Absurdist Narratives in the Sunshine State: Comic, Criminal, Folkloric, and Fantastic Escapades in the Swamps and Suburbs of Florida

Abstract

Recent Florida fiction, such as *Swamplandia!* by Karen Russell, *Sick Puppy* by Carl Hiassen, and *Triggerfish Twist* by Tim Dorsey, emphasize the absurdity, liminality, and criminality of the state. By utilizing folkloric motifs, genres, and rhetoric—and employing simulations of traditional narratives—these popular novels explore and exploit the national perception of Florida's status as the "weirdest state." Harnessing the mode of the comically fantastic, each narrative reconfigures Floridian marginality by presenting the borders of criminal identity and the manifestations of social deviance as essential features at the center of this chaotic peninsula's culture. Disordering narrative realism, these texts reveal psychological insights and highlight the uses of nonsense for storytelling.

How to Cite

The action takes place in underground cities where the environment is controlled by computers. F (Friday 19.30). This popular half-hour science magazine continues into its twenty-ninth year, proving itself to see a hardy survivor in the television world. Tonight it is presented by Carol Voderman who introduces five reports, which include computer-driven cars and in-flight ten-pin bowling. As a result, the United Nations cultural agency wants visitor numbers more than halved, which means that visitors must now wait four to five days before getting a place on a trek. Despite this, Machu Picchu remains the number one must-see in South America. And, as such, the hunt is now on for new Inca ruins as a viable, ecologically sound alternative. Are the statements true (T) or false (F)?

● Early in her reign, Queen Victoria and her husband, Prince Albert, had a plan to hold a great world-wide exhibition of modern art and design. Sir Joseph Paxton, a botanist and landscape ___(1)DESIGN____, won the competition to create the central exhibition hall. The _____(2)BUILD____ he produced is still admired by architects today. Although at that time many thought it was _____(3)___POSSIBLE_____ to realize such a project. In 1851, Paxton constructed his Crystal Palace – an ___(4)_AMAZE_____ glass and iron pavilion, over a third of a mile long, with 800,000 square feet of floor space. The