

From ASH and FLAME

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BLOODY FIELDS ON MUDDY WATERS



Alivan's Winged Lions and the Pontchartrain Pirates upstage a river boat.
photo by Kirstee Byrne



The Borders Potions Masters and the Knight 62442 Werewolves reach for the Quaffle at Riverside Quidditch. photo by Jessica Blank

by Genii Grimsley

QUAFFLES FLEW THROUGH the air as eight teams took to the field Saturday. The two pitches were created and graciously allowed on Woldenburg Riverfront Park along the banks of the Mississippi River. The games were action packed with both teams struggling for the Quaffle, while the beaters attempted to protect their team and their hoops. Amongst the more memorable games was the Alivan's Winged Lion versus the Owl Appreciation Society Fighting Owls match. In this game six fake snitches (which counted for points, but did not end the game when caught) were caught before the real snitch,

which was caught by the Alivan's Winged Lions. The Whimsic Alley Sea Serpents had notoriously good sportsmanship; they thanked each team that defeated them and they thanked their most valuable players when they won.

Not only did attendees have fun playing Quidditch, a local family also decided to watch. The Christmann children, Carrie (age 10) and Robert (age 7), decided to try their own version of Quidditch. They ran around in circles chasing a Quaffle before sparring to get it. At the encouragement of several attendees, they also tried to throw the Quaffle through the hoops, but could only reach the shortest one. Unfortunately, Quidditch is a very rough sport and while bruises tend to be the norm, occasionally a player will get injured. Between KT, a beater for

the Beta Anonymous Punctuation Pixies, being elbowed in the ribs during her match and Mandala, a chaser for the Alivan's Winged Lions, taking a Quaffle to the face, the aggressiveness of the sport was indeed highlighted yesterday.

In the end, only two teams could advance to the finals of the Borders Riverside Quidditch Classic. Both the Knight 62442 Werewolves and Alivan's Winged Lions played their best in an intense game. Attendees crowded around the pitch to see these two teams fight it out for the Quidditch cup. The Knight 62442 Werewolves trounced the Alivan's Winged Lions by earning a final score of 200 to 50. All in all, both players and spectators enjoyed the Muggle version of the game from the *Harry Potter* series.

Artists and Authors Night

by JoSelle Vanderhoof



Fanfiction author Ariadne writes drabbles on command for Artists and Authors Night. photo by Jessica Blank

FROM 8:00 PM TO 11:30 pm, fanfiction authors, artists and beta readers staffed tables in Grand Ballroom B. Here they offered Phoenix Rising attendees drabbles (short, near-100 word fanfics) and drawbles (sketches) featuring a number of characters, pairings and ratings. Fans were also on hand to critique other fans' fanfiction and fan art at the Beta Booth and the Art Critique Booth.

WIZARDS GO WIRELESS!

by JoSelle Vanderhoof

SEVERAL HARRY POTTER fansites set up their tables in Grand Ballroom A for The Wireless Web Network, part of Saturday's Author and Artist night. Participants included:

- >> The Shrieking Shack (shriekingshack.org and s-shack.org)
- >> Flagship fanfiction archive FictionAlley (fictionalley.org)
- >> Alleycast, an adult-oriented Harry Potter podcast (alleycast.org)
- >> Quidditch Pitch, a fanfiction and fan art archive that welcomes stories and art of all ratings and featuring all pairings, as well as podcasts (thequidditchpitch.org)
- >> Simply Undeniable, an archive for Harry/Ginny and Ron/Hermione fan fiction (simplyundeniable.com)
- >> Table for 3: A Harry/Hermione/Ron archive (triofile.com)
- >> The Petulent Poetess, a large fanfiction site hosting several archives including: Ashwinder, a Severus Snape/Hermione Granger archive; Wolfsbane, a Remus Lupin archive, and several others. (thepetulantpoetess.com and sycophanthex.com)
- >> Atlanta HP Triwizard Tournament, an Atlanta, Georgia-based Harry Potter fan group that meets monthly (atlantahp.com)

"I thought it would be a chance to do more than the normal things people prompt me for," explained Annie, one of the owners of The Quidditch Pitch (thequidditchpitch.org), adding that the site's other owners tend to prompt each other to write fanfiction.

Samantha Rose said that she signed up for the Art Critique Booth, which she staffed between 8:00 and 9:30 p.m., because she wanted to use her bachelor's degree in Media Arts and Animation to help other fans.

"I like to help people with what they have, to help them learn," she said.

Next door in Grand Ballroom C, FictionAlley held a live broadcast of Spellcast, its official podcast. This well-attended event included such things as a performance by The Remus Lupins (Alexander Carpenter) and a live recording of the original radio play "The Three Trials of Severus Snape."

FROM FAN TO FANDOM

by Maryann Penzvalto

THE HARRY POTTER fandom's founders and celebrities celebrated that fandom and its many members during the "Transformation: From Fan to Fandom" event held Saturday night at the Aquarium of the Americas. Simon Branford, one of FictionAlley's founders, Melissa Anelli of The Leaky Cauldron, renowned fandom expert Dr. Henry Jenkins, Jennie Levine of The Sugar Quill and event moderator Catherine Tosenberger participated in a panel discussion of the effect of the internet on the fan experience.

The night began with a walking Cajun-style buffet and access to the aquarium. Here fans and keynote speakers alike enjoyed viewing the numerous sea creatures on display. But the crowd moved toward a more traditional setting for the presentation: the aquarium's second floor meeting room. After introducing themselves, the speakers described the various reasons why they first came to the Harry Potter fandom during the long waits

between the books. Their reasons included wanting to find fan fiction, fellow fans or simply a place where they could discuss the books to the extent that they wished.

Dr. Jenkins provided anecdotes of his experiences in fandom before the creation of the internet, when fans "who sought to contact each other did so by creating 'letterzines'" — that is, collections of fan-produced letters passed from fan to fan. Fandoms were also far smaller, as they spread by word of mouth.

The panel members who ran websites discussed the turn fandoms had taken since the inception of the internet. With the easy access to fansites and forums, fans can come together on a much larger scale than before, they explained. According to the panelists, the Harry Potter fandom has succeed partly because both J.K. Rowling and Warner Bros. have noticed internet fandom and given their support. After a question-and-answer period, the event drew to a close as the hundreds of people in the crowd applauded and cheered.



Trisha Masen (*simons_ower*) of fanfiction archive Quidditch Pitch tells people to visit her site. photo by Jessica Blank

- >> Flagship fansite The Leaky Cauldron (the-leaky-cauldron.org)
- >> Newsletter Hogwarts Today (hogwarts_today.livejournal.com)
- >> Betas Anonymous, a fanfiction beta society

Several tables held trivia contests and offered candy and other prizes to passers-by. Some, such as The Petulent Poetess, interviewed attendees for an upcoming podcast about *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. Others, like Hogwarts Today, allowed writers and artists to create hundred-word drabbles and sketches based on prompts collected from readers. The art and fiction will be posted later on a special Live Journal at ht_rising.livejournal.com.

MEET THE AUTHORS

by Kayla Castille *Night*

PUBLISHED AUTHORS offered attendees a glimpse into their own fannish worlds during the "Meet the Author" readings when some read their own fanfiction.

Fandom scholar Henry Jenkins read a slash fic he wrote about Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, featuring Scrooge and Marley. Jenkins also read from an essay about his love of comic books that he wrote while trying to cope with the death of his mother.

Rachel Caine, author of the Weather Warden series of novels and known to attendees in Bellereve as their head of house, Professor Roxanne Conrad, read her own *Harry Potter* fanfic -- a story from Snape's perspective about an unpleasant encounter with the power-hungry Professor Umbridge.

Authors George Beahm, Gina Burkart, Valerie Frankel and Mathilde Madden also read Saturday night.