

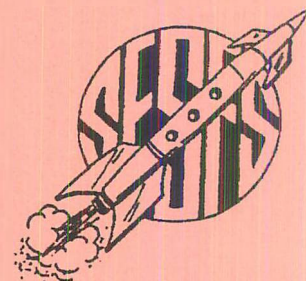
**SFSFS SHUTTLE #131**  
**the "Fall 1997 issue"**  
**(aka the July to November issue—it's a long story)**



2

**South Florida Science Fiction Society**  
**P.O. Box 70143**  
**Fort Lauderdale, FL 33307-0143**  
**Shuttle #131 Manifest**

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**SFSFS SHUTTLE #131- "the Fall issue" aka July to November 1997**

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.

## Upcoming Meetings!

### **November SFSFS General Meeting... and Media Event!**

Date: Saturday, 15 Nov. 1997

Time: Begins at 12:30 PM. to ?

Location: SFSFS Clubhouse,  
275 E. Oakland Park Blvd.,  
behind the office of Mike Block, CPA.

Program:

#### **Post-Tropicon Relaxmeeting Lunch and Videos**

Everyone is welcome to attend as SFSFS celebrates the conclusion of another memorable Tropicon. This is your opportunity to meet fellow fans as we gather to eat lunch {chips, sodas, bread, cold cuts and cheese will be provided. Otherwise, bring your own lunch.} and watch a few videos. Afterwards, we'll be dashing off to part 2 of this SFSFS day of fun {see below for details}! Join us! What have you got to lose?

Directions: I-95 to Oakland Park Blvd and go east. Take the first left after Andrews Ave. and then the first right into the alleyway. (On the corner where you make the left is a sign for the Petite Lounge.) Contact: Shirlene Ananayo-Rawlik, 561-844-6336

{Editor/Chairman's Note: I know, the scheduled program for Nov. is supposed to be the Street Fair at the Miami Book Fair. Although the Street Fair is a lot of fun, it is a bit of a haul for those of us who do not live in Dade County. Hence this alternative plan. We did hope to go see Tananarive Due and other black SF/F/H authors who will be doing a panel, but we don't know exactly when it will be, since the Miami BFI believes in "anticipation". If there's enough interest, maybe we can get a carpool/convoy planned. Fair enough?}

### **November Media Event!**

Directly from the Clubhouse, we will be going to see *Starship Troopers*! Exact theatre and time to be announced later on. Any interested parties who cannot make it to the General Meeting, but wish to catch up with us, call Dan Siclari at 561-392-6462 for exact info on time and theatre.

### **SFSFS Board Meeting**

Date, Time, Location: TBA

### **Book Discussion**

Date/Time:

TBA at Tropicon XVI

Location:

SFSFS Clubhouse

Program:

discussion on

L. Ron Hubbard's *Final Blackout* and  
Alfred Bester's *The Demolished Man*.

### **December**

### **SFSFS General Meeting**

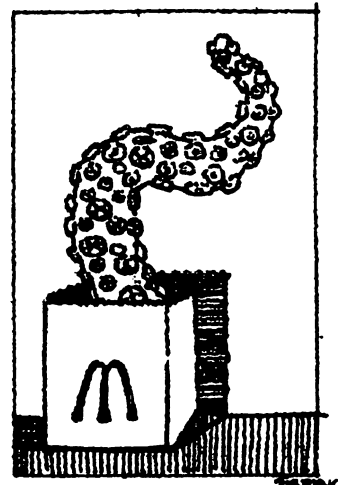
Program: SFSFS Annual Dinner

Date: 20 December 1997

Time: TBA

Location: TBA

Please contact Shirlene Ananayo-Rawlik if you've any location suggestions for this year's SFSFS Annual Dinner. John Martin's in Miami is a possibility again. Another runner up is any Steak'n'Ale. Basically, we are looking for a location that has a separate banquet facility {we do tend to make lots and lots of noise} and a variety of reasonably priced food



# Editorial Musings.

## Part 1

Firstly, I want to extend my sincerest apologies for the delay in getting this issue of the SFSFS Shuttle out to you. This issue has started to take on a life and reputation of it's own to rival that of Ellison's *Last Dangerous Visions*...or so I've been told by those folks who would recognize such things <g>. While not completely my doing -- the delay, that is -- I will take full responsibility...it's easiest that way. It doesn't matter much now, anyhow, because if you are reading this, that means that you have the latest issue! Lucky you -- really, I mean it.

I know that you don't really want to hear the long list of explanations as to why this is late and now referred to as the "Fall 1997 issue". Suffice it to say that life, being what it is, has a funny way of keeping one from accomplishing seemingly simple tasks that one would think that one could do with one hand tied behind one's back. But, enough of that. You're reading this and you've got it and that's all that really matters...right?

I did so want to expound upon my experience as a Tamogotchi owner...it wasn't my fault, really! It was Judi Goodman, yeah, that's right. She bought me my first one at -- of all places -- an art store! And, before you knew it, I was held in the thrall of a computer-chip generated chicken...named Turtle. To make matters worse, I lavished my love and affection and most of my attention on the little critter. It actually grew to be pretty healthy and happy -- granted, there were a few days when I was an inattentive mother and forgot to clean up after it before it zonked out and refused to wake up for that minor housecleaning chore. But, all in all, the little ball grew into a large chicken. The instructions -- written in pidgin English -- were



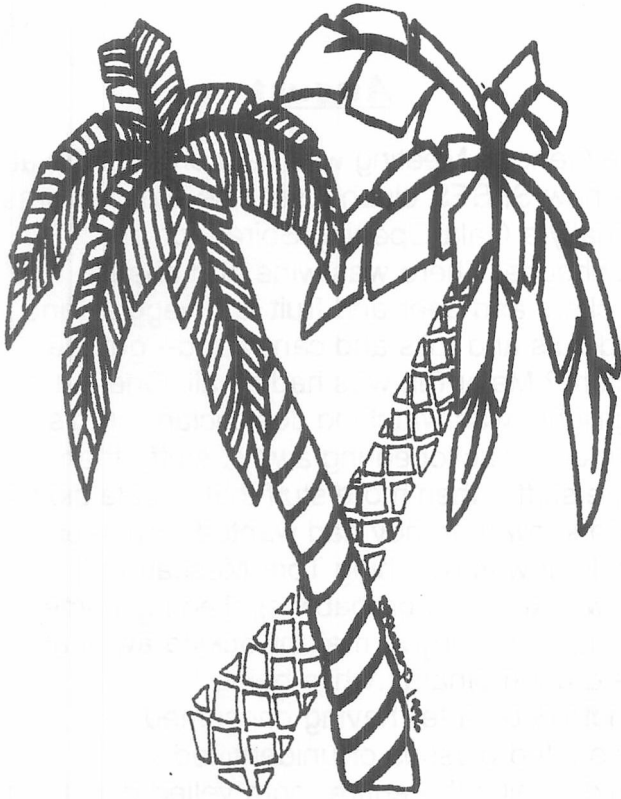
not clear as to when I should expect my little fake fowl to expire. I breathed a sigh of relief as day six passed and Turtle continued to thrive. The shock hit me as Turtle decided to return to Tamogotchi heaven after twelve days of co-habiting with moi!

Did I forget to mention that Turtle had a twin? Yup, Sophie was "born" on the same day and, like her twin, decided to depart this earthly realm for a better zip code. Their younger sister, Enid, decided to stick it out a few days longer than her siblings before going on to some sort of Christian heaven (to the amazement of her Jewish mother). Since then, I have acquired a cat and a penguin, but the experience is not the same. I find that I am less attentive and have had to "restart" each critter more than once. Sad, isn't it?

While I do realize that having a Tamogotchi is a poor analogy for having a real live baby, it comes close in many respects. You find yourself being attentive for each want and/or need, real or imagined. You find yourself trying to accomodate and anticipate. Still, on the flip side, you won't have to amuse your baby with card games, or trying to get it to figure out exactly where the fish is going to fall from next. I will admit that it teaches you responsibility. Woe unto the child who starts off with a Tamogotchi and loses interest, only to return the next day to find the little electronic critter deader than a doornail (emphasized ever so effectively with those X-ed out eyes normally used in cartoons to signify great drunkenness). Still, one has to remember that Tamogotchis are merely toys. They are not true indicators of how one will fare as a parent. Lucky me!

So, anyhow, this is part one, where I apologize profusely and you spend the entire rest of this issue reading the text and admiring the art and deciding whether or not you're going to forgive me for the seemingly unpardonable sin of having a life outside of this issue. If you can't forgive me, that's okay. Just don't step on any toes as you stand in line with the other folks who say that they won't...most of them are college students...but that's another story completely and you'll have to make it to Editorial Musings, Part 2 to get the punchline.

Happy Reading!



## **WORDS FROM THE SECRETARY**

SFSFS is looking to acquire another Microfiche machine. Also we are in need on a Monitor for a Mac II computer. If you have either item and would like to donate them to SFSFS {you get a really nifty "thanks for your contribution" letter from someone for your donation. It can help, come tax time! - Mags, the editor}, please contact Shirlene Ananayo-Rawlik or Peter Barker {our phone numbers and e-mail addresses are on the second page of this issue}. If you know where we can get one, call us. Thanks!

## **Meeting Re-caps**

[due to a mis-understanding between the former and the current Secretary, these have been missing from prior issues...you are now about to get the really encapsulated version...I'm sure that the Secretary will give a more thorough re-cap - with anything I missed - in the next issue...right, Mal?]

### **February**

The General Meeting was held on the 16th at the Florida Renaissance Festival at TY Park in Ft. Lauderdale. After a very brief business meeting [that mainly consisted of handing out tickets], everyone descended upon the RenFest and enjoyed the great weather and laughter-inducing entertainment.

### **March**

The General Meeting was held on the 22nd at the International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts in Ft. Lauderdale. We had the distinct pleasure of having a local journalist/author/ really nice woman, Tananarive Due, interview Mr. Dan Simmons. There was another business meeting and people were asked to contribute books for the SFSFS book booth at the upcoming Palm Beach Book Fest. Proceeds from the book booth were to be split 60/40 with 60% going back to the contributor and 40% going to SFSFS and the Warehouse Relocation Fund. As usual, the ICFA Art Show was set-up, maintained, and broken down by volunteers from SFSFS. Way to go, folks!

### **April**

The General Meeting was held on the 19th at the Palm Beach Book Fest at the South Florida Fairgrounds in west West Palm Beach [for those of you who would understand, it's really west West Palm Beach...7 miles west of I-95...]. The business meeting basically was an introduction to the membership of the



information regarding the location that the board had found for the SFSFS Warehouse to be relocated to. Major reasons cited for the suggestion to move were that it would be more cost efficient PLUS, the new location would be used as a clubhouse...y'know, a place where we could actually meet...surrounded by the many, many books in the club's lending library that only a few of us had been able to see or touch while it was in it's current location. The program was enjoyment of the PBBF itself. The booth raised a substantial amount of money, and we are planning to do it again at next year's PBBF.

### **May**

The General Meeting was held on the 24th at the Hallandale Branch Library in Hallandale. The program focused on the works of upcoming Tropicon Guest of Honor and Toastmaster, Esther Friesner and Josepha Sherman, respectively. Judi Goodman gave a presentation that attempted {pretty successfully, contrary to what Judi might tell you!} to portray the breath and depth of the works of two talented women.

### **June**

The General Meeting was held on the 21st at the Imperial Point Branch Library in Ft. Lauderdale. The program was on the folklore and facts of South Florida by residing environmentalist scientist, Pete Rawlik. Other points of this meeting escape my mind at this moment. Apologies. Interested parties can accost Pete Barker, the secretary, at their discretion.

### **July**

The General Meeting was held on the 19th at the Hallandale Branch Library in Hallandale. Joe Siclari, Edie Stern, George Peterson, and a variety of participants from the audience all gave their various opinions on the current Hugo nominees.

### **August**

The General Meeting was held on the 24th at the new SFSFS clubhouse! The program was actually a Gala Opening Soiree for the Clubhouse. There was wine and cheese and crackers and beer and fruit and veggies and cold cuts and rolls and candy and-- get the picture? Major fun was had by all. One of the highlights was watching Joe Siclari - in his element - auctioneering away...stuff...then more stuff... then more stuff that people did not even know that they had wanted! Another highlight was watching Tom Mescarole [I know, I know... I probably spelled his name wrong...he'll forgive me] thwacking away at the dragon pinata...while being blindfolded...after having consumed uncounted glasses of unidentified liquid...whilst the entire room yelled directions that he could not have understood anyhow. Cindy and her pre-soiree helpers are all to be commended for a job well done and a party well thrown!

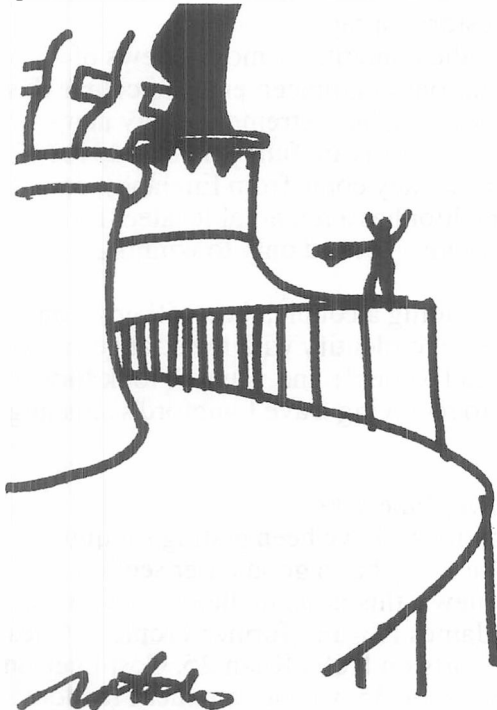
### **September**

The General Meeting was held on the 20th at the SFSFS clubhouse. The program was presented by Joe Siclari on Fanzines, past, present, and future. It was highly informative and full of Siclari anecdotes about fanzines and the people who put them out. During the business portion, both Deborah Palliser and Cheryl R were voted in. George Peterson and Christina Santiago asked for volunteers to help them move to their new condo. Submissions for Joe's end of the year Shuttle were also asked for.

## October

The General Meeting was held on the 25th at the SFSFS clubhouse. After a rousing election, full of excitement and intrigue {okay, okay, it basically boiled down to a run off between George Peterson and Carlos Perez for the position of Vice Chairman}, everyone settled down and listened while Pete Rawlik gave a talk on his spin of the origin of horror and where he thinks the trends in horror are going. His lovely wife {aka yours truly} got to sit at the "lecture table" with him for moral support and some witty commentary.

What?! You want to know how the election went? Well, after the Chairman {once again, yours truly...I am wearing many hats this year!}, took two "polls" to see what the club thought (both ended in ties, by the way), she went out {did I forget to mention that we had evicted the two opponents from the clubhouse and sent them to sweat it out in the warm South Florida sun?} and spoke with them and came to an acceptable decision. Upon returning, it was declared that Carlos Perez would be next year's SFSFS Vice Chairman! And, so another chapter in SFSFS history begins...



## 1997 Hugo Winners:

### *Best Novel*

*Blue Mars*, Kim Stanley Robinson

### *Best Novella*

*"Blood of The Dragon"*, George R. R. Martin

### *Best Novelette*

*"Bicycle Repairman"*, Bruce Sterling

### *Best Short Story*

*"The Soul Selects Her Own Society..."*,  
Connie Willis

### *Best Non-Fiction Book*

*Time & Chance*, L. Sprague de Camp

### *Best Dramatic Presentation*

*Babylon 5's "Severed Dreams"*

### *Best Professional Editor*

Gardner Dozois

### *Best Professional Artist*

Bob Eggleton

### *Best Semiprozine*

*Locus*

### *Best Fanzine*

*Mimosa*

### *Best Fan Writer*

Dave Langford

### *Best Fan Artist*

William Rotsler

### *John W. Campbell Award*

Michael A. Burstein

The foreign winners of the Japanese Seiun Award—also known as the Japanese "Hugo"—were also announced. Robert J. Sawyer's *End of an Era* won in the Best Novel Category, while Greg Bear's *"Heads"* won for Best Short Story.

## **Donations!**

### **{or, with thanks again, to Tony Lewis}**

I took the liberty of accepting some donations from Tony Lewis who was down this weekend cleaning out his mother's condo. We brought some stuff to the Clubhouse and left it there.

These are the items:

- one 2-drawer file cabinet
- four folding chairs
- one 25" color television
- one folding card table
- one stereo, including cassette player with speakers
- one Smith Corona electric typewriter plus extra ribbons
- two tabletop games

I didn't think anyone would object to these items as good additions to the Clubhouse.

Thanks.

Joe Siclari

{You're right, Joe, we don't object! <g>  
Seriously though, I'd like to add my thanks to Tony Lewis. It was unexpected, yet highly appreciated. The situation surrounding the donation might not have been ideal, but I am glad that Tony decided to help out local fandom with his contribution!

--Shirlene Ananayo-Rawlik, SFSFS' lame duck Chairman}



## **Battling the Paper Blob: An extended exercise in generating gibberish**

by Peter "Mal" Barker

Welcome to my first attempt at reviewing what SFSFS receives in the mail. What follows will be a collection of zines. Please see the end of this article for contact addresses.

*Ansible*, #120, July 1997

Do we need to mention who edits this? You must live under a rock if you have not heard of Dave Langford, multi-hugo winner. Besides *Ansible* being available on paper, it is available by either e-mail subscription or from the web. (Look for *Ansible* with a search engine.) The next time you have nothing better to do at work, why not consider downloading *Ansible* instead of yet another nude picture of Marcia Brady or the latest formula for Kibo's hair restorer spray.

As for the content, it's mostly news of fandom and various announcements. Of course this is not ordinary news, but extremely funny news - either because the items are funny in themselves (perhaps because they come from England), or because their editor has a remarkable talent for writing such things (second only to winning Hugos).

After reading a couple, they will grow on you as you begin to identify with the strange cast of characters. Read a couple and you will look forward every month to receiving Dave Langford's amazing missive.

*NASFA Shuttle*, June 1997

This is a clubzine we have been getting for quite some time. It usually has a good letter section. Besides club news, this issue includes a review of *Bug Park* by James Hogan (former Tropicon Guest of Honor), reports on KublaKhan 25, CostumeCon XV, DeepSouthCon 35, various southern fandom



things, and a letters section. [In the letters section, Sheryl Birkhead mentions she mysteriously started receiving the *SFSFS Shuttle* again. Many other readers may be wondering why they are getting this as well. I'll bury the notice here so you'll have to read carefully to find it. When the new secretary took over for SFSFS he revamped the *Shuttle* mailing list and whacks away at the beast on a regular basis in an attempt to keep it current. SFSFS also realized it was about the same price for them to send out over 200 issues of the *Shuttle* bulk rate as it was to send barely 100 by first class post.]

#### *PSFS News*, July 1997

This is the Newsletter of the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society. Besides club stuff, each issue usually has a page or two of other material. For example, this issue has a section called "Science Fiction for July" containing mostly book reviews.

#### *Memphen*, #234

Clubzine of the Memphis SF Association. This issue contained an assortment of little gray aliens drawn by Tom Foster. They all look contented and happy as if they had a good week of abductions and cattle mutilations. This issue includes club stuff, review of *Contact* (the movie, not the medicine), Rivercon report, review of *Eternity Road* by Jack McDevitt, and assorted letters.

#### *Stone Hill Launch Times*, July 1997

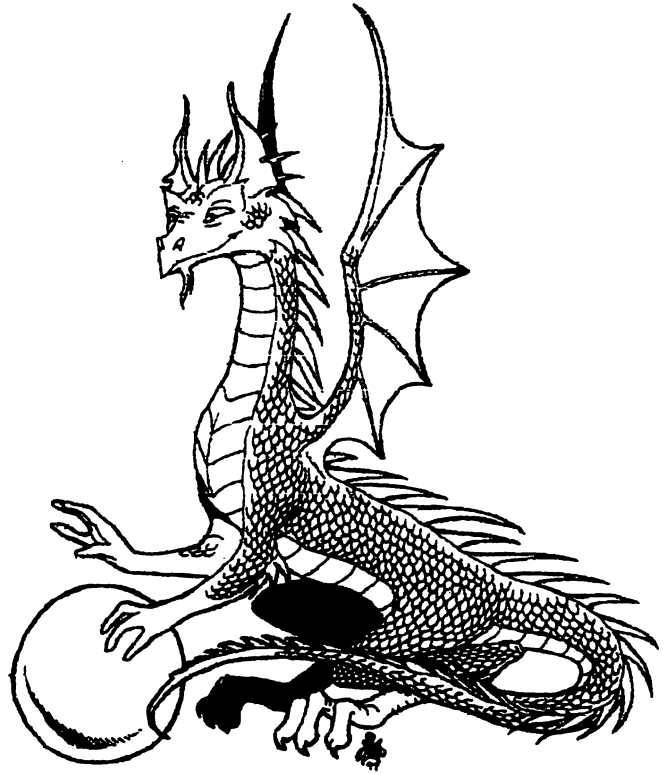
Clubzine of the Stone Hill SF Association. The editor is looking for lists of movies that have scenes with sword fighting. This issue includes "The Sword Lovers Movie List" and mini reviews of *Men in Black* and *Hercules*.

#### *Memphen*, #233

This issues includes club stuff and a review of *Project Maldon* by Chris Atack. They now have a web page at <http://www.netten.net/~msfa/>. There is a letter section and an interesting review of the Battlefield Earth Interactive CD-ROM. Since SFSFS is doing a book discussion of the works of L Ron Hubbard perhaps this might be worth checking out.

#### *File 770*, #118

If you need to know what is going on in Fandom read this. It's chock full of news and discussions. The first couple I read did not impress me, but now that I know who the regular players are it's interesting. (I never seem impressed with anything on the first read do I?) There is lots of talk on Taff and last issue's reports on Disclave and the Hugos. Discussions on the creation of a new set of awards for the internet? Can you lump together paper media and electronic or should there be two awards? Electronic media is probably cheaper and can reach



more people, but still there is something about holding this stuff in your hands. I wandered around the house reading bits of *File 770* - something I could never do with an electronic copy at this time. There is a big review of *Ethel the Aardvark*, a fanzine from down under - especially worth looking into with the worldcon coming up. Also most of SFSFS is probably hopping up and down to read this issue. It mentions us acquiring a clubhouse. Nifty front cover by Alan White and nice back cover by Ray Capella. Disembodied brains in boxes and ray guns always win me over. For someone not familiar with fanzines, this is one worth checking out as a good example of what they can be.

#### *De Profundis*, #303

This is the official newszine of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society. This issue seems to have the smallest print yet, making *Fosfax* look like a large print edition. They do such a myriad of different things that they require more space. This issue, as others usually do, contains a calendar of events, minutes of their meetings with often amusing comments, reviews, news, and the lot. It's handy to have if you want to know what LASFS is up to, but reading it for pure pleasure may be hard due to the density of the material and the small print. Still, all the stuff LASFS does makes one jealous. They mention [www.lasfs.org](http://www.lasfs.org) as their new web presence.

#### *Visions of Paradise*, #73 and #74

This is a mostly personal zine. Much of it consists of a diary or journal entries of Robert Sabella's life. He

also makes commentary has some locs and such. Lately he seems to be switching his fascination from Science Fiction to China which to him seems to him in many ways like SF. The alienness of China to the west, gives it a SF feel much like the culture of two headed dwellers on the far side of Pluto might. I enjoyed this material and it caused me to think. Sabella goes on to talk about how for him reading SF was no longer a joy because he compulsively read in order to compile best of lists and read all the supposed award winners. Being forced to read much of this material against his will sucked all the fun out of it.

#### *De Profundis, #302*

See above for most of it. I have a big stack of zines on the floor next to my computer. I pull them out at random and review them. If you do not see your zine here yet, keep looking I will get to it some day. This issue of *De Profundis* has larger print than 303. I was not loosing my mind. Again, you get a mixture of amusing minutes, some small reviews, calendar of events, list of book stores, changes of address and a couple letters.

#### *Ansible, #119*

See above again. I forgot to mention, for those who do not know, the printed version of *Ansible* is different than the one on line. The on line versions has some additions that come out after the printed one is issued. This issue has Harry Harrison remembering Sam Moskowitz and a picture of a starry eyed be-tusked bulldog on the front.



#### *Instant Message, #609*

The newsletter of the New England Science Fiction Association. It contains news, minutes, and announcements. All are very technical. All very club oriented. One reads this to see how one is supposed to run a club often turning green with envy at their adeptness. Since SFSFS knows some of the people in NESFA each issue is carefully scrutinized for embarrassing blackmail material. I think I even figured out where they got their name from the other day, though I will not reveal it here for fear it will end up as an entry in my blackmail file. If all else fails and you cannot think of any other use for *Instant Message* you can at least drool over the books NESFA press is publishing.

#### *The Mark of the B\*E\*A\*S\*T, #vol 20 issue 9*

The newsletter of the Baltimore Science Fiction Society. Club news for the BSFS. It is informative for members, contains a few other details but mostly just a clubzine. I'm sorry, I can't think of anything witty or intelligent to say here. It's 7:10 in the morning. I have not eaten breakfast yet and the stereo is playing "Third Reich and Roll" by the Residents. It's disturbing my concentration.

#### *De Profundis, # 301*

See above again. I think they are trying to befuddle me. This issue, the one before 302, has smaller text. Close scrutiny reveals that it's even smaller than 302! Here I thought there was some method to their madness where they slowly decreased the size of the text hoping people would not notice. As with the other three issues, if you have a case of carpal tunnel syndrome there is a helpful coupon on the back. I will probably end up with that at the rate I have to review these zines. Someone named David Lathram seems to have turned a mousepad into a cup holder. Either I'm imagining it or this one has more reviews than normal.

#### *Widening Gyre One*

The first issue of a continuing thing. It's chock full of fanzine kind of stuff. It includes a great article by Charlie Stross about a hellish experience riding British rail. Also there is an article by Debra Fran Baker about being an Orthodox Jew at a con.

#### *OASFIS Event Horizon, July 1997*

Clubzine of the Orlando Science Fiction Society. It contains Clubs news, some short articles and some art. This issue they splurged and have a full color page with a photo of a giant Tom Servo. Good old Mystery Science Theater 3000! If you examine the photo closely I think Chewbacca seems to be standing next to Servo. The most remarkable thing about this photo is this giant version of Tom Servo seems to have become too large for a hover skirt to

support. A couple of be-sneakered human legs were grafted on as a mode of propulsion.

*Fosfax*, #186, June 1997

I'll run out of space if I go into detail about *Fosfax*. As always, it huge with seventy-two pages of small type. About half are articles and the rest letters. I tend to skim over some bits especially the political stuff. You will never know exactly what is inside. I was surprised by a review of all things, *Turbo: A Power Rangers Movie*. (Now why didn't SFSFS do that movie as a media event?). *Fosfax* is not only SF stuff, besides politics it wanders into other areas. This issue includes material on a Holmes/Doyle Symposium. There is continuing series analyzing in detail Heinlein's novels. This installment was on *The Rolling Stones*. These are written by Joseph T. Major and I've enjoyed all I've seen. They made me re-read the novels discussed. If you are a Heinlein fan you might want to check out *Fosfax* for this. There are artists and a zillion people everyone has heard of. Some people may not enjoy *Fosfax* because the printing is very small (though as I said I think *De Profundis* takes the award for the smallest type.) and often the politics can bog you down.

*Instant Message*, # 610

See above for details. This issue contains the Hugos ballet. Many times *Instant Message* contains some flyer of interest. This is the issue mentioned in *File 770* with the infamous surrealistic maps! This also has the ISBN numbers for the NESFA books.

*The Geis Letter*, #37

I first ran across Geis's stuff ages ago when my friends and I used to visit the gaming/book store that replaced Nebulus Books in Syracuse New York. The name completely escapes me. At one point this store had two piles in the magazine section. My one friend bought one pile, and I bought the other. He bought up 50 or so Geis publications and I bought a bushel of 2000 ADs. I read both the 2000 AD and the Geis zines. Anyway enough with the stories and onto the review. I was a bit surprised by the contents. I thought it would be more SF oriented. There is a review of *Independence Day* and *The Year's Best Science Fiction* edited by Gardner Dozois billed as the one SF novel you should read. Other than that, it is mostly conspiracy material. There is talk of flight 800 shot down by missiles, the ATF lying about Waco, the Oklahoma bombing and so on.

*NASFA Shuttle*, July 1997

See above again. This issue has a book review of *Subspace Explorers*, and *Subspace Encounters* by Doc Smith. Smith always goes over big in my book so job well done there. We need more reviews of

old classics. Everyone is clamoring for the new works with very few taking the time to appreciate the already existing body of work. As usual, the letters section is worth reading.

*Instant Message*, # 116

See above. Ballot for selecting the 1999 North American SF Convention. List of Committed and ISBNified Projects. ISBNified? This must be some sort of high-falutin' publishing term.

*PSFS News*, August 1997

See above. Blurb and photo of John Kessel their August guest. Results of a Hugo panel they had showing who they predicted to win. Oh well they did not pick *Holy Fire* as the best novel. Book reviews, news of *B5* and more reviews. There's clubzine stuff of course as well. I have been doing too many of these. I do not seem to be able to talk in complete sentences again. Maybe I should just combine all the repeats into one review. Oh where's the fun in that? Besides I'm getting hungry because Ericka is making blue berry pancakes.

*OASFiS Event Horizon*, August 1997

See above.

*Stone Hill Launch Times*, August 1997

See above. Mostly stuff about the upcoming *Necronomicon*.



*Time Lord Times*, July/August 1997

The title says it all. This is a zine devoted to Dr. Who, though it strays into other areas. If you want the latest poop on Dr. Who, the new production of Star Wars, all the SF & F shows on t.v. this is a place to look. Besides just the news it also has some editorials and reviews of other media stuff. *Time Lord Times* seemed to have boiled down all sorts of information about this stuff into a readable format. Well worth checking of if you have any interest in this area, or want to hear about Lucy Lawless exposing herself in public.

*NASFA Shuttle*, August 1997

See above. This issue contains reviews of the current crop of movies, list of receivable, club stuff and a loc section including tales of shootings at flea markets.

*The Geis Letter*, #38

See above. More talk of Flight 800 and the Oklahoma Bombing. Evidence that was not brought out in the trials or was hushed up by the media. Talk of how biased the media is. I liked this issue better than the last. Some of the flight 800 and Oklahoma stuff was fascinating. Great reading if you are into conspiracies. All written very intelligently and readable unlike much of the conspiracy oriented stuff one sees. More reviews of t.v, books and other things. Again it's weak on the SF if you are looking for that.

*Twink* #6

Real fanzine. Lots of good articles. Memorable article on the world horror con held in Buffalo that was truly hellish. Make interesting companion reading to the article in W.G. about the hellish rail trip. We also received *Twink* #5 which was just as good if not better.

*Proper Boskonian*, #39

Oh lord, how did this escape? I just found this while trying to clean up my office. A hasty glance show's it's from 1997 so it needs to be included. I always look forward to reading *The Proper Boskonian* there is always a load of good articles often heavily on literary stuff. This issue includes Evelyn Leeper's LAconIII 1996 report. A report on the Film Presentations at LACon III by Ian Gunn and other stuff. I know I've read this but at present I can't think of anything to say. [Flash! We just got the latest with a big report on the last Boskon with blow-by-blow panel descriptions.]

*The Insider*, June 1997

Clubzine with assortment of club type stuff. Some Locs. About half of it is taken off the internet. I always preferred to separate the two. Much of the

internet material is circulated endlessly like the mouseballs memo. Much of it is that funny once kind of thing. If exposed to it several times, it no longer amuses.

*OASFiS Event Horizon*, June 1997

See above somewhere. (I did review one of these before or have I gone crazy?) It contains a short report on the OASIS 10 convention. There is an article on how wonderful it is we have so many choices of SF & F programs on t.v. (For me there may be so many choices but they are all bad. The media sees so many stupid shows so create more of them along the same moronic lines to sell advertising. They should just get down to brass tacks and replace these shows with infomercials and have done with it. I'm sure more people would find it amusing for Janeway in her full regalia to demonstrate how to make beef jerky in the comfort of your own home, or have Hercules demonstrate how in just a few seconds a power washer can get his soiled loin cloth spotless and odor free. These shows are to sell commercial time. They could care less about anything else.) Set of comments by various luminaries on OASIS 10.

*Stone Hill Launch Times*, June 1997

See above. This is a one pager. As usual printed on colored paper. Clubnews, editors notes and discussions of some movies.

*PSFS News*, June 1997

See Above. Artist Bruce Jensen is their guest this month so they devote the front page to a blurb and photo of him. He did the covers for *Snow Crash* and *Diamond Age* among others. Club stuff as usual. This one has a couple reports of book discussions. SFSFS has book discussions and one would assume something about them should go in the Shuttle. [One would also assume we'd need some sort of cosmic planetary adjusting beam to give an earth day about 100 hours. This would allow the secretary to fit enough typing into his schedule so he could do book discussion reports on top of all the other typing he does lately. Where'd that *De Profundis* go with the carpal tunnel ad? {Well, ye mighty editor might remind the secretary that it really the responsibility of each dept. head to write a report about their individual dept activities and the secretary should only have to write the general meeting reports...unless he is feeling generous and wants or is asked to write reports for the aforementioned dept. heads...<G>}] More book reviews and science fiction for June. The book reviews are good and the SF for June section as well the other SF for the month sections is handy to have. It's one page long and packed with information.



*Memphen*, # 232 June 1997

See above. This contains the Hugo nominations. Besides just the listing there is also a page or two of comments, something not often seen. Usually zines simply list them. Comments are always nice because it helps jog the memory. In the SFSFS book discussion, the people who read the shorter than novel length categories often could not remember the titles. They also, given a list of the titles could not place them with the stories very well. Is this some sign? Do authors simply hurl some title on their story without though these days? Perhaps a one sentence summary might be included in the future hugo lists. Then again this might bias things. I suppose one could write: "Crappy franchise movie designed to sell plastic toys" for example.

*Life on Planet Earth*, Summer 1997

Personal zine [see loc section for letter from Editor about it.] This one has a ton of book reviews, which are one line plot summary synopsis of mostly sf novels.



# Incomplete Contact Addresses:

*File 770* c/o Mike Glycer  
PO Box 1056; Sierra Madre, CA 91025

*PSFS News* c/o Philadelphia SF Society  
P.O. Box 8303; Philadelphia, PA 19101

*OASFiS Event Horizon* c/o OASFiS  
P.O. Box 940992; Maitland, FL 32794-0092

*WESTWIND* c/o Northwest SF Society  
PO Box 24207; Seattle, WA 98124

Omega Ltd. Productions  
3415 Silverwood Drive; Pine Hills, FL 32808  
[*Omega Zine*. We just received notice that they will no longer trade with us due to budget problems at their end.]

*The Mark of the B\*E\*A\*S\*T* c/o B.S.F.S.  
Box 686; Baltimore, MD 21293

Janice Murray  
P.O. Box 75684; Seattle, WA 98125-0684  
[*American Ansible* distributor and winner of Taff I think.]

*Memphen* c/o Barbara & Tim Gatewood  
3125 S. Mendenhall #353; Memphis, TN 38115-2808

*De Profundis* c/o The LA Science Fantasy Society  
11513 Burbank Blvd; North Hollywood, CA 91601

*Instant Message* c/o NESFA  
P.O. Box 809; Framingham, MA 01701-0203

*The Insider* c/o Saint Louis Science Fiction Society  
PO Box 1058; Saint Louis, MO 63188-1058

*Mimosa* c/o Nicki & Richard Lynch  
P.O. Box 1350; Germantown, MD 20875  
[You need a review of this? Oh come on it's great. Get a copy.]

*NASFA Shuttle* c/o North Alabama SF Assoc.  
P.O. Box 4857; Huntsville, AL 35815-4857

*The Geis Letter* c/o Richard E. Geis  
P.O. Box 11408; Portland, OR 97211-0408

*Stone Hill Launch Times* c/o Stone Hill SF Assoc.  
PO Box 2076; Riverview, FL 33568

*FOSFAX* c/o FOSFA  
PO Box 37281; Louisville, KY 40233-7281

*Twink*  
4725 Dorsey Hall Drive; Suite A, Box 700  
Ellicott City, MD 21042

St Louis C.I.A.  
P.O. Box 733; St. Louis, MO 63188

Robert Sabella  
24 Cedar Manor Court; Budd Lake, NJ 07828-1023

O'Brien - Widening Gyre  
123 C Melody Lane; Costa Mesa, CA 92627

Life on Planet Earth  
P.O.B. 3194; Bellingham, WA 98227

Gadzooks! This thing is long and I barely covered anything. If you are not mentioned we'll try to get you in next time. I have several pounds of material that still needs to be reviewed. Keep those card and letters coming. Write us a nasty loc and we'll try to do better next time. I'm working in the something is better than nothing mode here.

Here's a list of other stuff we've received in the past while: *Baryon 66*; *OASFIS Event Horizon*, 9/97; *The Insider*, #205; *Southern Fandom Bulletin*, Vol 6 #9 (liked the Souther Belle in space cover.); *Westwind*, #220; *Memphen*, #235; *The Reluctant Famulus*, #49 (wow this one is amazing. I was saying wow gosh over it on the drive back from the PO Box. This zine looks beautify with multicolor stuff and crisp clean printing); *Memphen*, #232; *File 770*, #117 (with all the poop on Disclave); *Westwind*, # 219: *Mimosa*, XX; *The Reluctant Famulus*, #48; *Omegazine*, # 84; *NASFA Shuttle*, May 1997; and *Instant Message*, # 608. Again, please remember this is not a complete list. This is what I dug up in a hurry. Fanzines tend to accumulate at ones house in a similar manner to pinàta glitter at the SFSFS clubhouse. They keep appearing out of nooks and crannies.

## **With Thanks and Appreciation**

Melanie Herz would like to extend both her thanks and appreciation to her friends in SFSFS who have helped her out and sent letters and made phone calls. Melanie lost her mother (and, more recently, her grandmother) earlier this year. She wants everyone to know that she is doing well and appreciates the love and support that she and her family have received from us.

## **The Babylon 5 Report** by George Peterson

### Episode Schedule

#### Season 4

Air Date	EP #	Prod #	
09/01/97		414R	Moments of Transition
09/08/97		415R	No Surrender, No Retreat
09/15/97		416R	The Exercise of Vital Powers
09/22/97		417R	The Face of the Enemy
09/29/97		418R	Intersections in Real Time
10/06/97	85	419	Between the Darkness and the Light
10/13/97	86	420	Endgame
10/20/97	87	421	Rising Star
10/27/97	88	501	The Deconstruction of Falling Stars (Season 4 Finale)

These episodes will air on the original TV stations. In the South Florida area, these are WDLZ, Channel 39 on Saturday at 11:00PM & WTVX, Channel 34 on Saturday at 8:00PM {actually, George, it's now midnight...34 changed it}.

#### Season Five

Season five will begin airing on TNT on January 19, 1998, Mondays at 10PM with a repeat showing on Saturdays at 6PM. Although there's no confirmation, TNT has hinted they'll show the season straight through with no reruns.

Air Date	EP #	Prod #	
98/01/19	89	502	No Compromises (season premiere)
98/01/26	90	503	The Very Long Night of Londo Mollari
98/02/02	91	504	The Paragon of Animals
98/02/09	92	501	A View from the Gallery (based on a story idea from Harlan Ellison)
98/02/16	93	506	Learning Curve
98/??/??	??	5??	The Day of the Dead (written by Neil Gaiman)
98/06/15?	110	422	Sleeping in Light (series finale)

TNT Rebroadcast

*B5* premieres on TNT Sunday, January 4 in a four-hour block ("In the Beginning" followed by "The Gathering") starting at 8PM Eastern, with a repeat immediately afterwards. "The Gathering" may be a re-edited version with missing footage from the original and a new score by Christopher Franke, but that hasn't been officially confirmed.

Air Date EP # Prod # Title

98/01/04 MoW 2Babylon 5: In the Beginning

98/01/04 Pilot: The Gathering

TNT will rebroadcast seasons 1-4 weeknights at 6PM Eastern.

\* Warning! Some of the information below may contain spoilers you don't want to see.

"Between the Darkness and the Light" - While Ivanova's fleet goes up against Clark's forces, Garibaldi is captured by the resistance and a plan to rescue Sheridan is put into the works. "Endgame" - Sheridan's forces make their final strike against Clark, while Marcus plays gallant knight one last time.

"Rising Star" - Delenn offers the League of Non-Aligned a very interesting proposal. Earthgov tries to decide what to do with Sheridan, and Ivanova has a decision of her own to make.

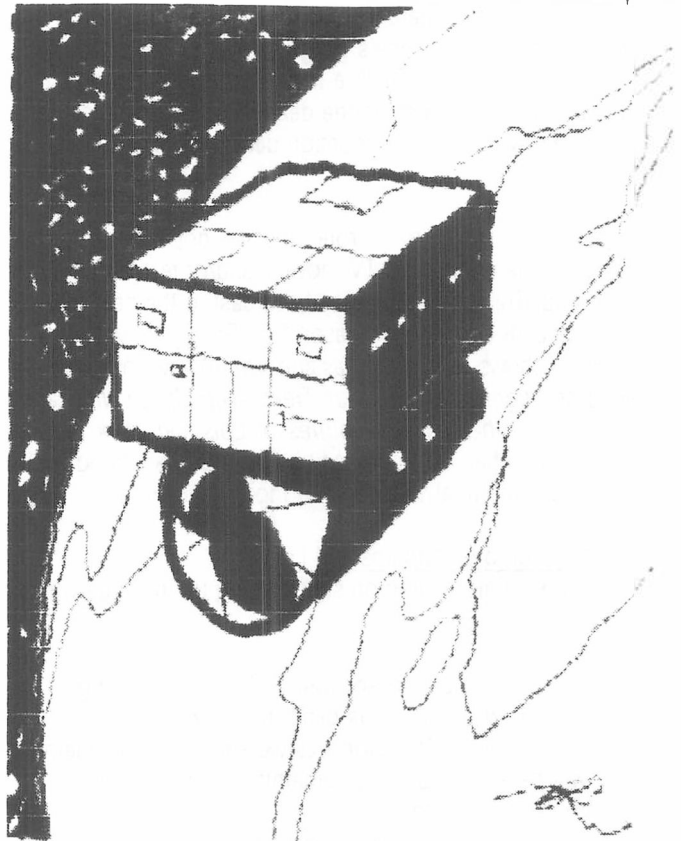
"The Deconstruction of Falling Stars" - Season Four Finale. The teaser and act one will show the crew speculating on the consequences of their involvement in the Shadow War, the Civil War and all that. Act 2 will show the results 100 years later, act 3 will be 500 years afterwards, and act 4 will be 1000 years. JMS has something special planned for act 5.

"No Compromises" - Season Five premiere. Captain Elizabeth Lochley, who fought on the "wrong" side of the civil war, is appointed by Sheridan as the new commander of Babylon 5. Meanwhile a family of telepaths show up on the station and want to make it their home.

Ups and Downs in the *Babylon 5* Universe

As you've probably gathered, TNT has rescued *Babylon 5* from cancellation. The cable station had already purchased the rights to the show's first four seasons, and was planning a big promotion for it. Meanwhile *Babylon 5* was suffering from the death of the Prime Time Entertainment Network, and a glut of new syndicated programming. Despite having a ratings increase of 13% over last year, the show was facing cancellation because there simply weren't enough stations and time slots available to air it. TNT rode in at the last minute and saved the day by purchasing the 5th season. After this October, *Babylon 5* will no longer be airing on it's old broadcast channels.

Yes, you will now need cable to see *Babylon 5*. On the plus side, TNT will be running the show at decent times and on a regular schedule. In addition, they'll be promoting the show in a way PTEN and Warner's never did.

Ivanova Takes a Leave of Absence

One element that the 5th season will be missing is Commander Susan Ivanova. It seems that Claudia Christian has decided to pursue other career options instead of returning to the show (can you say "Tasha Yar?").

There's been a lot of confusion, complaining, huffing, and puffing over this, but the upshot of it all is that Christian tried a last minute contract renegotiation and walked when it looked like she wasn't going to get her way.

When Warner's was switching *Babylon 5* over to TNT, there was a lot of red tape left over from the PTEN contracts to clear up. They were still working on this when the June 15th deadline came up for renewing the actor's contracts. Warner asked for a one-month extension, getting one for everyone, except Claudia Christian who said she was interested in continuing with the show but wanted to be free to pursue other business.

When the TNT deal came through, Babylonian Productions tried to get Christian on board. Christian wanted to be able to take 4 episodes off in case of a possible movie deal - but she still wanted to be paid for all 22. Not surprisingly, Producer Doug Netter said, "No." All of this was made more complicated by the fact that Joe Straczynski had to start writing the next script within days. When they asked Christian for a definite "yes" or "no", she didn't call back. As a result, she was out.

Needless to say, the fans have been in an uproar. With both Straczynski and Christian posting their own spins to the web,

there's been so many references to the "Three-edged Sword" that it's enough to make one's gorge buoyant. There have been the usual deluges of mail, e-mail, and faxes - none of which makes any difference as the deadlines have past for which casting, writing and production decisions have to be made.

Straczynski isn't recasting the role since he hopes to bring her back for possible up-coming TV movies, and/or feature film. To fill in the gap, Tracy Scoggins has been cast in the new role of Captain Elizabeth Lochley for season five. Scoggins, who has had roles on shows such as *Dallas* and *The Colbys*, has also appeared on *Highlander*, and *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, and as Cat Grant on *The New Adventures of Lois and Clark*. Actually, the role has definite possibilities and, if anything, will probably make the final season even more interesting.

#### Fifth Season Rumors, Bargains and Lies

Here's additional information on stuff coming up in January and beyond.

- \* The story arc of the 5th season will be "Empire Building." Up to now, *Babylon 5* has dealt mostly with the destruction of "the world as we know it." Now theme will be about building something new out of the rubble of the old.
- \* Marcus Cole seems to be occupying a sort of "Schrodinger's Cat" type limbo. There were rumors that he was supposed to die at the end of season 4, but with the departure of Ivanova, the character may live on instead.
- \* One 5th season story-line may involve a war between telepaths and mundanes.
- \* Neil Gaiman is scheduled to write a 5th season episode currently titled "Day of the Dead." Apparently, the script will involve all of the main characters, including a couple who have been mentioned, but never actually appeared: Rebo and Zooty!
- \* Harlan Ellison and Bill Mumy are reported to be working on episodes.
- \* The episode "A View from the Gallery" is based on an idea by Harlan Ellison, and JMS is sharing story credit with him.
- \* Lorien's ship, which appeared in "The Summoning" will be seen/used again.
- \* Both the new season and the TV movie, "Thirdspace" will feature new ships, weapons and technology not seen so far.
- \* Columbia Video is expected to start marketing *Babylon 5* videos in November - with 2 episodes per tape. They'll be selling them by subscription the way they've done *Star Trek* tapes.
- \* The *B5* collector plates have been canceled, but other merchandise such as model kits are in the works.

## **"In the News..."**

{okay, I'll admit, the snippets are a little confusing, but you get the idea, right?}

Subject: File 770

Author: <sfsfs-discuss@scifi.squawk.com> at smtp

Date: 8/6/97 3:43 PM

SFSFS and the new clubhouse are mentioned in File 770. According to Glyer, we are only the 4th club to get a clubhouse.

- Joe

Subject: File 770

Author: <sfsfs-discuss@scifi.squawk.com> at smtp

At 4:06 PM -0400 8/6/97, MHERZ wrote:

- > I know that NESFA has a clubhouse and so
- > does LA, besides SFSFS who is the fourth??
- >
- > Melanie

The Baltimore club, BSFS.

-Joe

## **Letters of Comment**

From: WANDREW@aol.com

Date: Sun, 17 Aug 1997

To: jsiclari@icanect.net

Subject: SFSFS Shuttle #130

Hi,

Thank you for the sampler of your newsletter, I thoroughly enjoyed reading through it (though I just now found a few moments to respond!). Unfortunately, I'm nowhere near south Florida so I can't attend any of the functions you have all the time. Maybe, one of these days, I can have the pleasure

Congrats on the new clubhouse!! Best wishes on getting it outfitted and everything moved safely {Thanks for the congrats and good wishes! All went well, thanks to the many helping hands we had working that day!-Magpi}.

Gerry's Lovecraft article has sparked a bit of interest on my part in reading some of the author's writings. Of course I'd heard of him; but had never thought I might enjoy it. However, I've an itch to try something now - either to confirm my earlier feeling or dismiss it and go on a Lovecraft reading fest.

The Fan History Project definitely looks like a worthwhile effort. I would be more than willing to do some typing for it; assuming there is a way to get the material to Texas from there - and once I clear my desktop of a number of "to do" projects!! However, if it is "easy typing" (clearly read text), I can easily type while



watching TV or such when I wouldn't be working on other things.

Please pass my thanks to Carol Porter (the issue arrived with a check, amongst others, on "Editor's Perogative" for why I received it - though the scantily-clad, muscular maiden/ warrior could have delivered it <grin>). Now, I only have to wait a bit over a week for WorldCon - just down the street from my home (ok, about 10 miles; but near enough!!).

--Andy York



Sheryl Birkhead  
23629 Woodfield Dr.  
Gaithersburg, MD 20882  
August 7, 1997

Greetings,

The May/June issue just got here -nice to have "you" show up again. [Mal says: As perhaps noted elsewhere the May/June issue was late for a variety of reasons including the move into the Clubhouse, the Xerox machine breaking down, and getting the bulk mail business all straightened out. Due to that delay this Shuttle may come out at a weird time as well.]

The SHUTTLE seems to be more like a clubzine than the genzine it resembled some "time" ago. [Mal says: This depends of course on who is editing it. If you haven't caught on yet they do a rotating editorial job in order to make an attempt at keeping the sanity of those editing. This tends to mean you get an oddball variety of material depending on which editor knows who and which editor wields the biggest stick to beat people into contributing material. The bigger the stick the more general the zine.]

Congratulations on joining the ranks of propertied clubs. It looks as if Gerry is dabbling further in fantasy than "traditional" sf - regardless, ghodd [yes it's spelled that way] to see that he's surfacing here and there.

CONTACT is on my list (along with a plethora of other films) - but all the reviews I've heard have been good.

The 24 hours I was in Kentucky, I got one good look at Hale-Bopp. The first time it was difficult to locate the comet, but once I'd seen it, It was easy to re-locate it.

The Bost(?)fello - the one with Brad Foster - looks like a Foster illo, so I'm not sure where the credit goes.

I enjoy B-5 - but can never remember the name

of each episode. Hence, each week I have to watch to be sure I've seen the episode. [Mal says: Ah that's no doubt something the Advertisers dreamed up to keep you watching their commercials. There's probably some sort of Zombie-fying carrier wave they use during the broadcast, who's off shoot is it cause people to want to give it a Hugo.] Usually the blurb is general enough that I still can't make a decision from the written word. [Mal says: Well we all know chimpanzees are now paid to writes those blurbs for the TV program so what do you expect? Often the program guide is more entertaining the t.v. program]

Nice to see quite a few Rotsler illos. [ Mal says: The editor of Twink sent us enough to choke a horse on which we really appreciate.] It is a concern to realize that at least two of the current fanartists (Ian Gunn, Rotsler) have had brushes with cancer.

Maybe when I do have to move, I'll be forced to prune my zine collection (4 file cabinets+), but I don't look forward to the task. [Mal says: SFSFS is a nonprofit organization that takes donations. If you need a tax write-off there's always us. We do have a library now and do have a collection of zines.]

Eventually I'll probably watch LOST WORLD on video - I still can't rationalize the triple cost to see it at a theater (local low cost video rental is \$3/2 movies- So for the \$7.50 -> 5 (well...) rentals.)

I have to sort out my site ballot but somehow I think I can't... not at this late date -I'll see.

Please let me know who needs art (I suspect Joe's may not -that's why I phrased it this way) - and what column titles are regulars. [Mal says: We got quite a bit of art after the pumpkin colored cover came out with an embarrassing ad containing my art in #129. I think we might be set for a couple issues or so. Probably if you don't hear a demand for more art, a good sign that more is needed may be when more and more of my art begins appearing in the Shuttle.]

I tried to generate fan enthusiasm for a tribute volume to Atom - but was met with resounding silence. Neither that project nor the Hickman one appears to be possible, given the level (or lack thereof) of fan involvement. Ah well, I tried...

May all the Shuttlers heading for San Antonio have a ghreat time -

Thanks,

Sheryl

1810 South Rittenhouse Square, 1708  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-5837  
August 7, 1997

Dear Editors,

Thank you for Shuttle 130.

I particularly enjoyed George Peterson's article on *Babylon 5*. Since he wrote we have learned that there will be a fifth season and that Ivanova will not be appearing, Claudia Christian having failed to sign a contract before a beginning-of-production deadline (bummer isn't it? I rather liked her and her character...hopefully they'll bring more strong female characters into the forefront. Or Delenn will have to go it all alone). There character won't be recast or killed off, in the hope that the actor will rejoin the crew for some of the movies.

I have added the FANAC web site to my links page.

Sincerely,  
Catherine Minrz



J.C. Coleman  
Post Office Box 3194  
Bellingham, Washington 98227

17 August 1997

Dear Shuttlers,

Thanks for your zine (#130)! Not quite sure why I got it, though. All but two of the excuses on the back were checked. And I'd like to know where you heard about mine. (FF? FosFax?). [Mal says: Fosfax.]

Neat article on the comet. Up here it was fantastic, easily seen with the naked eye. Best show was on the same night as a lunar eclipse.

I watched half an episode of *Babylon 5* once. I wasn't impressed. Mostly I just stick to Trek. Tape it and zap through the commercials so I can watch both in about an hour and a half.

I read a lot of sf and that's why this issue of LOPE. [Mal says: For those of you playing along at home {Magpi says: we're ALL playing along at home, Mal! What would lead you to believe differently?!}. LOPE= *Life on Planet Earth*.] was a review issue. Usually it can best be called a perzine, rambling on about whatever I ramble on

SFSFS Shuttle, "the Fall Issue" p. 18

about. But there'll be more book reviews in future issues.

Teddy's loc mentions "chairperson" and other obnoxiousness --got me wondering how many people know that in days long gone the word man means a person of either sex, so headman, bossman etc. simply meant the person in charge with no evidence as sex. [Mal says: Chairperson sounds better than scapegoat. {Magpi says: Funny, Mal, very funny. Just wait until we foist you into the questionable seat of power in SFSFS...see how you like getting calls at 3a.m. in the morning regarding life or death situ--oh, wait...that's my other job...sorry...continue as you were...<g>}]

"Chair" is a good choice, since it shortens rather than adds, [Mal says: and adds extra connotations to SFSFS since our new Clubhouse is lacking in chairs and probably the Chair should at least be able to sit in one of the existing ones some sort of privilege similar to the last meal before execution {Well, since the time that this was originally written, I'll have you know that the "Chairman" of SFSFS has a rather lovely leather chair donated graciously by Jack Weaver. It's plush, has wheels, and gives one added height!}.] and describes the position without reference to personage at all. So, theoretically, Valentina could be the chair of Valentina, Inc and who needs to know any different? {Wait...was that a non sequitur, or were you making a reference to your zine that I don't understand because I have not been able to get my paws on it yet?! Waiting for your reply might just kill me...} {I'm kidding...there will be other items to occupy my mind and time until the next loc from you <g>.]

Sincerely,  
J. C. Coleman

Mr Robert Coulson  
2677 W 500 N  
Hartford City, IN 47348

7/28/97

Dear Shuttle,

In the Lovecraft article, \$70 wasn't particularly "meager" in the 1930s. \$1 would buy a meal, 18 cents {sorry, for some reason, I can't find the little "cent symbol" in this word processing program!} could buy a gallon of gas, a couple of dollars paid for a hotel room, not that I would expect Lovecraft to drive, or stay in a hotel if he could avoid it.

That was quite a saga of trying to see Hale-Bopp. Advantages of rural living; Juanita and I just stepped out in our back yard and there it was. Juanita went out several nights; I just went once. (I'd seen it, and it wasn't going to change much.)

[Mal says: E and I only managed to see the Hale-Bopp because we came home one time from something (probably a SFSFS thingie) and the neighbor's kids were out hopping up in down with excitement. They pointed the comet out to

us. To see it one has to sort of stand on tip toes and look just at the right angle over some roofs. Seeing anything around here involving the night sky seems to be a near impossible chore. Trying to see a Lunar eclipse from our place is just as bad -- involving blundering around in the dark on the porch and then stumbling around outside peering around the roofs until you spot the moon.]

A double rifle does look like a shotgun, or at least the one I handled did -- until one looked at the muzzle, where the holes were much smaller and the metal around them much thicker. And brace yourself if you try to pick one up. But from the side view, a shotgun would be a fine "double", and a much less expensive prop.

I'm agreed with Harry that Heinlein was never a fan. He wasn't even particularly fond of fans, though he'd be a convention GoH for the publicity value and was willing to talk to fans while he was there. Fans and pro writers were much more separated in the 1950s than they are today, partly because there were fewer conventions where the two could meet. The status of the two was sharply differentiated. Some time back I got a question about who had written verse for Juanita's and my fanzine, *YANDRO*. Having no idea, I dug out the file copies and went through them, listing not only the different names, but the number of poems contributed by each.

I assumed at the beginning that I'd be the major contributor, since Juanita was always handing me a stencil with some room at the bottom and asking me to fill it. I was wrong; the major contributor of verse to *YANDRO* was L. Sprague de Camp. Does this make de Camp a fan? Of course not; he was a pro who occasionally sent unsaleable material to fanzines. Every one of his poems that we ran had to be copyrighted; he wanted something like 7 copies of each issue that contained one of his poems, so that he could do the copyright and get it done right, so the verses would still be available for professional publication. \* Eventually, he had 3 volumes of poetry published, by various small presses, but professionally. (And *YANDRO* got mentioned frequently in the credits.) De Camp obviously enjoyed fandom -- but he wasn't a fan. I doubt if Heinlein even enjoyed it much.

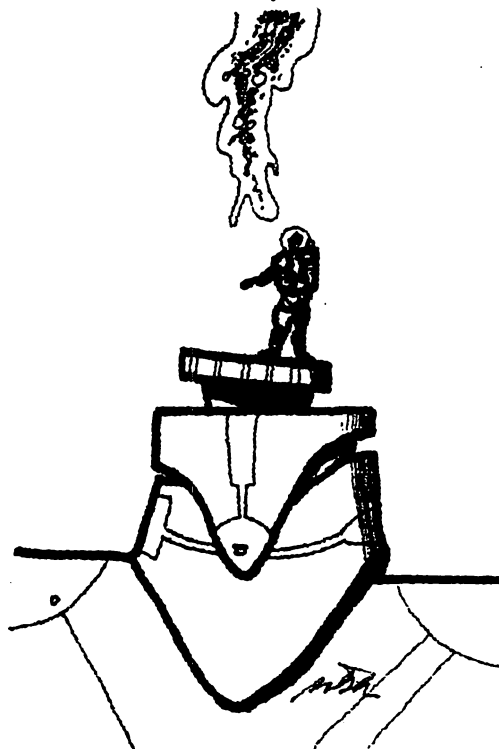
You didn't need a ribbon made to fit your portable, Harry. Get any ribbon, rewind it from the spools it comes on, and rewind it on the spools to fit your typewriter. When it's worn out, unwind it into the wastebasket, keep the spools, and repeat the process. I've been doing this with ribbons from Juanita's typewriters even since she moved to a word processor.

[Mal says: I stopped using typewriters about the time they all went electronic and switched over to that dreadful film ribbon you could only use once. (Also making them electronic made the slow down considerably so they could no longer keep up with my fingers.) I have a nostalgia for those day when I used to type and still occasionally think of finding an old one to use. I've been hesitant about buying some old typewriter because I could not find ribbons. Now with this trick all I'd need are a couple of original spools and I'd be all set.]

Incidentally, Juanita set some of de Camp's verse to music and now and then sings them at filksings. We both thoroughly enjoyed them, and the novels and short stories, and his books debunking the supernatural, and illuminating history. My all-time favorite de Camp work may be *The Great Monkey Trial* (about the Scopes trial) which I now have autographed, with a cartoon monkey swinging by its tale from the signature.

Buck

\* Book publishers don't care much for material which has been published without a copyright and is therefore in "public domain" and free to anyone who wants it.



E. A. Osborne  
137 Emerald Lane  
Lima, Ohio 45805

August 26, 1997

Dear Joe Siclari,

Thanks for sending *SFSFS Shuttle*. It brought back memories of living in Florida (North Central) which are not all bad. I was impressed that your cat thought I should have one!! What EgoBooo!!!! Uh Oh!! You want me to volunteer for something, I thought that there had to be a catch. [Mal says: I think who ever mailed out this copy of the Shuttle got a bit over zealous with the sharpie.]

The news on Tropiccon was good to hear. I never made it to one while I was living in Florida but it sounds like a good convention. I went to Necronomicon and Oasis (I still have the T-shirts) nearly every year and I have good memories of them.

Tropicon was always far away and in early December, when I was working to build up my vacation time to travel back to Ohio for Christmas and a week's visit with my family. [Mal says: I used to live in Ohio at one point. I lived down the road from some guy who was on Real People because he kept a rather large pet alligator in his living room. Then the other place I lived had B-52 bombers thundering over head at all hours.]

Good luck in the search for a clubhouse. I guess that you have looked at the pros and cons of having the burden of one. I enjoyed the zine. It was a good club zine with a good mix of club news and other stuff. I would like to hear what is going on in Florida fandom though most of the people I know are in Orlando/Tampa area.

One of the things that I miss from my Florida fan friends is the change to visit the movies together. [Mal says: Hmm... around here attending movies with friends often ends with the "friend" -- and I do use the term loosely-- being burn in effigy if not something more extreme, for suggesting attending the movie in the first place.] In Inversness, Florida, we all attended the movies as a group. I just isn't as fun by yourself. As a result, I haven't seen many movies this summer at all. In fact, the last movie I went to the theater to see was *Star Trek: the First Contact*. The films *Lost World* and the re-done *Star Wars* just weren't on my list to see. [Mal says: Well, *Lost World* probably shouldn't be on anyone's list.] I had a big problem with paying \$15.00 to see 2 minutes more of the *Star Wars* movie {Magpi interjects: What?! You pay \$15 for a movie ticket in Lima, Ohio?! Do you people grow money out there that the movie theatres feel justified to charge you that much?! I balk at paying our full price evening cost of \$6.50...and I live in



Palm Beach County, where EVERYTHING seems to cost more than in Broward or Dade counties! I feel for you, really.}. Especially, since I already have all three movies on video tape. I am still wanting to see *Men in Black* {I'll admit, MIB is cute, but does not have any lasting value...unlike my personal favorite, *Alien Nation*, both movie and tv series...those were more thought-provoking}and have increased my collection of video tapes right and left on all topics. I have the *Star Trek* movie on order and just got a gem of a film, *Richard III* with Ian McKellen. My dad calls it the "Nazi version" since the story is done in the 1930's period style. It works very well.

I have nearly 200 videos, on Sc-Fi, period films, epics, horror and documentaries. [Mal says: Ah, but do you have a copy of *Vegas in Space*? We used to. We erased it because it was so unspeakably bad, and to this day have regretted our decision.] As well, I have my own video camcorder and for the last year have been making videos, mainly of SCA events and cons. I also collect professionally made videos of cons, mostly of costume contests. I hope to write an article about that very soon {well, when you do, please send me a copy. I'd be interested in reading it! - Magpi}.

As I mentioned, I hope that I can get to Tropicon this or any other year so what do you want me to volunteer for?? What stuff do you want for the zine?? Fiction?? reviews?? articles etc. Tell and I might be able to write or something. [Mal says: Oh, the *Shuttle* can use just about anything. Reviews and that lot have always been popular. I'm sure the person editing this version wishes they had some more submissions at the rate things are going. {You're right, Mal. But, being one never to "cry" over dribbling milk, I'm doing what I can with what I have. Who could ask for anything more?! <G>}]

Florida is a bit far from me now to keep in real close contact but I am willing to read and write back in time. I will be waiting to hear from you. [Mal says: You should at least be receiving a copy of this *Shuttle* with your letter in it {tada! Better late than never, my momma always said!}. Being in charge of the mailing list I can do that sort of thing. Again I'm sure someone else has more pithy comments to add. I can't seem to think of anything at this time except to wonder why *Vegas in Space* popped into my head {cause that's the kind of nutty guy you are, Mal...stop trying to deny it!}. Probably comes from trying to follow the plot of *Monster Zero* yesterday and starting to watch *Godzilla's Revenge* today {Y'see?! I rest my case... the man watches strange stuff!}. Man, the poor kid in *Godzilla's Revenge* lives in what looks like a factory in a apartment resembling a prison cell. His



am I to stand in the face of tradition?}

Dad is out all night driving a train about while mom, who leaves a tremendously long and cryptic note for the kid on a blackboard, is out being what appears to be a *Geisha* {hey, it's still a Japanese word, therefore it should be italicized, right?}, all night long. This leaves our hero with some beatnick inventor type who wants to feed him *sukayaki* {same argument as previous comment} and try to convince him his life is normal. Meanwhile while all this is going on our boy hero keeps wiggling out and having some sort of mental fugue which propels him to monster island and philosophical debates with the son of Godzilla. {Now that you've spoiled the plot for the rest of us, I'm sure that you're going to try to show this in the Tropicon video room, aren't you?}}

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Osborne

## **Imitation IS the sincerest form of flattery**

a review of *Mimic* by Pete Rawlik

What amazes me the most about this movie is that it has been so underpromoted. Starring Mira Sorvino, who won an Oscar for her first role in *Mighty Aphrodite*, the film details the unforeseen consequences of genetic engineering. In brief, engineered bugs released to kill plague carrying cockroaches themselves become a problem when they reappear years later in a highly evolved form. Going into too much detail will spoil it, in fact going into any detail will spoil the film because frankly there's not much plot depth here. What there is however is a liberal borrowing of plot devices from some other films particularly *Aliens* and *Jurassic Park* but this is simply unavoidable. If your going to do a story about escaped GE'd creatures the suicide genes simply must fail, otherwise there isn't much of a story. Likewise it will be impossible to do a story about hunting hive creatures in tunnels without being reminded of *Aliens*. Of course, we've all but forgotten that before *Aliens* there was *Them*.

Despite this liberal borrowing, *Mimic* works in continuity, science, and as an enjoyable monster movie. This is of course, not a highbrow art horror on the scale of *Hellraiser* or *In the Mouths of Madness* ("highbrow"?! You are being slightly sarcastic, aren't you?); it is, however, a good scare that I will look forward to seeing on cable or again at the dollar theatre (figuratively speaking, since all the "dollar theatres" in our part of the world actually charge a buck fifty...but who

On a sidenote, the film acknowledges that it is adapted from Donald Wandrei's short story by the same name. While it is true that the name and subject matter are the same, similar comparisons could be made with Frank Herbert's *The Green Brain* and Hellstrom's *Hive* or Carl Jacobi's short story "Mive". Both "Mive" and "Mimic" can be found next to each other in the Barnes and Noble's omnibus *100 Creepy Little Creature Stories*. Read them both and draw your own conclusion.



## **And the Officers are...**

Oops! Thank goodness for last minute re-shuffling of art and whatnot! Or else, I would not have been able to let you all know about the Board of Directors for SFSFS for 1998! If you'll remember, way back on page 7, I told you about the contest we had going for the Vice Chairman's position. What I didn't tell you was that some of our more testosterone-laden, pugilistic members {Jack Weaver was one of the more insistent ones, if you must know...<g>} were urging both Carlos and George to "duke it out" in the alley for the position. Luckily, we have a rational thinking female Chair...who quashed that idea each time it was suggested! In any event, listed below are the SFSFS Officers for 1998:

Chairman: Judi Goodman  
Vice Chairman: Carlos Perez  
Secretary: Peter "Mal" Barker  
Treasurer: Cindy Warmuth

Congratulations to all! We who are on the way out salute you! <WEG>

## **"The Move" - Part 1**

{This was originally sent, via e-mail, on July 14, 1997}

Just a short chair's note to thank all the great and wonderful folks who assisted us with the Operation SFSFS Warehouse Move! Even with the periodic deluge of water from the skies, we were able to move the entire contents of the SFSFS warehouse into the new clubhouse space! Within a few weeks we hope to have the clubhouse fully set up so that we can open it to the entire membership for use!

Again, my thanks go out the following:

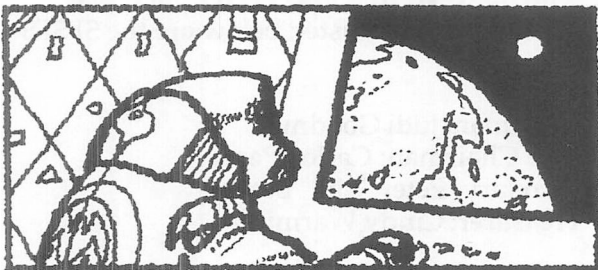
Joe "Take charge" Siclari  
Edie "I've got muscles" Stern  
Cindy "Power tools" Warmuth  
Tom "Wanna learn to toenail?" Mascarole  
Bobbi "Let me hold that" Arthur  
Ericka "Can I move this box" Barker  
Pete/Mal "Hammer Swinging" Barker  
Pete "Like I knew what I was doing" Rawlik  
Dina "Shelf Builder" Pearlman  
Peggy "Home Depot Run Queen" Dolan  
Tony "I'm just visiting" Lewis  
George "Taker-Down of Shelves" Peterson  
Christina "Warehouse Wench" Santiago  
Carol "Wanna read the draft?" Porter  
Hillary "I'm hungry" Pearlman  
Ned "Just in time" Bush  
Dan "Platform dancer" Siclari

We need chairs and other items that would be suitable for folks to sit on. If you have such an item that you would like to donate, please contact me and let me know!

Thanks everyone!

--Shirlene "I can toenail!" Ananayo-Rawlik  
SFSFS Chair

{I will add/note that both Ahava Drazin and Judi Goodman showed up on Sunday.}



## **Editorial Musings, Part 2**

This was to be "The Clubhouse Issue". Everyone who participated in the move was supposed to send me something regarding their recollections of "the move". Yet, not everyone did, because of lack of time on their part or lack of harassment on my part. Thanks to Tom and Joe and George for sending me something. Therefore, I leave that project for Joe to do or not do, as the mood takes him {Joe, now that you've got a list of the folks who participated, get 'em! And, happy hunting!}.

I would like to apologize to Melanie for losing her original e-mail message with her thanks and appreciation in her own words. I will admit that it was one of at least 3 pieces of e-mail that I forgot to take with me when I left the University of Miami {if anyone is keeping score, I left my position at UM. I had been commuting --for the last two of my eight years of gainful employment -- a mere 5+ hours **roundtrip** from West Palm to Coral Gables/Miami via the friendly Tri-Rail commuter trains}. I hope that you, Melanie, found my short piece an acceptable alternative.

As for those college students who are in front of you in that figuratively speaking line, there are approximately 70 to 100 (the number fluxuates with the mood and the weather) students who are aghast that I did not have the decency to wait on my resignation until after I had successfully gotten all of them graduated. *C'est la vie, no?*

Hope you enjoyed. If not, send me a line. I can take it. No, really...be honest. I welcome the feedback.

*Shirlene*

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## South Florida Science Fiction Society Membership Application

Send this completed application form, along with your check for Membership dues to:  
SFSFS Treasurer; P.O. Box 70143; Fort Lauderdale, FL 33307-0143.  
Make check payable to SFSFS.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (hm.): (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ (wk.-optional): (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_(yr.-optional)

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Rates

Date Joined	General	Subscribing	Child
Jan. - Mar.	\$15	\$12	\$1
Apr. - June	\$12	\$9	\$1
July - Sept	\$9	\$6	\$1
Oct. - Dec.	\$6*	\$3*	\$1*

\* Any person joining the society during the last quarter of the membership year (Oct. - Dec.) shall be required to pay the pro-rated dues and also to pay in advance the full dues for the next calendar year (in other words you pay, \$21, Oct. - Dec.'s \$6 plus next year's full year membership dues of \$15).

This is where you reply with "Say no more! Yes, sign me up for SFSFS!"

Attached/enclosed is \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the following membership(s)!"

\_\_\_\_\_ General (non-voting\*@\*) \$21

\_\_\_\_\_ Child Membership - \$1.00

(12 yrs or younger with a parent or legal guardian who is a SFSFS member)

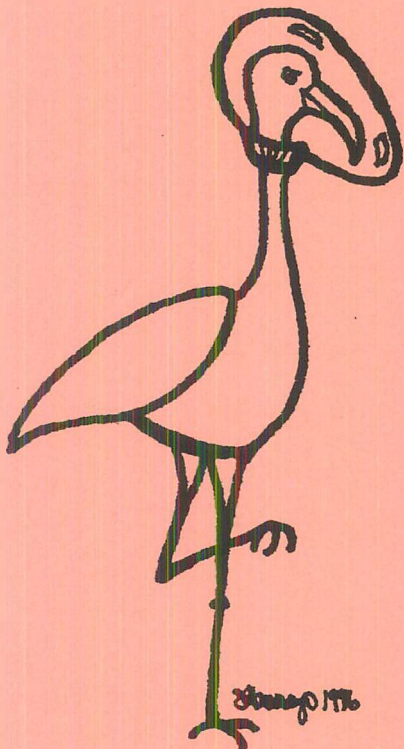
\_\_\_\_\_ Subscribing Membership - \$12.00

\*@\*To become a voting member, you must do two simple things: 1. attend 3 official SFSFS functions; and 2. fork over \$5 at the time of your upgrade.



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**South Florida Science Fiction Society  
(S.F.S.F.S)  
Post Office Box 70143  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 333407-0143**



You are getting this because:

- \_\_\_\_\_ You are a member of SFSFS
- \_\_\_\_\_ You are an held in high esteem by SFSFS.
- \_\_\_\_\_ In trade for your zine.
- \_\_\_\_\_ This issue contains an article of possible interest to you.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The cats all thought it would be a great idea.
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Psychic Friends Network said that you needed a copy of this issue.
- \_\_\_\_\_ You looked like someone who needed a little more reading material!
- \_\_\_\_\_ We expect you to write a long letter of comment about all the great and informative things you learned in this issue.
- \_\_\_\_\_ It's the swamp gas, man...it's the swamp gas!
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sometimes, a clubzine is really just a clubzine.
- \_\_\_\_\_ We're looking for unique individuals to join our brainpool.
- \_\_\_\_\_ My mom said so...and your mom agreed.