

AVATAR PRESS

Volume 2, Number 23, September 26th, 2002 A.D.

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UP FRONT

EXCUSES, EXCUSES...

Jeepers! Well I have been diligently working on a 'zine, unfortunately it was not this one. In order to get to use **Tom Feller's** Bulk Mail permit one more time before it expired, the *Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin* had to be completed pretty much around the same due date as *Avatar Press*. I'm currently in the proofing stage and had hope to get it duplicated, folded, taped, labeled, and mailed by October 1st. However, I just got e-mail from **Tom Feller** that he is going to Florida on October 4th so I need to get it to him as soon as possible so he can send it out Bulk Mail. Believe me, the next issue will be scheduled between issues of the *Avatar Press*. Whew! I am proud that I did not wait until the last minute to start the *Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin* and have been working on it off and on at a steady pace. I was going to frank the issue this time but it's not in the final proof stage yet so I'll wait until next time (so I can get this 'zine out first). Fortunately, **Toni Weisskopf** and **Julie Wall** are helping me proof it. So due to the huge time demands of that and other things, there will be no Mailing Comments once again. Sigh.

RAMBLINGS

THE BELL (SOUTH) TOLLS FOR MY WEB SITE

My internet and web-site provider, BellSouth, decided to change their personal web-site support, rendering my old site invalid. The old web site address was:

<http://personal.bellsouth.net/~rbcleary>

The new web site address is:

<http://home.bellsouth.net/p/PWP-rbcleary>.

Thus, I'm currently in the middle of rebuilding my site (real soon now). I have to figure out the best way to integrate my content with the new site and its new features. It's just a shell of a site right now. I hope to make it more polished by the end of the year. (Stop laughing. It could happen.)

BIO? MORE LIKE B.O.!

Mike Rogers got me to crank out a biography for the *Southern Fandom Confederation* Web Site. It's pretty lame. Feel free to check it out at <http://www.southernfandom.com>. It also appears pretty much unchanged in the next issue of the *Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin* if you prefer to read it in hard copy.

LESS OF A MAN

I won the most recent weight loss contest among my friends. I lost 11.5 pounds in two months and won \$50 out of the entry pool. I just tried to walk more and eat less, nothing drastic. The next contest starts October 1st. I've been beefing up a little for it by not exercising and eating lots lately. Hopefully, I can finish the year down 20 to 30 pounds. I really need to make weight loss and physical conditioning my number one priority. Hopefully after *ConfStellation*, I'll have some more free time.

TWICE BYTE-EN...

I finally got my old (120 MHz Pentium) computer out and tried to get it working again. I had tried to upgrade it about two years ago and somehow messed it up. After much tweaking, I got close (actually with Windows 95 running but it would lock up on login). However, I eventually fiddled too much and messed it up so it would not even boot up. Luckily, my Division had a used computer sale Monday and I was able to pick up an old used Intergraph TDZ-325 for \$25.00 (266 MHz Pentium II, 4 GB SCSI Disk Drive, 128 MB RAM, Intense 3D 100 Graphics Card, and network card). I needed a system that would run Windows 95 and use most of my old computer's components (disk drive, video card, sound card, modem, extra memory, etc.). I got it up and running Windows 95 on Tuesday but put it away in order to work on my 'zine. Next week, I'll try migrating my other components. I just want to have a spare computer and eventually get a card that allows me to watch TV on it so I can put it in my bedroom. My next big (expensive) computer purchase will probably be a laptop next year.

WORKING MAN'S BLUES

Work continues to be Dilbert-esque. I was going to be put on a project involving Visual BASIC and databases, which are not my favorite areas. Fortunately, it looks like I'll be working on something more interesting. However, I would prefer to work on what I'm currently doing but after this upcoming release,

it seems highly doubtful. I have decided to gut it out and give the new project(s) a chance before actively looking for other avenues of endeavor.

IT CANNOT ALWAYS BE ABOUT ME

I have been to several birthday parties lately and am feeling a little old and a little like life is passing me by at times. Another gaming group member is engaged and will probably be moving to the Atlanta area next year. Two gaming group members got married this year. Right now, there are only two single guys (me and a new guy) left in the group. Most of my friends are married and/or in committed relationships and a lot have kids. The road not taken may lead to greener pastures but someone has to be the confirmed bachelor. Mixed metaphors are like an analogy of a simile.

My mom is working fewer hours now with no benefits. Hopefully when she turns 65 in November, Medicaid will help out some with her medical expenses. My oldest nephew will be 19 in November also. He is working, has a car, but is still living at home with his Mom. Supposedly, he's been slightly less of a handful now that he has his own car and stays gone most of the time. I hope maybe he's finally growing up a little. I really hope he moves out on his own as soon as possible.

CON†STELLATION

After working very hard running the art show for DeepSouthCon40, I was dreading *Con†Stellation*, especially since it was not going to be relaxacon as I had hoped. I have to watch those negative feelings. Soon after, we lost the original hotel. Fortunately, we now have a new one that I hope will work out better any way. Also, one of the guests that we were planning to ask passed away. **Ron Walotsky** always seemed like a nice gentleman whenever I saw at conventions over the years. He died way too young. We now have a full slate of guests and everything is coming together. However, it will probably be a much smaller convention due to late and less publicity. It will definitely be a smaller art show this year, due to late call for artists more than the limited physical space. This year I e-mailed over 200 artists and did not hard mail any, as time was short. The convention details are on the web site <<http://www.constellation.org/>> and in the flyer I'm including in this issue. I hope to see some of y'all there.

ANDRE NORTON VISIT

I am the Program Director for the *North Alabama Science Fiction Association*. **Mike Cothran**, who set up the visit also, suggested the September program. I just helped to organize the convoy. The program was a trip on Saturday, September 21, 2002 up to Murfreesboro, Tennessee to see *High Hallack* <www.andre-norton.org/highhallack>, a Genre Writers' Library, created by **Andre Norton**, Grand Master of Science Fiction. Altogether, we had about 12 people attend; several were members of the local writer's group. **Andre Norton** gave us a personal tour of the library, which is situated behind her home and originally started off as a garage (greatly expanded and nicely finished). She was very charming and it was quite educational and entertaining. She signed tons of books, gave us each a sign chapbook, and chatted extensively with everyone. It's hard to believe she's in her eighties. Afterwards, we all had a very late (around 3:00 P.M.) lunch at *Randy's Steak and Seafood*. It was pretty good and with a name like

"Randy's", we knew it had to be. I think everyone enjoyed the program. The next three programs will be a Con†Stellation post-modern, the annual club auction, and a holiday present exchange. After that, I'll be free of the post, as I have too much other fanac on my plate.



Andre Norton Signing at High Hallack

DRAGON*CON

I missed my first *Dragon*Con* in years last year as I went to the *WorldCon* instead. This year I attended. I generally had a good time but somehow ended up eating alone a lot. I guess I need to work on my social skills. Planning ahead, I had prepared several bag meals, which came in handy. I still have two left over. I stayed in the Marriott with **Ben Acosta** and **Jeff and Amanda Freeman**. The main event hotel was the Hyatt but the Dealers Room and Art Show and Art Panels were in the Marriott. Jeff and Amanda live near Atlanta so only really stayed overnight one time, so I had a bed to myself the other times. The last night, we stayed up until 5:30 A.M. and I ended up sleeping on the floor. *Dragon*Con* was a huge event as always but it seem a little less energetic than in years pass, but maybe it's just me that's less energetic. Here are a few of the pictures that I took.



Randy Cleary and a Very Thin Jeri Ryan



Dawn Comic Book Character



Devil Girl Telling Me Where To Go



Characters from the *Lexx* TV Series

DOWN BACK

UPCOMING

Julie Wall is coming up to see *Big Spring Jam* (outdoor music concerts all weekend on multiple stages downtown) in Huntsville this weekend. Hopefully the rain and having to get the *Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin* shipped will not put too much of a damper on it.

I hope to attend the **David Weber** book signing on October 10, 2002 in Birmingham. Also, *ConfStellation* is in October and hopefully will be more fun than work. Then there's the *Florence Renaissance Fair* the next weekend, which is usually pleasant. November looks wide open at the moment, so I hope to get some artwork and house work done.

ART FRONT



I am not currently taking any classes, as I've been too busy. Likewise, I've not been doing any figure drawing. I sent some copies of my clip art to **Lloyd Penny** for possible use by the *Ditto* convention. I have done some sketches, an illo for **Toni Weisskopf**, and a cover for the next issue of the *Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin*. Here is the cover, reduced to half size. The title is "*Vermeer Girl with Magic Hand*" and is modeled after Vermeer's "*Girl with Pearl Earring*" painting.

Well, take care until next time. I hope everyone enjoys the Fall.

Sincerely,

Randy B. Cleary

Con†Stellation XXI: Pavo October 18-20, 2002 Holiday Inn Express Huntsville, Alabama

Don't Run Afowl
of Rising Rates
Preregister Now
Before The Rates
Rise Like A High
Flying Bird!

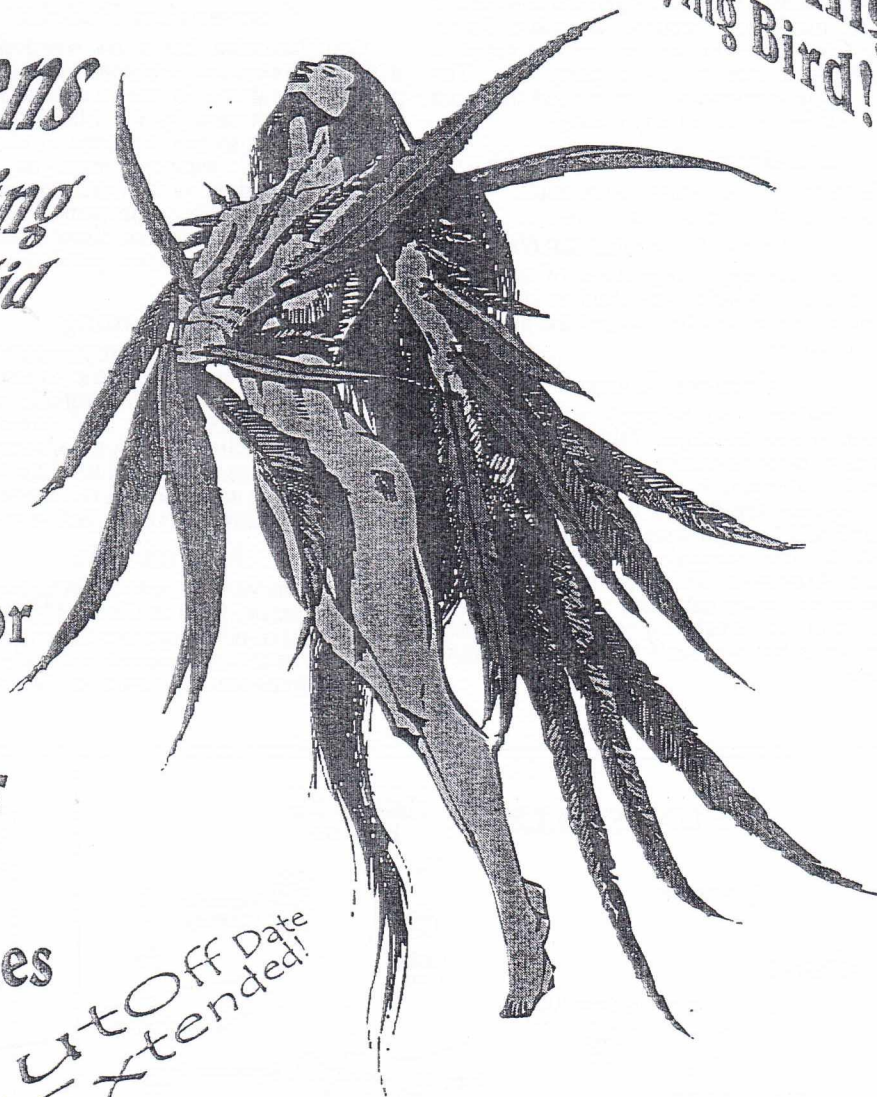
PeaFen & FenHens
Join Us In Celebrating
The Exotic and Splendid
Peacock Constellation

Guest of Honor
Eric Flint

Artist Guest of Honor
Darrell Sweet

Fan Guest of Honor
Sandy McDade

Mistress of Ceremonies
K.D. Wentworth



Cutoff Date
Extended!

Membership Rates: *October 6*
\$35 through 30 September 2002
\$40 thereafter and at the door
Children's Rates Available

To Register or Request Information Write to:
(Please Send a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope)

Con†Stellation XXI: Pavo
P.O. Box 4857
Huntsville AL 35815-4857

Call Marie at 256-880-8210, no collect calls, please.
visit us at <http://con-stellation.org/> or email constell@con-stellation.org

Con†Stellation is presented by NASFA, the North Alabama Science Fiction Association

Rev 2.1a - 020910 - MassMail

ConStellation XXI: Pavo

Hotel Information

Our hotel this year is new to SF conventions, the Holiday Inn Express has recently remodeled and has interesting function space. The hotel is located near the intersection of University Drive and Jordan Lane in Huntsville proper, at 3808 University Drive, Huntsville AL 35816. Rooms are \$62, suites are \$89, (plus all applicable taxes) for 1-4 people per night. For reservations, call them at 256-721-1000 or 1-800-345-7720 (which connects directly to this hotel). You will need to mention ConStellation for the convention hotel rate. A variety of shopping locations and restaurants are nearby, with easy access to the hotel from most major roads in and through Huntsville. Before making reservations, those planning a room party should write (please include SASE) to the general convention address, mark your request **Attention Room Party Coordination**, so that we can assist in blocking you into the room party area. The closer to the convention dates we get the more we LOVE Email. Let's Party Heartily!

Children's Information

Children fees, accompanied by adult:

Ages 0 to 3 (by 18 Oct 2002) Free

Ages 4 to 10 (by 18 Oct 2002) \$20.00

These rates apply regardless of when the membership is bought. Any child not accompanied by an adult will be charged the adult rate regardless of age.

Dealers Room

All dealers (and helpers) **must** purchase convention memberships. Table Rate: \$60 for the first 6' table (includes 1 membership), \$40 for each additional 6' table (no membership). Your requests for further information (please include SASE) and payment for tables should be mailed to the general convention address, marked **Attention Mike Kennedy, Dealers Room** or for faster response, you may wish to email him at dealers@con-stellation.org. We're sorry but we can't hold tables without payment.

Art Show and Auction

There is a \$15.00 hanging fee per 4' by 4' panel, or for each 6' table in the art show; this fee will be \$10 for attending artists. There is a \$1 fee per print series entered in the print shop at the art show. No commission is charged for sales in the art show or art auction sales tax will be collected from the buyer. Pros may qualify for a free panel or table by sending 4 original pieces of art. Request further information or send payments to the general convention address (include SASE), marked **Attention Randy Cleary** or email rbcleary@bellsouth.net or call 256-772-3826. For mail-in art **only** the address is BookMark, 7500 South Memorial Parkway #133, Huntsville, AL 35802. Please do not mail art to the convention P.O. Box!

Convention Policies

ConStellation has a **no weapons** policy with two exceptions. Weapons may be used as a part of a costume in the Masquerade, if approved **in advance** by the Masquerade staff. Dealers may also sell weapons in the Dealers Room, but all weapons must be wrapped securely and taken by the purchaser directly to her/his room or off hotel property. Please tell us if your mailing address has changed since your last ConStellation, please provide us with a current email address.

Programming

As always, we'll have programming sure to satisfy a wide variety of tastes. Whether it's a Science Panel, an Author Roundtable, or the Art Auction, you will surely find something of interest at ConStellation. And, of course, don't forget our Dance, filking till late into the night, and other treats we have in store for you. There's always something that's entertaining to do! ☺

Masquerade

Again this year, as an added incentive to enter the Masquerade, \$100 in Cash will be awarded, and we'll have other surprises to be presented as well. Last year's Masquerade was truly interesting, with some unusual costumes. Get busy with

those sequins and glue guns now! There is no Entrance Fee for the Masquerade, zip, nada, it is free to all paid convention members.

Gaming

This looks to be a stellar year for gaming at ConStellation, featuring a variety of RPGs, CCGs, and Miniature Wargaming. Living Greyhawk returns with some special events. We will have several LG scenarios, including a Premiere Event and LG Interactive. If you have never played Living Greyhawk find out more at our website. We require preregistration for LG so sign up now at the website; follow the links. There will be Killer Cut-Throat Spades, Board Games, and open tables for you to bring your own games. If you want to run a game write to the general convention address marked **Attention Wayne Brown**. Come early, stay late, win often!

LARP

Pat McAdams' sixth annual LARP adventure is titled *Fall's Promise*. Registration will be \$7. For more information, send a note to gamemaster@emsoc.org.

Volunteers

ConStellation is run by volunteers and we would like you to join us. We need people with various levels of convention experience, including none. We're as busy as a hive in summer around here. We want **you** as a worker bee. Write to the general convention address or call Marie McCormack at (256) 880-8210.

Advertising Rates

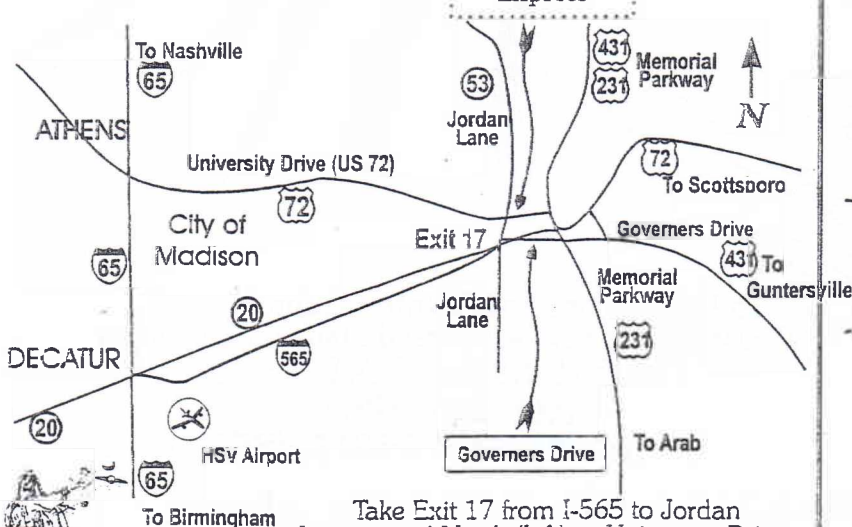
Program book size and rates are available at www.con-stellation.org/adrates.html or via email by contacting Jim Woosley at jimwoosley@aol.com.

Con Suite Treats

We serve one of the best selections of munchies in Southern fandom. What delicious surprises will appear on our tables? Bring on the crock pots! Smoker's Con Suite, too.

HUNTSVILLE

Holiday Inn Express



Take Exit 17 from I-65 to Jordan Lane, travel North (left) to University Drive, turn East (right) & look for the Holiday Inn Express sign on the North (left) side of road.

