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We need help with our new clubhouse! (A lot of help!) So volunteer!

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 editors are Joe Siclari/Edie Stern. Contact them at (561) 392-6462 or e-mail them at jsiclari@icanect.net.

Next shuttle editors:
Joe Siclari/Edie Stern, email
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MEETING SPACE

JUNE & JULY SFSFS MEETINGS

Date/Time: 6/21/97 2:00 PM

Location: The Imperial Point Library, 5985 N. Federal Highway, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Phone Number: (954) 492-1800

Program: Folklore & Facts of Florida. Conducted by Peter Rawlik.

Directions: I-95 to Cypress Creek Rd. Turn south on Rt. 1, and go two blocks. Library is on your right as well as Kinko's. If you take Commercial Blvd, head north and the library will be on your left. If you're closer to Route 1, take that. If you take the Turnpike, get off on Commercial Blvd.

Contact: Shirlene Ananayo-Rawlik (561) 844-6336.

Date/Time: 7/19/97 2:00 PM

Location: Hallandale Branch Library, 300 S. Federal Highway, Hallandale, FL. Phone Number: (954) 457-1570.

Program: Hugo nominees. With our very own George Peterson, Joe Siclari, Edie Stern and everyone else! *(If your name isn't here, just talk twice as much. We'll know for next time.)*

Directions: I-95 to Hallandale Beach Blvd. Head east to Route 1 and turn south or right. The library is on the right hand side of the road near the post office as well as across the street from Gulfstream Race Track.

Contact: Shirlene Ananayo-Rawlik (561) 844-6336.

A SFSFS Board Meeting and a Tropioon 16 meeting will be held at the same location on both dates. We need lots and lots of help with our yearly con!

OTHER MEETINGS OF NOTE

BOOK DISCUSSION:

Date/Time: 6/21/97 8:00 P.M.

Location: Siclari/ Stern estate *(or maybe if we're lucky the Clubhouse!)*

Program: The Hugos!! *(Part I)* *Holy Fire* by Bruce Sterling, *Memory* by Lois Bujold, and other short fiction. *(Boy, have I got a lot of reading to do...)* Contact: Joe Siclari (561) 392-6462.

Date/Time: 7/19/97 8:00 P.M.

Location: Siclari/ Stern estate *(or maybe if we're lucky the Clubhouse!)*

Program: The Hugos!! *(Part II)* *Blue Mars* by Kim Stanley Robinson, *Remnant Population* by Elizabeth Moon and *Starplex* by Robert J. Sawyer *(More reading to do...I'm starting to feel like I'm still in school....)* Contact: Joe Siclari (561) 392-6462.

Let us know who your favorite ... and least-liked authors are. Also, let us know if you think the nominations are deserved. Remember, be vocal! (With this group, that won't be too hard....) For a more extensive listing of authors, please see elsewhere in this newsletter. Feel free to read more if you wish. The discussion will be more lively...Or is that possible?)

MEDIA EVENT:

Date/Time: June outing TBA (Probably *Men in Black* starring Tommy Lee Jones and Will Smith and/or *Contact*... starring Jodie Foster. There have been suggestions to do both!)
Outings to *Starship Troopers* and *Alien Resurrection*, *Alien 4* are being considered. (*I wonder what Sigourney looks like after ...?*)

Location: Oakwood 18 **Directions:** I-95 to Sheridan or Sterling exit. Theater can be seen from I-95 on East side between these exits. **Contact:** Dan Siclari (561) 392-6462.

WRITER'S WORKSHOP:

Date/Time: 6/28/97 2:00 PM

Location: Adam-Troy Castro's Apartment. **Contact:** Adam-Troy Castro (954) 418-0832. (*Let's get those word processors cranking! Or typewriters....???*)

FILK MEETING:

Date/Time: 6/28/97 8:00 PM (Thereabouts)

Location: Dina's new pad in Cooper City.

Directions: I-95 to Griffin Rd. Head west to Palm Ave (or 100 Ave.) Head south and take your first possible left turn on 49th St. Then take your 2nd right onto 94 Ave. Filk contact: Edie Stern (561) 392-6462. Dina's new phone number is (954) 252-0669.

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Please NOTE: SFSFS now has a clubhouse on Oakland Park Blvd. in Ft. Lauderdale. Lots of volunteers are needed for renovations and moving. Contact Cindy Warmuth (954) 983-0749 or Joe Siclari at (561) 392-6462. Donations to the clubhouse are welcome, too, but most importantly and immediately needed are warm, breathing bodies. (Unless you know a few aliens with low body temperatures. Then bring them as well.)



SAFE AT HOME

Editor's page

Yes, it's me again, finally. With all the delays, you probably thought something had happened to the *Shuttle*. However, I am here to inform you the club newsletter is alive and well ... and a little late. Between signing the lease for a new clubhouse and moving into it and tons of other things, it's no wonder.... I know, excuses, excuses.... but here we are!

Our correspondence file is multiplying by leaps and bounds—seems that everyone has something to say and wants to say it about SFSFS. Always nice to hear from you folks. Keep those letters coming in!

Both Gerry Adair and Fiona Kelleghan presented papers at the recent Conference on the Fantastic. I was able to hear Gerry's paper, but unfortunately didn't hear Fiona's. I hope she will give one next year, so I may have a second chance. And that goes for Gerry as well. Gerry is an exceedingly well-read fellow (I hope his ears aren't turning red ... or his nose), and some of the references he mentioned I had not discovered. In this issue, you will be able to find another installment of his articles about H.P. Lovecraft in Florida. Highly entertaining reading!

George Peterson has double contributions—his *Babylon V* article and one about Tropiccon. Tropiccon, in case you don't know (and how wouldn't you) is our yearly convention. This year's Guest of Honor is Esther Friesner and the Toastmaster is Josepha Sherman as well as our plethora of returning guests. (Well, I didn't need to use the word.... I just wanted to see how it looked on the page.)

Joe Siclari, one of our BNF in residence, has written about fanzines. (That wasn't much of a surprise!) If you have some old SF fanzines cluttering up your house and want to get rid of them, don't throw them away. Or if you want to start one. Give Joe a call instead. Or email him. He's also the next editor of our newsletter, so you could have two reasons to call him ... or maybe more than that.

Nick Simicich, our computer whiz, has written two articles this issue—one about a comet sighting and the other about the movie, *The Lost World*. I hadn't seen the movie, but I read the book. It follows the plot of the first movie with different characters. And the dinos have a banquet!

I recently had the pleasure of finishing *Contact*, and was thoroughly delighted with the book. Thank you, George Peterson, for recommending it. Now I can't wait for the movie to come out. Unfortunately, now I know how the movie will end, but I won't tell anyone when we go see it. Nobody likes a

spoiler! However, without giving too much away, Sagan must not have liked government bureaucrats or religious fanatics all that much. (Who does??)

And since, Esther Friesner is going to be our guest in a few months, I have taken the liberty to bone up on some of her books, most of which were recommended by Judi and Shirlene at our last meeting. I read the anthology, *Chicks in Chainmail*, and found it fun—a romp. I especially liked the short story about Hillary Rodham Clinton and her encounters with the Norsemen. I read *Wishing Season*, but found it to be awfully light—it was a little too cute. However, *Psalm of Herod* just blew me away. Like Judi and Shirlene said, this book is very dark fantasy. Its main character, a woman, has to go through quite a lot, but I don't want to give too much away. Just read it.

I managed to get around to reading Octavia Butler's *Xenogenesis Series*, which was arresting and thought-provoking. Following recommendations by Peter and Shirlene, I read the vampire anthology, *Love in Vein II*, edited by Poppy Z. Brite. Her *Drawing Blood* is a masterpiece.

I have not neglected "mainstream" fiction, too, by reading Toni Morrison and Barbara Kingslover. Toni was recommended by someone in our club. Interesting that a lot of my recent reading has been written by women.

To add more to your reading, we have attached a list of the nominations for the Hugos, Campbells and Nebulas. I'm sure I've forgotten to list something so remind us in the next issue. Then again, you can write in and review your favorite book or books.

On a sad note, SF fandom has lost Sam Moskowitz and Terry Nation. I don't feel competent enough to write about Sam, but there probably are a lot of people in our club who will. As for Terry, his diabolical Daleks always delighted me and *Blake's 7* was quite amusing.

For any further comments on upcoming, ongoing or already past activities, please review our Chairman's letter from our indefatigable Shirlene Ananayo-Rawlik, who had the pleasure of getting married not that long ago. Many congrats! One of our younger members, Hilary Pearlman, had her bat-mitzvah, too. I'm very sure her mom and grandma are proud of her as well as everyone else.

Well that's about it for now. Be sure to send your contributions to the next *Shuttle* editors, Joe Siclari and Edie Stern.

Take care,

Carol

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

June 1997

Dear Fellow SFSFSians,

Greetings to all!

Between the excitement of looking into and finding a location to call the "SFSFS Clubhouse" and the monthly events that we have had, it has been a terrific six months for the South Florida Science Fiction Society! I thought I'd take this opportunity to re-cap SFSFS highlights.

January was the month of new beginnings. Our general meeting, which was meant to be a review on the varied works of 1996, quickly mutated into "I read this and what did you think about it" discussion on anything and everything that either came out in 1996 or was "discovered" by a fellow SFSFSian who read or saw a sf/f/h work in 1996.

In February, SFSFS descended upon the South Florida Renaissance Festival and had a really quick general meeting outside the main gate before diving into the fun inside! I am sure that everyone who attended the Ren Fest on that day—or sometime during the month of February—will agree that it was a terrific event. I personally enjoyed watching my younger siblings (who had never attended a Ren Fest before) oohing and aahing and laughing and munching on turkey legs and basically having a great time.

February also marked the beginning of the "Star Wars" trilogy re-releases. Quite a few of us followed the Media Research into the theatre to watch "Star Wars" and "The Empire Strikes Back" on the big screen.

In March, I personally went through the month of chaos. I married my best friend in a simple ceremony on the Ides of March. A week later, we had an awesome general meeting at the International Conference for the Fantastic in the Arts. Tananarive Due, a local author and journalist, graciously agreed to interview Dan Simmons for us. Their talk was both thought-provoking and awe-inspiring and I'm thankful for her participation. Media Research devotees made it to the theatre for the third installment, "Return of the Jedi".

In April, a possible location for the SFSFS clubhouse was found. Available board members went to scope it out and agreed that it was rather promising. Both Joe and I got to pitch the idea to the membership at the general meeting held at the Palm Beach Book Fest. Thanks to the efforts of Cindy Warmuth, Peter Barker, Pete Rawlik, Joe Siclari, Edie Stern,

and yours truly, SFSFS was able to raise more than 300 dollars towards the SFSFS Warehouse Relocation Fund!

Cindy, Peter, Pete, and I got to go through the SFSFS library and ferret out all the duplicates and non sf/f/h books that the library had accumulated through the years. Pete, Joe, and I got to set up and tear down the SFSFS booth at the PBBF. We hope to repeat this at the Miami Book Fair in November and again next year at the PBBF. A second walkthrough of the clubhouse space was held for any interested voting members. A vote was held that same day and it was decided that SFSFS would pursue a lease to obtain the space.

In May, Judi Goodman, Tropicon XVI chair, gave us an overview of the variety of works by Tropicon XVI's guest of honor, Esther Friesner, and toastmaster, Josepha Sherman. I'm sure that many members came away knowing more than before about each author.

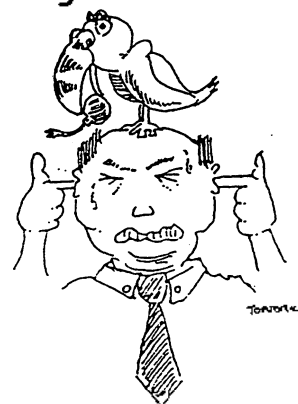
Before I forget, a belated congratulations is extended to Hillary Pearlman on her bat mitzvah (that was either in early May or late April and I forgot and I apologize)!

That brings us to June. The great news is that I just signed the lease, binding SFSFS to some 550 plus square feet of space (not including the platform yet to be built or the "attic space" above the other room) for two years. The good news is that we now have until the end of the month to move the contents of the SFSFS warehouse to the new space! It's going to be an exciting, muscle-stretching month as we haul books and other odds and ends a mere 5 miles or so down the road.

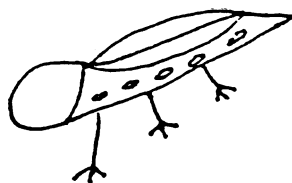
Well, that's about it. We've got a clubhouse now. I am asking for donations of chairs and other pieces of furniture suitable for sitting on. If you have such an item or items you would like to donate, please contact Joe Siclari or yours truly. Our numbers should be on the page 2 of this Shuttle.

Thanks much for the eyetracks!

Shirlene Ananayo-Rawlik
SFSFS Chair



AND NOW A WORD FROM GERRY....



• It Came from Florida •

The Lovecraft-Florida Connection Part Two

Writing from the "Deserted mosque of Yoth-Kedar in the tropic Jungle of Zuhn," Abdul Alhazred penned the following description...

"The black, silent glassy river with it's cryptic bends—the monstrosly tall cypresses with their festoons of moss—The twisted roots clawing at the water—the ghastly leaning palms—the riot of underbrush, vines, and creepers—the black dank earth—the grotesque sunken logs—the muted, sinister, scarcely identifiable sounds of forest and water—the evilly beckoning vistas and funereal arcades among the towering trees of the wood—the fungous, leprous flowers that have never felt full sunlight... everything to suggest some exotic world of fantasy in which one would not be surprised to see the crumbling aeon—decayed, mossgrown masonry of one of Two-Gun Bob's forgotten jungle ruins."

You won't find this description in any of HPL's fiction but in a letter to a fellow *Weird Tales* contributor E. Hoffman Price. Dated June 19, 1935 (during the second of two Florida trips taken between 1934-35), it is Lovecraft's description of Black Water Creek, a stream found near DeLand.

The "Two-Gun Bob" referred to is none other than *Conan* author Robert E. Howard.

As in 1931, Lovecraft returned to Florida at the invitation of one of his many correspondents. His host was Robert H. Barlow, a fledgling aficionado of the weird literature of Lovecraft, Clark Ashton Smith, and others. In mid-March of 1934, he invited Grandpa Theobald for an extended stay at his home just off what is now S.R. 44 near DeLand. Although at first bemoaning his strained finances, the frugal Lovecraft drew upon his experience of traveling on a threadbare, shoestring budget, gathered a meager \$70.00 and began his journey on April 17th.

After a short stay in New York and Charleston, Lovecraft arrived in DeLand just after noon on May 2nd. Although aware that Barlow was young, HPL wasn't quite prepared to discover that Barlow had just celebrated his 16th birthday a week before and was a mere 13 years old when their correspondence began. In a letter to Helen V. Sully, Lovecraft described how his admiration for Barlow's accomplishments eventually overcame this initial shock.

"Never before in the course of a long lifetime have I seen such a versatile child. He is a writer; painter; sculptor; printer; pianist; marionette designer, maker & exhibitor; landscape gardener; tennis champion; chess expert; bookbinder; crack rifleshooter; bibliophile; manuscript collector & heaven knows what else."

Lovecraft was particularly taken with a bas-relief sculpture of Cthulhu which Barlow constructed out of "common Florida clay."

This respect for Barlow's abilities would eventually result in Lovecraft's choice of the young man to serve as executor of his will. But that convoluted tale of loyalty, treachery and deceit will require a chapter all its own. (Watch for it in a future *Shuttle*).

As before, HPL acclimated quickly to Florida, walking about in his shirt-sleeves, acquiring a tan, and escaping all the physical ailments that plagued him in New England. He spent an enjoyable six weeks with the Barlow family noting a visit to the remains of an 18th century sugar-mill at DeLeon Springs, walking through the remains of Dr. Andrew Turnbull's plantation in New Smyrna and finally riding the glass-bottom boat at Silver Springs. Now envisioning Lovecraft at Key West in the last installment may have been difficult for some but the thought of the creator of that "Innsmouth look" watching the mermaid show through a glass-bottom boat strikes me as hysterically funny. Go figure...

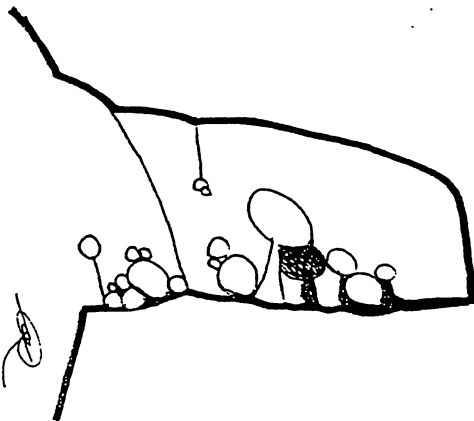
He left the Barlow estate on June 21, returning to his beloved St. Augustine for a week. He then moved on to day-long stays at Charleston, Richmond, Fredricksburg, Washington and Philadelphia before returning to providence on July 10th.

In 1935, Barlow repeated his offer for an indefinite stay and Lovecraft leapt at the opportunity. Traveling as always by bus, he left New York on June 6th and arrived in DeLand on June 9th. He remained in Central Florida from June 9th through August 18th.

Other than his description of Black Creek, precious little is known of how he spent his time during this last trip to the Sunshine State. Apparently he was going through a "Home Improvement phase" because he proudly records his able-bodied assistance in helping Barlow construct a cabin and adjoining roadway. So much for the image of the sickly recluse. It was here that they would work on various printing projects with Barlow intimating that the cabin was Lovecraft's for the asking if he chose to follow through with his musings about re-locating to the South.

"This edifice is ideally located in a picturesque oak-grove—not the live oak of the South, but the old fashioned traditional oak of the North & of Old England. On this account I am tentatively calling the place Druid Grove..."⁴

In a memoir of his time with HPL, Barlow recounts an adventure that I'm sure held the same prominent status in Lovecraft's memory as Teenage Caveman holds for Robert Vaughn. Aware that "HPL was no woodsman... and it was always perilous to trust his poor sight and lack of horse-sense," Barlow always endeavored to keep HPL nearby during any trips into the nearby swamps. Dressed in the cast-off apparel of a local cracker, HPL became separated from his host during a blueberry picking expedition and did not arrive back at the Barlow house until long after other participants in the gathering did. He finally arrived, soaking wet and apologizing for losing the berries he picked. He explained that he lost his footing on a make-shift board bridge and... was abruptly pitched up to his neck in cold water; the berries were flung up and upset, most of them going on the slight current. Quite unable to swim I think he must have expected promptly to drown—this, however, did not happen and he moistly and contritely returned. For the sake of decency I should omit this, but the tragicomedy of L. in that condition is amusing beyond conception. And to think he apologised for losing the berries!⁶



The Barlows pressed HPL to remain through the Winter and to consider remaining for as long as he wished. Despite their invitation and his delight with the state of his robust health, he declined. On August 18th, with the Barlows transporting him as far as Daytona beach, he started his return trek home. On the 20th, Barlow paid him a surprise visit in St. Augustine and helped him celebrate his 45th birthday on the town. As before, Lovecraft made stops in Charleston, Richmond (where he completed his contribution to Julius Schwartz's Round-robin "Challenge From Beyond"), Washington, Philadelphia, and New York. He returned to Providence on September 14th and never returned to Florida again.

By his own admission, Lovecraft clearly desired to live in Florida but finally, in spite of its detrimental effect on his health, he chose to remain in Providence. S. T. Joshi cites HPL's need to be near his personal library as a determining factor in this decision. Libraries however, can be crated, shipped and re-located. I feel Lovecraft himself, as early as 1931, understood that he would never stay "... in the only climate in the U. S. physically suited to me. I do not however find any weirdness in the scene. Others do, but I can't. All my sense of landscape-terror centres in the remote & rocky regions of New England..."⁷

In essence, Lovecraft rejected Florida on the grounds of insufficient weirdness, feeling this would be detrimental to his writing.

Guess he felt he would have chucked it all for working on his tan and sipping Boat Drinks.

This in a state where a man once held off the police by swinging the recently decapitated head of his lover at them, a tourist was wounded in a commercial airline by handgun ground-fire before the plane landed and the Tourist Industry's inside joke was to make this year's slogan "Come back to Florida. We weren't Aiming at You!"

Never thought I'd write "Florida" and "Insufficient weirdness" in the same sentence. And so it goes!

NOTES

1. Lovecraft, H. P. *Selected Letters Volume V*. (1934-1937). Sauk City, WI: Arkham House, 1976. p 179.
2. Lovecraft, H. P. *Selected Letters Volume IV*. (1932-1934). Sauk City, WI: Arkham House, 1976. p 404.
3. Ibid.
4. *Selected Letters Volume V*. p. 182.
5. Barlow, R.H. *On Lovecraft and Life*. W. Warwick, RI: Necronomicon Press, 1992. p. 18.
6. Ibid.
7. Lovecraft, H. P. *Selected Letters Volume III* (1929-1931). Sauk City, WI: Arkham House, 1971. p. 381.

Comet Dreams: Hale-Bopping

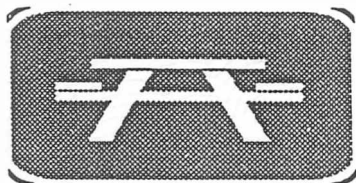
By Nick Simicich

At some point, comet fever can overtake those of us who delude themselves into believing that they are at their most rational. We've had the discussion about the suicide—and there is little to say about it. But I wanted to see the comet. I'd seen the articles, and it had become an obsession.

I've been in Boca for the past few days, and I'd been becoming increasingly anxious. Every evening, I'd go outside, and look at the horizon into a line of thunderstorms, or a complete haze. On Friday, we had planned on going to the Science Museum observatory, and observing the comet from there, but on our way up, we discovered that there was nothing to be seen in the sky but a thick, high cloud layer—we could see distant airplanes, but no stars at all.

Last night, my comet fever reached epic proportions. I started by looking outside at around noon—the sky was blue down to the horizon. A check of the University of Illinois satellite shots showed nary a cloud in the sky over South Florida. The radar super-imposition showed an equally clear sky. I was gonna see the comet.

Ferk was, well, perhaps excited was not the word—perhaps it was supportive. She agreed that it would be fun if we packed a picnic dinner and got in the car.



You see, my plan was to go west and north to what I thought of as the ideal nearby comet viewing spot. I had vaguely thought this out—the comet was visible in the northwest in the evening sky. Lake Okeechobee from the shore near the southeast corner—that would be the ideal place—no light pollution for 30 miles in that direction, and a low horizon.

Ferk went out to stock up on essentials: Deep Woods Off, Global Positioning System batteries.

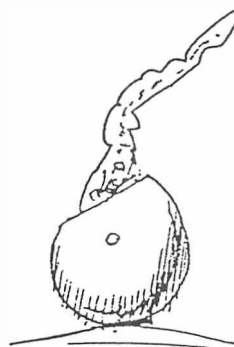


As the time approached, the atmosphere became more unstable. Clouds appeared on the horizon. The Weather Channel was called on to supplement the satellite images. A severe thunderstorm alert was declared for a couple of counties north. The Weather Channel Radar summary showed clouds coming south. So did the satellite pictures. My blue sky was vanishing.

I determined that I was going to go west—I had to take a shot. Ferk was game as well. We went west.

West from Boca is hard—you have to go a little south—to Alligator Alley, the toll extension of I-75, or north, to US 27. I also considered going even farther south—to US 41, the Tamiami Trail, the road that was measured in convict lives per mile. The clouds were approaching from the north. But Alligator Alley seemed to be the road to take, when all factors were considered.

We started west in full light. The sun was in our eyes as we got onto the Alley. Alligator Alley is a road that was designed pretty simply. The road builders got a map of Florida, and drew a line due west from a well known access road in Ft. Lauderdale, with the intention of hitting Naples, more or less. When they got through, they asked, "Is that straight enough?" and that was the way they built the road, straighter than an arrow. So we were headed west, right into the sun. It was actually good news that the Sun showed a clear disk on the horizon—it gave us hopes of good visibility, and comet dreams.



We drove west, and watched the clouds closing in near the east coast—at the Micosukee Indian Reservation, it was clear that the clouds were thickening, not thinning. At Florida Route 29, the only other exit before the West Alligator Alley toll plaza, the clouds looked like they were trying to break a little, but it still looked better to the west. So we pushed west.

And I had miscalculated. I had thought we would stop at a rest stop, maybe even at the reservation. At this point I was low on gas. I had to get gas in Naples.

We gassed up just after serious dark, and started looking for a place to stop. I was driving and Ferk was looking out the car window with her binoculars. She rolled the window down and peered a little harder into the sky. Due to construction, the traffic was hardly moving. We were still going due west, so right out the passenger window was north-west.

"I'm not sure," she said. "I thought it was an airplane, but it isn't moving. It hasn't moved for five minutes."

"What?" I asked, trying to avoid a farmer in a beat up pickup truck who was using the Boston method of intersection traffic priority.

"I think it is the comet. I can see it through the clouds. I thought it might be an airplane with-landing lights on, but it isn't moving, and it's fuzzy."

So we pulled over, and a little ways up a side street, to a place that looked likely to me. It was a half block off of the main road, looking over a fairly dark empty lot. There was lots of light pollution, but it was better than on the road. But it didn't matter.

Through the clouds, it looked like a streak in the sky. You could see the tail.

I got out my binoculars—big Nikon 7x35's so that they would fit my face.

I focused the eyepieces, and there it was. There was a hint of tail all the way across the field of view, even through the clouds, and there was clear tail 1/3rd across the field of view. I took a good long look, and then pulled out an old refracting telescope I had.

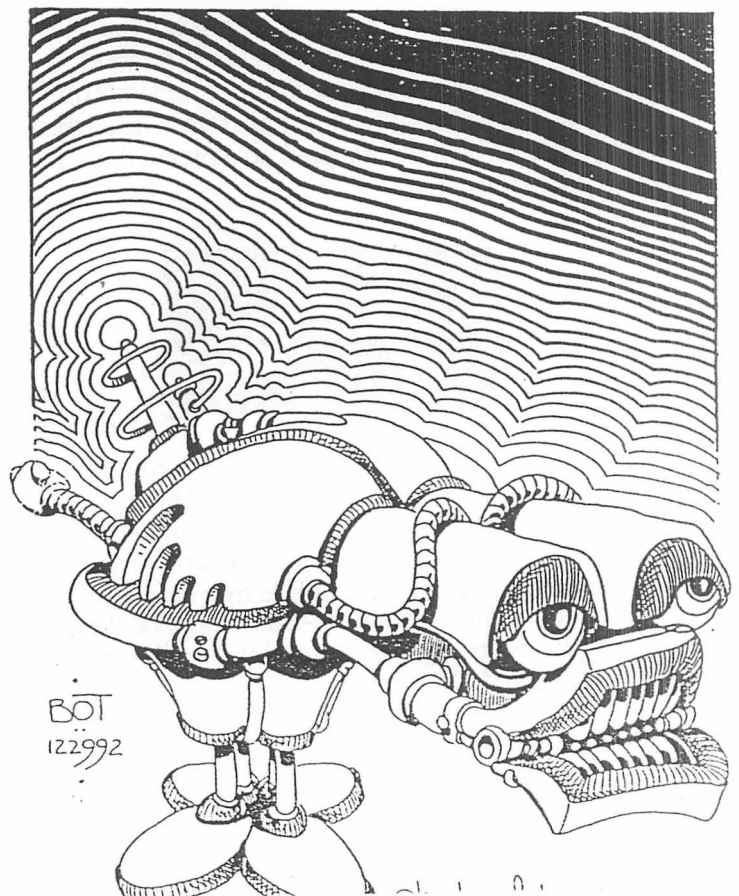
Setting up a telescope on a side street seems to attract a crowd. It was minutes later when someone stopped and asked, "What is that up in the sky? Is that the comet?" "Yes?" "Can I look?"

The crowd grew, as the people who had been cleaning up inside the vegetable stand came out to look as well. There was a lot of chatter in English and Spanish, too. We passed around the binoculars, and everyone had a look, and then they looked through the telescope. Even through the binoculars, through the clouds, through the light pollution, it was pretty spectacular. In the telescope, the tail didn't look quite as good, but you could see a disk, like a large planet.

After a few minutes, the crowd had had their fill of looking at the comet, and dispersed. One guy tried to give me a beer, and it turned out that we had stopped next to a vegetable stand and they gave us a couple of flats of flowers and a basil plant. Comet fever swept the crowd, or maybe Naples is just a real friendly place. And we discovered we had neglected to do one important thing—we had neglected to actually apply any of that Deep Woods Off. I was bitten all up while I disassembled the telescope. Ferk was ignored.

We went on to the beach, where there was a steady procession of comet pilgrims. Out over the water, there was a little less light pollution, but the clouds were a bit thicker and we were right to have stopped where we did.

We watched for a few minutes and passed around the binoculars again. Then we turned around and went east. The flowers made the car smell great all the way back.



The Babylon 5 Report

by George Peterson

Spoiler Alert!!!—Some of the information below may give away tidbits that you'd rather not know before-hand.

The Babylon 5 Report

by George Peterson

New Episode Schedule

EP#	Air Date*	Title
410	4/26/97	Racing Mars
411	5/03/97	Lines of Communication
412	5/10/97	Conflicts of Interest
413	5/17/97	Rumors, Bargains, & Lies
414	5/24/97	Moments of Transition
415	5/31/97	No Surrender, No Retreat (Season 4 Title Ep)
416	6/07/97	The Exercise of Vital Powers
417	6/14/97	The Face of the Enemy
418	6/21/97	Intersections in Real Time
419	Fall '97	Between the Darkness and the Light
420	Fall '97	Endgame
421	Fall '97	Rising Star
422	Fall '97?	Sleeping in the Light (series ending)

*Dates listed are for South Florida: Saturdays @ 8:00PM on Channel 34 & 11:00PM on Channel 39.

(Please don't complain to me about the episode schedule... I didn't set it! It's NOT my fault!!!)

Episode Synopses

No Surrender, No Retreat—Sheridan goes after the forces Clark has blockading Proxima 3. The Centaur and Narn sign a joint-proclamation in support of *Babylon 5* over Earth.

The Exercise of Vital Powers—Garibaldi goes to Mars to meet with William Edgars and has to make some very tough decisions. Lyta helps Franklin make contact with an unconscious telepath.

The Face of the Enemy—Edgars gives information to Garibaldi about the real force behind Clark while they plot to capture Sheridan. Lyta and Franklin take a trip to Mars with some frozen telepaths in the luggage. (Harlan Ellison will be making a cameo appearance in this episode.)

Intersections in Real Time—An imprisoned Sheridan faces an Inquisitor from Earth, trying to force him to sign a confession.

Between the Darkness and the Light—No plot info at this time.

Endgame—Sheridan's forces make their final strike.

Rising Star—Earthgov decides what to do with Sheridan, while Delenn makes an unusual proposal to the League of Non-Aligned Worlds.

Sleeping in the Light—No plot information. Series Finale.

Additional Information

As of this writing, there is still no word on whether there will be a Fifth Season. Apparently some execs at Warners are saying 'Yes' and some are saying 'No.' We should know by the end of June. Notice that, once again, they're holding the last episodes of the season till the Fall.

The story arc of Season 5, if commissioned, will deal with Empire Building as *Babylon 5* becomes the center of a new galactic regime. If they do decide to end the show early, then this story-line will be developed into the proposed sequel series: **The Babylon Project: Crusade** (for more info, see below).

For those of us who were a bit disappointed in the Shadow-War finale, "Into the Fire," take heart. Word is that the 2nd half of the season is all pretty intense. At a recent convention, JMS described episodes #414 to #421 as Severed Dreams X 8. Also, don't look for a nice kissy-face make-up where Garibaldi is concerned. Rumor has it he'll be forced off the station for the rest of the season/show.

By the way, "Sleeping in the Light" (episode #422) is the series finale. It's reportably set twenty years in the future! If they do go with the 5th Season, "Sleeping" will be held over till the end of that season (Summer or Fall of 1998), and episode #501 will air in its place.

Beyond Babylon 5

TNT is scheduled to begin rerunning the series (or at least seasons 1-4) in January, 1998. They are currently scheduled for 6:00 PM EST, Monday through Friday. The Turner people seem to be very excited by the series, and are likely to promote it far more than Warner has done. And indication of this is the two TV movies they have commissioned to accompany the run.

The first movie is called "*Babylon 5: In the Beginning*." Set to air on Sunday, January 4th, 1998, it's a multiple view-point, *Winds-of-War*-style history of the Earth-Minbari War. It will be narrated by the aged Emperor Londo, in 2217, to a group of Centauri children as he waits for Sheridan and Delenn to be brought to him (cf "*War Without End*" from season 3). (JMS thought this would be a nice touch since Londo does the opening intro to the *Babylon 5* pilot episode.)

The second movie is currently titled "Thirdspace" and is set during the middle of the fourth season in 2261. The movie will deal with the discovery of a million-year-old, half-mile long artifact discovered in Hyperspace. The object is brought back to *Babylon 5* for investigation, at which point things get very 'Lovecraftian.' This movie will function as a long stand-alone episode during the fourth season.

The plan is to run "*In the Beginning*," followed by the pilot, then go through the first 4 seasons, then run "*Thirdspace*." If it happens, there's also nothing to stop them from running season 5, though it would have to be sold as a separate deal.

The premise of the proposed spin-off, "*The Babylon Project: Crusade*" is that the Shadows allies decide to make an example of Earth. When the Dark Forces fail in their attack, they pull the old 'poison the well' trick by releasing a virus that infects the planet. This virus, a left-over piece of Shadow Technology, takes five years to adapt to the host population at which point it turns deadly. Since this technology is uncounted thousands of years beyond the current Galactic Society, there's no chance of dealing with it in a mere 5 years.

The one hope is the Ranger Fleet. Although the First Ones, themselves, are gone, many of their forgotten worlds, forbidden cities, and secret vaults are still there. Somewhere out there is the technology to beat the virus.

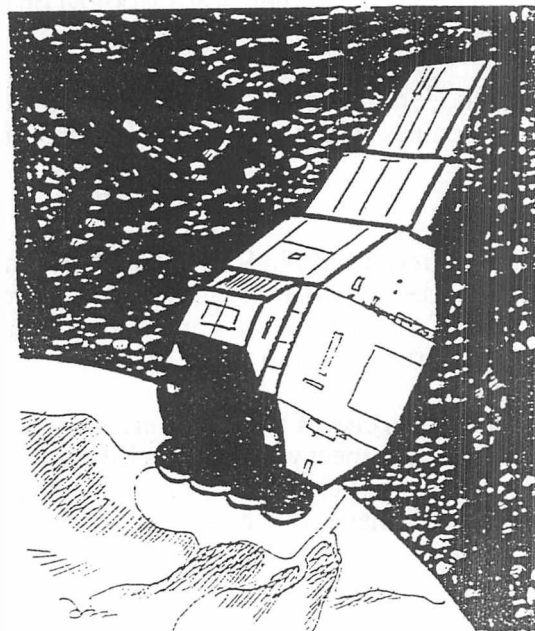
So the series will deal with the search for the cure, the crews searching, and the ancient and terrifying secrets uncovered. There will be forces arrayed against them, the emotional problems of loved ones in dire straights, and the problems of an Earth under quarantine.

Basically, the *Babylon 5* production team will be taking everything they learned with that show, particularly with CGI, and using it to draw on a broader canvas, with less emphasis on politics and more on exploration and the sense of wonder.

Among the proposed characters (it's still too early for casting decisions), is one of Zathras' brothers, the command staff of the White Star class vessel, *Excalibur*, a Warrior-Caste Minbari, the lone survivor of a world destroyed by Shadow-Allies, a Technomage, a biogeneticist, and a representative from Interplanetary Expeditions. Needless to say, there will be the usual conflicts, buried secrets, and hidden agendas that we've come to know and love from *Babylon 5*.

In addition, Straczynski & Babylonian Productions are negotiating with TNT to bring produce more TV movies. The exact number and storylines to be determined.

And if all of the above isn't enough, there's the possibility of a *Babylon 5* feature film in the works! Apparently, the proposed story will deal with a war between telepaths and mundanes, with Susan Ivanova playing an important role.



CONS TO WATCH:**NECRONOMICON**

Necronomicon will take place October 10-12, 1997. Guests of honor will be Joseph Green and Kevin J. and Rebecca Anderson. Other guests are: Charles Fontenay, Don Callandar, Scott Ciencin, Matthew DiPalma, Barbara and Ben Bova, Craig MacDougal, Steve Antczak, Owl Goingback, Jeanette Spencer, Vince Courtney, Kendall F. Morris, Jack Haldeman, Barbara Delaplace, Richard Lee Byers, and Gerry Duran.

DRAGONCON

DragonCon will be June 26-29, 1997, in Atlanta, with a multitude of guests and events. Membership is \$50 until May 15 and \$60 at the door. For more information, call (770) 925-0115, send e-mail to dragoncon@dragoncon.com, or visit their web site at <http://www.dragoncon.org>.

OTHER CLUBS:**UPCOMING TRI MEETINGS****TRI North Meetings**

June 21 in the auditorium at the Deerfield Beach Library (954-360-1380).

TRI South Meetings

June 28 at 14100 NW 6 Court, Apartment 101, North Miami

For the latest on-line information about TRI, contact triserv@aol.com, or by SASE at TRI, c/o Mark, 2041 SW 22 Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312.

AND LEST WE FORGET....

.....
Tropicon XVI Update
 by George Peterson

Yes! Virginia, there is a Tropicon 16! And it's scheduled to be held on November 7-9, 1997 at the Doubletree Guest Suites on Cypress Creek Road at I-95. The Guest of Honor is Esther Friesner and the Toastmaster (Toastmistress?) is Josepha Sherman. Rumor has it that they are very excited about coming to Tropi. Artist and Filk Guests are also in the works, and we may have some very nice surprises in store for our attendees.

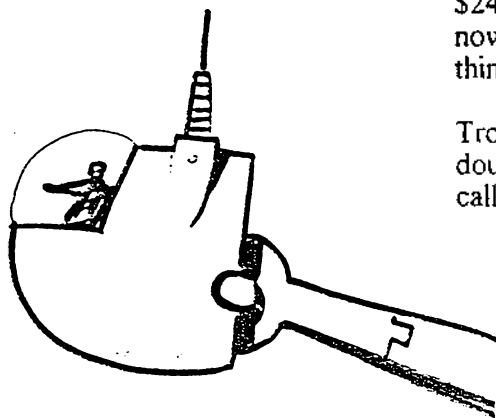
We've also begun hearing from our old friends. Ben Bova tells us he's "looking forward to a pleasant weekend." Hal Clement writes, "You need never worry about my enjoying a well-run con; what more can Heaven offer than my not only being allowed to talk but invited to do so?" And from Joe Green, "Sure, Patti and I will be there. We never miss a Tropicon!" Hmmm, one gets the impression they like coming to our little convention.

Joe also writes that he's enjoying his retirement and is, "(almost)" a full time writer, again! Good for you, Joe! We're looking forward to those new stories.

On other fronts, Judi's planning on a Sunday Brunch this year, and we may be having a Rocky Horror Picture Show presentation Saturday night. Also look for program items on mythology, folk tales (both old and contemporary), mysteries, astronomy, natural history, and much, much more. There will be filking, gaming, art show, dealer's room, plus a few special events.

The current 3-day membership rate is \$24.00. After October 15th, it'll be \$28.00. So join now, while they're still cheap. And while you're thinking of it, make that reservation with the hotel!

Spending the night adds tremendously to the Tropicon experience. Room rates are \$84.00 single/double, \$94.00 triple/quad. To make reservations, call (954) 772-5400 or (800) 222-8733.



Volunteer Alert

There are still some positions open on the Convention Committee. Tropicon is a lot of fun, but it doesn't happen by itself. If you have an interest in helping with running Tropicon, please contact Judi at the numbers below. Yes it can be a lot of hard work, but we have a lot of fun, too, and all that extra experience looks good on a resume!

For further information contact Judi Goodman (Chair) at (305) 385-1793 or e-mail to jb42@aol.com. For programming information please call me, George Peterson, at (954) 524-1274, or e-mail me at z004406b@bc.sefin.org.

Thanks! We look forward to seeing all of you in November.

* * *

Other confirmed guests are: Jack C. Haldeman II, Barbara Delaplace, Daniel Keyes, Tananarive Due, Rick Wilber, Randy Miller, Charles Fontenay, Wilson Tucker, Sarah Clemens, and Adam-Troy Castro.

FANAC Fan history Project
News & Information, June, 1997

Curator Joe Siclari

We have been concentrating on adding useful material to the Fan History Project web site (<http://www.fanac.org>). This is the first of a series of notices to tell you about some of the fanhistorical material on the site.

Bibliographies & Collections

The web site has some excellent resources if you are looking for information about fanzines. Our Bibliographies and Collections section has complete checklists of several dozen important fanzines.

These include zines ranging from John Bangsund's *Australian Science Fiction Review* to Joe Kennedy's *Vampire* with such pubs as *Dimensions*, *the Fanscient*, *Fantasy Commentator*, *Hyphen*, *Quandry*, *Pong*, *Slant* and *Others in Between*. Important articles and even complete issues of some zines have already been put online. Complete issues of *Slant*, *Hyphen*, *the Willis Papers*, *the Enchanted Duplicator*, *Peace on Sol III*, *Entropy* and others are available so far. Material from a *Sense of Fapa* and *Spacewarp* are also on the site.

Links are included to many other zines online. Current SF e-zines such as *Babel-On 2*, *M.T. Void* and *TOMMYWORLD* are also being added to the site as they are published.

The current listings of the Fan Historical Archive Collection, the Memory Hole Collection, and the West Coast Science Fiction Association. Archives can be read and searched for specific zines. When searching for specific fanzines, these listings can be very helpful. There is also a link to the Temple University Library Fanzine Collection and to the British Fanzine Bibliography. Additions to this material go up frequently, especially complete articles and fanzine checklists. And we are always looking for more material.

CONTRIBUTE PLEASE!

This site is dedicated to documenting and preserving the materials of Science Fiction Fandom. If you publish a fanzine using your computer, consider allowing us to put your zine on our web site. You get more exposure and circulation. We get to preserve our current history rather than have to find and document it later. If you publish an SF e-zine, please put me on your mailing list (jsiclari@icanect.net). If you are willing, we would also like to make your zine available through the website. And it's FREE! Contact me to make arrangements.

VOLUNTEERS DESPERATELY NEEDED, WANTED!

Would you like to help? Would you like to preserve your favorite fannish article or zine? Type it up and send it to me! Do you have a scanner? Would you scan some photos from a convention or club or your favorite fanzine?

AND DON'T THROW AWAY OUR FANNISH PAST!

Donations of fanzines and other fannish artifacts are also very welcome. They will go into the Fan Historical collection for reference and possible exhibit at conventions. If we get extra copies, we will find a home for them.

For more information or to volunteer to be part of the project, contact:

Joe Siclari,
Chairman FANAC Fan History Project
E-mail: jsiclari@icanect.net
Phone: (561) 392-6462
Address: 4599 NW 5 Ave.
Boca Raton, FL 33431-4601

The FANAC Fan History Archive web site is funded by the Florida Association for Nucleation and Conventions, Inc. (F.A.N.A.C. Inc.). FANAC is the organization that ran MagiCon, the 50th Worldcon.

FANAC, Inc., is a non-profit, literary organization recognized under the IRS Code, Section 501(c)(3).

THE DINOS STRIKE AGAIN ...

Lost World Review
by Nick Simicich



If you didn't get enough of the dinosaurs the first time around, if you wanted to see more people eaten and crushed, if you want to know how in the hell there could be any dinosaurs left after the first movie, than "The Lost World" is for you.

Go in a place with good sound. If you go to movies and hate getting repeatedly bounced out of your suspension-of-disbelief, if you insist on a plot, perhaps, or consistency in your story, then maybe you should save your money.

As usual for Jurassic Park style movies—not a movie for small or impressionable children. Lots of gore and blood.

[Spoiler Warning—don't read farther if you haven't gone, and plan to, unless you might change your mind..]

From the first explanations of how the dinosaurs, bred to need special food supplements to survive were flourishing without them, to the first time a dinosaur crosses your field of view and it looks like blurred stop-motion animation (not all dino shots were that bad), to the big game hunter who carries a double rifle (which looks like, and probably actually is, a 12 gauge shotgun, but which was supposedly loaded with brass, FMJ ammunition) but who, in an odd Barney Fife-like move only owns two bullets for it so that he can't reload after someone steals them out of his gun, this movie doesn't hang together.

How did everyone on the boat die, even though the T. Rex was in the hold? Why wouldn't massed automatic rifle fire have had any effect on a T. Rex, even though this "devastating" double rifle was supposed to? Why didn't the "Earth Firsters" get eaten? How come a leg joint that seems to fit together perfectly in an X-Ray needs to be set? Why does it need to be set? How did the velociraptors know not to eat anyone important to the plot, while taking down all of the redshirts? Why is it that trained hunters are helpless before velociraptors while small children and business executives can combat them effectively? Why would you leave a building by tearing out a wall rather than defending it, using at-hand implements? How much did Mercedes Benz pay to have their car shown as able to drag a huge double van back over a cliff in mud? Why did that little English child survive, whereas the hunter died? How does the T. Rex grow and shrink so much shot-to-shot?

I have no answers to these questions. Normally, you expect a story like this to ask questions, and to answer them in the context of the story. This effort mixed bad dialog, an improbably inconsistent story line, and as much phaser effect as found in the worst space opera to produce a work that repeatedly jars you out of any semblance of suspension of disbelief that you can work into. At the end, all you can do is hope for one more good dinosaur shot as they do a lame exposition to try to tie up loose ends.

And you get one ... and the promise of more sequels. I advise them to hire a writer next time.

"The Fifth Element" had better effects, a better story, and is still in theatres as I write this. See it instead.

Tropicon XVI

ESTHER FRIESNER

Guest of Honor

JOSEPHA SHERMAN

Toastmaster

November 7-9, 1997

Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Doubletree Guest Suites, Cypress Creek
[800] 222-8733 or [954] 772-5400

Nightly room rates are \$84 single/double \$94 triple/quad

Three day membership rate is **\$24** from May 16 to October 16
\$28 thereafter

There will be panels, filking, gaming, trivia, art show, dealers' room, and surprises galore. For more information contact Judi Goodman at (305) 385-1793 or e-mail her at jb42@aol.com

For up to the minute information, visit our web page at <http://scifi.squawk.com/tropicon.html>.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

I have enclosed a check for \$ _____ for _____ 3-day memberships

Mail to Tropicon, c/o SFSFS, PO Box 70143, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33307-0143

THE 1997 HUGO NOMINEES

Best Novel

Blue Mars by Kim Stanley Robinson (HarperCollins Voyager; Bantam Spectra)
Holy Fire by Bruce Sterling (Orion; Bantam Spectra)
Memory by Lois McMaster Bujold (Baen)
Remnant Population by Elizabeth Moon (Baen)
Starplex by Robert J. Sawyer (Ace)

Best Novella

Abandon in Place by Jerry Oltion (F&SF (The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction) 12/96)
Blood of The Dragon by George R. R. Martin (Asimov's (Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine) 7/96)
The Cost to Be Wise by Maureen F. McHugh (Starlight 1)
Gas Fish by Mary Rosenblum (Asimov's 2/96)
Immersion by Gregory Benford (SF Age 3/96)
Time Travelers Never Die by Jack McDevitt (Asimov's 5/96)

Best Novelette

Age of Aquarius by William Barton (Asimov's 5/96)
Beauty and the Opéra or the Phantom Beast by Suzy McKee Charnas (Asimov's 3/96)
Bicycle Repairman by Bruce Sterling (Intersections; Asimov's 10/96)
The Land of Nod by Mike Resnick (Asimov's 6/96)
Mountain Ways by Ursula K. Le Guin (Asimov's 8/96)

Best Short Story

The Dead by Michael Swanwick (Starlight 1)
Decency by Robert Reed (Asimov's 6/96)
Gone by John Crowley (F&SF 9/96)
The Soul Selects Her Own Society ... by Connie Willis (Asimov's 4/96; War of the Worlds: Global Dispatches)
Un-Birthday Boy by James White (Analog 2/96)

Best Non-Fiction Book

The Faces of Fantasy by Patti Perret (Tor)
Look at the Evidence by John Clute (Serconia Press)
Silence of the Langford by Dave Langford (NESFA Press)
Time & Chance by L. Sprague de Camp (Grant)
The Tough Guide to Fantasyland by Diana Wynne Jones (Gollancz/Vista)

Best Semiprozine

Interzone edited by David Pringle
Locus edited by Charles N. Brown
New York Review of Science Fiction edited by Kathryn Cramer, Tad Dembinski, Ariel Haméon, David G. Hartwell and Kevin Maroney
Science Fiction Chronicle edited by Andrew I. Porter
Speculations edited by Kent Brewster

Best Fanzine

Ansible edited by Dave Langford
File 770 edited by Mike Glyer
Mimosa edited by Dick & Nicki Lynch
Nova Express edited by Lawrence Person
Tangent edited by Dave Truesdale

Best Fan Writer

Sharon Farber
 Mike Glyer
 Andy Hooper
 Dave Langford
 Evelyn C. Leeper

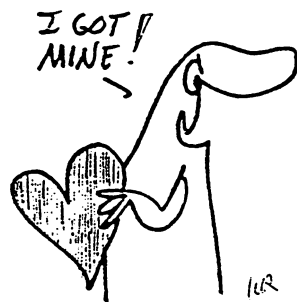
Best Fan Artist

Ian Gunn
 Joe Mayhew
 Peggy Ranson
 William Rotsler
 Sherlock

Brad Foster and Teddy Harvia declined their nominations.

Nebulas:

This year's Nebula winners are:
 Novel: *SLOW RIVER*, by Nicola Griffith
 Novella: "Da Vinci Rising," by Jack Dann
 Novelette: "Lifeboat on a Burning Sea," by Bruce Holland Rogers
 Short Story: "A Birthday," by Esther M. Friesner



Best Dramatic Presentation

Independence Day (Centropolis Film Productions/20th Century Fox Film) Directed by Roland Emmerich, Written by Dean Devlin and Roland Emmerich, Produced by Dean Devlin

Mars Attacks! (Warner Bros.) Directed by Tim Burton, Written by Jonathan Gems, Produced by Tim Burton and Larry Franco

Babylon 5 "Severed Dreams" (Warner Bros.) Directed by David J. Eagle, Written by J. Michael Straczynski, Produced by John Copeland

Star Trek: First Contact (Paramount Pictures) Directed by Jonathan Frakes, Story by Ronald D. Moore, Brannon Braga & Rick Berman, Screenplay by Ronald D. Moore & Brannon Braga, Produced by Rick Berman

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine "Trials and Tribble-ations" (Paramount Pictures) Directed by Jonathan West, Written by Ronald D. Moore & Rene Echevarria, Story by Ira Steven Behr & Hans Beimler & Robert Hewitt Wolfe, Executive Producers Ira Steven Behr & Rick Berman

NOTE: The *Babylon 5* episodes "War without End" and "Z'Ha'Dum" received enough votes to be nominated, but J. Michael Straczynski declined.

John W. Campbell Award

Michael A. Burstein (second year of eligibility)

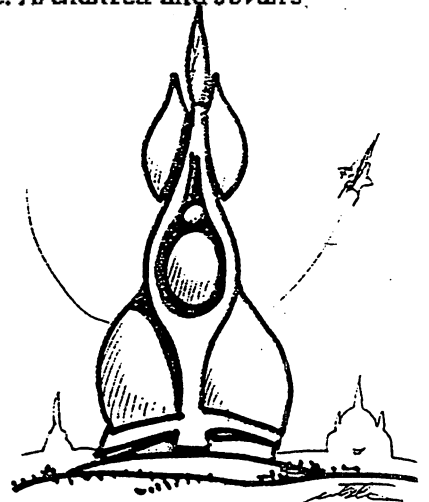
Raphael Carter (first year of eligibility), author of *The Fortunate Fall*

Richard Garfinkle (first year of eligibility), author of *Celestial Matters*

Katya Reimann (first year of eligibility), author of *Wind from a Foreign Sky*

Sharon Shinn (second year of eligibility), author of *The Shapechanger's Wife*, *Archangel* and *Jovah's Angel*

IN MEMORIAM



Sam Moskowitz, scholar, fan, author, editor, and collector of science fiction died on April 15 at the age of 76. He is survived by his wife, Dr. Christine Haycock, and two sisters, Pearl Moskowitz of Arlington, Va., and Helen Brown of Wellington, Fla., and three brothers, Maurice of Mobile, Ala., Herman of Tom's River, N.J.

Terry Nation died March 9, 1997. He brought to life the dastardly, but much-beloved Daleks of *Dr. Who* and was responsible for the British series, *Blake's Seven*.



LOCS, STOCKS AND BAGELS

P.O. Box 1069, Kendall S. Stn.
Cambridge, MA 02142
Apr. 21, 1997

Dear People:

Thanks for the SFSFS *Shuttle* 129. (It took me a month to get around to it, but on the other hand NESFA's copy just came last week.) [Mal says: The original NESFA address was wrong on our mail-out so I had to resend it.] Leaving the cover blank is perhaps not the subtlest way to indicate your shortage of art...

So you want a clubhouse. Are you sure you realize what you're getting into?

The Lovecraft-Florida piece was well done, but nothing new to me. (Of course, I did copyedit Joshi's Lovecraft book...)

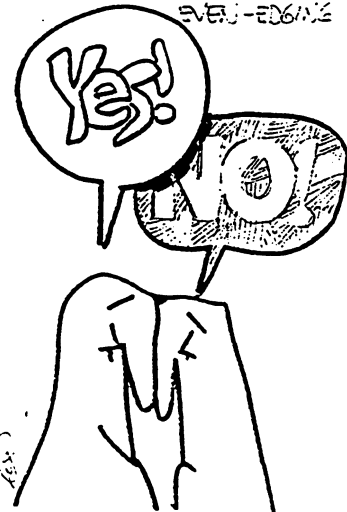
"The Year in Review 1996" was tantalizing but a bit sketchy. And the references to a couple of books as "plagued by typos" were perhaps imprudent.

It's Bob Devney, not Devaney, who writes the fanzine reviews in Proper Boskonian. (I take it that the unlabelled next paragraph is a review of *Instant Message*?)

Sincerely yours,

George Flynn

THE ETERNAL BATTLE OVER
EVEN-EDGING



3/26/97

2677W-500N
Hartford City, IN 47348

Dear Editors:

Contribute something for the next issue, eh? But what? Not much of a clue in the fanzine as to what the readers like. I'm not really into fanzine fandom any more, except as a letterhack; Juanita and I are midwestern convention fans and hucksters. I guess we've done about everything possible, but all in the past, some in the far past. We have been club members and fanzine editors. Juanita has been a fanzine publisher, done fanzine art, been in filk sings and recorded tapes. I've been a reviewer, fan and pro, a writer, fan and pro, a fanzine editor and worked for a pro editorial department, though not as an editor. We've been recipients of a fan fund, been Worldcon GOH (fan guests) and a son. Oh yes, Juanita has had twice as much professional material published as I have, and has lately been doing indexes for Misty Lackey and Andre Norton.

One thing we *haven't* done is belong to a club with a building fund. The clubs we belonged to in the 1950s never thought of building funds of their own; meetings were held in the homes of members who were responsible for munchies and soft drinks. (Juanita and I both lived outside Indianapolis where the club was, so we didn't have to be hosts.) So we know nothing about building funds.

I don't recall either one of our clubs having a library, either. Individual members had their own libraries, according to their tastes. One member had a large (for the time) collection of *Astounding* magazines. I wonder if he took it with him when he became a minister? I took my library with me when I became a minister, but then my ordination certificate came in the mail from the Universal Life Church. I hadn't even sent for it. Denny Lien sent in my name along with his, and I got home one day to find Juanita had propped the certificate up on my typewriter. It was somewhat of a shock.... Even more of a shock was being asked to perform marriages, but I ended up doing a half-dozen or so, plus one "renewal of vows" with another being threatened at the moment.

I'm sure Lovecraft enjoyed the alligator farm. It fitted right in with his scribbling interest.

On the editorial, I'm sure Krakatoa will become a volcano again, given time. They do tend to repeat themselves—sort of like belching. Anyone see that movie, "Krakatoa, East of Java?" Nothing like putting it in the wrong place to start off with, and the movie itself kept up pretty well with the standards set by the title.

Our last con was Millennicon in Cincinnati—up on the bluffs, not down by the river, though I'm told the flooding is over. Fairly small con. Hal Clement was there, looking pretty good for an author who had his first story published in 1942. He comes to Ohio cons despite living on the east coast because he has relatives in the state. I had two panels, but since they were both on at the same time, I picked the one I liked best, about little-known authors. I spoke about Zenna Henderson, Leigh Brackett and Thomas Burnett Swann. Swann lived in Kentucky as I recall and wrote to our fanzine now and then because I generally gave his books good reviews. Apparently nobody in the audience had heard of any of them.

Okay, I'm open for questions; the speech is over.

Buck (aka Robert Coulson)

Sheryl Birkhead
23629 Woodfield Rd.
Gaithersburg, MD 20882

May 1, 1997

Dear Shuttlers,

Yeah, I *know* it has been quite a while since the *Shuttle* fell into the mailbox. I really have absolutely no good excuse, but I do have a plethora of excuses, but I might as well just skip right on past all that and try to actually write something....

The printer still needs to be repaired, but I will try to get a copy made. I think I have a few little filloes sitting around here somewhere and (since I don't have too much time to work on this), I might be able to do a very simple cover even though I have a couple of ideas for other covers, but I don't have the time and *umpf* (very scientific term here) to get to the photo-

copy place to copy stuff after I cut and paste. So, I figure that something is better than nothing at all, but I might be wrong....

I don't know just exactly how or when I lost contact with the *Shuttle*, but it happened. Now let's see what has been happening down there. It seems as if building funds are the ways to go these days and they just might be *the* best way for sf groups to maintain a history.

Nice to see *Gerry Adair*'s name again—as I said above, it has been a while.

Since fanzines are my primary fannish activity, I really like reading reviews and checking out how many of the zines I actually get. Historically, it runs about 35%, which is not all that great, but it makes me believe that fanzine fandom really *is* alive and doing well out there. In this ish, I actually checked in at 50%—not too bad, considering how slow I have been to respond lately.

I was hoping to get together some sort of a book (whatever you want to call it) showing the art of *Plato Jones*. I hasten to admit that I have never seen any of this work—the *nom de plum* (or pen as the case may be) of Lynn Hickman who just died. If this all come about, I was hoping to actually make up several copies—one to be available at the fan room at the Worldcon (and maybe go to LA) and one to go to *Joe Siclari*, but at this stage I have no idea if I will be able to get the representative material together. I have written to Roger Sims to help out and he seems very enthusiastic, but enthusiasm won't get the job done. I needed a list of zines (and the years etc.) in which his art appeared and then the next step (if it can't be found in Lynn's own collection) would be to contact the fans involved and see if they have any copies I can use along with samples of Lynn's calligraphy (a letter from him was not only informative, but a true thing of beauty!) WELL, I think I'll try to get something done in a hurry for you—just no time right now to do what I would like so I'll do what I may be able to finish!

Sheryl

(If anyone would like to help Sheryl in this project, please contact her at the above address....Nice to hear from you again, Sheryl! Stay in touch.....)

March 18, 1997

Greenhouse Scribes Inc.
1390 Holly Avenue, Merritt Island, FL 32952

Dear Gang;

In response to the "request to contribute" mark on my last *"Shuttle"*, I'll send in a letter.

I retired from NASA last January 3, and Patti had left the Kennedy Space Center over a year earlier. We have opened up a small business together, Greenhouse Scribes, Inc., and at present are busily writing short stories—three off to the races in three months. But we also plan to do semi-technical documents and books for NASA and aerospace contractors, speeches for executives, brochures, exhibit copy, and various other types of educational and aerospace-oriented materials. There is a big push on these days to contract for outside support, as opposed to doing such work in-house, and I hope we are in a position to take advantage of it.

We have no immediate plans to work on novels, but if the outside business moves slowly, and we find we are flooding the minimal short story markets available, then we will rethink our position. But except for the top tier of authors, novels sell in such small numbers, and consequently pay so poorly, that it is hardly worth the effort, unless you are hungry (and we are not). Hence short stories for pleasure and creative outlet, and PR work for (hopefully) money.

Now that we are own bosses we do plan to travel more, but not, I think, to a lot more Conventions (maybe a few more?). We have been steady attendees at Tropicon, Necronomicon, and OASIS for years, and plan to keep that up. Necro, in fact, is making me the writer GOH this year.

I miss being on the firing line at NASA, but not as much as expected. We are working a 25-hr week, which leaves more time for other important matters (such as reading more books!) Life is good.

Love to all,

Joseph Green

423 Summit Avenue
Hagerstown, Maryland, 21740
March 31, 1997

Dear Carlos or whoever:

I'm sorry I haven't responded sooner to the 129th *Shuttle*. My mind's condition is quite accurately portrayed by the cover illustration on that issue, and the things I haven't done are far ahead of the things accomplished.

Of course, I wish your group luck in whatever decision it reaches about obtaining a building of its own. Not many fan clubs have accomplished this, but the ones who have achieved it seem to be among the biggest and most active, which might mean that ownership helps to prevent the membership decline that so many local club have been experiencing in recent years.

Gerry Adair's narrative about HPL in Florida is very interesting, and I hope the portion to follow is equally detailed and informative. It seems strange that a writer with such a strong aversion to cold air (I believe it was physiological rather than psychological) didn't move to a warmer climate. Perhaps the comparative scarcity of extremely old buildings and other leavings of Florida's early settlers may have prejudiced a person who was so obsessed with the past. It is tempting to conjecture what Lovecraft's reaction today would be to Florida as it is now, so different from the early part of the century when he saw it.

The Willis reprint is superb. It is a rarity, an old fanzine item which your younger members will have little difficulty enjoying, because not much background knowledge of mid-century fandom is required to enjoy it.

I was also interested in the fan history project reports, particularly the portion dealing with plans for a new edition of the *Fancyclopedia*. I suppose the people working on this project have already tried to find whatever materials had been accumulated by the California group that was working on a similar volume about a decade ago. I believe Bruce Pelz would know if their notes have survived and might be useful in this latest effort. One thing the new edition might profitably include is some of the definitions written by Jack Speer for the first edition which weren't carried over into the second edition.

One small quibble with the item about the FANAC Fan History Project: I don't think Heinlein can legitimately be included among famous people who were once fans. Heinlein attended a few Worldcons, either because he was asked to speak or he thought he might win a Hugo, and later encouraged fans to give blood. But I know of nothing he did in fandom before he began selling science fiction or any real participation in general fandom after he became a big name author.

Please pardon the faint typewriter ribbon. With the return of better weather, I should be able to go soon up into Pennsylvania to a store that will stock ribbons that fit this antiquated little portable, non-electric typewriter.

Yrs., &c,
Harry Warner, Jr.

* * * * *

Subject: Shuttle #128 Loc from Harvia

Dear SFSFSians:

George Peterson's bulleted convention report was the most refreshing and amusing one I've read in a long time. Not everyone is big enough to admit their gaffes. Was the second bagel half he ate Sunday morning the same half he'd dropped Saturday? Yum!

The term "chair" seems to be replacing both the sexist "chairman" and the obnoxiously androgynous "chairperson."

Hurray for truncating!
Best wishes,
TEDDY



1810 South Rittenhouse Square, 1708
Philadelphia, PA 19103-5837
March 22, 1997

Dear *Shuttle* Editor,

Thank you for SFSFS *Shuttle* number 129.

I enjoyed Gerry Adair's "It Came from Florida," except for the fact that he did not reveal why Lovecraft did not move to Florida in part one. The tension, might unendurable, yet must be endured—Until part two.

Those interested in HPL who also have access to the www might want to try cthulhu.org/jmc, site of the Cthulhu For President campaign. Your motto is, "The truth is out there" his, "Why vote for a lesser evil?" mind, "No comment." Politicians, all.

I'm out of copies of the most recent issue of my own fanzine, *Artifact*, but some of it is on-line at: www.cis.upenn.edu/~cmintz/home.html.

Sincerely,

Catherine Mintz

And—

Just wanted to drop a note of appreciation to the SFSFS members who attended the reading of my paper at the recent Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts. Your moral support meant a great deal to me.

The reading seemed to go very well. I noticed, with delight, that unlike many other sessions I attended, the audience stayed until the paper was completely read. A special thanks is therefore extended to Bill Wilson who strategically placed his wheelchair before the door, ensuring me of a "captive audience".

Sincerely,

Gerry Adair

2268 NW 37th Place
Gainesville, FL 32605
Monday, April 21st, 1997

Dear *Shuttle* editors:

Thanks for sending the SFSFS *Shuttle*. Please note new address, above; nothing sent to the old one will be forwarded, since it was a private-enterprise maildrop place, for which the Postal Service will not accept forwarding orders.

I loved the cover of #129, since I've always been amused by the way computer companies like IBM have used such a phrase on otherwise blank pages. Of course, the pages are not blank; they have the phrase on them. It's sort of like the old conundrum that reads "This sentence has three errors."

The Willis reprint was a gem, and one I haven't had the pleasure of reading before. It looks to me like an early work of his; I wish it were possible for all reprints to appear with the original source and date, but sometimes the information just isn't available. I vaguely place SOL sometime in the fifties—the early fifties—I think—but can't be sure.

"It Came From Florida" was quite good, too. I worked in Dunedin for a few months a couple of years ago, and while I'm quite sure it looked very different during Lovecraft's stay there, I did visit the town museum where I saw pictures of the place when it was mostly orange groups and got an idea what he must have experienced. In addition, a lot of the big old places have survived there, some in good shape and others in disrepair. So someone can imagine how it looked during his visit.

I had a similar experience about ten years ago while living in Yonkers, N.Y. I happened to run across in Lovecraft's books of correspondence a letter that he wrote while visiting a friend's farm in Yonkers. The street address of the farmhouse was familiar; after a moment's notice, I recognized it as the street that led to the branch post office where I rented a box for the duration of my stay. The street led off one of the highways through town, past two old but well maintained houses, and from there gave into a network of unnamed roads where there were rental warehouses, small business offices and the post office.

I always felt that Lovecraft probably stayed in one of those old houses, and the fields of the farm at that time were now the network of anonymous roads. The numbers of the houses didn't match that given in the letter, though, so I can't be sure.

Thanks again for sending the *Shuttle*. If it keeps coming, I'll check the meeting dates in case we're ever down at that end of the state when one is occurring. Joe Siclari will remember that my wife Alix used to sleep through the meetings when they were at his house long ago. (*There are some of us who still do, or think about it.—editor.*) Fascinating that you're now considering building a clubhouse.

Best wishes,
Tom Perry

Dear Shuttle Editor:

I had a great time at the conference. F. Brett Cox and I held a panel on the fiction of John Kessel. My paper was on his use of screwball comedy in SF. I've sent the paper on to the *New York Review of SF* and am hoping they'll print it.

I also saw *The Lost World* and, while I was as wide-eyed at the dinosaurs as everyone else, I really regret having contributed my dollars to a movie as intelligence-insulting as that. I was saying to Paddy the other day that it seems to me there have been only two good SF movies throughout the 90s—*Total Recall* and *12 Monkeys*. I'd almost include *T2*, but it was a little too saccharine for me. Still, I never learn from experience, she said cheerfully: I'm looking forward to *Men in Black*.

Sincerely,

Fiona Kelleghan

YAGTB:

- _____ Editor's prerogative...
- _____ Storm troopers sent it special delivery (and postage very overdue.)
- _____ My cat told me that he likes you. (That was reason enough.)
- _____ By order of some scantily-clad, muscular maiden/warrior in armor.
(She/he works out more than I do.)
- _____ We want you to volunteer for something.
- _____ You sent us a submission. Please send us something else. We love
hearing from you!
- _____ We were talking about you....Were your ears burning??
- _____ The native animal life (velicoraptors and dinos galore) didn't eat it.
- _____ The aliens upstairs have finished reading it and wanted to forward it.
(And no, I don't know who they voted for in the last election!)

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