

The Official SFSFS Newsletter (really!!)

APRIL GENERAL MEETING

- DATE: Saturday April 21st at 2:00 p.m.
- TOPIC: "2,000 Stories About Collecting Science Fiction"

Samuel Goldstein, avid collector of 1st editions, pre-publication proofs, manuscripts, etc., will share his expertise, and a few choice anecdotes, on the art of identifying & collecting fine works of fiction.

LOC: The Riverland Branch of the Broward County library 2710 West Davie Blvd. Take I-95 to Davie Blvd, go west to Riverland Rd. The library is on the SW corner.

CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

DATE: Sunday April 21st at 2:00 pm

LOC: 3685 Coral Springs Drive Coral Springs Carol Gibson 305 345-9326

This meeting will focus on how to run future sessions, and deciding what the participants would like to accomplish over the next year.

MEDIA RESEARCH

DATE: Friday, April 27, 8:00 pm

- LOC: 3685 Coral Springs Drive Coral Springs Carol Gibson 305 345-9326
- VIDEO: The Legend Of Robin Hood Parts 6 - 12 (BBC Prod)

Since the committee discusses Science Fiction/Fantasy in the visual media, I would like to propose a motion at the next meeting to change Media Research's title to Media Discussion.

This summer, I hope to repeat last year's practice of attending the South Florida debut of any SF/F/HORROR film as a group.

If you wish to attend a movie with us, you will need to contact me by 11:00 am the day of the show. I will purchase tickets in advance, and we will meet at the theater one-half hour before the show, where you can reimburse me for the price of the ticket. However, once having confirmed your ticket and it has been bought, you will be responsible for reimbursing the cost of the ticket, whether or not you use it.

- Carol



CREW

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SFSFS LOGO: Gail Bennett

COLLATER, STAPLER, STAMP STICKER & PURVEYOR OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES FOR THE EDITOR: Marion Lean

Okay, l'm begging. Send art, poetry, reviews, LoC's, etc. to:

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THE SFSFS SHUTTLE outh Florida Science *** educational corpor bx rnal ----(0)(8)-501 a h 1 m \$1 for obildren). The vi on in iome those of the authors and artists and not essarily those of the publisher. Why are you reading this? SEMPER SURSUM

DISPATCH FROM THE HELM POD PEOPLE ALERT!!!

It's getting real scary out there folks! The Pod people are proliferating and are no longer content to idly remain in their containment areas. ...

What? Who are Pod People? Damn, It's worse than I thought! Quick, before you read on, run to the documentary aisle at your local video palace and pick up *INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS*. Watch it carefully and then read on. I'll wait.

What do you mean it wasn't in the Documentary section? They had it where? SCIENCE FICTION???? Fools!

It's not fiction, the pods are real. We were damn near overrun by the pods until a dedicated band of Behavioral Scientists discovered an inherent compulsive drive within them to congregate in bars where the walls are covered with fern and rusting farm tools and designed an unobtrusive chain of containment areas to hold them. Apparently a new generation of pods are immune to the "Bennigan's Paradox" and are now loose in the community.

A few days ago, I accompanied my son Jason to the local TOYS-R-US for his weekly GI JOE "fix". He didn't find the JOE he wanted but had made an alternate selection when a stranger interrupted him. "You don't want that one, it's a bad investment. I'll find a more valuable one for you."

He rooted through the racks, pulled out a figure and handed it to Jason. "Put this away for a couple of years and you'll be able to sell it for at least 10x what you pay for it now."

"He's not looking for an investment.", I explained, "He's looking for a toy. Something to play with. Comprende Toy? ...those things your kids play with?"

"We have no children.", he replied in a flat voice as a woman, her arms filled with stuffed cartoon figures, joined him. "He wouldn't find any <u>really</u> good investments anyway. We bought them, crates of them, so we could have them all. All those ninja figures the kids want? We have them. We have all of them. We bought every one in Palm Beach County"

"Let me get this straight.", I said, "Kids are unable to buy the toys they want because you've bought them all as investments?"

"They wouldn't appreciate them anyway. They'd just want to play with them.", he responded.

"Dad", Jason whispered, "I'm scared. Let's go home."

"You ought to talk to Pete.", he said, pointing to an elderly man who was edging toward us, "His collection is so big..."

I tucked Jason under my arm, tossed a \$5 bill & flashed Jason's selection at a bewildered cashier as I ran by, and bolted through the door.

"They were never kids, were they Dad?", Jason asked as we drove home.

"You're right.", I said. " They were never kids."

NEXT MONTH: POD PEOPLE: THEIR KITH AND KIN

Till then, See you on the dark side.

RAY BRADBURY TO PRESENT LECTURE AND DISCUSSION AT FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY ON APRIL 16

Ray Bradbury, novelist, futurist and poet, will appear at Florida Atlantic University on Monday, April 16 at 8:00 pm, in the University Center Auditorium. Mr Bradbury will present his optimistic view of the future in a lecture entitled THE GREAT YEARS AHEAD.

Bradbury is one of the most prolific writers of the 20th century, having published more than 400 short stories, 17 novels and collections of short stories and poetry. His books include FAHRENHEIT 451, THE MARTIAN CHRONICLES, THE GOLDEN APPLES OF THE SUN and LONG AFTER MIDNIGHT. He has written screenplays for IT CAME FROM OUTER SPACE, THE PICASSO SUMMER, I SING THE BODY ELECTRIC, and SOMETHING WICKED THIS WAY COMES. Bradbury is revered around the world as one of the great fantasy writers.

In 1964, Mr Bradbury founded the Pandemonium Theater, which has produced his plays, including THE WONDERFUL ICE CREAM SUIT and FALLING UPWARD, a comedy about his time in Ireland working for John Huston on the screenplay MOBY DICK. He was the creator of the scenario for the U.S. Pavilion at the 1964 New York World's Fair and of the concept around which Spaceship Earth was constructed for EPCOT at Disney World, in Orlando. In 1980 he became creative consultant for the architectural firm Jon Perde Partnership, which planned the Westside Pavilion in Los Angeles and the Horton Plaza in San Diego. The Ray Bradbury Theater has successfully appeared since 1986.

Tickets for the Ray Bradbury lecture are available at Ticket Master Outlets and at the FAU University Center Ticket Office starting March 26: General Public - \$5.50 plus service charge; FAU Faculty/Staff -\$3.50 with FAU identification; FAU students - Free with FAU identification. FAU Student and Faculty/Staff must obtain their tickets at the University Center Ticket Office. For additional information, call (407) 367-3758. In Broward, call (305) 355-5293.

FANDOM MOURNS DEATH OF WENDY ACKERMAN

What was hoped to be only an unsubstantiated rumor was confirmed in a heart rending two page testimonial written by Forry Ackerman on March 9th:

"The only Wendayne (Mondelle) in the world died at 8 o'clock in the evening of March 5th after a 5 month period of increasing and immeasurable misery due to renal failure compounded by dialysis dementia..."

Wendy's skills as a translator provided english-speaking fandom with 137 Perry Rhodan novels, Stanislaw Lem's "The Invincible" and Pierre Barbet's "Games Psyborgs Play". Our deepest sympathies are extended to Forry.

"THE SFSFS MEETING FROM HELL!!!"

- Fran Mullen

I knew we were in trouble when Bill Wilson uttered the above words as we approached the meeting place I had procured. ... Try to envision a pre-fab building that sits idle in the park, except for occasional Fish & Game Club meetings. The Park Ranger assured me there were no wasps in the building as we opened it up. I tried to point out the inhabitants up in the rafters but he was already in the next room trying to turn on the A/C. He kept pointing out that the price was right (free). Take Note: check out the facilities before making a committment (although this would be the perfect place for a Halloween Party!).

Bill took up his station in front of the deer silhouette tacked on the wall. The few supplies needed for the meeting's activities were placed on a table that looked as if could barely hold them. Some of us took the plywood covers off the windows, bringing in the sunshine (a tactical error, as we had a heckuva time getting them back on). After a short business meeting, we proceeded with a rousing game of "Science-Pictionary". It's truly amazing how hidden talents surface when called upon. We have some budding artists in our group who could probably do wonders after a few art lessons (...well, maybe more than just a few). I counted 15 in attendance, though people wandered in and out at random. That may have been due, in part, to our other guests in the rafters (they applied for general membership, but didn't pay their dues so we didn't vote them in).

Afterwards, all adjourned to our trailer, which was conveniently parked just across the road. Musical instruments and filk books were brought out, cool drinks emerged from hidden places and a joyful noise was made by all. More members and quests showed up and Becky Peters brought a chocolate-mint cake (as close as she could get to green, in honor of St Pat's Day) and cupcakes made with freshly squeezed oranges. (Thanks, Becky!). Park Rangers dropped by with a movie schedule (movies in the park?). They had a Star Trek episode scheduled with us in mind, but I don't think anyone left the party to see it. We had a great time and the last stragglers didn't leave until 2 in the morning.

Dinner was whenever folks got hungry and mostly cooked over the grill. Some opted for deli-chicken, but there were plenty of hot dogs, hamburgers and steaks. No one went hungry.

True campers were in short supply. Edie and Joe had the flimsiest excuses: Edie was in England and Joe was home communing with an I/V bag. Carol & Stuart shared a tent with Dina Friday & Saturday night. We'd heard from a few other folks who planned to camp, but they must've watched the weather report for the weekend. Mother Nature was kind most of the time, but there was heavy rain at 2am Sunday morning. Our intrepid campers stuck it out in the dry half of the tent, but their extra clothing was soaked. Stuart consoled us with a huge breakfast. It was a wonderful way to end a fun weekend.

Anybody want to try it again?

CON-siderations

BALTICON 24 April 13-15 The Hunt Valley Inn 245 Shawan Road, Hunt Valley, MD INFO: BALTICON 24 P.O. Box 686 Baltimore, Md 21203

MISCON 5 May 11-13, Best Western Executive Motor Inn 210 E Main St Missoula, Mt 21203 GOH: Elizabeth Scarborough FAN GOH: Dr Jane Robinson MEMB: \$16 until 4/15/90 \$20 at the door INFO: (406) 549-1435

OASIS III May 11-13 Plaza Inn, 603 Lee Road (I-4 Exit 46) Orlando, Fl GOH: Joan D Vinge FAN GOH: Joe Siclari MEMB: \$15 until 4/15/90 INFO: Fl Watts: 1-800-342-0271 US Watts: 1-800-824-2333

V-CON 18 May 25-27 Totem Residence, University Of British Columbia GOH: Elizabeth Scarborough TOASTMASTER: Elizabeth A Lynn Canadian GOH: Dave Duncan Artist GOH: Roger Raupp Fan GOH: Vincent MEMB: \$21 to 5/1/90 \$25 at the door INFO: V-CON 18 P.O. BOX 48478 Bentall Centre Vancouver, B.C. V7X 1A2

TRAVELLING FETE III Jul 27-29 Econo Lodge/South Central St Petersburg, Fl GOH: Charles L Fontenay MEMB: \$15 until 6/15/90 INFO: SFSFS SECRETARY P.O. Box 70143 Ft Lauderdale, Fl 33307

OMNICON 1991

OMNICON 1991 will be held February 1 - 3 1991 at the Ramada Florida Center, Orlando, Florida. So far, Omnicon has confirmed Sylvester McCoy, Tom Baker and David Kyle. Advance Tickets are \$25 through 7/1/90. For further info send SASE, or for tickets, send checks payable to: OMNICON, INC Carol Gibson, Treasurer 3685 Coral Springs Drive Coral Springs, Fl 33065

1990 ANNUAL BRAM STOKER AWARDS WEEKEND

This year's HWA "business meeting and banquet massacre" will be held on June 22 - 24th at the Omni Biltmore Hotel in Providence, Rhode Island. The Toastmaster will be Chet Williamson; Honored Speaker at the banquet will be Robert Bloch. Panels and peripheral events will be announced at a later date. Group rates at the hotel will be honored until May 22, 1990. For further hotel info: Omni Biltmore Hotel Kennedy Plaza Providence, R.I. 02903-9990

MEA CULPA DEPARTMENT

Two incorrect spellings were noticed in the General Meeting Minutes summary on page 7 of last month's Shuttle. The proper spellings are: Sharon Sbarsky and David Cantor. The editor apologizes for the shame, humiliation and general degradation his asinine incompetence may have caused to these two pillars of their respective communities.

APRIL SHUTTLE DEADLINE: 4/25/90

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BOOK REVIEWS

MARY REILLY - Valerie Martin Doubleday: New York, February 1990. \$18.95

In MARY REILLY, Valerie Martin has created a rare gem of a novel. Occasionally one runs across a book that must be read in one sitting, usually a work of drama or suspense, that grabs you with it's plot and doesn't let go. This you might expect from a novel built around Robert Louis Stevenson's THE STRANGE CASE OF DR JEKYLL AND MR HYDE and yet the author has created a novel of warmth and compassion out of this cornerstone of modern horror. The novel is fairly slow-paced yet gripping as you become concerned for the fate of a very exceptional young woman trapped in the household of the poor, doomed Dr Henry Jekyll.

The genesis of MARY REILLY is interesting. The author, Valerie Martin, who teaches in the graduate writing program at the University of Massachusetts, noticed a tiny reference to a terrified maid in Stevenson's original story and began to wonder about this least of characters. What had the girl seen or experienced to frighten her so? What could this young woman have been like? Victorian England was no paradise for the poor. This was a world where young children could be starving in the streets (those who could not find work in the sweat shops). Most of the servant class came from the commonest of origins, usually (but not always, as the book points out) uneducated and illiterate. If the male servant was of a lowly breed, the woman was nothing.

Martin's book gives this nothingness a powerful presence and fills it with life. This wonderful young woman, Mary Reilly, might have done well for herself in our world but in this one she knows and has her place. As the terrible tragedy and horror unfolds itself peripherally on the edge of Mary's world (for the lofty life and concerns of her master are, after all, none of her affair) Mary attempts to deal with her own desires and problems.

If you want a read that is rich in both characterization and the feel of the times, this is the book for you.

- Vince Miranda

ANTIBODIES - David J Skal A Worldwide Library Book/April 1989, 220 pp., \$3.95

In the June '88 issue of the TWILIGHT ZONE MAGAZINE, Edward Bryant gave an extremely enthusiastic review to ANTIBODIES, writing "Were this a movie, one might imagine Harlan Ellison writing the script for David Cronenberg's direction. J.G. Ballard would write the novelization." A few months later, during a lively 2 hour conversation about horror and horror writers (a session fueled by the wonderful potables in Edie Stern's single malt cabinet), Ellen Datlow agreed with Bryant's opinion. I knew that I'd have to get my hands on this one. It was a just over a year later that I found a copy. The wait was well worth it.

(continued on page 8)

This is a powerfully frightening dystopian view of a future where a steadily growing cadre of religious zealots, who believe that mechanical body parts are immeasurably more preferable and morally righteous than the flesh and blood originals, live their beliefs by paying exorbitant fees for surgical procedures that transform their bodies, piece by piece, into machines. The book's spine identifies it as Science-Fiction but this is, without a doubt, one of the most intensely disturbing horror novels I've come across. One particular sequence that features the Bee-Gees recording of "Staying Alive" haunted me for days.

If your worst enemy had dropped a dozen tabs of Blue Sunshine and then asked you if you had anything to read, this is the novel I'd recommend giving him. He'd never come up for air again. This is not recommended for the faint of heart. - Gerry Adair

RICHARD MATHESON - COLLECTED STORIES Dream Press, Los Angeles, 1989 \$50.00 (and up.)

Like most of my peers, my initial contact with the works of Richard Matheson was through the original TWILIGHT ZONE. I noticed that a few of my favorite episodes ("Little Girl Lost", "Nightmare at 20,000 Feet", "A World Of His Own", "The Invaders", etc.) had all been written by him and decided to find if I could find anything else he'd written. I located a copy of I AM LEGEND and burned through it in 4 hours in the dead of night during a TV-less vacation with my family in an attic apartment in Ocean City, New Jersey. From that day on, I've been hooked on horror and, in particular, hooked on Matheson.

Apparently I'm in good company. Sprinkled throughout this beautifully bound massive collection are testimonials from Robert Bloch, Ray Bradbury, William F Nolan, fellow TZ alumnus George Clayton Johnson, Harlan Ellison, Jack Finney, Richard Christian Matheson, Dennis Etchison and Stephen King (who confesses "...without Richard Matheson, I wouldn't be around. He is as much my father as Bessie Smith is Elvis Presley's mother.").

In a fascinating Introduction, Matheson explains that the creative wellspring for all of his short stories, paranoia, is exemplified by the recurring leitmotif of all of his work: "The individual isolated in a threatening world attempting to survive." His works, he explains, functioned as "therapeutic battlefields" through which he was able to exorcise his private demons and anxieties. Here then is the journal of one man's attempt to deal with what he perceives as a hostile and threatening universe (internal & external) that encompasses 86 encounters and spans and more than 25 years.

As Matheson points out, it's been more than a decade since his last short story was published. I can only hope that he's finally found some semblance of peace within himself. If so, however, his gain has become our loss. - Gerry Adair HYPERION - Dan Simmons Doubleday, New York, June 1989, 482 pp. (Bantam, March 1990, 482 pp., \$4.95)

As a high-school student, I was one of those rare geeks who actually enjoyed struggling through Chaucer's CANTERBURY TALES. The reward far outweighed the struggle. Simply put, HYPERION is the Science-Fiction equivalent of Chaucer's classic minus the struggle. This book is a joy to read.

With the galaxy poised on the brink of war, seven pilgrims have been selected to travel to the planet Hyperion. There they hope to confront an enigmatic, seemingly invulnerable being known as the Shrike, discover his secret and the secret of the Time Tombs he guards and thus prevent Armageddon. On their way, the seven (a priest, a soldier, a poet, a scholar, a detective, a consul and the Starship Captain) agree to tell stories of their past involvement with Hyperion in order to find some kind of clue in how to effectively deal with the Shrike.

As in CANTERBURY TALES, the stories are a heady melange of style and tone, each faithful to the distinctive point-of-view of the individual storyteller (e.g. The Detective's Tale is entitled "The Long Good-Bye" and is clearly an homage to Chandler) and each heightening the tension of the pilgrimage as the confrontation with the Shrike draws closer.

Besides the influence of Chaucer, HYPERION is riddled with allusions to the life and works of romantic poet John Keats (HYPERION and THE FALL OF HYPERION: A DREAM). Keats himself even puts in an appearance in one of the tales. Brushing up on your Chaucer and Keats is by no means a pre-requisite to reading HYPERION but simply adds lagniappe to your enjoyment.

I read HYPERION a few months ago but, as a public service, held off recommending it until the concluding volume, THE FALL OF HYPERION was released. Run, do not walk, to your favorite purveyor of quality Science Fiction and grab 'em both. - Gerry Adair

THE LOST WORLD & THE POISON BELT - Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Chronicle Books, San Francisco, 1989, 250 pp., \$8.95

Here's good news for those who attended the "Sherlockian Science Fiction" program a few months ago and wished to read more of Doyle's science-fiction stories. Two of Professor George Edward Challenger's greatest adventures have been re-released by Chronicle with an introduction provided by author William Gibson (NEUROMANCER, BURNING CHROME). Great fun & highly recommended. - Gerry Adair

GEEK LOVE - Katherine Dunn Borzoi, New York, March 1989, \$18.95

This is what would have resulted if David Lynch had directed and written the screenplay for FREAKS (1932). Entrepreneurs Al and Lil Binewski hit upon the cost-saving concept of breeding their own family of freaks for Binewski's Fabulon. The rise and fall of the family is chronicled by Olympia Binewski, an albino hunchbacked dwarf. It redefines the limits of familial love. A mesmerizing work. - Gerry Adair

FILK NEWS

South Florida's own Orion's Belt is making a tape! In fact, we have five songs in the can and Doug Wu has just written two (not one, but two!) new ones. He premiered one at the Filk/Campout to a very warm reception. Both songs will be included on the tape. Besides being great, there is the added advantage that O. B. has "permission" from the composer to use them. We still need to correspond with composers of other songs we plan to include on the tape (There's the small matter of copyrights and royalties). We hope to have the tape ready for premiere at OKon in July (Cross your fingers, Please).

We felt the need to do something different, so we performed three songs at a benefit "cabaret" at Dina's Temple. An educational experience (which means no compensation), a lot of fun, and a bunch of new Orion's Belt fans. - Fran Mullen

NEW LOCAL SOURCE FOR FILK TAPES

Get yourself on up to the Stellar Bookseller (blatant plug, unsolicited by Joe Siclari) and snatch up those filk tapes while he has them. He has kindly sent me a list so I can do my shopping longdistance (Chuck doesn't know this yet). I plan to write some reviews of tapes on hand so as to help you make informed selections. We all look for something different when shopping for music, so I'll try to be objective. Of course, I'll highly recommend the Orion's Belt tape when it comes - Fran Mullen out!

THANK YOU AND GOODNIGHT

Gary Merrill - A versatile character actor, Mr Merrill died of Cancer on March 3rd. Genre films included: MYSTERIOUS ISLAND; THE WOMAN WHO WOULDN'T DIE; DESTINATION INNER SPACE; AROUND THE WORLD UNDER THE SEA; THE POWER; & EARTH II (TVM) Genre TV included: ALFRED HITCHCOCK PRESENTS; TWILIGHT ZONE ("Still Valley"); THE OUTER LIMITS ("The Human Factor"); VOYAGE TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA; TIME TUNNEL and WORLD OF DARKNESS.

Dr Bruno Bettelheim - A world renowned psychoanalyst, Dr Bettelheim committed suicide on March 13th. It is alleged that contributing factors include the death of his wife, Gertrud, in 1984; a stroke in 1987 that left him unable to read, a recent estrangement from his daughter and a move from an apartment in Santa Monica overlooking the Pacific to a retirement home in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Dr Bettelheim's THE USES OF ENCHANTMENT: THE MEANING AND IMPORTANCE OF FAIRY TALES, which was written in the mid '70's was a seminal influence on Fantasy writers and filmmakers.

Capucine - The French leading lady, famous for her performance with Peter Sellers in THE PINK PANTHER, died on March 17th as a result of a fall from the window of her eighth-floor apartment.

Genre films include: FELLINI'S SATYRICON; THE CRUEL WOMEN and ARABIAN ADVENTURE.

Toe K. Lansdate

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Anne McCaffery 4/1/26; Samuel R Delaney 4/1/42; Hans Christian Anderson 4/2/1850; Joan D Vinge 4/2/48; Peter Haining 4/2/40; Robert Bloch 4/5/17; Henry Kuttner 4/7/15; George O Smith 4/9/11.

Carol Emshwiller 4/12/21; Tom Monteleone 4/14/46; Lloyd Biggle 4/17/23; Ian Watson 4/20/43; Peter S Beagle 4/20/39.

Talbot Mundy 4/23/1879; Avram Davidson 4/23/23; Fletcher Pratt 4/25/1897; A E Van Voqt 4/26/12; H L Gold 4/26/14; Bill Warren 4/26/43; Frank Belknap Long 4/27/03; Jack Williamson 4/29/08; Edmund Cooper 4/30/26; Larry Niven 4/30/38.

RANDOM NOTES

Two recent stories in the paper caught my eye. On 3/5/90 The Palm Beach Post reported that noted Rumanian artist-historian Vlaicu Ionescu was attacked and robbed in his Queens apartment. The thieves escaped with paintings worth millions of Dollars and three signet rings that allegedly belonged to Vlad Dracul of Wallachia, father of Vlad the Impaler.

A day later, the Post reported that New York's Cardinal John O'Connor had disclosed that 2 exorcisms had been performed in the New York Area within the past year.

You don't suppose.... Naaahhh!

It was reported that Stephen King joked with a Portland, Maine audience: "I have the heart of a small boy - and I keep it in a jar on my desk"

Steve, maybe you ought to call Robert Bloch and find out where he buys his suits too!!!

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LOC's

Oh Happy Day! The Shuttle received it's first LOC!!! An unsigned postcard arrived with this cryptic message:

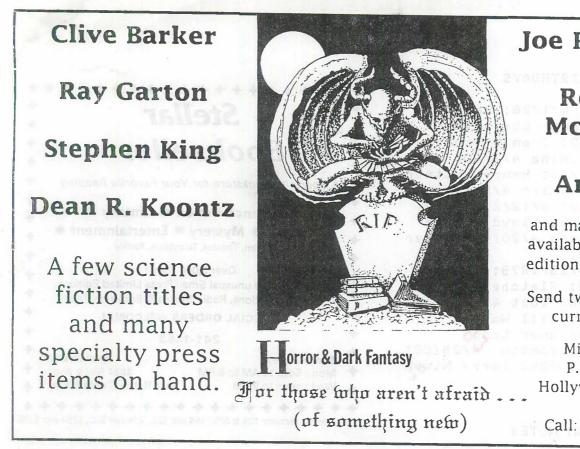
Dear Gerry, Roses are red Violets are Blue l'm not the real Anastassia Are You?

X0X

Dear XOX

No, I've been assured by the finest spiritualists in Casadega that there is no royal blood in my karmic veins. In previous lives I have been John Billington, John White Webster, Dinty Colbeck and Carmen Miranda.

- Gerry



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