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Immediate Release

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When/Where:

Flying Colors Comics
2980 Treat Blvd, Concord

2pm, March 11, 2006

Art: (low resolution) attached or at the website www.savemountdiablo.org, higher res at the website, call Save Mount Diablo for higher resolution images for publication

GIANTKILLER and Artist Dan Brereton save Mount Diablo

Flying Colors Comics & Other Cool Stuff and Save Mount Diablo host a book signing at 2pm, March 11, 2006 of the newly released trade paperback edition of Dan Brereton's "GIANTKILLER" DC comic book series, set on Mt. Diablo, in which monsters (a metaphor for local development pressure) ravage the Bay Area.

(Concord/Walnut Creek) Flying Colors Comics and Save Mount Diablo are hosting a book signing of the newly released trade paperback edition of the "GIANTKILLER" DC comic book series on March 11 at 2 pm, at Flying Colors in Concord.

Created by renowned artist Dan Brereton, the six-part *GIANTKILLER* series was first published in 1999-2000 by DC Comics, along with the "Field Guide to Giant Monsters." The trade paperback edition is being published by Image Comics, Inc. of Berkeley.

Brereton, who grew up in Contra Costa County, says that *GIANTKILLER*'s destructive alien monsters are a metaphor for the development he saw around Mount Diablo. "I grew up in the Mount Diablo area and the family used to drive up to the top a lot when I was a kid. I camped out there one day with friends as a teen, and I've been back many times since as an adult. The mountain's always been a part of my life."

Brereton is famous in the comic world for his art and writing in projects including *Nocturnals*, *Thrillkiller*, *Justice League*, *Spider-man*, *the Simpsons* and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. He produces cover art for an even wider array of projects. Dan lives with his family near the Sierra Nevada mountains, working in comics, as well as mainstream illustration, TV and film. His work can be found in comic book stores around the world, Amazon.com, and on his site: www.nocturnals.com

"My brother and sister and I used to catch snakes and lizards and stuff. We loved all the wildlife out there in the San Ramon and Diablo valleys, and it was sad to watch houses and businesses spring up so quickly. So I slowed that way down in my story. On one hand, it was a fun, giant monsters invade the Bay Area story and, on the other, a subliminal need for my childhood self to reclaim the adventure of the place I enjoyed in my youth."

The first 50 people at the book signing event will receive a signed illustration created by Brereton and published by Flying Colors Comics for this event. The proceeds from book sales at the event will benefit Save Mount Diablo and its land conservation efforts.

The GIANTKILLER Series and Background

“When giant alien beasts emerge from a wormhole that collides with Mount Diablo, attacking the San Francisco Bay Area, the U.S. Military responds by bio-engineering a human-monster hybrid to stop them – a *GIANTKILLER!*” Thus reads the publicity for a new trade paperback from Image Comics collecting the incredible art of creator Dan Brereton’s *GIANTKILLER*.

“Jack (the Giantkiller) shares both Monster and Human DNA, which is confusing for him. On the one hand he’s been trained to follow orders, a modern-day samurai who lives only to fight for his master. But the monster in him craves destruction and chaos. As he travels toward his eventual final battle on Diablo’s lava-spewing summit (with a titanic beast called Roar), he must come to terms with both sides of nature. If he can’t balance the dual legacies, he’s doomed, and the Bay Area with him.”

“Returning to the Diablo Valley repeatedly since the late 1970’s has been one shock after another. The area has grown in ways that are both exciting but also shocking. So much of the open rolling foothills are covered with developments and malls, its very sad.”

“On one hand growth is supposed to be positive, and as a bedroom community, Contra Costa is ideal. But I’d take the countryside back in an instant if I could. I can’t share most of the old trails and ponds and giant trees where we used to play and have adventures. Kids need wide open spaces – those were the places I used to dream and imagine. You don’t get much of that in a Target or stuck in traffic. I think this is why I was anxious to contribute something to SMD’s cause. It was great to discover others who feel the way I do about preserving as much of the area’s beauty and habitat as possible.”

“We were thrilled to discover Dan and Giantkiller,” said Ron Brown, Executive Director of Save Mount Diablo, “Contra Costa has its own dual legacy—a strong economy and intense development pressure, and spectacular and fragile resources—the metaphors in Giantkiller are powerful ones. Plus they appeal to different parts of our community, and we like doing outreach in as many ways as possible in order to be effective.”

The book signing will take place on Saturday, March 11 at 2 pm at Flying Color Comics in Concord, whose owner Joe Field is publishing a special illustration that Dan created for the event. Field is the man responsible for bringing *Free Comic Book Day* to life, an industry-wide coordinated promotion designed to re-energize former readers and find new readers for comics.

"My parents moved our family into central Contra Costa in 1956," said Field, "so Mount Diablo has always been for me a touchstone of the immense natural history of this area. Living in Diablo's shadow near the Concord-Clayton border, my family regularly hikes Diablo and reveres its environment."

“I’ve followed Dan’s art career from the time he did his first professional store signing here in 1989. *GIANTKILLER* is an important work, serving dual purposes of raising awareness of Mount Diablo’s fragility in the face of rampant development while also being a massively entertaining story with singular and striking art.”

GIANT KILLER Trade Paperback, written by DAN BRERETON, art & cover by DAN BRERETON, published by Image Comics. Collects the original six-issue miniseries, plus the fully-painted 27-page "*Field Guide to Giant Monsters*," and includes a written introduction by *LOST* and *ALIAS* producer, Jesse Alexander, concept art gallery and more! 128 pg • FC • \$14.99

Save Mount Diablo is a non-profit 501(c)(3) conservation organization, which has been preserving lands on and around Mount Diablo and educating the public to the mountain's natural values since 1971. Preserved lands have increased from 6,788 acres in one park to more than 89,000 acres in twenty-nine parks and preserves. Save Mount Diablo continues to raise funds to preserve the remainder of the mountain. Contact: Save Mount Diablo, telephone: (925) 947-3535, fax: (925) 947-0642, 1901 Olympic Blvd., Suite 220, Walnut Creek, CA 94596; www.savemountdiablo.org

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