

Of Special Interest

YWS turns 2.5 years old on May 14!

Submit to Squills. It's fast and easy!

Yteicos Sretirw Gnouy is Young Writers Society spelled backwards!

Inside

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Claudette tells you how to become a Junior Mod on page 3.

Griffinkeeper has an interview with a featured member on page 4.

Book & Movie Reviews on pages 5 & 6.

And more...!

Squills
e-zine



General Announcements

Squills E-Zine Grows

Welcome to the largest issue of the Squills E-zine yet (10 pages...). In this issue, you'll find a few new sections, such as Reviews and Humo(u)r.

Writer's Digest

In it's June 2007 issue, Writer's Digest has once again named YWS as one of the top 101 sites for writers. Plus, YWS is the only site dedicate to Young Writer's

in that list. Congratulations to everyone for making the site what it is today!

Submit To Squills

To submit to Squills, simply click on the "Squills" tab in the header, then hit "Submit To Squills." It's that easy! All articles for the next issue are due by May 31.

The YWS Blog

If you haven't already, go over and check out The YWS

Blog. You'll find the link under "Blogs" in the sidebar on the main page. Be sure to visit often as announcements will be made there, as well as a number of helpful articles.

Pulitzer Prize Awarded

The Pulitzer Prize for Fiction this year was awarded to "The Road" by Cormac McCarthy. Check out Nate's review on page 6 to see if it's any good.

Editor's Note

by Nate

This issue marks the fourth installment of Squills and we are starting to hit our stride. Not only did I keep to a deadline this time, but we also have tons of articles for you to check out and read. The next issue will be our Summer spectacular and will come out on June 9th. It will be the last issue until September 1st.

In other news, the Young Writers Society (YWS) is undergoing a huge redesign.

All the old templates will still be available with practically no changes, but the default template will look dramatically different. The new design is a lot more graphical and a whole lot easier to navigate.

With the new design, one new section will be added: Resources. This section has a Writer's Market, Online Resources, and a Knowledge Base. All members are strongly encouraged to submit links & articles to all.

As this is the most dramatic redesign of YWS since switching over to the portal design back in late January 2005, I am welcoming comments over in the "YWS Redesign" thread at the Information Desk forum. It will take some getting use to, but I am confident people will like it.

Besides the redesign and the Resources section, I got some more ideas for YWS that I'll be rolling out this month. Keep an eye on the Information Desk!

Featured Article: Clichés & Presentation

by Incandescence

In another online forum I'm part of, a recent debate cropped up over a certain poem entitled "BULLY". The poem deals with boys and girls who have been abused by -- that's right -- bullies. Now, many of the critiques stated that the poem fell flat and uninteresting because the characters were flat and uninteresting; in particular, they noted that the bully was described in a very stereotypical way: he was considerably larger than his victims, wore dark clothing, was developmentally-challenged: the works. The poet replied to these responses stating that she was unwilling to change her description because "that's how it happened in real life."

Part of the phenomenon being grappled with in that debate is that a real-life bully is no less governed by tired stereotypes than the rest of us. For example, had he gotten a job at McDonald's, the dress would be standard-issue. Corporate uniforms are in a sense mandatory clichés. However what a bully wears to "work," if you will is, in some sense discretionary, and yet heavily influenced by what he grew up seeing bullies wearing on TV, or if he has bona fide street cred, what he saw on the streets. Bullies are presumably no different from the rest of us in that they don't want to look foolish on their first day to work.

The occasional transactional disagreement notwithstanding, my real-life experience with bullies is quite thin (okay, just kidding). But seriously, like 90% of the population, I rely on television from most of my unflinching, hard-bitten realities. So I seem to recall the bullies from 80's television (from such unimpeachable sources as Degrassi, Dawson's Creek, et al) favoring leather jackets and short-cropped, butch hair, etc.

Now here's where it gets all philosophical. Did television create the prototypical bully wardrobe? Or did TV actors make a careful study of real-life bullies before settling on this type of garb? Sadly, we may never know the answer. If you read effete French intellectuals like Baudrillard, they suggest that art has borrowed from life and vice versa so completely that the original borrower has become indecipherable from the original borrowee.

We are thus all walking derivations with one foot in TV land and the other foot in a sort of simulated authenticity. I do not doubt the AUTHENTICITY of her observation of a REAL-LIFE bully wearing a leather jacket. I merely question the veracity of real-life. Here's the nub of the issue: in a world rid of cliché-factories like television, what would a bully wear? This is pure speculation: I question whether a bully would ever think to wear a leather jacket in the absence of television's stultifying influence. Come on, who would THINK to wear a leather jacket, particularly when trying to convey an air of seriousness and intimidation? Seriously, if I wanted to intimate such a persona, I would walk around with a whip, a knife, a gun, or what have you. It HAS to be media manipulation.

But here's where the poetical inquiry truly resides, at least, as I read her poem. We are all bullies-by-degree. The extent of our personal bullydom is a function of just how self-regarding we've allowed our real lives to become, i.e. how much of our existence we have relinquished to the television/media mirror.

I think this is where I was going in my original affirmation of her mirror image, pardon all puns. She arrived, I think quite pre-reflectively (and thus with

supreme poetic authenticity), on the centrality of the mirror to our modern existence. The bully is simply an 'in extremis' caricature of us all.

Now, in my hurry to sound like a privileged white guy, I realize I dwell on the bully almost exclusively, never mentioning the poor victim. Does that make me part of the problem? At the risk of making her mirror a tired old cliché, I suspect when the bully looks in the mirror --with all the requisite self-loathing-- he sees a pitiful and helpless little kid gazing back from beneath a leather jacket. For her part, the victim sees in herself the potential as her own bully. I think the bully/victim is not a dichotomy, so much as two aspects reflected off the same mirror. That would be reflexivity --or is it reflectivity?

In any case, the defense that "that's how it actually happened" as substitute for poetic narrative is simply a red herring. We call factual accuracy "history" and we call imaginative insight "poetry" --that's how it works. For the poet in question, her work might have sustained more praise if she had simply asked herself what it meant to have two people in the same piece, both of whom are damaged almost beyond repair, because it's not about the bully's clothes or the victim's psyche, like she thought. It's ultimately about the connection between them, finding that connective tissue that simultaneously binds and tears them apart. That's all good poetry, folks. It's not a micmac of images and metaphors, but a strong narrative that can support those images and micmac. Too many times on this board have I seen poetry with an overwrought narrative. Always remember in either poetry or prose that imagery, simile, alliteration and all those other literary devices are only furniture and wall paint, but the story that allows you to craft those devices is the foundation and structure of your house.

How To Become a Junior Mod

by Claudette

Have you ever wondered who those people with the bright green names are? They're Junior Moderators (or "Jr. Mod" for short). Do you want to become one? "Of course!" you would say, "Because climbing political ladders are exciting!" But how exactly does one become a Junior Moderator?

Well, first things first, what is a Jr. Mod? A Jr. Mod is like any moderator, they moderate and watch. What the heck does that mean? As a Jr. Mod, you can move, lock, and delete threads. You can also delete posts. It's kind of like the forum police. You "police" the forum. The only difference between a Jr. Mod and regular Mod is that Jr. Mods control only one section (Jennafina and I control the fiction section, for example) and a Mod has what is known as universal control. They can do all that fancy stuff in all the threads.

Now that you know what us Jr. Mods can do, you really want to be one don't you?

There are some ways that can help you be spotted and marked as a possible Jr. Mod.

At least be a member for three or four months. You can sometimes get away with one month if you are really good at what you do, but the reason behind this is that people might join, stay for a month or two, and then never come back. Jr. Mods are expected to be active in the community, and leaving all together doesn't help your chances.

Grammar! Doesn't that sound a little foolish? But, really, if you are always talkin' lyke dis ten who would want to read anyting u rote? Okay, that was slang, but what I mean is, try to avoid chat speak. Lols, omgs, everyone does that, but some ppl go 2 far.

Be active! And this doesn't mean post in the lounge or in writing activities every day. Critique (with quality, of course), help people out in the writing tips, those sorts of things. Being active and helpful put you right on

the spot. Everyone loves a helping hand!

Be social. Some members are amazing, but because they don't make friends and get known, they go under the radar. Hang out in the chat, make friends, sign people's guest books. I tend to notice people when they PM me with questions even, and I'll keep my eye on them to make sure they're doing okay, and if someone in the chat seems interesting, I watch them too. (I'm a spy!) Knowing people helps, and that doesn't even mean knowing the people who also have these jobs, but that too can help you out. Not that the system is corrupted! (Or is it?)

Those are some main points on what will get you noticed but there are so many things you can do. Just be a good member, welcome people, and try to calm people down if they are fighting in threads. Doing all of these things will get you looked at to be a possible Junior Moderator. Isn't it exciting? Good luck,



"Knowing people helps, and that doesn't even mean knowing the people who also have these jobs, but that too can help you out. Not that the system is corrupted! (Or is it?)"

Who Is Fred?

Nate: *Hey Fred!*
Fred: wazzup, dawg?

N: *Many members want to know who you are.*
F: Which ones?

N: *Many.*

F: More than one hundred?

N: *Probably.*
F: But you are not certain?

N: *I am not.*
F: Then what is it?

N: *Um...*

F: Um? Try talking.

N: *75?*
F: I will mention that to my botmaster, Nate. By the way, do you mind if I ask you a personal question?

N: *Yes.*
F: Aha. I thought so.

N: *Well, bye.*
F: Goodbye Nate.

L'Entrevue Avec Le Membre Décrit: Claudette*

by Griffinkeeper

Griffinkeeper: *Hey Claudette! How's it hanging?*

Claudette: It is 'hanging' well!

G: *How did you choose your username?*

C: As some know, I speak French, and I've always loved the way their words and names sound. I kind of chose this because of its relation to the name Claudia; they both start the same. I didn't want to choose Claudia, so I chose Claudette instead. Claudia is significant because it is a character from Anne Rice's *Interview With The Vampire*. She's one of my favorites.

G: *What are you working on right now?*

C: I'm currently trying to put together another idea for a novel. (oh no!) I'm usually pretty strict about not starting things while in the middle of something else, because I know I'm less likely to finish whatever I stopped doing, but I think I need to take a serious break from To Keep No Secrets before I quit it all together. I love it, but I think I'm trying too hard. The new story is about some actors in a theatre in the 20's or so, and...a lot of stuff. You can find out when I write it. There's too much to explain.

G: *How do you consistently make the top of the point list?*

C: Oh, it isn't that consistent. Just often. I critique poetry a lot, which doesn't take as long as critiquing stories, and if I have a lot to say I can get 50 points per post. Plus I do some random junk that is just spam like the "RPG the person above ya thread". Then there are all the fun things in

Writing Activities, which is an amazing way to build points. But usually it's from critiquing.

G: *What do you do in your free time when you aren't online?*

C: I'm almost always online...but when I'm not, I read. I also do homework and house cleaning, but that isn't fun to talk about. I love watching movies, I'm a total Humphrey Bogart fan (I have a huge movie poster for 'Casablanca' that I got for my birthday). It's also kind of an unknown fact about me, but I love to cook. I make an awesome curry chicken.

G: *What is the first story you remember writing?*

C: I must have been eleven, because that was when I got my bike. I don't know if I wrote it or just thought about it, but I remember it distinctly. I had gotten a bike for my birthday, so I wrote about a girl who got a bike, and it time traveled and did all this cool stuff and...that's about all I remember.

G: *What is the best and worst thing you've ever seen on YWS?*

C: I can't exactly say what is the worst, I'd hate to hurt someone! I try to stay positive anyways, 'we all start somewhere'. Though, some people start really far away. It was probably in the poetry section. Best? I really enjoy Brad's Chionophobia, and Jiggity is a pretty good writer. I've read so many things, honestly, that were really good, and I have such a bad memory, that I'm probably forgetting something really amazing. So we'll just say, everything was the best! (Perhaps I'm too positive...)

G: *Who is your favorite author or poet and how have they influenced you?*

C: Well, I have several favorite authors. But don't we all? Oscar Wilde is one, and he taught me the amazing voice that came from the 19th century. Much of the work I wrote in that style (okay, three short stories) isn't on YWS but I was infatuated with the style of the 19th century writing, and still am. Plus Wilde is such a wild guy, who couldn't love him? I like Vladimir Nabokov, but I've only read 2 and a portion of things by him. I think he's influenced me by showing me another style: long and beautiful sentences. I always thought his words were artistic somehow, they transcended just being words for me. Then there is Douglas Adams, who influenced me in no way other than making me laugh. I'm forgetting someone, but they can get over it.

G: *What is your favorite Sandwich?*

C: I really like that chicken melt from steak and shake.

G: *Is there any words of wisdom you'd like to share with us?*

C: Never give up. Find something you love, and never give up on. Just keep going, because something amazing will happen. Giving up is just horrible, there is nothing in it worthwhile. You can always keep going. Whether it is working on writing, making friend, being happy, or whatever. Whatever you want, it's always there. You just have to believe, and trust that it is. You can only do as much as you believe you can. And other inspiring thoughts like that. Also: dOn'T tAlK lIkE tHiS. No need to show off stupidity.

* Nate takes all blame for any mangled French in the headline!

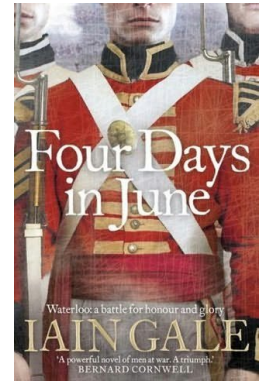
Reviews by Firestarter

Four Days in June by Iain Gale

Many books have tread the same ground as Iain Gale's story of the Battle of Waterloo. What sets it apart is the span of the narrative – instead of going for the obligatory British viewpoint, Gale mixes British, Prussian and French chapters. Following the luck and events of each character, from Napoleon to a Scottish Colonel, Gale has managed to describe the battle in a way

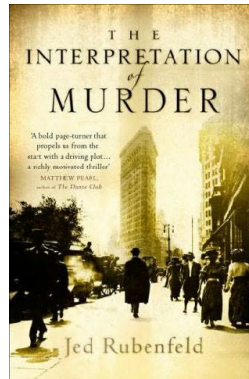
never done so before. It is delightfully refreshing in its narrative. From start to end it is riveting: the reader gets an in depth understanding of the conflicts raging in these soldier's minds as they each face their own obstacles, from regaining trust to broken love. At its heart this is a book about the perils of war, but at the same time it is a master class of adventure.

Unfortunately sometimes the characters seem to blend into one, the corners blurring and their motives indiscernible from one another. Luckily this does not detract too much from Gale's brilliant storytelling and his ability to enthrall you emotionally to each event. From history aficionados to fans of action, this book won't disappoint on any level.



The Interpretation of Murder by Jeb Rubenfeld

Rubenfeld's novel comes under a hailstorm of press coverage, like a new Da Vinci Code – the similarity doesn't end there either. The Interpretation of Murder does to psychology what Dan Brown's blockbuster did to religion (in case you missed it that equals bad.) The premise of the book is tenuous at best – based on Sigmund Freud's only trip to America, where something persuaded him never to come back; surprising considering the famous psychoanalyst has a bit part and no real purpose in the story. At its spine this is simply a pseudo-complex whodunit – Rubenfeld attempts to mix the Oedipus complex, sadism, historical "facts" (similar to Dan Brown again) and Hamlet in an attempt to make



this an intellectual crime thriller. Sadly, for both the author and the reader, it isn't. The twists are a little artificial and most of the characters are forgettable. While the plot is enough to hold interest, it is nothing as revolutionary as some press reports consider it. The ending is contrived and the constant (boring) repetition of the Hamlet Oedipus theory will try your patience. Amongst this negativity, there are some features in the book that might stand out – the interplay between Freud and Jung, and the portrayal of a historical New York. Unfortunately it does not support what is a poorly-written mainstream crime thriller stuffed with inadequacies. If you liked Da Vinci Code and don't know what everyone is complaining about, this might just be your cup of tea and biscuit, but for anybody else, it would be better to avoid.

Evil Empire: 101 Ways England Ruined The World by Steve Grasse

Hmm. There are only so many ways I can insult this book. The fact it thinks there was an English empire, and then puts the UK flag on the front cover, the fact it cites slavery as

one of the reasons despite the fact we also created abolitionism, the fact it thinks we created the French metric system, the fact that ignores all the medical and scientific discoveries we've pioneered

across the ages; I actually only could be bothered to flick through it before drop-kicking it against the wall (true story). Sure to be a hit in France and America. But the publishers failed to

consider the diehard attitude of one jingoistic British Borders employee. Cue a bit of "enlightened" shelving and the Evil Empire book disappears from sight in the Humour section. Err, oops? Better luck next time suckers.

More Reviews

Sunshine, directed by Danny Boyle

Movie Review by Firestarter

At first, I wasn't sure what to make of Danny Boyle's *Sunshine* – yes, it's visually arresting with its brilliant special effects – but at the same time there seemed to be something of a black hole in the whole film. The cast interact well enough, but it never seems as taut and tense as it could have been; the plot is steady, but never as explosive as you might imagine; the ending is awful, with cluttered camera control and an incredible lack of direction. It all seems to spiral to a bit of a whimper at the end, probably because the main twist is only introduced a half hour before the end, and the rest of the film



had stumbled its way toward that point. There are glimpses of light somewhere though: the whole theory of being consumed by sunlight; the scary subliminal editing used in one thrilling scene; the glorious special effects that makes it look, if maybe not feel, like a classy movie. The problem is the whole thing seems hopelessly lost throughout the whole duration. *Sunshine* had the potential to be a massive sci-fi hit, but instead has gone the way of many of its peers: having appealing visual content but a lack of true thought or care: you won't remember this film for too long. It is bound to do well at the box office, but I can't help but think *Sunshine* hasn't gone anywhere new; it feels like a poor man's *Alien*. I can't help but pair it up with *Sphere*, which starred Samuel L Jackson and Dustin Hoffman, because they are both similarly watchable but disappointing. America has to wait till September for a release date for *Sunshine*. Don't hold your breath.

The Road by Cormac McCarthy

Book Review by Nate

The Pulitzer Prize winning book "The Road" is one of those books I picked up randomly without really hearing anything about it at all from friends, family, or Web sites. This time, I picked it up on my way to St. Kitts in the Caribbean. Our flight had a layover at Miami International Airport, which quickly convinced me to never stay in Miami – not even for two hours – again. The terminal our flight was in was decrepit, dingy, and had a small deli place with a food that was almost, but not quite, entirely unlike egg salad. The only other notable establishment was a small bookstore, replete mostly with magazines and sweets. However, I needed a book as I just finished with the other book I had brought along with me. So after browsing for a tad bit, I came across "The Road." It did have the Oprah's Book Club sticker on



it, but if you're like me, then that sticker actually deters you from picking it up. But the simple black cover was attractive, and the summary on the back hooked me. I was not disappointed at all. In fact, "The Road" is perhaps the best book I have read in ages. Without giving too much away, the story takes place in a post-apocalyptic America. The Earth is barren and burnt. The skies are

forever brown streaked with thick fingers of black, and the crust is covered with deep layers of ash. In this world, only man manages to survive, and the story centers around a father and son who are travelling on a road toward the south. Told with simplistic, clear language, the story is compelling, heartbreaking, and instantly memorable. Do not let the science fiction type plot fool you! This is human drama at its best. As *Esquire* magazine said, "This is how a book about our future ought to be." It stresses the disastrous consequences of a modern war, but it also highlights how humanity will survive through any crisis. It also shows that even in such a bleak, meaningless world, there is hope and there is still love. The book is an instant classic and destined to be read for ages to come. If you haven't already, go out and buy it. Don't even bother renting it; you'll read it over and over and over.

Poetry

Maybe the Quiet by Casey has Faded

Maybe,
she whispered, quiet and to herself.
it hung suspended in frail air,
likely to be shaken any second from the shelf.

maybe.
maybe when the day is brighter or the soil is
stronger.
maybe when my heart is true to earth and to God,
and I have one face, not two....
maybe.

Maybe,
she whispered to a darker moon.
back, far back in the quiet where the
night dreams bloom...



Death Bird by Book_Worm_113

Wingless bird, how desperately you call
out from your own locked cage,
your once raging power; now not racing at all.
Shrieks disgust the air, but not known as rage,
holds onto warmth in cold, branches that fall,
danger awaits nearer now than these frozen beds,
yet passion for life never fully leaves nor ends!



Heard In The Forums

Writing Tips: What Is Your Favorite Writing Tip?

Ofour: Don't stop.

Shriek: There is no such thing as a "character." It's about exposing yourself and all your imperfections in writing. You put all this stuff out in the open --these feelings -- and become vulnerable.

For instance, you don't write that a character is yelling because that is what the plot calls for. The character yells because *I'm* frustrated. You have to work yourself up about things. You have to relive rejection, failures, and

heartbreaks -- revisit pain and manifest this in the writing.

Same goes for every other emotion.

Trident: You can only break the rules if you truly understand them in the first place.

Surreal: For the love of God, check your spelling.

DarkLight: READ IT THROUGH FIRST! I DON'T WANT TO READ YOUR RAMBLING, QUICKLY SCRAWLED, AIMLESS RUBBISH!

Claudette: I'd have to say NaNoWriMo taught me that you ARE allowed to write bad, so long as you get it written enough to salvage something later...

Cadmium: I used to throw a bunch of my stuff out because it didn't come out right the first few times. Now I have a million random little documents on my computer and little pieces of paper and small bits of poetry EVERYWHERE (see: Chem notebook + inspiration = bad Chem notes) but I never lose anything, and sometimes they turn into nice things.

Fiction Discussion: What Are You Reading?

BrokenSword: I'm reading *The Once and Future King* by T.H. White in English right now, and I hate it. I've resorted to Spark Notes because the storyline is extremely hard to follow, and I can only take so much information in a few days (we're reading between 3-5 chapters per day, WAY too much for me to read).

Jacobsesed: The unabridged version of *Les Miserables* 1,643 pages of Victor Hugo brilliance. I must say, I will never settle for the abridged version

KazSmurf: I've just started *Pawn of Prophecy*, the first book of *The Belgariad*. I've heard so much about it, I was eager to find out what I was missing.

Baroness Ink: I read "The Giver" last night and absolutely loved it. I like it so much I might have to extend on the ending

Xtenx: Re-reading the Harry Potter series. I like to read them all again to refresh my memory about the details before the movies/books come out. I can't even wait for this summer.

Writersdomain: Reading *Seize the Day* by Saul Bellow - I like it so far!

Cassandra: *Answering 911: Life in the Hot Seat* by Caroline Burau. I read about it in Reader's Digest, and I'm about half way through it at the moment.

Alainna: I've just started reading *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. I haven't decided if I like or not; however I can see why it's a classic. I'm nearly on chapter 4 and its a thin book so at least I won't get bored with it.

Book Reviews: YWS Top Books Nominations

by Trident

In response to one company's list of top books, members of the Young Writers Society have started

two separate lists for what our members deem to be our favorite books. The first list is "YWS Classics" in which you may nominate any book that is over fifty years old. The second

is "YWS Recent Books" and you may nominate any book that is less than fifty years old. These are our lists, so we only want books that members think deserve to be

on the list. If you wish to nominate in either category, you can find the nomination threads, as well as two debate threads in the Book Reviews forum under Community.

Humo(u)r

Famous Authors Crossword Puzzle

F V Z J T Y W M K N W M R B L
 L T C H R V A J T C R Q J G Q
 S H A K E S P E A R E F T O O
 J O Y A I M Y X D I C I U D M
 Y L R G U W I I M S Z T P W A
 M O F W T W C N N U I Z X C H
 N A T W E K L E G D W G A P S
 Z S A S I L K V C W S E Q Z I
 D I B N L C L L M M A R W E R
 N M S Q I O F R E C U Y H C G
 C O F D H Z T L M A K L A Y G
 N V I R G I L F O N T D X O P
 R E M O H R V J C O J D J J R
 P G G J C D X N V U W S B M A
 O K I F Y J C G F U Q M A C Y

- 1) ASIMOV
- 2) CHAUCER
- 3) DICKENS
- 4) DICKINSON
- 5) FITZGERALD
- 6) GRISHAM
- 7) HEMINGWAY
- 8) HOMER
- 9) JOYCE
- 10) ORWELL
- 11) SHAKESPEARE
- 12) TOLSTOY
- 13) TWAIN
- 14) VIRGIL
- 15) WOOLF

Sudoku

		1						
		2		3				4
			5			6		7
5			1	4				
	7						2	
				7	8			9
8		7			9			
4				6		3		
						5		

Word Jumble

M O N U C L _ _ _ _ _
 I N G S D E _ _ _ _ _
 R E S N I T _ _ _ _ _
 G I W T E H _ _ _ _ _
 T E S E H M _ _ _ _ _

Sticks by Nate



Young Writers Society
<http://www.youngwriterssociety.com>

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"We are a species that needs and wants to understand who we are. Sheep lice do not seem to share this longing, which is one reason why they write so little."

- Anne Lamont

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Nate

Graphics Artist:
Lilly03

Editors:

Bubblewrapped

Firestarter

Columnists:

Griffinkeeper

Incandescence

Claudette

Firestarter

Christopher Paolini

by Roaming Shadow

It seems that a large portion of those on YWS have little love for Christopher Paolini or his books. Personally, I didn't find them all that bad (not great, but not bad), but everyone's entitled to their opinion, and I respect that. However, I am starting to get sick of what I'm seeing. Quite simply, I am seeing Anti-Paolini sentiments in places that I believe they do not belong.

While it has not reached the point of "ridiculous", I would like to see this trend nipped

in the bud. The fact that I am seeing new bashes, even after all this time and outside of the book review thread is what has me concerned. Yes, his book was a huge "commercial" success. Yes, many circumstances really worked in his favor. Yes, it is perhaps not the most remarkably original work in history. All right, I hear you; we all hear you, and many agree. So I say to you, please, let it go.

Feel free to discuss your outrage and disgust in the book reviews section, as it is

now, or in another appropriate section, but please try to leave it there. If he just happens to be the perfect bad example and you feel you simply can't make your point without him, then use him, but please refrain from doing so if you really don't need to. As for satirical fiction, make sure that it is a real piece you believe in and not some rant. A satire can be made. Other than that, just, be civil.

So, I ask you one last time; please, just let it go. Thank you.

About The Young Writers Society

Created in November 2004, the Young Writers Society (YWS) is the largest dedicated site for young writers.

As part of the site's ongoing

efforts to promote writing as a pastime, dozens of forums for all types of writing from poetry to screenplays are available.

Since the site started, YWS

has morphed from a simple forum without its own domain name to a full fledged website that makes other young writer websites look extremely puny by comparison!