



ASFS *future Times*

-OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR
THE ATLANTA SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY-

Volume 1, Issue 3

May, 1988



ASFS FUTURE TIMES:

A.K.A. ASFSiated: The 'Zine that Leaves You Breathless

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The ASFS Future Times is the official publication of The Atlanta Science Fiction Society, a gathering of aficionados of the Science Fiction and Fantasy genres (in all media). ASFS meets the first Sunday of every month at 2:00 p.m. Meetings consist of a formal business meeting, followed by a program item (guest speakers, videos, group discussion, etc.), each lasting approximately one hour. ASFS produces a club newsletter, containing local items of interest, reviews, artwork and news of upcoming events. Other activities include dinners, film premieres, and attending area conventions. Dues are \$12.00 per year, to cover the cost of the newsletter, programs and activities. *The ASFS Future Times* is published monthly. Subscriptions are \$12 annual/\$1 per issue or trade.

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To submit to the *ASFS Future Times*, please e-mail valhalla@dscga.com with article/art or send a 3.5" disk formatted for Windows (all text oriented files can be read).

For more information, send e-mail to asfs1@juno.com, or write to ASFS, P.O. Box 98308, Atlanta, GA 30359-2008.

ATLANTA SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY DIRECTORY

Ian Letendre	<i>Chairman</i>
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Jayne Rogers	<i>Acting Treasurer</i>
Bill Bevil	<i>Programming</i>
Lewis Murphy	<i>Publicity</i>

Electronic Correspondence

Ian Letendre	valhalla@dscga.com
Regina Kirby	rkirby@mindspring.com
Jayne Rogers	mythopolis@juno.com
Lewis Murphy	lmurp02@emory.edu
Bill Bevil	bbevil2@juno.com



Here is your editor and his lovely consort. Above is a photo of my fiancee', Anita Benecke, and myself taken from this year's Chattacon. We are dressed up as Centauri from *Babylon 5*. These costumes were put together in less than one week by Miss Jayne

MEETING MINUTES

BY MISS JAYNE

April '98

The April meeting of the Atlanta Science Fiction Society convened at (or around) 2:00 PM on Saturday the fifth. There were nine people in attendance.

This was Randy Cleary's last meeting as club Chair, due to a job-move back to Alabama. (His e-mail address will remain the same.)

Old business included the topic of the need for certain club officers, especially a Co-Chair now that the position is vacant.

There was a small critique of the new "Lost in Space" movie premiere, which was attended by a portion of the membership.

Possibilities for new meeting sites were discussed, including White Hall at Emory and the Buckhead Library.

New business included favorable reviews of "Future Times" from publications received, (yea!) ideas for club promotion, and the possibility of placing ads in con program books, especially for DragonCon.

Local conventions were advertised and it was decided that DSC/B'hamacon 4 in June would be a good place for club promo, possibly a club table.

Programming ideas were suggested and e-mail correspondence read.

At the end of the meeting, with moderate fanfare, Randy turned the official rubber mallet over to the new Chair, Ian Letendre. Small, (but heartfelt!) speeches were made and the meeting was adjourned.

Programming was the videos, "Hardware Wars", "Danger Mouse" and "SuperCar" donated by Bob Goodfriend.

WANT UPDATED!!

CLUB 'ZINE TITLE

New, original and fully licensed B-5 t-shirts will be awarded to the individual who can successfully re-name the *ASFS Future Times* with a catchy and suiting title. Please e-mail asfs1@juno.com with your ideas or bring them to the next meeting.

MY CORNER OF THE UNIVERSE

BY IAN LETENDRE

Welcome to another issue!! I just want to thank everyone so far who has contributed to this newsletter. It makes it easier on myself as editor and more importantly, it gives the club an actual 'zine to read.

We have plenty of activities to keep the group going throughout the upcoming summer months. BBQ's, movie premiers, conventions and meetings will certainly keep out weekends full.

The biggest event coming up is the BBQ at Lewis & Jaynes, BARBECUE CON. I hope everyone will be able to attend. Because if you don't, you will certainly miss out on some good 'ole cookin'. Ken Poskey is setting up camp in Lewis & Jayne's backyard and is looking to act as resident bartender for the event. He has been appropriately named 'toast master'.

I am going to be organizing several key events coming up here. I would like to get everyone together to attend the premier of *Godzilla*. I can't wait for the on-screen destruction of the Big Apple (*ID4* gave me that same longing feeling).

There are several key conventions coming up for our group. If you are interested in attending LibertyCon or DeepSouthCon, please get in touch with me or Regina Kirby.

As this newsletter is arriving shortly after our May meeting, I want to let everyone be aware that Regina Kirby was elected to the office of Vice Chairman for our group. Everyone should welcome Regina and give her all the support you can. The other big news is the decision to hold our meetings at the Buckhead Library as opposed to Wordsworth Books. E-mails will be going out give directions to everyone.

Plenty of exciting things going on for our group. If you would like to help plan an activity/programming or have ideas, please feel free to bring it before the membership. No idea is a bad idea (unless it is illegal, but even then...).

A final reminder/thank you. If you have already turned in your dues, thank you. If you have not, please do so as soon as you can. Take care all. Until next month...

CONFESSIONS OF A NEW BABYLON 5 JUNKIE

BY DEBBI GOLDEN

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(Spoiler information contained within - ed.)

I confess. I deliberately did not watch *Babylon 5* when it first aired several years back. I had just started a new job and was involved with my fan friends, only seeing them at Bill & Caran's for New Year's Eve. During the second season when Bruce came on, it was harder to ignore, but somehow I did so.

My re-entry into fandom began at the party celebrating the end of the Olympic year and the start of 1997. The conversation had turned to the internet (how amazing). I was toying with the idea of eventually getting an e-mail account at Life, so I solicited a few e-mail addresses from long time friends who were technologically "with it". When I finally get an e-mail account in May, I contacted a few people. One message led to another and I found the Dragoncon website. Shortly thereafter I am again on Staff, getting re-acquainted with old friends, authors and TV shows.

When the good news broke late in 1997 that *Babylon 5* would have a fifth season, I had a dilemma: start watching the new season and play catch up with the previous episodes - or delay beginning Season 5 until I plowed through the first four? I watched the two special movies, and began watching the rebroadcasts at 7PM. Well, this would take forever. Luckily, an original, diehard *Bab 5* fan (Avery), came to my rescue. He lent me his entire collection of episodes, along with written season guides from the Internet. Now, when I have nothing to do (and often when I have something else to do), I sit down and watch 1 or 2 episodes.

Avery said I *could* start watching the new season after *War Without End I & II*, but I've decided to wait. I should be caught up in a couple of weeks. What's 8 or 9 episodes unwatched, after 80-something? Sometime in April I'll have my life back - just in time to finish (start?) my income tax.

Some days my universes get crossed. One Sunday I watched two *Deep Space 9*'s, 2 *Babylon 5*'s and one *Stargate*. The aliens currently tormenting Captain Sisko and company look related to some who were mouthing off to Commander Ivanova early in Season 4. I wish my brain would do better at remembering details of all those shows. "Trekkies" were lampooned for maintaining total recall of every episode ever made - quite a feat nowadays. I find many *Babylon 5* fans who remember particular episodes better than I do, and they watched

them three years ago. I just saw them a month ago! I guess my mind seems the think remembering my students and the problems with their accounts and registration is more important. I know I've got lots of unused room up there - maybe I need to be de-fragged.

We went to Perimeter Mall March 14 to see the *Babylon 5* exhibit. As we arrived after 2PM, we missed the new Captain, and the lines were already huge to meet Jerry Doyle. We got a close-up look at him, while chatting with friends up at the front of the line. He seemed flattered by the turn-out, and amused by the display. There were a couple of uniforms, (including Ivanova's post-secession gift from Delenn), various weapons, and other props. The quality of the props was pretty was pretty high-the weapons in particular didn't look like cereal box toys.

The realism of all production aspects of the show is quite impressive. The aliens are top-notch, the sets and "pseudo-sets" are magnificent, and the ships and fighting scenes...probably the best on television. Even my cat can't take her eyes off the screen during a big battle. She especially appreciates maneuverability of the White Star fighters.

I'd like to discuss the characters a bit. My favorite is probably Susan Ivanova. I'll miss her when I begin fifth season. Besides her obvious qualities - leadership, wit, bravery, loyalty, compassion, she is extremely human and vulnerable. As the joke goes, for someone named Christian, Claudia got the Jewish angst down perfectly. I've been trying to modify that part of my genetic code for decades. My family came from Ukraine, hers lived in Russia - same roots.

The episode where Theodore Bikel (great casting) played the family rabbi was poignant for me. I never had any training in Judaism - my parents weren't into organized religion, so I didn't have quite the same dilemma Susan did when her father died. We didn't even have a funeral for my father, let alone sit shiva. My sister and I buried cremains under a tree in a park near our childhood house. This was what he wanted. The part that got to me was how Susan dealt with grieving (or not) for a father with whom she had a rocky relationship. I found that what I missed was not my actual flawed father, but the father that he might have been had he worked on his problems.

Delenn is a fascinating female character. She is

(Continued on page 6)

Upcoming Regional Conventions

May

Correction- May 22-24. Vulkan Atlanta NOT CANCELLED. Holiday Inn Marietta. GoH- Ethan Phillips and Robin Downes. Memberships \$20/day, \$30/weekend. Info: Vulkan Conventions, 12237 SW 50 Street, Cooper City, FL 33330-5406; joemotes@aol.com; web: www.scifinetwork.com/startrek/

May 29-31. Conspiracy of Light. POSTPONED. (Babylon 5) Info: Box 680356, Orlando, FL 32868-0356; dstrauss@code7r.com; Web: www.code7r.com/

Magic Carpet Con VI has been POSTPONED to April 9-11, 1999.

June

June 5-7. Mobicon 98; Ramada Inn on the Bay, Mobile, AL. GoH- Douglas Niles, Margaret Weis and more. (Gaming) Memberships: \$20 til May 1. Info Box 161632, Mobile, AL; mobicon@aol.com; web: www2.acan.net/~mobicon/

June 5-7. TachyCon 9; Adams Mark Hotel, Orlando, FL. GoH- Richard Biggs, Richard Hatch, Rowena Morrell and more. Memberships: \$25 ATD, \$5 Supporting. Info Box 3382 Winter Park, FL 32790-3382; tachycon@ao.net; web: www.ao.net/~tachycon/event.htm

June 12-14. DeepSouthCon 36/B'hamacon 4; Ramada Inn, Birmingham, AL. GoH- Michael Bishop, David & Lori Deitrick, Buck & Juanita Coulson, Wilson 'Bob' Tucker and many more. Memberships: \$25 til 5/15, \$35 ATD. Info: Box 94151, Birmingham, AL 35220-4151; jll-wall@usit.net; web: www.bham.net/bisfic/dsc/index.htm

June 12-14. Jumpgate Jax; Radisson Riverwalk

Hotel, Jacksonville, FL. GoH- Jack McDevitt, Peggy Ranson, Tom Smith. Memberships: \$25. Info: Box 1662, Yulee, FL 32041-1662; jumpg8jax@aol.com; web: members.aol.com/jumpg8jax/index.html

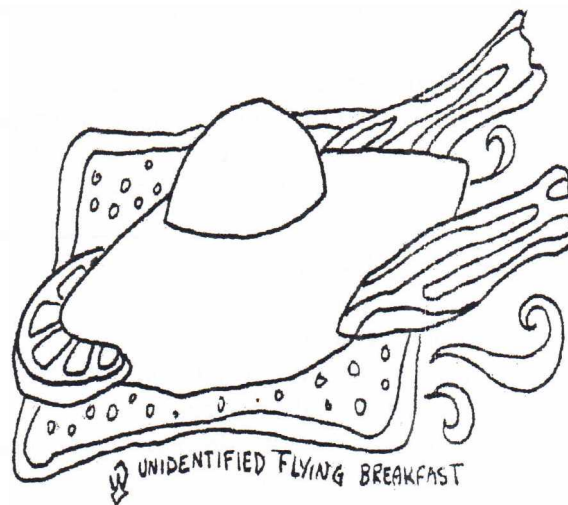
June 26-28. Outworld 2. CANCELLED. Info: outworld.dan@juno.com

July

July 3-5. Heroes Convention; Convention Center, Charlotte, NC. GoH- Mike Allred, Joe Simon, Matt Wagner (Comics) Info: Box 9181, Charlotte, NC 28299; 704/375-7463; motherbox@heroesonline.com; web: www.heroesonline.com

July 24-26. ConGames 98; Camberly Plaza Hotel. (Gaming) Info: web: home.att.net/~kasumi.tendo

July 24-26. Temporal Disturbance; Jefferson Civic Center/Sheraton Hotel, Birmingham, AL. GoH- Lee Shackelford, Marcus Lusk, David Duncan and more. Memberships: \$25 til 6/10, \$30 ATD, \$15/day. Info: Box 59059, Birmingham, AL 35259-9059; tempdist@geocities.com; web: www.geocities.com/area51/chamber/4780



(Continued from page 4)

so powerful, focused, courageous and strong in her beliefs, but new at "human" relationships. I love watching her and John Sheridan as their romance develops. Such challenges!! Not only do they 50 or so steps they have to take to satisfy Minbari tradition, but one or the other of them keeps getting dragged off to be tortured. Maybe we shouldn't complain when our partners have to work late.

I was relieved in a way that I did not get to speak with Jerry Doyle at the mall. At the time I was furious with Garibaldi for being such a jerk. The next night I found out why. The why was, of course Bester. It's always interesting to an actor you remember in one role portraying a totally different type of character. Both Walter Koenig & Bill Mummy had this opportunity to live down their 1960's personas. Poor Chekov - when he was too old in the movies to simply be cute he was mutilated by alien ear mites or splattered on nuclear wessels and threatened with brain surgery. Many of grew up watching Bill Mummy trying to keep a straight face in the campy, yet addictive TV series *Lost In Space*. I have my doubts about the upcoming movie going the serious drama route. That's why I want to see it at the Fox - if the movie is bad, at least we'll get to see Ted & Jayne and the stars on the ceiling.

Bill Mummy's Lennier and Stephen Furst's Vir are my favorite second tier characters. Maybe I empathize with them working for challenging mentors. In Lennier's case he is apprenticed to a near Goddess whom he loves, but knows he will never have. I don't relate to that part, but I enjoy watching the interaction between the two. Vir works for an erratic, emotional, prideful and not always trustworthy boss. Been there, done that. Vir survives by holding on to his values and keeping his sense of humor. I think he will be Centauri's best emperor, if he has any subjects left alive to rule.

As of this writing, I have three episodes left to watch in Season 4. In a few weeks I won't have to leave the room when the discussion turns to the new season. I suspect I'll shell out some bucks for some *Babylon 5* goodies at DragonCon. I may not be one of the original fans, but I'm now as die-hard as any of you old timers. It's never too late to discover a true masterpiece.

Notice from Avery Davis

Everyone is welcome to attend the next meeting of the Atlanta chapter of the National Space Society.

Please feel free to contact Avery Davis for more info:

e-mail: avery@mindspring.com

NSS Web: <http://www.offworldsolutions.com/nssatl>

Avery Web: <http://www.mindspring.com/~avery>

BOOK SIGNINGS

Location: The Science Fiction & Mystery Bookstore
Author: J. Gregory Keyes
Date: May 15, 1998
Time: 6PM to 8PM

DON'T TALK TO STRANGERS

PART II

by Lewis Murphy

When Coobie reached the top of the hill, he saw it. It was huge. Bigger than any ship he had ever seen. Then again, he had never seen any this close before, either. Bright, shiny, gleaming metal, rounded with a point at the top and spindly legs supporting it at the bottom. The smooth surface reflected the reddish glow of the midday sun (the early morning sun was not so red). It was almost blindingly bright. Smoke, or was it steam, billowed out from beneath it. It had what looked like strange writing along its sides.

Filled with awe, Coobie climbed down the hill to get a closer look. He left Zot behind, the hill was too steep for its mechanical limbs. With each step the ship loomed larger. Coobie was nearly close enough to touch one shiney metal leg when a loud sound from the above made him jump back from the ship. Too frightened to run, too frightened to move, Coobie stared up at where the sound had come.

An opening had appeared in the ship, on the side facing Coobie. There was movement in the opening, metallic sounds, flashes of reflected light. A ladder was being extended through the opening, moving downward towards the ground. Down toward Coobie.

Watch for the exciting conclusion next month.



Publications Received

Baryon Magazine #68

published by Barry R. Hunter
P O Box 3314, Rome Ga. 30164-3314
book reviews

Omegazine #95

The Journal of the Omega Society
published monthly by Omega Ltd. Productions
c/o John Martello, 3415 Silverwood Dr.
Pine Hills, Fl. 32808-2847
subscriptions - \$10.00

The Geis Letter #47

book reviews, letters
published by Richard E. Geis
P O Box 11408, Portland, Or 97211-0408
Compuserve: 100313,3400 (ASCII)
sample/subscriptions - \$1.00 per issue

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(check or m.o. to Timothy Lane)
e-mail - jtmajor@iglou.com
clubzine

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Ellicott City, MD 21042
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BucConeer

The 56th World
Science Fiction Convention
Baltimore, Maryland USA
August 5-9, 1998
<http://www.bucconeer.worldcon.org>



Bucconeer, the 1998 World Science Fiction Convention, proudly presents this year's nominees for the Hugo Awards, the annual awards for achievement in science fiction. The winners will be announced on Friday, August 7th in Baltimore, Maryland.

BEST NOVEL

Forever Peace by Joe Haldeman (Ace)
Frameshift by Robert J. Sawyer (Tor)
The Rise of Endymion by Dan Simmons (Bantam Spectra)
Jack Faust by Michael Swanwick (Avon)
City on Fire by Walter Jon Williams (HarperPrism)

BEST NOVELLA

"The Funeral March of the Marionettes" by Adam-Troy Castro (F&SF July 1997)
"Ecopoeisis" by Geoffrey A. Landis (SF Age May 1997)
"Loose Ends" by Paul Levinson (Analog May 1997)
"Marrow" by Robert Reed (SF Age July 1997)
"...Where Angels Fear To Tread" by Allen Steele (Asimov's October-November 1997)

BEST NOVELETTE

"Moon Six" by Stephen Baxter (SF Age March 1997)
"Broken Symmetry" by Michael A. Burstein (Analog February 1997)
"Three Hearings on the Existence of Snakes in the Human Bloodstream" by James Alan Gardner (Asimov's February 1997)
"We Will Drink A Fish Together..." by Bill Johnson (Asimov's May 1997)
"The Undiscovered" by William Sanders (Asimov's March 1997)

BEST SHORT STORY

"Beluthahatchie" by Andy Duncan (Asimov's March 1997)
"Standing Room Only" by Karen Joy Fowler (Asimov's August 1997)
"Itsy Bitsy Spider" by James Patrick Kelly (Asimov's June 1997)
"The 43 Antarean Dynasties" by Mike Resnick

(Asimov's December 1997)

"The Hand You're Dealt" by Robert J. Sawyer (Free Space, Tor)

"No Planets Strike" by Gene Wolfe (F&SF January 1997)

(There are six items due to a tie for fifth place)

BEST RELATED BOOK

Space Travel by Ben Bova with Anthony R. Lewis (Writer's Digest Books)

The Encyclopedia of Fantasy edited by John Clute & John Grant (St. Martin's Press)

Infinite Worlds by Vincent DiFate (Penguin Studio)

Spectrum IV: The Best in Contemporary Fantastic Art edited by Cathy Fenner & Arnie Fenner with Jim Loehr (Underwood Books)

Reflections and Refractions: Thoughts on Science-Fiction, Science and Other Matters by Robert Silverberg (Underwood Books)

BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION

Contact (Warner Bros./South Side Amusement Company) Directed by Robert Zemeckis; Story by Carl Sagan and Ann Druyan; Screenplay by James Hart and Michael Goldenberg; Produced by Steve Starkey and Robert Zemeckis.

The Fifth Element (Columbia Pictures/Gaumont) Directed by Luc Besson; Story by Luc Besson; Screenplay by Luc Besson & Robert Mark Kamen; Produced by Patrice Ledoux.

Gattaca (Columbia Pictures Corporation/Jersey Films) Directed by Andrew M. Niccol, Written by Andrew M. Niccol, Produced by Danny DeVito, Michael Shamberg, & Stacey Sher.

Men in Black (MacDonald-Parkes/Columbia Pictures Corporation/Amblin Entertainment) Directed by Barry Sonnenfeld; Screenplay by Ed Solomon, Laurie MacDonald and Walter F. Parkes; Executive Producer: Steven Spielberg.

Starship Troopers (TriStar Pictures/Big Bug Pictures/Touchstone Pictures) Directed by Paul Verhoeven, Screenplay by Ed Neumeier; Produced by Jon Davison and Alan Marshall.

BEST PROFESSIONAL EDITOR

Gardner Dozois (Asimov's)

Scott Edelman (SF Age)

David Hartwell (Tor; Year's Best SF)

Stanley Schmidt (Analog)

Gordon Van Gelder (F&SF)

BEST PROFESSIONAL ARTIST

Jim Burns

Thomas Canty

David Cherry

Bob Eggleton

Don Maitz

Michael Whelan

(There are six items due to a tie for fifth place)

BEST SEMIPROZINE

Interzone edited by David Pringle

Locus edited by Charles N. Brown

The New York Review of Science Fiction edited by Kathryn Cramer, Ariel Hamon, David G. Hartwell & Kevin Maroney

Science Fiction Chronicle edited by Andrew I. Porter

Speculations edited by Kent Brewster

BEST FANZINE

Ansible edited by Dave Langford

Attitude edited by Michael Abbott, John Dallman & Pam Wells

File 770 edited by Mike Glyer

Mimosa edited by Nicki & Richard Lynch

Tangent edited by David Truesdale

BEST FAN WRITER

Bob Devney

Mike Glyer

Andy Hooper

David Langford

Evelyn Leeper

Joseph T. Major

(There are six nominees due to a tie for fifth place)

BEST FAN ARTIST

Brad Foster

Ian Gunn

Teddy Harvia

Joe Mayhew

Peggy Ranson

JOHN W. CAMPBELL AWARD FOR BEST NEW WRITER OF 1996 OR 1997 (not a Hugo)

[Sponsored by Dell Magazines]

Raphael Carter (2nd year of eligibility)

Andy Duncan (2nd year of eligibility)

Richard Garfinkle (2nd year of eligibility)

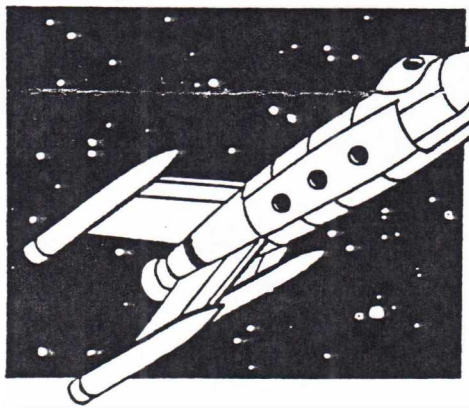
Susan R. Matthews (2nd year of eligibility)

Mary Doria Russell (2nd year of eligibility)

deepsouthcon 36

36

bhamacon 4



Hosted by the Birmingham Science Fiction Club

Contact us:

email our chairman, Julie Wall:

jlwall@usit.net

visit our web site:

www.bham.net/bisfic/dsc/index.html

snailmail:

P.O. Box 94151, Birmingham, AL 35220-4151

make all checks payable to Deborah Rowan

Hotel Info:

The Ramada Inn & Suites Hotel is at 420 20th Street South. For reservations, call (800) 579-5464. or (205) 322-7000. Please reserve early and mention B'hamacon when you do. Room rates (1-4 persons in room) are:

\$74 for a standard double/double

\$84 for a deluxe king room

\$110 for a deluxe suite

literary guest of honor

Michael Bishop

artist guests of honor

David & Lori Deitrick

fan guests of honor

Buck & Juanita Coulson

toastmaster

Wilson "Bob" Tucker

see inside for additional guests!

The 1998 DeepSouthCon will feature plenty of traditional amenities, as well as some newer ones, including a 24-Hour ConSuite (it'll be dry, but have lots of interesting food offerings), Masquerade, Guest of Honor Speeches, Readings and Slide Shows, Hearts Tournament, One-Hour One-Shot, Huxter Room, Gaming (featuring an official Star Wars CCG tournament and a Magic tournament), Video Room, a Dance deejayed by the Porno Patrol from New Orleans, Filking, Art Show, Autograph Sessions, SF Poetry, Panels, and, of course, the Rebel and Phoenix awards presentations. If you have any special requests for programming or anything else, please contact us at one of the address at left and suggest it. We will be happy to incorporate everything we can.

Memberships are \$25 until May 15, 1998

\$35 thereafter and at the door.

June 12-14, 1998

Ramada Inn & Suites Hotel - Birmingham, Alabama
formerly the Parliament House



The Atlanta Science Fiction Society
PO Box 98308
Atlanta, GA 30359-2008