

SFSFS Shuttle

March 2005

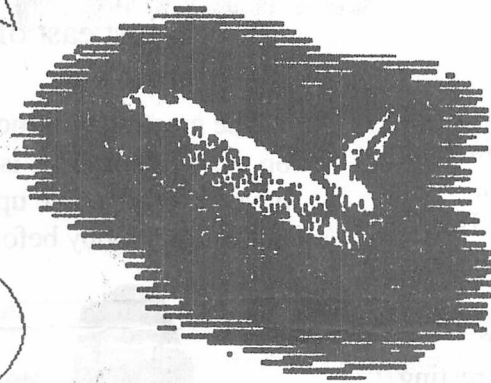
What really happened to the Columbia

I swear I saw
something crawling on
the wing.

That's Impossible!
You were mistaken.

Should we tell
Mission Control?

They'll think
we're crazy!



SFSFS Shuttle

Newsletter of the South Florida Science Fiction Society

March 2005

March Meeting at ICFA

Upcoming Meetings

The March Meeting of the South Florida Science Fiction Society will be held at the International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts.

Traditionally, SFSFS helps ICFA, an academic conference held annually in Fort Lauderdale, with some of its operations and in return we have the use of a room to hold the meeting. SFSFS Members who volunteer for the Conference and work a minimum of 4 hours receive complementary admission. All are welcome to attend the SFSFS Meeting on Saturday afternoon as well as shop in the Conference Bookroom. We generally arrange an interview with one of the attending authors. In the past we've spoken with Joe Haldeman, Stephen Donaldson, Roger Zelazny, Greg Bear, Dan Simmons, Robert Sawyer, China Mieville, and many others.

At press time, we've not firmed up the arrangements, but we usually have an interesting afternoon discussion.

For those wishing to volunteer help is always needed the Sunday before the Conference (3/13/05) and on the Sunday following to move books to and from the storage facility. During ICFA, assistance is usually needed in admissions and in the Book Room. If interested and/or have questions, please contact George Peterson at (954) 739-4376.

- Date: March 19, 2005
- Location: ICFA - the Wyndham Fort Lauderdale Airport Hotel (formally the Hilton) *
- Time: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm
- Address: 1870 Griffin Road, Dania, FL 33004 Tel: (954) 920-3300
- Program: Author Interview - speakers TBA
- Directions: Take I-95 or the Florida Turnpike to Griffin Road. The Hotel is just east of the I-95 exit on the north side.

* The meeting will most likely be in the Consuite on the 8th floor. This is a locked floor so we will have to ferry people up to the room. Just meet us in the hotel lobby before 2:00 pm



2005 Meeting Schedule

Here is the upcoming meeting schedule for the South Florida Science Fiction Society. There are still details to be ironed out, but you can mark the dates on your calendar.

- April 16/2005 - Program: Book Discussion - Books TBA
- May 21, 2005 - Program: Inspiration Roulette
- June 18 2005- Program: Hugo Awards Discussion
- July 16 2005 - Program: Environmental Disasters in SF
- August 20, 2005 - Program: Book Discussion
- September 17, 2005 - Program: Adam-Troy Castro is putting something together on the Horror field.
- October 15, 2005 - Program: Book Discussion
- November 19 2005- Program: TBA
- December 18, 2005 - Program: Annual Dinner We're tentatively scheduling this for a Sunday, so some who generally can't make it on Saturdays might be able to come. We don't think we'll do a picnic. Some of us are a little picniced out.

Please contact George Peterson at (954) 739-4376 or Judi Castro at (305) 385-1793 for additional information.

(SFSFS is a 501c(3) non-profit, educational organization)

February Meeting Recap

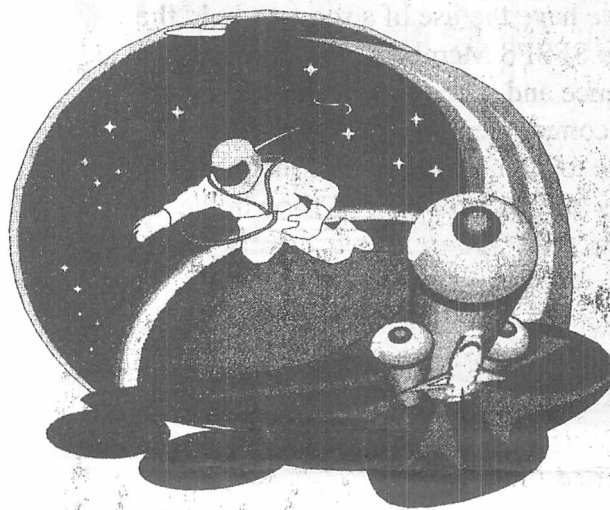
The February Meeting was held at the Sterling Branch of the Broward County Library.

Among the events, Judi Castro announced the dissolution on the SFSFS Book Division. As a

result of increased fees and an insufficient number of orders, we can't afford to maintain our account with distributor Ingram Books. The Division had been a good deal providing the club with extra income and members with a 30% discount. But changes in the business and lack of participation on our side have made us unable to continue. If the situation changed in the future, we can always bring it back.

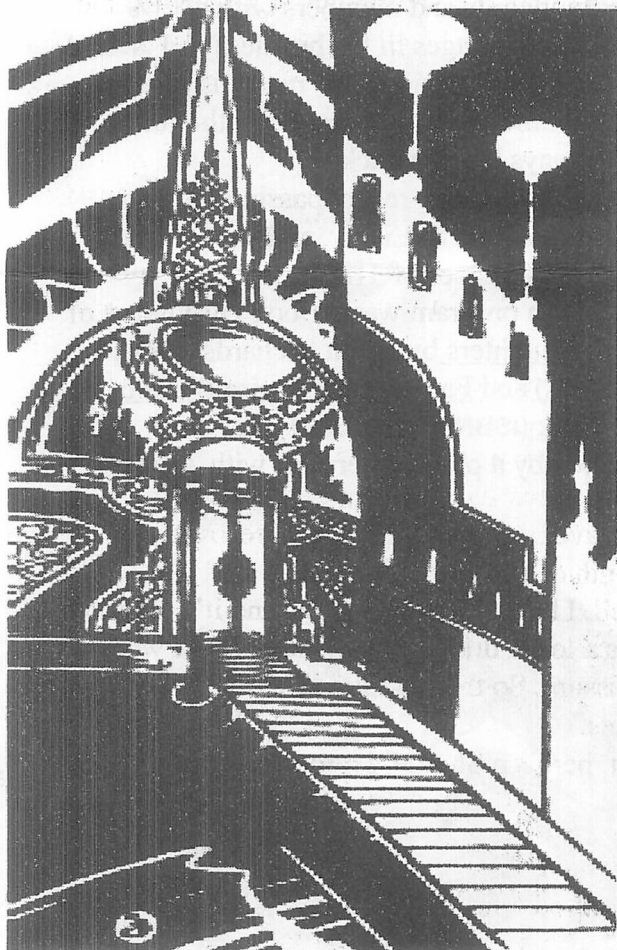
We also noted the recent passing of artists Kelly Frieas and Will Eisner, and writer Jack Chalker all attendees of Tropicon.

The main program was a Book Discussion of Califia's Daughters by Leigh Richards (ISBN: 055358667X) and Fat White Vampire Blues by Andrew Fox (ISBN: 0345463331) that was highlighted by a phone interview with Andrew Fox.



Fox, who was born in Miami and attended the same school as Judi Castro, currently lives in New Orleans, LA. He discussed his life and how he came to write the novel, as well as its sequel, Bride of the Fat White Vampire. He also talked about his experiences working in a writer's workshop with the late George Alec Effinger, and his involvement with a group trying to discourage firing guns into the air as a means of celebration (his sister was killed by a stray bullet while attending Mardi Gras in New Orleans).

Both books were generally recommended by those who read them, though *Fat White Vampire* seemed to be considered the more interesting of the two.



But among the classics of this first season: "Shatterday," "Paladin of the Lost Hour," "To See The Invisible Man," "One Life, Furnished in Early Poverty," "I of Newton," "Dead Run," "Her Pilgrim Soul," and "Examination Day." I don't think "Gramma" worked as well as some folks said; I can say that I consider "Nightcrawlers" one of the very best eps from ANY incarnation of Zone: one of the most frightening half hours of television EVER. As for "Paladin of the Lost Hour," well, Harlan's commentary defends his thesis that Danny Kaye sabotaged it, but the script and the story and his performance were sufficiently strong that he only sabotaged it as far as excellence. As for "Dead Run," well, I think it sank without notice, but what a subversive story, especially in today's climate. I don't think the networks would be able to get away with it anymore.

Also, Richard Mulligan in "Night of the Meek..." (appreciative sigh).

Eps I'm not fond of include "The Uncle Devil Show," and that RILLY AWFUL mock-Serling thing about the golf pro who kills his lover's husband.

Frank Kelly Freas and Will Eisner: A Farewell by Adam-Troy Castro

The New Twilight Zone: First Season – DVD Review by Adam-Troy Castro

NEW TWILIGHT ZONE, like its predecessor, manages what Rod Serling himself called an average of 30% crap, 30% okay, 30% pretty damn good, with maybe 10% of that pretty damn good approaching classic status.

There were some pretty fargin' stinky episodes, along with some that were just, uh, okay.

Franks Kelly Freas illustrated one story of mine, in a manner that baffled me at the time, as the story and the illustration didn't seem to match up in any obvious way. I later confirmed that the content of the illustrations had been dictated to him by the publication editor. It didn't matter. I was thrilled to have my work illustrated by such a giant, and I was doubly thrilled, some time later, to tell him face to face what appearing in print with him had meant to me. His response was the warm, broad, and friendly smile of a gentleman still capable of being moved by such appreciation, after more

than half a century of excelling at his craft. I liked him immediately. I mourn the artist and the man.

Will Eisner will no doubt be eulogized...as the creator of THE SPIRIT, a summary that absolutely omits the rich and vibrant work he has been producing over the past couple of decades.

It was my great pleasure to meet him once, only two years ago, and speak to him at length. I was a gibbering fanboy in his presence. But he was an artist in the capital-a sense of the word, and a true gentleman. He had been announced as the contributor of a story featuring Michael Chabon's character The Escapist.

Losing Kelly Freas and Will Eisner in this short period of time is a major one-two punch. Dammit Dammit Dammit.

SPACE.COM for the latest Space News

From Scifi.com

Space.com is a central source for all news related to the final frontier. This well-designed, advertisement-free site publishes daily updates on rocket launches, ongoing missions, astronomy, space business and even UFO reports. The stories can be viewed by category, making it easy to get up to date in any particular topic.

Space.com also has book reviews, feature articles about current space issues, and information on the history of space exploration. Chat rooms, message boards, and an electronic store round out the site. Of particular interest to SF fans is the "Space Imagined" section, which has news stories on space-related books, movies, games and TV shows. Better still, a "Entertainment" area lists all science fiction and space-fact series currently on the air.

Overall this is perhaps the best space news site on the Web, thanks to its complete coverage and clean, easy-to-navigate design. It's a one-stop source for anyone who wants to keep up to date on astronomy, space exploration and the space industry.

Editor's Note

Sorry that it has been so long since we've gotten the Shuttle out. It's been just me and Chris Neglin to work on it when we can, with no help or submissions to work with.

In December, the contract I was working on came to an end and I was struggling to find a new position during January. While job hunting, I was trying to put together a Shuttle.

Then I came down with a case of the Shingles (the adult form of Chicken Pox) on my face. As a result, I spent a couple of days in the hospital. Normally, Shingles isn't that dangerous, but as it was close to vial areas a hospital stay was recommended. Strongly.

I was rather lucky. Another inch higher and it would have been in my eyes. I've recovered, but the month of January was trashed.

Well, I have a new job, now, and it's a grind. There's a lot of driving and a lot of paper work and pressure. So there's little time for other activities.

But, here's a Shuttle. I hope you enjoy it.

George Peterson - 3/6/05



**South Florida
Science Fiction Society**

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Gaming, ?
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Chris Negelein

About Our Organization...

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.SFSFS.org

The South Florida Science Fiction Society (SFSFS) is a nonprofit literary society recognized by the IRS under Section 501(c)(3). SFSFS was established in February, 1985. It is made

up of people who are interested in all aspects of Science Fiction and Fantasy - and who enjoy sharing their interest with other members of the Science Fiction

community and with the general public. SFSFS members have a variety of activities available to them throughout the year.

South Florida Science Fiction Society

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