

AREA NEWS

Quirky Alone

By Anny Sivilay, Staff Writer



Do You Exist?

Some things only make sense to writers, like a Facebook "conversation" I had with an author friend. She was asking people on her friend's list that are fictional characters to unfriend her because it was getting confusing to keep up with real people as it was. By fictional characters, I mean, some people were taking role playing to another level and will create profile pages for fictional characters from books, TV shows, movies, etc. as oppose to "fan" pages.

Now this author friend of mine has several other author friends and well, one thing led to another and we found ourselves discussing what is considered "real." Am I real? Are you real? Is any of this real? What is considered "real"?

There's several ways to look at this - philosophically, psychologically and scientifically.

Philosophically

If we were to see things like French philosopher and mathematician Rene Descartes, who wrote (translation from French), "I think, therefore I am," meaning, if we are able to form thoughts and question our own existence that must mean we exist.

Of course this made me think of the movie, Stranger Than Fiction with Will Ferrell and Emma Thompson, in which Thompson's character is a novelist working on her latest book. The main character of her book is portrayed by Ferrell, who as it turns out, is a real person and starts hearing narration of his life (you have to watch it).

Now, many of my author friends write fiction, and if you've ever met a fiction writer (or even a devoted reader) you know how they are with their characters. The charac-

ters become almost real to them, which brings us back to the original discussion of what is 'real'? If we follow Descartes philosophy, is it possible to question our own existence? How do you know that you're not a figment of someone's imagination? Sure, you feel and think, but can that thought process not be applied to our own fictional characters? How do you know that these characters don't have their own feelings and thoughts? How are we sure that our thoughts and feelings are our own and not someone else's creation (like a higher entity)? This also applies to free will, how do you know for sure your choices are your choices, and not something pre-ordained/predestined with the illusion of free will?

Psychologically

According to the Mayo Clinic, depersonalization-derealization disorder (why everything is a disorder, I don't know) describes the feeling of observing yourself from outside your body, or sensing that things around you aren't real, questioning your existence, or feeling like you're living in a dream.

Apparently, many people experience this at some level or another in their life, and it only becomes a problem when it's persistent.

Scientifically

According to Jefferson Lab (www.jlab.org <http://www.jlab.org/>), the average human body (70 kg or 154.3 lbs.) is made up of 7 octillion atoms, much of that is gas (I guess we are full of hot air). If you get the gist of what atoms are, their functions, and how atoms and molecules interact, essentially, it can be said that we both exist and don't exist.

Several policymakers met at the state Capitol last week to discuss options for addressing the Obama Administration's plan for sheltering illegal immigrant children at Fort Sill.

State Rep. John Bennett said the group convened after hearing numerous complaints from citizens and is focusing on the long-term impact the Administration's plan will have on the state, particularly in the areas of crime, public health and state sovereignty.

"As lawmakers, we have an obligation to do what is best for Oklahomans, not what is best for the political aspirations of President Obama," said Bennett, R-Sallisaw. "Not only do these actions by the Administration threaten our state's sovereignty by forcing us to break our own laws, but they threaten our citizens' health and safety and will place a major financial burden on the people of Oklahoma who will have to pay for these illegal immigrants'

healthcare, food and shelter."

The meeting included members of the House of Representatives Counter Terrorism Caucus, the House States' Rights Committee, state Sen. Ralph Shortey (R-Okla-homa City), state Sen. Nathan Dahm (R-Broken Arrow), and staff from the Governor's Office, the Attorney General's Office and the office of U.S. Rep. Jim Bridenstine (R-OK).

The group intends to meet again soon and will then announce details of their plan.

"As the House States' Rights Committee Chair, I have received a number of inquiries from our committee members and concerned citizens as to how we are protecting Oklahoma's sovereignty when the federal government doesn't respect our state's laws or even communicate with our elected officials," said state Rep. Lewis Moore, R-Arcadia. "This seems to be an obvious attempt by the president to force his version of immigration

reform upon the citizens of Oklahoma who know the only branch of government constitutionally able to legislate is the Congress.

"As elected officials, under oath, we are charged with upholding the constitutions of Oklahoma and the United States. To do otherwise is to face removal from office. Those encouraging the downtrodden to make the hazardous journey to these United States and subjecting them to a horrifying gauntlet of criminals are causing an unnecessary humanitarian crisis. An investigation should be conducted to capture and prosecute those initiating and benefiting from these illegal activities. Rest assured these crimes and attacks upon our states' sovereignty shall not go on unopposed by this committee and your state Legislature!"

"I have received numerous calls, emails and social media inquiries from my home district pertaining to the situ-

ation at Fort Sill," said state Rep. Justin Wood, R-Shawnee. "I believe it is the duty of the state Legislature and others in statewide elected office to protect Oklahoma sovereignty while also showing the compassion we are known for. The real tragedy is the loss of life during the trek to America for these young children due to the abuse of power and misguided enforcement of the Wilberforce Act of 2008. We are funding organized crime, such as the drug cartels and human trafficking with this encouragement."

"It's our duty as state legislators to be concerned with the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Oklahoma," said state Rep. Bobby Cleveland, R-Slaughterville. "We have a current law in Oklahoma that is being violated by the Federal government. This is a major concern for me. Make no mistake: this is humanitarian crisis."

Rainbow Fleet Introduces Statewide Child Care Line

Oklahoma parents can now access a statewide program designed to provide resources and referrals for services across Oklahoma.

Rainbow Fleet, a non-profit child care resource and referral agency, recently established a statewide resource and referral service designed to help parents locate quality child care options and resources in their area. The service is offered at no cost to callers.

The statewide, toll-free resource and referral telephone number is 800-438-0008. The resource and referral line is staffed by experienced, knowledgeable specialists with access to a variety of programs, care centers and resources all across Oklahoma.

"The agency previously provided this service in

Oklahoma and Cleveland Counties," said Carrie Bullard, Rainbow Fleet's executive director, "but a new grant from the Oklahoma Child Care Resource and Referral Association lets us offer this resource to parents in all 77 counties. This will allow us to help par-

ents all across our state identify quality child care options in there area as well as resources like educational activities for their children."

For more than 40 years, Rainbow Fleet has provided innovative child development programs to families and child care

service providers. Rainbow Fleet helps families locate quality child care options and assists child care providers with a multitude of services including licensing and technical assistance as well as age-appropriate activities and curriculum.

GCR Events

July 26 - Garrison Creek Shodeo will start at 5 p.m. Books close at 4:45 p.m. Ages under 5 to adults. Call Karen at 479-561-1278 or Jeanette at 479-461-0459.

July 28 - Garrison Creek Arena Barrel Racing starts at 6 p.m. Exhibitions & Jackpot. Call the arena at 918-427-1794 or Angie at 918-208-9293 for more info.

July 29 - Garrison Creek Riders Meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse. Come and join us. Call the arena at 918-427-1794 for more info.

TIMES GONE BY...

15 years ago -

Taken from the July 21, 1999 issue of the Muldrow Times Star

Local Resident Receives Award From Russia

During World War II Russian forces were being attacked by German forces, pushing them further and further into Russian territory. Things were beginning to look very bleak for Russia. The 8th Airforce - 95th Bomb Group, based in Horham, England, began a series of shuttle runs into Russia, Italy and Switzerland. Aboard one of these planes was local resident Robert L. Lynch. He served as waist gunner one of the B-17 aircrafts. Russian forces had been hit hard by the Germans and were in need of help. Allied bombers came in and bombed German troops. This gave the Russian army help in pushing German troops back into Germany. Mr. Lynch made two trips to bomb German troops.

Mr. Lynch said, "Our airplane had 157 flack holes just from one mission into Russia." On July 7, 1999 Mr. Lynch received an envelope from the Russian ambassador to the United States. Inside the envelope were two letters, a card (in the Russian language), and a medal. The letter was from Yuri V. Ushakov, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the USA. The letter states: "On behalf of the President of the Russian Federation B. Yeltsin and the Russian Government I am pleased to inform you that you have been awarded the Commemorative Medal - The 50th Anniversary of the Victory in the Great Patriotic War - World War.

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