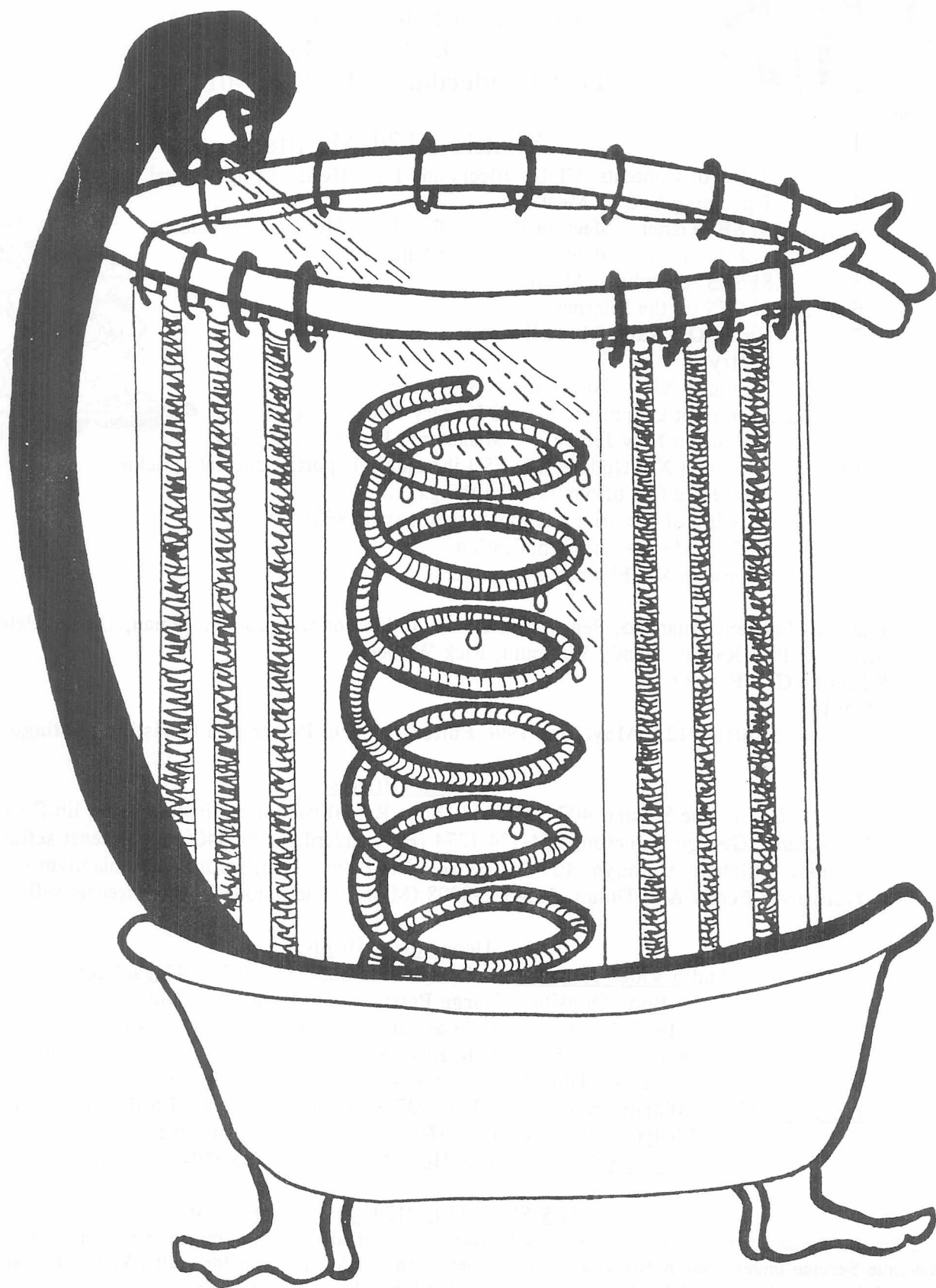


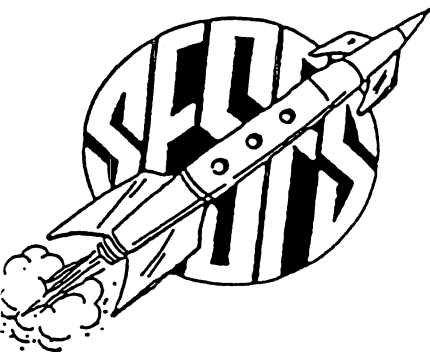
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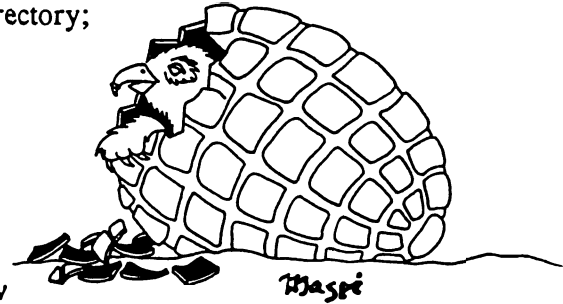
Spring Showers...



South Florida Science Fiction Society
P.O. Box 70143
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33307-0143

Shuttle #124 Manifest

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Contributors: Shirlene Ananayo, Peggy Ann Dolan, Judi Goodman, Joe Haldeman, George Peterson,
Mike Resnick, Pete Rawlik, Cindy Warmuth, Rick Wilber
SFSFS Logo: Gail Bennett
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Shuttle #125, May/June 1996 Editors: Carol Porter and Christina Santiago

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Vice-Chair: George Peterson, 954-524-1274 (Ft. Lauderdale)/z004406b@bcfree.net.seflin.lib.fl.us
Secretary: Shirlene Ananayo, 407-844-6336 (West Palm Beach)/sananayo@umiamivm.ir.miami.edu
Treasurer: Peggy Ann Dolan, 305-532-8008 (Miami Beach)/d005518c@dcfree.net.seflin.lib.fl.us

Department Heads:

Audio Video Archive: Judi Goodman 305-385-1793 (jb42@aol.com)
Book Division: George Peterson and Peggy Ann Dolan
Book Discussion: Edie Stern & Joe Siclari 407-392-6462
Creative Writers' Group: Pete Rawlik 407-844-6336/p.rawlik@genie.com
Filk: Dina Pearlman 954-989-0290 and Edie Stern
Librarian: Cindy Warmuth 954-987-9905/z007793b@bcfree.net.seflin.lib.fl.us (via Bill Wilson)
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SFSFS SHUTTLE #124 March/April 1996

The South Florida Science Fiction Society is a Florida non-profit educational corporation recognized by the Internal Revenue Service under Section 501(c)(3). General membership is \$15 per year for adults, \$1 for children (see form at the back of this issue for more details). Subscribing membership is \$12 per year. The views and opinions expressed in the SFSFS SHUTTLE are those of the authors and artists and not necessarily those of the publishers. [support the local economy, drink MORE orange juice!]

UPCOMING SFSFS MEETINGS

March General Meeting

Surprise Author Interview

Date: 23 March 1996

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: ICFA Con Suite,
Ft. Lauderdale Airport Hilton (bc)

Come join us for a surprise author interview. Traditionally, our author interview is with the ICFA's guest of honor. This year's GoH is Greg Bear. But, to find out who it is, you'll have to attend the meeting!

Directions: Take 1-95, exit at Griffin Rd. The hotel will be on the northeast side of the overpass.

Literary Discussion

Date: 23 March 1996

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Location: George Peterson's house
1808 NE 11 Ave., Apt #8
Ft. Lauderdale (bc)

Book to be discussed is Eon by Greg Bear. < gee, I wonder why...;-) >

Directions: Take I-95, exit at Oakland Park Blvd. Go east to Old Dixie Highway and take a right (south). At the five point intersection, continue forward, towards the funeral home. After the bridge, take a right onto 18th Ct., then a left onto 11th Ave. George's apartment is in a one-story building on the left. Parking is very limited. To park, you should continue on 11th Ave. and take the left onto 18th St. At the corner of Dixie and 18th St. there is a day care center where you can park and walk to his apartment.

Tropicon XV Meeting

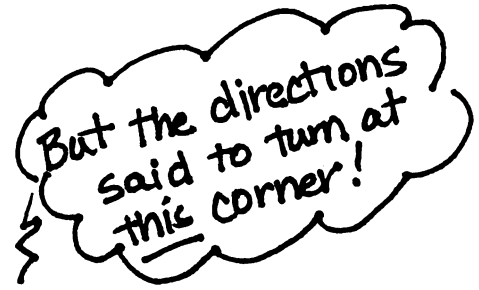
Date: 30 March 1996

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Location: George Peterson's House
1808 NE 11 Ave., Apt #8
Ft. Lauderdale (bc)

Anyone interested in helping out at Tropicon is welcome to attend.

Directions: See previous meeting notice.



Creative Writers' Group

Date: 6 April 1996

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Location: Inkwell House,
539 37th St., WPB (pbc)

This is going to be a re-organizational meeting for the purpose of establishing the procedure for future meetings.

Directions: Take 1-95, exit at Palm Beach Lakes Blvd. Go east. At US 1, turn north and continue until 36th St. Go west at 36th St and take second right onto Spruce Ave. Go one block to 37th St and take a left. The house will be on the north side.

April General Meeting

SFSFS Spring Picnic!

Date: 20 April 1996

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Location: Hugh Taylor Birch
State Recreational Area,

3109 E. Sunrise Blvd, Ft. Lauderdale (bc)

It's Springtime once again! Just the right excuse for us to gather together and enjoy the great weather that South Florida is famous for...before the humidity really kicks in and forces us to seek the cooler artificial environments. Access to the beach is provided and canoes can be rented.

This will be a potluck luncheon. Please call Shirlene Ananayo (day: 305-284-5234; night: 407-844-6336) and let her know what you are planning on bringing. Anything and everything (chips, sodas, coolers, mini-grills with the accoutrements) would be appreciated.

Please note that there will be a charge to enter the area. It is \$3.50 per car or \$1.00 per person on foot. Carpool time!.

If you have any further questions, please contact George Peterson (see page 2).

Directions: Take I-95 to Sunrise Blvd. Go east. The Recreational Area will be on the left.

Other April Meetings yet to be formalized:

Filk Gathering

Scheduled date: 20 April 1996
time and location: tba

Tropicon XV Meeting

Scheduled date: 21 April 1996
time and location: tba

SFSFS GENERAL MEETING RECAPS

The January Meeting was held on the 20th at the Imperial Point Library. Most of the members who attended were still recovering from Tropicon XIV, so it was decided that the scheduled program, "Building Aliens and Alien Cultures" would be postponed until next month.

Instead, Joe Siclari led us through an informative discussion on the current process whereby Worldcon Guests of Honor were chosen. The discussion often branched off into periods of fond recollection as various members who had attended various Worldcons told anecdotes about their experiences. It proved to be a very informative session, especially for those of us who did not know the stories behind some of the names of various science fiction fandom personalities on Joe's handout.

During the business portion of the meeting, a bumper crop's worth of new and returning members were voted into SFSFS. We would like to extend a heartfelt welcome to: Susan Andrews, Louise Auerhahn, Bonnie Bromberg, Jesus Garcia, Mark Gray, Glenn Meganck, Susan Mintzer, Marge Norsworthy, Justin Phillips, Pat Pressey, Randall Russ, Joel Sanet, Deb Simicich, and Mr. Jabber Wokky. An equally heartfelt welcome back is extended to: John Fast, Bruce Feldman, Dea O'Connor, Chuck Phillips, Rita Sheinblatt, and Janet Sorenson.

The February Meeting was held on the 24th at the Hallandale Beach Library. Yours truly, the secretary was unable to attend the meeting, but I heard that a good time was had by all. It was preserved on celluloid by the Audio/Visual Dept Head for posterity and the curiosity of any

members wishing to see what they missed. As previously decided the month before, the "Building Aliens and Alien Cultures" program was held. Rumor has it that Ericka Perdew's aliens incited all the other groups into declaring war on them!

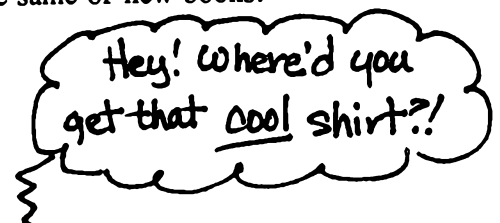
During the business portion of the meeting, it was announced that both Christina Santiago and Elaine Ashby had rejoined the club. Hurrah!

F.Y.I. ON MEMBERS DIRECTORY

The next issue of the Shuttle will have the names, addresses (both mailing and e-mail), and phone numbers of all current members of SFSFS. If you would NOT like to have any of that information published, please let me, SFSFS Secretary, Shirlene Ananayo, know **IN WRITING** by April 30th. You can e-mail (see page 2) or fax your preference to me at 305-284-5234. Thank you.

BOOK DIVISION UPDATE

Peggy Ann Dolan wants everyone to know that the book division is about to resume operations! If you would like to place an order, please contact her by phone or by e-mail (see page 2). Please remember that your order should include the ISBN number for the book. If you do not know the ISBN number, Peggy will look them up for you (for a maximum of 4 books per order). At this time, Peggy is unable to research any back orders currently in limbo. So, if you still want your book, please call or e-mail her. Any payments that were already made for back orders can be put towards the same or new books.



T-SHIRTS FOR SALE

Don't forget the ORIGINAL SFSFS t-shirt is still available for the small price of \$10.00 (sizes small, medium, large, and extra large are available). Interested parties should contact George Peterson or Judi Goodman (see page 2).

SFSFS' SCHEDULED MEETINGS

This is a listing of all-known meetings currently scheduled for this year. Board Meetings, Media Research Outings, and Writers' Group Meetings will be scheduled on a month-to-month basis. Filk Gatherings, Book Discussions, and Tropicon XV Meetings will be finalized, location-wise, a month before the event. If you have any questions about any of these meetings, contact a club officer or the appropriate dept. head for confirmation (see page 2 for phone numbers and/or e-mail addresses). Items currently identified as "to be announced" ("tba") will be, in a timely fashion, prior to the event. Please keep in mind that meetings may be postponed, re-scheduled and/or re-located. If you have any ideas or suggestions about location, program topics, or would like to volunteer the use of your domicile as a gathering place for a book discussion and/or filk gathering, please contact Joe Siclari, George Peterson, or the appropriate dept. head. Thanks!

<*> MAY <*>

18th, Saturday; 2 pm - 4 pm

Event: *SFSFS General Meeting*

Location: Imperial Point Library (bc)

Program: The Writings of David Gerrold
(George Peterson)

Directions: Take I-95. From north, exit at Cypress Creek Rd. Go east and take a right onto US 1. Library will be the right side of the road. From south, exit at Commercial Blvd and take a left onto US 1. Library will be on the left side of the road. You can park at the shopping plaza next to the library. 954-492-1800.

18th, Saturday; 8 pm - ? pm

Event: *Book Discussion*

25th, Saturday, 2 pm - 4 pm

Event: *Tropicon XV Meeting*

<*> JUNE <*>

15th, Saturday, 2 pm - 4 pm

Event: *SFSFS General Meeting*

Location: Borders Bookstore,
Coral Springs (bc)

Program: Hugo Nominees
(Fred Bragdon and George Peterson)

Directions: From I-95 exit at Atlantic Blvd go west to University Dr. Borders will be on the northwest end of the intersection. 954-340-3307.



15th, Saturday, 8 pm - ? pm

Event: *Filk Gathering*

23rd, Sunday, 1 pm - 3 pm

Event: *Tropicon XV Meeting*

<*> JULY <*>

20th, Saturday, 2 pm - 4 pm

Event: *SFSFS General Meeting*

Location: Imperial Point Library (bc)

Program: "How to Run the Universe"

Directions: Take I-95. From north, exit at Cypress Creek Rd. Go east and take a right onto US 1. Library will be the right side of the road. From south, exit at Commercial Blvd and take a left onto US 1. Library will be on the left side of the road. You can park at the shopping plaza next to the library. 954-492-1800.

20th Saturday, 8 pm - ? pm

Event: *Book Discussion*

27th, Saturday, 2 pm - 4 pm

Event: *Tropicon XV Meeting*

<*> AUGUST <*>

11th, Sunday, 1 pm - 3 pm

Event: *Tcon XV Mtg/Progress Report
Collation*

17th, Saturday, 2 pm - 4 pm

Event: *SFSFS General Meeting*

Location: Hallandale Library (bc)

Program: "Now that you've got it, how are you going to keep it?"

(A program on maintaining mint condition collectibles with Judi Goodman)

Directions: Exit I-95 on Hallandale Beach Blvd and go east. At US 1 turn south and go 3 blocks. Library will be on the west side. 954-457-1750.

<*> SEPTEMBER <*>

21st, Saturday, 2 pm - 4 pm

Event: *SFSFS General Meeting*

Location: Imperial Point Library (bc)

Program: tba

Directions: Take I-95. From north, exit at Cypress Creek Rd. Go east and take a right onto US 1. Library will be the right side of the road. From south, exit at Commercial Blvd and take a left onto US 1. Library will be on the left side of the road. You can park at the shopping plaza next to the library. 954-492-1800.

21st, Saturday, 8 pm - ? pm

Event: *Book Discussion*

28th, Saturday, 2 pm - 4 pm

Event: *Tropicon XV Meeting*

<*> OCTOBER <*>

19th, Saturday, 2 pm - 4 pm

Event: *SFSFS General Meeting*

Location: Hallandale Library (bc)

Program: Scandals in Fandom, part xiii
(Joe Siclari and Edie Stern)

Directions: Exit I-95 on Hallandale Beach Blvd and go east. At US 1 turn south and go 3 blocks. Library will be on the west side. 954-457-1750.

20th, Sunday, 1 pm - 3 pm

Event: *Tcon XV Mtg/Program Book
Collation*

<*> NOVEMBER <*>

3rd, Sunday, 1 pm - 3 pm

Event: *Tropicon XV Meeting*

8th, Friday - 10th, Sunday

Event: *Tropicon XV*

16th, Saturday, 2 pm - 4 pm

Event: *SFSFS General Meeting*

Location: Miami Book Fair's Food Court

Program: tba

<*> DECEMBER <*>

Date: TBA

Event: *SFSFS Annual Dinner*

Location: tba

SFSFS ON THE INTERNET

Thanks to Nick Simicich, SFSFS has a home page that is available/viewable with a net browser (i.e. Mosaic, Netscape, etc.). The address is:

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

If you have anything you would like to contribute to the home page, contact Nick Simicich at njs@scifi.emi.net.

As most of you already know, SFSFS has its own modern day equivalent to a party line on line! I'm referring to the two distribution lists, sfsfs-announce and sfsfs-discuss, on scifi.maid.com that Nick Simicich kindly set up for us. They are there for all SFSFS members <and some non-SFSFS members> to use in order to disseminate information in a quick, ecology-friendly <hey, we aren't using paper, are we?>, technologically advanced manner. If you aren't already on the list, then you can subscribe by sending the following message:

subscribe sfsfs-announce <your e-mail address>
subscribe sfsfs-discuss <your e-mail address>
to majordomo@scifi.maid.com. If, for some reason, this doesn't work for you, e-mail me at sananayo@umiamivm.ir.miami.edu with your full e-mail address in the body of your cry for help and I will add you to the list myself! Sound good?

On the same note, if you are subscribed to the list and you would prefer not to be, then follow the same directions above and substitute the word "unsubscribe" in place of the word "subscribe".

And, if that were not enough, Jack Weaver has been working long and hard to establish Tropicon's presence on the Internet. Anyone and everyone having access to the World Wide Web is urged to have a look at the Tropicon home page at:

<http://scifi.maid.com/tropicon.htm>

There is a photo album for Tropicon XIV that is linked to the home page, so you can check it out while you're there! Have fun!

OBITS

This is a partial list of persons in science fiction fandom who have passed away recently. Information came from a variety of sources, all of them on-line. I apologize in advance for any minor inaccuracies.

Walter M. Miller, Jr. (author of *A Canticle for Leibowitz*), died in January.

Elsie Wollheim (widow of Donald A. Wollheim), died in February.

Bob Shaw (author), died in February.

Brian Daley (author of *The Doomfarers of Coramonde* and several Han Solo/Star Wars novels), died in February.

ON WALTER M. MILLER, JR.

< The following is an article that was written by Rick Wilber for *The Tampa Tribune* several years ago. He "reprinted" it in a post in his author category on GENie in SFRT1 on Jan 17, 1996, after Walter M. Miller Jr's death. It is reprinted here with Rick's permission >

by Rick Wilber

In 1960, the novel *A Canticle for Leibowitz* shook the young foundations of the science fiction world.

A post-apocalyptic vision of the future that won the 1961 Hugo award -- science fiction version of the Oscar -- for best novel, the book even won high praise from some influential mainstream critics, and established its author, Walter M. Miller Jr., as one of the field's hottest writers.

Science fiction readers the world over waited anxiously for an expected sequel -- but one never came. Miller, in fact, slowly drifted away from writing and, as the years slipped by, many readers thought him dead.

Thirty years have passed, and the novel remains one of the field's acknowledged seminal classics. It has influenced entire generations of writers with its seamless blend of the deeply spiritual and the tragically human.

And the wait for the next instalment of this science fiction classic is, at last, nearing an end.

Miller, a native Floridian very much alive

and well and writing in Daytona Beach, is completing *St. Leibowitz and the Wild Horse Woman* (a working title) for Bantam Books.

In a recent interview in his modest, comfortable home, the lanky, graying Miller sat by his word processor and talked about the twists and turns that first led him to science fiction writing, and then to *A Canticle* as his most famous work, and now have brought him back for an encore performance.

Even in high school in New Smyrna Beach, Miller wanted to be a writer. But "My father didn't want me to be a starving writer, so I was an engineering major at the University of Tennessee in 1940."

Following harrowing duty aboard bombers over Italy and the Balkans in World War II, Miller returned to college at the University of Texas.

There he was involved in a serious auto accident that left him hospitalized for four months and, as he recalled, it was "a typewriter on the bed" that started his writing career. His first sale was to the American Mercury magazine.

Success in science fiction came almost incidentally.

"The first science fiction story I wrote, terrible as it was, I immediately sold, so that was the lazy man's way to go." By 1955 Miller's novelette, "The Darfstellar," was the first Hugo winner in that category, and he was an established name in the emerging genre. "*A Canticle for Leibowitz*," he recalled, began as a series of shorter works. "Only after I had written the first two and was working on the third did it dawn on me that this isn't three novelettes, it's a novel. And I converted it."

By 1959 the novel was complete, and by 1960 it was in print. "Time and the New Yorker pooh-poohed it," he recalled, but critic Edmund Fuller at the Chicago Tribune gave it high praise, never referring to it as a science fiction novel. "In those days," Miller said, "science fiction was a joke, and not taken seriously."

The novel's status as a classic came almost immediately, and has grown over the years. But, for Miller, the years after *Canticle* were trying ones.

"My agent wanted to see more (of a sequel) before showing it to anybody," and Miller admits that he felt "dried up. I just walked away."

There were occasional reminders of his importance to the genre. In 1980 a short-story collection, *The Best of Walter M. Miller, Jr.* came out, containing much of his shorter work, including famous stories like "You Triflin' Skunk" and "Crucifixus Etiam."

And in 1985 Miller co-edited, with Martin H. Greenberg, an anthology of short fiction by other writers called *Beyond Armageddon*.

But it wasn't until a little over a year ago that Bantam Books editor Lou Aronica started the ball rolling at last for the sequel.

"I was having lunch with Don Congdon (Miller's agent), and we touched base on Walter, he's an active part of our backlist. Congdon mentioned that Walter had actually written 60 pages of a sequel, and as a matter of personal curiosity I asked to see them."

Aronica's thought was that the additional pages might be put as an addendum to the next Bantam edition of *Canticle*, as "something for his fans."

The pages, says Aronica, "were absolutely wonderful. I told Congdon and he asked me to send a note to Walter saying so. I did, and about a month later another 120 pages showed up. Walter was revved up again."

Within months a new contract was signed, and the sequel was, finally, on its way.

"It was very, very exciting," says Aronica, "one of the more exciting acquisitions I've made."

It has been exciting for Miller, too, of course, though that excitement is tempered by the passage of the intervening years.

These days, Miller gets up about 3 a.m. and goes straight to the typewriter.

"It feels pretty good on the days when I've got something down," he says, "and it feels like hell when I don't."

POETRY

"Requiem for Leibowitz" by Pete Rawlik

They came for him today,
the simpletons and Ludds.
Faces hidden;
death's heads on flour sacks.
They came for him.
We knew they would
someday
The took him,
dragged him,
beaten down
into the desert.
They took his calculator,
a treasured TI-65,
smashed it, shattered it
cracked it before his dying eyes
(the slide rule,
better hidden,
survives).
They hung him,
hung him from a shattered lamp post;
a burlap bag over his head
coaxial cable around his neck.
They left his body to hang
to dry in the arid heat,
left it for a week
and three days.
We cut him down on Saturday;
Sunday came and went
with no resurrection.
We buried him
in an unmarked grave
forgotten technobabble
chanted in meaningless
prayer:
amps, watts, vdc,
resistance, capacitance, conductance,
ohmen.

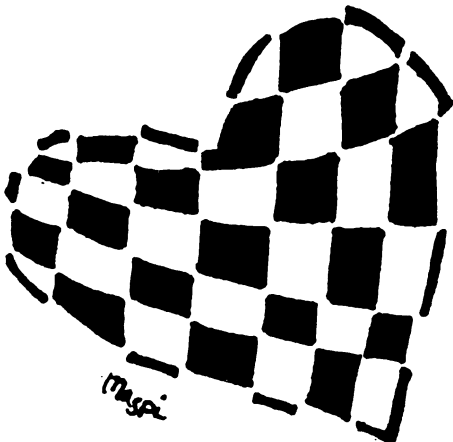
TROPICON XIV: Post-con Notes of Interest

Tropicon XIV was held on the second weekend of January, 12 - 14 at the Doubletree Guest Quarters Suites Hotel in Fort Lauderdale. One of the best parts of the convention was the attendance of Mr. Daniel Keyes, author of *Flowers for Algernon*. Kudos and thanks to George Peterson for asking Mr. Keyes to the con. Both Mike Resnick and Joe Haldeman had things to say about the con and Mr. Keyes. Their responses are included. It was fun, it was memorable, and the following are the major newsworthy points, for those of you who were unable to attend.

Purple Hearts

There seemed to be more than a few staffers who were a little "under the weather" for a variety of reasons. During closing ceremonies, "Purple Hearts" (purple paper hearts glued to a blue sheet of paper) were awarded to several people. The recipients were (in the order awarded):

Ericka Perdew, who developed kidney stones and had to make a trip to the emergency room;
Judi Goodman, who had an ear infection and had her thumb crushed;
Dea O'Connor, who got a mashed knee;
Mark Olson, who sprained his ankle in the warehouse BEFORE the con;
Nick Simicich, who had bronchitis;
Sue Trautman, who had the flu;
Shirlene Ananayo, who had a 102 fever but worked on alien tabletops anyhow;
Becky Peters, who had a painful back injury that made movement challenging; and
Melanie Herz, who worked registration with a broken arm < but ask her how she got it! > .



Charity Auctions



Tropicon XIV was a good year for Charity Auctions. There were three different charities that benefited during the auction sessions held on Saturday and Sunday. Tropicon XIV raised money for the following charities:

Friends of Literacy of Broward County
to benefit the "Each One, Teach One"
Broward County Adult Literacy Program
Sat and Sun: \$ 744.75

Down Under Fandom Fund
Sat and Sun: \$154.00

Horror Writers of America Hardship Fund
to benefit Ron Dee
Sat and Sun: \$405.00

Model Building

The following are the winners of the model building competition that occurring the model building panel:

1st Place Children's Entry:
Hillary Pearlman and Beth Lyman
for "Space Station"

2nd Place Children's Entry:
Liz Morgan
for "Space Station"

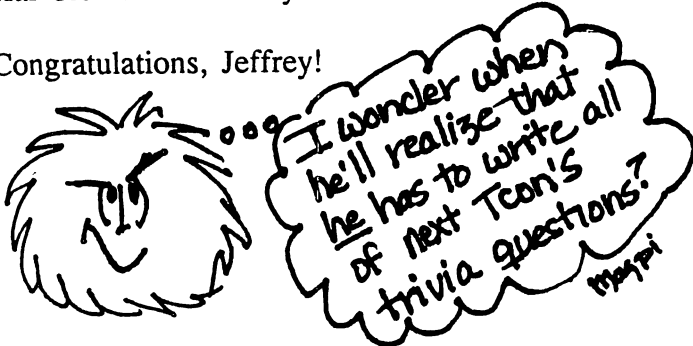
1st Place Adult Entry:
Patti Adams and Myra Hunter
for "Launching Pad and Ship"

2nd Place Adult Entry:
Dina Pearlman
for "Ship"

Trivia Contest Winner

The competition was fierce, but the invisible mantle of trivia knowledge was passed from Hal Clement to Jeffrey Kasten.

Congratulations, Jeffrey!



Tcon XIV Guests' Feedback

Both Toastmaster, Mike Resnick and Filk Guest, Joe Haldeman had things to say about Tropicon XIV in their respective categories within the Science Fiction RoundTable 1 of GENIE. They have both kindly given permission for their remarks to be reprinted here. The "[...]" indicates deleted text not concerning Tropicon.

.....Mike Resnick.....

Category 43, Topic 9
Message 716 Mon Jan 15, 1996
M.RESNICK [Mike] at 01:39 EST

[...]

Just got back from Tropicon, where I had a wonderful time as Toastmaster, and finally met one of my literary heroes -- Daniel Keyes, author of "Flowers for Algernon". It was his first con in something like 35 years.

Category 43, Topic 9
Message 719 Mon Jan 15, 1996
M.RESNICK [Mike] at 11:13 EST

[...] Daniel Keyes was absolutely not what I had expected. I don't know why, but in my mind I'd built him into a tragic figure who had written this masterpiece, didn't know how to repeat it, and had become a bitter recluse. Shows how wrong one can be. He's a friendly, humorous, dapper little man who left

Ohio a few years ago -- as I am trying to do -- loves his home in Boca Raton, plays 18 holes of golf a day, revels in his retirement, has a new non-fiction book coming out, and thinks of the trip from Boca to Ft. Lauderdale as a very long drive. Anyway, we hit it off, and spend an enjoyable weekend visiting and swapping stories of Midwestern winters.

.....Joe Haldeman.....

Category 35, Topic 37
Message 652 Sat Jan 13, 1996
JOE.HALDEMAN [Joe] at 11:25 EST

[...]

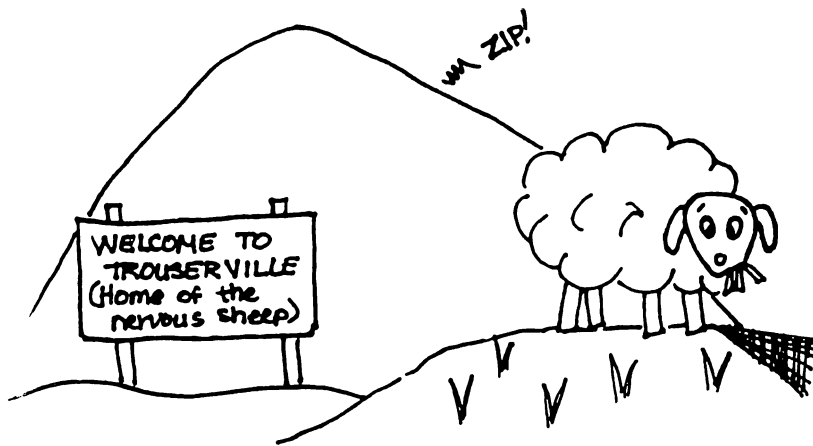
Tropicon has paid off already: I met Daniel Keyes last night, a charming guy. He hasn't been to a science fiction con since he won a Hugo for "Flowers For Algernon." I think that was when I was in junior high.

The movie Charly made him a fortune, and in a way he's still living off it. It's in its third incarnation as a stage play in Japan. His latest book is doing well there, too -- first printing, a million copies. Sigh.

He credits Philip Klass (William Tenn) with the success of "Flowers." Along with other good advice and encouragement, he told Daniel not to follow H.L. Gold's orders and provide a happy ending, to publish "Flowers" in Galaxy. He left it unchanged and Fred Pohl bought it for F&SF. (I wondered whether this was an accurate memory. I didn't recall Fred having edited there.)

Phil Klass is a fine writer, but he's undeniably had more of an impact as a teacher. Not only has he helped sf writers from Keyes to Kress, but he absolutely horsewhipped David Morrell over rewriting his MFA thesis, the novel First Blood. Without Phil we wouldn't have Sylvester Stallone grunting around as Rambo. I guess he has a lot to answer for....

Had a fun dinner with James Hogan. Q: Why do Scotsmen wear kilts? A: Sheep can hear a zipper from a quarter mile away. And other such elevated discourse.



"Meanwhile, somewhere outside Scotland..." *msi*

I gave a filk concert at ten, which was well attended, and the audience laughed at the right places. I've never played such a bad room in terms of acoustics, though. No microphones; I had to shout for the second row to hear. (Keyes said he was really moved by my semi-sarcastic "An Informal History of Science Fiction" -- you have to be about fifty to remember all the names of the editors slandered in the song.)

I didn't know the con had a charity auction until I read the program book. Normally I bring a couple of books to sign for that sort of thing. For this one I had an interesting substitute, though. I was annoyed with the cheap fountain pen I'd used that morning, which leaked, and so wrote out a certificate saying I'd used the pen to write pp. 669-675 of FOREVER PEACE on 12 Jan 96, and gave it to them to auction. The pen is probably worth twelve bucks (a Parker calligraphic cheapo). Interesting to see how much it draws. So to speak.

I have discovered a new food. Last night I only finished half my Greek salad, and so had the waitress box it up for me, since this suite has a refrigerator. But I'd turned it all the way up, and this morning the salad was frozen. But I was starving, so I took a bite of it anyhow.

It was pretty good. Sort of like ice cream for

people who don't like sweets. I ate the whole thing. Crunchy lettuce, the new sensation.

Joe

Category 35, Topic 37

Message 663 Sun Jan 14, 1996

JOE.HALDEMAN [Joe] at 08:37 EST

[....] We're having dinner with him and Randi, as in The Amazing Randi. Jim knew he lived in the area and wrote, setting up a date, and was kind enough to ask Gay and me to come along.

Pat, those weren't acoustics at the Worldcon. When you can't even hear yourself talking, you're beyond acoustics. (For those who weren't there, the Glasgow Worldcon had an area for some of the fifteen tracks of programming that was essentially a huge indoor stadium with fifty "rooms" divided by hanging sheets. I think of canvas. All you could hear was a dull roar.)

This has been a fun con but I have to get away. Staying up till one or two singing and drinking. Then I get up in the morning and I'm too listless to do anything but download GEnie. Sooner or later I have to write something. Sooner!

Joe

Category 35, Topic 37

Message 678 Mon Jan 15, 1996

JOE.HALDEMAN [Joe] at 06:43 EST

[....]

The Amazing Randi is well-yclept. Dinner with him was one of the neatest evenings of my life. He's an affable, charming man who seems to know everything that you know, and then some, but doesn't make a big deal about it. He's a natural story-teller and has thousands of jokes and anecdotes.

And then he bends a spoon like Uri Geller. Then he makes it break, and disappear, and reappear unbroken. You know it's all sleight of hand, but

no matter how closely you watch, you can't see a sign of it. He works coin and card things into the conversation, and it's purely amazing -- but his point is there's nothing to it; he's been doing it for forty years, so of course he's flawless. It's vital to his argument, to his world view, that people understand that no matter how smart they are, and no matter how observant and prepared, they can still be fooled by somebody who is slick enough. And he is slick as the proverbial.

He's both humane and permanently angry. Indignant at the power ignorance and foolery have over the world. Don't get him started on lawyers! He got a \$quarter-million McArthur grant, and every penny of it went to legal fees for cynical nuisance suits filed by Uri Geller.

He had me write my signature and then immediately forged it so well I couldn't tell which was which -- and then showed us how anyone can do it. Gay did a perfect job, first try.

He knows a lot about astronomy, and we're fellow Questar owners. He had all sorts of lore about the Questar, having interviewed the engineer who founded the company, and also the fanatic corporate family that kept its standards impossibly high.

It was a wonderful evening, at the restaurant and then back at our hotel room. (His parting words were "Just imagine ... what if there were no hypothetical situations?") I'll be forever in James Hogan's debt for having set it up.

[...]

Joe

LETTERS OF COMMENT

<These two were both actually e-mail correspondences, yet are equally valid locs.>

Date: Fri, 1 Dec 95 13:33 GMT
From: C.R. Harris
<charrisma@cix.compulink.co.uk>

Joe: I just got the SFS Shuttle and thought it easily the best issue I've seen yet. Edie's piece

was fascinating, ---i wonder if she ever finished that green knit-knackery she was working on in Glasgow? I wish I'd known you were here for a holiday as well as an Intersection visit, --- we have better castles (and the same single malts), in the Midlands and we would have loved to have seen you.

And, at Dunluce, did you see the Viking longship that somebody had carved into the stonework overlooking the small bay below?

Chuck.

Date: 01/31/96 08:58:00
From: Mark Olson

Folks -

Thanks for the card -- it was greatly appreciated! I'm still hobbling around, but I should be walking (though still in a cast) at Boskone.

Other than that, we had a great time at Tropicon and plan to be back whenever it's in January.

-- mlo

SFSFS LIBRARY BOOK REVIEWS

The following are two reviews of books available through the SFSFS Lending Library. Everyone who reads a book from the SFSFS Lending Library is encouraged to write a short review, so that other members will know what is available and possibly decide to read the book.

Witchblood
by Will Shetterly

This is the highly confusing tale of a highly confused character named Rifkin. The novel begins at the end of Rifkin's life, while he is writing his autobiography at the request of his daughter. From there, it quickly evolves into an interwoven tale told by the main character about three different points of in his life. The first is the aforementioned old Rifkin. The second strand mentioned involves a Rifkin in the prime of his life and the people he encounters at Castle Gromenidiel. The third involves Rifkin during his developing

adolescence/teenage years as he trains for the priesthood of a Warrior Saint.

At the end, just when you think you have it all figured out, just one more complication gets tossed in to make you wonder what the author was thinking when he wrote the novel. The most amusing thing about the novel is watching the author show you how witty he can be, through the many conversations he allows the main character to have with himself. It was a diverting read, but nothing I would rush to find.

Night-Blood

by Robert Bloch

This novel begins with a woman who goes to visit her husband in a private sanatorium (insert "insane asylum" here), only to find that the entire staff have been brutally murdered. The story goes on to reveal the lives of the escapees and how they meet their ends at the hands of the madman who masterminded their escape.

I don't usually pick up horror novels, but I found the back cover intriguing. The story plodded a bit, when there was no murdering going on, but it was interesting enough to hold my attention until the very end.

WHILE IN NEW JERSEY...

If you happen to be in New Jersey anytime in the near future, be sure to stop by **The Picture Frame Place - Book Trader**. It is co-owned and co-operated by Nancy Ewart, sister of SFSFS member, Bob Ewart. The address is: **The Picture Frame Place - Book Trader; 1789 Hooper Ave.; Silverton, NJ 08753; 908-255-4960.**

MISKATONIC UNIVERSITY REVIEW

by Peter Rawlik

This time I want to talk about something I never thought I would want to talk about. I want to talk about the haunted house subgenre, a subject of which I am not particularly fond. Yet, it is a subgenre I now am beginning to understand and relate to.

I should explain.

A long time ago, in my youth, my "impressionable youth", I read Lovecraft's essay on supernatural horror in literature and found myself agreeing with the expressed opinion that the whole haunted house motif had been overdone. It was an opinion I held onto for ten years. It took three masterwork anthologies to even begin to make me reconsider.

David Hartwell's *The Dark Descent* and Kathryn Cramer's *The Architecture of Fear* and its companion, *Walls of Fear*, talk in detail about the significance of architecture and architectural metaphor in horror fiction. In fact, Cramer's short essay "Houses of the Mind" could be considered the definitive concise work on the subject. Despite these eye opening anthologies, I still have no love for the haunted house.

Then I bought one.

I love this house.

Despite the fact that it's haunted -- or perhaps because of it.

When you buy a house, particularly an old house, there are things no one tells you. This is particularly true of houses that have character. What no one tells you is that these houses not only have character; they have personalities. They breathe and speak in the secret poetry of unexplained sounds and things that go bump in the night. True houses are not simply habitations. They transcend the classification of setting and become characters. Houses are alive.

If you doubt me, I can offer you little defense to my belief. All I will do is invite you to spend a night in the oldest house you can find. Turn off the video unit and the radio and the lights. Close your eyes. Listen. What you hear is the house speaking to you, breathing, moving vast, unfathomable, architectural organs. Breathe in deeply and you can smell the timbers and the paint and the accumulated remnants of unknown occupants. If you dare, touch the walls and floors, the layered materials absorb each event, they change, they respond to events that affect them. The entire house responds to presence.

There is no doubt in my mind that such responses remain in memory, entrenching themselves in the framework and foundation. Expressing themselves in the cracks and joints of the walls and floors. In a way, houses are taught, perhaps trained by their occupants. And if not, then they should be.

It is from such concepts that the malevolent house story is spawned. How many of us have looked up at the aging, neglected house on the hill and seen the imagined face of its degenerate occupants looking back?

So now I understand. Worming my way through the crawlspace, I understand Poe's claustrophobia. Hacking through the overgrown vines I feel Wyndham's triffids grasping my arms. Exploring through the left behind flotsam I comprehend Stephen King's prevailing fear of antiques. Dealing with the hinted but ever elusive vermin that must dwell within the walls conjures images of Lovecraft's "Rats in the Wall" and Disch's "The Roaches".

I understand "house" stories now. I understand that these are not malevolent forces hiding in architecture but rather the sum of the event history of a house, expressing itself through its character, caricature, and architecture.

TROPICON XV UPDATE

[taken with permission from George Peterson's e-mail message dated 96/03/11]

TOASTMASTER: PETER DAVID

Popular author of *Q-Squared*, *Imzadi*, assorted t.v. episodes, and many comics, has kindly consented to be Toastmaster at Tropicon XV (some people will do anything for a trip to Florida <g>).

SFSFS LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

At the July 22, 1995 meeting we took an very informal survey to get a list of some of favorite authors and books. The people at the meeting that day were asked to give us a brief paragraph about their favorite book, or a list of their five favorite authors and books. Most of the 16 people who

responded made lists of books and authors.

In all, there were 109 authors, books, trilogies or short stories listed. After compiling the lists, 64 different authors had been recommended, with 81 different titles by those authors listed. Forty-nine of the authors were mentioned by only one member while another 12 were listed by two members. Among the most often authors mentioned were Isaac Azimov (by 3 people), Ursula LeGuin (by 4 people) and Robert Heinlein (by 6 people). Both *Stranger in a Strange Land* and *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress* were each listed by 3 different people.

I have collected together many of the recommended books as well as other books by the listed authors and will be bringing them to the next few SFSFS meetings. Please stop by and borrow a few and maybe find some new favorite books.

--Cindy Warmuth, SFSFS Librarian

EDITORIAL QUICKIE

I meant to get this issue out on time. Truly, I did. But I delayed on some things and took other things for granted and I have been left with little bits of scrambled egg on my face. But, c'est la vie.

Wait, let me paint a picture for you. Take one twentysomething woman and give her the following: a five hour commute (yes, that's 2.5 hours each way every day) by train; a newly acquired old house still in the midst of being unpacked; an extended visit by the in-laws-to-be in the aforementioned unpacked house; a mate-for-life she's still trying to cohabitate with; a sister she's trying to remember how to cohabitate with; a job involving interaction with persons old enough to be responsible and young enough not to know the meaning of the word; and the word "marriage" looming over her head. I realize that I'm whining and I apologize. Others are living more challenging lives than my own, I know. But you are currently a semi-captive audience, so I feel compelled to share my day-to-day struggles with you. Besides, I have no clean jokes that I can type with a clear conscience.

In any event, I hope you enjoy this issue. Next month the editing of the *Shuttle* will be in more dependable hands. By the next time my turn comes around, I should have my act together...I hope. Take care!

THESE ARE A FEW OF OUR FAVORITE THINGS
A Listing of Favorite Authors and Books of SFSFS Members:
< compiled by Cindy Warmuth, SFSFS Librarian >

AUTHOR

Anthony, Piers *
Asimov, Issac *

Auel, Jean
 Bester, Alfred *
 Bova, Ben *
 Bradley, Marion Zimmer *
 Brin, David *
 Bujold, Lois McMaster
 Burroughs, W. J.
 Campbell, J.
 Campbell, Ramsey *

Card, Orson Scott *
 Cherryh, C. J. *

Clarke, Arthur C. *
 Dunsany, Alfred "Lord"
 Eddings, David *
 Ellison, Harlan *

Feist, Raymond
 Goldstein, Lisa *
 Green, J.*

Grimwood
 Halpern, Mark
 Hearn
 Heinlein, Robert E. *

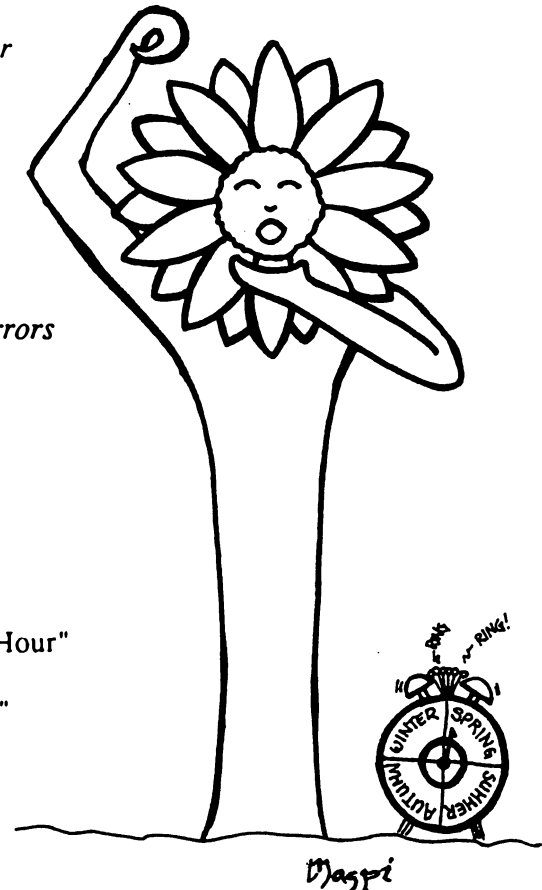
Herbert, Frank *
 Hogan, James P.
 Howard, Robert E.
 James
 Keyes, Daniel
 King, Stephen
 Kurtz, Kathrine *

TITLE

Dragon on a Pedestal
I, Asimov
The Bicentennial Man
The Gods Themselves
Clan of the Cave Bear
The Demolished Man
Mars
*Sword & Sorceress**
The Postman
Mirror Dance
Naked Lunch
Who Goes There
Alone Among the Horrors
Dark Companions
Ender's Game
Downbelow Station
Pride of Chanur
*Childhood's End**
A Dreamer's Tales

"Eidolodians"
 "Paladin of the Lost Hour"
 "Grail"
 "I Have No Mouth..."
Fairie Tale
Red Magician
Conscience
Interplanetary

Winter's Tale
 Complete Works
*Citizen of the Galaxy**
*The Moon Is a Harsh Mistress**
*Glory Road**
*Stranger in a Strange Land**
*Starship Troopers**
*Dune**
Code of the Lifemakers
Hour of the Dragon
Ghost Stories of an Antiquary
Flowers for Algernon
Salem's Lot
Round Trip Space Ship



Kuttner	<i>Fury</i>
	<i>Call Me Conrad</i>
	<i>Replay</i>
Lackey, Mercedes *	<i>Last Herald Mage</i>
	<i>Sacred Ground</i>
LeGuin, Ursula *	<i>Lathe of Heaven</i>
	<i>The Left Hand of Darkness</i>
	<i>The Dispossessed</i>
	<i>Chronicles of Narnia Series</i>
Lewis, C. S.	<i>Voyage to Arturus</i>
Linsey	<i>The Dunwich Horror</i>
Lovecraft, H. P.	<i>Dragons of Pern</i>
McCaffrey, Anne	<i>Riddle of Stars</i>
McKillip, Patricia *	<i>Deerskin</i>
McKinley, Robin	
Morris	
Norton, Andre *	<i>Witchworld Series</i>
Poe, Edgar Allan	
Powers, Tim	<i>Stress of Her Regard</i>
Rice, Anne	
Russell*	<i>Dear Devil</i>
	<i>Then Were None</i>
	<i>Wasp</i>
Salmonson	<i>Amazons</i>
	<i>Amazons II</i>
Schwartz, Susan	<i>Arabesques</i>
	<i>Arabesques II</i>
	<i>Disturbances in the Field</i>
Shelley, Mary	<i>Frankenstein</i>
Simak, Clifford *	<i>Time is the Simplest Thing*</i>
Simmons, Dan	<i>Hyperion Cantos</i>
Slobokin	
Smith, E. E. *	<i>Skylark Series</i>
	<i>The Lensman Series*</i>
Stephenson, Neal	<i>Snow Crash</i>
Stoker, Bram	<i>Dracula</i>
Swanwick, Michael *	<i>Vacuum Flowers*</i>
Tarr, Judith *	<i>Pillar of Fire</i>
Tolkien, J. R. *	<i>Lord of the Rings</i>
Vinge, Verner	<i>Fire Upon the Deep</i>
Vonnegut, Kurt	<i>Slaughterhouse 5</i>
Wells, H. G.	<i>War of the Worlds</i>
Willis, Connie	<i>Firewatch</i>
Zelazny, Roger *	<i>Last Defender of Camelot*</i>
Star Trek	
Dr. Who	

An asterisk " *" after an author's name means we have books by that author in the library, if there is one after a title, we have that book.

South Florida Science Fiction Society Membership Application

Send this completed application form, along with your check for Membership dues to:
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Make check payable to SFSFS.

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Apr. - June	\$12	\$9	\$1
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Oct. - Dec.	\$21 *	\$15 *	\$1 *

* Any person joining the society during the last quarter of the membership year (Oct. - Dec.) shall be required to pay the prorated dues and also to pay in advance the full dues for the next calendar year.

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Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

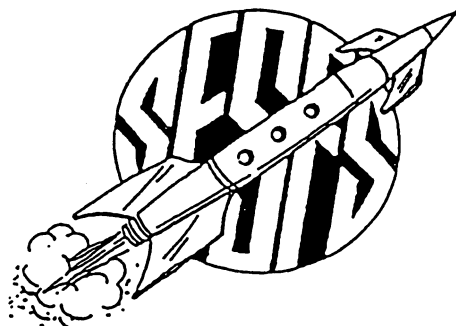
Phone (home): _____ (work - optional) _____

Birthdate: ____/____/____ (year - optional) E-mail address: _____

Interests: _____

Is it okay if we print your address in the *SFSFS SHUTTLE*: ____ YES

____ NO



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Somewhere in Sunny South Florida

November 8 - 10, 1996

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Toastmaster:
Peter David

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but we sure hope they say yes!).

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