

Orion Works Sonova Quark

Brought to you by Steven Vincent Johnson and Darlene P. Coltrain, mailing address: 6666 Odana Rd. Madison WI 53719. Contact by Mail: Steve: Orionworks@charter.net, Darlene: dpcoltrain@gmail.com. All material is copyright © by Steven Vincent Johnson and Darlene P. Coltrain, unless otherwise specified. Sonova Quark is brought to you by OrionWorks. Internal layout is brought to you by Microsoft Publisher. Printing done on a HP Color Laserjet Pro MFP M277dw. Most color covers were created using CorelDraw Graphics suite and printed on a Cannon PRO-100 Photo Inkjet printer. This edition was created for Turbo Charged Party Animal

House Painting

Homes possess a living spirit of their own. It can be sensed. If you love your home and try to take care of it, your home will reciprocate in kind. The spirit of the home, on occasion, is even capable of defending its inner boundaries when uninvited strangers or individuals who have no comprehension about household boundaries arrive uninvited. Many years ago we had a contractor who entered our house uninvited... What I mean by that is the fact that he didn't announce his presence to us, the owners, when he arrived. One of his contractor helpers was already in the house, but the entrance door was closed. He didn't ring the doorbell to announce his arrival and ask for permission to enter. He just came in. To be honest, that bugged me. Apparently, it bugged the house as well. A few minutes later, as we were conversing, the contractor decided to sit down in one of our "antique" chairs. Before I had a chance to tell him it wouldn't be a good idea to sit where he was thinking of sitting, the chair took matters into its own hand and broke it under his weight. It was a very awkward moment for the contractor, considering the fact that his job was to FIX things, not BREAK them. Later, when I led him out the front door he turned around and managed to catch his hand on our doorbell button. You see, our doorbell button consists of a casting of a bat-cat, a mythological creature complete



Bat Cat Doorbell

with spread out bat wings. Many years ago we purchased the bat-cat from "Butch" at a Windycon convention in the dealers room. The doorbell is great for Halloween evenings when the kids come for and ring the doorbell for treats! As for our contractor, the bat-cat drew blood that day. (And I said a little "thank you" quietly to the house.)

Well... that was history. Today our house is being repainted. The crew has been scraping and power-washing the



house for days. I can feel how painful this experience must feel, for our house to have her skin scraped and peeled away, as if thousands of scabs are being ripped of its skin. But it is necessary before another soothing coat (skin) of new paint can be applied. Many side boards had to be replaced, and a back porch post and floorboards from our



Front porch light temporarily disabled.
Back porch light, out of commission.



Deployment of the Green Screen
(Co starring Charm receiving breakfast)

back porch, complements of a nest of carpenter ants who had been redecorating the area for some time. Our house also responded by swelling up in pain due to power washing. The “invasion” caused her to shut down some of our outdoor electrical outlets as water seeped into every crack and crevice. Hopefully, when things dry out our outdoor electricity will return. Otherwise, we'll call the electrician. Our house seems to understand that the pain she is currently enduring was not due to neglect or malice. I feel she knows she is being fixed up. She will feel much better soon. So far, our bat-cat doorbell has felt no need to attack the crew in retaliation. (I said another little "thank you" quietly to the house.)

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Green Screen

I recently purchased a green screen for background video recordings and ZOOM sessions. This has resulted in some interesting settings. I’ve included one experimental background setting that almost ate the host. The background imagery was generated by a fascinating graphics program

called *Apophis*. (Google “Apophysis fractal”) It’s a fractal generating engine that, when properly controlled, can generate fascinating, even beauti-



ful images. If you don’t know what you’re doing, you may end up as lunch.

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No comments this month. Outta time. Thankyou Steve, Carrie, Andy, Greg, Pat, and Jeanne for your responses. Read them all, and more.

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