

Quandry

October 1978

No. 2

The Newsletter of the Columbia Science Fiction Society

This is the second issue of Quandry. It's edited and to a large extent written by Charles Seelig, Business Manager of the Society. In this issue we have several book reviews, news about SF conventions and films, a complete list, I think, of the membership, and a bunch of other stuff.

Some committee reports. Dani Eder and Eliot Freedman have compiled a list of SF films and will be looking through catalogs for the price of renting them. WKCR-AM has not gone on the air yet so the radio show is still in a holding pattern. The first TV show will be broadcast over CTV (Channel G) on October 17 at 10:30pm. It features two works, one by Dion Marshall called Invasion: Columbia, and a second by Dion and Charles Seelig called Joe. The former is the first episode of a planned serial for the show. One thing, Channel G is just for on campus cable TV sets so you won't be able to receive it off campus. Jana Schulman is looking for new material for the magazine, and that includes book reviews, fiction and almost anything else. She would like to get the next issue out by the end of the month so send them in folks! Dani Eder reports that the library continues to increase, but at a slower pace than last year. It now includes 1259 paperbacks, 135 hardcovers, and 493 magazines. There might be a group going to see Lord of the Rings either November 15th or the following weekend. The heads of the various committees for Apricon 2 were decided. Dani Eder is crew and space chief, Sandy Hausler is taking care of films, Barbara Brittan of speakers and Dave Cook is in charge of dealers. The date of the convention is February 24, 1979 and will be from 1pm to 3am and be held in Ferris Booth Hall at the corner of 115th St. and Broadway. There will be more information coming out in the next issue of Quandry. Also I should be having regular office hours starting the week of the 9th if I can get a key by then. At the moment it looks like Tuesday 1030-1130 am, Wednesday 115-200pm, Thursday 1115am-1215pm. Those are official hours and I'll make an effort to be there then and I should be there some other times also. One last thing, I need as Jana does words, phrases, and clauses to make it worthwhile to publish this zine. So please start sending those cards and letters in, to both of us.

ADDITIONAL HUGO AWARDS

(from Instant Message 242)

Amateur Magazine LOCUS, Charles and Dena Brown, Editors

Fan Writer Richard Geis

Fan Artist Phil Foglio

E.E. Evans "Big Heart" Award William Rotsler

First Fandom Award E. Hoffman Price



ZAP

NEWS ITEM:

PROPOSITION 13

HITS EMPIRE

Movie News, Convention News, and News News

A number of new movies will be premiering in New York in the next few months. The following list will include the date, the production company and in the case of the ones closest to release will include the movie theatre.

1978

October 25th	The Wiz	Universal	Loews Astor Plaza
October 27th	Message From Space	UA	Loews State
November 15th	The Lord of the Rings	UA	Ziegfield
December 15th	Superman	Warner	Loews Astor Plaza
December 22nd	Invasion of the Body Snatchers	UA	Rivoli

1979

March	Amityville Horror	American International	
Spring	The Humanoids	American International	
May	The Alien	20th Century	
June	Meteor	American International	
June	Moonraker (The 11th James Bond Movie)	UA	
?	Star Trek, The Movie	Paramount	

1980

January	Star Wars II (The Empire Strikes Back)	20th Century	
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Information compiled by Dani Eder

The 38th World Science Fiction Convention will be held in Boston from August 29th-September 1, 1980. The Pro Guests of Honor are Damon Knight and Kate Wilhelm and the Fan Guest is Bruce Pelz. Membership costs are as follows

	Supporting	Attending	Conversion
1978	\$8.00	\$15.00	\$7.00
1st half 1979	\$8.00	\$20.00	\$12.00
Thereafter	\$8.00	higher	higher

If you were a voter on the 1980 site you automatically become a supporting member in return for your \$5 fee for voting. You can convert to attending for another \$5 until the end of 1978, but after then you will have to pay the usual conversion fee. If you were either a pre-supporting or pre-opposing member of Boston in 1980 you receive a \$1 discount when you become a member of the convention and if you were a voter you receive another \$1 discount when you convert in 1978. If you don't convert by then you will receive \$1 by mail. The convention



will have a fanzine called Voice of the Lobster. The fanzine will contain letters and articles on the Worldcon, the Hugo rules, or how the convention is being run, etc. The cost is 50¢ per issue or \$2.00 for all the issues published. The address for the convention, for sending your money, or letters, or anything else is Post Office Box 46, MIT Branch Post Office, Cambridge, Ma. 02139. All this information is taken from Progress Report Zero.

The 42nd Philadelphia Science Fiction Conference, Philcon 78 will be held from October 27-29, 1978. The principal speaker is Michael Bishop. Membership now is \$8 either by mail or at the door. The location is at the George Washington Motor Lodge in Valley Forge (King of Prussia) Exit 24 Penn. Turnpike. For more information write Meg Phillips at 210 Londonderry Ln. Darby Pa. 19023. Make your checks payable to Philadelphia SF Society.

More information about Apricon. The membership rates will be \$2.50 in advance and \$4.00 at the door. For Columbia students it will always be \$2.50. Dealers can have as many tables as they want for free, but they must buy a membership and tell us how many tables they want in advance. The address for the convention is Apricon II, 317 Ferris Booth Hall, Columbia University, NY, NY, 10027.

The latest issue of Analog includes Ben Bova's last editorial, Hunter's Moon by Poul Anderson, Endgame by D.C. Poyer, Killing Children by Orson Scott Card, Accord by Lord St. Davids, Maximum Security by Tom Sullivan, The Plague by Michael C. Kohn, and the last part of the serial Stardance II, by Spider and Jeanne Robinson.

The second volume of Tuck's Encyclopedia to Science Fiction and Fantasy is now in the Reference Room of Butler Library.

Pardon me also in Analog is Joe Haldeman's science article about the space shuttle called "This Space for Rent".

Another view of Battlestar Galactica

Battlestar Intactica by Harry Witchel

All right! Enough praise has been said about the excellence of "Battlestar Galactica" and its originality; now it's my turn.

What irritates me is that BG is a TV series and, as such, is forced to make the normal accommodations in the script. Characters are TV stereotypes, scientific probability is ignored, and the best actors always portray Darth Vader.

Do you remember the plot of the second episode? Two fighter pilots spy on a Cylon listening post and then contaminate all the other fighter pilots except Starbuck and Apollo who are forced to train the female shuttle pilots to fly Vipers. They are immediately sent out on a mission against the listening post and are completely successful without the loss of any Vipers.

Question #1: Why do the precise Cylons who can make exact decisions based on precise data get blown away by a bunch of novice flyers who can barely avoid blasting themselves to bits? The Cylons appear to have the worst aim outside of the men's lounge despite their inherent superiority when operating machines.

Question #2: What about those pressure suits? If they had included those on the first episode, the ratings for the second episode would have beaten "Charlie's Angels". The pressure suits, if you missed the second episode, are black string bikinis worn by luscious Viper-pilot trainees. Obviously they were employed to add a new dimension (sex) and galactic mapping (heavenly bodies) to the show.

Unfortunately the nomenclature might create problems. The bikinis were named pressure suits rather than underwear; this would make them mandatory acoutrement for the men too. What about Starbuck and Apollo? Only his hairdresser knows for sure.

Question #3: Why do they use such a great actor to play the part of the earthling traitor? All you trekkies out there remember him as Commander Koor ("Dove of Peace") who said, "Oh, I suppose that one day we shall be defeated, but today--we conquer!" You have to root for his impressive (though misguided) intelligence over Lorne Green's depressive (and misguided) moralizing.

Question #4: The Cylons are machines. They lead themselves. Their ships were designed for their exclusive use. The earthling traitor has been assigned to a Cylon ship of his own. But...but... Cylons don't go to the bathroom!!!

Question #5: Do you remember all that garbage about trying to save the limited resources aboard the Galactica? Did you notice that notice that they haven't picked up any food along the way. Did you forget that while the Galactica is flying into the magnetic void people still have to eat? Just what is Lorne Green going to give his sons, Starbuck and Apollo, when they run out of food? "There's no better dog food in the world."

Book Reviews
by Charles Seelig

Who Goes There? by Bob Shaw, Ace Books, \$1.75, pp. 214

'They join the legion to forget-' blurbs the front cover. I hope I can forget this book in a short time. The characters except for Warren Peace are seen so briefly that they are one-dimensional and I get the feeling that they couldn't even be two if they were in the entire story. Warren Peace doesn't receive much depth either until the end of the book, when we see him as Norman Nightengale. What could have been a more interesting story would be that of Nightengale's departure from the Legion.

Another major flaw in the story is that there are too many coincidences. Peace finds the same time traveling machine-tiölet twice, once when he's forgotten where it was. He is the person responsible for superhuman creatures named Oscars who are vital to the outcome of the book. He is also the inventor of a mind-eraser device which is used in the Legion. He meets a porno-freaked kid twice, which is twice to many times for my taste.

Everything comes to a head in the last few pages of the book, and in this case that's a problem since too much has to be explained. People's motives, explanations for various events and origins of problems are all included in too few words.

Oh yes, you want to know about the plot. Warren Peace has joined the Space Legion to forget what has happened in his past life. The legion is a mass of rag-tag men and equipment which fights wars and puts down rebellions in space. Peace finds a way of getting out of the Legion and tries to find out why he joined in the first place.

The cover is quite good, but there is no mention of the artist.

Dragonsinger by Anne McCaffrey, Bantam Books, \$1.95, pp. 300

Here is another delightful novel by Anne McCaffrey. Dragonsinger is a sequel to Dragonsong and continues the experiences of Menolly in learning about the Harper craft and the society of Pern. Anne McCaffrey has also not made it into another HOW-I-MADE-THE-WORLD-

WHEN-I-WAS-FIVE-YEARS-OLD juvenile, which is certainly refreshing.

Menolly continues to be developed well, with reactions that seem correct for a person going from one society to another. Other characters seem well-defined and the fire lizards continue to be realistic.

McCaffrey has also avoided the triumphant homecoming of Menolly, (in fact it might not be so triumphant considering the relationship between Menolly and her parents in Dragonsong.) But I hope that she eventually does get to visit Half-Circle Hold and I await to see what happens.

In all this book serves as a good companion novel to the main series and as an excellent juvenile novel. Also the cover is great with beautiful colors; its done by Elizabeth Malczynski, though she is not mentioned on the copyright page.

A Flague of Pythons by Frederik Pohl, Del Rey, \$1.75, pp. 158

This is a reprint of a 1965 book which also appeared in a shorter version in Galaxy in 1962. The Earth is ravaged in the future by "demons" who control human beings for a time and force them to carry out hideous crimes: perform inexplicable jobs. Society has fragmented into small units of towns and groups, each having it's own method of dealing iwht the demons. Chandler is accused of rape which he says he did while he was possessed. He escapes and soon travels possessed or normal to the headquarters of the group who is in control.

Chandler is certainly believable as a man who seeks revenge for the death and destruction delivered upon his personal and public world. Other characters are well portrayed including those in control. Their plan for taking over the world is correct; destroy any possibility of other groups retaking power and leave alone what they need to survive. Pohl has a good ending, neither the usual or tomato surprise format. It is somewhat frightening. The cover is by Dean Ellis.

Membership List

telephone numbers and addresses available in 317 Ferris Booth Hall

- Imran Ahmed
- Paul Beeken
- Barbara Britten
- Danny burstein
- Dave Cho
- Dave Cook
- Tony Donadrio
- Dani Eder
- ned Farrar
- Sandy Hausler
- Kevin Jensen
- Susan Kahn
- Joseph Kannry
- Robert Kasman
- Richard Kim
- Allen Klus
- Richard Lappin
- Kathy Lesslie
- benjamin Levy
- Dion Marshall
- Victor Mcneil
- Scott Moss
- Cam Nyhen
- Shepard Peterson

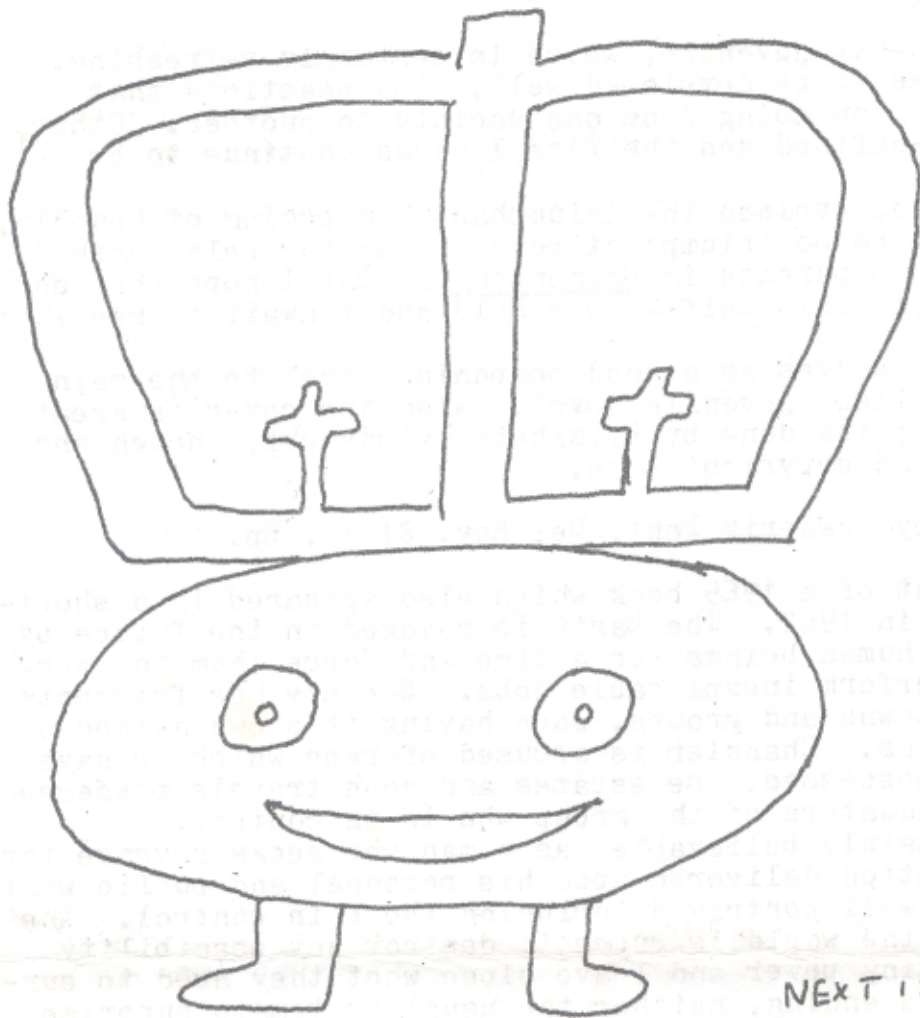
- Seth Potter
- Chris Radlin
- Amy Ranner
- Susannah Raphael
- John Rexer
- Jana Schulman
- Michael Sherman
- Nomi Silverman
- Tom Sweet
- Reid Tanenbaum
- Eric Tiedemann
- Salvatore Volpe
- Dave Whettstone
- Bobbie Whitney
- Harry Witchel

Alumni and Honorary Members

- Isaac Asimov
- Harlan Ellison
- Fred Lerner
- Ursula LeGuin
- Terry Newton
- Margaret C'Connell
- Spider and Jeanne Robinson
- Robert Silverberg
- Roger Zelazny

Phil Golden, President

W P H
S K H



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ISSUE OF
QUANDRY IS
HERE!

NEXT ISSUE: NOV 1

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