

South Florida Science Fiction Society
PO BOX 70143
FT. LAUDERDALE, FL, 33307-0143



Membership thru: TRADE
DICK & NICKI LYNCH
PO BOX 3120
GAITHERSBURG MD 20885-3120



20885+3120 01





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

SFSFS Shuttle Manifest

- P1 Club Officers; Department
Heads; Contributors' Listing;
Legal Stuff
- P2 Meeting Notices
- P3 Past meetings
- P4 Book Division Policy
- P5 Other News and Events
- P7 Upcoming Conventions: Hugo
Nominations
- P9 IAFA NEEDS OUR HELP
- P10 NanoTech
- P11 It Came in the Mail
- P12 Movie Review: *Battle Royale*
- P13 Letter from the Editors
SFSFS Membership Form

Contributors: Adam-Troy Castro;
George Peterson; Chris Ambrose; Karen
Warmuth; Ned Bush

Art Credits:

SFSFS Logo: Gail Bennett
Cover art: Cynthia Warmuth
Comic art: Adam-Troy Castro

Club Officers:

Chairman: George Peterson
954-739-4376;
georgechristy@netzero.net

Vice-Chairman: Cynthia Warmuth
954-983-0749; cwarmuth@bellsouth.net

Secretary: Judi Goodman
305-385-1793; jb42@bellsouth.net

Treasurer: Melanie Herz
321-956-8860; Herz204@aol.com

Traveling Fete Chair: Judi Goodman
305-385-1793; jb42@bellsouth.net

Department Heads:

Audio/Visual: Judi Goodman
305-385-1793; jb42@bellsouth.net

Book Discussion: Adam-Troy Castro
954-418-0832;
adam-troy@worldnet.att.net

Gaming: Ned Bush
954-584-2140; nedbush@mediaone.net

Webmasters: Chris & Arlene Ambrose
561-741-7217; chris2@gate.net

Shuttle Editors: Cynthia Warmuth
954-983-0749; cwarmuth@bellsouth.net
Karen Warmuth; 954-327-8847;
batwarpk@aol.com

Check out our web site at <sfsfs.org>

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.

MEETING NOTICES**May General Meeting:**

PROGRAM: Comics round table; bring your favorite comics and tell us what you like and don't like about them.

DATE/TIME: Saturday, May 18, 2002; 2:00PM.

LOCATION: Main Library of Nova/Southeastern University; room 3018 (third floor) Address is 3301 College Ave. Telephone number for NSU is 954-262-7300 then follow the menu to be transferred to the library.

DIRECTIONS: To get to the University take either I-95 or the Turnpike to I-595. Go west on I-595 to University Drive then south on University Drive. The NSU campus is just 2 intersections south of I-595 on the east side of University Drive. The best way to get to the library is to take a left (east) onto SW 30th Ave, which is on the north edge of the campus. Watch for the entrance to the "Overflow Parking Garage" which is on the south side of the road, just past the Dolphins Training Camp and park in there. The library is just east of the parking garage.

For more info. contact Cynthia Warmuth; 954-983-0749; cwarmuth@bellsouth.net

Book Discussion

DATE/TIME: Saturday, May 18th, 2002; 8:00PM

LOCATION: Wilson/Warmuth residence, Call 954-983-0749 for directions.

The books to be discussed will be: *SHIP OF FOOLS* by Richard Paul Russo and *THE DRAGON DELASANGRE* by Alan E. Troop. Both are short, fast reads. *THE ORGAN GRINDERS* by Bill Fitzhugh is left over from last time and we will try to discuss it.

For more info. contact Adam-Troy Castro; 954-418-0832; adam-troy@worldnet.att.net

June General Meeting:

PROGRAM: Discussion of the Hugo Nominees.

DATE/TIME: Saturday, June 15, 2002; 2:00PM.

LOCATION: Palm Beach Public Library, West Atlantic Ave. Branch; 7777 W. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach, FL 33446; (561) 498-3110

DIRECTIONS: Take either the Turnpike or I-95 to Atlantic Ave. Go west on Atlantic Ave, The library is quite far west, so far west that Atlantic Ave becomes West Atlantic Ave. Watch for 77th Street, the library is directly after that on the north side of West Atlantic Ave. It's set back from the road so watch for the sign.

For more info. contact George Peterson, 954-739-4376; georgechristy@netzero.net

Traveling Fete

GUEST OF HONOR: 2 time Hugo and Nebula nominee Adam-Troy Castro

PROGRAM: Air boat tour of the Everglades with Everglades expert, Pete Rawlik

DATE/TIME: tentatively scheduled for November 8th to 10th, 2002

LOCATION: a nice reasonably priced hotel/motel in the Boca Raton/West Palm Beach area. (Suggestions gratefully encouraged.)

For information/input contact Fete Chairman Judi Goodman at 305-385-1793;

jb42@bellsouth.net

SFSFS MEETING RECAPS

On February 16th, at the regular meeting of the South Florida Science Fiction Society, past president Bill Wilson made a presentation on the television show, *The Outer Limits*. Members present were treated to a well-thought-out, intelligent discussion of what made *The Outer Limits* unique. Bill showed clips from various episodes and discussed not only their relevance in terms of the socio-political atmosphere of the times in which the shows were made, but also their timeless appeal. In addition, he contrasted *The Outer Limits* with the series *The Twilight Zone*, and explained the difference between the two shows. (*The Outer Limits* always had some sort of alien or monster, while *The Twilight Zone* had other forms of suspense or psychological terror.) The presentation overall was highly informative. Bill obviously "knew his stuff", and his enthusiasm for the subject really showed. It made for a very enjoyable and interesting meeting.

Karen Warmuth

The March SFSFS Meeting was held on Saturday, March 23, 2002, at the International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, which was held at the Fort Lauderdale Airport Hilton. Our program for the afternoon was an Interview with British author China Miéville. China, who has just received his Ph.D. in Philosophy of International Law, is the author of two highly respected Fantasy novels, *King Rat* (1998), and *Perdido Street Station* (2000). His third novel, *The Scar*, which is set in the same world as *Perdido Street Station*, is due out this summer.

It was a fun interview, with Pete Rawlik and George Peterson tag-teaming as interviewers, while the ladies in the audience swooned over our guest. The interview ranged over China's background, his influences, interests, and sources. He also talked about his experiences in running for Parliament in a recent election, and told us about his upcoming novel.

Later, several of us went to dinner at a local Irish Pub -type restaurant. And in the evening, the March Book Discussion was held at Adam Castro's apartment. The books discussed were China's *Perdido Street Station*, and Geoffrey Landis' *Mars Crossing*. Those who'd read them decided that both books were well worth reading, with *Perdido Street Station* as the more impressive, over-the-top work. *Mars Crossing*, though a hard SF Mars novel, was notable chiefly for it's very strong characters.

(Note Special thanks to Ahava Drazin, Arlene Ambrose, Christy Santiago-Peterson, and Shirlene Ananayo-Rawlik, for volunteering to help at ICFA, and to Pete Rawlik for helping with the interview.)

George Peterson

The annual SFSFS picnic was held at Topeekeegee Yungee Park this past Saturday April 20, 2002. It was sunny and breezy, and the perfect temperature in Pavillion #5 under the gorgeous old trees of the park. (I kept looking for Ewoks.) Much food was consumed with gusto and care, disappointing several squirrels, which were looking for droppings in the shelter while we ate. The younger attendees created balloon animals and other balloon creations, like "Hillary with wings" (her grandmother was there to marvel at the sight) while Ned blew bubbles and a number of people joined the treasure hunt. We enjoyed the uncontroversial music of Tom Smith. The park even had CLEAN RESTROOMS. What more could you ask for? A birthday cake? Everyone sang "Happy Birthday" for Alex and Beth Lyman and there was cake and we ate it, too. Cindy did a terrific job cooking the hamburgers and hotdogs, and there were too many delicious hard-boiled eggs. No wildlife was harmed in the production of this picnic, but much was observed. This park is worth visiting again.

Deanna Lyman

UPDATED SFSFS BOOK DIVISION ORDERING POLICY

The preferred method of ordering books is by sending an e-mail to bookorder@sfsfs.org giving the following information: ISBN, title, author, list price (range or approximate value OK), and quantity. You should also include contact information: your full name (not always obvious from e-mail address), day, evening, and weekend phone numbers, etc.

You can also order books by contacting the book division by phone (currently, Ned Bush -- 954-584-2140) or at regular SFSFS meetings.

Note: We are not limited to science fiction and fantasy. We can get most books that are available in regular books stores as well as some other items (calendars, audio books, etc.) as long as they have an ISBN.

For most books, SFSFS gets a 40% discount from our supplier and gives a 30% discount to members (using the 10% to pay for shipping and keeping any left over as a profit for the club). Occasionally there are items which do not get the full discount. For these, we offer a discount of 10% less than the discount Ingram gives us -- 5% of list if they give us 15%, etc. You will be contacted to confirm that you still want such items, even though we can't give the normal 30% discount.

We do have to charge Florida sales tax -- 6%.

Example: You order one hardback at \$25.95 list price. 70% of that (rounded up to the nearest penny) is \$18.17. Add in 6% sales tax and you pay \$19.27.

For large orders (more than \$50 estimated price), you must pay at least

half in advance (by sending a check to the SFSFS PO box, etc.). The remainder is due when you pick up your order. For smaller orders, you just need to pay the full amount due before picking up your order.

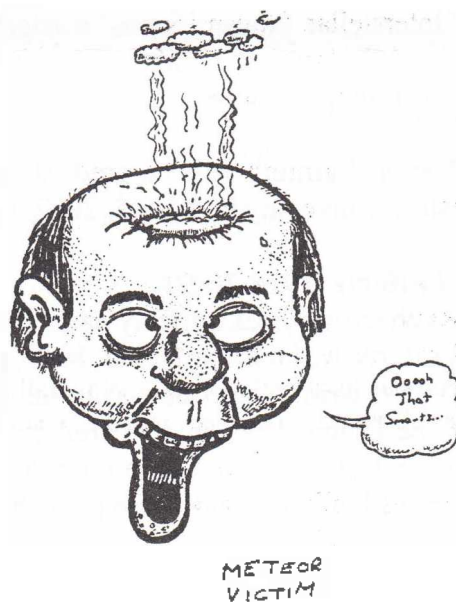
Once an order arrives, you can either pick the books up from Becky Peters at the Imperial Point library or you can pick them up at the next SFSFS meeting.

If you cannot pick the books up on or before the next meeting for some reason, we ask that you send a check for the balance due to the SFSFS PO box and let us know when you do expect to be able to pick them up.

Note: There is no minimum order for an individual member, but due to shipping costs we need a certain minimum total number of items ordered by all SFSFS members to justify an order. If an order is delayed, you will be contacted before it is actually sent to confirm that you still want old items.

Generally, we will try to send one order a month, timed to arrive a week or so before the next SFSFS general meeting.

Ned Bush <nedbush@mediaone.net>



OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

☞ Chris and Arlene Ambrose have volunteered to take over as SFSFS' Webmasters. Our previous webmaster, the indomitable Jack Weaver, has moved on to other things. He did an excellent job of bringing SFSFS into the internet age and set a strong foundation for Chris and Arlene to build on. This is an important position and the most frequent manor in which we are reaching new members both for Tropicon and SFSFS. Good Luck and Thank-you to all of our webmasters new and old.

☞ **Forrest J. Ackerman** founder of *Famous Monsters of Filmland* magazine and the editor credited with coining the term "sci fi"--is being moved to a rehabilitation center in the Los Angeles area to convalesce for the next two weeks from surgery to deal with complications from a blood clot. A source told SCI FI Wire that Ackerman was doing well at the Daniel Freeman Hospital rehabilitation center and was expected to recover fully. Ackerman was taken to Kaiser Permanente Hospital two and a half weeks ago for treatment, then returned to the hospital on April 12.

Ackerman is best known for founding the fan magazine *Famous Monsters of Filmland*, was assistant editor of *Cult Movies* magazine and is curator and host of the Ackermansion in Hollywood, the house Ackerman has filled with SF movie props, costumes and art, literary memorabilia and other genre-related items.

A campaign is also now under way to get Ackerman a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame for his ongoing contributions to the film industry. Fans are encouraged to send greetings to Ackerman's home, 2495 Glendower Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90027.

From <<http://www.scifi.com/scifiwire/art-main.html?2002-04/16/11.00.books>>

☞ **Adam-Troy Castro** book signing on May 5, 2002; 1 to 3 PM at Waldon Books in Pompano at the corner of Federal Highway and Atlantic Boulevard. The third book in his contribution to the Spider-man Saga, *Spider-Man: Secret Of The Sinister Six* has just been released in hardcover and the second book in the series *Spider-Man: Revenge Of The Sinister Six* has just been released in Paperback

☞ "Interstellar Transmissions" a science fiction radio show can be found at WWNN-AM 1470 Fridays at 7pm (ET). For more info contact Joey Reynolds at <www.scifiradioguy.com>

☞ Karen Warmuth will be graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree at Nova Southeastern University on May 5, 2002, Congratulations!!!

☞R. A. Lafferty (1914-2002)

Raphael Aloysius Lafferty passed Monday, March 18th, after an extended illness.

Lafferty was born in Neola, Iowa, but moved to Perry, Oklahoma at the age of 4. He didn't start writing until he was in his late 40s. His first published science fiction was "Day of the Glacier" which appeared in *The Original Science Fiction Stories* in 1960. Over the next 20 years he wrote over 200 short stories and over 20 novels. At least 19 collections of Lafferty's work were published.

He stopped writing following a stroke around 1980 and following a more severe stroke in 1994 was very inactive. He spent the last years of his life in the Franciscan Villa Health Care Center in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

Lafferty's work won many awards including the Phoenix Award, the Hugo (1972 for "Eurema's Dam," World Fantasy Lifetime Achievement Award and the Arell Gibson Lifetime Achievement Award.

As posted March 20, 2002 In *SF/F & Publishing News* of Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, Inc. founded 1965: <<http://www.sfw.org/news/lafferty.htm>>

☞Damon Knight (1922-2002)

Damon Knight, author of science fiction classics like "Hell's Pavement" and "To Serve Man," died April 15, 2002. He was considered a central figure in the science fiction world. In 1941, when he was still just a teenager he hitchhiked to New York City and became part of the "Futurians", a group of fans and writers that included Frederik Pohl, Donald Wollheim, Isaac Asimov, and C.M. Kornbluth. In later years, he founded a series of writing workshops, which eventually led to the creation of the Clarion Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers' Workshop. He also founded the Science Fiction Writers of America (SFWA). In addition to writing, he edited numerous anthologies. His tribute page at <www.swfa.org> is filled with anecdotes and remembrances by some of the best writers of this generation. He was described variously as irascible, annoying, brilliant, funny, patient, and generous. It is clear that he will be missed, both professionally, and as a member of the science fiction/fantasy community.

Summary of article Posted April 20, 2002 In *SF/F & Publishing News* of Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, Inc. founded 1965: <<http://www.sfw.org/news/knight.htm>>

Upcoming SF & F Movies

Again a no doubt partial list.

Jason X; April 26, 2002

Spider-man; May 3, 2002

Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones; May 16, 2002

Minority Report; June 21, 2002

Lilo & Stitch; June 21, 2002

Reign of Fire; July 12, 2002

Anyone interested in turning any of these movies into a club media event is encouraged to do so! Contact George Peterson or Cindy Warmuth for help in getting things announced and set up.



CONVENTIONS

Oasis 15 will be held: May 24th to 26th, 2002 at the Radisson Plaza Orlando, Orlando, FL,

Author Guest of Honor: Ben Bova;
Artist Guest of Honor: Mike Conrad;
Filk Guest of Honor: Michael Longcor
For more information go to
<www.oasfis.org>

Necronomicon '02 will be held:
October 4 – 6, 2002 at the Holiday Inn Crown Plaza in Tampa, FL. Guests of Honor: David Brin and Timothy Powers.
For more information go to
<www.stonehill.org>

Vulkon – media conventions with multiple guests:

Tampa, FL, July 19-21, 2002,
Orlando, FL, November 14-16, 2002
For more information go to
<www.vulkon.com>

ConJosé: The 60th World Science Fiction Convention*
Will be held Thursday, August 29 through Monday, September 2, 2002 at the San José McEnery Convention Center, San José, California.
Guests of honor are Vernor Vinge, David Cherry, Bjo & John Trimble, Ferdinand Feghoot with Tad Williams as Toastmaster.
For more information go to
<www.conjose.org>



2002 HUGO AWARD NOMINATIONS CONJOSÉ, THE 60TH WORLD SCIENCEFICTION CONVENTION

BEST NOVEL

The Curse of Chalion by Lois McMaster Bujold
(HarperCollins/Eos)
American Gods by Neil Gaiman (Morrow)
Perdido Street Station by China Miéville (Macmillan
(UK)(2000); Del Rey)
Cosmonaut Keep by Ken MacLeod (Orbit
(UK)(2000); Tor)
Passage by Connie Willis (Bantam)
The Chronoliths by Robert Charles Wilson (Tor)

BEST NOVELLA

"May Be Some Time" by Brenda W. Clough (Analog
4/01)
"The Diamond Pit" by Jack Dann (Jubilee,
HarperCollins/Voyager Australia; F&SF
6/01)
"The Chief Designer" by Andy Duncan (Asimov's
6/01)
"Stealing Alabama" by Allen Steele (Asimov's 1/01)
"Fast Times at Fairmont High" by Vernor Vinge (The
Collected Stories of Vernor Vinge, Tor)

BEST NOVELETTE

"Hell Is the Absence of God" by Ted Chiang
(Starlight 3, Tor)
"Undone" by James Patrick Kelly (Asimov's 6/01)
"The Days Between" by Allen Steele (Asimov's 3/01)
"Lobsters" by Charles Stross (Asimov's 6/01)
"The Return of Spring" by Shane Tourtellotte
(Analog 11/01)

BEST SHORT STORY

"The Ghost Pit" by Stephen Baxter (Asimov's 7/01)
"Spaceships" by Michael A. Burstein (Analog 6/01)
"The Bones of the Earth" by Ursula K. Le Guin
(Tales from Earthsea, Harcourt)
"Old MacDonald Had a Farm" by Mike Resnick
(Asimov's 9/01)
"The Dog Said Bow-Wow" by Michael Swanwick
(Asimov's 10-11/01)

BEST RELATED BOOK

The Art of Richard Powers by Jane Frank (Paper
Tiger)
Meditations on Middle-Earth by Karen Haber, ed.
(St. Martin's Press/A Byron Preiss Book)

The Art of Chesley Bonestell by Ron Miller & Frederick C. Durant III (Paper Tiger)
 I Have This Nifty Idea. Now What Do I Do With It? by Mike Resnick (Wildside Press)
 J. R. R. Tolkien: Author of the Century by Tom Shippey (HarperCollins (UK)(2000); Houghton Mifflin)
 Being Gardner Dozois by Michael Swanwick (Old Earth Books)

BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (1492 Pictures/Heyday Films/Warner Bros.)
 Directed by Chris Columbus. Screenplay by Steven Kloves; David Heyman, Producer; Michael Barthan, Chris Columbus, Duncan Henderson & Mark Radcliff, Executive Producers.
 The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (New Line Cinema/The Saul Zaentz Company/WingNut Films) Directed by Peter Jackson; Screenplay by Fran Walsh & Phillipa Boyens & Peter Jackson; Peter Jackson, Barrie M. Osborne and Tim Sanders, Producers; Michael Lynne, Mark Ordesky, Robert Shaye, Bob Weinstein and Harvey Weinstein, Executive Producers.
 Monsters, Inc. (Pixar Animation Studios/Walt Disney Pictures) Directed by Pete Docter, David Silverman and Lee Unkrich. Story by Jill Culton, Peter Docter, Ralph Eggleston and Jeff Pidgeon. Darla K. Anderson, Producer. John Lasseter and Andrew Stanton, Executive Producers.
 Buffy the Vampire Slayer "Once More, With Feeling" (Fox Television Studios/Mutant Enemy, Inc.) Written & Directed by Joss Whedon. Joss Whedon and Marti Noxon, Executive Producers.
 Shrek (DreamWorks SKG/Pacific Data Images). Directed by Andrew Adamson and Vicky Jenson. Written by Ted Elliott & Terry Rossio and Joe Stillman and Roger S. H. Schulman. Jeffrey Katzenberg, Aron Warner and John H. Williams, Producers. Penney Finkelman Cox and Sandra Rabins, Executive Producers.

BEST PROFESSIONAL EDITOR

Ellen Datlow (SCI FICTION and anthologies)
 Gardner Dozois (Asimov's)
 Patrick Nielsen Hayden (Tor Books; Starlight anthology series)
 Stanley Schmidt (Analog)
 Gordon Van Gelder (F&SF)

BEST PRO ARTIST

Jim Burns

Bob Eggleton
 Frank Kelly Freas
 Donato Giancola
 Michael Whelan

BEST SEMIPROZINE

Absolute Magnitude, edited by Warren Lapine
 Interzone, edited by David Pringle
 Locus, edited by Charles N. Brown
 The New York Review of Science Fiction, edited by Kathryn Cramer, David Hartwell & Kevin J. Maroney
 Speculations, edited by Susan Fry, published by Kent Brewster

BEST FANZINE

File 770, edited by Mike Glyer
 Ansible, edited by Dave Langford
 Challenger, edited by Guy Lillian III
 Mimosa, edited by Richard & Nicki Lynch
 Plokta, edited by Alison Scott, Steve Davies & Mike Scott

BEST FAN WRITER

Jeff Berkwits
 Bob Devney
 John L. Flynn
 Mike Glyer
 Dave Langford
 Steven H. Silver

BEST FAN ARTIST

Sheryl Birkhead
 Brad Foster
 Teddy Harvia
 Sue Mason
 Frank Wu

BEST WEB SITE

Locus Online, Mark R. Kelly editor/webmaster (www.locusmag.com)
 SciFi.com, Craig Engler, executive producer (www.scifi.com)
 SF Site, Rodger Turner, publisher/managing editor (www.sfsite.com)
 Strange Horizons, Mary Anne Mohanraj, editor-in-chief (www.strangehorizons.com)
 Tangent Online, Dave Truesdale, senior editor; Tobias Buckell, webmaster (www.tangentonline.com)

JOHN W. CAMPBELL AWARD for BEST NEW WRITER OF 2000/2001

Tobias S. Buckell (second year of eligibility)
 Alexander C. Irvine (second year of eligibility)
 Wen Spencer (first year of eligibility)
 Jo Walton (second year of eligibility)
 Ken Wharton (second year of eligibility)

THE IAFA NEEDS OUR HELP TO MAINTAIN THE ICFA IN FORT LAUDERDALE

The International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts (IAFA), the group which annually puts on the International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts (ICFA) at the Fort Lauderdale Airport Hilton is undergoing a generational change in leadership. As part of that change, the President and First Vice President have announced that they are stepping down from their positions, effective March 24 at the end of the last ICFA. In addition, there is a possibility that the ICFA may be moved to another location outside of South Florida or canceled entirely.

The bottom line is manpower or the lack thereof. The IAFA doesn't have a financial problem in continuing to put on the ICFA and the conferences continue to be successful. The problem is a manpower shortage in the key areas necessary to put on the conference and maintain the organization, which will only get worse if other IAFA members and other organizations, such as SFSFS, BCC, and FAU do not step into the breach.

To compound the problem, the IAFA is looking at the entire concept of how and where the ICFA is put on. The contract with the Hilton runs out in two years. After that, the conference may well move to another hotel, but, more troublingly, perhaps in another city, outside of South Florida.

In order to facilitate the needed organizational changes, the IAFA has established several standing Working Groups. These groups will serve to encourage more widespread participation through the division of labor across many groups and group members within each group and by limiting the period of commitment to one year, renewable annually.

Please keep in mind that the ICFA brings in important authors who many of whom have participated in SFSFS meetings held annually in the ICFA con suite. This year, China Mieville was our guest writer. National and international guests such as Mr. Mieville are a tangible side benefit that SFSFS reaps from the ICFA each year. Folks, this is a lot of leverage for our little group to get world class guests, almost upon request.

This is where the SFSFS as an organization, and we, as individuals come in. During the extraordinary business meeting, several of us volunteered to work on several of these committees, providing logistical support and ferrying visitors around the area to and from the airport and to dinner, as needed. Pete Rawlik has offered to help host out of town guests. Do you think that these personal contacts just might lead to more guests at future SFSFS meetings? You bet it does.

In addition to this support of the ICFA, Pete Rawlik and George Peterson have proposed that SFSFS, in addition to providing logistical support, provide programming support through the presentation of a SFSFS panel. I talked to several officials of IAFA, and they told me that we would have to put in a proposal for a panel, just as any other scholar would, and be evaluated for a time slot.

We also discussed the concept of trading work at the ICFA for complementary memberships. The existing concepts of trading work for complementary memberships will be reviewed this summer at the IAFA board meeting, normally held in June. No commitments were made at this time.

Chris Ambrose

NanoTech brings Heinlein's Starship Troopers to a Conflict Near You, Coming Soon

On March 13, the US Army and MIT both announced the establishment of a nanotech research project to explore possible contributions of nanotechnology to the battlefield within the next five to ten years. Forty-three years after "Starship Troopers" first came out, the military and academia are taking the first halting steps in the development of powered armor at the newly established "Institute for Soldier Nanotechnologies" (ISN).

ALTHOUGH WE IN THE SCIENCE FICTION WORLD ARE INTERESTED IN THE NANOTECH AND THE POWERED ARMOR SUIT CONCEPTS, THE ARMY HAS ADDITIONAL GOALS.

First, the Army does want to increase the firepower and survivability of the individual soldier, much the same as Heinlein with his powered suits. Secondly, the Army also wants to increase the mobility of the individual soldier by reducing his full payload from "today's 125 – 145 pounds to the 45 pounds carried by Roman warriors" according to Ned Thomas, a professor at MIT. The Army also wants to augment the body armor with super-human strength, such as the ability to jump over 20-foot obstacles. In addition, the new body armor is envisioned to have partial invisibility through active camouflage. On second thought, this may be more like the alien in Predator than Starship Troopers. Hasn't Science Fiction given the military a wide milieu to choose from?

An initial joint military-academic study conducted in February of 2001 provides an insight into four key areas with some intriguing subcomponents that might ultimately be included in the project:

- 1) Materials – ballistic protection, multi-threat protection (including lasers and EM), signature management (passive and adaptive invisibility), directed energy/eye protection.
- 2) Power and Cooling – develop batteries that can produce in excess of 1 kWh/kg in military environments and provide a cooling system less than 2 kg and less than one liter in volume.
- 3) Soldier Status Monitoring – medical monitoring and injury management, telemetry (including post-mortem), local area monitoring for hazards, performance modeling and prediction, active water reclamation ("Dune still suit" - yes the report used that term), increased spectra sensory augmentation (possibly including "(n)euronal functional implants!"), internal data, communications, and signal processing (implants and wound management / tissue regeneration), and bio-energy reclamation.
- 4) Nanoscience for the Soldier – improved radio antennas, wide spectrum sensors, "heads up" helmet displays, organic light emitting diodes (could provide "chameleon" uniforms").

This project is part of the so-called "Powell Doctrine", the concept that the US should bring overwhelming and virtually invincible force to bear on an enemy in order to bring armed conflict to a swift and successful conclusion with minimal US casualties. In fact, certain documents refer to the result as the invincible soldier.

IT HAS BEEN OFTEN NOTED RECENTLY THAT THE PROBLEM WITH WRITING NEAR-TERM SCIENCE FICTION IS THAT TECHNOLOGY IS PROGRESSING SO RAPIDLY, THAT, BY THE TIME THE STORY OR NOVEL IS RELEASED, IT MAY BE OBSOLETE. THIS JOINT ARMY – MIT PROJECT IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THIS. YESTERDAY'S SCIENCE FICTION IS BECOMING NOT JUST TODAY'S REALITY; IT IS BECOMING A BUDGET LINE ITEM.

Sources:

- 1) U.S. Army New Release # R-02-011 March 13, 2002
- 2) MIT Press Release, March 13, 2002
- 3) Workshop on Nanoscience for the Soldier, Section IV, Working Group Results, February 9, 2001

By Chris Ambrose

IT CAME IN THE MAIL!

A partial listing of clubzines, fanzines, etc. that we have received. They will be available for review at the next couple meetings.

Ansible, July '01, Oct. '01, and Feb. '02; from Dave Langford, Reading, Berkshire, UK

Burroughs Bulletin, Fall, 2001; by the Burroughs Bibliophiles, Univ. of Louisville, Louisville KY

The Con Link, a progress report for I-CON 21

DASFAX, Oct. '01, Feb. & March '02: from the Denver Area Science Fiction Association

De Profundis, Oct. '01, Jan. & Feb. '02: from the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, N. Hollywood, CA.

Ethel the Aardvark, #100; from the Melbourne Science Fiction Club.

Emissions from Flotilla 13, Nov/Dec '01, Jan/Feb '02: from Flotilla 13, St. Louis, MO

Event Horizon, Nov. '01, Dec. '01, Feb. & March '02: from the Orlando Area Science Fiction Society; Orlando, FL

Fosfax, Oct. '01: from the Falls of the Ohio Science Fiction and Fantasy Association, Louisville, KY

Future Times, Feb. '02: The Fanzine of the Atlanta Science Fiction Society; Atlanta, GA

The Gridley Wave, Oct. & Nov. 01, & March 02: supplement to the Burroughs Bulletin, from the Univ. of Louisville, Louisville KY

The Insider, Jan/Feb '02; from the Saint Louis Science Fiction Society; Saint Louis, MO

It Goes On The Shelf, Oct. 01: from Ned Brooks; Lilburn, GA

Instant Message, Oct 17, '01, Jan., Feb., March '02: from the New England Science Fiction Association; Sommerville, MA

*The Mark of the B*E*A*S*T*, Oct & Nov '01: from the Baltimore Science Fiction Society, Inc; Baltimore, MD

Memphen 272, 274-277: from Memphis SF Association along with a note encouraging people to nominate Tom Foster for the fan artist Hugo. He did all of the covers on the newsletters we received. They sent us two sets.

The NASFA Shuttle, Oct. '01, Feb. & March '02: from The North Alabama Science Fiction Association, Inc.; Huntsville, AL

Peregrine Nations, Jan. '02: from J. G. Stinson, Big Pine Key, FL

PSFS News, Nov. '01, Feb. & March '02: from the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society; Philadelphia, PA

Pulsar, Dec. '01, Jan. '02: from the Portland Science Fiction Society; Portland, OR

Science Fiction Five-Yearly, Semi-centennial Issue: c/o Toad Hall, Minneapolis, MN

SCSFFS Newsletter; St. Charles Science Fiction Fantasy Society, January 2002 Edition

Vanamonde; issues 418 to 422 & 438 to 442: by John Hertz of Los Angeles, CA

We also received letters (several months ago) from:

Teddy Harvia (Thank you for the art)
Sheryl Birkhead (great postcards, sorry we didn't acknowledge you sooner.)

Harry Warner Jr. (again, sorry we didn't acknowledge you sooner.)

We also received a Thank you letter for our charity auction contribution of \$800 from Project L.E.A.D. (Literacy for Every Adult in Dade). It states:

"On behalf of Project L.E.A.D., the Miami-Dade Public Library System's literacy program, I wish to thank you for your generous donation. The funds will be used to purchase books and other learning materials for our literacy program. Since we have so many students with possible learning disabilities, we intend to purchase LITSTART, a book that offers strategies that tutors can use to reach these students.

As requested I have attached our program brochure. ...(available at the next meeting)

Again your generosity is much appreciated."

Sincerely,
Richard F. Goins
Program Manager

MOVIE REVIEW: *BATTLE ROYALE*

Date: 17 Apr 2002 03:12:00 GMT

Astonishing Japanese film, that country's equivalent of LORD OF THE FLIES or A CLOCKWORK ORANGE, about a near-future economic collapse that has led to a 20% unemployment rate and a nationwide student strike. The government solution? Scare the crap out of the young people, who are perfect scapegoats anyway. Take a random class of 40 ninth-graders, strand them on an island with explosive collars and a variety of weapons, and tell them that only one will be allowed back to civilization. The rest will die. If more than one are left alive, then they will all die. Set them loose and watch the carnage.

It is a nightmarish vision of young situational ethics, all the more remarkable because its violence is treated horrifically, and because the kids react as kids would. Some go into shock. Others cling to each other and sob. Still others kill themselves rather than participate. Others form gangs and team up to off the opposition. Still others get off on all the killing. There are a couple of angels, who refuse to participate no matter what, but not many; a surprising number of them, for anybody who doesn't remember his own junior-high

days, are downright evil. Onscreen captions keep us apprised of how many still survive, even as further deaths tally up due to grudges and misunderstandings. One young couple jumps off a cliff rather than go on. One boy tracks down a favorite girl, is killed by her, and dies admitting that he's long loved her from afar and only wanted to protect her; she wails, "But you never even SPOKE to me! What am I supposed to do NOW?"

The most chilling performance belongs to the nominal master of ceremonies, their teacher from the previous year, a cold son of a bitch if ever there was one. But even he's not a two-dimensional villain. The film gradually makes it clear that he's acting out of a colossal self-loathing that has poisoned everything in his life, even respect for common decency.

This is not a teen-body count film in the tradition of mall cineplex horror. It is brutal, character-driven, and unrelenting. The question becomes not whether anybody will survive...but whether anybody will survive with a soul intact. In the wake of Columbine, I'm not surprised it was shunned in America. But in its own way, it's a great film.

Adam-Troy Castro

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS:

Well, here we are again and another couple of months have passed. Where does the time go? The way things are moving so quickly, perhaps a tiny rift in the space-time continuum would be appropriate. You know, just a little something to slow things down a bit. Nothing major. Speaking of the space-time continuum, how many of you remember the movie *Time Bandits*? I think it came out sometime in 1981, and, as far as I'm concerned, it's a science fiction/comedy classic. I particularly remember the scene where Sean Connery wore a toga as the Greek King Agamemnon. It just doesn't get any better than that.

Why am I writing about *Time Bandits*, you ask? Well, my sister, and erstwhile editor-extraordinaire, Cindy Warmuth, suggested that we discuss the notion of Science Fiction/Fantasy becoming more mainstream, and less of a genre. When *Time Bandits* came out, I remember it being advertised as a comedy, not a science fiction movie. Yet, it does have elements of science fiction/fantasy as part of the basic plot. Most mainstream movies do not address the notions of the fabric of time, time-travel, reincarnation, and deity. Since then, movies that would once have been consigned to second run theaters have become blockbusters. The audiences that sell out showings of *Star Wars* and *Lord of the Rings*, for instance, certainly are not all made up of SciFi fans. I find it refreshing and hopeful that some of the more mundane among us are willing to open their minds to the unusual and intelligent ideas that are being showcased more frequently on the silver screen.

For more discussion about the notion of the Fantastic as Mainstream, send us your comments and ideas.

Best Wishes,

Cindy and Karen Warmuth

SFSFS Membership

Established in 1985, the **South Florida Science Fiction Society (SFSFS, pronounced "Sisyphius")** is a non-profit organization made up of people like yourself that are interested in all aspects of science fiction, fantasy and horror and are interested in sharing these interests with others. As a member of SFSFS you will be entitled to a wide variety of activities and benefits. Among but not limited to these are:

Monthly club meetings;

The Shuttle fanzine

Book discussion meetings

Media research group

SFSFS Book Division (buy books at discount)

Traveling Fete (Relaxacon)

Tropicon (Yearly convention)

Mail this coupon, along with your check or money order (made payable to SFSFS) to:
SFSFS, c/o SFSFS Treasurer, P.O. Box
70143, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33307-0143

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number (optional): _____

E-Mail address (optional): _____

Hobbies and/or interests: _____

() x \$15.00 (1 year SFSFS General Membership)= _____

() x \$12.00 (1 year SFSFS Subscribing Membership)= _____

Enclosed is a check or money order for:

\$ _____

See our web site at <sfsfs.org>