

CUSFuSSing

The Newsletter of the Columbia Science Fiction Society
No. 7 February 1, 1979 Preconvention issue

News and more news

Last year the Society's meeting time was Wednesday at 5pm and we attracted a few commuters. This year it has been at 7:30pm on Wednesdays and we have attracted almost none. So to increase attendance we have changed again to Tuesdays at 530pm. The office itself will be open from about 4pm to 6pm that day so people who can't make it to the meeting can drop by and say hello.

The library has increased exponentially again going from 2302 on December 12, 1978 to 3161 on January 24, 1979. This is for the most part due to the donation of Mr. George Leonard this month, but there have been other, smaller contributions throughout the last few weeks. The total does not include the over 600 duplicate magazines and books that are also part of the library. The 3161 total does include 1936 paperbacks, 959 magazines, and 266 hardcovers. The short range goal is now 5000 by the end of 1979 and the long range goal is 10,000 with 6000 paperbacks, 3000 magazines, and 1000 hardcovers. For the story of the expedition to Alexandria, Va. ask for CUSFuSSing #6.

In other news, there will be a group going to see Superman on Sunday afternoon. The group will be seeing the 3:20 showing at the Astor Plaza. The third issue of SOL III might be coming out for the convention. News about the convention is contained on pages 3 and 4 of this issue. We do need people to work in all areas of the convention. Call Charles Seelig at 280-6371 if you are interested. The radio show, A Wrinkle in Time, won't be on the air until the equipment at the station is renovated.

Movies of interest to the Society that are scheduled for the semester include Dr. Strangelove, Feb. 8, Forbidden Planet Mar. 1, Lord of the Flies Apr. 24, Duck Soup Mar. 29, Andy Warhol's Frankenstein Mar. 22, Wizards Mar. 3, A Night At the Opera Mar. 20.

At the January 30th meeting, it was decided to hold some kind of filksong program near the end of the convention. Refreshments will be served if the convention budget allows it. The group working on SOL III will meet at Furnald Hall Saturday morning, February 10th, to type up the third issue.

Not much else.

Z QUIZ A. to issue 6

1. Poul Anderson, Harlan Ellison, Fritz Leiber each won six.
2. Samuel R. Delany has won four. 3. Ellison and Leiber have won nine each.
4. Roger Zelazny 1965, Delany 1968, Robert Silverberg 1972, Ursula K. LeGuin 1974.

CUSFuSSing is published by the Columbia University Science Fiction Society, 317 Ferris Booth Hall, Columbia University, NY, NY, 10027. Edited by Charles Seelig. CUSFuSSing is published every three weeks from September to May and every four from May to September. Available for contribution, loc, 15¢, a first class stamp, plastic milk cartons, contribution to the library or editorial whim.

5. Fritz Leiber, Novel The Big Time, 1958, The Wanderer 1965
Novella "Ship of Shadows", 1970, "Ill Met in Lankhmar", 1971
Novelette "Gonna Roll the Bones", 1968
Short Story "Catch That Zeppelin!", 1976
6. J.R.R. Tolkein, Fritz Leiber, L. Sprague De Camp, Andre Norton,
Poul Anderson
7. Algol 1974, Energumen 1973
8. The Man Who Fell to Earth
9. James Blish's A Case of Conscience
10. "Flowers For Algernon" by Daniel Keyes, Best Short Fiction, 1960
"Flowers For Algernon" by Daniel Keyes, Novel, 1967
"The Two Worlds of Charlie Gordon", Best Dramatic Presentation, 1962
"Charly", Best Dramatic Presentation, 1969

Questions for Quiz #2 Lines From the Hugoes

Name the Hugo Award Novel which contains each of the following lines

1. "Dua was aware of the left-right agitation concerning her in a dim and faraway manner and her rebelliousness grew."
2. "And you peeped Keich through the floor?"
3. "I went a couple of hundred miles on the Kerm Ice in autumn, years ago."
4. "We needed every drillman in Luna, especially the miners who owned heavy-duty laser drills."
5. "And certainly not the infantry!"
6. "Are you still set on opening up the planet?"
7. "That movement's just the earth turning--same thing that makes the sun rise."
8. "You were--the greatest--to be raised up against me--in all the ages I can remember..."
9. "The 'cycles were moving to port when they left Heaven, beneath the steel-gray lid that in these regions served as sky."
10. "Second chance at what?"

Each correct answer is worth 10 points.

Book reviews by Charles Seelig

Capitol by Orson Scott Card, Ace Books, \$1.95, January 1979, pg. 278

This is a collection of short fiction, all of which have to do in some way with the planet called Capitol that is the ruling planet of the empire that Card has imagined. Three have appeared in Analog, one in Destinies and one in Omni. The entire history starts when the Russians invade and conquer the United States, until the Empire is destroyed over the handling of the drug somec. In one way this collection could be said to be about the uses and abuses of this drug, which when used allows a human to go into hibernation for long periods of time. Somec is used by the leaders of the government and other fields to allow for long-range plans to be formed and implemented and just to allow man to see more of human history.

And if somec is the central idea around which the stories are built, then Abner Doon is the central character of the stories. He doesn't appear in all of them, but it is his plan that Capitol uses, sometimes unknowingly, to keep Capitol in control of the Empire. A few of the stories in here should be among the nominations for this year's Hugoes and Nebulas and the book is worth reading because of that and because it allows the science fiction audience to see a collection by one of the most talented new writers of the last few years.

APRICON 2

FEBRUARY 24 1979
1PM - 3AM

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
NEW YORK CITY

GUESTS

JAMES BAEN

science fiction editor, Ace Books; editor of Destinies magazine; former editor Galaxy magazine

C.L. GRANT

winner of the Nebula Short Story Award, 1976, for A Crowd of Shadows

BARRY MALZBERG

author of Beyond Apollo, winner of the Jupiter Award, 1973

P.J. PLAUGER

winner of the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer, 1975

ANDREW PORTER

editor of Algol--Starship magazine, co-winner of the Best Fanzine Award, 1974

CHRISTOPHER STASHEFF

author of The Warlock In Spite of Himself and King Kobold

FRANK BELKNAP LONG

author of Mars Is My Destination, Journey Into Darkness, and the collection, The Hounds of Tindalos

MOVIES

Slaughterhouse-Five
Dark Star
Frankenstein
Metropolis
The Point
Doc Savage

each will be shown
once during the after-
noon and once during
the evening

DEALERS

first table \$2.50
all subsequent tables
\$5.00
each table includes
one free membership

GAMES

Tournaments in Dungeons
and Dragons and Cosmic
Encounter, with prizes
Other games will be
played and there will
be a written trivia
contest

APRICON 2

Apricon 2, the second annual convention of the Columbia University Science Fiction Society, will be held on February 24, 1979, from 1pm to 3am. The location is the Student Activities Center of the Morningside Heights Campus, Ferris Booth Hall. Registration rates are \$2.50 before February 21st and \$4.00 thereafter or at the door. Guests include James Baen, C.L. Grant, Barry Malzberg, P.J. Flauger, Andrew Porter, Christopher Stasheff, and Frank Belknap Long. Six full-length movies including Slaughterhouse-Five, Metropolis, and Dark Star will be shown twice during the convention. The Games Club of Columbia University will be directing the games tournaments of Dungeons and Dragons and Cosmic Encounter with other games played throughout the day and night.

Directions to the Morningside Campus:

Subway: Take the #1 to 116st and follow the signs

Local Bus: Take the M104 to 116st

Non-local Bus: From the Port Authority take the #1 as in subway

Train: Take the SS or #7 from Grand Central and transfer to the #1 at Times Square

By car: Not recommended since there is limited parking

From the North use the West Side Highway and leave on the 125th St. exit. From there travel south to 116th.

From the East depending on what bridge used, travel crosstown to the West Side (not the highway just the west side of the island) and then travel north or south to 116th St.

From the South, if you use one of the tunnels, you'll be on the West Side of Manhattan and then you should travel north to 116st.

From the West, follow the directions for the North or South depending on location.

Columbia University is to the north and west of Central Park
Apricon 2, Columbia University Science Fiction Society, Columbia Univ.
NY, NY, 10027

Phone number (212) 280-4980, 280-3611 to leave messages

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

The Fountains of Paradise by Arthur C. Clarke, Harcourt, Brace, & Jovanovich, January 1979, \$10.00, pg. 261

This, as far as I know is the last announced science fiction novel by Arthur C. Clarke. He is for many, including myself, one of the authors readers grew up with, reading the reprints of his works published by the paperback houses. So this novel should be one of the "big" book events of this year.

The novel is situated on an island that resembles Sri Lanka, where Clarke lives, about 90% of the time. The location is used because of two manmade works, one built under the ruler of Sri Lanka in the second century A.D., which consists of fountains, gardens, and a huge wall painted with goddesses. The second, two thousand years later, will be built by the engineer Vannevar Morgan, who designed the bridge which spans the Straits of Gibraltar.

The bridge that Morgan wants to build would be the longest constructed, one that would span from the surface of the Earth to a point 36,000 kilometres (22,500 miles) above the Earth's surface where it would be in synchronous orbit. The bridge has to be built on the island of Sri Lanka because it has to be built on the equator, should start somewhat above sea level and the island has a mountain called Sri Kanda which could be this purpose, and because of certain gravitational and magnetic anomalies at other points on the equator where the bridge could be built. The main problem for Morgan is not money or politics, but that a religious sect has its temple at the top of Sri Kanda, and does not want the bridge built on their property.

Morgan is portrayed as a dreamer and builder who is a bit insecure and a little bit arrogant. Many of the other characters in the book seem to either be a real part of Clarke or ones that Clarke has used before in his novels. There is a world ambassador (?) named Johan Rajasinghe, who is retired and now lives on Sri Lanka, a newsreporter, Maxine Duval, who is one of the leading people in the field and will be covering Morgan's attempt throughout the book, Paul Sarath an expert on the fountains and gardens built by King Kalidasa, even to the graffiti which has been written on its walls over the centuries, and the leader of the religious sect Bodhidharma Thero, quiet and dignified.

There are some weaknesses to the novel. First there is little or no suspense which continues throughout the book. Admittedly, the incident at the end of the book could go either way, but this should not be labeled as the central question of the book. With his other two novels of the decade, Imperial Earth, and Rendezvous with Rama, he did do this, but here he has failed. Second the subplot of King Kalidasa, is not developed well in the latter part of the novel, after seeing glimpses of him in the first part.

But my main thought about the book is positive. Clarke uses the big idea well here, as he has done before and the references to science fiction people and places are scattered throughout the book, giving brief moments of humor. The time span used in this book is longer than most of his previous works, but Clarke handles the transition well, so the spacing is not abrupt. The tourist perspective which so many people found in Imperial Earth is to be found here also, but not in such quantity and it seems to be better done than in Earth. Some things have happened between now and then, including a visit by a space probe from another civilization, but this part does not overpower the book.

So if you can afford it, buy it. It may not be the best book of the year, but it should be high on the list.

Spacial Delivery by Gordon Dickson, Ace Books, January 1979, \$1.75, p.155
The 10th Victim by Robert Sheckley, Ace Books, January 1979, \$1.75, p. 151

One thing you should immediately notice about these two books is that they are small for the price. On these two you get less than a page per penny. Spacial Delivery has seen service as part of an Ace Double years ago, while The 10th Victim was first published back in 1965, whether it was part of an Ace Double or not, I don't know.

Out of the two, the Dickson gave me much more enjoyment, story, and entertainment than the Sheckley. Spacial contains the adventure of John Tardy, one of Earth's top athletes, who is sent to Dilbia to rescue a Earth woman. The problem is that the being who has kidnapped the woman is larger and stronger than Tardy and looks like a bear. Also, no one will tell him what the whole thing is about. He has to learn all about the various races, cultures, and traditions on the planet for himself which gets him into a few difficulties. The other thing is that he travels on the back of another Diblian who is part of the planet's Postal System so there are few problems with that also. The story is nothing serious, but O.K. for light reading.

The 10th Victim however did not sustain my interest. Set on an Earth where people hunt each other down under proscribed rules. After the contestant has killed his or her tenth victim he can retire to fame and fortune. The whole book seemed unreal, and the contestants reasons for entering the lists didn't seem to be very substantial. The two contestants who are the central characters in the book are Caroline Meredith, a gorgeous female, with brains, and money to back them up, and Marcello Polletti, who does sunsets for a living and has a streak of the clumsiness of Inspector Closeau in him. The story itself seems to be drawn out, and all in all not very good. My suggestion is unless you really like one of these authors, is to buy something else at \$1.95 and get more for your money.

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USPS
317 Ferris Booth Hall
Columbia University
NY, NY
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Next issue out
Feb. 21

Printed Matter