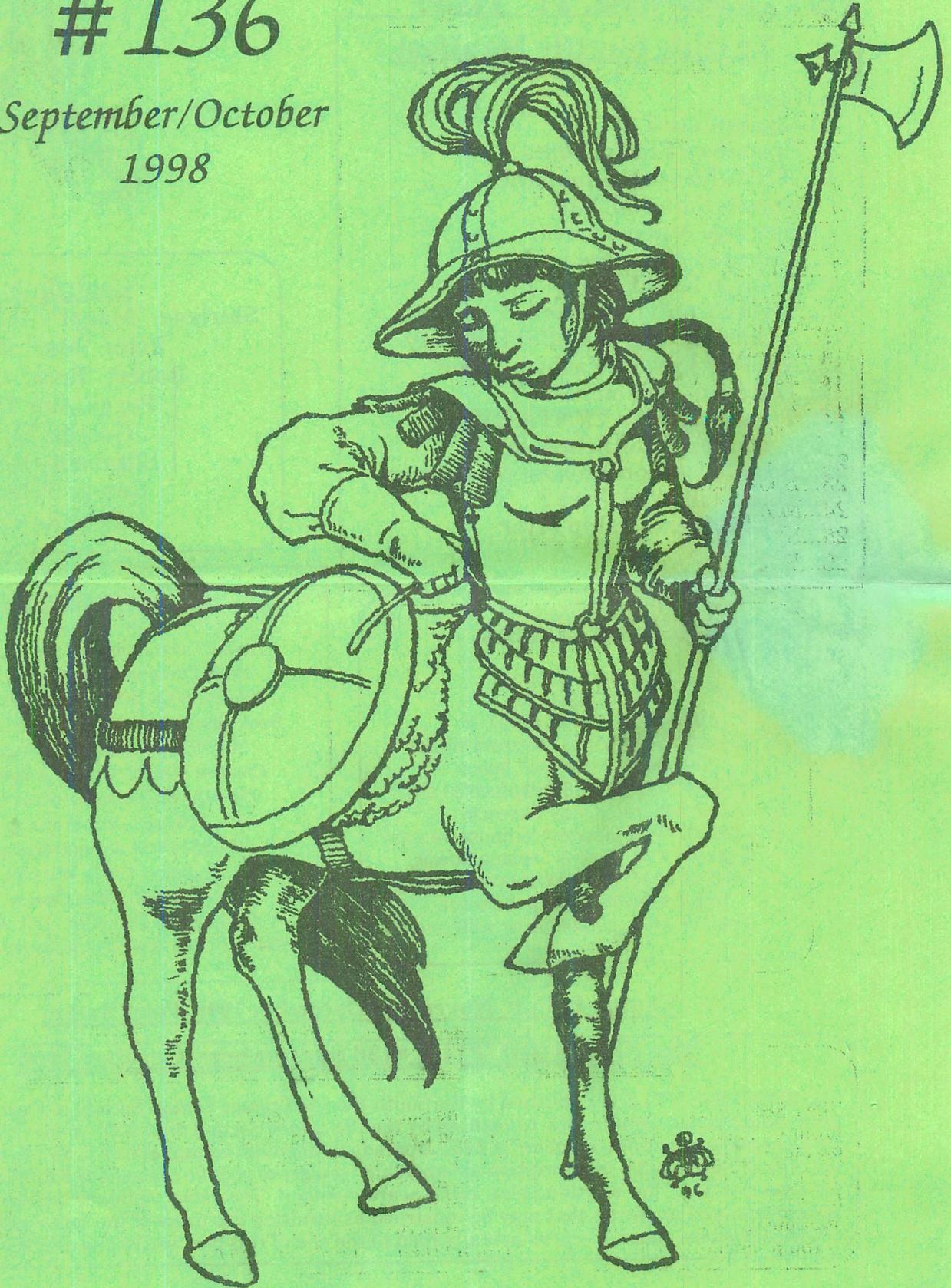


# SFSFS Shuttle

## #136

September/October  
1998



# South Florida Science Fiction Society

P.O. Box 70143

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33307



## Ye Olde Shuttle Manifest

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## Contributors:

Shirlene "Magpi" Ananayo-Rawlik  
 Peter "Mal" Barker  
 Robert "Buck" Coulson  
 Peggy Ann Dolan  
 George Flynn  
 Elizabeth Osborne  
 George Peterson  
 Pete Rawlik

## SFSFS Board of Directors

Chair: Judi Goodman,  
 305-382-1793  
 Vice Chair: Carlos Perez, Jr.  
 305-448-5152, carlos7@herald.infi.net  
 Secretary: Peter "Mal" Barker  
 561-883-5126, P92883b@pb.seflin.org  
 Treasurer: Cindy Warmuth  
 954-983-0749, wwilson6@compuserve.com  
 Tropicon XVII: Pete & Shirlene Rawlik  
 561-844-6336, prawlik@concentric.net  
 Tropicon XVIII: George Peterson  
 954-739-4676, z004406b.bc.seflin.org

## SFSFS Department Heads

Audio/Video Archivist: Judi Goodman  
 Book Division: Peggy Ann Dolan,  
 305-532-8008, d005518c@dc.seflin.org  
 Book Discussion: Joe Siclari & Edie Stern  
 561-392-6462, jsiclari@icanect.net  
 Creative Writers' Group: Adam Castro  
 954-418-0832, a.castro10@genie.com  
 Filking: Dina Pearlman  
 954-252-0669, dynamite@safari.net  
 Library: Cindy Warmuth  
 Media: Adam Castro  
 Mailing List Compiler: Bill Wilson  
 954-983-0749, wwilson6@compuserve.com

Shuttle Editor: November-December 1998, Peter Barker

## The SFSFS SHUTTLE #136 September - October 1998

The SFSFS SHUTTLE is published by the South Florida Science Fiction Society, a Florida non-profit educational organization recognized by the IRS under Section 501(c)(3). A year's membership for General (non-voting) members is \$15. Upgrade to Regular (voting) status is \$5 after attendance at three SFSFS events. Subscription membership (you get to receive copies of the SFSFS SHUTTLE for a year) is \$12. For anything else, call a board member! The views, opinions, inflammatory statements, and anything that may be construed as insulting are those of the contributors and not of the publishers. {and, if you've actually read to the end of this box, you're one desperate puppy!}



### Media Event

**4 Oct., Sunday, 1st show after 4 p.m.**

*What Dreams May Come.*

Location: Regal Shadowood 16

Directions: Exit I-95 at Glades Rd. and go west. Theater is on the NE corner of 441 and Glades by Borders Books.

Info. Contact: **Adam Castro**, 954-418-0832.

### Board Meeting

**17 Oct., Saturday at Noon**

Location: SFSFS Clubhouse

Directions: Take I-95 to Oakland Park Blvd and go east. Take the first left after Andrews Ave onto NE 1st Ave. (by the Petite Lounge sign). Take the 1st right into the alley and follow it down until you see the sign on the door (right side of the alley).

Info. Contact: **Judi Goodman**, 305-385-1793.

### October General Meeting

**17 Oct., Saturday at 2 p.m.**

Program: Scary Monsters

presented by **Carlos Perez**

Location: SFSFS Clubhouse.

Come hear an interactive presentation on critters that scare people from fairy tales, to movies, to books, to urban legends.

Info. Contact: **Judi Goodman**, 305-385-1793

### Book Discussion

**17 Oct., Saturday at 8 p.m.**

Location: SFSFS Clubhouse.

*Good Omens* by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman, this year's Tropicon Guest of Honor. Also, SF & Fantasy that has been adapted from stories into graphic format and those that were originally in graphic format. Hopefully some works by Charles Vess, also this year's Tropicon GOH.

Info. Contact: **Joe Siclari**, 561-392-6462.

### Writers Workshop

**25 Oct., Sunday at 1 p.m.**

Location: SFSFS Clubhouse.

Info. Contact: **Adam Castro**, 954-418-0832

### Tropicon XVII Meeting

**25 Oct., Sunday at 3:30 p.m.**

Location: SFSFS Clubhouse.

This is a mandatory meeting. If you are involved with Tropicon and cannot attend, notify the Rawliks. If you are interested in helping with Tropicon please attend or contact the Rawliks asap! Info. Contact: **Pete Rawlik**, 561-844-6336.

### Tropicon XVII

**13 - 15 November 1998**

See flyer on page 8 for more details.

Info. Contact: **Pete Rawlik**, 561-844-6336

### November General Meeting

**21 Nov., Saturday at 2 p.m.**

Program: Babylon 5, part 2 with George Peterson

Location: SFSFS Clubhouse

Info. Contact: **Judi Goodman**, 305-385-1793

### Annual Dinner

**13 Dec., Sunday at 3 p.m.**

Location: Tropical Acres Steakhouse Restaurant, 2500 Griffin Road (954-761-1744)

Directions: Take I-95 to Griffin Rd. exit. Restaurant is .5 miles west of exit on the south side of the road. Join us for good food, interesting company, and the usual SFSFS hijinks one has come to expect from an annual dinner. Please call **George Peterson** at 954-739-4376 to let him know that you'll be attending!

Info. Contact: **Judi Goodman**, 305-385-1793 or **George Peterson**, 954-739-4376

### Gaming

**every Sunday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.**

Location: SFSFS Clubhouse

unless otherwise preempted by activities.

Info. Contact: **Ned Bush**, 954-584-2140

For more information on any SFSFS events listed or not listed, call one of the following folks:

--in Miami-Dade County:

**Judi Goodman**, 305-385-1793

--in Broward County:

**George Peterson**, 954-739-4376

--in South Palm Beach County:

**Mal Barker**, 561-833-5126

--in North Palm Beach County:

**Shirlene Rawlik**, 561-844-6336

or check our our website:

<http://scifi.squawk.com/sfsfs.html>

## SFSFS MEETING SUMMARIES

by Peter "Mal" Barker

Welcome once again to a summary of SFSFS events. This time around, we present a new twist. It's called the attendance list. Someone came up with the bright idea of listing who attended what event. I'll leave the psychology of this addition up to the viewers at home to figure out. (I'll also refrain from pointing out that NESFA always prints attendance lists.) (You always have to bring up NESFA, don't you? --Mags)

### August:

This issue's summary begins at the end of August where we had a Creative Writers' Workshop. Present were **Tom Cool, Adam-Troy Castro, Mal Barker, Pete Rawlik** and **George Peterson**. This was Tom Cool's first time. All of you should be ashamed if you don't recognize his name, seeing as he had a book signing which we announced in the August Postcard. Mr. Cool donated his book *Infectress* to SFSFS. You can check out a web page on him at: <http://www.sff.net/people/linn/coolpage.html> which includes excerpts from this book.

We did the usual stuff at this meeting and it was nice to have some new blood around to offer different opinions instead of the usual ones like: "Add more lemurs to your story." (or, the equally popular, "take all the lemurs out!" -- Mags)

### September:

This month started out with a Board Meeting at **Cindy Warmuth** and **Bill Wilson's** house. We were there to hash out modifications to the Operating Procedures of SFSFS. With the website, the clubhouse and Johnny Ricoh many things need to be modified to get the bureaucracy of SFSFS back on an even keel. In attendance were: **Mal Barker, Joe Siclari, Peggy Dolan, Cindy Warmuth,** and **Bill Wilson**. Later on, **Carlos Perez** arrived, followed by **Judi Goodman** and finally, **George Peterson** and **Christina Santiago**. Mostly, we discussed the operating procedures which Cindy and her task force, composed of **Dan Foster** and **Bill Wilson**, had

come up with so far. Many changes, modifications, and weird ideas were discussed, until finally it was decided that another meeting would be necessary to get everything cleared up. While this was going on, we observed a party clown arrive for a gathering across the street and the hijinks that ensued.

On September 19th the day started out with Board Meeting. In attendance: **George Peterson, Judi Goodman, Bill Wilson, Mal Barker, Pete Rawlik, Shirlene Ananayo-Rawlik, Peggy Dolan,** and **Erica Barker**. One of the topics discussed was the need for us to start getting ready for the upcoming board elections. The current board all made plans about how to get out of town as quickly as possible if necessary. We also discussed how we must be doing something right. We had seven new members to vote in at this general meeting.

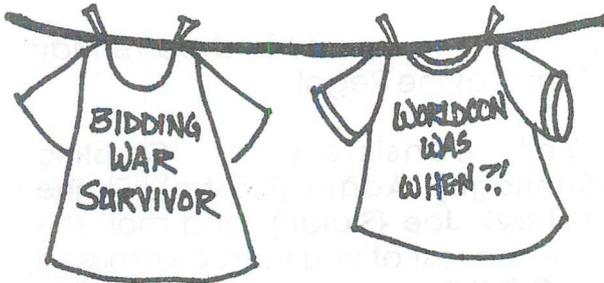
The board, after much debate over the course of several meetings, decided to demote the Book Division from a major activity to just an activity (Much to Peggy's delight and our general dismay -- Mags). Per the club's bylaws, a major activity must be represented by a voting board member. This (the demotion) was done because the book division head really does not handle any money -- the treasurer deals with it. Also, the book division, due to the way it is designed, cannot be affected too greatly by any crackpot decisions the board may make (that's only because the board has been too busy addressing other stuff that they have not had enough time recently to really try to muck things up...I'm sure that they'll eventually make time to truly devote to "crackpot decisions" -- Mags, the smartmouth). The money and the possible impact of crazy SFSFS decisions were two of the reasons that the Book Division was originally considered a major position. Since these two reasons do not exist at this time, the book division head need not be a board position.

Another item which the board has been kicking around is making sure that the general meeting follows some sort of pattern or order. There is a checklist provided in the operating procedures which the meeting conductor (that's you, Judi) needs to follow. **Cindy Warmuth's** task force is modifying this checklist slightly, due to various changes in SFSFS. For example, we are trying to make it a habit to hold an auction at each general meeting. The membership seems to have fun with this -- or at least they don't groan in agony as loudly as they do during the other portions of the meeting. And of course, SFSFS can use the extra funds to help with the clubhouse.

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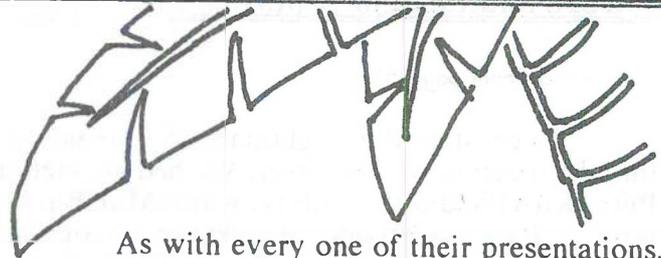
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At two o'clock on the same day was the general meeting for the membership. This time around, **Joe Siclari** and **Edie Stern** did a presentation on Worldcon War Stories. In attendance were: **Judi Goodman, Mal Barker, David & Vicky & William & Beven & Oliga Lowrey, Dwight Douglas, Bill Wilson, Peggy Dolan, Dan Foster, Elaine Ashby, Donna Penz, Ned Bush, Ericka Barker, Shirlene Rawlik, Pete Rawlik, Christina Santiago, George Peterson, Bob Ewart, Jack Weaver, Susan Mintzer, Joe Siclari, Edie Stern, Adam-Troy Castro, Dina Pearlman and Ahava Drazin** (in order of appearance).



After unpacking a ton of T-shirts and other assorted weird Worldcon bits like program books, golf clubs, stilts, toupees and demonstration Hugos, our panelists proceeded to poll the audience on which Worldcons they attended, using this for a starting point to tell both good and bad stories about Worldcons. All of this was recorded on videotape, so I won't go into the details (besides, that's the special bonus for members who actually attend meetings)(the rest of you will need to throw yourselves at the mercy of the video archivist, Judi, and beg for her to permit you to view the tape...or something like that! --Mags). For each Worldcon that Joe and Edie talked about, they had a T-shirt to show for it. The front of the room looked like it was laundry day for SFSFS because there were so many of them. Stories ranged from knife-wielding husbands, to people almost electrocuting themselves, to shouting matches with microphones, to bizarre relics dug up from people's pasts.

Since there have been so many Worldcons and there are so many stories to tell about them, Joe and Edie only scratched the surface and with much effort, brought things to a close after an hour and a half or so with plenty more tales left untold. Joe and Edie are always a font of fannish knowledge and that's why we periodically trot them out in front of the membership.



As with every one of their presentations, it went extremely well and they enjoyed themselves. Special commendation needs to go out to the **Lowrey family**, who had come to the club for the first time. The children astonished the membership by sitting through the entire panel without making a peep (let alone heckling the presenters). This is probably a first in SFSFS history and should serve as an example to some of our other underage members (are we talking strictly in chronological terms, or are mental ages encompassed in this? --Mags).

But that's not all, folks. After the presentation, the excitement continued as the membership voted on **Johnny Ricoh** being accepted into the club. (It's a major purchase, folks, and we are supposed to do such things.) Also, the club authorized the board to find a replacement Xerox machine for our existing one, which is not working very well. This new Xerox machine will be under \$600 and will be used mostly for small copy runs and to have around at Tropiccon for the inevitable copies. Also, it will be used for work with the Shuttle. This measure was approved. The old Xerox machine will be sold.

We also voted in many new members. They were: **Susan Mintzer, Gregg E. Ruggieri, Rita Sheinblatt, Karen Warmuth, Richard C. Spelman** and **Chris Ambrose**. Also **David Guillot** was upgraded from general to regular membership.

The final vote of the day was the now infamous "Impeach the Vice President Vote". The measure was, of course, defeated unanimously (only because Carlos was not there to vote himself! --Mags). Some of our membership took this matter far to gravely, when it was intended as an activity similar to what they do on Romper Room to get the "wiggles" out of the kids before story time. It also allowed the membership to exercise their voting muscles on something meatier than duplicating equipment. Also, it should be noted that those who weren't regular members felt very left out because they couldn't vote on this matter. Perhaps this was all a ruse to get them to fulfill their regular membership requirements.

(continued on page 6)

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Even after this nightmare of bureaucratic fun, the meeting was not over. We had an auction. **Pete Rawlik** did the calling, while **Mal Barker** produced an assortment of unsavory books and other items for the rolling credenza. These auctions are a perfect place to pick up stuff at a bargain. These items must sell and we will take very low bids for just about anything.

Finally, the meeting ended, with the giving out of door prizes. This time around, we had two prizes. The first was a complete set of Magicon collector's bookmarks -- each with a short story by a Worldcon guest. (These are actually cataloged by NESFA so they must be worth something right? These bookmarks messed up NESFA's cataloging system, apparently because they had no code for "bookmark" in their lists.) These bookmarks were, mysteriously enough, won by **Adam-Troy Castro** (with loud cries of "FIX!" and many pouting countenances all around). The second prize was a nifty pen and pencil set suitable for the executive boardroom.

After the meeting ended, many of the membership stuck around and socialized (which is what the clubhouse is for, after all). At the end of the meeting, there is usually a mad rush to get out of the clubhouse and either go back to one's mundane life or eat dinner somewhere. **Joe Siclari** had a ton of books in his van, which he brought in and which are now up for sale. Many of the membership pawed through them oohing and ahing over the likes of *Space Eater* by David Langford, an assortment of Richard Blade novels, the occasional Barry Maltzberg and a ton of other stuff.

Finally, many of the membership went out to eat. Overall, this was probably one of the best meetings we've had in a long time. Not only was the panel good, but the other activities around it added a lot to it. This sort of meeting should serve as an example of how these events should always go.

The next weekend was, of course, Hurricane Georges, which missed most of SFSFS because it hit the Keys. I'll leave it up to the editor to talk more about this {do I have to?!}. Mostly this concerned SFSFS because some of our members' mail servers were down, and because we did not know if we could have activities on the following weekend.

That weekend we had a Creative Writers' Workshop. In attendance were **Adam-Troy Castro**, **Mal Barker**, **Pete Rawlik**, and **David Lowrey**. One or two of our regulars were not there, probably because of the hurricane (or at least that's what we hope!). **Pete Rawlik** had three pieces for us to criticize, which we did, and we generally had the same old scholarly time we always do. Again, we need more people to attend these. Apparently, there is at least one more person out there who wants to attend, but hasn't. Time is a-wasting here, folks.

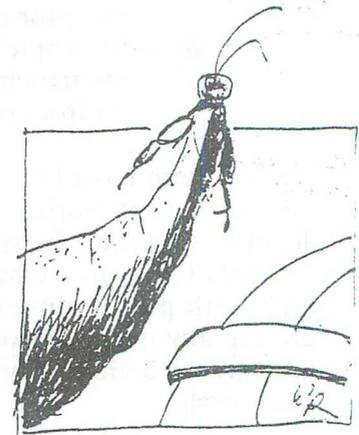
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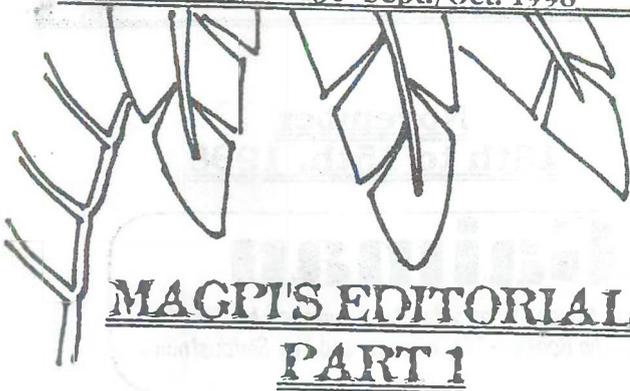
Here's a report hot off the Internet from **George Peterson**. Since I did not attend this event, we'll let George tell it:

We went to see *What Dreams May Come*, at the Regal.

"We" consisted of **Christina {Santiago}**, **Adam {Castro}**, **Elaine {Ashby}**, **Joe {Siclari}**, and moi. This time the rest of you no-shows missed a GOOD movie (not like the debacle that was *Armageddon*). Other than being a little too slow-paced, the film worked well. The imagery was fabulous, and the movie's worth seeing for that alone. It also has a plot and interesting characters, with good performances. Ignore the reviews and go see it.

After the movie, Joe went to go study, while the rest of us made a stop at Sweet Tomatoes.





## MAGPI'S EDITORIAL PART 1

Hope you're enjoying this issue of the SFSFS Shuttle! If you're a linear reader, you should have already read the "Meeting Summaries" by one of the club's many possessors of dry wit, **Peter "the Mal" Barker**.

In addition to information on upcoming meetings, and a flyer on Tropicon XVII, this issue holds a plethora of verbiage ranging from a short fiction piece by **Pete Rawlik** {who, by the way, just got confirmation that his "History of Miskatonic Valley, Part 1" has been accepted for publication in an upcoming issue of Crypt of Cthulu!} to **George Peterson's** "A WorldCon Trip Report, Part 1" {my title, not his} of Leeper length proportions!

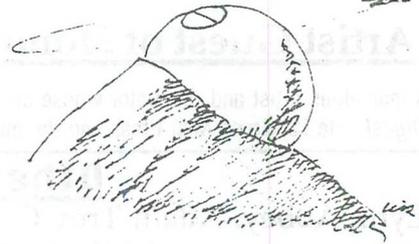
We also have the "Currently Drying In Wet Cement" version of the Tropicon Programming Schedule for folks who don't have the ability to check it out on-line {which, is a shame, because **Jack Weaver** has put together a beautiful website that easily outshines all of his past endeavors and is far superior to any con website that I've ever seen!}.

There are also two entries for the "Ongoing SFSFS Survey" from **Mal Barker** and **Peggy Ann Dolan**. The question is what are the last three books/movies/videos that you've read or seen? It's not too late to send in your feedback (of course, now it'll be for Mal's issue). Your answers can be any length. Just confirm that you're doing something for fun and let folks know if it would be something worth reading or watching. If it was bad, you're allowed to tell us! It's your opinion and you're entitled to it!

Of course, we've got LOCs. This issue features ones from **George Flynn**, **Elizabeth Osborne**, and **Robert "Buck" Coulson**. Of course, between my inserted replies and Mal's replies, the answers to the LOCs are longer than the LOCs themselves!

All in all, this issue has a little bit of something for everyone. And, if it doesn't, then you should contribute something to be published in it, rather than complaining about whatever it is lacking!

Enough said! Watch for "Part II" of this editorial...which will probably contain something about my current physical state...yeah, that's the ticket!



## MARRIAGE ANNOUNCEMENT!

SFSFS Secretary, **Mal Barker** reported that "**Tom Meserole** and **Roberta "Bobbi" Arthur** {who were both a great help to us when we were moving and setting up the clubhouse last year -- Mags, the princess of toenailing} sent us a postcard that says: "We moved & we married." Their new address is: T.A. Meserole, 620 Wellington Hill Road, Manchester, NH 03104. All of us in SFSFS wish them the best of luck!

*(this pocket of space was intentionally left blank ... tribute to Mr. C.P., Jr.)*

## RELOCATED MEMBERS

**Jeff and Miriam Spalding** recently moved from their newlywed domicile digs in Hudson, Florida {somewhere in ghods country, on the Southwest side of Florida -- Mags} and are now settled in the "Seminole Country" of Tallahassee as employees of the state! Their new address is: 160 Pullen Road, Apt. 11-J, Tallahassee, FL 32303. Now they'll have even further to drive for Tropicon!

# Tropicon XVII

November  
13th to 15th, 1998

**Author Guest of Honor: Neil Gaiman**

The author of many things, including: *Neverwhere*, *Good Omens* (with Terry Pratchett); and *The Day I Swapped My Dad for Two Goldfish*. He's also the co-creator and writer of *The Sandman* series, *The Books of Magic* series, and *The Stardust* mini-series [just to mention a few] from DC/Vertigo Comics.

**Artist Guest of Honor: Charles Vess**

A marvelous artist and illustrator whose art has graced the covers of magazines as diverse as *Heavy Metal* and *Reader's Digest*. He IS Green Man Press and the man behind the illustrations of the *Stardust* mini-series.

**Other Confirmed Guests:**

Lynn Abbey, Adam-Troy Castro, Hal Clement, Charles Fontenay, Joseph Green, Caitlín R. Kiernan, Holly Lisle, Mike Resnick

**Location:**

Sheraton Suites Cypress  
Creek Hotel

Fort Lauderdale, Florida  
(954)772-5400

nightly rates: \$84 single/double;  
\$94 triple/quad

**3-day membership rates are:**

**\$25 until Oct. 31, 1998**

**\$28 thereafter**

**Special combo rate:**

**\$35 for a Tropicon membership AND  
a 1 yr. membership to SFSFS  
(offer valid until 10/31/98)**

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for up-to-the-minute info, visit our site at: <http://scifi.squawk.com/tropicon/tropicon17.html>  
for info about the S. Fla. Science Fiction Society, visit the site at: <http://scifi.squawk.com/sfsfs.html>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed a check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ for (write in amount for all that apply):

- \_\_\_\_\_ 3-day membership(s) (until 10/31/98: \$25.00 each)
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3-day membership(s) (after 10/31/98: \$28.00 each)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Special Combo(s) (until 10/31/98: \$35.00 each)
- \_\_\_\_\_ banquet ticket(s) (please signify your meal preference(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_ cornish hen OR \_\_\_\_\_ salmon

Art Show: \_\_\_\_\_ (4'x8' panel: \$25) \_\_\_\_\_ (2'x6' table: \$25)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (4'x4' panel: \$15) \_\_\_\_\_ (2'x3' table: \$15)

**Please make all checks payable to SFSFS**

return to: Tropicon XVII, c/o the Rawliks, 539 37th St., WPB, FL 33407

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## The Clunkerson's Baltimore Vacation a/k/a a WorldCon Trip Report

by George Peterson

### Part I

{a/k/a George's subtle way of telling us all that there is more of this to come, as he proceeds to write a report that would make Evelyn Leeper proud! -Mags}

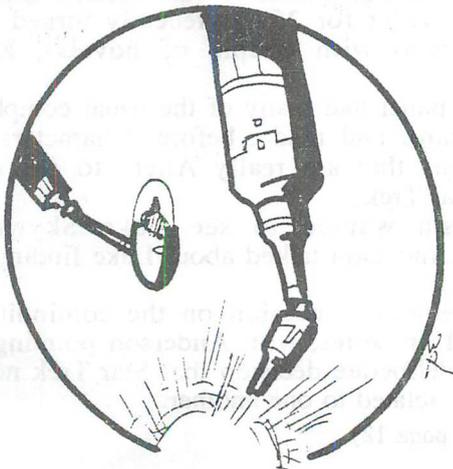
"This Little Pig built a space ship.  
This Little Pig paid the bill,  
this little pig made isotopes,  
this little pig at a pill.  
and this little pig did nothing at all.  
but he's just a little pig still."

### Wednesday

After an unremarkable plane flight and almost \$60 worth of cab fare, we arrived, none the worse for wear, to the Piratical Buccaneer. The portal to the wonders that were the World Science Fiction Convention stood before us, and we hastened inside with great eagerness.

After a quick check-in at Registration, I found to my dismay the person I most wanted to meet at this convention, J. Michael Straczynski, aka Joe Straczynski, aka JMS, aka The Great Maker, had canceled. In the words of that famous clay-person, Mr. Bill, "Oh no!"

Now understand, I am a great admirer of JMS {this is possibly one of the greatest understatements that will be found in this issue of the Shuttle! - Mags}. I've felt on many occasions that I had waited my whole life to see **Babylon 5**. That anyone could survive the pit of slime, the vale of sorrow, the realm of broken and shattered dreams, the den of nightmares that were once visions of heaven until perverted by the forces of darkness, the halls of creativity ruled by accountants with no imagination, and go onto create a show as interesting and unusual as **Babylon 5**, was a person worthy of some admiration. And by all accounts, he was a pretty good guy as well.



The first time I'd had the opportunity to meet him was at Necro {the one in Tampa, Florida, I believe, not the other one that's "up North" somewhere. - Mags, imparter of trivia information} a few years ago. But I couldn't make it. Nor could I make it to LACON or to LoneStarCon, either. But I was going to Bucconeer.

But JMS was not going to Bucconeer...

It seems he had a case of walking pneumonia. If he went to the convention, he might die...

I would live with the disappointment.

Having survived this tremendous blow, the illustrious **Christina Santiago**, my favorite PsychoAmazonWarBitchfromHellwithanAttitude {yeah, but do you call her that to her face?! -- Mags, the curious} and all-around sweetie, and I stepped forward to explore the convention.

We saw **Judy Bemis** at the handicapped assistance table, who said "Hi" then told us to go away and not bother her while she was working.

We saw **Mel{anie Herz}** at the Information Desk, where she gave us hugs, confirmed JMS' absence, then told us to go away and not bother her while she was working.

Proceeding downstairs, to the area where the Dealers' Room, Art Show, Exhibits, and Hall E were located, we found my mother, Gwen, aka Morteressa the Great (how many of you have unusual names for your parental units? (obscenities don't count!)), watching the Opening Ceremonies. There was much joy and celebrating and catching up as we were reunited.

The one significant thing about the Opening Ceremonies, from what I saw and which concerns this narrative, was the reading of JMS' letter to the Convention regarding his absence. I present a portion of it here, as quoted from the 2nd issue of "The Fannish Armada":

"I hate this more than I can say.

"All my life, the idea of being a guest of honor at a WorldCon has been one of those dreams, like winning a Hugo... something you hope may happen, but probably never will. So this has been probably the high point of my career to date.

"The other day, Harlan [Ellison] said, 'There is a war in heaven over you; you always get the good but the bad comes right with it...' Yes, you can be GoH at a WorldCon, but no... you can't go.'"

There was more as he describes the upshoot of it all, was that while the was still too sick to attend.

(continued on page 10)

En  
othe  
man...

(continued from page 9)

Once the main portion of Opening Ceremonies was over, we went out and looked around the Dealers' Room for a while. The Dealers' Room was fairly well laid out as far as I could see. There was plenty of space in the aisles, so there was seldom any problem with crowding. And there was a nice variety, a good ratio between books and other stuff. My one complaint was there was only one table selling video tapes, and it had a mediocre selection.

After my mom went off to Harry Turtledove's reading, Christy and I went and browsed through the Art Show, which was still being set up. My Sweetie wasted no time on bidding on about four items. I saw quite a number of things I liked (not that I could've afforded any of them). This was an improvement over Intersection, where I didn't remember seeing anything that interested me.

We met my mom at the info desk at 6:00 PM and decided to go restaurant hunting. When we stepped outside, we found a vast horde of people flooding, and I do mean **flooding** in the same direction. Apparently the baseball game had ended, resulting in the emptying of the stadium. As we were swept along Christy made comments about being one among the lemmings, while I had difficulty keeping myself from mooing like a cow. We couldn't help but wonder if there was anyone left in Baltimore to actually work.

Several minutes later, this human flood washed us up at a place called, "The Light Street Plaza." We saw a sign saying "Restaurant" through some trees, but it took climbing uncounted stairs, passing through waterfalls, hoards of rampaging teenagers with their pants hanging below their hips before finding ourselves inside, of all things, a shopping mall. After much dithering, we found ourselves in an Italian restaurant called "Paul's".

Christina had white pizza. My mom had salmon. I had goat cheese ravioli, plus several pieces of Christy's pizza which she kept dropping on my plate. It was all very good.

Afterwards, my mom went back to the hotel, but Christy wanted to check out the bid parties. So we went over to the Holiday Inn. Mark Olson pointed the way, but we were early, so we waited outside - where we ran into (last year's Tropicon GoH and current SFSFS member for as long as there is a SFSFS! -- Mags) **Esther Friesner**, all decked out quite beautifully for the swing dance. She took a moment to complain about the schedule, then dashed off.

The Philadelphia party had one of the nicest spreads I've seen at a con party. They didn't just have munchies, they had real food. Having just eaten dinner, Christy and I satisfied ourselves with feeding each other gummy worms. A couple of guys on the other side of the table remarked that I was a lucky

Then we went to the Boston for Orlando

Party. They'd gone all out in decorating. A metal frame had been set up along the walls and painted scenery hung up. Foil palm trees hung from the ceiling and flamingos of all shapes, sizes, and compositions, festooned the room. The ceiling was covered with white Christmas lights. It was quite a display.

We saw **Joe Siclari**, **Carlos Perez, Jr.**, **Mike Drawdy**, & his girlfriend **Mary** there. We sat and chatted for a while, but, as Christy and I were about to turn into pumpkins, we said our goodbyes and went hotelward.

And thus ended the first day.

### Thursday

It was on this day, that our convention going began in earnest. We got a late start because we had to switch hotels. We'd stayed in a non-convention hotel the first night, and now switched to the Omni. Of course we had to wait till 3 o'clock, so we checked our luggage, with about 3,000 other bags, and went off conventioning.

Because I spent so much more time in panels and running around, I lost track of what others were doing. But here's an overview of what I saw.

11:00 AM - The Artemis Project: This was a presentation on a very interesting project in the works: a plan to build a privately funded moonbase. Based on their research, they can use the economies available to private companies plus new technologies available to launch a moon mission at a tiny fraction of the cost of Apollo. Their price is at about \$1.4 billion. By comparison, the average Superbowl makes about that much, and Titanic had grossed about \$1.8 billion.

While they'd founded the Lunar Trading Corp. to begin merchandising, their biggest problem so far is in putting together a business plan, and attracting the business and marketing talent necessary to get things going.

I bought a tote bag and some postcards from them.

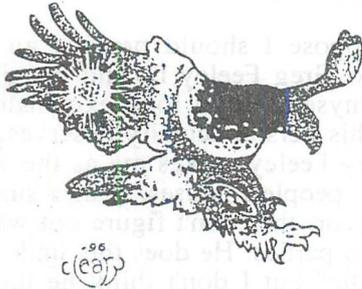
Noon - The Star Trek/X-Files/Babylon 5 I'd Write:  
Panelists: **Rebecca Moesta** (a fan writer), **Roberta Rogow** (fan writer for 25 yrs recently turned pro), **Matt Ruff** (pro with couple of novels), **Kevin Anderson**

This panel had many of the usual complaints we've all heard, and made, before: Characters that change, aliens that are really Alien, to see some science in Star Trek...

Moesta wanted to see Luke Skywalker married off, Anderson talked about Luke finding out he was gay...

There was discussion on the continuity in novels based on series, with Anderson pointing out there was a deliberate decision that Star Trek novels would not be related to one another.

(continued on page 12)



## A CURRENT ONGOING SFSFS SURVEY

Yours truly, Shirlene, tossed out a request to SFSFS for feedback on the last three things (books, movies, whatever) that members in SFSFS have read, seen, found interesting or not interesting. While I got quite a few "I'll get back you" answers, I did get two responses. I hope that everyone else will still send in a response, so that Mal can print them in the next issue of the Shuttle!

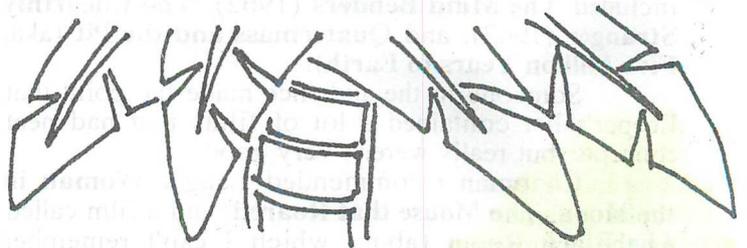
### My three Books:

1. *Guns of the Gods* by Talbot Mundy. Story set in India around the turn of the century. A princess uses her intelligence and wits to gain a throne; playing everyone against each other, including the British. Lots of adventure and great characters including a drunken elephant. If you ever want to read a book set in India under the British this is the kind of thing you should read. I loved every page of it.

2. *Living in Space* by G. Harry Stine. Billed as "A handbook for Work and Exploration Stations beyond the Earth's Atmosphere." This book discusses the various technologies, problems and solutions to live in space based on what NASA has come up with. Very interesting read especially if you are interested in this stuff, or want write a book set in space in the near future. Learn the thrills of the Gemini bag or growing dwarf wheat. Learn how space suits are designed and why and what considerations were taken into account. See an actual menu from the space shuttle. I skipped around reading various chapters and ended up reading the whole thing. I've seen other books like this, but usually a lot of what they discuss is theoretical or perfect world kind of things or future projects. This book discusses what is here now. Lots of diagrams and pictures.

3. *Have Spacesuit Will Travel* by Robert Heinlein. I read this as a kid and had fond memories of it, though I could not for the life of me remember the plot. I found a copy of it the other weekend and immediately devoured it. What amazed me with this reading is the entire plot: from a teen in his back yard fooling around with a used spacesuit to ending up battling baddies in the summer on Pluto. Also I was amused at how Heinlein managed to slip in to the young reader how important math can be. One needs, it says, to figure out how long it takes to go from the Earth to Pluto at one gravity instead of eight. This book is probably required reading material for anyone into SF.

--submitted by Mal Barker



>This is a quickie survey that will be compiled and  
> put into the next issue of the Shuttle. In fifty  
>words or less, please answer the following  
> questions:  
>1. your name

Peggy Dolan

>2. the last three books you finished reading (list  
>complete title and the name of each author, please)

Assuming that you mean SF books :)

3) How Few Remain by Harry Turtledove  
2) The Disappearance by Philip Wiley (re-read)  
1) The Children of Men by P. D. James

>3. your opinion on the aforementioned books you  
> just listed. It does not have to be an involved  
> book review. Just something simple like,  
> "I enjoyed this book" or "It was a lighthearted  
> read" or "I would not wish this book on my worst  
> enemy!"

3) Excellent. Better than Guns of the South.  
2) Dated, but still damn good.  
1) Pretty good. "What if" fiction from an unexpected  
(by me) source.

-- submitted by Peggy Ann Dolan (via e-mail)

(continued from page 10)

When the X-Files came up, Moesta wanted to see one where Scully was right or one where the government was as incompetent as it really is, Rogow wanted to see one where there was no conspiracy, Ruff wanted a sense that someone knew what the story really was.

1:00 PM - Little Known Fantastic Films to Look For and Why: I went to this panel mainly to see if I could find Adam (as -Troy Castro, who was going to be rooming with us), but he was a no-show. I wanted to let him know that we were checking in at 3:00.

Mark Leeper, who was on the panel with Nicki Lynch (another fan writer) and Stephan Chapman (had a first novel out), brought a list of suggestions which he passed out. Leeper's suggestions included *The Mind Benders* (1962), *The Unearthly Stranger* (1963), and *Quatermass and the Pit* (aka, *Five Million Years to Earth*).

Someone in the audience made the point that Leeper's list contained a lot of films that had neat concepts, but really weren't very good.

Chapman recommended Lang's *Woman in the Moon*, *The Mouse that Roared*, and a film called *The Black Room* (about which I can't remember anything).

Lynch suggested Woody Allen's *The Purple Rose of Cairo*.

Among the audience, there were suggestions of Frankenstein's *Seconds*, a New Zealand made film called *The Navigator*, and, of all things, *Parts, The Clonus Horror*.

I left the panel early once it was clear that Adam was a no-show. I was thinking of going over to the hotel to leave a message, when, I heard a familiar voice: yes, it was the naked genius, himself! He was talking to a couple of his friends from New York, when we spotted each other.

After a few moments of explaining about hotels, introductions of friends, and other commentary, Adam and I took off in search of food. I told him there was a refreshment stand next to the dealer's room.

Adam wanted to stop and say hello to Scott Edelman, who was signing autographs, first. So I lead the way to the autograph area in the Dealers' Room.

Scott was signing next to Lawrence Watt-Evans, who looked to have about 42 people in line. Edelman had one person standing in front of him, a tall, skinny man, apparently in his late 40's, with rather wild, graying hair. Adam exchanged pleasantries with the two of them, and then we were off to eat.

As we walked along, Adam asked, "Did you know who that was...?"

"Was that... him?"

"Yea, that was G. F."

Greg Feeley... Now I had a face to go with the name.

I suppose I should provide an explanation, here, of who Greg Feeley is, and his significance to Adam and myself. But a long explanation would be more than this person actually deserves. Suffice it to say that Greg Feeley strikes me as the sort of person who goes to people's houses, makes snide comments about the decor, then can't figure out why he doesn't get invited to parties. He does this under the guise of being a "critic" but I don't think he understands the difference between criticism and personal attacks. But enough of him.

The refreshment stand next to the Dealers' Room, was over-priced and sucked. But, as Adam pointed out, it was fuel.

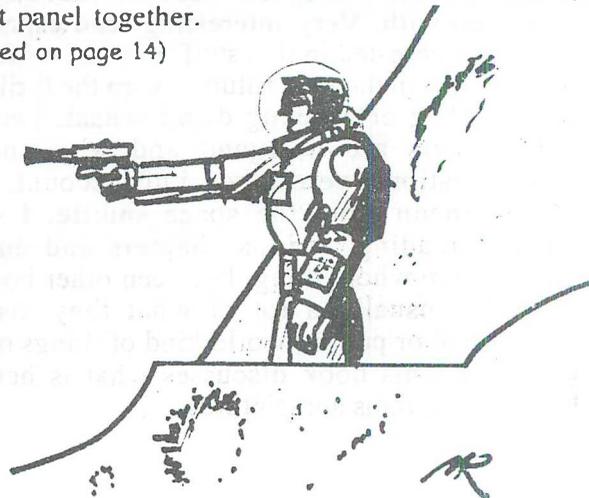
While we ate, we were joined by a couple of Adam's colleagues, a writer and editor of horror, and they all complained about the "Future of Horror" panel they were slated for, next. It's the same dumb panel they all do every year at convention, after convention and there's never anything to say. (Programmer's note: don't do "Future of Horror" Panels anymore. (Why not?! If everyone did that, then horror writers would have nothing to complain about at Worldcon! <g>))

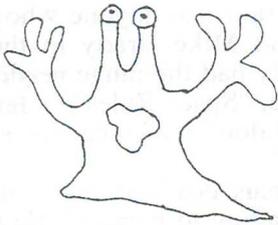
2:00 - Space Disasters That Didn't Quite Happen:

{Former Tropicon GoH and current regular!} Hal Clement, Hugh Gregory, Inge Heyer, Gerald Nordley, and Charles Sheffield all discussed some of the almost-disasters of the Space Program. NASA made things look easy, but they weren't. I got there late so I missed the discussion of Gemini, but they did go over Apollo. The Apollo lander almost ran out of fuel. What they didn't know at the time, was the moon has these mass-concentrations (mascons) under the surface giving it an irregular gravitational field. As the astronauts slept the night before the landing, they precessed around the moon, so when they went to land, they were over 400 miles from where they were supposed to be, coming down in a field of house-sized boulders. So Armstrong had to find a clear spot, quick.

After this, I tracked Christy down, and we explored the Dealers' Room some more. We went to the next panel together.

(continued on page 14)





## MEMBER FICTION

### FASHION THING

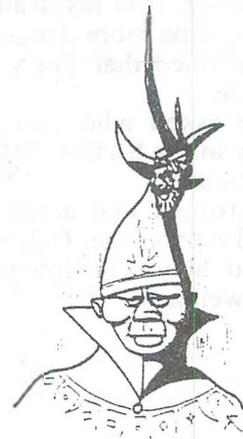
by Pete Rawlik

Arkham House has released it's new line and it is this reviewer's humble opinion that this year's offerings leave something to be desired. The core collection remains unchanged with the usual offerings of eldritch day wear by **H. P. Lovecraft** with some stunning accessories by **S. T. Joshi**. **Clark Ashton Smith** brings to life a phantasmal display of diaphanous evening gowns accented with carnelian and onyx jewelry by the irrepressible **Lin Carter**. While I normally find Carter's work mediocre, when teamed with Smith, Carter's normally obsequious style transforms into a delightful symphony of style. Also offered among the core collection are several pieces from famed lingerie designer **R. E. Howard**. Howard's casual use of leather, studs and chain motifs brings new life to an otherwise boorish genre.

Once outside the core collection the quality of work becomes questionable. **August Derleth's** work for this season is derivative relying heavily on preliminary designs rejected by Lovecraft. Similar, but able to rise outside Lovecraft's shadow is the work of **Donald Wandrei** which while not as plentiful may be equal in style and substance to the work of the big three. Also making a strong showing is the work of **Robert Bloch** who besides being obviously obsessed with the simple but elegant lines of the house coat accented by tight, gray wigs.

**Frank Belknap Long**, whose lean and a thirst Tindalos line stunned this critic last year, revealed his Asian influences with an evening wear series based on the traditional garb of the Tcho-Tcho people of Leng. Also drawing from tribal sources is the master of subtlety **Ray Bradbury**, who gives us a miscellany of accessories that includes some fabulous temporary tattoos. The traditional portion of the line is rounded out by the venerable **Fritz Leiber** whose Night's Black evening wear seems destined to find itself show cased in the next super spy megamovie.

Moving into a more experimental mode Arkham House presents the work of **Ramsey Campbell**. Drawing from a more urban background, Mr. Campbell's work speaks to the desires and fears of the metropolitan working class with a collection of blue-collar shirts, sweater vests and casual pants. While Mr. Campbell's work has definite high-brow aspirations, the polyester dinner jackets in bright, garish colors are exceeded in their bad taste only by the mediocre and cyclical themes used in the cut of his shirts and pants. Equally disappointing is the pretentious work of **James Turner** whose attempts to redirect Arkham House into the mainstream of everyday fashion has earned him a shadowy place in this show with his designs relegated to the secondary stage. Thankfully the young, rising talents of creators like **Michael Bishop** and **Bruce Sterling** give critics something to look forward to. It is perhaps the work of Turner that Lovecraft was thinking of when he said "There are some things that man was not meant to wear."



(continued from page 12)

5:00 - Exotic Mythology: The panelists included last year's Tropiccon Toastmaster, **Joseph Sherman**, as well as Dave Honigsberg, paleontologist Tom Holtz, Lee Gold, and Fred Patten. The panelists discussed the other sorts of mythologies, besides Celtic, that writers were trying to use as source material: Babylonian, Syrian, Native American, Australian, Filipino. But all the writers said the problem was that most editors and the readers seemed interested only in 'the same old stuff.' Whenever anyone tried to do something unfamiliar, they either had difficulty getting it published in the first place or did it sell very well.

One amusing comment was from Dr. Holtz, who said that a recent World's Fair held in Spain, I think it was, had setup streets named after great sailors of literature, such as Odysseus and Sinbad. But they also had the "Street of Popeye!"

**Joseph Sherman** recommended [www.powells.com](http://www.powells.com) as an excellent place to get unusual books on mythology.

At 6:00 pm, we met my Mom and **Carol Porter**, and we went in search of food. We had dinner at a place called City Lights. I had Crab Eituffe and seafood chowder, Christy had grilled tuna, Mom and Carol had the crab cakes.

Afterwards, my mom went back to the hotel, while Christy and I went to the Straczynski presentation.

Joe could not be there in person, but through the miracle of telecommunications, he could be there in voice for a question and answer period.

Below is a disjointed description of some of the questions, answers and comments.

Joe said missing the convention "pissed me off mightily," but that he was warned he'd probably die on the plane flight.

One questioner asked how lost cast members affected the show? Joe said the story got to where it was supposed to, he just had to make adjustments in the details. For example, if Claudia Christian had stayed with the show, Ivanova would have had the affair with Byron, while Lyta would've been the devoted follower. After his death, Susan and Lyta would've been closer. And his death would still have caused Lyta to become more dangerous.

JMS confirmed that Tracy Scroggins would appear in *Crusade*.

Someone asked who sent out the berserker probe (from *Day in the Strife*)? JMS said it was Jesse Helms and Paramount.

JMS confirmed that actor Peter Woodward was playing the Technomage, Galen.

On asked about President Clark, he said, "Clark was not a well man."

Regarding Gary Cole, cast as the Captain on *Crusade*, JMS said that anyone who could play both Lucas Buck and Mike Brady in the *Brady Bunch* movies definitely had the range needed for the role.

The line, "Space Rules for Jews" shows up in my notes, but I don't remember the exact question or answer.

Re: Marcus' death, JMS said that, "Marcus was a martyrdom waiting to happen." He wanted so much to atone for the death of his brother, that he was going to sacrifice himself for something."

On asked where he was from, JMS said he grew up in Patterson and Newark, NJ.

*Crusade* starts in 2267.

Just as the big questions in *Babylon 5* were "Who are you?" "What do you want?", "Why are you here?" and "Where are you going?" The big questions in *Crusade* are "Who do you serve?" and "Who do you trust?"

On B5 books coming up: a Psi Corps trilogy dealing with the life and times of Bester, and a Technomage trilogy.

JMS talked about the development of the Sheridan character during the 5th season of B5: it was a new thing for him being president. He started out making mistakes and second guessing himself, but is now becoming more sure of himself.

One guy wanted to know why the Londo action figure is not anatomically correct... JMS said, "Why are you checking...?"

The Excalibur, the ship in *Crusade* will combine Human, Mimbari, and Vorlon technology. Since they don't understand the Vorlon technology, it doesn't work the way they expect, which leads to some interesting things.

The Psi Corps will have changed a great deal in *Crusade* due to the Telepath War. The 1st officer of the Excalibur, John Matheson, is a telepath.

Someone pointed out that Sheridan's first wife was Warrior Caste, his second wife was Worker Caste, and his third was Religious Caste. He asked if he had planned it that way? JMS paused and said, "I like you!" And said no, he didn't plan it that way.

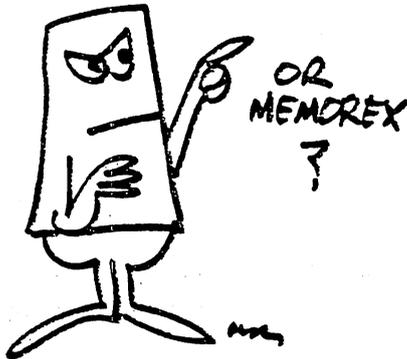
He also had some interesting things to say about the relationship between the character and the actor, and how the distinction blurs in his mind after a while.

Finally, there was this enigmatic statement about *Crusade*, "The show you think you're watching, isn't the show you're watching."

To be continued...

Stay tuned for the continuing adventures of George at Worldcon, where we will get **Adam-Troy Castro** dressed and fed and on his way to the Hugo Awards!

IS THAT A  
REAL LOC?



## LETTERS OF COMMENT a/k/a "LOCs"

P.O. Box 426069  
Kendall Sq. Stn.  
Cambridge, MA 02142  
Sept. 29, 1998

Dear People,

Thanks for *SFSFS Shuttle* 135. Please note the change in my box number above.

[Mal says: If you are reading this, it has been noted.]

You guys certainly seem to be eager to emulate NESFA. It's nice to have disciples. I have called your various remarks to the attention of the appropriate instrumentalities; we will keep you in mind for the next time we have a dangerous mission (perhaps involving wild lemurs) {Heck, if it involves lemurs, wild or otherwise, I'm sure that Mal would be out there in a heartbeat! - Mags}.

[Mal says: Oh dear! We've been noticed by NESFA. Now we are in trouble. I suppose that's what one gets if they mention them once too often much like repeating a demon's name to summon it. NESFA should take note that the SFSFS P.O. Box is completely incapable of holding any long metal objects. (Shirlene, if you don't understand this reference maybe you better delete it because they may and it might give them ideas.) {Since when has that been a problem for either of us? -- Mags}

Actually, it's nice to be noticed by NESFA. They are very handy to have around. It's easy to shame the membership into doing something because we can always say: "NESFA does this so why don't we?" Your Instant Message was especially handy because I used it as an example as to what Johnny Ricoh should be able to print out as opposed to what it was printing out before it got fixed. {Fine, fine. If horrible NESFAian things start happening to SFSFS, I'm going to blame it on Mal because he just keeps mentioning them...as if to tempt the fates and anything else in the universe that might be listening! -Mags}

Let's see, on p.8 {of issue 135, let's not confuse anyone now, or I'll get all these letters complaining about how someone else's issue 136 didn't have a *cornflake* reference on their page 8 and accusing me of trying to single folks out for "gaslighting" or something equally mindbending! -Mags} we learn that corn flakes sound like an asteroid surface when walked upon, while the cartoon on p.18 tells us that peanut shells sound like dead roaches. Maybe you should have juxtaposed these. (And what if one were to mix the corn flakes and peanut shells?)

[Mal says: I'm embarrassed. Here was a golden opportunity and I messed it up. I was rushed and this brilliant idea did not cross my mind. Here is yet another example why we need to try to emulate NESFA more {There he goes again! Any other clubs in the country have an opening for a rotating editor? -Mags}. They've got members with keen laser scalpel-like minds {well, okay, but do they have strong, white teeth?! - Mags}, while here at SFSFS our dull-witted editor {you're not dull-witted! I just said that you were quite the dry, rapier-wit in my editorial! You trying to make a liar out of me?! -Mags} let his vanity get away with him and illustrated Mr. Castro's story himself.]

But what did Adam-Troy Castro *really* think of *Armageddon*? {Please, let's not get Adam started on that again...we could be here for hours! - Mags}

Sincerely yours,

*George Flynn*

(continued on page 16)

(continued from page 15)

Elizabeth Osborne  
137 Emerald Lane  
Lima, Ohio 45805

Sept. 10, 1998

The Editor:

Greetings, I'm not quite sure who I am writing to since you seem to be changing editors etc {that's quite all right. For all you know, Mal and I are but two facets of the same person...luckily, we have spouses who will attest to the fact that we are two different individuals! - Mags} but I have two issues of the Shuttle that I have not remarked on. Sorry for not writing earlier. Life has been very busy here since late spring and I hope that things are getting a little simpler. I'm very glad to hear that the Florida fires did not do much to your area, though that may be only a relative term (it sounds like it wasn't a pleasant thing to go through) being a former Floridian, I knew from the place names that the fires were clustered on the Northeast Coast but the news reports made it sound like the whole state was aflame. While in Pennsic, I made it a point to talk to people from Florida about the fires and if there was any fan funds being raised but from them, the news was good and I found no fundraising going on.

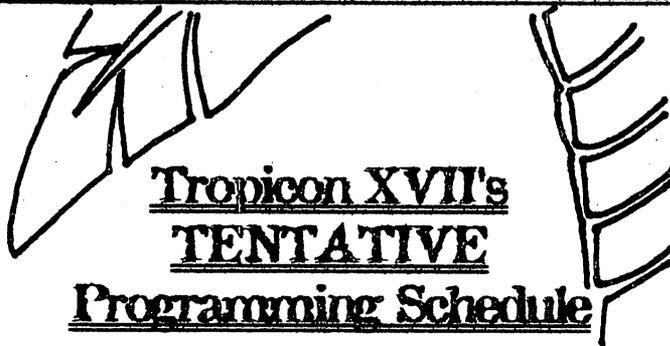
[Mal says: I've still heard nothing on fundraising for the fires, or much of anything about any fans having problems with it. Then again I've been a bit out of touch. The news no doubt portrayed all of Florida on fire because that's the way the news is. We have a wonderful TV station here which devotes itself to covering any event with an exaggerated cartoonish tabloid style. This is not the station to watch during Georges. For example it would send a crew down to Miami and find a stop sign that was wiggling in the wind. They would show it wiggling and add commentary like "Oh, oh, look out! It could go any minute. It's going to fly through the air at near supersonic speed and decapitate someone!" If any of the news agencies north of here were getting a feed from these people during the fire I'm sure they would have gotten the impression all of Florida was burnt to a cinder with millions dead. ] {Ditto on the lack of hearing of any fundraising efforts. -Mags}

Don't be discouraged about low member activity. I was reading your newsletter while waiting for people to show up for our local SCA group. I think that every group, club, organization etc., has the same problem. There are those who do the work and those who wait around like a bumps on the log. I have seen it time and time again. Your club sounds healthy enough, anyone who can get a clubhouse is way above most organizations {Actually, the clubhouse took little convincing, once the logistics and financial aspects were all taken into consideration. Besides, we've got a lending library and lots of archival materials that none of us seem to be willing to "let go" of...I believe Joe Siclari is aspiring for the space to become some vast archival repository that our children and grandchildren will be responsible for taking care of when we're all wormfood. Granted, this is just speculation based on years of observation. -Mags}

[Mal says: I think many of the reasons I at least am discouraged by low membership activity is the fact that a few of us are burning the candle at both ends to keep the club running and eventually we may burn out. SFSFS has so much stuff --a clubhouse full--that we have to keep it going no matter what. Also low membership activity means it is sometimes harder to get more members. We need more members to help us pay for our clubhouse and help us broaden our activities. We need injections of new blood into the club so that, for example, at our monthly program we can have new people to heckle instead of the normal crowd. It starts to get boring to constantly point out the same personal faults month after month. Also the board at the annual dinner would like to hear more than just a handful of hurrahs for a job well done. We need to hear a stadium-shaking roar.]{Umm, err, after seconds of debate, I'm going to leave that in...call it editorial prerogative. He's got a valid point. -Mags}

I haven't seen any movies since *Titanic* over last Christmas. Part of the problem is that for years I went to movies with groups of friend and here I can't seem to find anyone who wants to go. Even my video watching is down from the last two years. It may be the result of having nearly 200 of my own videos or just not interested in much of the films that come out now. (Or maybe a bit of both) In an economic standpoint, it is much easier to wait for the video (and get two for \$5.00) rather than spend \$5.50 plus for food and drink to watch one movie, which may be not all that good.

(continued on page 20)



**Tropicon XVII's  
TENTATIVE  
Programming Schedule**

This is the schedule as it currently appears on the Tropicon XVII website. Again, anyone having access should really check out the terrific job that Jack Weaver did! The address is: <http://scifi.squawk.com/tropicon/tropic17.html>

[Please note that this schedule is written in VERY WET, SLOW DRYING CEMENT and is subject to last minute change. Still, this is what we intend to offer at this year's Tropicon for programming. Program changes will be noted here as soon as they become necessary -- Shirlene Rawlik, Tropicon XVII co-chair]

**FRIDAY**

1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. in Grand Salon II

"An Introduction to Neverwhere with Neil Gaiman" Yes, we're hoping Neil can cram the entire history of NEVERWHERE's development into twenty-nine minutes...right before we show the first thirty minute segment. (the other segments to be shown in the Video Room, please check that schedule).

**FRIDAY**

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. in Grand Salon II

"The Year In Review" with George Peterson, Joe Siclari, Edie Stern (mod), Bill Wilson Audience participation is a must as our panel leads off a spirited discussion on the good and bad of the past year...and possibly predict some Hugo nominees!

**FRIDAY**

4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. in Grand Salon II

"Shared Worlds" with Lynn Abbey, Neil Gaiman, Caitlin R. Kiernan, Mike Resnick (mod), Charles Vess

Our panel discusses the pros and cons of having to share a created "universe".

**FRIDAY**

5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. in Grand Salon II

"Opening Ceremonies" with everyone Join us for the official opening of this year's convention!

**FRIDAY**

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**DINNER BREAK**

**FRIDAY**

8:15 p.m. - 9:45 p.m. in Atrium area

**VIP PARTY/GOBLIN MARKET with everyone** There will be chaotic fun for all at the GOBLIN MARKET! Add to your "cup o' loot" through games of skill and chance before trying to bargain with the goblins for a variety of items ranging from tubes of "fairy poop" to hardcover books to bags of shells and a plethora of stuff in-between. Our guests will be available for signatures at this time.

**FRIDAY**

8:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. in Atrium area

**Neil Gaiman and Charles Vess signing** This will be limited to one hour. We request that everyone observe the 3 item limit per guest, so that everyone will have an opportunity.

**FRIDAY**

10:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. in Grand Salon II

**INHOUSE Concert!**

Local band favorites, INHOUSE will be playing their original songs off their three albums, and a few "cover" songs from their favorite artists. They are wonderful musicians who had the distinction of participating in Lilith Fair this past July. We ask that everyone planning to attend the concert pick up at free ticket at registration desk. This will enable the concomm staff to ensure that we do not go over the room's meeting capacity of 130 warm bodies. Only con participants will be permitted to attend the concert and you must have both badge and ticket at the door to enter.

**FRIDAY**

11:15 p.m. - ? in Salon IV

Filking

**SATURDAY**

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. in Grand Salon II

"Hal Clement Presents" with Hal Clement An informative slide presentation with Hal Clement.

**SATURDAY**

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. in Salon IV

"Best of the Writers' Workshop with Peter Barker, Adam-Troy Castro, Pete Rawlik Readings from the SFSFS Writers' Workshop

**SATURDAY**

11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. in Grand Salon II

"An Interview with Neil Gaiman" with Neil Gaiman, Pete Rawlik (mod) Got questions? We do...and if we don't ask it, you can!

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**SATURDAY**

11:15 a.m. - 12:15 a.m. in Salon IV

"Why Recombinant DNA Technology, Airplanes and Rollerskates have a place in the High Fantasy Novel" with Lynn Abbey, Holly Lisle (mod), Becky Peters

While the title is somewhat self-explanatory, our moderator (the author of the panel title) will lead us on a discussion on why everything is possible in fantasy.

**SATURDAY**

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. in Grand Salon II

"Favorite Fantasy Illustrators" with Charles Vess  
An opportunity for use to enjoy a slide show of Fantasy Illustrators, both historical and contemporary, presented by our own Guest of Honor!

**SATURDAY**

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. in Salon IV

"Science Fiction Retrospective" with Hal Clement, Charles Fontenay, Joseph Green (mod), Holly Lisle, Mike Resnick

How does modern science fiction compare to early science fiction of the 30's, 40's, 50's, and 60's.

**SATURDAY**

1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. in Grand Salon II

Trivia Contest with Donna Penz and Joe Siclari  
Yes, our Trivia Contest Winner from last year, Donna Penz, will be returning to ask the tough questions, and merrily fling wooden nickels (after 30 seconds of training from the master, Joe Siclari) and those of you fortunate enough to yell the correct answer out in time. Not for the faint at heart...or those with slow reflex action!

**SATURDAY**

1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. in Salon IV

Author Readings with Lynn Abbey and Caitlin R. Kiernan

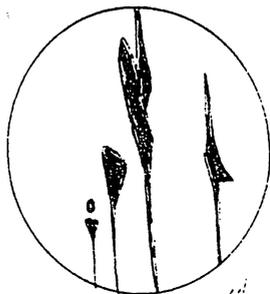
Ms. Abbey and Ms. Kiernan will be available in the Atrium area immediately after their readings for autographs.

**SATURDAY**

1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. in Atrium area

Neil Gaiman and Charles Vess Signing

Due to the CBLDF Auction immediately following, this will be limited to one hour. We request that everyone observe the 3 item limit per guest, so that everyone will have an opportunity.



**SATURDAY**

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. in Grand Salon II

Comic Book Legal Defense Fund Introduction (30 mins.) and Charity Auction (1hr, 45 mins) with Neil Gaiman and Chris Oarr

Neil Gaiman and Chris Oarr (from the CBLDF) will be giving a short presentation on the history and purpose of the CBLDF. Afterwards, the auction will commence!

**SATURDAY**

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. in Salon IV

Author Readings with Hal Clement and Holly Lisle  
Mr. Clement and Ms. Lisle will be available in the Atrium area immediately after their readings for autographs.

**SATURDAY**

4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. in Grand Salon II

CBLDF Charity Auction (cont'd)

**SATURDAY**

4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. in Salon IV

Author Reading with Tom Cool and Mike Resnick  
Mr. Cool and Mr. Resnick will be available in the Atrium area immediately after their readings for autographs.

**SATURDAY**

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. in Grand Salon II

Art Auction with Joe Siclari

At this time, all items from the Art Show that have three or more bids will be auctioned off.

**SATURDAY**

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. in Salon IV

"Comic Books: From Idea to Finished Product" with Neil Gaiman, Caitlin R. Kiernan, Pete Rawlik (mod), Charles Vess

Ever wondered how comic books evolve from idea to finish product? Well, we have...and now we've got panelists ideally suited to answer our questions on the process!

**SATURDAY**

7:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. in Atrium area

Cocktails and mingling

A cash bar will be open for everyone (of age) wanting something stronger than iced tea with their meal.

**SATURDAY**

7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Grand Cypress (A or B, tba)  
Banquet

See the Banquet section of this website for more details. (Told you, it's directly from the site! --Mags)

**SATURDAY**

8:45 p.m. - 9:45 p.m., Grand Cypress (A or B, tba)  
Guests of Honor Speeches

At this time, the Banquet area will be open to all con participants.

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**SATURDAY**

**10:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. in Grand Salon II  
Cheeblecon at Tropiccon II**

We had SO much fun last year, we're going to do it all again! Join us for milk and cookies and the last minute chance to submit your entries (limit of 3 per person) to the Cheeblecon Art Show and Auction. All entries will be judged by a panel and prizes will be awarded for several "Best" categories (to be decided). No entries submitted will be returned because there will be an auction immediately following the award of prizes. The proceeds from the auction will go to the "Cheeblecon Good Health to Karen Fund" to benefit Karen Shaffer (wife of Charles Vess, who is currently recuperating from serious car accident-related injuries). Monetary donations will also be accepted at this time.

**SATURDAY**

**10:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. in Salon IV  
Open Mike Poetry Readings, Pete Rawlik (mod)**  
Okay, so there won't really be a microphone there, but this will be the opportunity for folks to gather and hear readings of poetry and short fiction.

**SATURDAY**

**11:45 p.m. - ? in Salon IV  
Filking**

**SUNDAY**

**10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. in Grand Salon II  
"Future of Children's Literature" with Bob Ewart, Charles Fontenay, Becky Peters (mod)**  
Our panel discusses the current and future trends of literature written for children.

**SUNDAY**

**10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. in Salon IV  
TRIVIA CONTEST, Part 2 with Donna Penz and Joe Siclari**  
This is it, the semi-finalists with the most wooden nickels face off in a winner-take-all for the ultimate honor of compiling the questions for Tropiccon XVIII!

**SUNDAY**

**11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. in Grand Salon II  
AUTHOR READING - NEIL GAIMAN**  
Anything past, present, or in the works by Neil Gaiman. He'll decide what to read, we'll sit back and enjoy he cool Brit accent!

**SUNDAY**

**11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. in Salon IV  
"New Developments in Space Exploration" with Hal Clement, Joseph Green, Jeff Mitchell, George Peterson (mod), Mike Resnick**  
Another self-explanatory title, join the panel as they discuss the latest developments around the world and what it all means for us.

**SUNDAY**

**12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. in Grand Salon II  
Artist Guest of Honor Slide Show with Charles Vess**

**SUNDAY**

**12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. in Salon IV  
Author Readings with Adam-Troy Castro and Charles Fontenay**  
Mr. Castro and Mr. Fontenay will be available in the Atrium area immediately following their readings for autographs.

**SUNDAY**

**1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. in Grand Salon II  
Auctions, part 2 with Joe Siclari**  
Anything that needs to be auctioned off will be auctioned off at this time.

**SUNDAY**

**1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. in Salon IV  
"Obligatory Horror Panel" with Adam Troy Castro, Caitlin R. Kiernan, Pete Rawlik (mod)**  
The seemingly innocent title is meant to lull you into a false sense of security and suck you into the room. In actuality, the discussion will range far and wide, dependent solely on the whim of the panelists. Join them--if you dare.

**SUNDAY**

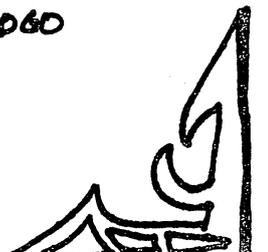
**1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. in Atrium area  
Neil Gaiman and Charles Vess signing**  
This will be limited to one hour. We request that everyone observe the 3 item limit per guest, so that everyone will have an opportunity.

**SUNDAY**

**3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. in Grand Salon II  
Closing Ceremonies with everyone**  
Parting will be such sweet sorrow, but all good things eventually come to an end. Join us as we thank guests and staff and attendees. Also, we'll get to introduce next year's vict-- er, we mean Tropiccon Chairman!

**ART CREDITS:**

- Shirone Ananayo - Rawlik - 3, 5, 7, 11, 24, 17
- Peter 'Mal' Barker - 13 (upper left)
- R.B. Cleary - 11 (upper left)
- William Rostler - 6, 7, 9, 12, 15, 18, 23
- Mary Hanson Roberts - COVER
- Gail Bennett - SFSFS LOGO



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[Mal says: I'll agree with you there in some ways about economics. I've been very discouraged lately at the downright crumminess of south Florida movie theaters. In many cases what turns me off from going to a movie is not the low quality of the movie, but the low quality of the theater. One almost suspects some of them are operated by Larry, Moe and Curly. Why pay \$5.50 to see a poorly presented movie in a crummy theater when you can see it at home for cheaper on your crummy TV.

Still you have to balance this against the fun one has, say going to a media event and burning the media coordinator in effigy after seeing a bad movie. The media coordinator is sort of the SFSFS scapegoat. We use this individual to get our frustrations of the world out. It's a tough job and anyone who takes this job deserves recognition.

I should add to that we do see some good movies from time to time. *Pi* was excellent and people still have fond memories of *Dark City*. Then there was *Lost in Space* where Cindy served us cookies. [I believe that both of you lightly touched on the real reason behind Elizabeth's decrease in moviewatching. And, that is that movies are a lot less fun if you have no one to watch the movie with before discussing and dissecting the movie's plot over coffee or dinner or whatever. --Mags]

Life has not left much time for reading or at least not much time for anything that I can remember very well. I did get the complete set of *Usagi Yojimbo*, which is a great fuzzy animal comic. I also got six *Astrix the Gaul* books but I was very unhappy with them. At Pennsic War, I took home about \$100 worth of books but none of them were SF.

Not much has happened SF wise to me these last six months. I did spend a short (Friday-Saturday) weekend at Marcon, Ohio's biggest SF convention in May but work pressures cut it short. During this time I lost my assistant (to another job) buried a co-worker during he summer, bought a used van (which I am still restoring), completed three large needle work projects, Pennsic War (and worked over 12 hours at it) and generally kept real busy when I wasn't sick or exhausted. One thing I didn't do was write back to the huge pile of zines that I received over the season.

I loved both front covers of your zine. The Mars pathfinder picture reminded me of an ad from the GM, the people that mat the path finder utility vehicle. They took a picture of Mars' surface and put a shot of their pathfinder on it. It looked like the pathfinder was driving on the surface of Mars. It also looked like it would work very well with the rough terrain. The last issue has an interesting picture of a forest glen, but is that a footprint or claw mark on the forest floor? If so, that "forest elf hunter" will need a more than that sword.

[Mal says: my wife and I did those covers. She did the one that looks like art. I did the cartoon. The readers of the Shuttle can continue to look forward to my embarrassing covers unless they can start generating more cover art. I am hoping that if I continue my incessant barrage of art more SFSFS members -- though sheer desperation -- will discover they have an artistic talent.]

As mentioned, I didn't see any of the summer movies. Some friends of mine did see *Godzilla* (two of them) but they didn't have much good to say about it. In fact, they called it "Dumzilla". I haven't heard much about the movie *Armageddon* but movies about the possible end of the world aren't much my cup of tea, to use a real old cliché. I'm glad now that I didn't go to see it but the main song is all over that VHS-1 and MTV. I fail to see why though (I assume you're referring to the one for *Armageddon*). I believe the fact that the song was done by Aerosmith was enough to ensure that there was a lot of play time! -- Mags).

I am pleased that my cats thought I should stay on your newsletter although they don't seem to miss Florida and are jealous of the time that I spend on the computer. If I spend too much time here (in their opinion) one of them will come up and sit on the mouse until I stop {Ahh, I see that you also have cats who do not tolerate sharing time with a computer. Of course, we solved that a few months ago by just barring them all from the computer room. Makes for more efficient use of the computer and a lot less error! --Mags}.

(continued on page 21)

(continued from page 20)

I will look forward to your Worldcon report (I hope that George's report "fit the bill"! -- Mags). I didn't make it this year but I am re-registered for Chicago. I support your drive for Orlando (and we thank you for it...of course, now that Philadelphia won the bid, we wish them all the best as they continue their preparations! -- Mags). I know about the benefits of late summer Orlando since I lived only two hours away for nearly eight years. My fears are the close association with Disney. It's not known as the mouse that ate Florida for nothing. Disney has this great rep as a family friendly, really nice group of people. In truth, its a business like Republic Steel or DuPont and run with a lot less concern for its neighbors and business partners. It has a rep for changing its mind at the last minute or trying to ride roughshod over other people. This letter is much too short to list the problems that Disney had in mid Florida. A good article to read is from the *New York Times Magazine* this spring about the planned community they built in the Orlando area. It is a very controlling company.

[Mal says: I think I've heard some on this planned community. Perhaps it's similar to say Gattaca. I'm still very annoyed at Disney for shutting down all their older Tomorrow Land rides especially the carousel of progress. And now I hear they've shut down Mr. Toad's Wild Ride which was another gem. ] (I believe the plan is for the community to be something like the cookie-cutter nightmare of suburbia that was portrayed in *Edward Scissorhands*, except without a blonde Winona Ryder, of course. It's supposed to be a self contained community...like an arcology, without the building...just something akin to an invisible barrier where the evil influences of reality are not supposed to be able to bleed in...--Mags)

Well, my cats have done something to my computer that has sent it into a snitch so I will lose now. I planned to send on club newsletters but the package is so small. Thanks for keeping me on the mailing list. Sorry about the misspelling but any spell checkers is not present on this program. (That's okay...I've exercised my "editorial duties" liberally and have "twitced" only the appropriate places that seemed to need "twitching". I, in return, apologize for any places where I might have "twitced" what I should have "let be". --Mags)

Sincerely,

*Elizabeth Osborne*

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. Robert Coulson  
2677 W. 500 N  
Hartford City, IN 47348-9575

Dear SFSFS (which I assume is pronounced like a snake's hiss.)

Go ahead and fake responses to locs; the writers won't know the difference (we don't really "fake them"...we sort of pick up the thread and run with it for as long as we can before we realize that we might've said way too much and spend the rest of the time trying to decide whether or not to leave the babble in or cut it out. More often than not, we do leave it in as it makes for a more verbose issue that looks much more impressive until one actually starts examining the contents and realizes that they've been privy to basically a conversation between two -- or in this case, three -- people who could have just as easily picked up a phone to have the conversation that is now being read...of course, there's also that two month time lag that annoys some people only because they lose the thread or the issue, or both and they cannot remember what had been said to begin with! --Mags, she who is discovering that pregnancy has made her way more verbose than usual).

I'm in favor of fans (or fannes, if you prefer) having children, though it's not as necessary to increase the fan population now as it was 40 years ago. Juanita's and my son turned out well (and we decided to quit while we were ahead). Of course, Bruce is currently past age 40 and appalled at being middle-aged! (Beg to differ with you on the issue of increasing the fan population, Buck. I believe the inclination for a lot of folks who did not grow up into fandom -- or discovered it later in life -- is to hold fandom at arm's length. Speaking as one of the aforementioned late-comers to fandom, I will admit that it took some time for me to actually interact with folks in fandom. I knew that it existed, but I had no interest in joining in the activities. It took a series of events to make me realize that fandom was a fascinating sub-culture that I wanted to be a part of. It's often hard to find people with the time and the inclination to join in on fannish activities and contribute their uniqueness to the pot. I won't even attempt to get into the "out of sync" thing that exists between literary fandom and media fandom, although that would probably make for another tangent discussion at some later date.

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Anyhow, to get back to my original thought, I believe that it is much easier to continue fandom through the seemingly simple -- although both time and financially consuming...not to mention the uncertainty of possible rejection -- act of procreation; rather than trying to convince borderliners that they are fans who should check out fandom. Did that make sense? -- Mags}

Can't say I ever tried to hold a fanclub together, or run a con or even put a meeting program together (Don't worry, you aren't missing a thing, you lucky soul you! -- Mags). The clubs I belonged to one in Indianapolis, and one in Muncie, IN, didn't have much in the way of programs; we just sat around and talked about science fiction or what they'd been doing. Since I only saw most of the members once a month at meetings (I lived a hundred miles away) it was interesting enough.

Not much to write about, as we haven't been doing much. Bruce, his mistress and his daughter came over her for Labor Day weekend. Usually his wife comes too, but she wasn't feeling well. (They all live together.) Our granddaughter has been in the "No!" state for a year or two, but I gather it will last several more years. My own stage was short; I could say "No!" to my parents, but I had better do whatever it was or Dad would spank, and it seemed pretty useless after a while and I quit. Miranda gets away with it for longer periods than I did.

Otherwise we're mostly sitting around trying to avoid the sneezes and sniffles of hay fever. (Married couples do grow to resemble each other; I don't recall Juanita ever having hay fever before we married.) I've been sorting books and getting rid of some so I'll have room for the new ones. Juanita appropriated the new Andre Norton *Scent of Magic* which just arrived for review; I will get it when I finish the Gene Wolfe book that I actually paid money for; I missed it when it first appeared and bought a used copy at a convention {Well, if either of you are so inclined to write a review and send it in for publication to the SFSFS Shuttle, I would personally fork over moola to subscribe you both so that we could pester you for more reviews for a year! -- Mags, she who is as subtle as a brick...}.

*Buck*

[Mal says: SFSFS is pronounced Sisyphus as in the poor Greek fellow who continually had to push a stone up the hill only to have it fall down again. This pronunciation strikes home with those trying to run the club. (Though I prefer the term: "like kicking a dead whale down the beach," myself.)

As for faking responses, at a recent board meeting we discussed making it a Shuttle policy. If people do not put out for the articles they committed to, the editors have the right to print anything they feel like as a substitute. Maybe we can shame more members into participating and could prove helpful for all those fiddly bits the board members are supposed to write for SFSFS publications. (So be warned folks.)

As for the fan population, don't we need to increase it? What about the infamous "graying of fandom" we are always hearing about. SFSFS as of late seemed to be suffering from a lack of fans, though at last months meeting we voted in seven new members. (And we just got another six as of writing this.)

Then again, maybe the scarcity I am seeing is of literary SF fans since the media type seems to be continually growing. It often seems the two groups are sometimes far apart on their needs and goals so even though it may seem like there are plenty of fans, when it comes down to doing fan stuff like running clubs and conventions there are less of them willing to pitch in {By "them" do you mean the media folks? Actually, I think that they might have the right idea... they pay "professionals" -- who plan conventions as their livelihood -- to do all the grunt work of putting a convention together so everyone can plunk down their money and enjoy the con without any worries! -- Mags, the envious}.

As for programs with SFSFS. Well SFSFS is a 501(c)(3) entity and part of our charter/mission is to act as an educational organization. So we use the general meetings to teach, demonstrate and inform the membership and others about science fiction and related areas. We've had programs from the various legends of King Arthur, to how to bag your comics properly to the Delta Clipper. (The Delta Clipper is a reusable rocket that goes up in orbit, does it's business and returns. This description should be read in a similar manner to: "we let the cat out, it does it's business then comes back inside" or so the presenter of this program originally described the function of the Delta Clipper.)

The good thing about having programs is it tends to draw in new members and often gives old members (what sort of "old" is the question here {let's just say "old" in the sense of seniority -- they are members who have been with the club longer than others have -- and leave it at that! --Mags}) new insights into other facets of SF or fandom. It also gives members a chance to show off or polish up some presentation they are doing for the real world on a horde of understanding fans who don't wrinkle their brow ever time you say "ah".

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# BOOK REVIEW

ON

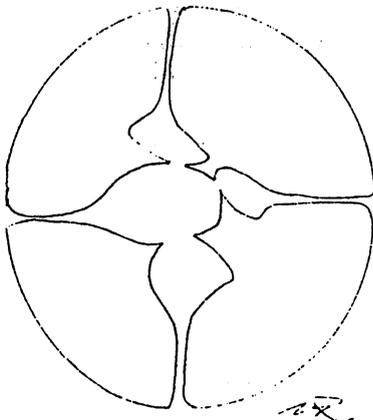
*Krondor the Betrayal*  
Book One of the Riftwar Legacy  
by Raymond E. Feist

ISBN: 0-380-97715-X

Hardcover; \$24.00 US/\$31.00 Can

I must admit that one of the best things about being married to a fellow booklover like my husband is that he is always on the lookout for a book that he thinks I might enjoy reading. Such was the case with an advance reader's copy of *Krondor the Betrayal* by Raymond E. Feist. The back cover of this trade paperback sized novel states that the hardcover edition goes on sale October 7th of this year. I got to read it in early September and found it to be quite enjoyable!

If you've never visited Feist's Midkemia universe (and all the other dimensional worlds that surround it), this is as good an introduction as any. Granted, there have been many volumes before, and I had read most of them...out of sequence, at that. But you don't really need to know about his universe in order to enjoy the story. For those of you who have kept abreast of the goings on, this novel basically tells the tale that James tells the group in chapter 18 of *Rage of a Demon King*.



It is the tale of Gorath, the dark elf, who braves both the scorn of his race for turning "traitor" and the distrust of practically everyone he meets in order to prevent the extinction of his people. It is also the tale of James and Locklear, now young men just beginning to understand the responsibilities they must bear as squires of the court. And, lastly, it is the tale of Owyn, a second son of a minor noble and a magician who discovers the full potential of his abilities.

As a sidenote, I will mention that this novel is based upon the computer game "Betrayal at Krondor" which, in turn, was spawned from Raymond Feist's many novels. While you don't need to have played the game in order to enjoy the book, I'm sure that it would give you additional insight. I had not heard of the game myself, nor have I seen anything on it. Still, I cannot believe that playing the game will do anything more than enhance the reading of the novel.

Raymond Feist has the ability to weave his words in such a way that you don't realize you've reached the end of the novel until you discover that there are no more pages! His protagonists are believable and easy to sympathize with. His is like Tolkien, without the excess wordage, if that makes sense. I dare you to read this novel and find yourself disappointed at the end. If anything, you'll discover, like I did, that you want more...and, if you're as fortunate as I was, you'll find places where all the books are still in stock and buy them to appease your hunger for more Feist.

by Shirlene "Magpi/Mags" Ananayo-Rawlik

(continued from page 22)

I'm sure Shirlene and Pete can look forward to the "No!" period of their future fan (no comment -- Mags). No doubt if this little fan does become a fan the parents will have to go through a "No" period as well as they try to keep their young fan from obtaining everything in sight to sate their child fan lusts. Ah wait until their house starts filling up with Teletubbie paraphernalia, that should be fun. {Please understand, we will NOT be accepting/harboring/aiding anything that will steer our child towards purple dinosaurs or really scary looking alien type things with televisions in their bellies! Pooh and the rest of the Hundred Acre crew were good enough for us and they'll be good enough for our child!

By the way, I got to write all my comments after Mal -- the perk of being the last one to edit the issue! -- so if things read a little disjointed, i.e. the echoing of sentiments, it's because I typed in my responses as I read, rather than reading it all first and considering my response. By the time I realized I was only echoing Mal, I had already plugged in all my comments and was feeling too lazy to go back and take them out or edit them further. I live with it if you can...and if you can't, too bad! An editor's got to do what an editor's got to do!-- Mags}}



## MAGPI EDITORIAL

### PART 2

Cool! You've reached the end of yet another issue of the SFSFS Shuttle. Congratulations! Hope you enjoyed and found it to be worth the wait. And, if you didn't, feel free to drop us a line and voice your opinion. Mal will publish it...just don't be too surprised if I reply right then and there with a few "{Mags}" comments/insertions.

As promised, I thought that I would leave you with some words on my impending transition into the role of motherhood. To say that I'm excited at the prospect would be an understatement. To say that I am also terrified would be equally valid and probably more of an understatement than the previous sentence. Still, I have confidence in my own ability to competently participate in the birth and raising of the newest addition to our immediate family unit.

Being a "high risk" pregnancy (ahh, the joys of having the double whammy of diabetes and hypertension! Wouldn't recommend or wish it on anyone.) has been quite a learning experience in self-control. Being pregnant and a co-chair of a convention has been even more challenging! Actually, doing many things have become more of a challenge.

I'm just entering into my third trimester. My feet and ankles swell frequently, without any apparent rhyme or reason...beyond the fact that I'm pregnant. My doctors have told me that I'll soon be seeing them twice a week rather than my normal once every two weeks. As for when I'll be delivering, well, that's anyone's guess at this point. My "due date" is early in February. That is subject to change to to the aforementioned complications that rank me as a "high risk" mommie-to-be.

As for gender, well, I've got a funny story to tell you. About a month and a half ago, I had to go to a pediatric cardiologist to have them do an ultrasound to check for holes in the baby's heart. The cardiologist who did the exam was pretty hesitant to make a determination on the baby's gender. But, when she looked, she was pretty sure that she did not see anything. Pete was convinced that there was something there, but the cardiologist and I were both pretty convinced that it was either the umbilical cord or a hand that got caught in the cross-section. This past week, I had to have another ultrasound to make sure that everything was going well. The technician didn't find any holes or excess fluid or anything out of the ordinary. What she did find was something that she so confident about that she froze the image, typed in the word "p-e-n-i-s" and put an arrow pointing down to the telltale sign of masculinity. So, after almost two months of thinking that I was going to have a girl, I find myself to be the expectant mother of a little boy! I've worked past the shock and I look forward to all the perks with having a son. Of course, in a perfect world, I'll have another go in a couple of years and pop out a daughter next time (after the insulin inhaler comes on the market, that is).

Lastly, I would like to apologize to Adam-Troy Castro. He donated an envelope of artwork... that immediately got swallowed by our house or hidden by our cats (we have yet to determine exactly which is the case). I'm sure that Mal will use it...as soon as I find it, that is. Apologies, Adam.

*Shirlene/Magpi/Mags,  
the chatty pregnant woman*

# South Florida Science Fiction Society Membership Application

There are four levels of paid membership within SFSFS.

**General Membership:** \$15.00 per year

Requirement: a love for any and all facets of speculative fiction in its myriad forms

What you get: A year's subscription to the *SFSFS Shuttle*; the opportunity to purchase books through the Book Division (at 30% off the regular publisher's cover price); and all the interaction with fellow SFSFS members that you can handle!

Restriction: This is a non-voting membership level

**Regular Membership:** \$5.00 upgrade from General Membership rate

Requirements: Must have attended at least 3 SFSFS events and the aforementioned upgrade payment

What you get: Everything mentioned in the General Membership section PLUS the ability to vote in any decisions affecting SFSFS PLUS the ability to run for a seat on the SFSFS Board.

**Subscribing Membership:** \$12.00 per year

Requirement(s): payment

What you get: a year's worth of entertainment via issues of the *SFSFS Shuttle*!

Restriction: This is a non-voting membership level

**Child's Membership:** \$1.00 per year

Requirement(s): child must be 12 years or younger and have a parent or legal guardian who is a current member of SFSFS.

Restriction: This is a non-voting membership level.

Send this completed application form, along with your check (made payable to SFSFS) for dues to:

**SFSFS Treasurer, P.O. Box 70143. Fort Lauderdale, FL 33307-0143**

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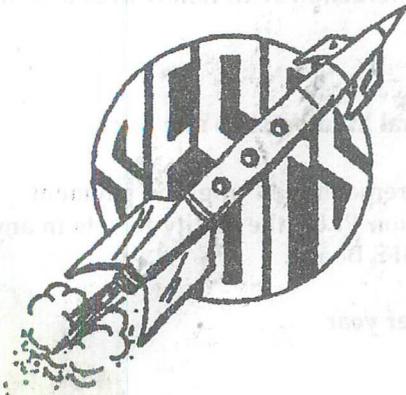
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- You are a member of SFSFS
- We wanted you to know that we were thinking about you.
- We thought you could use something else more portable to read.
- We wanted to remind you to bring your crayons and/or colored pencils to Tropicon for Cheeblecon at Tcon II!
- Tropicon is just around the corner and we haven't received your registration! (You're going to miss out on a great event!)

