

Quandry

September 1978

The Newsletter of the Columbia Science Fiction Society

Hello! This is the first issue of Quandry, which will hopefully serve as a place where people can talk about the Society, write about future and present plans for the group, discuss briefly books both old and new, and keep up with what's happening with the SF community in New York and elsewhere.

A little on the Science Fiction Society. It was organized back in October of 1975 by Dani Eder, Richard Lappin, and Harold Lehmann. Since then, it has grown, especially in the last year and a half. It has a library of about 1800 books and magazines, which have primarily been donated or bought in mass quantities at used bookstores. A fanzine called SOL III has come out twice so far with a third issue due in the coming month. The Society held a successful convention (we didn't lose money) on April 1, 1978 which attracted about 200 people. Other media include a radio program on WKCR-AM 590 and this year a television show on Columbia Television. Other new programs for this year include a science fiction film series and a speaker series. The highlight of the year should be a second convention in the spring of 1979.

This month, Society events included the sponsoring of a medieval tournament on September 16, 1978 at noon on South Field and a gathering on the 3rd floor of Furnald Hall to see the premiere of Battlestar Galactica at 8:00pm on September 17th. Soon there should be a group going down to the Science Fiction Shop and the Museum of Holography and others going to see the premieres of various movies.

Well that's about it so on with the rest!

The 1977 Hugo Awards for Science Fiction
Awarded at the 36th Annual World
Science Fiction Convention, Iguanacon
Phoenix, Arizona, Aug. 31- Sept. 4

Novel: GATEWAY by Frederik Pohl (Galaxy Nov. 1976-Jan. 1977)
(St. Martin's, Del Rey)

Novella: "Stardance" by Spider and Jeanne or Jeanne and Spider
Robinson (Analog Mar. 1977)

Novellette: "Eyes of Amber" by Joan D. Vinge (Analog June 1977)

Short Story: "Jeffty is Five" by Harlan Ellison
(Fantasy and Science Fiction July 1977)

Dramatic Presentation: "Star Wars"

Pro Editor: George Scithers (Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine)

Pro Artist: Rick Sternbach

Gandalf Award for Grand Master of Fantasy: Foul Anderson

Gandalf Award for Fantasy Book of 1977: THE SILMARILLION by

J.R.R. Tolkien (Houghton
Mifflin)

John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer: Orson Scott Card

Winner of the Worldcon bid for 1980: Boston

SF News

The New England Science Fiction Association is sponsoring a short story contest for people who haven't sold a piece of fiction before. Major rules are that the story must be under 7,500 words, that the story must be typed in black, double-spaced and on white paper, and an entry fee of 50¢ per story. The deadline for the story contest is October 15, 1978. The complete rules which you should read before entering are posted on the bulletin board in 317 Ferris Booth Hall or you could write to NESFA at Box G, MIT Post Office, Cambridge, Ma, 02139.

The first issue of Cani is out. It will be a monthly, with newsstand price \$2.00 and subscriptions for one year (12 issues) will be \$18.00. We'll have a review by several people on that first issue.

Now that the Worldcon at Phoenix is over, people are looking towards the 37th Worldcon, Seacon '79, at Brighton, England from August 23rd-27th 1979. The British Guest of Honor is Brian Aldiss and the American GOH is Fritz Leiber. The membership rates are now \$7.50 for a supporting membership and \$15.00 for an attending membership. A supporting membership entitles you to vote for the Hugo Awards and receive all progress reports and other publications after you join, while an attending membership gets all the above plus the right to attend the convention. In the United States, fans can send money to Tony Lewis, PO Box 429, Natick, Ma, 01760, (East Coast), Fred Patten, 11863 W. Jefferson Blvd. No. 1, Culver City, Ca, 90230 (West Coast), and Jan Howard Finder, PO Box 2038, Fort Riley, Ks, 66442 (Central).
On TV this week

MOVIES

Friday, September 22

- 1130pm The Brides of Fu Manchu- Christoher Lee, Douglas Wilmer (3)
- 1240am The Deadly Bees- Suzanna Leigh, Frank Finlay (7) 1966
- 230am Snake People- Boris Karloff (7) 1968

Saturday, September 23

- 1000am Earth vs. the Flying Saucers- Joan Taylor (9) 1956
- 1130am U.F.O. Target Earth- Nick Flakias (9) 1974
- noon Donovan's Brain- Lew Ayres, Nancy Davis (5) 1953
- 630pm The Last War- Frankie Sakai, Akira Takarada (9) 1961
- 900pm Burnt Offerings- Karen Black, Oliver Reed (4, 20) 1976
- 100am Terror House- Linda Gillin, John Neilson (9) 1972

Sunday, September 24

- 500pm Strange New World- John Saxon, Kathleen Miller (11) 1975
- 600pm Beware! The Blob- Godfrey Cambridge (9) 1972
- 1145pm Moon of the Wolf- David Janssan, Barbara Rush (2) 1972

Monday, September 25

- 430pm Fantastic Voyage Part 1- Stephen Boyd, Elizabeth Taylor (7)

Tuesday, September 26

- 430pm Fantastic Voyage Part 2- (7) 1966

Wednesday, September 27

- 800pm The Witchmaker- John Lodge, Alvy Moore (9) 1969
- 1130pm Miracle in Milan- Francesco Golisano, Paolo Stoppa (13) 1951

Friday, September 28

- 800pm The Brotherhood of Satan- Strother Martin, L.Q. Jones (9) 1971
- 1240am Night of the Living Dead- Russeell Streiner (7) 1968
- 240am Homocidal- Glenn Corbett (7) 1961

Regular Series

Sunday

- 800pm Battlestar Galactica ABC (7)

Thursday

- 800pm Mork & Mindy ABC
- 800pm Project U.F.O. NBC (4)

Friday

- 800pm The New Adventures of Wonder Woman CBS (2)
- 900pm The Incredible Hulk CBS

Yes it's a rip-off, but what a rip-off!
 A quick first review of Battlestar Galactica
 By Charles Seelig

"'Battlestar' blastoff flops as 'Star Wars' substitute"

Columbia Spectator

I have to believe that Spec missed the mark once again with their usual accuracy. The people gathered on 3 Furneld enjoyed the program immensely. Yes, we laughed at the rip-off lines, characters, plots, and special effects, but we enjoyed it. To me, that seems to be the test of a program, and Battlestar passed that test.

Okay, you say it's a rip-off, and I'll agree with you, but how much was truly ripped off from Star Wars and other programs, and how much was not? Look at the characters; there is certainly no Princess Leia, there is no one as clumsy or naive as Luke Skywalker, and if the dagit is a copy of C3PO and R2D2 then the Empire State Building is a copy of the Parthenon. Starbuck could be Hans Solo, but he seems to be the only character copied from Star Wars. Ah, but you ask about Lorne Greene and Alec Guinness. Come on! Commander Adama is a human being with plenty of room for errors and they were shown during those three hours. Obi-Won on the other hand is a voice and spirit from an ancient past and is in the act of passing the torch to Luke. A duplicate of Darth Vader? I'd like to know where. The Cylons are a match for the Stormtroopers in accuracy of shooting slowness of feet, and enjoyment of killing, but are also a relation of Garth with that revolving light on their heads.

Plotwise, things are a bit different once again. Both Star Wars and Battlestar have homes destroyed by the bad guys and massive enemy spaceships that must be destroyed if the good guys are to be safe. Both have concepts that easily allow sequels; in Star Wars the Empire must be destroyed and in Battlestar they are searching for Earth. But those plots are different and further episodes for both series should become more and more different.

Scenes and special effects were duplicated sometimes. Instead of having two suns in the sky, Battlestar has two moons. Characters in Battlestar blow up an elevator control panel, visit a casino and bar and fight in ships similar to X-wings. The other ships in the first episode remotley resembled craft in Star Wars, for instance the Battleship Galactica does look a little like the Alliance ship, and the larger Cylon ship looks somewhat like the Death Star, but how many designs are there for that type of ship?

One thing I did love, was the believability of these people being descendents of Earth. One case in particular was that the first Council seemed to be made up of a bunch of elderly white men. After they are killed in the first battle, the people elect the same type, in fact worse since these people don't seem to realize the true nature of the Cylons and will believe anything to prevent hostility and death. Hopefully, but probably not, the electorate will come to see the truth and elect some intelligent citizens, includign some women and minorities.

The last thing is that fans and non-fans will be comparing the plots, the characters, and the scenes to all recent series and stories and to stories that were written earlier. But just because Battlestar will have parallels to these does not mean

that the show is bad. After all, are stories about long and perilous journeys bad because the Odyssey was about one?

A PARTIAL MEMBERSHIP LIST

We will have a complete one next issue, and if I leave a blank after someone's name I'm missing that info.

NAME	ADDRESS	TWL.
Philip Golden President	228 Hartley	x6407
Charles Seelig Business Manager	1309 John Jay	x6371
Dani Eder Librarian		x4878
Cam Nyhen Radio	712 Brooks	x
Jana Schulman Magazine		
Eliot Freedman Films	3 Furnald	
Bobbie Whitney TV		
Barbara Brittian		x1028
John Cho	209 Furnald	x7072
Dave Cook	1425 John Jay	x6430
Sandy Hausler	915B Carman	x6988
Susan Kahn	2B-4 "616"	x1621
Joseph Kannry	1113B Carman	x7018
Robert Kasman	415 W. 120st.	663-6900
Richard Kim	308B Carman	x6004
Kathy Lesslie	419 W. 115St. #42	866-0889
Dion Marshall	1208 John Jay	x6327
Victor McNeil	813A Carman	x6972
Seth Potter	613 Livingston	x6779
John Rexer	113 Furnald	
Amy Ranner	Box 483 McIntosh	x1028
Susannah Raphael	710 Brooks	x1285
Nomi Silverman	500 E. 63rd St.	752-0967
Eric Tiedemann	90 Lasalle St.	222-1852
Salvatore Volpe	501 Eli White	

Columbia Science Fiction Society
317 Ferris Booth Hall
Columbia University
NY, NY 10027