

# *ScientiFiction*

*The FIRST FANDOM Report and Newsletter*

**New Series Number 5**

**1st Quarter 2005**

## **Presidents Message**

Wow, there is lots to cover. The Hall of Fame Award was given out at World con and I am please to announce that the winners for this year are: Brian Aldiss, and the Team of William Hamling and Bob Peterson. The voting for this year was a tie.

The Posthumous award was given to Edgar Rice Burroughs. It is never too early to start thinking about who you want to nominate next.

Bob Tucker turned 90 in late November, about 40 of his friends and family went to Bloomington, IL to give him a party. Photos may be found on this web site [www.midamericon.org/dawnpatrol/tucker90](http://www.midamericon.org/dawnpatrol/tucker90)

I have gotten word that Sir Arthur C. Clarke is OK on Sri Lanka as he lives higher up in the hills not on the water-front for more information on him go to [www.Clarkefoundation.org](http://www.Clarkefoundation.org)

Jan 2, 2005 was a really sad day as 11 time Hugo winning artist Frank Kelly Freas past away. Science fiction lost a terrific friend and fabulous artist.

First Fandom Invited to be Highlighted Fan group at Marcon 40!!!

You will find the exact invitation later on in this issue. It is a very nice offer with some of our expenses paid.

This invitation includes membership and hotel accommodations for 1 night. If you are going to be sharing a room with another member of First Fandom at the con then the con will pick up the tab for both nights. Other perks may be included depending on how large a group of FF attends.

If you think it might be interesting or fun say yes now and then they will get a better more accurate head count later on closer to the convention. They will need a snail mail or e-mail address and phone number. You will be doing a little programming and have an autograph session.

Jim and Barbara Harmon are no longer going to be editing Scientifiction, They did a wonderful job but other issues in their world have come up so they had to step down. The duties have been turned over to Joe Martino. Please also note that my e-mail address has changed to Knappenberger@sbglobal.net.

Last but not least it is the first of the year and dues are due please find the form in this issue and send to Don Dailey. Dues are still the same \$10. I don't see a need for an increase unless the price of printing or postage goes up dramatically

*Joan Marie Knappenberger*

## **First Fandom**

**President:** Joannie Knappenberger

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### **Frank Kelly Freas, 1922-2005**

Frank Kelly Freas, perhaps the most prolific SF artist who ever lived, died in his sleep at home early on the morning of January 2nd, at age 82.

Freas's career spanned over half a century and nearly the whole breadth of the science fiction field, as well as much outside it. His artistic skills first flourished painting nose art onto World War II bombers, and grew from there. His first appearance in SF was in 1950, and soon there was scarcely a science fiction magazine that had not used his artwork. He became most closely identified with *Astounding/Analog*, though he painted and drew for dozens of magazines and numerous book publishers. He won eleven Hugos for Best Professional Artist, and more other honors than this obituary will attempt to recount.

His work was remarkably eclectic: he produced artwork for NASA missions, including the uniform patch for Skylab 1; he created many covers for *Mad Magazine*; the rock group Queen commissioned album cover work from him; he created paintings of hundreds of saints for the Franciscans. Much of his work is collected in three books, the most recent of which was *Frank Kelly Freas: As He Sees It*.

A memorial service was held at 1PM on Monday, January 3 in the chapel at the Gates Kingsley & Gates Praiswater Mortuary, 6909 Canoga Ave, Canoga Park, California. The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society was planning a memorial for a later date.

Freas is survived by his wife Laura. To his family and friends, First Fandom offers its heartfelt sympathies. [adapted from the SFWA web site with permission]

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### **Frank Kelly Freas: An Extraordinary Life**

I could tell you all of Kelly's wonderful talents and gifts. I could tell you that Kelly was an eleven time Hugo winner, a NASA artist and he could be as silly as the *MAD Magazine* cartoons he drew, but you probably already know that. Let me tell you a few exploits of the great guy behind the fuzzy mustache.

Kelly was a real gentleman, brilliant and the most talented artist I have ever known. I have rooms filled with originals sketches and doodles and portraits by a dear friend. Kelly has put down his pencil and left this world, but his presence is still all around. I found kindness, exceptional talent, and a great sense of humor in this gentle man. I met Kelly for the first time at a Rock con so many years ago.

He was having a great contest with Gordy Dickson. They were trying to get a female fan, which neither of them knew, to come to dinner with them. Gordy said it could not be done; Kelly said he could do it and the next fan that walked in was going to be her. That is when I walked in to ask Mr. Gordon R. Dickson, GOH, for his autograph. I got

the signature and then Kelly piped up and said "Well I can do better than just an ink scribble on a piece of paper, I would like to take you to dinner if you will allow me."

Now, since Bob Tucker, didn't raise me to be a dummy, I knew a neat offer when I heard one. I said, yes to the Kelly who was AGOH that year. That was the start of a lifelong and fabulous friendship. By the end to the dinner Kelly drew a marvelous sketch of me and Gordy, graciously acknowledged defeat to the master, and put a p.s. on his autograph.

Over the years Kelly has been a fabulous teacher, a bad influence and great companion at cons. One of the only mistakes he said that he ever made was introducing me to his new wife Laura.

What trouble the 3 of us got into! Along the way we had singing contests at 2AM, ate at some of the best restaurants, and had electric scooter races in the lobbies of the finest of hotels. It's a wonder we were never kicked out.

The imp behind the fuzzy mustache had started to teach my daughter to draw several years ago. What a gift! He spoiled her and treated her like a little princess. My favorite Kelly story is one from about 4 or 5 years ago in St. Louis, a large group of fans went to a barbeque place that allowed you to draw on the walls. This punched Kelly's buttons. His eyes twinkled and he twitched his mustache. He went up and asked if he could really draw something.

The guy behind the counter said "Yeah, sure buddy, if you can find a space you can."

Well, there was not a clean spot in sight, except the ceiling and by the counter. They would not let him draw

by the counter it would clog up the line to order. Beside the counter, was a display shelf that was in the way. Kelly was heart broken. He went and sat down and complained. James P. Hogan got up and told them that they were nuts to not let this man draw. He explained who Kelly was to the owner who happened to be a major MAD Magazine fan and suddenly the whole world changed. The owner sent one employee to the store to get the kind of markers that Kelly wanted; ones that worked best on wood. Then he started to take down the display shelf that was in the way of where he wanted Kelly to draw. Next, the owner wanted his picture taken with Kelly, Laura and the new art work. The owner sent a different employee to Wal-Mart to get a frame to cover the art so no one would doodle by it. It was a really fun evening for everyone, and the food was good, too!

Here's to you Kelly it was a grand pleasure to know you!

*Joanie Knappenberger*

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I am trying to compile a book of Kelly Freas stories and wonderful things he did for fans over the years. I've heard a lot of them recently, but I want more and I want them written down. If I can get a bunch it will be a present for Laura and his kids. If you have a Kelly story that you would like to share please take a few minutes to write or e-mail me. Length does not matter it can be a few sentences or several pages. Thanks, Joanie

E-mail: [Knappenberger@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Knappenberger@sbcglobal.net)  
(Please put "Kelly story" on the subject line)

Mail: Joan Knappenberger

## **The "wish it weren't so' news**

Andre Norton is in hospital with flu and pneumonia here is the address to send her cards and get well wishes.

Andre Norton  
c/o Sue Stewart  
1007 Herron Street  
Murfreesboro, TN 37130

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### **Jack L. Chalker (1944-2005)**

Jack L. Chalker passed away peacefully at on February 11, 2005.

Jack was hospitalized for congested heart failure on December 6. .

Donations in Jack's name may be made to the Sierra Club, Save the Bay/Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Baltimore Science Fiction Society and the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America Emergency Medical Fund

Jack L. Chalker was born December 17, 1944 in Baltimore, Maryland. He grew up in Baltimore and received a Bachelor of Science degree from Towson State College (Towson University) and graduate degrees from Johns Hopkins University. He taught history on the high school and college levels, and was a lecturer at the Smithsonian, The National Institutes of Health, and numerous colleges and universities, mostly on science fiction and technology subjects.

A long time science fiction fan, he attended hundreds of conventions. As a SF professional, he stayed very accessible to fans. He was Toastmaster at the 1983 WorldCon, and co-chaired the 1974 WorldCon, Discon II.

[Excerpted from the Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers Association web site, with permission.]

## **Subject: Marcon 40 Invitation to Participate May 27-29, 2005**

Dear Joan,

Planning has begun for Marcon 40, for May 27-29, 2005 at the Hyatt Regency here in Columbus, Ohio. Marcon will be celebrating it 40th anniversary.

Last year my co-chair and I began a practice we hope will become a tradition at Marcon. We had a "Highlighted Fan Group" as a part of our guests slate. As the current Guest Relations Department Head for Marcon, it is both my pleasure and privilege to inform you as President of First Fandom that Marcon would like to honor your group as our Highlighted Fan Group for Marcon 40.

As you may be aware, Marcon has grown into a "full-spectrum" Science Fiction and Fantasy convention, offering some of the best programming short of a Worldcon in many areas of interest to all fans, including literary, scientific, readings, and media. Each year we still hold a charity auction. In recent years, Marcon has had over 3000 attendees. We have yet to decide on a theme for Marcon 40, but it is going to be somewhat of a reunion.

We are making it extra special by inviting past Guests of Honor as our guests for that year as well as inviting people who were key to the founding and development of Marcon Science Fiction and Fantasy Convention.

We hope you will accept our invitation to be our Highlighted Fan Group for Marcon 40 in 2005 [www.marcon.org](http://www.marcon.org)



## We Get Letters

I just recently got a copy of *Scientifiction* 3rd and 4th Quarters 2004 from Don Dailey since mine apparently went astray. I note you have agreed to be editor. You have my sympathy and my personal thanks for taking on this important job. FF would simply vegetate and die without the binding influence of the Report.

In comment on the noted issue, I certainly second my friend, Roy Lavender, when he suggests a fund to equip Bob Peterson with voice recognition....assuming he would want same and would accept it. My guess is that Bob does not have a computer since his Notes appeared to be typewritten. But a computer could be arranged also, surely. I am not up on voice recognition state-of-the-art stuff so I don't know how the hardware and software works. There has to be some way to scan printed material and get a voice output to a speaker, I would guess. I must do some reading on this technology. Anyway I hope we keep Roy's suggestion alive. As Roy noted in his Yule message, he also has some eye problems. Given our average age that will be true of most of us in a few years. Didn't mean to rattle on so, but this item tweaked my fancy. I will be glad to work with anyone and contribute funds to make this happen if there is any interest in Roy's thoughts on this subject. I sure miss Bob's Notes.

*Sam Basham*

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## Fossil SF Review

Burroughs, Edgar Rice, *Under the Moons of Mars*, Lincoln, NB, University

of Nebraska Press, 2003.

This is a reprint of three of the original John Carter of Mars stories: *A Princess of Mars*, *The Gods of Mars*, and *Warlord of Mars*. It has an introduction by James P. Hogan, and features new illustrations by Scott Beachler. It can be obtained from the Science Fiction Book Club.

I first encountered the John Carter of Mars stories in "Big Little Book" form in the 1940s, when I was in grade school. At the time I did not realize they were already forty years old. I ate them up then. It may be mostly a concession to nostalgia, but when I saw this volume offered by SFBC, I snapped it up.

In a way the book reminds me of the old lady's comment on Shakespeare's plays: "He just took a bunch of old sayings and strung them together." But of course they weren't "old sayings" when Shakespeare wrote them. They were newly minted. By the same token, these stories now can be described as a string of SF clichés. But they weren't clichés when ERB wrote them. He was pioneering, and modern SF writers are definitely in his debt.

Despite some of the dated features of the stories, I enjoyed re-reading them. I had forgotten much of the stories. I'm pleased to say that the old magic came back as I read them. They're as good a read as they were when I was a kid.

The book is well-made. I found no misprints (although maybe I skipped over them because I was so engrossed in the story). University of Nebraska and SFBC are to be commended for making these stories available to a new readership.

*Joe Martino*

## Boilerplate

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Letters, reviews of Fossil SF, reviews of 'cons attended, and news of members are all welcome.

Suggestions for special features should be sent to: Special Features Editor, Jon D. Swartz, 1704 Vine St., Georgetown, TX 47122-0354

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(Last Minute Letter)

Thanks for the new STF. Now First Fandom has a chance to get the show on the road. I particularly liked the coverage of Robida, Dave (no relation) Kyle's Lensman series, and your mystery novel – although pure fan news is always welcome, especially the good news bout A.C. Clarke.

Richard Kyle

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Don Dailey  
PO Box 354  
Georgetown, IN 47122-0354

First Class Postage
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**To:**