

AVATAR PRESS

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RANDY RANTS

Sigh. Same old story, but more so. I just seem unable to catch up on everything I need (let alone want) to do. After getting my zine done early last time, I had hoped to continue the trend but alas once again I'm doing this at the last minute. I'm looking forward to cool fall weather, getting some stylish new glasses, a new seal for my driver's side door (to keep out the rain), the Big Spring (Park) Jam concert this weekend., Con+Stellation, and the Florence Ren Faire.

DEEPSOUTHCON 41 TIDBITS

DeepSouthCon 41 was okay but I spent most of my time with SFC/DSC business. Plus, my bed was directly above the dance floor speakers and the dance went until 6:30 in the morning. Ouch. It was nice seeing everyone though. Here are some pictures of interest from DeepSouthCon 41. Any one want to write a report for next issue of the *SFC Bulletin*?



Toni Reinhardt in the Hall at DSC 41



Guy and Rosie Lillian in the Hall at DSC 41



Corlis Robe in the Hall at DSC 41



Linda Zielke and Julie Wall at the Party at DSC 41



Gary Robe, Rosie and Guy Lillian at the DSC 41 One Shot

SFC BULLETIN BORE DOWN

I started the last issue of the *SFC Bulletin* well before DSC but was no way near finished by the time DSC arrived so I decided to postpone the issue until afterwards. This allowed me to put DSC happenings (like the SFC Business Meeting) into the issue. It was a lot of work to finish, mostly due to putting together extended Convention and Club information for the listings. Then proofing took longer than planned. I was able to get it printed before DragonCon. I franked it to SFPA and mailed out to the foreign addresses before DragonCon. After DragonCon, I had to pick up Mom. Then I folded and taped (with help). Then I labeled. Then I sorted for bulk mail. Whew! I'm glad it's done. Only a few more months to do the next one. Hopefully, it will not be as big as an effort but I cannot start it until after ConStellation.

DRAGONCON DRIPPINGS

DragonCon was fun but not as fun as past years. It was extremely crowded this year (about 30,000 members). There were lots of hall costumes: so many that I did not feel that I missed out by not attending the Masquerade (which was a few blocks away in the Atlanta Civic Center). I got to see some of my Atlanta friends. I had fun playing Basketball Sunday morning with a friend from college and her husband. Though, it did illustrate how out of shape I'm. I just can't find time to exercise lately. The roommate situation did not go well though. On the last night, I wanted to get some rest, as I had to drive to NC to pick up Mom the next day. Unfortunately, even though the roomie was in bed at 11:30, he stayed up

watching TV until 3:30 A.M. I won't bore you with the saga and other annoyances but needless to say I'll not be rooming with him again. Here's picture of my friend Jayne Rogers, who was a DragonCon guest. Her husband, Lewis Murphy, and I went out to eat with her dressed in this costume. They paid which was very nice of them. Next year, I'll be at Boston for WorldCon.



Jayne Rogers as Star Wars Alien

MOM REVISITED

After DragonCon, I drove up to North Carolina and picked up mom again. She stayed for a few weeks of stress relief but was often bored while I worked during the day at my paying job and several nights on the *SFC Bulletin* or Con+Stellation Art Show business. We did do a few things she seemed to enjoy, such as visiting Monte Sano and the Limestone County Flea Market. She has definitely decided she would rather live unhappily up there with all the family stress than brave the "unknown" challenges of living down here. I made her promise she would move if her choices came down between suicide and moving down here. Someone (probably a neighbor hoodlum punk friend of my nephew) egged my and Mom's cars the night I spent up there after bringing her back to NC. I lost some paint as a result.

I've got some touch up paint but it looks crappy. Oh well.



Mom at Monte Sano State Park in Huntsville

CON+STELLATION

I'm running the art show at Con+Stellation XXII in Huntsville October 10-12, 2003. So that is taking up increasing amounts of time. The art show is overflowing full this year and I'm turning artists away after even adding 13 panels to the layout. The room is small and that's the absolute max I can safely add.

Friday, the program book editor ask me to write an appreciation (within 24 hours) for one of our guests, Larry Dixon, since he failed to come up with anyone to write one for him. I've never met him so I had to frantically scan the web for background information, which was not easy to find. Here's what I ended up with (meeting the 300 word minimum imposed by the editor):

Larry Dixon Appreciation by Randy B. Cleary

I have never had the pleasure of meeting Larry Dixon but am honor to write his appreciation. I hope everyone gets to know him better this weekend, as he seems to be quite an interesting guy based on what I've been able to discover. Larry Dixon once said, "if two people were exactly alike, one of them would be unnecessary." Well, Larry Dixon is definitely necessary as there is no one quite like him. Larry Dixon has been a professional artist for almost two decades, specializing in wildlife, military, and automotive art, as well as science fiction and fantasy. He is also a Lifetime Active Member of the Science Fiction Writers of America (SFWA) and has co-authored several novels

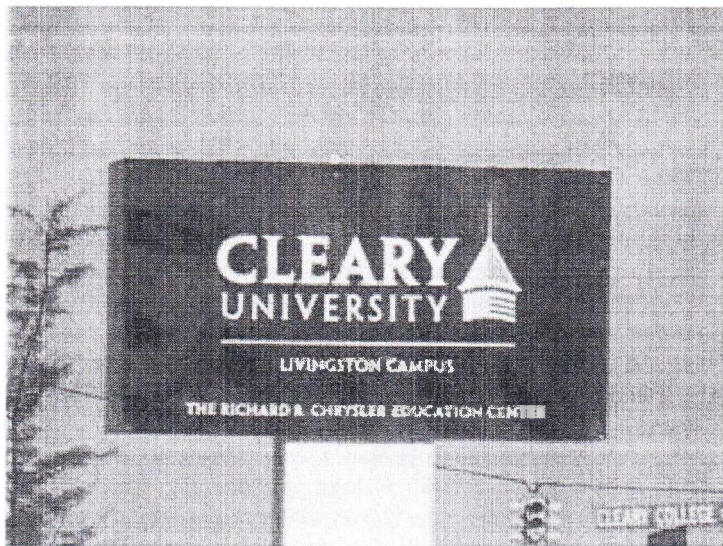
with his wife. His wife, in case you do not know, is Mercedes R. Lackey. They were married in Las Vegas in 1992. He hails from Tulsa by way of Gayetteville, North Carolina and now lives in 'the weirdest house in Oklahoma', filled with dragons, manuscripts, and gryphons. He and his wife are avid conservationists, members of SOAR (Support Our American Raptors), involved in wildlife rehabilitation, specializing in birds of prey. They have an aviary complex for rehabilitating birds and a stable/mews for horses and hawks. They also live with a flock of parrots and a plethora of exotic chickens. And if all that was not enough uniqueness, he drives a distinctly unique car, a classic Chaparral White '73 Pantera (the White Gryphon); sometimes even to vintage races. He's also no stranger to music as his father was lead guitarist of the Lancers, a band that specialized in Ventures tunes. His father also played with Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens, and the Big Bopper. You might be able to start up a conversation this weekend with him about his and/or some of this other likes, such as tropical islands and barbeque.

Then the program book editor requested some clip art Sunday (due the same day). I whipped up this piece of crap as I only had an hour to spare (I really want and need to do some more involved art work soon). The theme (or constellation) of the convention this year is Pegasus.



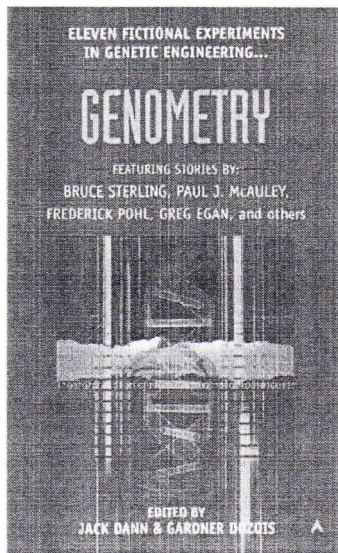
MISC

I found the Cleary University picture on the next page on the web. No relation but neat. Perhaps, I should come up with a curriculum like I did for Reinhardt College in the *SFC Bulletin*. ☒

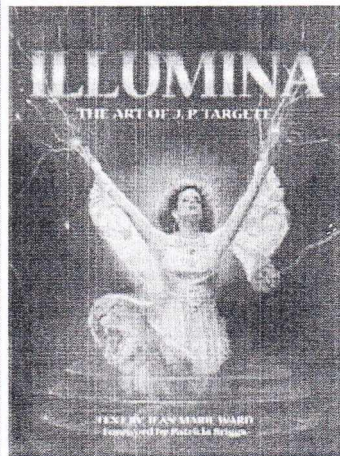


BOOK REVIEWS

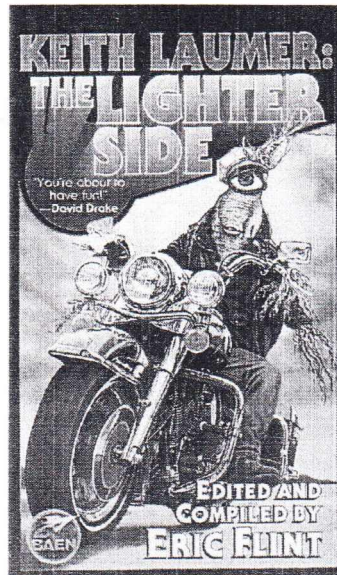
Okay, time and space is short so here are some mini-reviews.



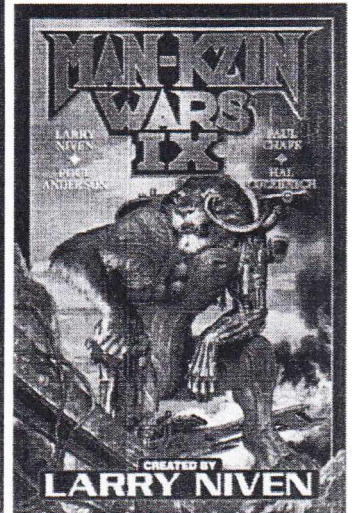
Genometry. Edited by Jack Dann and Gardner Dozois – I picked this up in a dollar store. This is a collection of eleven short stories themed around genetic engineering. I enjoyed them all but did not find any of them too memorable. I rate it a B-.



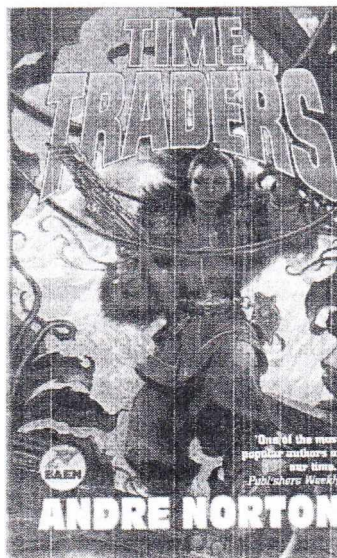
Illumina: The Art of J.P. Targete. text by Jean Marie Ward. – I got this at DragonCon with autographs by the artist and author. I read it (instead of sleeping) in the wee hours one night at DragonCon while a roomie watched TV. I love Targete's work (the originals are so much better than any print version). This book gives you a lot of pictures and a lot of background about the artist. I rate it a B.



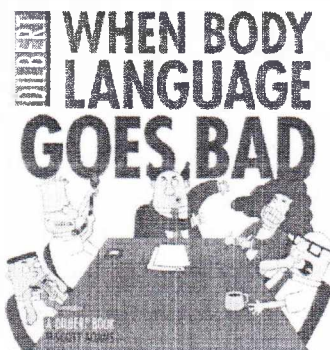
Keith Laumer: The Lighter Side. Edited by Eric Flint – This is a collection of some of Keith Laumer's more zany short novels and stories. I enjoyed them mostly. The *Great Time Machine Hoax* was a little straining though. I rate it a B-.



Man-Kzin Wars IX. Created by Larry Niven – I picked this up at DeepSouthCon 41 after waiting forever for it to come out in paperback. I really enjoy this series of anthologies of stories set in Larry Niven's Known Universe concerning the interaction (not all wars) between Man and the Kzin. Larry Niven even has a story in this collection. It was a good read but no story stood out as better than any of the previous collections. The inhumanity of the Kzin at times is getting a little tiring though. I rate it a B.



Time Traders and *Time Traders II* by Andre Norton – I bought these for Andre Norton to autograph last year when NASFA visited her. These Baen reissues collect the classic novels *The Time Traders*, *Galactic Derelict*, *The Defiant Agents*, and *Key Out of Time* into two paperbacks. These are straight up simple adventure stories. The background is sweeping but the focus is on the adventure of the characters. They are fun light reads but I would have liked a little more characterization and character development and connection and explanation of the sweeping backdrop of vanished intergalactic empires and time travel in Earth's past. I rate these as a C+ for adults, a B+ for younger adults.



When Body Language Goes Bad, A Dilbert™ Book by Scott Adams – This latest Dilbert newspaper cartoon strip collection delivers the funny as always (especially for those of us it seems to be a documentary of). I rate it a B. ☒



MUSIC REVIEWS

THE Essential CLASH



I've been listening and enjoying immensely a lot of my acquisitions so far this year. The only new one lately (sort of) is *The Essential Clash*. I already had a best of *The Clash* but this was an automatic purchase from the

Columbia music club (as I did not respond no in time). It has about twice as many songs and includes almost every one as the other. Thus, I'm putting my old CD in the yard sale bin and keeping this one. I rate this collection as A. ☒



MOVIE REVIEWS

Underworld – This was a very stylistic vampires versus werewolves action film. I enjoyed it. I would have liked a wee bit more emphasis on developing a true love interest between the main characters (a female vampire whose job is to kill werewolves and a human who has recently been bitten by a werewolf). But I'm a hopeless romantic. The style, action and effects are first rate though. I rate this a B+.



Kate Beckinsale as Vampire Warrior, Selene ☒



SFPA 234 MAILING COMMENTS

Sorry for short comments this time.

GUY H. LILLIAN III

Spiritus Mundi 196

Thanks for the comments. The *Bulletin* is a lot of work but hopefully worth the effort for the readers. Good luck with the rewrite of the SFC by-laws. My nephew has lots of emotional/psychological problems. Hopefully someday (soon) he'll grow up.

seek help, or leave the area for the sake of my Mom's sanity. I did visit Ron Jon's Surf Shop again and picked up a few items. I saw *Matrix Rebloated* again. It was better the second time. I guess because of lowered expectations. Try to stay out of jail for until after Con+Stellation. :-)

NED BROOKS

The New Port News 210

The "fork" was in Julie's cleavage.

RICHARD DENGROVE

Twygdrasil And Treehouse Gazette 83

Thanks for the comments. Regarding Julie's beauty: I guess Julie won't hurt you for your comments. Regarding Printing: I print the master and home and then photocopy elsewhere (usually the local Mail Boxes, Etc.). Regarding BNF: I may be a Big Name Fan in certain small fannish circles but overall I'm still just a lower case fan. Regarding Women: I have lots of female friends but have given up on dating for several years now due to laziness and wanting to be happy. Regarding Repressed Memories: Some people choose to focus on the negative so the positive events may not stick as well in their memory. Regarding Nicholas LoC's: I'm allowed to trim LoC's? It's not bad form?

STEVE HUGHES

Travelers Tales

Cool! Cool! (3D Comment). Thanks for the glasses (I need to glue mine back together). Fortunately I have the knack of crossing my eyes at will to create the stereo effect without them (if the pictures are narrow).

NORM METCALF

Tyndallite, Volume 3, Number 108

Thanks for the comments on the *SFC Bulletin*.

SHELIA STRICKLAND

Revenant 19

Thanks for the comments. Julie had a fork for eating party food of course. Furry fandom seems largely male dominated (in more ways than one).

Well, actually, that's my fan name (which I just used as my "furry" name for the convention). I know very little about "furry" fandom, which is why I attend the convention (out of curiosity), but they seem to be both a sub-set and a overlapping group. That is, some furries are also more traditional fans but not all are.

TOM FELLER

Frequent Flyer

Thanks for the *Space 1999* clarification. Let's just keep all nuclear material off the moon. It's the only one we have. :-)

JEFF COPELAND

Cats on Ritalin

Thanks for the comments. I'm not familiar with BOC's "ME-262" song. Regarding shameful code: I'm as guilty as anyone due to schedule pressures. Get it done now. Make it better later (if ever).

GARY BROWN

Oblivion 147

Thanks for the comments. I've really got to hit the San Diego Comic Con some day. DragonCon has a comic track but it's not 1 percent of Comic Con.

T.K.F.WEISSKOPF REINHARDT

"Yngvi is a Louse" And Other Graffitos 83

Nice seeing y'all at DSC41. Hope to see y'all soon at Con+Stellation. You left my zine at home. You left the draft of the *Bulletin* at home. Ut oh...I'm seeing a pattern here. :-) ☒



FINAL COMMENTS

I hope everyone has a fabulous Fall. My friends and family continue to be losing jobs and looking for work. I hope I will not be joining them next year as a victim of job flight (replaced by two or three low paid Indian Software Programmers). ☺

Sincerely,

Randy B. Cleary ☒