

Tropicon 18

Progress Report

Mike Resnick and Ron Walotsky Headline South Florida SF Convention

Mike Resnick, award winning author, editor, fan, and award winning SF Artist **Ron Walotsky** are this year's Guests of Honor at South Florida's only general interest science fiction convention.

Mike, who was Toastmaster at Tropicon 14, is the author of such novels and stories as *Santiago*, *A Miracle of Rare Design*, *Ivory Kirinyaga*, "The 43 Antarean Dynasties," and "Seven Views of Olduvai Gorge." He has also edited numerous theme anthologies including *Alternate Presidents*, *Alternate Kennedys*, several volumes of *Alternate Worldcons*, *Sherlock Holmes in Orbit*, and *Dinosaur Fantastic*.

Beyond being an excellent writer and editor, Mike is also a TruFan. For many years he and his wife, Carol, were very

much into costuming and convention masquerades. They continue to attend many conventions every year, hanging out with fans, as well as with his professional colleagues. Mike has been a good friend to Florida Fandom, attending Tropicon and other conventions, supporting FANAC's Fan History Project, and helping programming. So come to Tropicon on **November 19-21**, and help us thank him.

The same can be said for Ron Walotsky. Ron has been illustrating

videos for notable names such as Billy Joel and The Romantics. Recent covers include SF book club editions of *Starplex*, *Hyperion*, and *Houston, Houston, Do You Read*, as well as *Conan the Defender* for Tor Books.

Ron's work has been exhibited all over the world, and hangs in many fine art collections, both public and private.

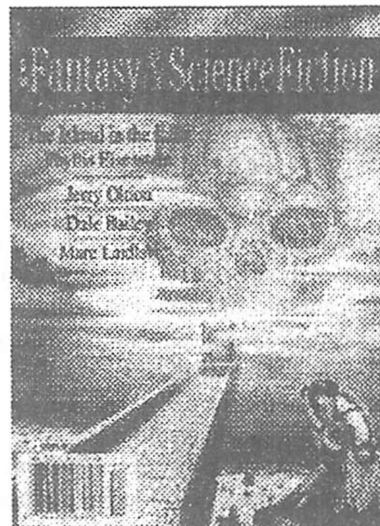
To see more of Ron's art, just check out his web page:

<http://www.arpent.com/Walotsky>

Tropicon has a new hotel

This year, Tropicon will be held in the beautiful Clarion Hotel on Hollywood Beach (which is just across the street). Located on the Intracoastal Waterway between Fort Lauderdale and Miami, the Clarion has two types of guest rooms, each with its own balcony, cable TV, and coffee pot. **The Standard Deluxe Room**, which has 2 double beds, is going for only **\$60.00** per night. **The Clarion Business Class Rooms**, which have a king-size bed, plus a microwave oven, refrigerator, iron, ironing board, hair dryer, and data port, are only **\$79.00** a night. These prices cover up to 4 people per room. Rollaway beds and refrigerators are also available at a nominal fee.

The room rates are much lower than at the last few Tropicons, so please come and spend the night. If you've



Cover Art by Ron Walotsky

science fiction and fantasy books and magazines since 1967. His work has also included surreal posters, "Horseshoe Crab Masks," album covers for RCA, Polydor, Nonesuch, and United Artists records and music

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never stayed over at a convention, you're missing half the fun!

The function space is just right for Tropicon. We'll have the second floor almost to ourselves. Registration will be on the second floor, right in front of the elevators, with the rest of our meeting rooms just down the hall including the Con Suite, which has its own outside terrace.

If you just hate being torn away from the convention to go in search of food, never fear! On the first floor, is a small **Food Court** featuring *Pizzeria Uno*, *Nathan's Hot Dogs*, *Healthy Choice Deli*, *I Can't Believe It's Yogurt*, *Nestle Cookie Cafe* and *Sarks Gourmet Coffee*! You can nip down there for a quick bite before heading back to the next amazing panel or slide show. The food court is open from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Other hotel restaurants include *Silks*, for more upscale dining, which is open from 5:00 to 10:00 PM. Entrees average around \$15.00. Then there's the **Palm Court** breakfast buffet for \$7.95. This runs from 7:00 to 10:00 AM.

There's an excellent outdoor swimming pool with a **Tiki Bar** (open noon



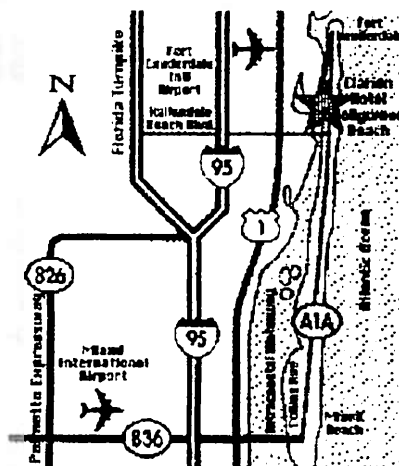
Mike Resnick (Photo by Frank Olynyk)

till 4:00 pm), tennis and shuffle board courts. The pool-side terrace is elegant and spacious. This is where we plan to hold the famous "**Velvet Comet Alien Casino & Meet the VIPs Party**" (weather permitting).

The Hotel has plenty of free parking

with easy access to I-95. Fort Lauderdale International Airport is just 7 miles to the north, and Miami International Airport is 22 miles to the south. Simply take I-95 to Hallandale Beach Blvd, then head East. When you reach Ocean Drive (A1A), make a left and the Clarion will be on your left.

Please reserve rooms by 11/5/99 to ensure availability.



Reservations: (800) 329-9019

Phone: (954) 458-7222

Fax: (954) 455-9829

www.clarion-hollywood.com

Filk Returns to Tropicon

Not that filking ever really left. Tropicon has always prided itself on being a filk-friendly convention, but it's been a few years since we had a Filk Guest.

Now the wait is over, for **RoboFilk** comes to Tropicon!

Known in the Real World as Joe Ellis, RoboFilk hails from the Orlando area and is best known for his songs about the space program. He has a couple of CD's out, **The Dream is Alive - Music Of The Space Shuttles**, and **The Synthetic Filker**, which sport songs such as, *Enterprise* • *Columbia's Children* • *On The Middeck* • *No Strings Attached* • *The Challenge of Space* • *Dawn of Discovery* • *A Vision of Tomorrow* • *Atlantis Rising*

• *Endeavor: Dreamlifter* • *RoboFilk* • *Vanguard* • *Harbors*. He has also written **The Dream is Alive**, which is a four movement instrumental suite based on a typical space shuttle mission.

Joe plans to do his famous, **Sing-A-Long with the Oldies concert**, so it's time for all you closet filkers to come out and join the rest of us.

Our Filk Guests expenses are paid by donations from interested parties. Please support the **Filk Fund**.

Friends, new and familiar, will be at Tropicon 18

Our other confirmed guests include:

- ◆ **Lynn Abbey** (Jerlayne)
- ◆ **Adam-Troy Castro** (Funeral March of the Marionettes)
- ◆ **Hal Clement** (Mission of Gravity)
- ◆ **Barbara Delaplace** ("The Found and Lost Shop")
- ◆ **Charles Fontenay** (The Kipton Mystery series)
- ◆ **Kathleen Goonan** (The Bones of Time)
- ◆ **Joseph Green** (Conscience Interplanetary)
- ◆ **Jack C. Haldeman II** (High Steel)
- ◆ **Holly Lisle** (Vengeance of Dragons)
- ◆ **Glenn Meganck (J.R. Ripley)** (Big Deal series, Tony Kozol mysteries)
- ◆ **Rick Wilber** (Where Garagiola Waits)

Special Happenings at the Banquet

You don't want to miss our Annual Tropicon Banquet. We've got some very special things planned. Not the least of which is the menu. We are having a buffet this year: Your choices will include:*

- ◆ Tossed Green Salad, Baby Shrimp and Corn Salad, Roasted Orzo Primavera Salad, Hearts of Palm Citrus Salad
 - ◆ Sautéed Snapper with Lemon Wine Sauce, Marinated Grilled Chicken Breast with Red Pepper Coulis, Citrus Marinated Pork loin.
 - ◆ Fennel Mashed Potatoes, Wild Rice Pilaf, Fresh Seasonal Veggies
 - ◆ Key Lime Pie, Carrot Cake, Apple Pie, Cheesecake
 - ◆ Coffee and Tea
- *Note: menu subject to change.

The price is \$29.00 per person. Please purchase tickets in advance as seating will be limited.

Even if you can't make it to the Banquet itself, be sure to drop by immediately afterward for the Guest of Honor speeches.

In addition, we have an after dinner Special planned. This is an event never before held at Tropicon!



Ron Walotsky (self portrait)

What is it?

Well, it's a secret. But I don't think you'll be disappointed. We will even have a **surprise** or two. So make sure you're available Saturday Night, otherwise the morning may find you kicking yourself for not being there.

In the Works...

Programming: This year Joe Siclari is running programming at Tropicon, and he has some neat stuff cooking. Here's a small sampling of what you can look forward to:

- ◆ **Holly Lisle** is running a writer's workshop. No, you don't have to bring a story with you. Holly will run everything onsite, working with people to develop story ideas and characters from scratch. Seating is limited to 25 active participants (others can look on). A sign-up sheet will be available at registration, but sign up early with your advance membership to guarantee a spot.
- ◆ **SF Roadshow:** You've seen the *Antiques Roadshow* on TV. Now bring your SF related books, art, toys and memorabilia for evaluation by our panel of experts. Come prepared with one or two pieces and we will evaluate your treasures.
- ◆ **The Art of Ron Walotsky:** Ron plans to do a slide presentation on his work. He has done many book, magazine and album covers, among other things. You may be surprised at how familiar you are with his art.
- ◆ **Hal Clement** is bringing one of his famous slide shows (a Tropicon tradition). This year, he's discussing SF ideas that are no longer viable due to advances in current knowledge, e.g. atoms as solar systems, or the sun going nova.
- ◆ **Horror in the Hot Tub:** The Clarion sports a nice, outdoor Jacuzzi by the pool. Well, we just had to make use of it, so we're presenting a session of late night, scary stories as we soak in the hot tub! We're not sure who the host is will be, but it promises to be a truly unusual event (weather permitting).

Return to the Velvet Comet Alien Casino: Did you know that Tropicon revolutionized the Meet-the-VIP Party? These events were often dull-as-dirt, leading one famous SF author to

proclaim it impossible to run an interesting VIP party.

Well, we took that as a challenge and created the Alien Casino, which is being copied by conventions all over the country.



Welcome to the Velvet Comet!

(Photo by Jack Weaver)

Named "The Velvet Comet," after the interplanetary house of ill repute from Mike Resnick's *Eros* series, the casino will feature gambling with Tropicon's own funny money. Winners will be able use their winnings at the special funny auction held at the end of the evening.

Live ballroom dance music will be provided by Doyle Green on his fabulous keyboard.

This is a formal affair, so pull out that suit and tie, evening gown, Klingon Battle Armor, your favorite superhero costume, and get dressed to a tee!

Take off early from work on Friday if you have to, but don't miss The Velvet Comet.

Gaming: We're lining up a group of interesting games, including demos of new games and tournaments. And there will be open gaming as well.

Video Room: We're trying something new this year. We've had several requests for Anime to be shown, so we're planning to host the **All-Purpose Super Terrific Anime Overnight!** If you're a fan of anime, this will be your chance to OD. Plus, there'll be other interesting and unusual fare. Hopefully we'll have a few things you won't find at your local video store.

Charity Auction: This year's auction is supporting both the **South Florida**

Science Fiction Society Building Fund, and **The Friends of Literacy**, a nonprofit organization which helps fund various adult literacy programs.

So please bring books, memorabilia, and anything else you think will sell at our auction. Try to let us know what you are bringing in advance; there will be a display in the Dealer's Room.

And don't forget to bring your check book for that special item you know you won't be able to live without.

Robert Heinlein Memorial Blood Drive: The Blood Mobile will be outside the hotel much of Saturday. Give Blood, Get Books. (Not to mention that thing about helping to save lives.)

Price List

3 Day Advance	\$24.00 till 10/31
Memberships:	\$28.00 at the door
Banquet Tickets:	\$29.00 per person
Room Rates:	\$60.00 - Standard \$79.00 - Business

Make reservations directly with the hotel

Dealer's Tables:	\$45.00 each <i>Includes 1 membership</i>
Dealer's Assistant:	\$15.00 (1 per table)
Art Show:	
Full panel/table:	\$25.00
Half panel/table:	\$15.00
Program Book Ads:	
Full Page:	\$100.00
Half Page:	\$60.00
Quarter Page:	\$35.00
Business Card:	\$25.00

Volunteers Needed

Running a science fiction convention is a lot of work, and an extra pair of hands sure comes in handy. A lot of the "work" is also FUN! And you earn a lot of egoboo, too.

So, if you've ever wanted to get in on the behind the scenes stuff and make things happen, or just wanted to lend a hand, then volunteer.

Here are some of the areas where we need on-site assistance:

◆ **Art Show** - Deanna Lyman. We will

need help with setup on Thursday evening, and tear down on Sunday afternoon. In between, Deanna can always use some extra personnel for watching the room.

◆ **Con Suite** - Carlos Perez. Keeping food available, making coffee, cleaning up, answering the phone, keeping an eye on the room. Hey, you're going to be hanging out there, anyway. Right? Why not help out?

◆ **Gaming Room** - Dave Guillot. There's still room on the schedule for more games. If you'd like to run one, let us know.

◆ **Program Ops.** - Joe Siclari. Setting out name cards for panels, rounding up

panelists, making sure they have water, giving the 5 minute warnings at the end, helping with audio/visual equip., video taping. We are always looking for new ideas, so tell us if there's a program you want to see.

◆ **Registration** - Cindy Warmuth. Help with filling out cards, making badges, handing out registration packs.

◆ **Video Room** - Joey Reynolds. Starting and stopping the tapes, but mostly just watching the room. Let us know if you've got a rare or unusual video you think we might want to run; please tell us in advance so we can fit it into the schedule

◆ **Velvet Comet Alien Casino** - Judi Goodman. Judi needs 4 dealers (the games will be standard Casino games like roulette), 4 to be Human Slot Machines, and 2 bankers.

◆ And there's more! If you want to help out, there's always a job waiting. Just ask.

The South Florida Science Fiction Society

Are you sad when Tropicon comes to an end? Do you miss the programs, or hanging out with people who share your interests? Don't you wish it could keep right on going year 'round? In a sense, it can: just become a member of the South Florida Science Fiction

Society!

Founded in 1985 to support Tropicon, SFSFS quickly developed a life of its own. We are one of only four SF clubs in the country to have its



Mike Resnick, Roger Sims,
Jack Haldeman II and Joe Green

own clubhouse (located in Fort Lauderdale). We publish a bi-monthly newsletter, *The Shuttle*, hold monthly meetings, book discussions, media research and gaming meetings, annual dinner, and access to our lending library of several thousand books. Ask about our additional perks.

General Memberships are only \$15.00, but if you act now, you can get a special **Tropicon/SFSFS Combo** deal: just send \$35.00 by Halloween, and get both a membership to Tropicon, and a 1 year general membership to SFSFS.

Contact Info

Dade: (305) 385-1793
Broward: (954) 739-4376
Palm Beach: (561) 392-6462
E-Mail: tropicon@sfsfs.org

Web Page: <http://sfsfs.org>

Photo Credit: Photos from the **FANAC Fan History Project**. See <http://fanac.org>

Tropicon 18 Order Form

No.	Item	Unit Price	Totals
_____	3 Day Advance Membership(s)	\$24.00 (till 10/31/99).....	_____
_____	Children's Membership(s).....	\$10.00 (ages 5-11).....	_____
_____	SFSFS Membership(s).....	\$15.00.....	_____
_____	SFSFS/T18 Combo.....	\$35.00.....	_____
_____	Banquet Ticket(s).....	\$29.00 per person.....	_____
_____	Art Show Full Panel(s) or Table(s)	\$25.00.....	_____
_____	Art Show Half Panel or Table.....	\$15.00.....	_____
_____	Dealer Table(s).....	\$45.00 each (includes 1 membership).....	_____
_____	Dealer's Assistant.....	\$15.00 (1 per table).....	_____
_____	Program Book Ad(s).....	see page 4 for prices..... <i>please enclose photo-ready ad with payment</i>	_____
Donations			
_____	Filk Fund (to support bringing Filk Guests to Tropicon).....		_____
_____	South Florida Science Fiction Society.....		_____
_____	Friends of Literacy.....		_____
Total Enclosed -- Please make checks payable to SFSFS:			_____
Send payments to Tropicon 18 c/o SFSFS, P.O. Box 70143, Fort Lauderdale, FL, 33307-0143			

Please send additional information on the following: Art Show, Dealer's Room, Program Book Ads, Gaming, The South Florida Science Fiction Society, The Fan History Project
 Yes! I'd like to volunteer to help at Tropicon. Area(s) I'm interested in: _____
 Yes! Sign me up for Holly Lisle's Writers Workshop! Number attending: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Second Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Names of Additional Members: _____

Tropicon 18

South Florida Science Fiction Society

P.O. Box 70143

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33307-0143

Address Correction Requested

**Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Fort Lauderdale
Permit No.
01279**

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Science Fiction Convention

November 19-21, 1999

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Filk Guest: Joe Ellis, a.k.a. RoboFilk

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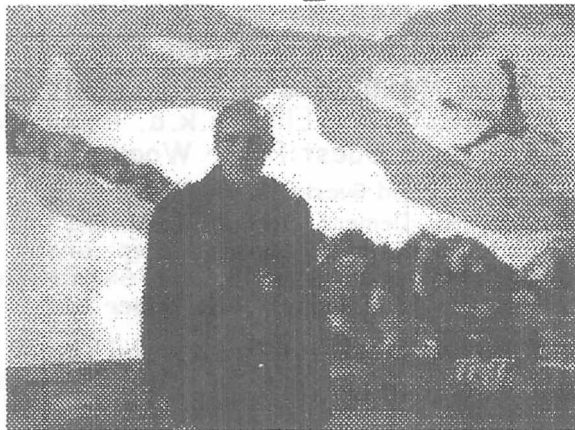
Clarion Hotel on Hollywood Beach

4000 S. Ocean Drive, Hollywood, FL 33019

(800) 329-9019 (954) 458-7222

sponsored by
The South Florida Science Fiction Society
a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization

Tropicon 18 Media Guest



Peter Woodward as Galen, the Technomage
From: *Crusade: "The Well of Forever"*
©1999 by Babylonian Productions

No sooner did we have the progress report written and ready for the printer, when we received news of a visitor from another realm.

Yes, Tropicon is going to have a Media Guest!

Peter Woodward

Actor, Writer, Producer and one of the stars of the new SF TV series *Crusade* will be attending Tropicon 18 on **Sunday, November 21, 1999**.

This is a special, one day only event, and it is Peter's first visit to Florida, so come by and help us welcome him to South Florida Fandom!

Tropicon Web Page: <http://sfsfs.org/Tropicon>

The week before Tropicon, Peter will be in South Carolina filming *The Patriot*, a feature film starring Mel Gibson. The film is scheduled for release in 2000. Below is partial filmography of his other works. *The House of Angelo* also stars his father, Edward Woodward.

"Crusade" (1999) TV Series Galen
"Brimstone" (1998) playing "Father Edward Salinas"
in episode: "Pilot" (episode # 1.1) (1998)
Brylcreem Boys, The (1999) Captain Stossel
(Also as fight director)
Babylon 5: A Call to Arms (1999) (TV) Galen
Gadget Man (1998) Momo
House of Angelo, The (1997) Harry Angelo (Also Writer and Producer)
Past Into Present (1996) Himself

"Bugs" (1995) playing "Carter" 1995
In Search of Hamlet (1995) The Fight Master
"In Suspicious Circumstances" (1994)
"Pirates" (1994) TV Series Lieutenant Maynard
Macbeth (1992) (fight arranger)
"House of Eliott, The" (1991) TV Series Harper (1994)
Chief, The (1991) (TV)
Sense and Sensibility (1985) (TV) Willoughby
"Bergerac" (1981) TV Series (fight arranger)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

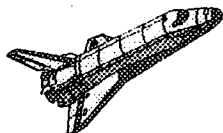
E-Mail: _____

Additional Members: _____

To Send Payment or to write for further information:

Tropicon 18 c/o SFSFS
P.O. Box 70143
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309
Make checks payable to SFSFS

Broward: (954) 739-4376
Or Call: Dade: (305) 385-1793
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\$28.00 (at the door)
Room Rates: \$60.00 Standard
\$79.00 Deluxe
(make room reservations directly with hotel)
Banquet: \$29.00 per person
Dealer's Tables: \$45.00
Art Show Panels: \$25.00 (full) \$15.00 (half)
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