

Vanish With the Rose #59

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To see issues of our fanzine, MIMOSA, and other stuff, check out our website at www.smithway.org/mimosa Eurodiary site: <http://www.smithway.org/eurodiary> Russia 94 site: <http://www.smithway.org/russia94> This is written solely for the members of the 98th mailing of KAPA.

3/11/99

White Eagle Press #353

Washington is digging out from a lot of snow. It was supposed to just snow a little here, from a "dusting" to an inch. The real storm was to the West of us. However, when I left for work, it was snowing lightly. Since it wasn't suppose to amount to much, I didn't turn around for my boots.

It snowed all day and amounted to quite a bit by the time they told us to head home early. The drive home was slippery, but not bad. The hardest part was going up the slight hill of the driveway. Getting stuck, I had to back up and slowly creep the car in the garage. I also had a surprise when I rounded the last curve to home. A familiar landmark was missing - our mail box. The wooded pole was snapped and the box was lying in the gutter. I went out and pushed the box up on the lawn. I'm guessing that the snow plow got it as it rounded the corner.

Since I had trouble getting into the garage and it was still snowing, I decided I had to do some shoveling so Rich could get his car in. After a cup of tea and dressing for shoveling, I went out and started the task. The snow was heavy and about 6" deep; it was still snowing and would for the rest of the day. So I shoveled and shoveled and the driveway slowly was cleared. By the time I finished, where I started had about an inch on it, but Rich could get in.

Later in the week, we got more snow! I've done more shoveling this season than I have in years.

In February, Montgomery County experienced an incredible ice storm that caused most of the homes in the county to lose power. The storm downed a large number of trees that took out eleven substations, according to the power company. It's unusual to lose one substation, so the power company had to work over time to get everyone back on line. We got power back mid-afternoon and most people returned to normal by the next day. My office suffered quite bit from the power lost; being a real-time system, it has to be operating all the time. A UPS only lasts about half an hour, so the mainframe was in trouble when that failed. It also fried the phone mail, making it hard to get in touch with anyone who did get into work. The building management rushed a generator to the building, but we weren't back in business until late that night. We were called and told to not bother coming in, as the building had no heat or water. It was a chilly day off, listening to the portable radio and trying to keep warm.

There is also talk that Washington may yet get a baseball team. The Montreal Expos are probably going to be leaving there and may wind up in this baseball hungry town. Of course the wags are saying the team should be renamed the Washington Exposés! Realistically, if Washington gets a team, they will probably be called the Senators (again) or the Nationals.

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On to the comments on KAPA 97.

OO Pat

Great cover for this mailing. Another by Naomi, I assume. The hearts are great. ** Sorry that Joel left. Keeping up with an apa isn't too hard if you think of it as a letter to friends.

Sailing The Abnormalcy #29 Bryan

I could have sworn I had comments on your last zine. Did you have a zine in the last issue? The last mailing is around here somewhere, but I'm not sure where. ** I had a note that said "Japanese quilting", but you probably didn't notice any needlework over there. ** ct Guy Considering Starr was satisfied no hanky panky was going on, how is that like the president assembling an enemies list? You may not be aware of this, but to visit the White House, you must provide your SSN before hand and show a photo ID at the start of the tour (children exempt). Also, the "whole China missile technology deal" happened about ten years ago, under the Republican administration. Would you feel it is fair to be blamed for something that the person who previously had you job did? It's taken this long due to investigating the who, what and when, as well as preparing a tight case. They don't want to get hit with a wrongful job termination suit, as several people were fired over a year ago. What with the Monica stuff, the news is a little backed up. ** ct me Where is it written that there's only a conspiracy if no one talks? People conspire then talk about it all the time - such as bank robbers, murders, etc. This city is built on spin - naturally everyone wants to look their best.

BlueGras no. 41 Guy

Whine, whine. A little snow never hurt anyone. They hadn't spread "ash" in years, Guy. They spread salt and a hi-tech melting mixture. The trucks are generally called "sanders". ** ct me The point of suggesting stamps is not to find the most recognizable names, but those important to the genre. There are a lot of stamps out there with obscure people on them famous to someone. You have e-mail, ask some one who was on the panel. ** ct me I don't recall talking about the details of his death. I'm not sure why I said I didn't remember the details of his death - he was murdered as the result of a car jacking. ** ct Jodie "King of the Road" was done by Roger Miller.

Notes from the Club Car 51 Pat

Washington has the same experience of a major snow/ice storm. We lost power until 3 PM the next day and some people didn't get it back for several days. Our main frame went down and we're still finding files corrupted during the storm. The power was off in our building for that day, so I didn't go in. When I got back I discovered that the building management had to bring in a generator to get our operation back up. We're suppose to be real time all the time. ** Ct movies So in Ireland they take the names of each person who buys a ticket? It would save a lot of problems if they did that here. It took over a year to settle a dispute over who owned a winning ticket in Virginia and a store owner was sent for jail for claiming a winning ticket after telling a customer she hadn't won. ** ct me Yes, we've always planned on going to

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Australia. Going to L.A. just cuts down on the time we spend in Australia. Three weeks is a long time to be away. Despite the adventure of traveling, I think I'll be ready to come home at the end of the trip. ** ct me To lay it out in a nutshell, there should be hometown favorites in the next few Worldcons. Consider, Australia has a number of fanzines and historically a smaller turnout for Worldcons. We're expect an Australia fanzine to win. Hometown advantage. The same with Chicago. I can't think of any past nominated fanzines are web-based. They all were on paper and have a site on the web, as MIMOSA does. We may be moving the MIMOSA website, as the web master vanished and we've been footing the bill for the site. Rich started e-mailing around to others on the site to kick in, but if he doesn't get any help, we may just move our stuff and let the others fend for themselves. The biker chick webpage hadn't been changed in over a year and there was no name attached. The site was deleted. **ct me Abortion has never been about what doctors think is human life; it's about if the woman wants the baby or not. If she does, no amount of expense is spared; if she doesn't, it's just a piece of tissue to be disposed of. The doctors who experimented on the Jews in Germany didn't think they constituted human life and left us with the dilemma if we should use the result of their suffering in helping others. Even doctors aren't consistent as to who is valuable and who isn't. It's all depends on the time and place and if you're popular or not. There are a number of countries where they check the sex of a fetus and abort the girls. Now their running into a problem with an over abundance of males. ** ct me Yup, the Goodwill book sale was the one and the same. There are a number of used book sales here during the year, but that one is the best we've seen.

Well, that's it for comments.

The SciFi Channel is trying for a new look with a new lineup of shows on Friday - Sci Fi 2.0. Replacing their usual Friday shows are *Poltergeist: the Legacy*, *Farscape*, *Sliders*, and *First Wave*. The new lineup premiered Friday March 19th, with a "sneak preview" on USA network (which owns the SciFi channel) the Sunday before. Oddly the "sneak preview" was not the series premiers, but episodes further down the road. I'm not sure why they chose to dump people into the middle of a new show and expect to hook them. It's also a mystery why they used a WWF person to "host" the shows as well.

Poltergeist: the Legacy is a Showtime series that is having a run on the SciFi Channel as well as currently in syndication. If you saw it on Showtime, these will be repeats; if you've been watching in syndication, these will be repeats. If you've never seen it before, it'll be new. *Poltergeist: the Legacy* doesn't follow the movie in much other than name. The Legacy is a group of scientists who investigate supernatural phenomenon and are based in San Francisco. Poorly written and produced, I couldn't get into it when it first started and haven't bothered watching since.

What can one say about *Sliders*? Well, it's gone downhill from its first season on network TV. Moving it to the SciFi Channel kept it on the air cheaply, but it didn't improve the quality of the stories from the second season. In its third or fourth season, it added an aliens-invade-earths-and-want-slider-technology thread.

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The two new series show some promise. However, if the Sci Fi Channel stays true to its past, both series will turn stupid and very skiffy. Both are original series for the SciFi channel from some big names in the entertainment world.

Farscape (8 PM, with repeats at midnight and Saturday afternoon) is from the Jim Henson Muppet Workshop and features a number of muppets along with the human actors. *Farscape* is the story of John Crichton (Ben Browder), an American astronaut who was sucked into a wormhole while testing a space craft of his own design (like NASA does that every day!). He finds himself in a different part of the galaxy (or perhaps a different galaxy) dumped into the middle of a space battle. Despite being defenseless, he manages to avoid the other ships, except for one fighter which bumps into him and explodes on a convenient asteroid. His ship is then drawn into a huge ship, where he finds breathable air and a strange band ofpeople. Consisting of two humans (Anthony Simcoe and Virginia Hey) and two muppets, they are former prisoners on the prison ship who have taken it over and are trying to escape from a race (Peacekeepers) who polices that part of the galaxy. They also have a reluctant fifth person (Claudia Black), one of the Peacekeepers who was captured by them and was branded a traitor by her superiors.

Their “living” ship needs some sort of supply to keep healthy, so after escaping the space battle, they head for a planet for supplies. The man and the woman warrior escape the ship, but her commander isn’t in a mood to be useful; he wants revenge for our killing his brother. So they all escape again and head out for parts unknown.

At this point, I don’t know if he’ll be forever looking for a way to return to Earth, or just going along with his new found friends exploring the galaxy. *Farscape* has obvious kid appeal with the muppets (although we adults like them too and they must save a lot on makeup). A little too obvious kid appeal is one of the muppet characters who farts helium under certain circumstances. Ha ha. As usual the science is iffy and the stories tend to be thin, but it’s just starting.

First Wave (10 PM, with repeats at 2 AM and Saturday afternoon) has a pedigree of a different sort, as it was created by Francis Ford Coppola. While he may not be a name in SF, Coppola did write and direct cult hit (many years ago) *The Conversation*, which taps into the current wave of paranoia that runs through modern entertainment.

Am I the only one who’s tired of the man-discovers-aliens-secretly-taking-over-earth series that seem to be constantly cropping up? Of course, *First Wave* is going one better by adding the “predictions” of Nostradamus as a blueprint as to what the aliens are doing. Wow, Nostradamus able to foresee this as well as everything else!

First Wave features Sebastian Spence as Cade Foster the bland lead, a former thief who married a good woman and is trying to go straight by working for a burglar alarm company. I was amazed that he found a company who kept important papers in a safe in the conference room; I thought most companies today

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stored important stuff on computers and corporate espionage was the real danger. I also thought building management would provide security rather than individual companies using alarms. Considering SciFi's parent company USA network shows *The Net*, based on the poorly done movie of the same name, I guess they didn't want another "person who's identity was deleted running from an omnipresent group" competing with them. Back to the plot.

Foster has strange visions, mostly of a head taking to him. He manages to find the person the head belongs to, but not in time to prevent his suicide. Since the person was a cop, Foster uses the cop's identity to trace another man, a millionaire, who had visions that drove him to kill his family. Visiting the man in the hospital, he hears about aliens taking over and where to find an important clue. He and his wife find the clue, which turns out to be an old book of Nostradamus predictions (written in English). This all has something to do with the suicide cop who sent the hero's police record to his employer so he would be fired and the insane millionaire, who also is dead by the time out hero returns to the hospital.

So, he and his wife hold up in a hotel, credit cards canceled and no jobs. While they are making love, she sprouts tentacles and chokes him (by this time, we know what's coming). While he's out, several people come in, leave his dead wife's body and talk with the tentacled one about how smart they were to clone his wife years ago.

You know the rest – he wakes, is arrested for murder, escapes and we wait for the next episode.

It's hard to tell from the little I've seen, but the Sci Fi Channel has committed to 66 episodes on the strength of the premise and the people behind it. I believe they committed to 22 episodes (a season) of *Farscape*, by contrast. *First Wave* wants us to think this is more sophisticated than the other shows about aliens hiding among us, but it's more of a retread. Rich feels it's a lot like the old *Invaders* series starring Roy Thinnes, but not was good. The first episode was of, but the second one went down hill rapidly, but it was fun to make fun of.

Well, that's about all for now. My quilt guild is having a show at the end of April and I need to finish up on the quilts I want to enter. Have a nice spring!

N.