

CHAT

MONTHLY NEWSZINE OF THE CHATTANOOGA SF ASSOCIATION
FREE TO MEMBERS OF CSFA; 25¢ TO FELLOW TRAVELERS

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"I never think of the future. It comes soon enough.".... Albert Einstein

JANUARY MEETING - BACK TO U.T.C.....The Chattanooga Science Fiction Association met on December 17 at the 1st Tenn. Bank at Brainard and Germantown Rds. A. E. Van Vogt's Destination: Universe was discussed, then two videotapes were shown. Attendance was 17, down quite a bit from the 75 who attended November's meeting, possibly due to the change of location and closeness to Christmas. January's meeting will be 7:30 PM Saturday, Jan. 21, back at U.T.C. We will meet at our usual location, the Lookout Mtn. Room of the U.T.C. Student Center. The book for January is Space Viking by H. Beam Piper; as of publication date, we still have not found any store in the Chattanooga area that sells this book, but it may be available if you ask for it at the cashier. The program for January will be a Flash Gordon movie. Looking ahead to February's meeting, we will try again with the book Slan by A. E. Van Vogt, and will choose books now two months in advance, to allow bookstores and CSFA members to acquire the book in as much advance time of the meeting as possible. To get to U.T.C.: Take Interstate Spur I-124 to the 4th St. Exit (last exit before bridge over Tennessee River). Go on 4th St. about 8/10 mile to Mabel St., and turn right. Go on Mabel 2 blocks (bearing right) and turn left onto Vine St. (which is 1-way). Go 2½ blocks. The student center is on the left side; look for the sign. The meeting room is on the first floor, on the left and past the main desk. For questions: Mike Rogers 266-0298. (DL)

CSFA DUES POLICY REVISED....At January's meeting, the following dues policy will be in effect: \$1 per meeting, \$5 per 6 months or \$10 per year. This is a slight change from the previous policy which allowed \$5 per 6 meetings and \$10 per 12 meetings attended. Still in effect is the policy which allows new members their first meeting free. (DL)

KOCH ELECTED N3F PRESIDENT....Chattanooga/Atlanta fan Irvin Koch has been elected president of the National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F), narrowly defeating incumbent president John Robinson of Schenectady, N.Y. and past president Stan Woolston of Garden Grove, Calif. In the election for the five Directorate seats open, East Tennessee fan Eric Jamborsky finished 6th, losing out by only one vote (too bad, Eric). N3F is, as its name indicates, a national organization of fans; official club publications are The National Fantasy Fan and Tightbeam, both good general fanzines. Both fanzines come with N3F membership (\$3 per year), available from Sec.-Treas. Janie Lamb, Box 364, Heiskell, Tenn. 37750. (DL)

CHATTACON 3 IS HERE (ALMOST)....ChattaCon 3 will be Jan. 6-8 at the Sheraton Downtown Hotel in Chattanooga; attending pro authors will be A. E. Van Vogt, Arsen Darnay, and Perry Chapdelaine. Registration opens at 6 PM Friday, \$7 at the door with banquet tickets also \$7. The huckster rooms and art show will also open about 6 PM; an authors party will begin about 7 PM. There will also be a video tape program. Saturday, the hucksters and art show will again be open most of the day. Also featured will be various panels about SF related subjects and Van Vogt's guest of honor speech. The banquet will be at 7 PM and the evening will be rounded out with films, video tapes and a Star Trek sub-program. Sunday, the ChattaCon 4 committee and CSFA will have business meetings; hucksters and the art show will be open until 1 PM or so. A 'dead dog' party will signal the convention's close. (NWL)

CHATTACON COMMITTEE MEETING....The ChattaCon 3 committee will meet at Irvin Koch's house on Thursday, Jan. 5, 1978 at 9:30 PM, to iron out last minute details. This is the final planning session before the convention. (NWL)

OBITUARIES....Locus, the SF newspaper, reports the deaths of several SF authors:

- Tom Reamy, of an apparent heart attack, at age 42. He was author of the 1976 Nebula Award short story "San Diego Lightfoot Sue"
- Paul Fairman, at age 61. He wrote fiction under the pseudonym 'Ivar Jorgenson', and had also edited the SF magazines Worlds of If (first 4 issues), Amazing and Fantastic (1956-58).
- David McDaniel, of a cerebral hemorrhage, at age 38. He was best known as author of several of the Man From U.N.C.L.E. novels of the late 60's. (DL)

1978 CONS TO COME....Roc*Kon 2 will be Feb. 10-12 at the Little Rock Holiday Inn. Guest of Honor will be Wilson (Bob) Tucker, with Michael Riley as Fan Guest of Honor. Membership is \$8 until Feb. 7 and \$10 at the door. For information: Roc*Kon, Box 9911, Little Rock, Ark. 72219

OrangeCon 78 will be March 17-19, at the I-4 Howard Johnsons in Orlando. Membership is \$7 in advance and \$12 at the door, with \$8.50 for the banquet. For information: Adrienne Hayworth, 6913 Meditterean, Orlando, Fla. 32807. Send SASE.

MonCon II will be March 31-April 2 in Morgantown, W.V., with Harlan Ellison as Pro GoH and Stan Lee as Fan GoH. For information: SASE to MonCon II, Student Organizational Services, Mountainlair, W.V.U., Morgantown, W.V. 26506.

CoastCon will also be March 31-April 2, at the Buena Vista Hotel in Biloxi, Miss. The featured pro will be George Alec Effinger. \$10 at the door.

Kubla Khan Sexx will be May 5-7 at Nashville's Quality Inn Parkway. Theodore Sturgeon will be GoH and Andy Offutt M.C. Membership is \$7.50 in advance and \$8 at the door. For information: Ken Moore, 647 Devon Drive, Nashville, Tenn. 37220.

DeepSouthCon 16 will be June 2-4 at the Riviera Hyatt House in Atlanta. Clifford Simak will be GoH. For information: Heritage Press, Box 721, Forest Park, Ga. 30050.

UltraCon will be July 7-9 in Miami. George Takei, Grace Lee Whitney and Walter Koenig will be guests. Membership is \$10 to Feb. 28 and \$12 after. For information: SASE to 13787 S.W. 66th St., #P-240, Kendale Lakes, Florida 33183.

IguanaCon/36th World S.F. Con will be Aug. 31-Sept. 4 in Phoenix's Adams Hotel. Harlan Ellison and Bill Bowers will be GoH's and F. M. Busby Toastmaster. Supporting membership is \$7; attending membership is \$20. For information: IguanaCon, Box 1072, Phoenix, Ariz. 85001.

Finally, North Americon will be Labor Day Weekend 1979 in Louisville's Galt House. Fred Pohl will be GoH with George Scithers as Fan GoH. For information: North Americon, P.O.Box 58009, Louisville, Ky. 40258. (NWL)

CHAT....accepts book and movie reviews, essays, general correspondence, or even short fiction and art. We are interested in submissions under the following guidelines: 1) name, address, and phone number must be on the submission; 2) aim for a half page single spaced typed length (fiction can be longer); 3) payment for submissions consists only of a by-line and a free copy of CHAT, if you are not already receiving it. All material will be subject to editing / space permitting. All stories will be directed through a story editor. CHAT also accepts ads at 15¢ per line (or equivalent); payment must be included with the ad. We can handle a 'composed' ad, as we photocopy for distribution, but we must have 'camera-ready' copy. Send all submissions to the masthead address or submit work at the meeting. CHAT deadline is the club meeting, unless other arrangements are made. (NWL)

REVIEW...BY BILL HEDRICK

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND, Columbia Pictures.

This is not a movie about UFO's; most of the UFO scenes are near the end of the film. This is a movie about people who have seen or otherwise contacted a 'flying saucer'. We are shown their reactions, and are exposed to their problems of dealing with a disbelieving world that looks upon them as fanatics.

The movie is expertly put together. It begins with a (literally) chilling scene about the discovery of a squadron of planes in the Sonora Desert in Mexico, planes that have been missing for over 30 years since their disappearance off the coast of Florida in 1945. The planes are in perfect condition (except that their pilots are missing); the sandstorm in this scene adds to the psychological effect of their discovery.

From there, the movie branches into two parallel plot lines--- of the supersecret government study into UFO's, and the series of contacts by ordinary people with UFO's and how their lives were changed afterwards. The plot shuttles back and forth, and finally converges at the film's end.

There are lighter moments in the film, to relieve tension generated by various scenes. But the main thing Close Encounters will be remembered for is its special effects. They are tremendous; they are awe-inspiring, equivalent of anything that's been previously been done in film-making history.

This is the only film I can recall to deal realistically with first contact (with an alien race), with us in the minor role technology-wise. Even with its inflated admission price (\$3.50 in Chattanooga), Close Encounters is such a good movie that everyone should see it.

REVIEW...BY NICKI LYNCH

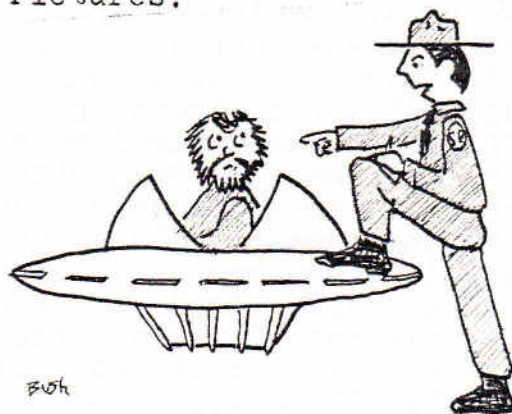
CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND; A Stephen Spielberg Movie.

Stephen Spielberg is one of the best young directors; his latest movie, Close Encounters of the Third Kind, shows his skill. With a score by John Williams, this film is a piece of entertainment worth seeing, even at the inflated price.

The story, which was written by Spielberg, deals with two groups which join in common effort at the film's conclusion. The first line follows two ordinary people, played beautifully by Richard Dreyfuss and Melinda Dillon, who have their lives interrupted by the sighting of lights in the sky which are later defined as flying saucers. The second plot line follows the government's secret investigation of unusual occurrences. The major clues in this story line are the reappearance of a squadron of WWII planes and a message from space which gives scientists coordinates for a meeting.

What makes this movie rise above the usual "UFO" flick is the tight script that is realistic rather than being drawn from the National Enquirer. Scientists are shown as thoughtful people as well as ordinary people. The people who have been implanted with an idea by the aliens are also real, and are not the usual idiots who buttonhole everyone in sight with their 'message'.

Unfortunately, despite all the beautiful effects, tight story line and haunting scoring, the film left this reviewer unfulfilled. It left too many questions unanswered and too many gaps jumped that couldn't

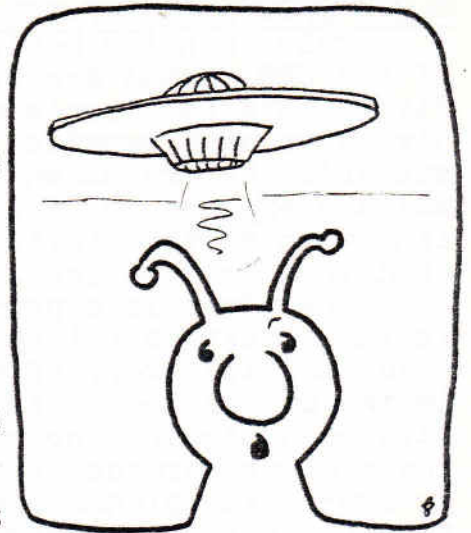


BWH

"I don't care WHAT movie you're working on, Mr. Spielberg. You still don't have headlights, taillights, a licence plate, or an inspection sticker!"

continued

have been. Having not read the novelization, bear with me: For example, how did the scientists know that the aliens would bring back the people that had disappeared and which ones (many people have disappeared over the years). Yet, the scientists were waiting with photos and information about the returnees. One could maybe understand the missing pilots, but the rest? How did the scientists know that the aliens wanted people to return with them? After all, they had humans underfoot for 30 years already. One could assume that the pilots could have all the information that the aliens would need. Why didn't one of the aliens stay, since they seemed to be able to live on our planet? How did the scientists know the aliens would be friendly? Why did the aliens want the little boy? They had a number of different ages and races.



Close Encounters of
WHAT Kind?!

Despite the holes, Close Encounters of the Third Kind is a movie worth seeing. Spielberg has done his homework in science; his careful plotting and thoughtful details show this. I, for one, cannot wait to see what he does next.

REVIEW...BY SHELBY BUSH

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND--the book.

How Spielberg found time to write the novelization of his screenplay while directing, cutting, and editing his film is a mystery. I suspect that it's a ghost job--but that does not detract from the book. In fact, it may have saved us from a poor first novel.

The book, like the movie, has no real plot. It is a straight novelization of the script, although the author does go "into the heads" of the characters, which the film made no effort to do.

When I read the book, I was unimpressed. Close Encounters of the Third Kind is the kind of film that does not read well. The film relied on special effects, and even though the author's descriptions are vivid, they pale in comparison to seeing the real thing.

I guess the fault of the book is that the film came first. Some of the scenes were evidently cut from the final version of the film, but are very cinematic--the windows of the Air Force building spelling out "UFO", and the ordeal over getting enough cash to go out west, for example. But those are secondary, and of no real importance.

Buy the book. It's not bad, really, and will serve as a permanent reminder of the film. If you haven't seen the film yet, though, see it first. Reading the book (as I did) first spoils the effect--you know what to expect, and it ruins the surprise; and surprise is the key to the movie.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT--BOOKS-TO-COME DEPT.... Since we are now choosing our books one additional month in advance, we should try to determine how many people will need the book selected. During the January meeting, we will ask who needs a copy of Slan, and place an order with a local bookstore for the number of copies needed. Hopefully, we will have better luck in obtaining Slan by putting in an early order! (NWL)