

REVENANT #17

Revenant #17, March 2003 produced for SFPA mailing #232 by Sheila Strickland
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I really don't have time for this. I have a project due Wednesday, which is not finished; a ten-page paper due somewhat later that I haven't a clue on; and a project for which I have some material, but not nearly enough. I'm two weeks behind in my readings. I'm seriously considering dropping this course and taking it again in the fall. The stress is no better, and the exhaustion is getting to me such that I can't concentrate. My job is hectic enough to be stressful in itself; combined with this class; it may be time to call it quits to education for now.

This is not a good time to be short of time! There's so much to talk about---Columbia, Iraq, even the Academy Awards. Let's see what I can do.

Going chronologically, I'll start with Columbia. I had to work that Saturday. I was listening to NPR's morning news and was reminded that the shuttle was to land that day. On some flights, I've heard the sonic boom as the shuttle passed overhead; sometimes I'd try to figure about what time it would be passing so I could listen for it. But it was just an ordinary busy Saturday at work until an hour or so along. I came out of our work room/break room having just finished counting the fine money from the day before. My co-workers were looking at the online news on the computer at the circulation desk and told me the shuttle had exploded. A sign of these terrible times that I first thought, "The Israeli astronaut. Sabotage." I turned around and went back into the break room to turn on the TV. It stayed on most of the day; telling us nothing. What I wanted to do was go home and glue myself to the TV and cry. What I had to do was stay at work all day; and deal with people, people, people.

I've heard the statistics that show this or some accident like this could be expected to happen sooner or later. I know that all the astronauts and their families deal with the knowledge that they could die on any of these expeditions. I know NASA will investigate this up, down, and sideways trying to find out what went wrong and how to prevent it happening again. But I still feel sick when I think about those seven of Earth's representatives going to space and not coming home again.

Speaking of tragedies, how about our latest war? I hope it will be a short one; but I worry the repercussions will last for years. And I wish this administration didn't seem to be ignoring North Korea, who seems to be spoiling for a fight with anyone.

Jumping to frivolities, I watched part of the Academy Awards this year. I thought it might turn out to be the "Chicago" award show, but I see they missed getting a few of the awards they were nominated for. I haven't seen the movie yet, and may not. The superficial image I have of it is that it's too loud, too overdone, and too "Broadway musical" for my tastes. While watching the awards, I kept waiting for one of the winners to make some anti-war/pro-war statement that would get a major response from the audience. Michael Moore's was nicely over the top, though I'm a bit surprised at the amount of booing. What happened to the traditional Hollywood liberal elite? (They must not have been in attendance this year.)

Mailing Comments

The New Port News: Reyr ct mike about *The Stone Tape* and the Schrodinger's Cat analog: if "Schrodinger's Zine" isn't a title, it should be. "You'll never know if it's good or not until you open the cover!"

Ct George Wells on King Clave: he shows up on Amazon.com; so he does exist. Whether or not the man George met was the original or not is another matter.

Spiritus Mundi: Congratulations on the DUFF win! I'm looking forward to your trip report. Your comment to Rich Dengrove about Harry Warner, Jr. gave me a twinge when I just re-read it--he was such a fixture in fanzines it was a jolt to lose him.

Peter, Pan & Merry: Ct Arthur Hlavaty on blood types and diet: there's a series of books out about that. The first one was *Eat Right 4 Your Type*; the others I've seen have mostly been expansions on the theme or lists of which foods to buy according to what you should eat. Sounds like total nonsense to me.

How to Catejh a Sasquatch: You might catch a Sasquatch by your method; but do you really want to be around a prune-fed Sasquatch?

Twygdrasil and Treehouse Gazette: I'm sorry to hear about your cousin. It's tough to lose our childhood companions, even when we don't have much contact with them after we grow up. Ct Steve Hughes on the Special Librarians changing their name. I get annoyed by librarians who want to change the name to "Information Specialists" or some other such. I like the term "librarian". It has history behind it; it means something; and if some people thinks it refers only to the proverbial little old lady with her hair in a bun who wears sensible shoes; a name change is not going to help. "What do you do for a living?" "I'm an information specialist!" "Huh?" And as the info specialist explains; the other says, "Oh, like a librarian!"

Thirty: Ouch, ouch, and much sympathies. I hope you're all well by now.

Frequent Flyer: Congratulations on the writing. Where are the Salem Press articles published? I see they publish *Masterplots*; were they there?

Attending the gubernatorial ball, eh? Was it an adequate substitute for Chattacon? I'd like to get to a Chattacon again; I enjoyed the two I attended years ago.

Weird Stuff: I don't now about the rest of SFPA, but I want to go play with Steve and Suzanne's toys. The trampoline Tower looks like the coolest of the lot; and I'd be completely hopeless at trying to assemble one. (Moot point since there's no way I'd fit something that tall into my overstuffed house!)

Oblio: You mentioned the comic "The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen"; have you seen notice of the movie coming out sometime or another? Interesting cast they have; might be worth a look.

Trivial Pursuits: And an ouch to you, too for your back. I hope it's doing better now; or that you're at least sleeping better.

You mentioned the USA Patriot Act (a misuse of the word "patriot" if ever I heard it). Librarians are ticked off over it because it could put us in the position of being required to turn over records to the FBI of what books a patron has checked out or which patrons have visited a particular website. Once we've violated our code of ethics by doing that, we aren't even allowed to tell the person that their records have been checked. I recently wrote a paper for my class on it; and the more I read about it, the less I liked it. One or two legislators were trying to do something to tone it down; but they'll probably be ignored while the war continues.

Thanks for running the Dave Barry LOTR piece. I read it in the local paper, but neglected to save a copy. Even as much as I loved LOTR, I thought Barry's take on it was hilarious.

Winter Wanderings: If your friend Stephen really wants to be horrified by Southern food, he's going to have to come down here and try it for himself. Tell him he needs to come to a Deep South Con, and one of us will be more than happy to find him something local! But what typical Southern food did he find so horrifying? Fried pork rinds? Grits?

Guilty Pleasures: What's an International Baccalaureate diploma and how does one qualify? Not getting to read for pleasure is something I can identify with---even with just one class; there's a massive lot of pages to get through.

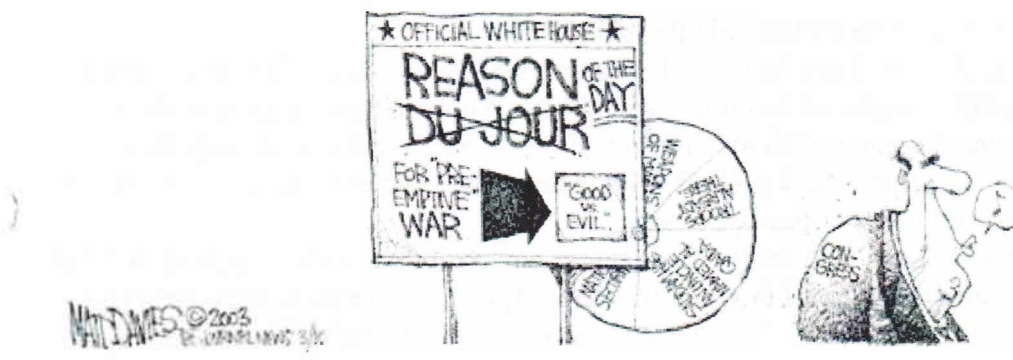
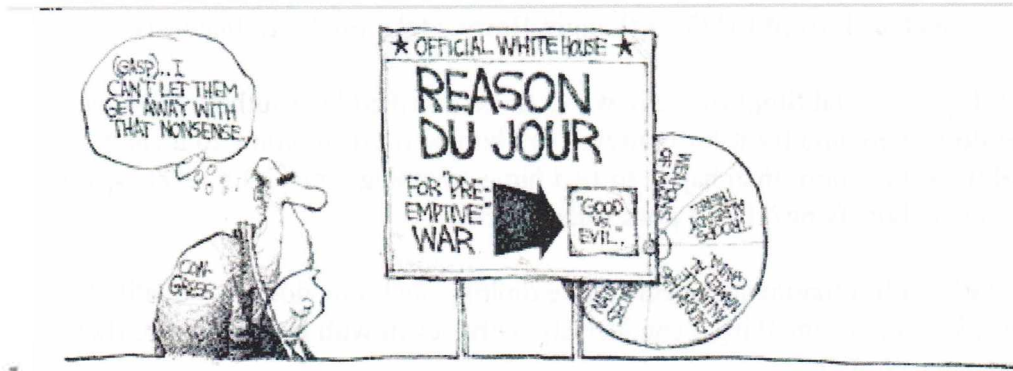
Tennessee Trash: So, is your lip feeling cold these days?

On your review of "The Two Towers", I wouldn't say Gondor has fallen. Osgilliath was pretty well trashed; but the country of Gondor is still intact. We'll see the war there in the next movie. And I don't think Arwen has left for the Grey Havens. She left Rivendell with the Elves who were going there; but I think she'll peel off from the rest and head south to Minas Tirith (or possibly Lorien to hang out with her grandparents).

Ct me on web searching: I never did come across any porn sites in my searching, but then I usually used a search engine or linked from another site. Apparently the porn sites don't use "gardening" or "gardens" in their sites! I can believe someone would accidentally get into a site that they didn't want and didn't intend; but with some care you can usually avoid it. Supposedly, some people have put porn sites up with addresses close to legitimate sites.

And to close

Not much of a zine this time; but I didn't want to miss the mailing all together. I hope next time I'll have the time/energy to do more. Classes will be over for the semester and I won't be going back until August. Maybe then I can plan for DeepSouthCon and Torcon. (I want to go to both, but money is an issue.)



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