

JAN./FEB 1997 ISSUE



SFSFS SHUTTLE #128 WINTER SOLSTICE ISSUE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

p. 2 TOC/Masthead
 p. 3 Editor's page
 p. 4 Meeting Space/Media Events
 p. 5 Outgoing Chair's Letter
 p. 6 New Chair's Welcome Letter
 p. 7-9 TR 15 Reviews
 p. 10-11 Word Weaving Contest (SFSFS Annual Dinner)

p. 12 TR 16 Flyer
 p. 13-14 Writing Committee Minutes
 p. 15 In Memorium
 p. 16 Fan Historica Fund
 p. 17 SFSFS Membership Form
 p. 18 YAGTB/Mailing Label

Contributors: George Peterson, Joe Siclari, Shirlene Ananayo, Carlos Perez, Peter (Mal) Barker, Judi Goodman, Dina Pearlman, Christina Santiago, Carol Porter, Ahava Drazin, Ned Bush, Jack Weaver, Peggy Ann Dolan, Peter Rawlik, Ericka Barker, Cheryl Martin, Dan Siclari, Joe Haldeman.

Cover Art: Peggy Ranson

Art: Shirlene Ananayo, Linda Michaels, Phil Tortoricci, Sheryl Birkhead, Jose Sanchez, George Peterson

Jan./Feb. Editors: Carol Porter/Christina Santiago (561) 369-3251/(954) 524-1274, email carolp@pbfreenet.seflin.lib.fl.us/ChristinaSantiago@interim.com.

April/May Editor: Shirlene Ananayo (561) 844-6336, email sananayo@umiamivm.ir.miami.edu

July/Aug. Editors: Joe Siclari/Edie Stern (561) 392-6462, email jsiclari@icanect.net.

1997 SFSFS Officers & Committee Heads

Chairman: Shirlene Ananayo (561) 844-6336; email sananayo@umiamivm.ir.miami.edu

Vice Chair: Peter Rawlik (561) 844-6336; email prawlik@genie.com

Treasurer: Bob Ewart (561) 368-2487; email bobewart@inca.gate.net

Secretary: Peter (Mal) Barker (561) 883-5126; email barker@bifur.sci.fau.edu

Literary Discussion Group: Edie Stern & Joe Siclari (561) 392-6462; email jsiclari@icanect.net/stern@pbfreenet.seflin.lib.fl.us

Book Division: Peggy Ann Dolan; (305) 532-8008; email d005518c@dcfreenet.seflin.lib.fl.us

Library: Cindy Warmuth (954) 983-0749

Media: Dan Siclari (561) 392-6462; email dsiclari@pbfreenet.seflin.lib.fl.us/Fubarski@aol.com

Programs: Shirlene Ananayo/Peter Rawlik; (561) 844-6336; email sananayo@umiamivm.ir.miami.edu/prawlik@genie.com

Traveling Fete: Joe Siclari; (561) 392-6462; email jsiclari@icanect.net

Tropicon 16- 1997; Judi Goodman; (305) 385-1793; email jb42@aol.com

Audio/Visual Archive: Judi Goodman (305) 385-1793; jb42@aol.com

Tropicon 16 Web page: Nick Simicich (561) 368-1055; njs@scifi.squawk.com

Jack Weaver (954) 752-7351; email jackw@icanect.net

Your fearless chair/vice chair could use your help, too! Please contact them with offers of assistance and/or if you have an idea for programming. Your help would be much appreciated. Please check with Shirlene or Peter to see what other positions are open.

Next shuttle editor:
 Shirlene Ananayo; email
sananyo@umiamivm.ir.miami.edu

MEETING SPACE

The first meeting of the New Year will be:

Time: 2 p.m.

Date: January 18, 1997 (I almost put 1996!)

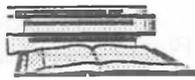
Location: the Imperial Point Library in Ft. Lauderdale, 5985 N. Federal Highway, Phone number (954) 492-1800.

Topic: The Year in Review and The Future of Science Fiction. A discussion about what was the best and worst in SF in the past year and who might be the guiding lights in the future. We welcome your input. Tell us who your favorite writers were this past year. Or whom you feel shouldn't be wearing laurels. We will be attempting to predict Hugo nominations. See you there!

To whom it may concern:

A Board Meeting at 12:00 and a Tropicon 16 meeting at 1:00
will be held in the same location.

Directions: Take I-95 to the Commercial Blvd. exit and head east to Route 1. Go North on Route 1. The Library will be on your left hand side in a plaza with Kinkos. Or take Cypress Creek Road, and head south. The library then will be on your right. Of course if you're closer to Route 1, take that. If you take the Turnpike, get off on Commercial Blvd.

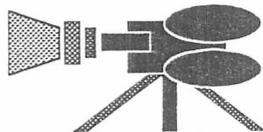


.....
: LITERARY DISCUSSION MEETINGS :
.....

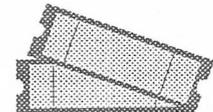


The next literary discussion group meeting will be held at the Siclari/Stern residence on Jan. 18, 1997, 8 p.m., 4599 NW 5 Ave., Boca Raton, FL. (561) 392-6462. (Although I can't believe there's someone who doesn't know where they live!) The book is *Prayer to Broken Stones* by Dan Simmons who will be a guest at the Conference on the Fantastic to be held in March. Joe says he still has some signed copies! Ask him how much they are.

The March literary meeting is TBA. The book is *Silence of the Langford* by Dave Langford. I met Mr. Langford at one of the overseas cons, and he's absolutely delightful. I'm sure his sense of humor permeates the book, but ask Joe or Edie for more details. Or anyone else who has read it. Please order both books through the SFSFS book co-op. Check with Peggy for more details.



.....
: MEDIA ACTIVITIES :
.....



Our Media Chair, Dan Siclari, has been hard at work planning and plotting so he can set up some activities this year. He has announced upcoming movies for those interested:

Feb. 8 Time and location TBD. Star Wars reissue.

Feb. 21. Empire Strikes Back Reissue.

Mar. 7. Return of the Jedi Reissue.

May 19. Men in Black

May 30. Jurassic Park: The Lost World (or the Dinos Strike Back??)

July 2. Starship Troopers

July 25. Alien Resurrection. Alien 4.

Please email Dan at dsiclari@pbfreenet.seflin.lib.fl.us or Fubarski@aol.com.

Editor's page

Well, another year has dropped off the face of the Earth. Welcome 1997! Hopefully, since Tropicon 15 ended, our valiant members are on the road to recovery and ready to grab another year by surprise. Either that, or just make it up as they go along, like I do. (I don't care where I'm going as long as I'm with you. With regards to Bob Hope and Bing Crosby.) You probably can tell Stu and I watched one too many Road pictures. They border on science fiction, or at least, fantasy.

Tropicon was a lot of fun, despite as always the hard work. The art show sometimes seems like it has a life of its own as we had to construct a cube on the premises during the weekend of the convention. And the Dealer's Room had a lot of interesting things to offer. One cheerful and friendly dealer tried to fix the strap on my camera. (Don't listen to camera salesmen when they tell you that the darn things can't break. They do!) I returned the favor by buying a small dagger that I take to and from work. (No, I don't.....Just kidding!)

Anyway, we have two TR 15 reviews inside: one from our former vice chair, George Peterson, and another from an attendee and a *Babylon 5* enthusiast and SYSOP Cheryl Martin. She gave Tropicon the thumbs up! Next year's should be just as much fun as TR turns sweet sixteen. Well, maybe not just sweeter, but wiser. I'm sure we've learned a lot in hosting Tropicon, right, guys?

One thing people don't learn seems to be that everyone needs to get more sleep and eat properly so they don't get sick. And don't over-exert yourself! I haven't been to a Tropicon yet where the con chair isn't exhausted and overwhelmed by the con's end. Or is at the beginning?

Other things of note are our incoming and outgoing chairs' letters. They both have some wonderful advice and insights to offer. There also is a "recap" of the last writing workshop. You decide for yourself whether it's fact or fiction. If things are like this at the writing workshop, maybe I should attend more of them. You guys need to contribute more to the Shuttle, though. Please feel free to do so; your submissions always are welcome. BTW, club member Peter Rawlik has gotten a story accepted for publication in an anthology called *Talebones*. Wonderful news, Pete & Shirlene!!! Many congrats! When Shirlene sent me the news, I couldn't resist going all out on

it. It's about time we were able to turn another fan into an author. Hope this means future sales for you, Pete!

Sadly, George Peterson lost his grandfather at the end of the year, so we'd like to include him in our thoughts. We hope your friends will help you through this rough time, George.

Last year also ended with the very upsetting news that Carl Sagan died. I, for one, hadn't realized how ill he was, but he probably was never one to make others feel sorry for him. I remember hearing him speak at FAU last year. He kept talking about how we should be concerned about our planet, the only home we have. I feel like I missed knowing someone and now will never be able to meet him. I wanted to include a review of one of Sagan's books in this issue, but just couldn't get around to it. I'm sure someone else will in the next issue.

Dan Siclari, our new media chair, has a whole bunch of ideas on what to see this coming year. He is looking forward to your comments and additions to his film list included in this issue.

Joe Siclari, his dad and our former chair, is trying to raise funds to bring a fellow fan over here from across the ocean. Please be sure to read inside for more details. We can never have too many fellow fans, can we?

Christy, my trusty and very overworked co-editor, is around here somewhere, laying down artwork and browbeating other people to send us stuff. We REALLY need more contributors! (There, I said it!)

Hang tight, guys! We're ready for another year!

Take care,

Carol



Our former chair, Joe Siclari, bids a fond farewell.....

Outgoing Chairman's Letter

As I write this, the final holiday of 1996 are over. I have overseen my last SFSFS meeting. Now I can be my more normal, curmudgeonly self, muttering in the background about all these new people reinventing the wheel and lacking in the knowledge to tie their shoes, let alone manage the massive international operation that is SFSFS—the South Florida Science Fiction Society.

Well!

Now that I have impressed that upon you I can leave with a clear conscience.

Shirlene will be a much nicer and more pleasant chairman than I—but she'll learn!

Actually, chairing SFSFS these past few years has been fun.

A lot of things have happened. We have continued with our regular activities like the Shuttle and monthly meetings and Tropicon, of course.

We have also firmly established some major new club activities. The Book Division is probably most noticeable. It is certainly one of our most useful and successful. Peggy Dolan has successfully taken over the division and continued to expand its scope.

We successfully relaunched the Travelling Fete this year in Key West with Jay Haldeman as our guest and Melanie Herz at the helm. We will continue it in the Spring of 1998. Shirlene and I agreed not to try to have one this coming year because we wanted to move it to an earlier and more seasonable month.

SFSFS is really in the electronic communications age thanks to Jack Weaver and Nick Simicich. The e-mail lists that Nick provided for us have allowed us to keep most members informed of changes and special happenings; it has also provided a new channel for discussion and gossip. Jack and Nick together have created some informative pages for us on the world wide web and Jack has provided publicity for SFSFS and Tropicon throughout the electronic universe.

And we have a bunch of virgins leading the group. For the first time we have an entirely new board for SFSFS. That's a good sign, guys.



It means that there are enough people interested in making the club work that we can completely change our officers.

Yes—Shirlene has been on the board but now she can get to run the club instead of taking notes on what I did wrong.

The biggest accomplishment however, is that we have finally wrested the money from the tyrant in Dade. We have a new treasurer who is experienced and will still keep us in line.

So next year I expect to have even more enjoyment and exploration with SFSFS. Join me in helping our new board to make next year our best.

Good-bye, Farewell, Arrivederci, Auf Wiedersehen, Adieu—

Do I look like Julie Andrews yet?

Joe Siclari



Chairperson's Welcoming Letter

“And, now a few words from the
Chairman”

by Shirlene Ananayo

Dear fellow SFSFSians,

Greetings and Happy New Year to all! For those of you who missed the November meeting, I am the fortunate—yet, foolhardy—soul who was voted into the SFSFS Chairman's office.

Believe it or not, I look forward to the challenges that await me in the year to come. I realize that this will not be a simple task and I have the utmost respect and affection for my predecessor, Joe Siclari, for sticking to the position these past three years. I have watched and I have observed and I believe that I have learned a thing or two.

But, enough of that.

I wanted to let you all know that I plan to do the best job I can do as Chairman of SFSFS in this fun-filled year to come. These are a few of the things I hope to do in 1997 (yes, this is a mission statement ... a chairman can have one, can't she?): to conduct meetings that will follow the format set in the operating procedures; to have a larger number of members participating in SFSFS and in Tropicon; to get married to the V.C. with a minimum of fuss and a maximum of fun; to have a membership package (with a directory, a copy of the bylaws and the operating procedures, a complete meeting calendar, etc.) available for each member by February; and to make sure that everyone has a much fun as possible in SFSFS!

Three key words I plan to use a lot this year are “in writing, please.” There are some of you who have approached me with ideas on how to “make SFSFS even better” or how to “increase membership”. While I appreciate the suggestions, I cannot consider them seriously until I have seen something in writing.

The primary reason I am requesting this is because I have and will often have a lot of things on my mind (y'know there's that wedding thing that I hope to have wrapped up by March).

Having your ideas and suggestions in writing gives me something concrete to refer back to when I have half forgotten the conversation.

You can e-mail to me or hand me a note (doesn't have to be typed, but **MUST** be coherent) at a meeting, whichever is more convenient for you.

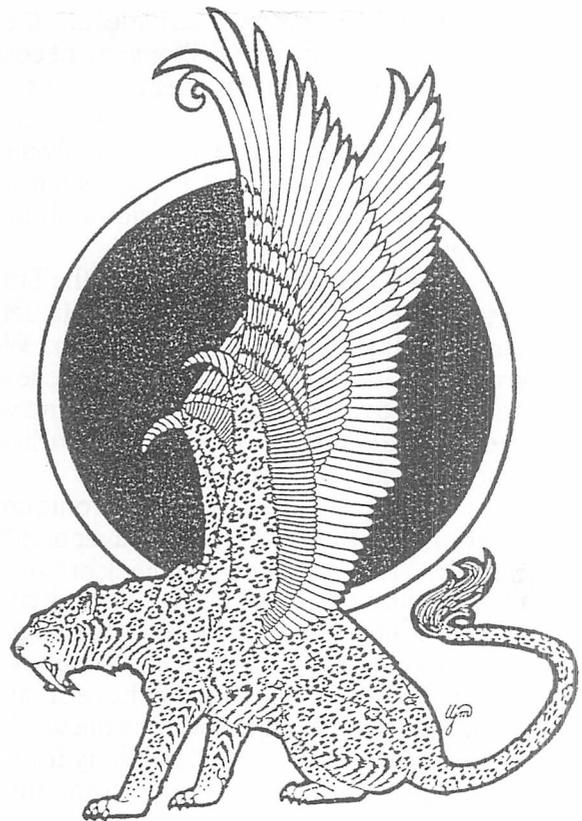
I expect to see a lot of you at future meetings. Please don't be too surprised if I ask you if you'd be willing to do a program later on in the year or to serve as a department head for one of our various departments (i.e. Creative Writing, Gaming, etc.). As with many groups and organizations, we are always on the lookout for volunteers willing to take active participation. It doesn't take as much time and effort as you think. In any event, welcome to SFSFS in 1997! May this year hold only the best for each of us ... and if it doesn't, may the experiences we face make us stronger individuals.

Best wishes,

Shirlene Ananayo

Chairman, SFSFS

(Uhhh ... Shirlene, shouldn't that be chairperson—Ed.)



Tropicon XV: A Chairman's Eye View by George Peterson

As I write this, it's hard to believe it's already been almost two months since Tropicon XV. I think I went through the first few weeks in a daze. I just glanced up and it was Christmas! Now, with the fog clearing from my brain, about as well as it ever does, I think it's appropriate that I drop a line to let everyone know that I've survived the convention. Rumors of my gaffiation have been greatly exaggerated.

First, let me start off with a hearty "Thank you" to all of you who worked so hard to put the convention together and run it. It's always terrific to see people putting so much effort into something that's of a purely voluntary nature. Especially to Pete and Shirlene—I know from experience what a bear programming can be. And most especially to Christina, who put up with all my BS (such as hosting a Concom Meeting two weeks after moving into a new apartment). Second, my thanks to our guests, many of whom came very long distances for no remuneration just to hang out for a weekend talk about their interests and work. And to all of you who attended, for what good is a show with no audience?

Any convention has its share of glitches and disappointments. Certainly this one did (e.g. David Gerrold's flight, and a few others). In truth, the whole convention runs together in my memory into one manic blur:

- Spending the last three weeks before the convention trying to put together the program book.
- Coming into my office and finding a voice mail from David Gerrold's assistant informing me that he had missed his plane.
- Picking up David Gerrold at the airport at 3:00 AM
- Getting to the convention the next day and getting hit by the first few problems.
- Realizing that I'd forgotten which flight Peter David was coming in on Saturday, and trying to contact his wife to get the info.
- "The Banging of the Vents" (the high winds we had that weekend kept causing the covers of the air vents a top the hotel to bang open and closed.)
- Opening Ceremonies with hardly any guests present.
- Going to dinner and having \$20.00 ripped off.

- Being so exhausted and in pain from my bad ankle that I had to be towed from the VIP party and put to bed.
- Grabbing a bagel at the con suite before my morning panel on Saturday and dropping half of it on the rug.
- Mel's purse being stolen.
- NOT getting Peter David at the airport.
- Daniel Keyes not finding out about the schedule change so missing his morning talk.
- Not being able to find Mike Resnick to give him his banquet ticket.
- Trying to get a count of diners at the Banquet.
- Peter David asking me about programming and my not knowing.
- Filling out the head table at the Banquet.
- Sitting at the head table (Peter David, David Gerrold, my mother and I all agreed that we would rather sit out with everyone else. Judi, maybe we should do away with a head table next year?)
- The Great Flying Toast Debacle!
- Confusion over whether the "Vampires Suck" panel was going to go on after all.
- Trouble getting the TV to work so I could see *Babylon 5* Saturday night.
- Christina's not feeling well.
- Eating half a bagel at the con suite Sunday Morning and not eating anything else the rest of the day.
- Not being able to find Gerrold after I lined up his ride, then not being able to find his ride when he was ready to leave.
- The day of the disappearing guests.
- Forgetting who had what position during the Closing Ceremonies.
- Trying to get people together to go eat afterwards.
- Innocently asking Adam Castro if he had his car with him (I had forgotten that he'd run in major engine trouble).
- Waiting endlessly at the Tudor Inn for our dinner. (When will I remember not to listen to Judi when she recommends places to eat?)
- Three trips to the airport on Monday Morning...

...All this mashed together into one insane weekend. It seemed more an exercise in delirium than a real event.

Was it all bad? Of course not! There were several high-points that stand out in my mind:

- Meeting David Gerrold, Peter David and Arne Starr.
- Harlan sending questions for Gerrold to answer at the interview.

- The panel on “Fandom 101” was one of my best experiences of sitting in on a panel. Edie is a great moderator.
- Hearing David Gerrold’s Secret History of *Star Trek the Next Generation*.
- The hour I took for myself to hear Adam Castro’s and Barbara Delaplace’s readings.
- Getting to see my mom.
- Watching Christina flirting with James “The Incredibly Cute Baby.”
- Two very confused looking Klingons.
- All the panels, programs and other stuff that went off without a hitch so I didn’t have to worry about it.
- Hanging out in the Con Suite after the convention.
- Watching *Babylon 5* on the big screen TV during the Dead Dog Party with a big bunch of people.
- Having the hotel treat Joe and I to breakfast on Monday.
- The people who came up to me to tell me what a great time they had, especially those for whom this was their first SF Convention.

The preliminary Stats on the convention are:

- Attendance 218 (despite the lousy weather).
- Charity Auction: \$2,000.00 +
- Blood Drive: 10 pints.

Part of the job of being Chairman is to be in charge of complaints. The fact that there are more items in the first list than the second reflects that reality. It doesn’t in any way mean I thought it was a lousy convention. In fact, the difficulty with being in this sort of position is trying to keep an objective eye on things.

Beneath the fun of any convention is a lot of work and a lot of worry. And, in all honesty, I don’t think I was a very good Chairman. I’m not organized enough, and I’m not good enough at stepping on people’s toes to get them going. Even so, it was an interesting and educational experience and I think I’m all the better for having done it.

But among the best things was seeing some of my friends, who had been on the outs with each other, making up and making peace. It was also great to see Cindy and Bill deciding to make it legal (Congratulations, my friends!)

And best, best, bestest of all, Christina and I decided to get married. That, alone, was enough to make this one of the most wonderful conventions of them all!

TROPICON 15 REVIEW

By Cheryl Martin

Tropicon XV was held (Nov 15-17) at the DoubleTree Guest Quarters Suites in Ft Lauderdale FL. And boy, was it fun!

The GoH was David Gerrold (writer of more than 30 published novels as well as many television scripts including *ST*’s “Trouble with Tribbles” and *B5*’s “Believers,” producer/story editor for *Land of the Lost*). The TM was Peter David (writer of a slew of several *Trek* novels, a multitude of comics and several television scripts including *B5*’s “Soul Mates” and “There All the Honor Lies” as well as co-creator/producer of *Space Cases*). Artist GoH was Arne Starr (also sysop for SFRT2 on Genie and a very delightful man full of neat info).

Other guests included Ben Bova, Hal Clement, Joe Green, Daniel Keyes, Mike Resnick, Jack Haldeman, Tananarive Due (just had her first novel published!) and many others that I’m not remembering at the moment.

I missed most of Friday’s panels although I did manage to catch most of the panel on censorship (very interesting). I did get to the “Velvet Comet VIP Party” and met Tananarive Due. As I mentioned, she just had her first novel published (titled *The Between*), which was nominated for the Stoker award. She was a lot of fun and I hope she achieves great success. FWIW, I got a copy of her book (had it autographed) and it’s a good read so far.

The Velvet Comet featured gambling and I had a great time. I took the 25 credits that I received when I checked in and made the rounds of the tables. I lost a lot at first but finally my luck changed and by the end of the night I had won over 10 times my starting amount. I soon discovered, however, that this was a pittance compared to the other big winners. There was an auction after the gaming tables closed and I heard bids in the millions. It was fun, nonetheless.

Later, I went to the Con Suites (there were two, one smoking and one non-smoking ... a very groovy idea, imo) and hung out with fans there. I staggered back to my room sometime after 1a....or maybe it was 2.

Saturday, I went to several panels, visited the dealers room (more than once) and wandered through the Art Show (some very nice stuff by Arne and Sarah Clemens.... can’t remember the other artists but I got several nice pieces).

That night was the banquet (choice between dolphin and cornish game hen ... I had the hen ... very tasty raspberry sauce). [NOTE: I love small cons (approx 200 people). I got to meet and talk with some very spiffy people.]

After we had all finished stuffing our faces, Peter David and Mike Resnick 'interviewed' David Gerrold. Quite entertaining! The three spent a lot of time razzing each other. David was quite the gracious guest and I'm glad that such a nice guy has found success.

Once again, I wandered up to the consuites and then to THE room party (like I said, it was a small con). Peter David showed up and several of us had a great conversation about *B5*, *Space Cases* and other topics (you know how fans are ... wander from topic to topic and back again). He's a good guy. (It was really sweet to see him answer questions about his show from a young fan. I think she was maybe 5 at most). BTW, Peter was wearing a spiff *Space Cases* denim jacket and *B5* t-shirts the entire con.

I finally wandered off around 1:30ish and went back to my room (I was forced to read some. No, really. I was in the middle of Bester's *The Stars My Destination* and HAD to read a little further when I saw it laying by the bed). Jay came in much, much later (he and Arne were up to 6a talking, I found out the next day).

Anyway, on Sunday there were two great presentations. Arne Starr did "Video Previews". He talked about upcoming tv shows and movies.

Things that I remember being mentioned (having forgotten to bring a pen and paper) were: more of the *Batman* cartoon series, *Species: the Series*, *Tick: The Movie* (hee!), another Indy movie, potentially Ben Bova's *Death Dream* as a movie, a *Hulk* movie (with the Hulk as CGI). I wish I had a better memory or had taken notes.

There were *lots* of potentially interesting shows and movies in development (as well as some not particularly interesting ones). Arne had several movie trailers that were neat (and several that made me wonder why the movie was made in the first place).

David Gerrold did a presentation on his upcoming show *Star Wolf* based on a series of his books. It is being developed for the Sci-Fi Channel. I hope David can do a goodly portion of what he would like to do. Some of the stories sound fascinating with characters and situations not normally seen on tv. It could potentially break more ground for SF on tv (like *B5* has done).

I am genuinely looking forward to the show. I even bought one of the books so I could get background on it!

I will finish this quite long post by saying that I have never met such a kind-hearted, earnest GoH as David Gerrold. Thanks to Tropicon for allowing me the opportunity. I look forward to the next one!

* * * *

Cheryl Martin in her own words....

I've been reading SF/F since I started reading. I was heavily into gaming in my preteen and teens and attended the local cons for the gaming (having no clue about all the other wonderful stuff going on at the conventions).

In college, I got involved with first a *ST* fan club (as vice-pres, co-founded the chapter, actually) and then a *Dr Who* fan club (was president briefly during which time, I attempted to guide the group to a more general SF fannish club ... it failed).

I dropped out of organized fan groups for several years until I attended my first Worldcon in 1995. I had a great time connecting with other fans and heard much about people's clubs back home.

I've managed to get a small group of fans together in my area of NC and hope to expand the group in the future (and host a con!). My involvement with *B5* fandom started concurrent with my re-involvement with general SF fandom. My SO introduced me to *B5* and the *B5* newsgroup.

When the unmoderated group got too poisonous and not much fun anymore, a group of us (the Grey Council) decided to create a moderated group where folks could discuss *B5* in a more congenial atmosphere. I wasn't originally slated to be a moderator but I jumped in when I saw just how much work the newsgroup required. We were getting hundreds of messages a day! It's mostly robomoderated nowadays but I (and the other mods) still spend several hours each day moderating. The Council at this past Worldcon started a hoax bid for InterWorldcon on *B5* in 2258. We will continue our bid parties at LoneStarCon next year (with smaller parties at Marcon and possibly RebelCon).

Okay, so I had trouble being brief! If you want more details on something I only touched on, please let me know.

Cheryl Martin

**SFSFS DECEMBER MEETING
RECAP
by Yours Truly**



*(Participants in the 1996 SFSFS Charades...
Or the Macarena.)*

The 1996 SFSFS Annual Dinner was held at John Martin's in Coral Gables. No toast was thrown, but everyone had a good time. (Thanks, Carlos!) Among the activities we got dragged into were charades and (literary geniuses, note) a Word Weaving Contest. I don't know about you, but I was brain dead that meeting. Too much eggnog or maybe it was the rum cake they served for dessert. But anyway, here are the results.

SFSFS Annual Dinner 1996
Word Weaving Contest:

Contest 1: Alternate Universes

Judy Goodman:

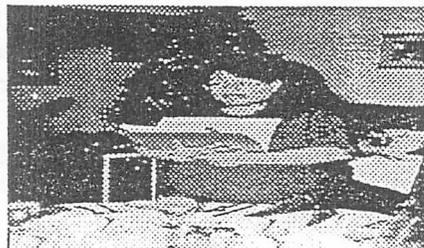
Your mother thanks you sincerely for staying out late and worrying her.

CONTEST 2: TITLES AS ACRONYMS

DUNE- Dusty Unlicensed neo-emperor
Santa Clause—Someone axes noel, takes away
clothes, uses Santa's example.

Contest 2: Alien Personals
GAFG seeks 2A3LMB for dating/mating eventual
feeding. Reply to Box 4513/Spyder.

A=Arm L=Legs
F=Female M=Male
G=Green B=Blue



Madame Chairperson keeping track.

Dina Pearlman

Contest 1: Alternate Universes

Will Robinson is President, and Dr. Smith is
Secretary of Health. OR
The Credit card company admits an error and gives
you a refund.

CONTEST 2: TITLES AS ACRONYMS

DUNE—Dusty Uniforms Nicely Exposed

Contest 2: Alien Personals

Small female genius seeks members of same genus.
Eventual foundation of new civilization to replace
the one Homo Saps blew away is a possibility.
Please send IQ, Eye Test and Coordination test
results.

Christina Santiago

Contest 1: Alternate Universes

When Star Trek is considered a documentary.
OR
When Harlan Ellison does a guest sermon on loving
thy neighbor on the "700 Club."

Carol Porter (who??)

Contest 1: Alternate Universes

Joe and Edie and Dan are early for a meeting.

Contest 2: Alien Personals

Jews in space looking to form a colony on the
moon. (Could be a Mel Brooks' movie, too.)

Ahava Drazin

Contest 1: Alternate Universes

When "Bewitched" is broadcast over WGBC-
Wiccan Glass Ball Channeling.

George Peterson:

Contest 1: Alternate Universes

William Shatner wins the Oscar for his sensitive
portrayal in the title role of "Gandhi."

Ned Bush

Contest 1: Alternate Universes

When there are two contest #2's.

Jack Weaver

Contest 1: Alternate Universes

Your kids do the dishes, take our the garbage and clean up their rooms without being asked.

Peggy Ann Dolan

CONTEST #2: TITLES AS ACRONYMS

DUNE Deposed Undercover Nomad Enlightened.



Bob Ewart assume the position of treasurer and gets the tools of the office.

Pete Rawlik

Contest 1: Alternate Universes

1) Carlos is on time

CONTEST 2: TITLES AS ACRONYMS

SANDMAN--Supernatural anthropoid never depresses morals at night.

THEM Tremendously heighty entomological monsters
Solaris Soviet Overt Literary Attempt, Results in Stupor
WE Weighty Encyclopedia

Contest 2: Alien Personals

Ringword engineer seeks circle of friends for annular excursions to points on the circumference. Squares need not apply.

Erika Barker

Contest 1: Alternate Universes

The locals all worship a gigantic golden idol of Bill Gates.

CONTEST 2: TITLES AS ACRONYMS

Glen or Glenda God Loathes Every Name; Others Revile
Guy Looking Elegant, Natty Dressed Asexually.

Contest 2: Alien Personals

SWM, Blonde hair, blue eyes, devout Jedi, briefly dated own sister, seeks SWF who enjoys walks on the beach, old movies, and overthrowing intergalactic despots.

Page Number 11

Carlos Perez

Contest 1: Alternate Universes

Richard Nixon becomes god emperor of Earth after cornering the market on Chinese spice.

CONTEST 2: TITLES AS ACRONYMS

STAR TREK Starship travels around rapidly threatening regularly every Klingon.

Contest 2: Alien Personals

Pointed-ear individual seeks same for possible pon-farr and exchange of katras. Must be open to interspecies mating and groovy bass music.

Peter "Mal" Barker

Contest 1: Alternate Universes

Roger Mudd's toupee reads the evening news instead of him.

OR Michael Jackson gives birth to the son of Elvis.

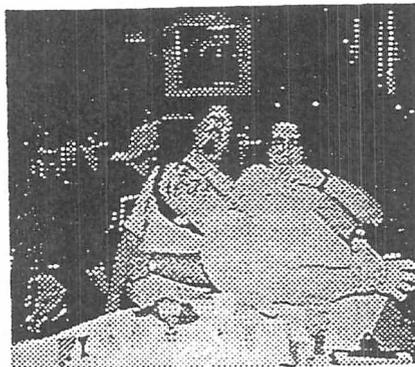
CONTEST 2: TITLES AS ACRONYMS

MARS ATTACKS! Makes a useful statement about telltale tortures and clandestine killing sprees.

Contest 2: Alien Personals

Greying, big-eyed alien seeks companion for weekend sampling. Will supply all necessary rectal probes. Expert in missing tine creation a plus. Looking only for serious-minded companion, not interested in gene sharing with sampled razes.

(What was all the fuss about "Dune"—editor??? Did you guys read each other's minds or something?)



Carlos and friends.... (A man is judged by the company he keeps!)

The South Florida Science Fiction Society
Presents:

TROPICON XVI

NOVEMBER 7-9, 1997

GUEST OF HONOR

ESTHER FRIESNER

AUTHOR OF:

*NEW YORK BY KNIGHT, ELF DEFENSE, SPHYNXES WILD,
HERE BE DEMONS, DEMON BLUES, THE HARLOT'S RUSE,
DRUID'S BLOOD. EDITOR: CHICKS IN CHAINMAIL*

TOASTMISTRESS

JOSEPHA SHERMAN

*THE SHATTERED OATH, FORGING THE RUNES, THE CHAOS GATE, CASTLE OF
DECEPTION (with MERCADES LACKEY), A STRANGE AND ANCIENT NAME,
RACHEL THE CLEVER AND OTHER JEWISH FOLKTALES*

Memberships:

- \$21.00 till May 15, 1997
- \$24.00 till Oct. 15, 1997
- \$28.00 at the Door

(Buy now before the price goes up!)

Check out the Tropicón Web Page!
<http://scifi.squawk.com/tropicon.html>

At the

Doubletree Guest Suites

Cypress Creek Road at I-95
in Fort Lauderdale, Florida

reservations local
(800) 222 - TREE or (954) 772-5400

Room Rates: \$84.00 - Single/Double
\$94.00 - Triple/Quad

For more information contact Judi Goodman
Phone: (305) 385-1793 / E-Mail: jb42@aol.com

To Send in Payment or Write for Additional Information, Mail To:
The South Florida Science Fiction Society
SFSFS, PO Box 70143, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33307-0143

SFSFS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, educational organization.



.....
 • A Visit to the Last Writers' Workshop
 • (Truth or Fiction)
 • by Carlos Perez
 •.....

(As we pay a visit to the creative writing committee, we find they have more people knocking on the door than Eliahu or is it the Three Stooges. Read on.....—Ed.)

The SFSFS Writers' Workshop Meeting began promptly at 3 pm at Pete Rawlik's apartment in West Palm Beach. That is to say that it would have started at 2 pm as was announced had Carlos not arrived so late. There was a moment of silence or prayer (depending on your outlook) where George Peterson begged God to allow him to live long enough to see Harlan Ellison's *Last Dangerous Visions* published. Judi offered up several live chickens, a Pacific Coast salmon and a bag of catnip to Baal. Pete mumbled something about the second coming of someone named Howard Phillip something-or-other. Shirlene asked that she be struck by lightning before being volunteered for any more jobs. The others said nothing. Carlos scribbled furiously in that black writing book of his.

George was into page 75 of his magnum opus when there was a knock at the door. "Oh, who could it be?" asked Pete coyly as he went to answer it. We all snickered because, with the exception of George, we all knew who it was. Pete opened the door, and there stood Harlan Ellison.

"Oh my God!" screamed George. "Oh my f***cking God!" And then he fainted. Ellison stood in the doorway, looking uncomfortable and awkward in the South Florida humidity. Shirlene ran to the door, stopping to slap Pete in the back of the head, and escorted the melting author to a spot on the sofa next to Judi. Surprised, Pete closed the door. Ericka poured Ellison a glass of water while the rest of us dragged George into the bedroom, laying him down on the bed. By the time we came back, Ellison was serenading Judi with Jewish folk songs he learned from his grandmother. The only other noise in the apartment was the fish tank and George's fevered mutterings from the bedroom.

By the time George crawled back out, Ellison had left. George looked crestfallen until Mal mentioned that Ellison had been convinced to be Guest of Honor at Tropicon XV thanks to Judi's chicken soup, which she had whipped up for Ellison with the poultry remains from the altar.

As Carlos was reading his revision of the parrot cannon story, there was another knock on the door. George ran to open the door excitedly in hope that Ellison had returned. He was disappointed to learn that it was only William Shatner.

"I just spoke with my friend, Harlan Ellison, and he mentioned that I might enjoy coming by your little writers' thing to talk about writing. Well, here I am!" Shatner's puffy red face beamed with a sincere smile.

"Not so fast, Mister Fancy pants," said Ericka as she crossed the small room to come face to face with the former Captain of the Enterprise. "You're an actor, for Christ's sake. What do *you* know about writing? I mean, Ron Goulart writes all your stuff, doesn't he?"

Shatner was taken by surprise. "I assure you, miss," he said, "that I write every word in a book with my name on the cover."

"Yeah, right," said Ericka, "except that you copy them onto a piece of paper after Goulart writes them first." She poked her index finger into Shatner's bloated chest. "If you're such a great writer, then what's an adverb?"

Shatner looked down at the carpet and began biting his thumbnail.

"I see," said Ericka. She was so close now that their noses were almost touching. "Maybe that one was too hard. Then how about telling us what a noun is, Mister Tek War?"

Shatner looked at his watch. He began stepping away from Ericka and closer to the door. "My, I didn't realize how late it was. Well, thank you for listening to me. I'll have to bring you all copies of my latest book, *Tek Ho*. In it, Jake Cardigan infiltrates a cyberspace house of ill repute while trying to find the killer who...."

Ericka grabbed the knife off the buffet table and began advancing on the man. Shatner almost tore the door off its hinges as he ran outside and to the white limousine parked over in the Greek Church's parking lot. At the same time, a wedding party came out of the church, throwing bird seed at the newly married couple who headed for the identical limousine. "Good riddance to bad rubbish," said Ericka as she closed the door.

Several minutes later we heard police sirens coming from the direction of the church. No one moved as Mal was reading another of his hysterically funny pieces on the world dictator who was also a lemur. At the end of his story, he reached into his backpack and pulled out a lemur! The very lemur that the story was based on! Here all we all thought it was a work of fiction and it turned out to be a biography. We all apologized to the lemur, whose name happened to be Joey, for our insensitivity to his need for world conquest. Having given up his megalomania for religion, Joey told us that he is now a devote Scientologist trying to make the world a better place by converting Michael Jackson over to the cause, that is, faith.

It was only after Joey left that Elaine noticed that the buffet table had been stripped clean of all food items. "It doesn't necessarily have to be Joey that did it," said Mal. "For all we know, it could have been Shatner." Even when we pointed out there was a very lemur-like stench around the table, Mal kept insisting it was Shatner and not Joey.

Avoiding further argument, Shirlene began reading her latest lesbian romance. She had only read for a few minutes when there was a knock on the door. Elaine opened the door and stepped back when there was a loud popping sound. A cloud of sulphurous smoke began drifting into the apartment. Mal began to cough and choke as a small red figure walked into the room.

"What is that stench?" asked Pete.

"Sorry," said the figure. "Beans for lunch. Somebody call for Satan?"

"I paged Bal," Judi said, "but as always he never answers."

"He sent me," said the diminutive figure. "Now, give me your souls and all your money and any junk food items you may have left in the house."

"Excuse me," said Shirlene as she stepped forward to tower over Satan. "What exactly does Satan need with junk food?"

"What?! You dare question me?! I am Mephistopheles! I am the Great Deceiver! My names are legion! YOU WILL OBEY ME!" Then he stepped on Shirlene's left foot.

"Hey!" said Pete from across the room.

"Ow! I ask you again, what does Satan need with junk food?" Shirlene balanced on her right foot.

"You little minx!" cried Satan as he stepped on Shirlene's right foot. She cried out in pain again and then dropped to the floor at Satan's feet.

"Hey!" said Pete, again seated safely across the room.

"Let that be a lesson to all those who question my word. Now where are the souls, money, and junk food?" Satan put his hands on his hips in a very Yul Brynner-like pose.

Carlos stepped up to tower over Satan and Shirlene who was cradling her right foot. "I believe you still haven't answered the woman's question: What does Satan need with junk food?" Carlos glared down at Satan.

"My, aren't we the brave one. Let's see how you feel about this." Satan balled up his fist and punched Carlos in the testicles. Carlos grabbed his groin and managed to whimper "Mommy" in a falsetto voice before collapsing on the floor.

It was then that Shirlene, having risen to her knees ended this dramatic tableau. "I've had enough of this devil crap, you." With that, she grabbed one of Satan's horns and pulled. There was a sound of fabric tearing. Shirlene fell backwards with the horn in her hand. A brown tuft of fur showed now where the horn had been.

Satan screamed, "You haven't seen the last of me," and ran out the door.

"How terribly cliché," said Ericka.

"Did anyone notice that Satan had a prehensile tail?" asked Pete.

"I think it was Joey," said Judi. "After all, what *does* Satan need with junk food? And could you believe the smell? Yuck!"

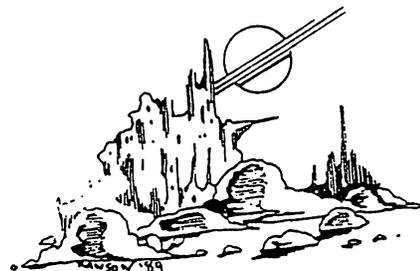
Mal stood up, looking a bit irritated. "Why do always blame the lemur? After all, it could have been Shatner again. He is quite a piker. Why couldn't it have been he?"

"Calm down, honey," said Ericka. "Let's tend to our wounded."

Pete was helping Shirlene up, but Carlos still lay on the floor whimpering "Mommy."

Later, after order had been restored to the meeting, Judi was reading her newest poem about parents and death. Everyone hung on to every word. Carlos kept gingerly touching his gonads. "Stop that," said Shirlene and she smacked him with the salmon from the altar.

The meeting ended at 3:30 pm after everyone else had read their stuff.



IN MEMORIUM

CARL SAGAN, 1934-96

Carl Sagan, 62, died after a long battle with a bone marrow disease. Author of numerous books about science fiction, astronomy, the TV series, "Cosmos," he was an active force in a lot of the recent space exploration.

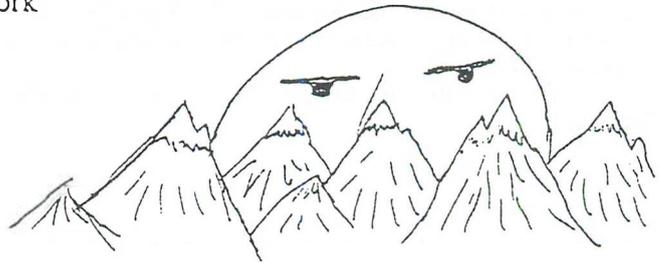
Carl Sagan leaves behind his wife and five children. He will be missed and mourned.

Donations in Carl Sagan's name can be made to:

The Children's Health Fund of New York
317 East 64th Street
New York, NY 10021

or

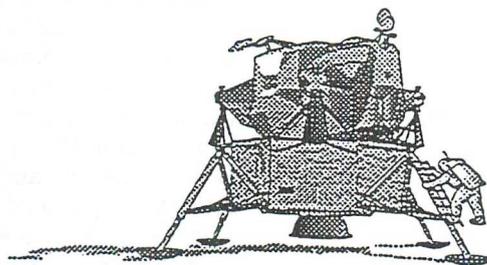
The Carl Sagan Memorial Fund
The Planetary Society
65 N. Catalina Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91106



According to author Joe Haldeman:

"Sagan was especially valuable to us space activists on two levels—using venues like Parade to keep ordinary citizens aware of and excited about space exploration, and also acting as a conspicuous watchdog on NASA's excesses."

"We had dinner with him about twenty years ago, when he was guest speaker at a Nebula Awards Banquet in New York. He was always generous in crediting science fiction—mostly Edgar Rice Burroughs, oddly—with kindling his interest in science."



ALSO IN MEMORIUM:

Club member George Peterson lost his grandfather, John Forde on Dec. 13, 1996. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, George!

FAN HISTORICAL FUND

We have instituted something special for this year's FanHistoricon. Thanks to the generosity of Boskone, we will not only have a suite to hold programs and discussions but we are instituting the:

FIRST FANHISTORICON FAN FUND

We are establishing a special fan fund. If it is successful, we hope to be able to continue this for future FanHistoricons. Boskone and NESFA have agreed to provide airfare to the convention for a special FanHistoricon Fan Fund recipient. Rob Hansen will be the first recipient. We will bring him over from the UK for the Boskone FanHistoricon. He will be an excellent addition to the program and the convention. I know I don't have to give too many details on why he was selected to this group. His British fan history THEN is a major ongoing project; the new Who's Who in Fandom site (<http://www.fiawol.demon.co.uk/who>) will provide excellent biographical information on fans. The bibliographies and fanzines and all his work will provide us with an expanded international scope.

We need to raise additional funds for this trip. You don't need to send money immediately, although I won't turn it down, but please pledge a donation. Send me e-mail on the amount you will donate and I will keep a running tally going. Make checks payable to me and mail your donation to: Joe Siclari, 4599 NW 5 Ave., Boca Raton, FL 33431-4601.

Please help make this a successful effort! Let other people who may not be online know about this effort. Thanks.

JOE SICLARI

The Babylon 5 Report by George Peterson

Upcoming New Babylon 5 Episodes:

2/1/97

"The Long Night"

The Army of Light prepares to strike against the Shadows. Ivanova and Lorien go looking for more First Ones. Londo and Vir plot Emperor Cartagia's demise.

2/8/97

"Into the Fire"

The Army of Light goes Shadow hunting. Expect big battle.

2/15/97

"Epiphanies"

No plot info., but Bester's going to show up.

2/22/97

"The Illusion of Truth"

ISN sends some reporters to do another story on Babylon 5.

3/1/97

"Atonement"

Delenn faces up to her involvement in the Earth-Minbar War.

Other Confirmed Episodes:

"Racing Mars"

Marcus and Dr. Franklin go on a mission to Mars where they find out that nobody's heard anything about the Shadow War.

"Lines of Communication", "More on Franklin's and Marcus' Mars Mission."

"Conflicts of Interests"

"Rumors, Bargains and Lies"

"Moments of Transition" (Bester's in this one.)

The Fate of Year Five

At this time, no decision has been made public on whether or not there will be a 5th Season for B5. While the show's been getting good enough ratings to generally make renewal pretty likely, changes in the syndication market have led Warner and TNT (who has first re-run rights for B5) into talking about ending B5 early and going into JMS's planned follow-up/side story, *Babylon 5: Crusade*, which would deal with the Rangers. In addition, they're asking for two (2) TV movies (one a prequel dealing with the Earth-Minbar War, the second a set-up for the new series) to air in conjunction with TNT's initial showing of the re-runs in 1998.

Basically Straczynski has two plans on the drawing board. If he gets the go-ahead with the Fifth Season, JMS will continue as he originally intended. Otherwise, he can flip out some of the stand-alone-episodes, move some material into the two TV movies, and some of it into the follow-up series – thus compressing the story into the remainder of the Fourth Season.

As JMS points out, this is the sort of thing that writers have to do all the time.

SFSFS MEMBERSHIP FORM

Regular \$20. _____

General (nonvoting) \$15.00 _____

Child Membership (12 years or under) \$1 _____

Subscribing Membership (\$1 per issue of the club newsletter) _____

Date: (Don't forget it's 1997!) _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

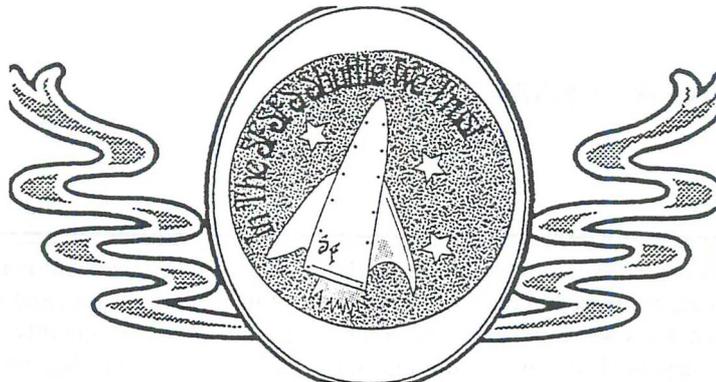
Phone (home/work): _____

Email Address: _____

Birthdate: _____

Interests:

South Florida Science Fiction Society Membership Form (should be mailed to: Bob Ewart, 455 N.W. 10th St., Boca Raton, FL 33432. Checks should be made payable to: SFSFS.)



YAGTB:

- Editor's prerogative.
- It contained an article of interest (or so we thought).
- You are held in great esteem by SFSFS (i.e. we're trying to butter you up).
- The Grinch made me do it!
- You submitted something! (Do it some more!)
- This substitutes as an Christmas, Holiday Greetings, etc., card.
- You are being reminded to renew!
- We were thinking about you. (Great minds think alike.)
- You saw the Beavis and Butthead movie! (I didn't!!)
- You cheered for the Borg in the new Trek movie.

Bill -
 please
 send us
 some
 artwork!
 Thanks.
 Carol

SFSFS
 P.O. BOX 70143
 Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33307-0143



FIRST CLASS

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The South Florida Science Fiction Society is a 501(C)3, not-for-profit, educational organization. The views and opinions expressed in the *Shuttle* are those of its writers, editors and staff. Opinions, ideas and artwork are always welcome. Feel free to submit as often and as frequently as possible. We would be happy to hear from you! Next month's editor is Shirlene Ananayo. Contact her at (561) 844-6366 or e-mail her at sananayo@umiamivm.ir.miami.edu. Following her is Joe Siclari, our fearless former leader. E-mail him at jsiclari@icanect.net. Thank you for your participation and welcome to another year with SFSFS!