



# THE SHUTTLE



## The Official SFSFS Newszine

### DECEMBER MEETING!!!

Did you ever try to reserve banquet space for a rowdy group of science fiction fanatics at the height of the Christmas season?

You don't know what you're missing!

Working against the clock, Joe Siclari managed to pull a rabbit out of his hat and secure a location for what should prove to be a hell of a good time.

"Science-Fiction Society, huh.", said the restaurant manager. "Have I got just the place for you!"

And that, dear friends, was how we were cast into THE FLAMING PIT !!!!

The December meeting will be held on Sunday December 17th at THE FLAMING PIT 1150 North Federal Highway in Pompano Beach. The meeting will offer no set program; just an opportunity to relax, unwind and decompress after the rigors of TROPICON. The only order of business will be the election of a new slate of officers for the upcoming year and announcements of upcoming events & panels.

The FLAMING PIT (sounds like a place I used to frequent when I was in the Navy) has been serving their specially seasoned steaks and broasted chicken for over 25 years. Dinner prices range from \$7.95 to \$14.95 and include a salad buffet. For those of us for whom wassail is a way of life, there is also a cash bar.

Gathering time will be 1:30 with dinner commencing at 2:00.

DIRECTIONS: Take I-95 to Atlantic Blvd. Go east to Federal Highway then North on Federal to THE FLAMING PIT! (God, I love that name!)

To ensure seating, RSVP to Joe Siclari at 407-241-1483 during the day or at 407 392-6462 at night, by Friday December 15th.

See you there!

### STELLAR BOOKSELLER OPEN AT LAST!!!!

Time to kiss your wallet goodbye friends, THESTELLAR BOOKSELLER is officially open for business.

The festive Grand Opening was hosted by Joe (I have no life) Siclari and the ever popular Edie Stern.

Always on their best behavior, SFSFS members descended upon the bookshelves and snacks like rabid visigoths. HUNGRY, rabid visigoths.

THE STELLAR BOOKSELLER carries an intriguing array of books that range from the humor of Dave Barry to the gonzo horror of Joe R (what a great toastmaster for Tropicon in '91 he'd make) Lansdale. If you're interested in works of SCIENCE FICTION, FANTASY, HORROR, MYSTERY and CINEMA ARTS, you're sure to find treasure or two.

Now we know you wanted to make a great first impression joe, but don't you think that having the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, the Air Force Marching Band and The Goodyear was a tad on the ostentatious side?

### CONTENTS

December Meeting	page 1
STELLAR BOOKSELLER	page 1
RANDOM NOTES	page 2
George C Chesbro's VEIL	page 2-3
HWA Con on The Move	page 3
BILL WILSON REVIEWS	page 3
BOOK REVIEWS	page 4
CON-SIDERATIONS	page 5
IT CAME IN THE MAIL	page 6
BIRTHDAYS OF NOTE	page 6
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL	page 7

Sorry for the 1st page typos, this was literally typed on the run!!!

## RANDOM NOTES

Mitch Silverman's essay, "Golden Rule Relations With Golden Rule Nations", was the first place winner in the Florida Honors Topic Essay Competition. I say we should kill him now before this habit of winning academic awards gets too out of hand.

Christine A Kittler has been named "Poet Of The Month" by the East Coast Academy Of Poets. She will be giving a reading of selected works at Secret Woods on Sunday December 3rd.

ORION'S BELT performed 2 sets at POETS on Las Olas Blvd for an enthusiastic audience. Fran Mullens denied that the Rolling Stones Steel Wheels concert, which opened on the same night, had any impact on the ORION'S BELT set but states that an acoustic version of "Let It Bleed" will be added to their repertoire just in case it should ever happen again.

Greg Zentz will be leaving the South Florida area due to a job transfer to Jacksonville. Zentz, a sales representative for Fisher Scientific, is putting the finishing touches on a non-fiction work commissioned by Greenwood Press. Best of luck, Greg. Come back & see us when you can.

JOE R LANSDALE for Tropicon Toastmaster in 1991!  
(First in a series of not so subliminal suggestions.)

## INTRODUCING: George C Chesbro's VEIL

Have you nibbled yet? Did you take a left turn at the Science Fiction/Fantasy rack at Waldens into that unexplored region: the mystery/suspense section? Did you find any of the "Monqo" mysteries? Better yet, did you read any? You did, huh?

GOTCHA!

(Don't worry kid, the first one's free.)

Now that you've nibbled at the bait, let me yank the line by introducing you to another Chesbro creation: Veil Kendry.

Veil is an established artist who specializes in surreal dreamscapes. these dream paintings are windows through which the reader can view a world where Veil can wander at will. A childhood illness destroyed the psychic membrane that separates dreams and reality, giving Veil access to a sort of urban aboriginal dreamtime. As you may surmise, this extraordinary power comes in handy for an ex-renegade CIA agent who dabbles in occasional undercover work for friends.

The introductory novel, VEIL (Mysterious Press, 228 p 1986 \$16.95) concerns an attempt to access the environment visited by those who've survived near-death experiences and use it as the ultimate drop-site for the exchange of covert info.

Veil's tortured childhood/ adolescence and his fall from grace in a maverick CIA operation in Vietnam are skillfully woven throughout the story. A great read!

In his second solo adventure, **JUNGLE OF STEEL AND STONE** (Mysterious Press, 200 pp, 1988, \$16.95) Kendry is only a few steps ahead of the Cosa Nostra as he uses his paranormal ability to track a Kalahari Warrior-Prince (capable of concealing himself in a desert) through the wilds of Central Park.

In **TWO SONGS THIS ARCHANGEL SINGS** (Atheneum, 249 pp, 1986, \$14.95) Mongo comes to Veil's assistance when a powerful enemy unleashes a virtually unstoppable assassin on Kendry's trail. Although this adventure has no true science fiction or fantasy elements, I highly recommend it for the best slam-bang finish this side of Thomas Harris.

Completists will also be interested in **THE COLD SMELL OF SACRED STONE** (Atheneum, 299 pp, 1988) Essentially this is a Mongo adventure that picks up where **TWO SONGS...** leaves off. Veil's presence is limited to the first 37 pages (in which the **ARCHANGEL** affair is ended) and a brief appearance at the climax.

I'm frankly amazed that more people aren't familiar with Chesbro. Although his work isn't mainstream science fiction, it stands head and shoulders above 85-90 % of the field. So, if you crave a dash of noir with your science fiction fare, the name to remember is George C Chesbro.

#### **HWA CON ON THE MOVE**

**TRANSFUSIONS**, The Newsjournal of Horror Writers Of America, reports that the annual HWA convention, which has been held in New York for the past two years, will be taking to the road.

In honor of H P Lovecraft, the 1990 gathering will be in Rhode Island. Plans are also being made for a 1991 conference in Los Angeles.

#### **BILL WILSON REVIEWS**

The following is a partial list of reviews submitted for the 1989 YEAR IN REVIEW panel at the November General Meeting.

#### **DANCE OF THE DAMNED \*\*\* 1/2**

Virgin Vision Home Video

Surprisingly effective dark & seedy setting, a strip joint with a vampire in attendance. ...This is a desperate psychological drama of unfulfillable emotional need...

#### **LORDS OF THE DEEP \* 1/2**

Great ideas, terrible production. Slight rip-off of **THE ABYSS** but actually has a better underwater story.

#### **LEVIATHAN \*\***

Monster from the deep.

#### **DEEPSTAR SIX \*\* 1/2**

Better monster from the deep.

#### **THE ABYSS \*\* 1/2**

Demolition derby under water, more action than plot. Passe inverse close encounter... the ship comes up from the deep rather than down from the stars.

#### **PAPERHOUSE \*\*\*\***

Truly a stunning rework of the dreams affecting reality theme. A young girl sketches drawings and later, dreams about them. She can manipulate symbols in her dreams, but being only 10 years old, she can not completely anticipate all the consequences. She draws a friend in the window of a house, but doesn't complete his legs. In her dream that night she meets him, with legs, but paralyzed. he sits by the window, forever looking out... he doesn't know how long he's been there. In the real world, the boy is dying of muscular dystrophy. Through her dreams she attempts to cure him.

## BOOK REVIEWS

**ANCIENT IMAGES** - Ramsey Campbell  
(Charles Scribner's Sons, 311 pp,  
\$18.95) \*\*\*\*

Possibly one of the finest works of horror this year. I was hooked by the basic premise of the search for a rumored lost Karloff/Lugosi film made in England in the 30's.

Graham Nolan, a film historian and restoration specialist, finds TOWER OF FEAR and invites a friend, Sandy Allen to view it. She arrives just in time to find his apartment trashed and to see Graham, apparently in pursuit of the burglar, tragically misjudge a rooftop leap and fall to his death.

Insult is added to injury when a jaded film critic insists, via a "tribute" article on Nolan, that the print never existed. Vowing to save Nolan's reputation, Sandy sets out to track the film down.

In spite of multiple obstacles, she re-discovers the film and the legacy of blood that caused it's suppression for so many years.

If your taste in horror runs to explosions of gore every 30 pages then pass on this novel. If however, you enjoy lean prose, rich atmosphere and a plotline so tight it screams, Ancient Images has what you're looking for.

**BOOK OF THE DEAD** - John Tiqqes  
(Leisure Books, 358 pp, 1989,  
\$3.95)

The best I can say about Tiqqes is that he's prolific. God help us!

Stop this man before he writes again.

**THE MIDNIGHT EXAMINER** - William Kotzwinkle  
(Houghton Mifflin, 227 pp, 1989,  
\$17.95)

Sheer magic! Kotzwinkle's hat trick is to present a group of seriously deranged characters to

the reader and within 55 pages have you wishing they could stop by for dinner (but only if you didn't mind having a mural of a cow in a dress painted on your dining room wall).

Meet the gang at Chameleon Publishing who are responsible not only for a sleazy tabloid known as The Midnight Examiner ("UFO found In Girl's Uterus") but also such sterling publications as Young Nurse Romance, Macho Man, Bottoms, Knockers and Real Detective.

Hop on board the roller coaster as Editor-In Chief Howard Halliday & a cast of characters that defy sane description (including a voodoo sorceress and a tomb robbing Egyptian) protect a poetry writing porn queen from the wrath of the crime lord she shot.

If you prefer your fantasy sans unicorns & dragons, then read all about it in THE MIDNIGHT EXAMINER.

**THE DARK HALF** - Stephen King  
(Viking, 431 pp, 1989, \$21.95)

Be wary of novels when the author's name is at least twice as large as the title.

A reversal on Poe's WILLIAM WILSON, King tells the tale of author Thad Beaumont, a "respectable" writer who also writes brutal suspense novels about a character named Alex Machine under the pseudonym of George Stark.

Thad literally "buries" Stark in order to continue with his own writing. Stark/Machine has other ideas and literally rises from the grave to fight for his own existence.

Tired King. The gross-out factor doesn't offset the predictability.

**THE COMPLETE GHOST STORIES OF CHARLES DICKENS** - Peter Haining, ed. (Washington Square, 408 pp, 1983, \$3.95)

'Tis the season to read Dickens. A highly recommended collection.

## **CON-SIDERATIONS**

**OMNICON CRUISE:** January 7-14, '89 (in 2,5 & 7 day segments)  
SS Britanis call 305-921-2910 for details

**GUESTS:** Tom Baker, John Nathan-Turner, Gary Downie,  
Caroline Munro, Dave Prowse, Jacqueline Pearce,  
Simon Williams, Stubby Kaye & Jan Chappel.

**BOSKONE XXVII** Feb 16-18 1990

Marriott & Sheraton Hotels, Springfield, MA

INFO: Box G, MIT Branch, Cambridge MA

02139-0910

**GUESTS:** GoH Glen Cook, AGoH David A Cherry

**OASIS III:** May 11-13 1990

Plaza Inn 603 Lee Road (I-4 Exit # 46) Orlando, FL

**GUESTS:** Joan D Vinge & Robert Daniels, Jr

FANGOH: Joe Siclari

**HORRORFEST '90:** May 11-13 1990

Holiday Inn I-70 East Hotel & Convention

Center 15500 East 40th Ave

I-70 & Chambers Rd Denver, Colorado

**GUESTS:** Chelsea Quinn Yarbro, Edward Bryant, Dan Simmons,  
Prudy Taylor Board and more.

**TRAVELLING FETE 3:** July 27-29 1990

Econo Lodge South Central 3000 34th St S

St Petersburg, FL 33711

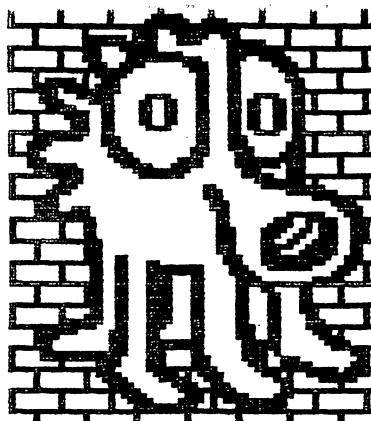
**GOH:** Charles L Fontenay

### **SHUTTLE CREDITS**

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Waldo Lydecker.

The South Florida Science Fiction Society is a Florida non-profit educational corporation recognized by the Internal Revenue Service under Section 501 (c) (3)



# IT CAME IN THE MAIL!

ANVIL # 50 October 1989

BCSFAZINE # 197 October 1989 British Columbia Science Fiction Association.

DASFAX vol 21 # 10 & # 11 October & November '89 Denver Area Science Fiction Association.

DePROFUNDIS Issue # 212 & 213 Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society Inc.

FOSFAX # 143 Sept '89 & # 144 Oct '89 (art by Phil Tortorici in both.)

HARPINGS # 19 Jul/Sept '89 & # 20 Nov '89 Filk News!

THE INSIDER # 152 Sept '89, # 153 Oct '89 & # 154 Nov '89

INSTANT MESSAGE # 463 (Aug), # 464 (Sept), # 465 (Sept)  
# 467 (Oct) & # 468 (Nov).

THE INTERGALACTIC REPORTER (NJSFS) Noreascon Report & Vol  
11 # 11 Nov '89

NASFA SHUTTLE Sept & Oct '89 Vol 9 # 9 & # 10

STONE HILL LAUNCH TIMES vol 3 # 9, # 10 & # 11

TRANSMISSIONS Vol 12 # 12 Oct '89

WESTWIND # 141 (Sept), # 142 (Oct) & # 143 (Nov)

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS OF NOTE

2 - Brian Lumley  
9 - George Mac Donald  
12 - Karl Edward Wagner  
14 - Shirley Jackson  
16 - Stephen Spielberg  
18 - Michael Moorcock  
20 - Joseph Payne Brennan

22 - Jamie Lee Curtis  
23 - David H Keller  
24 - Fritz Leiber  
25 - Rod Serling  
29 - Barbara Steele  
30 - L P Hartley, Rudyard  
Kipling  
31 - Fitz James O'Brien

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN !

Just a reminder that memberships expire December 31, 1989.  
If your dues haven't been received by January 1, 1990, you  
are subject to TERMINATION. AHHH HAAA HHAAAA HAAAA !!!!

Your only hope is to submit a check ( \$15 General, \$20  
Regular ) with a renewal form (see below) to Peggy Ann Dolan.

Remember, we know where you live.

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SOUTH FLORIDA SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY  
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ I qualify and would like to apply for regular member  
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\_\_\_\_\_ CHILD ( \$1.00 )

\_\_\_\_\_ VINCE MIRANDA ( \$47, 225.58 )

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Paperback Exchange



SFSFS members get 20%  
off total used book purchases.  
New Owner Carol Leigh has a good  
selection of SF and other books.

1659 NE 163rd STREET  
N MIAMI BEACH, 33162  
(305)-940-0819

## WANTED !!!

Original art, reviews, essays,  
poetry, letters, editorials, photos...

Big changes are planned for THE  
SHUTTLE and you can be part of it!

Your point of view is important.

Send any of your efforts to:

Gerry Adair  
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