience quite different from seeing exactly the same material on a screen, if only because in the former case the editor controls page size and paper texture, whereas in the latter the viewer does. Virtual fanzines, like virtual conventions, have many benefits, but they come at a cost; it remains to be seen whether the benefits of virtual conventions will end up outweighing their costs at the level of personal connections.

I suspect that they will not, and Ferguson provides a fine example of a key reason. Having commented on his eagerness for the in-person Corflu 38 and Novacon, both in November, he invites the reader to join him: “Why don’t you come along, I might even buy you a pint?!” Try doing *that* virtually!

* * * *

Editors desiring reviews: If you have a print zine, send it to me at 308 Prince St., #422, St. Paul, Minn. 55101; if you have an e-zine, send a PDF to jeab@musician.org. I’m still adjusting to the new location and schedule of the column, but it would be helpful if e-mailed zines arrived by the first Wednesday of each month. I will generally send the column to George Phillies by the second Wednesday; anything sent close to that day makes the review more likely to be based on a quick skim of the contents. If the zine is new to me, or seems to require more extensive consideration, I may hold it over for a month.

Conventions for August

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 also publish articles with any schedule changes or cancellations. Visit <http://scifi4me.com/> regularly to find these.

We also provide semi-regular updates on our TV channel <http://scifi4me.tv/>

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.

JULY 29-AUG 4

VIRTUAL

[Anime Fest](#) – Dallas, TX Jul 31

[Game Fest](#) – Dallas, TX Jul 31

[CrossingsCon](#) – Montreal, Ontario, Canada Aug 1-8

ON-SITE

[GalaxyCon Raleigh](#) – Raleigh, NC Jul 29-Aug 1
[Flashback Weekend Chicago Horror Con](#) – Rosemont, IL Jul 30-Aug 1
[Motor City Nightmares](#) – Novi, MI Jul 30-Aug 1
[Scares That Care](#) – Williamsburg, VA Jul 30-Aug 1
[Animanga](#) – Ontario, CA Jul 30-Aug 1
[Animatic Con](#) – Cincinnati, OH Jul 30-Aug 1
[Anime Iowa](#) – Coralville, IA Jul 30-Aug 1
[Anime-Zing!](#) – Davenport, IA Jul 30-Aug 1
[Diversicon](#) – Minneapolis, MN Jul 30-Aug 1
[Dokidokon](#) – Kalamazoo, MI Jul 30-Aug 1
[Metropolis Super Con](#) – Metropolis, IL Jul 30-Aug 1
[Midessanime](#) – Odessa, TX Jul 30-Aug 1
[Revelcon](#) – Houston, TX Jul 30-Aug 1
[SaltCon End of Summer](#) – Layton, UT Jul 30-Aug 1
[Superman Celebration](#) – Metropolis, IL Jul 20-Aug 1
[Tampa Bay Comic Con](#) – Tampa Bay, FL Jul 30-Aug 1
[Terrificon](#) – Uncasville, CT Jul 30-Aug 1
[Ama-Con](#) – Amarillo, TX Jul 31-Aug 1
[BrickFair Virginia](#) – Chantilly, VA Jul 31-Aug 1
[London Anime & Gaming Con](#) – London, United Kingdom Jul 31-Aug 1
[Beckley Gaming Expo](#) – Beckley, WV Jul 31
[Oddities & Curiosities Kansas City](#) – Kansas City, MO Jul 31
[Neo Comiccon](#) – Elyria, OH Aug 1
[Midwest Comic Book Convention St Louis](#) – Collinsville, IL Aug 1

AUG 5-9

VIRTUAL

[Bricks in the Six](#) – Toronto, Ontario, Canada Aug 5-8
[CrunchyRoll Expo](#) – San Jose, TX Aug 5-7
[BritCon](#) – Seattle, WA Aug 7
[Fur-Eh!](#) – Edmonton, Alberta, Canada Aug 7

ON-SITE

[CONVergence](#) – Minneapolis, MN Aug 5-8
[Field of Games](#) – Northfields, United Kingdom Aug 6-8
[Atlanta Comic Con](#) – Atlanta, GA Aug 6-8
[Megaplex](#) – Orlando, FL Aug 6-8
[Omin Fandom Expo](#) – Kissimmee, FL Aug 6-8
[Oktakon](#) – Washington D.C. Aug 6-8
[Bell County Comic Con](#) – Belton, TX Aug 7-8

[Big Lick Comic Con](#) – Roanoke, VA **Aug 7-8**
[Eternal Con](#) – Hempstead, NY **Aug 7-8**
[Bay Area Pop-X](#) – San Francisco, CA **Aug 7**
[Brandon Comic Con](#) – Brandon, FL **Aug 7**
[Denton Comic Arts Expo](#) – Denton, TX **Aug 7**
[Wayne NJ Toy Show](#) – Wayne, NJ **Aug 7**
[Pasadena GI Joe & Toy Show](#) – Pasadena, CA **Aug 8**
[Robo Toy Fest](#) – Pasadena, CA **Aug 8**

AUG 11-15

VIRTUAL

[Readercon](#) – Quincy, MA **Aug 13-15**
[When Worlds Collide](#) – Calgary, Alberta, Canada **Aug 13-15**

ON-SITE

[Star Trek Official Convention](#) – Las Vegas, NV **Aug 11-15**
[MegaCon Orlando](#) – Orlando, FL **Aug 12-15**
[Anime Magic!](#) – Schaumburg, IL **Aug 13-15**
[Dragonflight](#) – Bellevue, WA **Aug 13-15**
[Everfree Northwest](#) – Bellevue, WA **Aug 13-15**
[Geek'd Con](#) – Shreveport, LA **Aug 13-15**
[Grand Rapids Comic Con](#) – Grand Rapids, MI **Aug 13-15**
[New Mexico Comic & Film Expo](#) – Albuquerque, NM **Aug 13-15**
[Nippon Nation](#) – Vienna, Austria **Aug 13-15**
[Rock Hall Pirates & Wenches](#) – Rock Hall, MD **Aug 13-15**
[Watsatch Con](#) – West Valley City, UT **Aug 13-15**
[Ani-Bash](#) – Rochester, NY **Aug 14-15**
[Elftopia](#) – Ooidonk, Belgium **Aug 14-15**
[Hill Country Comicon](#) – New Braunfels, TX **Aug 14-15**
[FarleyCon](#) – East Ridge, TN **Aug 14**
[Oddities & Curiosities Richmond](#) – Richmond, VA **Aug 14**
[Sinister Creature Con](#) – Sacramento, CA **Aug 15**

AUG 18-22

VIRTUAL

[Okakuthon](#) – Montreal, Ontario, Canada **Aug 20-22**
[Bubonicon](#) – Albuquerque, NM **Aug 20-21**
[Flame Con](#) – New York City, New York **Aug 21-22**

ON-SITE

[PulpFest](#) – Pittsburgh, PA **Aug 18-22**

[Comic Con Seoul](#) – Seoul, South Korea **Aug 19-22**

[Mid Atlantic Nostalgia Convention](#) – Hunt Valley, MD **Aug 19-22**

[CreepyCon](#) – Knoxville, TN **Aug 20-22**

[Astronomicon](#) – Ann Arbor, MI **Aug 20-22**

[Awesome Con](#) – Washington D.C. **Aug 20-22** [Retro Expo Dallas](#) – Plano, TX **Jul 23-25**

[Board Game Bash](#) – Austin, TX **Aug 20-22**

[Clayton Con](#) – Clayton, NY **Aug 20-22**

[DenFur](#) – Denver, CO **Aug 20-22**

[Fanboy Expo Orlando](#) – Orlando, FL **Aug 20-22**

[Planet Comicon](#) – Kansas City, MO **Aug 20-22**

[SaikouCon](#) – White Haven, PA **Aug 20-22**

[Southern Fried Gaming Expo](#) – Atlanta, GA **Aug 20-22**

[Wyoming Pop Culture Convention](#) – Casper, WY **Aug 20-22**

[Dallas Comic Show Fantasy Festival](#) – Lewisville, TX **Aug 21-22**

[Geekcraft Expo: Madison](#) – Madison, WI **Aug 21-22**

[Norwich Anime & Gaming Con](#) – Norwich, United Kingdom **Aug 21-22**

[PA STEAM Fest](#) – Bethlehem, PA **Aug 21-22**

[Raptor Con](#) – Evansville, IN **Aug 21-22**

[Hershey Action Figure & Toy Show](#) – Hershey, PA **Aug 21**

AUG 25-29

VIRTUAL

[GamesCon](#) – Cologne, Germany **Aug 25-29**

[Ottawa V Con](#) – Ottawa, Ontario, Canada **Aug 28-29**

[Silicon](#) – San Jose, CA **Aug 28-29**

ON-SITE

[Liberty City Anime Con](#) – New York City, NY **Aug 26-29**

[Wizard World Chicago](#) – Chicago, IL **Aug 27-30**

[Creature Feature Weekend](#) – Gettysburg, PA **Aug 27-29**

[Crypticon Seattle](#) – Seattle, WA **Aug 27-29**

[Day of the Dead](#) – Atlanta, GA **Aug 27-29**

[2DCon](#) – Minneapolis, MN **Aug 27-29**

[Colorado Springs Comic Con](#) – Colorado Springs, CO **Jul 30-Aug 1**

[Ranger Stop & Pop Con](#) – Atlanta, GA **Aug 27-29**

[Supernatural Official Convention](#) – Toronto, Ontario, Canada **Aug 27-29**

[CosmsimWorld Expo](#) – Tempe, AZ **Aug 27- Sep 4**

[Bristol Anime & Gaming Con](#) – Bristol, United Kingdom **Aug 28-29**

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

[Louisiana Comic Con](#) – Lafayette, LA Aug 28-29

[Meadowlark Comic Con](#) – Medford, OR Aug 28

[Midwest Comic Book Convention Peru](#) – Peru, IL Aug 28

[Oddities & Curiosities Chicago](#) – Chicago, IL Aug 28

[UltraCon](#) – West Palm Beach, FL Aug 28

[Stars of Time Film & Comic Con](#) – Weston-super-Mare, United Kingdom Aug 29-30

[Ani-Medford](#) – Medford, OR Aug 29

[Columbus Toy and Game Show](#) – Columbus, OH Aug 29

[Midwest Comic Book Convention](#) – Springfield, IL Aug 29

[SW-Florida Comic Con](#) – Fort Myers, FL Aug 29

Rabid Ears: Ravings of a TV Fiend By Cathode Ray

Turn on, tune in, each and every Neffer, for another edition of “Rabid Ears: Ravings of a TV Fiend,” a periodic column about the most interesting and important offerings of sf, fantasy, horror, and other genre television programming. Let’s see what’s what—now, and next—on the old boob tube, shall we?

In the July 5-18, 2021, double issue of TV Guide, “The Roush Review” highlights Wellington Paranormal, which premiered earlier in the month on The CW. A horror comedy created by the folks behind What We Do in the Shadows, the show is a mock documentary—and reportedly a spin-off—focusing on a New Zealand police squad’s secret paranormal unit. Featured creatures will include zombie cops, demons, alien plants, she-wolves, and vampires. Roush also tips hat to the new program Evil, streaming on Paramount+. With its first season airing on CBS in 2019-2020, the show follows a forensic psychologist and priest-in-training who investigate supernatural and paranormal phenomena. The July 19 to Aug. 1, 2021, double issue of TV Guide’s “TV Insider” showcases Black Summer, a zombie program whose second season recently reached Netflix.

Wellington Paranormal was featured in a half-page article in the July 2021 issue of Channel Guide. The brief piece traces the show’s lineage, which dates back to the original 2014 movie What We Do in the Shadows. In fact, not only is the show created by Taika Waititi and Jemaine Clement, it debuted in New Zealand in 2018 and features two police officers who played a major role in the original movie. So it is a spin-off! Just not of the TV show, per se.

July 11, I missed CNN’s History of the Sitcom, which—while not genre TV—was a must watch, I’m sure. The issue also touches on the titular character of The Flash’s recent crossover appearances on Batwoman and DC’s Legends of Tomorrow (all on The CW), a guest appearance of Julie Newman—Batman’s Catwoman, natch—on a rerun of The Monkees (Decades), the much-lauded Lupin (still streaming on Netflix), Manifest (originally on NBC and now on Netflix), and the horror anthology American Horror Stories (FX on Hulu). TV Weekly indicates that two new episodes of that program became available July 15. Also of possible interest to Neffers: The recent premiere of SurrealEstate, a Syfy show about flipping haunted houses; The Outpost, a fantasy drama on The CW; and X-Files reruns on Comet. TV Weekly reports that the 13 episodes of The Outpost’s fourth season will introduce some changes to the main character.

SurrealEstate is clearly the buzz show of the column. In fact, it claimed the cover, almost a full-page feature, and a “Best Bet” callout in the July 11-17, 2021, issue of TV Weekly. Syfy’s new program is a scripted show combining elements of real estate TV and the supernatural. The characters on the show are experts in handling haunted and possessed houses—“stigmatized properties”—and readying them for new occupants. Think The

Amityville Horror meets Flip This House, or a scripted version of A&E's 2016 unscripted series Zombie House Flipping. Each episode features a different house, so it's manse of the week rather than monster of the week kind of show. Also in that issue, Damian Holbrook gave a "Cheers" to Fear the Walking Dead for ending its sixth season with a, well... bang. SurrealEstate was also featured in Channel Guide, which lauds its combination of horror and humor.

Pencil these in your calendar, fans and fellow freaks: Fans of lighter, wholesome fare (who, here?) might enjoy Good Witch, which airs Sundays on the Hallmark Channel. July 19, AMC+ will start streaming The Walking Dead: Origins, an original special series combining interview footage and clips to build up to the final season. The seventh season's finale of The Flash (The CW) airs July 20. The season finale of Kung Fu (The CW) screens July 21. The animated Masters of the Universe: Revelation: Part 1 becomes available on Netflix on July 23; Kevin Smith developed this sequel to the original '80s cartoon, and voices include Mark Hamill (Skeletor) and Sarah Michelle Gellar (Teela). Genre movie and TV royalty, people. The cartoon even earned a "What to Watch" mention in the July 2021 Entertainment Weekly. Reelz will feature Autopsy: The Last Hours of... Leonard Nimoy on July 25—perhaps of special interest to the Trekkers in the club. Wellington Paranormal (The CW), mentioned above, will be broadcast July 25, as well. Alien drama Roswell, New Mexico (The CW) starts a new season July 26—earning a "Best Bet" mention in Channel Guide. Reruns of 3rd Rock from the Sun are screening on Cozi TV; the July 28 episode from 1997 features one of the aliens failing sensitivity training (um, ha?). Also on July 28, WGBH, one of the better PBS affiliates, will air King Arthur's Lost Kingdom, which will reveal new archeological discoveries.

The August 2021 issue of Otaku USA reviews several new anime offerings, including Heaven's Design Team (Crunchyroll), Kaiji: The Complete Series (Sentai Filmworks), D4DJ First Mix (Sentai), Baki Complete Collection Season 1 (Sentai), Akudama Drive (Funimation), and Sunday Without God (Sentai). Feature articles focus on anime including Is It Wrong to Try to Pick Up Girls in a Dungeon?; So I'm a Spider, So What?; Planet With; Laidbackers; and Dororo—which seems positively demonic. And the issue's "Tokyscope" film, TV, and DVD reviews feature The Return of Godzilla, Makai Tensho, and The Invisible Man Appears.

In the July 2021 issue of Remind, a couple of genre TV shows are mentioned. Spider-Man premiered Sept. 9, 1967, on ABC and aired until 1970. And The Green Hornet's finale screened on ABC on March 17, 1967, originally premiering in 1966. In the July 2021 Entertainment Weekly, The Nevers is recommended in the "What to Watch" column; it's a good show.

The July 5 TV Guide crossword, Puzzle #1418, offers the following sf fan stumpers: 7 Across is "_____ from the Crypt." 14 Across is "Pokemon genre." 15 Across is "The Haunting of Hill House star (2 wds.)" 33 Across is "Space horror film." 23 Down is "____ vs Evil Dead." 27 Down is "Snowpiercer channel." 29 Down is "Heroes actress Larter." 31 Down is "____ Smart." And 36 Down is "Creature from Melmac."

The July 19 crossword, Puzzle #1419 for those of you challenged by counting, also provides some exercise for your mind: 12 Across is "Classic Dracula actor." 21 Across is "Assassin on Lexx." 31 Down is "The science guy." And 43 Down is "Daily Planet photographer Jimmy."

Until next time, true believers, this is "Cathode Ray," your guide to the best of what's hidden in the grids. Turn on, tune in, and blast off!