

# CUSFuSSing

No. 6 January 17, 1979 The Newsletter of the Columbia University  
Science Fiction Society

News and more news

First my apologies for being late a week with this issue, but both the convention and the addition to the library have taken up much of my time.

First, the convention. Our speakers are now the following, Jim Baen, C.L. Grant, Barry Malzberg, P.J. Plauger, Andrew Porter, and Christopher Stasheff. We will also be having a slide and sound show from Starlog Enterprises. For films, we have Metropolis, Slaughterhouse-Five, Dark Star, Doc Savage, The Point, and Frankenstein. Tournaments with prizes will be played in three games, Cosmic Encounter, Dungeons and Dragons, and G.E.V. We will also be having other games on hand. There will also be a written trivia contest with prizes.

Rates for the convention are as follows: Advance till Feb. 21 or with GUID \$2.50, after that or at the door \$4.00. Dealer's tables, first table \$2.50, subsequent tables \$5.00, each table includes a free registration. To get to Columbia, if you live near New York or in the city you should take public transportation since parking is limited. If you come by subway take the #1 to 116st. and you'll see some signs. By bus take the M104 bus to 116st. If you come by train, take the SS or #7 to Times Square and take the #1 from there. If you do come by car, and are coming from the northeast take the Triborough Bridge and travel to the West Side and then down to Columbia, northwest use the George Washington Bridge and the West Side Highway to 122nd st. and then travel south on Broadway. From the South take the Lincoln tunnel and travel north to Columbia. If you're coming from the east use the 59th St. Bridge and then come over to the west side of Manhattan and travel North.

Next, a small change in the format of the newsletter. Much of the time book reviews have filled the pages of the newsletter. By now we need a change of pace, so we are going to be trying to get a few other things in like trivia quizzes, a couple of fancish pieces, such as three people's trip through the wilds of New Jersey, maybe a couple of very short stories, and whatever else we can think up in the months ahead. Of course, we will be having book reviews, and hopefully they will be by more people than previously. This week Victor McNeil will do the honors.

A few things did happen during the winter break. The newsletter was reviewed in Brian Earl Brown's The Whole Fanzine Catalog, which reviews fanzines. The subscription rate is 35¢ per issue or 3/\$1, more overseas and the address is 16711 Burt Rd. #207, Detroit, Mich 48219. Quandry/CUSFuSSing received a rating of 1, out of a possible 7. We have finally gotten more book selves in the form of wood and brackets for the wall and also a few found plastic milk cartons. The Society received a letter from Spider Robinson asking if we were the group that bombed Ferris Booth Hall in his novel Telepath and we have agreed to put that on the agenda for far future action.

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CUSFuSSing is the newsletter of the Columbia University Science Fiction Society, 317 Ferris Booth Hall, Columbia University, NY, NY, 10027. At the moment it is following a schedule of once every three weeks from September to May and once every four from May to September. It's available for contribution, loc, show of interest, donation to the Society or the library, or 15¢. (Plastic milkcartons also accepted.)

Book Reviews by Victor McNeilIce! by Arnold FederbuchThe Martian Inca by Ian Watson

In the spirit of the holiday season, here are two reviews. Ice! is the first one I read and the lesser of the two. The Great Winter of 1977-78 inspired serious talk about the coming of another Ice Age-- the main theme of Ice!

From various strange and disasterous events worldwide, a young meteorologist named Mark Haney discovers that a new Ice Age is forming-- a discovery no one believes except an anthropologist named Karen who he meets and falls in love with. (Of course)

The love affair is a typical one -- they disagree over everything except their sex life. Unfortunately, their struggle to get people to believe, then finding a place to survive from the coming ice is barely more interesting.

Ice! does explain somewhat lucidly how an Ice Age can be coming, but does little beyond that. It's a typical disaster novel of the genre of The Rats, The Fog, Fetal, etc. Ice! is not recommended for a Christmas present.


The Martian Inca, on the other hand, is pretty good. Watson is an award-winning author and he just might be up for another with this new novel.

A Soviet space probe from Mars crash lands in the Peruvian Andes. A weird infection from the Martian soil it contains wipes out an entire village except for one man -- who survives and is somehow changed. (Shades of Andromeda Strain) He awakens and discovers that he is a god. The new god sparks a revolution, calling himself The Inca. Meanwhile, an American space team heading to land on Mars finds that they have problems of their own.

To find out the rest, you have to read Inca. But I especially favor it because it has some interesting ideas, strong characters, and subplots and imagery very similar to Soul-Catcher by Frank Herbert.

**Z QUIZ** 

This is going to be in each issue with the answers for the previous quiz included also. Suggestions for topics or questions are most welcome. This one is on the Hugo and Nebula Awards.

1. Who has won the most Hugos in the science fiction story categories? (Hint: they are three people tied for first place) points 9
  2. Who has won the most Nebulas in the story categories? points 5
  3. Who has the most Hugoes and Nebulas in the story categories? (Two people are tied) points 4
  4. Name the four people who have won two story Nebulas in one year. points 12
  5. Name the person who has won a Hugo in each of the four story categories. three points for the author and three points each for the works
  6. Name the five authors who have won Grand Master of Fantasy Award. points 10
  7. Name the two fanzines, other than The Alien Critic, Science Fiction Review, or Locus, that have won the Hugo since 1969. points 12
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8. Which of the following movies did not win the Hugo for Best Dramatic Presentation: Star Wars, The Man Who Fell to Earth, A Boy and His Dog, Sleeper, Slaughterhouse-Five. points 5
9. Which novel was the first to win a Hugo and not be serialized in a magazine? points 10
10. Name a novelette that was nominated for a Hugo four times, each time in a different year. points 10 for the original novelette, another 5 for the second nomination named, 5 for the third and 8 for the fourth.

### The Wilds of New Jersey or Why Delaware is Dead

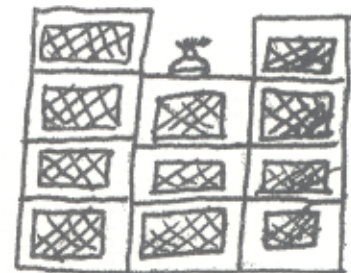
The longest, most boring, coldest journey of the Columbia University Science Fiction Society began on January 10, 1979. Supposedly, the Society would be renting a van from Avis for the day so we could pick up the science fiction collection of George Leonard, Class of 1939, who had written to us saying that he would like to donate it to the Society.

Going on this mad expedition were Danny Burstein, Dani Eder, and Charles Seelig. Though we did not know this at the beginning, this would be the maximum number of people the van that we would eventually take would hold when we came back from Alexandria, Va.

It was a cold day, with a mild wind, but it was sunny, so the weather would be pleasant. Dani got up at 500am to go get the van from Avis and found out when he arrived downtown that a person over 21 with a license would be needed. This had not happened before in the relationship between the Office of Student Activities and Avis, but no one from Columbia had tried to rent a van from Avis before. Desperate to leave somewhere near the scheduled departure time, Danny Burstein was able to borrow a van from his brother's moving company. As it happened, the only van available was the infamous "Dorf" which had a tendency to fall apart when it left the city limits. It was a '65 Ford with holes, a manual transmission, and an ability to go slow on Interstate 95.

We left Bayit Ephraim at about 8 o'clock, a half hour behind. We were forced to through the rush hour traffic which we had hoped to avoid. We stopped at a wholesale food place, and Danny stocked up on Swiss and Israeli cheese. This would later be a godsend to the empty stomachs of the three intrepid travellers. With Danny doing the driving, he was the only one of the three who knew how to drive a manual, the Dorf headed for the Holland tunnel and the familiar words, "...And could I have a receipt please?" From there it was on to Route 95 to the Washington area and later the 495 beltway.

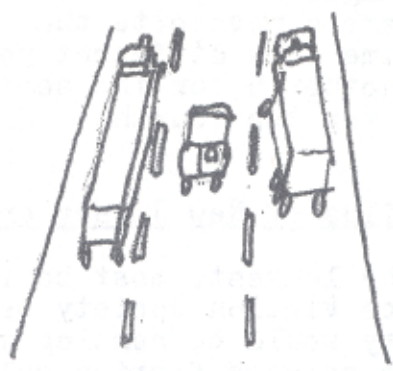
Of course, the driver ran into problems, the major one being that his feet froze. So did the passengers. It was time for a rest stop. It would be time for a rest stop every hour, and we would learn the difference between New Jersey and Delaware french fries, whether a stop deserved four stars for having a warm radiator, and who are the most famous New Jerseyians. (Yes there is a Molly Pitcher rest area) Another problem we would encounter would be trucks. Trucks. Trucks. And even a few more trucks. You see what would happen would be this. We are going 45 and there is a 20-wheeler going 75. It is bigger, faster, stronger, who knows what else and creates an air wave which would knock us over to the side of the road when one passed us. Then you have a convoy, and this happens several times a minute. You wonder if you should try



OF COURSE THERE'S  
ROOM FOR ME,  
BUT HOW DO I GET  
OUT OF HERE

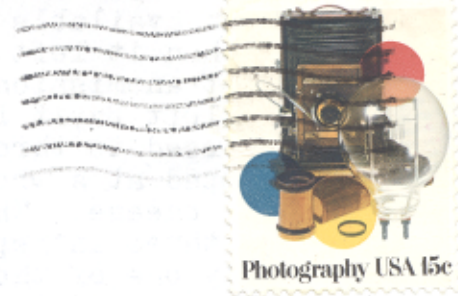
to leave before you are ground into dust. Eventually the threesome leaves the state of New Jersey and enters the state of Delaware. The problem with Delaware is that it is dead. (And has bad french fries). The bridge between the two states is called the Delaware Memorial Bridge, therefore... But there are two sure things in life, death and highway tolls. But Delaware is small and we leave quickly. We get through Maryland, and finally reach the Beltway, and from there to Alexandria. We do not have time to stop in the District. No time to see the Space Museum or convince my Congressman to give more to NASA. We arrive at the house of Mr. Leonard at about 4pm. We arrive in an unmarked van in a neighborhood that has seen a spree

THEY LOOK TOUGH BUT MAYBE IF WE GIVE THEM THE SPACEHOUNDS OF IFC ...



of robberies with unmarked vans. We meet Mr. Leonard and his wife and have a very late lunch. Finally it is time to see the collection. (I apologise for the following) HUNDREDS OF ACE DOUBLES, FANCYLOPEDIA II, THE FIRST HARDCOVER EDITIONS OF PEBBLE IN THE SKY, THE THREE FOUNDATION NOVELS, ADVENTURES IN TIME AND SPACE, LEST DARKNESS FALLS, AND MORE MUCH MORE, RUNS OF GALAXY AND ASTOUNDING/ANALOG, HUNDREDS OF PAPERBACKS, MANY OF THEM, THE 25¢, 35¢, 45¢ Editions. Eventually we finish packing and leave for New York. We are destined to reach the city at 1am on the 11th. We stop at H&H bagels and finally reach the Bayit at 130am. The worst thing is that we couldn't read it on the way back because it was cold. But now, O Joy

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Next issue out Feb. 1.  
 Yes it will be out then  
 the special con ish  
 will be 8 pages on 2/21

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RETURN TO SENDER  
 FOREIGN MAIL MUST BE  
 COMPLETELY SEALED  
 AROUND ALL FOUR SIDES