

AVATAR PRESS

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RANDY RECOUNTS

I've been a bad boy and having fun doing other things besides work on my zine (like being out of town almost every weekend) so I'll simply show you some pictures of my good times and comment here and there. I hope those who read my zine enjoy the recounting. Here are some pictures from ConCave (mentioned last issue). ☒



Randy and Toni Among the Stars



Profile Julie with Fork

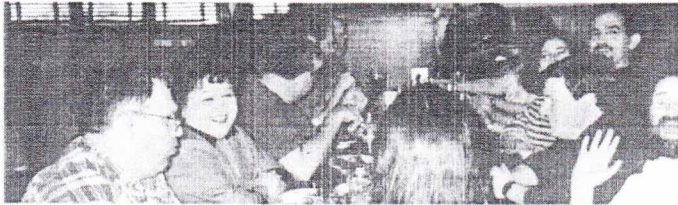
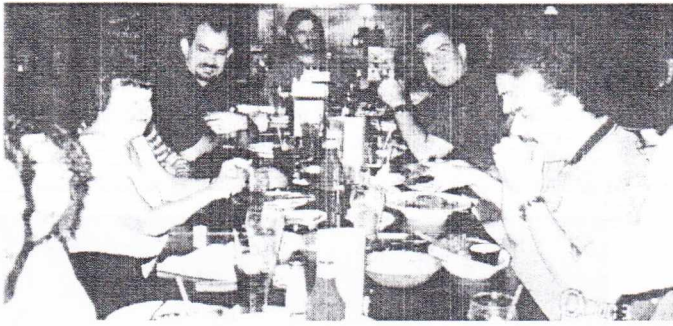
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Frontal Julie with Fork

MOM AND ME

My Mom visited me for the first time ever. Her K-Mart closed April 15 and I picked her up and brought her down to stay with me for a few weeks before we went on vacation in Orlando, Florida. She's been having a lot of unmanageable stress due to mental and verbal abuse from her grandson (my 19 year old nephew). I think getting out there was a good thing. She got to meet my friends at my birthday dinner and movie. She got to see my home, which she thought was unbelievably neat and tidy. She got to see what a stress free (relatively) life I lead. I encouraged her to move in or near me or move to Florida but Mom does not like change (better the evil you know than that you don't type of thinking). She worries about the unknown. She's back home now with Aunt Rose visiting her and other NC relatives. My nephew really stressed her again; so much that she's banned him (again) from coming over. She says she's doing better now but I know she's just deluded herself. She needs to leave. But she's still an adult and must make her own decisions. My family never takes my advice. ☒



Mom and a Few Friends at Logan's at my Birthday Dinner

CORKS AND CHEFS

I took my Mom down to the Annual Birmingham Arts Thingy and the Corks and Chef's event where she got to met my dear friend, Julie Wall. Mom was not impressed with the food and wine though. Of course, Mom has never had a meal she liked and she's been dealing with stomach nausea for months now. I also think last year was better but it was a nice day. Mom picked up that Julie likes wine. Here's a picture of Julie there. I seem to have a knack for taking glamour shots of Julie. ☒



Julie Speaks Out ("Don't Take My D*mn Picture!")

VACATION

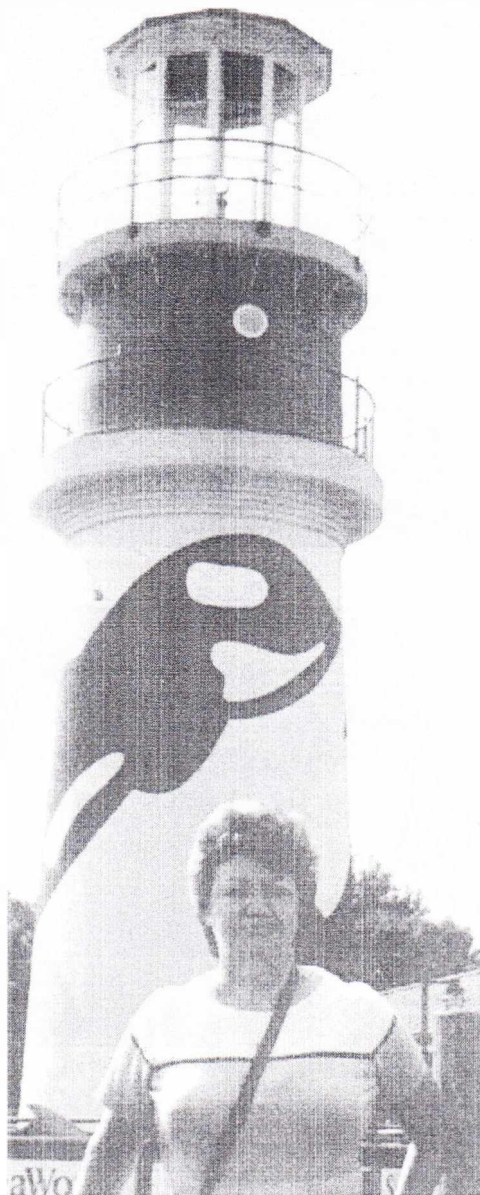
Due to stresses, my Mom wanted to go on vacation ASAP, so I took the first time share I could get in Florida, so it was back to Orlando for us (instead of St. Augustine like I was planning) on Friday, May 2. The resort was very nice and we had a good time (except for the high pressure sales pitch). The weather was wonderful. My Aunt and my cousin visited us on Friday. On Saturday, I saw *X-Men 2* while my Mom and Aunt shopped in the mall. I went to Sci-Fi City for Free Comic Book day. They had every free comic, a free Hulk Hero Clix, good sales and people in Batman and Batgirl costumes. Unfortunately, since the *X-Men* movie lasted longer than I thought it would, I missed the George Perez signing. He's one of my favorite artists. It's a neat store though. We visited some more with my Aunt (attending her church) and enjoyed the resort pool on Sunday. Monday, we went to Cocoa Beach (after a slight mind fart detour of an hour because I missed our exit).



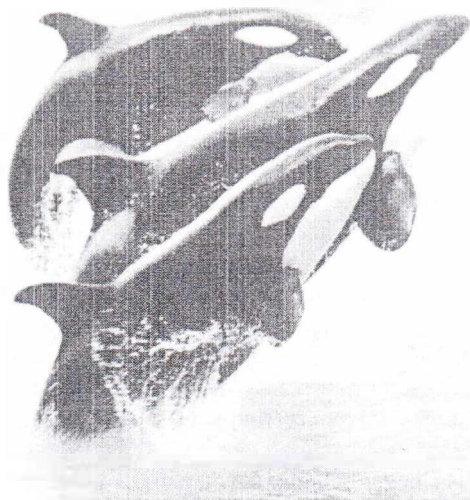
Randy on the Atlantic

Wednesday, we went to Sea World. It was fun but there were fewer shows than last time (probably due to being a little off season).

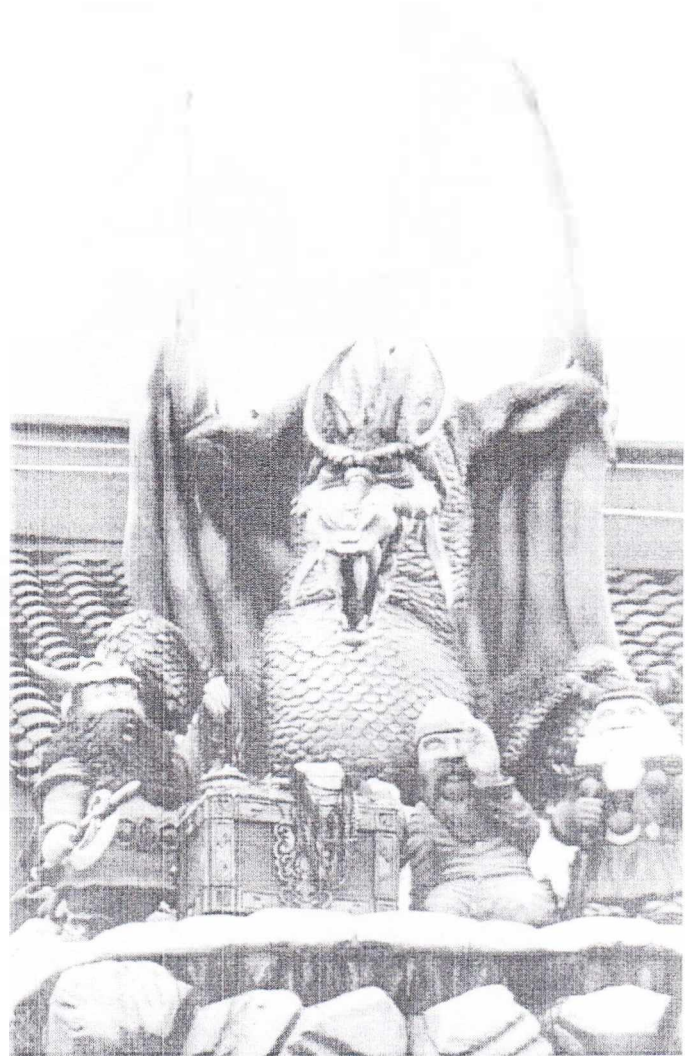
After all the walking at Sea World, Mom needed some rest so I let her sleep in Wednesday while I hit the pool again. Later, we did a little souvenir shopping, stopping at several tourist traps on our way to the Medieval Times Dinner Show. One particular marquee just I had to take a picture of (as it was a fantasy motif).



Mom at the Sea World Entrance

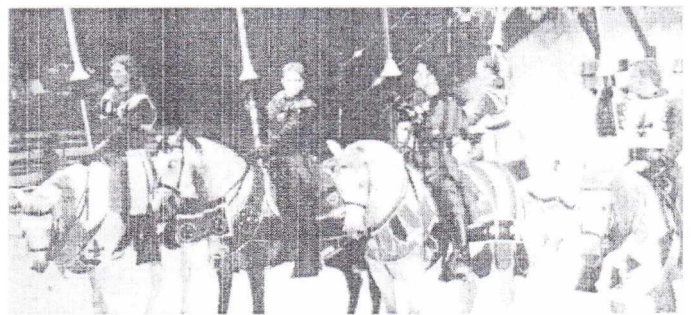


Orcas Drag Racing!



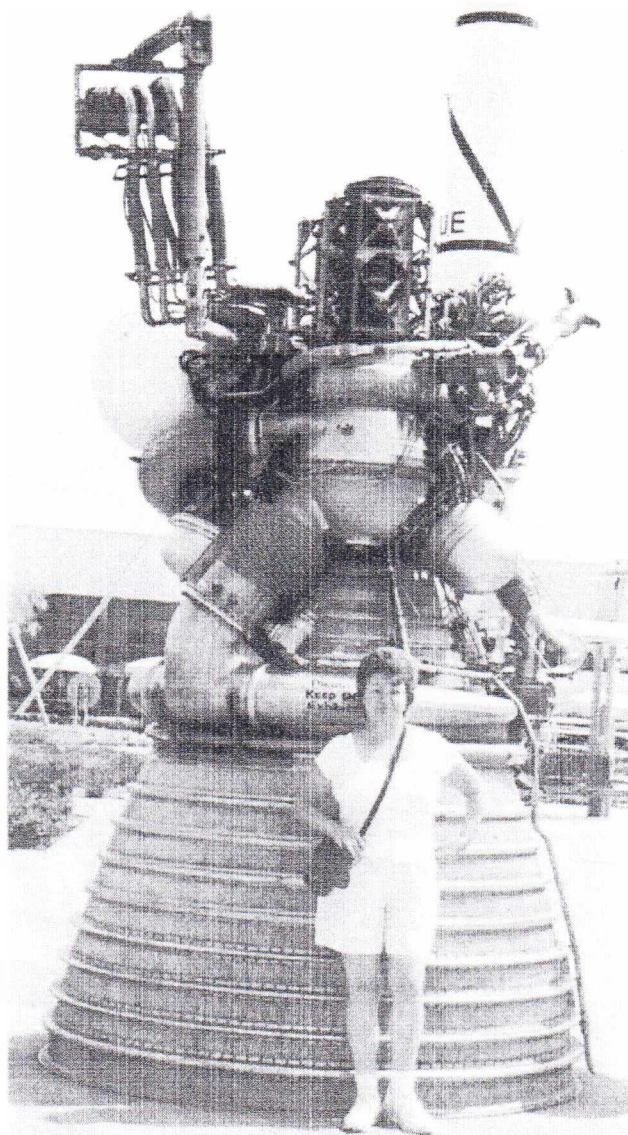
Hey, Dwarfs, Look Behind You!

The Medieval Times Dinner Show was okay (plenty of food) but I liked the Arabian Knights Show we did a few years ago better.



Good Knights!

Thursday, we went to the Kennedy Space Center. This time the Astronaut Hall of Fame was included (which we did not see last time). As always, it was awe inspiring but nothing new. I did enjoy the 3D IMAX Movie of the Space Station a lot though.



Mom's a Real Southern Belle

Plus we got to meet an Astronaut who was fun and informative.

Friday, I drove Mom and Aunt Rose back to North Carolina. Saturday, I returned to Alabama. Whew, lots of driving but it was a nice visit with Mom. Now I have to worry about her dealing with my Nephew again. ☒

ONE BY ONE...

My gaming buddy and friend, Gabe Theriot, got married the next weekend in Stone Mountain, Georgia. I drove over on Friday for the Saturday wedding. It was a Catholic Wedding with a full Mass. The reception was at the Church and they left from there to go to New Orleans. Gabe is originally from Louisiana. He met his wife (his first), Suzanne Attridge, on-line in a Catholics Singles group. Suzanne is a friend with a fellow Atlanta Science Fiction Society member that I know. Small world. Sniff, single hood is getting lonely. ☒



Astronaut Sam Gemar



Suzanne and Gabe Theriot

ROCKET CITY FUR MEET

I've never been to a "furry" convention but since there was one right in my backyard, I said "what the hey." Several other Huntsville fans had the same idea. About 100 members attended. The dealer's room had six dealers. The Artist Alley (informal tables where any artist was free to sit and draw) had about six artists at times doing sketches on commission. The guest of honor was Bill Holbrook, who's best known for the *Fast Track* syndicated newspaper comic strip. He also does a "furry" web comic, *Kevin and Kell*. I got a signed print (addressed to my fan fur name) from him. It's this issue's cover. I've seen other zines here use his strips. I also bought his latest *Fast Track* collection. ConStellation put on a room party on Saturday but only a couple of furries actually showed up. They seemed an insular group but were friendly enough (though obviously the majority were of an alternate life style). The Con-Suite had plenty of goodies (including lots of Pizza for Saturday's evening) and was also where main programming was held. Programming seemed to happen on a hit or miss basis as I never actually saw a panel I wanted. I did get to see, in the roll your own Video Room, a recent local (Nashville) documentary video on fans, clubs and conventions including footage of a Dragon*Con that I attended. I cannot compare it to any other "furry" conventions but I did not think it was too bad

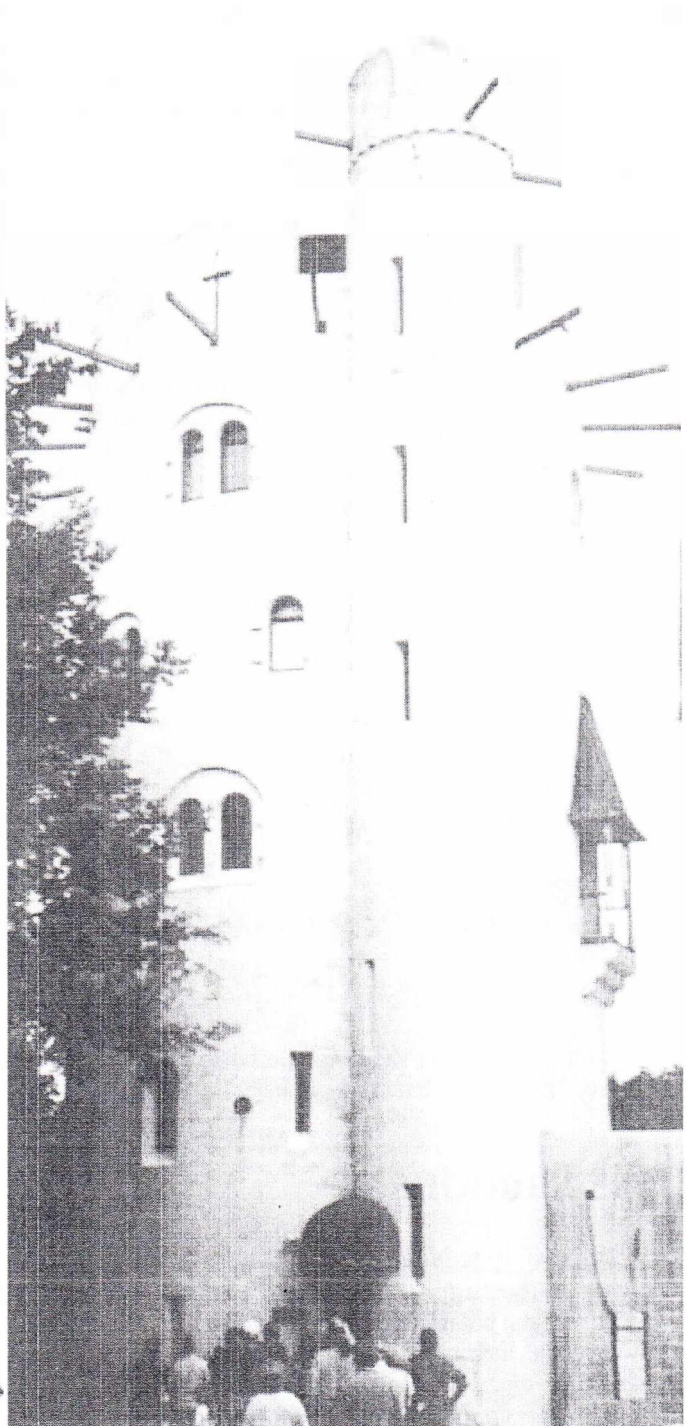
of a first effort for a convention.. I would have liked an art show (but maybe not the art). I also enjoyed seeing Any Price and Jeff Stringer Friday evening just shooting the breeze about movies and television and other fannish interests. Overall, I'm glad I went but I doubt I'll return, as I'm not a "furry" fanatic (or into the alternate life styles). I wish them luck on the next one. ☒

TENNESSEE RENAISSANCE FAIRE

Since I had Memorial Day off, I decided to see the last day of the Ten Ren Faire (instead of working on my zine). I invited lots of people but people either went Saturday or had other plans (like working). A fellow North Alabama Science-Fiction Club member, Karen Black, accompanied me. It was a beautiful day. The faire was well attended and all the vendors and performers seemed in good spirits (eager for it to be over like kids at the end of the school year). I took lots of typical pictures of jousting, costumes, and the birds of prey show. Here's a picture of the Castle the owner of the Faire Grounds built and continues to work on. ☒



A "Furry" Fan in Costume (Persona)





MOVIE REVIEWS

Bulletproof Monk was okay. I saw it on my birthday. It's a good pop-corn movie if you like silly light hearted Kung Fu action films. I rate it a C+.

X-Men: United was great. It was better than the original. Even with a multitude of characters, the action flowed wonderfully and the characters emoted enough to make us care about them. Plus the eye candy was glorious. I give it a fan boy grade of A. The third film has to be the Dark Phoenix saga.

The Matrix: Reblouted was disappointing. Oh, I enjoyed it and realize it had impossible expectations to live up to (since the first movie was the epitome of human artist endeavor to date). However, where the first movie was tight, where every line, every scene, every action contributed to the movie, the second was a loose buffet of bigger is better, longer is cooler, etc. The second movie could have used a lot of rewriting to make it tighter and cut out about 25 minutes of dragging scenes and dialog. Even the action scenes could have been tighten up significantly. There are a lot of scenes and characters and dialog that had me asking, "why is this here?" I could nitpick all day but I would only depress you and myself. Hopefully, the third movie will make use of these loose plot threads and aimless characters and redeem them a little. I like the way it ended thematically, with the idea that all bets are off now. The prophecy is done (and may have never been anything but a contrivance of the Matrix to begin with). There were some nice ironies to the first movie too. Agent Smith calls humans a virus in the first movie and becomes one himself in the second. Morpheus asks Neo what if everything you believed was a lie in the first movie and it may be that everything he believed was exposed as a lie in the second movie. So I liked the movie, it had potential but is a rough unpolished semi-precious stone where the first film was a perfect cut diamond. I give it a C+ that may be upgraded to a B- depending on the backlight of the third film. ☒



MAILING COMMENTS FOR SFPA 232

Hi, sorry but time in short, and thusly so are my comments this issue. Another fine batch of zines.

NED BROOKS

The New Port News 208

Thanks for the comments. I know my cover was silly. That was the point. Perhaps Julie and I were conjoined in a past life. Good luck with the HTML. Your cover was pretty silly this time too. Stay away those cashews. Regarding setting off our nuclear arsenal on the moon, don't you know that's the plot of *Space 1999* TV show? Regarding Spam, it is out of control.

I've had to quit using my preview pane at work due to the porn Spam.

RICHARD DENGROVE

Twygdrasil And Treehouse Gazette 81

Thanks for the comments. I'm tasked at work but with the lowest priority task for the group so I'm constantly in hurry-up-and-wait-mode. Pshaw! I'm not a Big Name Fan (at least to that party giver at Chattacon). If doing OK with women means doing nothing, then that's me. :-) I love women but have given up on attracting them. The Turks did not end up allowing a second front from their country and now they're regretting it as they have less say so in the Kurdish situation. Be careful with those ancient tomes of power. Not all abuse is physical by far. Perhaps we all have repressed memories of happy times. Please, no Slash SFPA fiction! All laws should be entitled "Lawyer Employment Acts".

GUY H. LILLIAN III

Spiritus Mundi 194

Thanks for the comments. Looking forward to your DUFF report. Hopefully you are over you fear of flying now. You're driving a 280ZX! Sporty! Ouch on Rosie's cat bite. My friend Leana was recently bitten by a cat also. Cats is evil! Wow! You met Harry Warner. I could never just drop in on someone other than a close friend.

T.K.F.WEISSKOPF REINHARDT

"Yngvi is a Louse" And Other Graffitos 82

Thanks for the comments. Thanks for some balance to the issue also. Tell Hank you're all of the wife he needs (and he could never handle four of you).

☒



FINAL COMMENTS

See y'all at DSC if y'all don't see me first. I refinanced my house, paid off my furniture, and took a vacation this month. My bank account is hurting. To conclude, here's a Knock, Knock joke I heard on the Cartoon Channel Adult Swim's *Home Movies* that made me laugh out loud. Have a fun summer.

Knock, Knock!
Who's there?
F*ck You!



Sincerely,
Randy B. Cleary ☒