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Articles Welcomed
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Volume 1998
Issue #7

Sept. 26-27

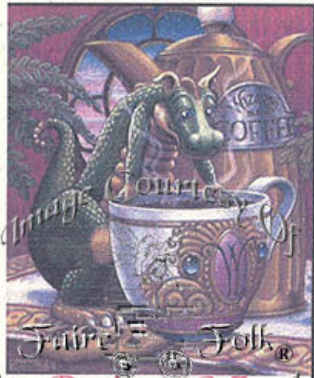
The Knight After

Unofficial Newsletter of the Minnesota Renaissance Festival

~ From The Editor ~

It's here again...the last weekend. Where does the time go? Despite the heat, it has been a wonderful year, hasn't it. More fun, new faces and wonderful new friends. Thank you to Paul and Kevin for the wonderfully funny "Open Eye" advice column, especially for getting it to me on time every week for publishing! Special hugs and kisses go to Susan "Mistress Bawd" for her friendship and her beautiful voice! Best of luck in your recording venture Susan. I know you WILL make it profitable. Thank you also goes to everyone who has supported "The Knight After" with your great comments about it and for passing it on to others. I am hoping to get this years issues on my web page - Rosalily's Renfest Regalia - <http://www.cloudnet.com/~renfest/> Yes, that was a shameless plug! Unfortunately I was not able to get the Renfest Wench and Hunk calendar off the ground this year. But next year it will be my priority. What better way to bring in the new millennium than with a calendar of our participants! The proceeds will be designated for M.A.P. Until next year I leave you all with a toast: "May the best of your yesterdays be the worst of your tomorrows."

Blessings, Sherry



Renaissance Coffee

Warmer

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Fitting Punishment

In medieval times there was a court jester whose wont was always to come up with the most atrocious puns. This continued for months on end, whereupon the king lost his patience and sentenced the jester to be hanged. The poor wretch was standing on the gallows with a rope around his neck when a messenger came riding posthaste from the castle, exclaiming, "Wait! The king has decided to spare the jester's life, provided that he never again tell another pun in public." At this, the jester smiled and beamed, then said,

"No noose is good news!"



HOW TO TELL WHEN YOUR FOOD IS SPOILED

Whether you are a mom who cooks for many, a bachelor who cooks on rare occasions for himself, or a new college student who for the first time has his or her own refrigerator-- you will eventually all open the fridge one day and say to yourself, "Can I eat this or will it kill me?" Well here are some guidelines to help you get through the crisis, so you will know what to eat and what to toss.

THE GAG TEST-Anything that makes you gag is spoiled (except for leftovers from what you cooked for yourself last night).

EGGS-When something starts pecking its way out of the shell, the egg is probably past its prime.

DAIRY PRODUCTS-Milk is spoiled when it starts to look like yogurt. Yogurt is spoiled when it starts to look like cottage cheese. Cottage cheese is spoiled when it starts to look like regular cheese. Regular cheese is nothing but spoiled milk anyway and can't get any more spoiled than it is already. Cheddar cheese is spoiled when you think it is blue cheese but you realize you've never purchased that kind.

MAYONNAISE-If it makes you violently ill after you eat it, the mayonnaise is spoiled.

FROZEN FOODS-Frozen foods that have become an integral part of the defrosting problem in your freezer compartment will probably be spoiled - (or wrecked anyway) by the time you pry them out with a kitchen knife.

EXPIRATION DATES-This is NOT a marketing ploy to encourage you to throw away perfectly good food so that you'll spend more on groceries. Perhaps you'd benefit by having a calendar in your kitchen.

MEAT-If opening the refrigerator door causes stray animals from a three-block radius to congregate outside your house, the meat is spoiled.

You have the capacity to choose what you think about.

If you choose to think about past hurts, you will continue to feel bad.

While it's true you can't change the effect past influences had on you once, you can change the effect they have on you now.

-Gary McKay, PhD-

author of

How You Feel Is Up to You: The Power of Emotional Choice

BREAD-Sesame seeds and Poppy seeds are the only officially acceptable "spots" that should be seen on the surface of any loaf of bread. Fuzzy and hairy looking white or green growth areas are a good indication that your bread has turned into a pharmaceutical laboratory experiment.

FLOUR-Flour is spoiled when it wiggles.

LETTUCE-Bibb lettuce is spoiled when you can't get it off the bottom of the vegetable crisper without Comet. Romaine lettuce is spoiled when it turns liquid. (We didn't think you needed guidance with this one.)

CANNED GOODS-Any canned goods that have become the size or shape of a softball should be disposed of. Carefully.

CARROTS-A carrot that you can tie a clove hitch in is not fresh.

RAISINS-Raisins should not be harder than your teeth.

POTATOES-If it looks like it is ready for planting, toss it.

CHIP DIP-If you can take it out of its container and bounce it on the floor, it has gone bad.

EMPTY CONTAINERS-Putting empty containers back into the refrigerator is an old trick, but it only works if you live with someone or have a maid.

UNMARKED ITEMS: You know it is well beyond prime when you're tempted to discard the Tupperware along with the food. Generally speaking, Tupperware containers should not burp when you open them.

GENERAL RULE OF THUMB: Most food cannot be kept longer than the average life span of a hamster. Keep a hamster in or nearby your refrigerator to gauge this.

A MAGICAL MARKETPLACE



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OPEN EYE ADVICE



Last Sunday Virgo went to get the question box. She gave us a hard time because none of the rest of us were able to bring it back in one piece. As she approached Bad Manor, she noticed three pirates with chicken puppets. The chickens were mooning the patrons until a few of our own puppets came cruising for chicks. Quicker than a patron can ask, "Are those costumes hot?", a severely intoxicated patron started kicking at any puppet head present. Virgo, a martial arts master, took on the patron using her vast karate knowledge ... she got the hell out of the way. Several puppets weren't quite as fortunate and lost their heads. Because Virgo got the box of questions, that means the rest of us in the troupe will be hearing "If you want something done right, let a woman do it," until next year.

Dear Open Eye,

I've noticed that the Cyclops has been getting smarter since his first column. My boyfriend is dumber than a rubber chicken. Is there any hope for him?

Beautiful Becky

Odyseus: With Ian Dark's Smartwater, there's even hope for the rubber chicken. Ian Dark's Smartwater is made from the smartest stuff on Earth. It has over a thousand and one uses. Just look how it helped the Cyclops!

Cyclops: (Editors note: When this question was read to the Cyclops, his eyes rolled back in his head and he remained motionless for 7 full hours, whereupon he blew a spit bubble, mumbled something about Darvolet, and proceeded to wet himself. The question was withdrawn, and we then went to the dragstore to re-fill his prescription.)

A scary thought occurred to me. I've done the Renaissance Festival for several years now, but I have no idea why I keep doing it. Can you tell me why?

Baffled Bert

Odyseus: What do you think I am? A mind reader? No, that job belongs to the Rouge Mistake. You could ask the Wizard, but he always speaks in riddles. Four of the Three Musketeers might know, but you'll have to find the right four. Let me ask you a few questions. Why are any of us here? What other things can you do with a liberal arts degree? What is the meaning of life? Who's on first? What about rhetorical questions?

Cyclops: (After medication) There are so many things we love that keep us coming back, like the crunchy flavor of black boogers, the pretty colors I see when I become dehydrated, sleep everywhere, and the big sink that turns my hand that wonderful shade of blue, but the one thing that keeps me coming back is I don't have to shower or brush my teeth to get laid.

I was at the Talent Show Saturday night and saw the Pull My Finger Puppets. I was appalled at your crude attempt at humor and thoroughly embarrassed by the subject matter. Your act was an insult to my intelligence and should be banned. When can I see your act again?

Polly Puritan

Odyseus: For doing our show, we get \$50 dollars an hour a piece. For not doing our show, we get \$75 dollars a piece. Now for rehearsing, we offer a special rate, only \$90 an hour. For not rehearsing, we have to charge so much you'd never be able to afford it. You see, if we don't rehearse, we can't perform, if we can't perform, it runs into "real" money. As you can see, I don't have a solution but I admire the problem.

Cyclops: In the fall, we will be traveling to the mother of all conventions, SuckerCon 98, and the guest speaker this year is Data's cat, Spot. We will be premiering our new musical "It's Not Easy Being Felt." We will also be recording a winter episode of "The Joke Spring Show," and the topic will be "Puppet Love: What a Little Head Can Do For You."

Until next year, see ya later!





Check these out on the World Wide Web!

As promised in last week's issue, here is the list of web page addresses that belong to some of our own "family" of participants. Please visit them! If you have a web page not listed here, let me know so that I can add it to the list for next year.

Rosalily's Renfest Regalia - <http://www.cloudnet.com/~renfest/> My own page

Ian Dark's Lair - <http://members.aol.com/IanDark/Renaissance.html> Writer of the Open Eye Advice

Pulanami Puppets - <http://www.visi.com/%Elucky13/Pulanami.htm> Writer of the Open Eye Advice

Thistle Leather - <http://www.thistle-leather.com/index.html> Do any of us not have one of his mugs?

Omega Artworks - <http://www.omegaartworks.com/index.html> A regular patron created this page

Puke & Snot's Official Homepage - <http://members.aol.com/pukensnot/index/html>

Hey You Sir's Homepage - <http://www.wavefront.com/~heyjousir/htm> He brings the greyhounds to us!

Homepage of Corvus D. Elrod - <http://www.otherwhenent.com/> For everything Corvus!

Renaissance, The Elizabethan World - <http://ren.dm.net> - John Neitz (Lord Chamberlain of the Royal Court) helped create this wonderful page

Robert W. Schug's Page - <http://ssw.che.wmn.edu/ctr4rjm/People/Schug.htm> - We know and love him as His Royal Highness, Phluff of the House of Panache

The Tortuga Twins - <http://www.tortugatwins.com> - Yes, we know and love their tights!

Starfire Swords, Ltd. - <http://www.lightlink.com/starfire/> - Beautiful blades

New ones this week:

Last Chance Forever - <http://www.lastchanceforever.org/index.html> Our own falconer-John Karger

MacGregor Historic Games - <http://www.historicgames.com/> Challenging games

Thompson Fine Arts - <http://www.thompsonfinearts.com> Some of the most beautiful prints around

lily's domain Home of Logo Russo & Funks Grove - <http://www.funksgrove.com> Lojo....need I say more?

Top Ten Ways To Reacclimate

If you're not quite so eager to leave behind the Faire experience, you might try these at-home substitutions:

1. Have a household member rev up a leafblower outside your bedroom window just before dawn, so you won't miss the privy-suckers.
2. Invite about 2,000 friends over, then try to walk from one end of your house to the other.
3. Crank your heater up to 100, and stand in front of it wearing a sleeping bag for a skirt and a wool blanket for a shirt. Add a hat. Try to cool yourself by drinking warm rust-flavored water.
4. Be drunk by 11 a.m. Sleep it off mid-day and start all over again at 4 p.m.

5. Each day about 2 p.m., pile fine silt in front of a portable fan on a card table. Stand in front of the fan so the silt blows into your eyes. Every time it does, curse.

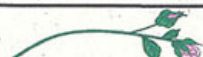
6. Put pebbles all over the floors of your house. Wear thin-soled slippers as "shoes." Walk on the rocks for 8 hours straight.

7. Charge your family \$3.00 for iced tea and \$5.00 for a baked potato.

8. Sprinkle your toilet seat and bathroom floors with water and wet wadded tissue. Add a pile of fake vomit.

9. When you undress at night, wad up your clothes and stash them outside. Sprinkle beer and dirt on them.

10. And remember: Twice a day, with an expression of humble respect on your face, yell "God Shave The Queen!"



In Memorium

Note: I received this e-mail on Thursday and felt it needed to be added to this week's issue of *The Knight After*. Please pass this message on.

My name is Jennifer Busse, (Aka: Lady GoatFace). I've been at Festival for almost ten years now and am wondering if you could help me. I've been trying to contact Mid-America about getting this into the Privy Counselor, but no go. With as long as you've been out at Fest, you may or may not remember a brother and sister by the name Roy and Dorothy Spaude. They had worked Fest for about 15 years, first starting in Como Cottage and then starting the original petting zoo until it's tear-down in '96 ('95?). They became friends with many, many people through their years there, friend to shopkeepers, actors and participants alike. This past Tuesday, around 7:00 p.m. Roy Spaude passed away in New Prague.

I know a lot of friends and acquaintances would like to send their regards and condolences and there is no way I can possibly hit all of them. If you would be so kind to include something in your "Knight After," it would be greatly appreciated. Cards and letters can be sent to:

Dorothy Spaude

23766 Newport Avenue

Prior Lake, MN 55372

On behalf of myself and Dorothy, I thank you.

Thank you so very much..
Jennifer Busse

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