

# THE GEEK GAZETTE



## SOMETIMES THEY COME BACK AGAIN & AGAIN& AGAIN...

Those that say the only definites in life are death and taxes obviously don't read a lot of comic books. Death not only has physical form in comics but he/she/it apparently doesn't take the job too seriously or else there wouldn't be a revolving door installed in the afterlife. Comic book characters die and come back from the dead on an almost weekly basis. The only characters that actually stayed dead were Uncle Ben, Jason Todd & Bucky, the latter two recently made their returns.

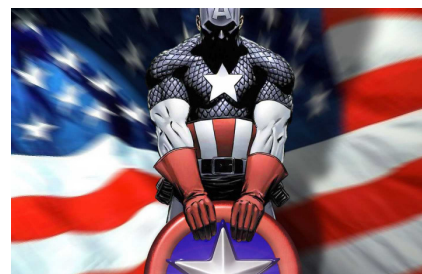
While there is a part of every fan, myself included, that longs to see favorite heroes return, I feel it de-means the character to do so; especially if their death served a purpose or was truly tragic. One of the best Spiderman stories I have ever read was the death of Aunt May. Granted that story was part of the whole Clone Saga, but let's not delve into that right now. At the time I felt that issue was a very moving and poignant part of the Spiderman mythos. The fact that it was erased from continuity showed not only a lack of creativity, but served only to, in my opinion, stifle the character of Peter Parker. Some may argue that May is one of the most integral parts of Spiderman's existence, which is why I feel her death should have been honored. The same can be said of Jason Todd (Robin II), Ted Kord (Blue Beetle II), and Barry Allen (Flash II), just to name a few, who have returned in one form or another, thus nullifying their heroic / meaningful deaths.

Some Golden Age heroes such as the Justice Society seem to be immune to death as they are still quite active 60+ years after their hey day. When will this end? We had a Silver Age of comics where the second generation of heroes, such as Hal Jordan, and Barry Allen, replaced their Golden Age counterparts. Yet, most of these characters are still active, or pop up every year or so for some "Earth shattering" story. Comic books are stuck in a rut, we can't let go of the past and it has gone on too long. There may only be a few exceptions to this but those exceptions show that it can work. Barry Allen was replaced by Wally West (a more popular character) who in turn was replaced by Bart Allen, and I wouldn't have it any other way. The strength and importance of a character's legacy isn't in how long we can keep them alive, but in how they are remembered.

Finally this brings me to Captain America, who as we all know "died" recently. This event was not only featured on the Colbert Report, but made the national news as well. Now Cap is one of my all time favorite Marvel characters, but I'm not really concerned with his death. Captain America is one of the most recognizable Marvel characters and unless they (Marvel) had a new backbone installed, he won't be dead long. As a matter of fact I don't think he is dead at all. For those that have followed Civil War and have read Captain America #25

I imagine you, like myself, suspect something is fishy. The whole ordeal with Cap surrendering and then being gunned down in front of the courthouse by someone close to him.... C'mon! Some one *\*cough\* Fury \*cough\** set all this up and faked the death. Now as I am writing this the issue containing his death has only just been released and he may be back before you read this, thus proving my point.

I for one am tired of all the major events that amount to nothing. Ever wonder why the mainstream can't take comics seriously? Because we as readers have a hard time taking these characters even remotely serious when they can't die? Granted comic books are a set in a fantasy world where people wear capes and fight super villains, so there has to be some suspension of disbelief, but the no death rule stretches it a bit too far. How can we call these "people" heroes when they don't really have anything to lose? Let the dead stay dead! R.I.P Cap.





**The Dragons Landing Podcast**  
[www.dragonslanding.com](http://www.dragonslanding.com)

## Sorry about the short issue.

As you probably have noticed this issue is just a tad shorter than usual. There are numerous reasons for this but first and for most is time.

In addition to work, school, and family responsibilities I have decided to live the geek dream and open my own hobby shop. My journey has just begun and I am still a long way from opening the doors so there is still a lot to do and it takes up a lot more of my time than expected.

I plan on sharing my experiences with you in future issues. I will be doing this in a effort to help / discourage/ encourage those of you with a similar dream. There is a lot more to opening a shop than just buying some product and hanging a sign, and very little of it is fun. So I ask for your patience and understanding as we start down this road together. Maybe we will all learn a little something along the way.

Well the console wars are well under way and despite, or perhaps because of, all the hype it looks like the Wii is holding its own against the PS3, at least that is the rumor. I have seen reports that claim the Wii is outselling the new Playstation console 3 to 1 Japan. Many claim that Sony got a little big for their britches (as my grandma use to say) and gamers forced them to realize something that we have known for years; games are meant to be fun not just flashy. Impressive graphics does not a great game or game system make.

Despite being the resident powerhouse of the current consoles the PS3's launch suffered from several problems and some in the industry are already calling it a colossal failure. Although by Sony's records this has been their most successful launch to date.

The Xbox 360's head start, established fan base and lower price pretty much guaranteed it a respectable place in

## The Console Wars

the console wars. The Wii may not be that powerful, basically a redesigned Game Cube, but it's the cheapest of the new consoles, has the most inventive gameplay and the ability to connect with the ever popular DS causing a lot of Sony fans to jump ship. Plus Nintendo was smart enough to have one of it biggest franchises, Zelda, as a launch title proving that Nintendo has been in the gaming business long enough to learn a few things.

Even though people waited in lines for hours to get a PS3 at launch, short supply made it hard to get, but now, a few months later, it seems to be fairly easy to find one. I've even heard that people who bought PS3s to sell on the internet are returning them to the stores unopened because no one wants them. Yet the Wii is still hard to find nearly 2 months after Christmas, and I know because I have been looking.

Although, I have seen no official statement from Sony I

have heard rumors that they are going to drastically drop the price of the PS3 just to move the existing inventory. But is this too little too late? Some fans feel Sony has already burned them with what many view as a calloused attitude towards the very people that made the Playstation the number one console for so long. Can they make it all better now with a lower price? Unfortunately I think they can. We consumers tend to have short memories when it comes to the wrongs perpetrated by corporations. In 6 months all we will remember is the PS3 was expensive and hard to find at launch and so we will probably flock to the stores in droves to get them when the price is lowered. Sure a move like this will cost Sony tons of money (Microsoft did it with the original Xbox), but the spike in sales will make up for it, and then they will likely release a more cost effective, slimmed down version to recoup any losses. The technology will probably be cheaper in a few months and they will

Continued on page 5

## 40 YEARS OF GEN CON

Happy birthday Gen Con! Yes it is true, this year marks the 40th year of Gen Con. Atlas Games has decided to commemorate this momentous event with the book **40 Years of Gen Con**. ([www.atlas-games.com](http://www.atlas-games.com))

In the book Robin D. Laws will “chronicle the story of every gamers lifetime”, in a “vast collage of the Gen Con experience”. The book will contain interviews with Gary Gygax, Ed Greenwood, Dave Arneson, and many other industry insiders. The book is billed as an “epic collection of oral histories, photographs, reminiscences, and more “ that will contain “the complete story of the best four decades in gaming! “

Understanding that gamers are naturally a large part of the Gen Con experience they decided not to

leave us out. At [www.genconhistory.com](http://www.genconhistory.com) fans were able to submit their own photos and stories from Gen Con. Each week the best pictures and stories were picked from the current topics and the winners received a free 4 day pass to Gen Con Indy 07.

If I understand it correctly the top 25 winners will also have their entries included in the book. Plus they will receive credit and a complimentary copy of the book once it is published. I believe the contest will not be open when this issue of the Gazette is released, but it never hurts to check it out. If nothing else you can see some of the great photos and stories posted on the site.

Congratulations to all those that have entered and won .

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## D&D 4E, A LITTLE MORE INFO ABOUT NOTHING

I was nosing around the internet the other day and came across quite a few forums and even a page on EN World dedicated to unofficial news about 4e.

([www.enworld.org/index.php?page=4e](http://www.enworld.org/index.php?page=4e))

Among the countless forums concerning 4e, I found one where they were discussing the fact that they were not going to dis-

cuss 4e anymore. (That one cracks me up.)

Some of us gamers are still obsessed with a new edition that has not even been announced. WotC has commented that they think it's funny and they assure us they will give plenty of notice to everyone when and if they decide to do a 4e.

So for now the arguing and speculation about nothing continues.



[www.pulpgamer.com](http://www.pulpgamer.com)



[www.captaincanuck.com](http://www.captaincanuck.com)

Official Site of Captain Canuck



[www.devilsdue.net](http://www.devilsdue.net)

Devils Due Press



The Louisville Game Shop

925 Baxter Avenue.  
Louisville, Kentucky  
(502)456-2734



# The Podcast Page

Just a few of the Podcast that I recommend and listen to regularly. All podcasts featured anywhere in the Gazette should be available for download on the shows website or from itunes; unless noted otherwise.

<http://dragonpage.com>



[www.fistfulofcomics.com](http://www.fistfulofcomics.com)



<http://decoderringtheatre.com>



[www.somniturne.com/gtp/](http://www.somniturne.com/gtp/)



[www.wizards.com/default.asp?x=dnd/pod/20061](http://www.wizards.com/default.asp?x=dnd/pod/20061)



[www.noirchickenstudios.com/Dice\\_Make\\_Bonk](http://www.noirchickenstudios.com/Dice_Make_Bonk)



[www.afterserenity.com](http://www.afterserenity.com)



[www.gbncom.com](http://www.gbncom.com)



[www.geekfuactiongrip.com](http://www.geekfuactiongrip.com)



<http://ineednewdice.libsyn.com>



YOG RADIO

[www.yog-sothoth.com](http://www.yog-sothoth.com)

For fans of H.P. Lovecraft  
and Call of Cthulhu  
Ennie Winner 2006

# Console Wars

CONT. FROM PAGE 2

be able to manufacture new consoles at a fraction of the cost.

Even if the reports of the PS3 lagging in sales are true, in the end Sony will not completely lose and may even come out on top. Although, by that time, most of us will have a 360 or

Wii as our primary system, the PS3 will still have a place in many homes as the second system.

While I am not an industry insider and not privy to a great deal of information, my personal feeling is that Sony did botch this launch. No

one I know has or currently plans to buy a PS3, most are opting to get a Wii or 360 instead. A few people have told me they may buy a PS3 when/ if the price is lowered to a reasonable level, but for now they are happy with their 360's and Wii's.



[www.nuketown.com](http://www.nuketown.com)



[www.jimbalentstudios.com](http://www.jimbalentstudios.com)

Home of Tarot : Witch of the Black Rose



Your Games Now Podcast

[www.yourgamesnow.com](http://www.yourgamesnow.com)



[www.outlandarts.com/mutantepoch.htm](http://www.outlandarts.com/mutantepoch.htm)

Coming Summer 2007



[www.harpingmonkey.com](http://www.harpingmonkey.com)

The podcast for lovers of the mythic arts.

## Random Thoughts

- Does anyone actually play Dreamblade?
- I can't wait to see Spiderman 3. The trailer kicks butt!
- Eragon, not horrible, but not great either.
- Big Black Horse and the Cherry Tree. I love that song, and I don't know why.
- Holy Moley they are all Cylons!!!!
- Almost a year until new episodes of Battlestar Galactica, thank goodness for Heroes...

## Pulp Heroes Toys & Comics

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## Rumors & News

- Ratings on the once mega popular show Lost have sunk to an all time low. It is rumored that the show will end within 2 seasons and plans are already being made to wrap up the various story lines.
- Fan support does matter and Palladium books is proof. Palladium is reportedly almost back on their feet after last years close call. Fan support was overwhelming and is one of the main reasons for the company's financial turn around.
- Did anyone else catch the appearance of Stan "the man" Lee in the Feb. 19th episode of Heroes? It was only a brief one line cameo but it was definitely Stan.
- As seen in Marvel's Civil War, Captain Marvel is another character that has returned from the dead. From what I hear he's not a clone but a time displaced version of the character and during the war he was on Iron

Continued page 7...

## CIVIL WAR

For months I have been praising Marvel and the Civil War mini-series. I eagerly awaited each issue, put it on the top of my new comic stack and read it at the first opportunity. A few times I even read it in my car before I left the comic shop parking lot. To put it simply I just couldn't wait to see what happened next. Now to Marvel's credit it has been a very long time since they have produced a book that actually drew me in the way Civil War did, I felt that the story was just that good.

The ideas in Civil War seem to mirror those of the real world. If superheroes were real would we tolerate them running around, placing innocent bystanders in harms way and causing massive amounts of damage, yet having almost no accountability? In our litigious society I seriously doubt that someone would put up with Spiderman slamming the Green Goblin through their

front window and not being able to do anything about it. We would demand that they make their identities public, and then we would worship them and pay them ridiculous amounts of money, like we do with all celebrities. Not to mention that the paparazzi would hound them until they uncovered everyone's secret identities anyway. On the other hand I don't think many people that acquired powers would hide behind a mask. Almost everyone wants to be rich and famous, which is why so many people flock to the increasing number of reality shows. People with powers would want to show off like everyone else.

I got home from the comic shop last night and immediately tore into the last issue of the series that had not only gotten my attention but the media's as well. Issue 7 started off right where 6 left off, Captain America's team throwing down against Iron Man's team in the negative zone prison.

The creative team is to be commended on how they handled the first half of this issues. The panels jumped from character to character creating a sense of urgency and confusion, exactly how a fight between that many characters should feel. But then the story took a turn that I didn't agree with. As Shield tried to close both teams in the negative zone, Cloak teleports everyone to the center of New York. From there the battle gets turned up a few notches as Namor and an army of Atlanteans show up and join Cap's team. Now Iron Man and his merry men are outgunned. There are several memorable scenes during this part of the story, but my favorite was Hercules taking the Thor clone /cyborg's hammer and using it to smash the clone's head in, declaring that it was no Odinson. The fight finally culminated in a battle between Cap & Iron Man. Do to a little "fighting dirty" Cap gets Iron Man on the ropes, only to be stopped as a bunch of

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## CIVIL WAR

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civilians, thus preventing Cap from delivering the final blow. (This seemed like a cheesy rip off of the scenes I hated most in the Spiderman movies. "You mess with one of us you mess with all of us".. blah..) It was at this point that Cap realizes what he has done and commands his team to stand down as he surrenders. The rest of the issue is just Tony Stark patting himself on the back. What the!?!

What started off as one of the best events Marvel has done in a while kind of ended with a whimper. Granted I am a bigger fan of Captain American than Iron Man, and I sincerely didn't mind that Cap's team lost, I expected it. The part that bothered me was that Cap gave up. It is scary how much this reflected our world today. For the sake of security many of us are willing to give up a few basic liberties to get the job done. Yet those liberties are the very thing that makes this country great. Which is really what Cap was

fighting for, after all his secret identity is public knowledge. This fight was a matter of principle not legalities. Funny how a comic book was able to convey such an important lesson. Sure this all took place in a make believe world, but the moral still rings true. I am disappointed that the "bad guy" won this time and what that says about the mind set of America.

I will go on following the story as it continues to develop in the Initiative and through out the Marvel Universe, even if it is only to see what happens. Civil War was apparently the first act in a much larger story, so there will hopefully be more twists and turns coming over the next year. I guess I just set my expectations a little too high for this story, and when it didn't deliver I felt cheated. I'm sure that there are some who disliked the whole event and others that felt it was near perfect, but either way the story did accomplished one thing, it got people's attention. Which is usually a good thing for the comic book industry.



[www.jonathancoulton.com](http://www.jonathancoulton.com)

[www.outlandarts.com](http://www.outlandarts.com)

### News & Rumors

Continued from pg 6.

Man's team... you Kree scum!

- Do you look good in tights? Do you like fighting evil and protecting the innocent? Well then you are in luck! Try outs have begun for the second season of Stan Lee's Who wants to be a Superhero? Just go to [www.whowantstobeasuperhero.com](http://www.whowantstobeasuperhero.com) for your application and to find out if there are tryouts near you. Good Luck..
- They killed Starbuck!!! You B@\$\*^ds!! As fans of hit show Battlestar Galactica know, fan favorite and show staple Starbuck recently took a dirt nap. Was this part of her "destiny"? Will she be back? Duh, of course she will, that's what season finales are for.
- \* I am too good. I finished watching the season finale of BSG and sure enough there was Starbuck. But what's with her comment about having been to Earth? We have to wait until 2008 to find out....Frack!!!\*
- DC has another big event in the works...surprise, surprise... Countdown will follow closely behind 52 and it is reportedly gonna be huge.. What's it about? I have no idea but the ads look pretty cool.
- Captain Colbert? After the supposed death of Captain America it was revealed that he had already chosen his successor... Stephen Colbert?!?! In a letter from Marvel, editor in chief Joe Quesada stated that Cap's shield had been willed to Mr. Colbert. Much like Steve Rogers, Colbert is a bit scrawny and may be a perfect candidate for the Super Soldier program. Whether Mr. Colbert will give up his television show to fight crime or not has yet to be announced.



[www.palladiumbooks.com](http://www.palladiumbooks.com)



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502-964-5500

[www.comicbookworld.com](http://www.comicbookworld.com)



[www.greenronin.com](http://www.greenronin.com)

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? Want to contribute a story to the Gazette? Then feel free to let us know.

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## SUPERHEROES AND LITERATURE

While we all know that most geeks love to read, just look at how many sci-fi and fantasy novels are sold each year, there is a whole geeky topic that is rarely covered in serious literature, superheroes. Sure people with powers are seen daily on our televisions, movie screens, t-shirts and, of course, comic books but rarely are they translated into characters in mainstream literature. Granted comics are a form of literature in and of themselves, but they are a more visual form that is not widely respected. Do publishers and writers not consider superheroes to be worthy of such an honor as to sit on the shelves next to Tom Sawyer and Harry Potter? Perhaps they believe that people that read comics simply can't appreciate a book with out pictures. I hope the truth is that superheroes are, for the most part, overlooked and not because the literary community is too snobbish to include a genre that is a staple of American culture.

I would bet it is safe to say that most people between the age of 4-30 know more about Superman, Spiderman, and Batman than they know about most literary characters. My nine year old knows exactly who Wonder Woman and Wolverine are, but she has no idea about Sherlock Holmes. Ok maybe Mr. Holmes is a little advanced for a child her age but you get the idea. Any comic book fan probably knows about Michael Chabon's book, and there are a plenty of novelizations of popular comic book characters, but that's about it. No one out there seems to be coming up with original characters. There were countless wizards in novels before Harry Potter arrived on the scene, so why can't authors do the same with superheroes?

This got me to thinking and when you get to thinking about something there is really only one place you can look; the one place that contains the collective knowledge of the human race, the internet. (I guess you could just go to the library, but that takes a while and you would just end up using the library's computers to get on the internet anyway.) In my search I actually found several websites with information about su-

perhero novels and even a few forums where it was the topic of discussion. While all the sites were great one in particular (<http://superprose.blogspot.com>) seemed to have the combined information of all the other sites. I have listed a few here but I can not speak on the quality of these novels as I have not read them yet. However I will be searching them out and maybe doing some reviews in future issues. So if you want some superhero action sans pictures check these books out.

### Superfolks

Rob Mayer

### The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay

Michael Chabon

### Those Who Walk In Darkness

John Ridley

### What Fire Can Not Burn

John Ridley

### The Wild Cards Series

George R.R. Martin

### Superheroes

John Varley

### Riftworld: Crossover

Stan Lee & Bill McCay

### Riftworld: Villans

Stan Lee & Bill McCay

### Riftworld: Odyssey

Stan Lee & Bill McCay

### Children of the Atom

Wilmar Shiras

### Other People's Heroes

Blake M. Petit

### The Quantum Prophecy: the Awakening

The new heroes series by  
Michael Carrol

### Brave Men Run

Matthew Wayne Selznick

### What they did to Princess Paragon

Robert Rodi

### The Kryptonite Kid

Joseph Torchia



Gaming, Comics, Movies,  
and General Geekiness

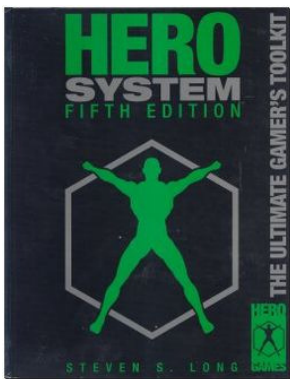
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[www.herogames.com](http://www.herogames.com)



[www.alphaflight.net](http://www.alphaflight.net)  
Fight For The Flight!

## REALLY QUICK REVIEW

- **Casino Royale:** I am not and have never been a fan of James Bond, but this movie went a long way in changing my opinion of the world's favorite super spy. The action was set on high for most of the film, the story was pretty interesting and Bond was a bad a\$\$\$. This is a very low tech, fallible Bond. Past incarnations depicted him as a suave playboy who got by on his wits, and gadgets more than anything, but this time he kicks butt and doesn't worry about names. The movie did seem to drag on a little longer than I expected, but any movie that can make a poker game exciting can't be bad.



<http://accidentalsurvivors.libsyn.com/>



### Fantasy Clip Ink: Warriors Set 1

This month's image courtesy William McAusland and the gang over at Outland Arts  
[www.outlandarts.com](http://www.outlandarts.com)

## 2007 Convention Calendar

### March

◆ Gamestorm  
Mar30 – Apr 1 2007 Portland, OR  
<http://www.gamestorm.org/>

### April

◆ Lorecon 2007  
April 13-15 South Burlington VT  
[www.lorecon.com/](http://www.lorecon.com/)

◆ ConQuest SAC  
April 13-15 Sancho Cordova, CA  
[www.avalonconventions.com/conquestsac](http://www.avalonconventions.com/conquestsac)

◆ TerpCon  
April 21 College Park, MD

### May

◆ KublaCon 2007  
May 25-28 San Francisco  
[www.kublacon.com/](http://www.kublacon.com/)

◆ Rising Phoenix Con 2007  
May 05 - 06 Milwaukee WI  
[www.willworkfordice.com/](http://www.willworkfordice.com/)

◆ 2007 Palladium Open House  
May 4 - 6 Taylor, Michigan  
[www.palladiumbooks.com](http://www.palladiumbooks.com)

◆ MOBICON  
May 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>h</sup> 2007 Mobile, AL  
[www.mobicon.org](http://www.mobicon.org)

### June

◆ Wizard World Philadelphia  
June 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> 2007  
[www.wizarduniverse.com/conventions/philadelphia.cfm](http://www.wizarduniverse.com/conventions/philadelphia.cfm)

◆ Star Wars Celebration 4  
May 25-28 2007 Los Angeles

[www.gencon.com/2007/swciv/](http://www.gencon.com/2007/swciv/)  
◆ PolyCon XXV  
San Luis Obispo, CA  
June 29 – July 1 2007  
[www.polycon.org/pc25/](http://www.polycon.org/pc25/)

Gamicon 2007  
Feb 23-26 Iowa City Iowa  
[www.gamicon.org/](http://www.gamicon.org/)

### July

◆ Comic Con 2007  
July 26 – 29 San Diego  
[www.comic-con.org/ccli/](http://www.comic-con.org/ccli/)

◆ Liberty Con 2007  
July 27-19 East Ridge, TN  
[www.libertycon.org](http://www.libertycon.org)

◆ Origins 2007  
July 5-8 Columbus Oh  
[www.originsgames.com/](http://www.originsgames.com/)

◆ Phoenix Con Games  
July 14-17 2007 Phoenix, AZ  
[www.conevents.com/page/phx/main.asp](http://www.conevents.com/page/phx/main.asp)

### August

◆ Archon  
Aug 2-5 2007 Collinsville IL  
[www.archonstl.org/](http://www.archonstl.org/)  
◆ Wizard World Chicago  
Aug 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 2007  
[www.wizarduniverse.com/conventions/chicago.cfm](http://www.wizarduniverse.com/conventions/chicago.cfm)

◆ Gen Con Indy  
Aug 16-19 2007  
[www.gencon.com/](http://www.gencon.com/)

◆ Conglomeration 2007  
Aug 10-12 Louisville Ky

[www.conglomeration.org/](http://www.conglomeration.org/)  
◆ Dragon Con 2007  
Aug 31-sept 3 Atlanta GA  
[www.dragoncon.org/](http://www.dragoncon.org/)

◆ Gateway 2007  
August 31– Sep 3  
[www.strategicon.net/](http://www.strategicon.net/)

### September

### October

### November

◆ Wizard World Texas  
Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> 2007  
[www.wizarduniverse.com/conventions/texas.cfm](http://www.wizarduniverse.com/conventions/texas.cfm)

◆ AmberCon 2007  
Nov 1-4 Portland OR  
[www.amberconnw.org/](http://www.amberconnw.org/)

◆ Chi-Tag  
Nov 16-18 Chicago, IL  
[www.chitag.com](http://www.chitag.com)

### December

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\*\* Ok guys and gals, it is only April and already the convention list is starting to get smaller. So send me those conventions listings! If you know of a convention in your area please email me the web address and I will be happy to add it to the list \*\*

Email:

[geekgazette@thegeekgazette.com](mailto:geekgazette@thegeekgazette.com)