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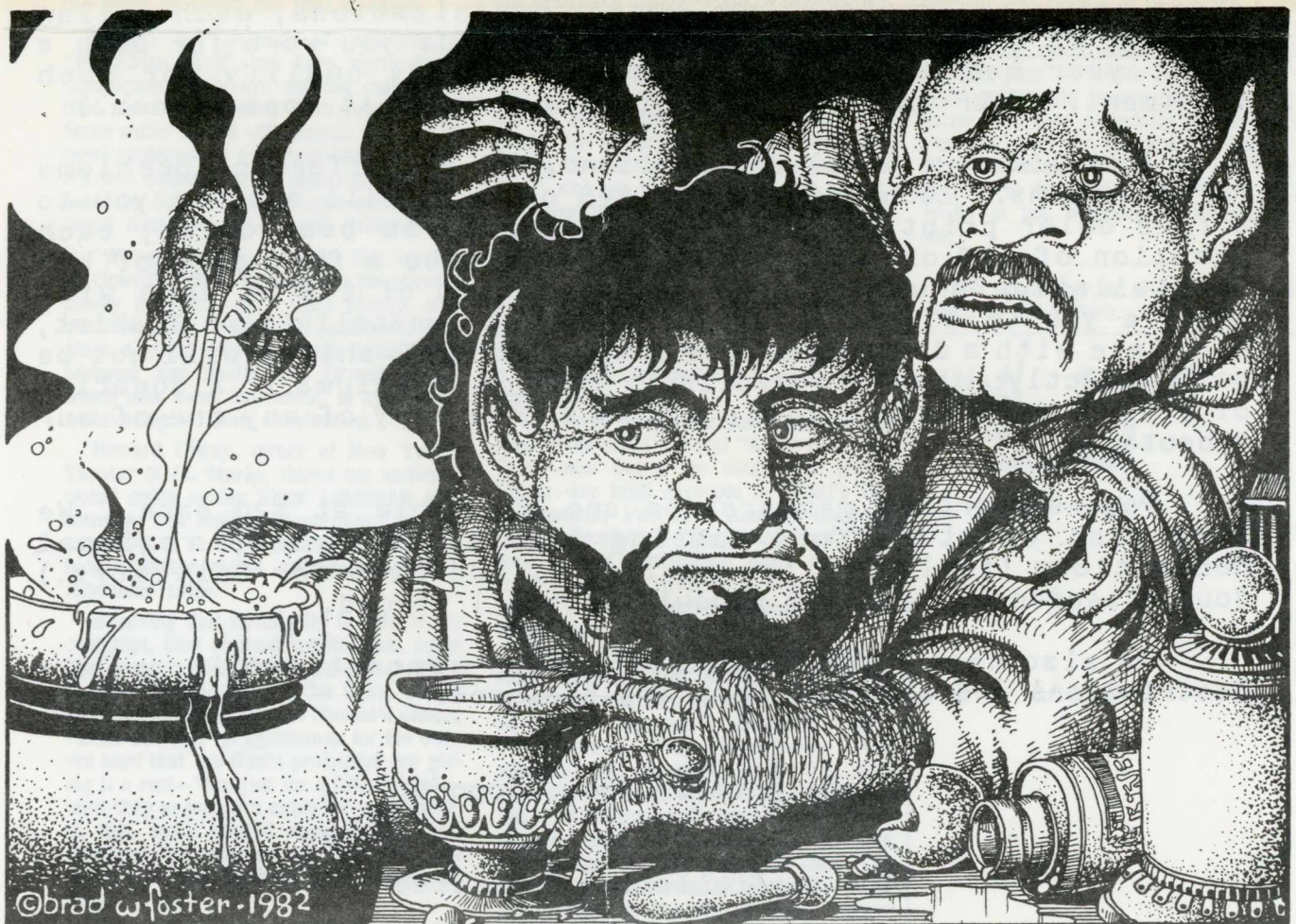
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Dear Fan-

Time to renew your ASFOAWN
subscription. I've enclosed a reply
envelope; now you should enclose \$3⁰⁰
and return it.

Yours,
Celko



☆☆ ConStellation

☆☆☆☆ The 41st World Science Fiction Convention

☆☆☆☆ Box 1046 • Baltimore, Maryland • 21203 • USA

Dear Member:

We hope that you had a good time at ConStellation -- our goal was to throw a fantastic party for 7000 of our most intimate friends.

Unfortunately, we are now faced with a major problem and we need your help. While we did our best to put on an enjoyable convention, we failed to put on a profitable one. We lost a lot of money, and we need to raise another \$40,000 to cover our deficit. The only way we can do this is through your help and generosity. No major science fiction convention has ever had to declare bankruptcy. We don't know what the impact of such an event would be on other conventions; it is only with your help that we can all avoid finding out.

Since we are tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, donations to us are tax deductible, whether you itemize deductions or not. If you do not itemize deductions, you may deduct up to \$50 a year in charitable contributions. In addition, if you work for an employer who gives matching grants to non-profit organizations, each dollar you give us could really be two dollars. (If you work for such a firm, your membership payments may already qualify for such treatment. Your employer can tell you whether it does or not.)

Just like our local PBS stations, we are offering premiums for donations. Each donation of \$25 or more will entitle you to a free color print of our Robin Wood program book cover; each donation of \$50 or more will entitle you to a free copy of the Constellation/Brunner book; each donation of \$75 or more will entitle you to a free "I helped bail out ConStellation" T-shirt, complete with a drawing of the ship. (These T-shirts will not be sold directly; they are available only as premiums.) A donation of \$150 or more will entitle you to a free copy of any one of our videotapes.

Post-supporting memberships are available at \$20 each. We also plan to stage fund-raising events at various regional conventions (including the revival of Backrubs for Baltimore.) Your attendance, help and goodwill are all needed.

We also have a lot of ConStellation memorabilia for sale - descriptions and an order form are enclosed.

Please give us your support,

The ConStellation Committee

Forbidden Flicks: Classics Under Wraps

By PAUL HECHINGER

It could be a scene from any Alfred Hitchcock movie: Two men meet in an airport, speak in hushed tones and exchange some reels of film. Yet these men are not secret agents. They are two movie buffs arranging a clandestine screening of Hitchcock's 1954 thriller "Rear Window."

Until recently, that was the only scenario for anyone who wanted to see "Rear Window," which is now being re-released in theaters across the country for the first time in two decades. It will be followed in coming months by the other four of Hitchcock's "Forbidden Five": "Vertigo," "The Man Who Knew Too Much," "The Trouble With Harry" and "Rope."

These films were neither lost nor forgotten. With very few exceptions, they have spent the past 20 years on shelves—because that's where Hitchcock wanted them. During his lifetime, he was brief but blunt about his reasons for taking them out of distribution: "We want more money," he told one interviewer. The circumstances surrounding "Rear Window" were somewhat more complicated, involving, among other things, a dispute over rights with the estate of Cornell Woolrich, the author of the story on which the film is based.

Though the absence of Hitchcock's "Forbidden Five" has been particularly conspicuous, they are not the only films that have been hidden from public view. Some suffer forced withdrawals because of legal problems or copyright disputes. Others are withheld or deliberately underexposed by their owners, despite genuine interest from moviegoers and exhibitors.

"We've wanted to show the film version of Orwell's '1984' because of its obvious timely interest," says Gary Meyer, who oversees programming for Landmark Theaters, a group of 33 art houses in the West, Midwest and South. The Orwell estate, which now owns the movie, is apparently withholding it from distribution.

Howard Otway, owner of New York's Theater 80 St. Marks, thinks his audience would enjoy seeing Ernst Lubitsch's 1931 comedy "The Smiling Lieutenant." No one can show it, he says, because "a little old lady owns the rights, and she's asking a ridiculous price."

Believing that familiarity breeds, if not contempt, then at least indifference, some film owners intentionally hold back films in order to build demand for them. That's what is happening to Luis Bunuel's classic "Belle de Jour." "A spokesman for the owners says that the film's producers are giving it a rest—"but just for a little while"—until they negotiate a cable-TV agreement. In 1981, some limited engagements were arranged, but releasing the film right now would be "like washing your car in the rain."

"The Manchurian Candidate" has been

unavailable since 1977, when the terms of a joint-distribution agreement between Frank Sinatra (the film's star) and United Artists expired. It was rumored, and even reported in the trade papers, that Mr. Sinatra was worried about susceptible viewers who might be influenced by the film's theme of political assassination. Mr. Sinatra's representatives, strenuously denying

a classic of Italian Neo-Realism. Earlier this year, it slipped out of distribution again.

It often takes time and money, but many "missing" movies will eventually make it back to revival houses and television screens. Other films that are kept out of general release sometimes show up at film archives and museums whose non-

profit status can help to facilitate legal clearance. And a number of movies circulate in illegal prints.

In one recent case, a rarely seen film appeared at New York's Regency Theater as a complete surprise. Several weeks ago, Frank Rowley, the Regency's programmer, had scheduled "Strictly Dishonorable," a 1951 musical starting Ezio Pinza and Janet Leigh. Instead, the distributor sent the



this assertion, say they are in the process of negotiating a re-release.

When studios remake a movie, they often buy the rights to the earlier version and pull it out of release. Normally, older movies tend to find their way back to the public, but sometimes they have some difficulty. Frank Capra's 1933 "Lady For a Day" was, in the director's own words, "my first big hit." When he remade it in 1961, his production company bought up all copies of the original film. "As far as I know," says Frank Capra Jr., "there are no surviving negatives, and my father has the only existing print. He's given a few private screenings, but we're reluctant to do even that—just showing it can be a terrible risk to take."

In recent years, the most anyone has seen of the MGM musical "Annie Get Your Gun"—now owned by songwriter Irving Berlin—are brief excerpts in "That's Entertainment, Part II." Another musical, George Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess," has been out of distribution since the '70s, when ownership reverted to the Gershwin estate. Family members appear to be divided about the film's quality.

When Luchino Visconti made "Obsessione" in Italy during World War II, no one thought of obtaining the rights to the book on which it was based, James M. Cain's "The Postman Always Rings Twice." "Obsessione" was not shown in the U.S. until 1976, and then only after lengthy legal battles. "The court briefs read like a motion picture," says Mario DeVecchi, the man who brought the film over from Italy. The Cain estate still views the movie as a copyright infringement and a mediocre version of Cain's novel; film historians consider it

original 1931 version of the movie, a comedy (without music) starring Paul Lukas, that is far more faithful to the Preston Sturges play on which it is based. "As word got around among film buffs, many came over here especially to see the old version," says Mr. Rowley. "It wasn't until after we sent it back that we learned there were distribution restrictions, that it really is not supposed to be shown at all."

Mr. Hechinger is a free-lance writer based in New York.

Wall Street
Journal

"Once to every man and nation comes the moment to decide..."

— Whittier



Robert A. Heinlein
c/o 3960 Laurel Canyon Blvd.
Suite 372
Studio City, CA 91604

December, 1983

Dear Friends and Colleagues

A representative subset of individuals who are members of the Boards of the L-5 Society or Spacepac, and others who support this letter. (Organizations are listed for purposes of identification only.)

Dr. "Buz" Aldrin
Lunar Module Pilot
1st Manned Expedition to the Moon

Paul Anderson
Author

Isaac Asimov
Author

Harve Bennett
Producer/Writer
Star Trek II & III

Ben Beva
Author

Dr. Philip Chapman
Former Astronaut
President L-5 Society

Prof. Freeman Dyson
Dept. of Physics
Institute of Advanced Studies
Princeton University

Congressman Don Fuqua
Chairman, House Committee
on Science and Technology

Congressman Newt Gingrich
Co-Chairman, Congressional
Space Caucus

Senator John Glenn
1st American in Orbit

Senator Barry Goldwater

Robert A. Heinlein
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University of Texas
Director McDonald Observatory

G. Harry Stine
Author

Bjo Trimble
Author

John Trimble
Businessman

Gordon Woodcock
Boeing Space Station Manager

President Reagan's moment to decide our future in space is now!

In the next few weeks, his fellow Americans—you and I—*must* make known to him *OUR* approval of his bold space proposals.

The President is with us. His advisors are split on this basic matter. Ronald Reagan needs to hear from hundreds of thousands of his fellow citizens—*IMMEDIATELY*—and to be told that we want him to lead us back to space. Your support is crucial to build a new American presence in space. NASA must create a permanently manned space station, establish a permanent lunar base, and move vigorously to explore and settle the inner Solar System, tapping the vast resources we know are there.

Though our future in space is vital to the American public, Washington decision-makers look at this topic only rarely. Now is one of those rare seasons. They are now determining the budget for the 1985 fiscal year, and if proper decisions are not made *this month* the National Space Program may drift rudderless and impoverished through the rest of this decade.

Please. You must write or wire the President and his advisors, as soon as you have finished reading this letter. A single sentence will suffice to express your support for progress in space. Your voice will be heard. The time is now.

Then get at least ten of your friends to do likewise. Ask them to contact ten of *their* friends. Create a growing groundswell of public opinion going to the White House before Christmas eve!

For less than a dollar's postage and ten minutes of your time, you can have an immediate impact in forging the future. We can win this one!

The people to write to are:

President Ronald Reagan, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C. 20500

Malcolm Baldrige, Secretary of Commerce, 14th St. & Constitution Ave., Washington, D.C.

William Brock, U.S. Trade Representative, 600 17th St., Washington, D.C. 20506 20230

William Clark, Secretary of the Interior, Interior Bldg., "C" St. & 18th St., Washington, D.C.

William French Smith, Attorney General, Constitution Ave. & 9th St., Washington, D.C. 20240 20530

This letter was paid for by a combination of the L-5 Society (Promoting Space Development Through Education) and Spacepac (Promoting Space Development Through Political Action). We need contributions to help expand this letter writing campaign.

"I believe that a revitalized space program is a human imperative, and with this in mind, I would very much like to recommend the L-5 Society as an organization which has much to contribute toward this goal."

—Gene Roddenberry, Creator of STAR TREK

L-5 Society annual dues are: \$25 regular, and \$15 student, to the L-5 Society, Dept. C, 1016 E. Elm, Tucson, AZ 85719

"Today Spacepac is the nation's largest, independent, (bi-partisan), pro-space political action committee. Please join me in giving what you can to ensure that the coming election marks a new beginning for man's future in space."

—Dr. Thomas Paine, former Administrator, NASA

Spacepac, Dept. C, Suite S, 2861 Ocean Park Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90405

Please feel free to copy this letter & let your friends copy it!