

# the Star Blazers Fandom Report®

Reporting on the who, what, where, when, why & how of Star Blazers

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## News & Notes -

Right now the third season of Star Blazers is being translated and edited. According to Westchester Films, costs on the translation of Yamato III into Star Blazers have run very high. In fact some episodes won't make it into English, while others will have to be re-scripted. In addition to this there seems to be editing problems as well. Because of this it seems we might not see much of season three for a few months to come.

However this means something else. Due to the amount of money that Westchester Films has invested, it seems they want it on the best television stations in the best time slots. This is why they have not rushed the show into the market yet. In fact recently a presentation was made to Metro-Media, a chain of television stations.

In Japan the new and last (?) Yamato movie, Final Yamato seems to be doing well. Right now there seems to be a very good chance that Final Yamato will be previewed in it's 35 mm format at ConStellation, the Worldcon. This of course will depend on Westchester Films and Worldcon. Having the American preview of the movie would keep in the tradition of Worldcon which has previewed Star Trek and other science fiction television series and movies in the past.

Getting back to the States. Star Blazers is now back on the air in both Philadelphia and Boston. However the show is still in poor time slots designed for kids. Although the show is back on the air, we advise all club members to write letters to their local television stations asking for a better time slot for Star Blazers.

If you live in the Boston area write WXNE-TV,

Also a local chapter of the club has recently formed in the Boston area, you can get involved with them write Boston Star Blazers/Japanimation, c/o Jeff Jordan,

If you live in Philadelphia you should write WTAF-TV

Also there is a chapter doing work in that area, contact the Philadelphia Star Blazers Society, c/o Joe Gander,

Going from television to conventions. The past few months have been very good for convention activity on the East Coast. In fact with convention fans Star Blazers is starting to get a reputation, and a good one at that.

Lunacon '83 was a success. It was held March 18-20th at the Hasbrouck Heights Sheraton Hotel. The Star Blazers Room there was packed full more than once. In fact the convention even got a short mention on WNJU-TV, channel 47 which in the past has shown Japanese animation.

The Eastcon convention a convention aimed at role playing games also featured a Star Blazers Room. This convention ran from June 24-26th. This Star Blazers Room featured a showing of "You Say Yamato" a Star Blazers parody produced by Nick Smith and famed fan artist Phil Foglio.

At the Empiricon Four science fiction convention held in New York City the July 4th weekend also had some activity for fans of Star Blazers/Japanimation. The convention turned over part of their con suite for showing video tapes of Japanese animation and Star Blazers. In addition to this there was some art work in the art show based on Star Blazers and Japanimation. Fans came as far as Boston and Philadelphia to come to the convention.

Balticon 17 also featured some activity from Star Blazers fans. There the local chapter of the Star Blazers Fan Club took out a room and showed Japanese Animation and of course Yamato. Members of Star Blazers Rockville, our chapter in Maryland report the convention was a success.

Upcoming conventions. First some news from the lone star state, in Texas there will be a one day convention devoted to Star Blazers, called Yamato Con 1. This will take place Saturday August 13th in Dallas at the Harvey House, at 7815 LBJ Freeway at Coit Road. The convention will have one full season of Star Blazers and will feature a Space Cruiser Yamato movie in Japanese. There will also be a dealers area as well. The convention opens at 10 AM, and costs \$2.00. For more information write Yamato Con 1 at

ConStellation, the 41st World Science Fiction Convention will be held in Baltimore, Maryland from September 1 -5th at the Baltimore Convention Center on the Inner Harbor. There is a good chance that Final Yamato will have it's American Opening at this convention. At this point advance registration has closed. However you can still buy you ticket at the door. At the convention there will be a video area just set up for Japanese Animation. In addition the Worldcon will feature the usual endless dealers room, the Hugo Awards for science fiction, parties, lots of guests from every corner of science fiction, workshops, dramatic presentations, a huge art show which should have some Japanimation art, tours of the city, a gaming room, masquerade - need I say more? This is going to be a BIG convention. For more information write ConStellation,

By the way next years Worldcon will be held in Los Angeles, so don't complain about it being too far away.

Because of the success of Lunacon '83, Lunacon '84 has invited us to run not one room, but two rooms devoted to video. This might become a tradition. So at Lunacon '84, March 16th to 18th there will be a Star Blazers Room. The convention will be held at the Sheraton Hasbrouck Heights in New Jersey, 6 miles from Manhattan. Membership is \$16 till February 17th, 1984, payable in a check to Lunacon '84,

By the way a minor note to convention goers, and possible convention goers. Every so often I hear from someone saying that the convention is too far away. Most chapters of the Star Blazers Fan Club do arrange for car pools to conventions.

Going from conventions to publications. In the past few weeks the club has gotten a few catalogs from dealers. It seems Books Nippan is forming a discount club for people who want Japanese Animation magazines and Roman Albums. Write them at Books Nippan,

This company is offering magazines, posters, comics and more. By the way for all inquires to any club send a self addressed stamped envelope, it makes things go faster.

Narimi Matsuda from Books & Gifts Ohara, sent in a listing of Roman Albums which are going at some very good prices. For those who don't know a Roman Album is a softcover book that covers all aspects of a series or movie. You can order by mail or stop by at their store. Phone number is

A section in the catalog from Bud Plant Inc. which deals with fantasy & comic art is selling Japanese Animation material. Mr. Plant claims, "No phony hype - these are just incredible. If you are reluctant to try, we will be happy to give you a full refund if you are in any way displeased and would like to return the book. Fair Enough? I know you will be pleased." Write Bud Plant Inc.

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# NEWS & NOTES



continued from page one

From New England comes Cosmic Connections which is selling models from Gundam, Yamato and Thunderbirds. Send \$1 and a self addressed stamped envelope for a catalog. Write Cosmic Connections,

He also sells at conventions as well. By the way a note to dealers, if you have a catalog that deals with Japanese Animation, just send a copy to the club and we will give you a plug if you deserve it.

Getting on to fanzines things are going on. For starters the clubs own amateur press association, called Trelaina has put out three collations up to date. A short explanation of Trelaina is this, it is a collection of small fanzines (several pages at most) combined and stapled into one publication called a collation. The last collation of Trelaina ran 34 pages, and included fanzines that dealt with everything from fan politics to a Final Yamato parody in comic book form. Sound interesting? Write Brian Cirulnick at

The next deadline for Trelaina is August 25th. Also the copycount of Trelaina will go up shortly.

The fanzine Highly Animated continues. This fanzine deals with the most part on fan fiction. For further info on the latest issue write Highly Animated, Jolynn Horvath,

Space Fanzine Yamato is going into a second printing last we heard. This fanzine gives information on almost every aspect of Star Blazers. Slickly printed and illustrated write for information to Space Fanzine Yamato,

Also send a self addressed stamped envelope when writing any fanzine.

## Fan Activity by Brian Cirulnick

Is Star Blazers currently on in your area? Is it on at a poor time like 6 AM or 2:30 PM? You can change that situation. This process known as getting what you want to see on TV is known as letter writing. In this column of Fan Activity I shall make a general outline of what to do and what not to do when writing a television station.

You may probably say "Well what can my one letter do?" The answer is a hell of alot. Remember Star Trek? Well that kept on the air for two seasons thanks to letters. Remember Twilight Zone, not the movie the series? Well that was kept around for a few episodes more thanks to letters. TV stations are very sensitive to public opinion, and what sells. Whats more, your letter will be combined with 100 or more letters if you can get the right people at it. That my friend will get Star Blazers back on the air and in a good time slot.

First what NOT to do;

- 1) DO NOT send in petitions. By sending in single letters they will have to open, file and answer each one.
- 2) DO NOT send in cute letters. We must sound like (Because we are) responsible, intelligent, adult individuals. This is a serious business letter. Anything like "Ohhhh I LOVE Star Blazers!!!!!!!!!!!!!! It's my verrry favorite kiddie type cartoon next to Duck Dodgers in the 24 1/2" will make us look bad and will find their way to the garbage.
- 3) Please make an effort not to insult the station - "Hey you! What are you, stupid or something? Where the hell is Star Blazers! Are you a bunch of twits or what?" -these letters can be used against us.
- 4) DO NOT send a form letter that says nothing. Remember the people who work at the station, are people just like you and me. But don't go over board and tell them the story of your life.

Now for what to do for the effective letter;

- 1) Type all letters.
- 2) Sound pleasant (I know it may be hard in some cases but give it a try).
- 3) Request an answer and keep a carbon copy of your letter. If after some time you do not get an answer, write another letter asking why.
- 4) Address the letter to the President of the station or program director. This way it will (Hopefully) go directly to them, instead of a bureaucracy.

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Staff-Mike Pinto, Brian Cirulnick, Randy Chua, Ardith Carlton, Max Conton, Joe Gunder, Stephanie Rendino, Jerry Fellows, and Haruko Ono & Chris Bond

### \*STAR BLAZERS LONG ISLAND

Mike Pinto,

### \*STAR BLAZERS ROCKVILLE (MARYLAND)

Chris Bond,

### \*STAR BLAZERS WEST MICHIGAN

Steve Harrison,

### \*STAR BLAZERS DELAWARE

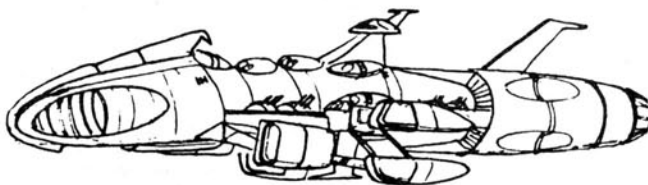
Tom Brevoort,

### \*PHILADELPHIA STAR BLAZERS SOCIETY

Joe Gunder,

### \*BOSTON STAR BLAZERS/JAPANIMATION CLUB

Jeff Jordan,



- 5) Sound intelligent. If we can convince the station that it is a smart crowd that watches the show, it will get a good slot.

On a last note I would like to add that when you write a letter to a station you are not only helping to get it back on your station but across the nation. Because the program directors do speak to each other. Also by supporting Star Blazers you are supporting Japanese Animation, so companies like Westchester Films will be more likely to bring stuff over. And don't give up, keep it up.

# THE FINAL YAMATO

## News From Japan by Ardith Carlton

The results are in: the Final Yamato movie, 'Yamato - The Concluding Chapter,' is a hit! In the three way battle of animated movies Japan witnessed this spring, the race between Final Yamato and the film 'Genna Taisen' (also known as 'Harmagedon') ended in a virtual tie, with the two consistently ranking in Japan's top ten movies during their two month release. The pre-release "favorite" of the three films, 'Crusher Joe,' flopped on its face.

The Final Yamato movie was just what it had been billed as -- the conclusion of the Yamato saga. During the course of the film, Mark Venture died, Derek Wildstar and Nova were finally married (with a somewhat graphic love scene, to boot), and Yamato met her end with only Captain Avatar aboard to save Earth from the waters of Aquarius. For the most part, Japanese fans were pleased with the finish of the 10-year-old Yamato saga -- while many had clamored for a 'Final Yamato' TV series that just wasn't going to be, most were very happy that Yamato was given a satisfying ending without the story being run into the ground. Or so they thought at the time....

As has become the custom after the release of a popular movie, merchandizing by the ton came out in Japan for the Final Yamato movie. Bandai Electronics brought out a 'Final Yamato' pocket-sized LCD game that has two patterns with two speeds each. In the first pattern, Yamato attacks the Uruku with the wave motion gun while avoiding Deingilan torpedo boats; in the second pattern, Yamato lands on the Uruku and attacks the conning tower while being protected by a Cosmo Tiger. The game lists for 4980 yen -- roughly, the equivalent of \$25 American. Bandai has also released two two strategy games (similar to 'Star Fleet Battles'): 'Space Battleship Yamato' that has scenarios dealing with Camillon, Garuman, and Comet Empires (3800 yen), and 'Final Yamato' (3800 yen). With any luck, some of the games will reach stores here in the States that carry Japanese games and toys.

Besides the dozens of books on the movie -- including Roman Album 56, which is now available in the States -- a cascade of new records were produced. For those who want to order them from the various record stores on this side of the ocean who deal in Japanese records, here is a listing of Final Yamato disks:

-- SINGLES --

\*Me And Yamato - Nippon Columbia CB-116, 700 yen (Final Yamato's main theme song. Side B is 'Yamato's Tribute.')

\*Love Supreme - Discmate DSP-239, 700 yen (A song from the movie. Side B is 'Yuki's Love.')

\*Tomorrow Make a Rainbow - Tokuma ANS-2001, 700 yen (Another song from the movie. Side B is 'Fight! Cosmo Tiger.')

## A Film Review by Max Conton

Mike received a late evening call from me. I want to know what was "new" with the club. He asked me during the course of the conversation if I was going to the con? What con? Empiricon 4. That was the first I ever heard of it. He needed help running the room at the con. What room? The Star Blazers video room. Again Mike? Sure. He invited me to come and put my name down on his staff list. I heard the pen over the phone quickly scratching paper, I was reluctant about going, couldn't afford it actually. Hey Max, we're going to show Final Yamato. I had to be there.

Empiricon 4, a four day event with two days of real con activity. It was enjoyable. Friday night, a cool evening out, a stuffy hotel room in the heart of New York City I was in with a bunch of other fans watching Final Yamato on a cursed television set. After it ended the comments flew. I ignored them mainly. I sat thinking of what I just saw. Imagery lingered still in my eyes. Like the Yamato's first appearance on screen, her nose dive through the cosmic calamity and confusion that a zillion runaway asteroids and planetoids would make. That would naturally be the result when two galaxies collide. An alien galaxy warps next to ours and annihilates a sizable portion of stellar matter.

The film climaxes, in another way than is usual to the entire Yamato series. This is the final Yamato. This story ends the saga. The climax is quiet and lengthy. They flow you with it more than just slapping you on the back and saying goodbye. During the films ending I got the sense that the word "final" was being emphasized visually.

Final Yamato is very different than any other Yamato epic that I have seen. Different as in the usual norm of that which preceded. The differences are most noticeable in the animation, direction and the music. At one point in the film even the voice actors differ from the usual. Kodai Susumu (Wildstar) for a brief few moments hits you as being real and not animated. His cries out do the animation that goes with it. The animators out did themselves in Final Yamato. They put in full animation just where it is needed. Full animation, example, is Disney's Snow White. A new technique of animation is used in this film, liquid animation. Aquarius water tendril utilizes this new technique. The exact properties and applications of liquid animation are unknown to me so I won't speculate to divert or obscure you from the truth. The animated action/movement is not as wild or exaggerated as in Be Forever Yamato. The look of things within motion in Final Yamato were more or less pacified. But were to realism certainly wasn't the way the animators intended, the Deingillian starfighters and bombers were to move about.

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NEWS FROM JAPAN by Ardith Carlton  
continued from last page

\*Two Loves - Tokuma ANS-2003, 700 yen (yet another song from the movie. Side B is 'See You Again' which will be popular with Joe Yabuki fans.)  
\*Space Battleship Yamato '83 - Nippon Columbia CH-118, 700 yen. (A jazzed up version of the Yamato theme. Side B is the karaoke/instrumental version of the song.)  
\*Yamato 10-Year Tribute - Nippon Columbia CB-3058, 800 yen. (As yet unknown. Side B is 'Uraku Theme' and 'New Cosmo Zero')  
-- LP'S --

\*Prologue to the Final Yamato - Nippon Columbia CX-7055, 2500 yen (Japanese narration and music, first released nearly a year before the movie.)  
\*Final Yamato Soundtrack Part I - Tokuma ANL-1001, 2500 yen (Soundtrack music).  
\*Final Yamato Soundtrack Part II - Nippon Columbia CX-7095, 2500 yen (More soundtrack music).  
\*Final Yamato Drama - Nippon Columbia CS-7256-8, 5400 yen. (Japanese drama of the movie, three record set.)  
\*Digital Trip 'Final Yamato' - Nippon Columbia CX-7102, 2500 yen. (Synthesizer rendition of music from the film.)  
-- DUE SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE --

\*Yamato 10-year Monologue - Nippon Columbia, no numbers assigned yet. Advertised as being "Narrated by Jyuuzo Okita" (Captain Avatar), and planned to be a three record set.

Some of the biggest Yamato news yet is that the films have been released on commercial videotape in Japan! On April 21, Toei Video released in both VHS SP-speed and Beta II format:

\*Space Battleship Yamato-Color, 135 minutes TE-M461  
\*Arrivederci Yamato -Color, 152 minutes TE-M462  
\*Be Forever Yamato -Color, 145 minutes TE-M463  
\*Yamato - New Journey -Color, 95 minutes TE-M464

According to Toei Video's ads, the movies are uncut versions of the original works, and list for 19800 yen apiece. Various fans in the States are working on getting the tapes right now.

Perhaps even bigger news is that VAP Video of Japan released the Final Yamato movie on commercial video in April! Weighing in at 160 minutes in full color, the tape costs 22,500 yen and is available in both Beta and VHS formats.

UNFORTUNATELY, there's not exactly a happy ending to this story - in a few months, the Final Yamato videotape won't be an uncut version anymore. Yamato's producer Yoshinobu Nishizaki, more commonly known as the Man with the Yen for Yen, has just announced that the version of Final Yamato shown in Japanese theaters last spring wasn't the finished product - and that the real 'Perfect Edition' of the Final Yamato movie will be released in Japan during the last ten days of August! This edition will have four-channel Dolby sound and will be filmed in 70mm (just as 'Be Forever' was), and will have approximately ten minutes of previously cut footage added back in, including scenes of Jordie Venture and his pet soccer ball.

This is all well and nice for the people who couldn't see the movie's first release, but according to one Japanese fan, "the opinion of Yamato is now suffering in Japan." Nishizaki has kept his word that it's the last Yamato movie, but each new 'edition' of it he comes up with is sure to upset more than a few fans who feel that he's milking Yamato for all it's worth.

There is some good news for Desslok fans, however - Nishizaki has also announced that a Desslok movie, tentatively titled 'King of Desslar' ('Desslar' is Desslok's name in the original Japanese), is being planned for release in the summer of 1984, with a TV series to follow. So while Yamato may eventually get to rest, the general story may continue without the battleship for quite some time.

NEXT ISSUE: The "Final Yamato" story

A FILM REVIEW by Max Conton  
continued from last page

That's what made them so difficult to shoot and exciting to watch. My favorite scene is when Shinto Priest-President Lugal on his white, robot stallion with his men attacks and boards the deck of the Yamato, shooting from his saddle left and right at his enemies. The films' gimmick are the hyper-hoshi missiles. The person who dreamed up those nightmarish things is a technological sadist. Their performance and function throughout the film is like that of plague carrying rabid moles.

The film comes out as being a very soft actioned and poetically tender piece. It's not the typical Yamato slam-bang, gun-ho, let's crush the enemy in blazing technicolor film. The visual concept throughout most of this film is of foreboding death, darkness, doom. Dark imagery is prevalent until the last ten to fifteen minutes at the point of the film's resolution. The film doesn't end to the heroes dancing in victory to the title theme nor in chorus line shaking straw vaudevilian hats behind their heads and kicking up their legs saying "Sayonara, Sayonara!!!" Oh no. It ends happily but not in battles glory. The previous established mood wouldn't allow that to fall on the audience and stick at all. The direction has set the film at the very beginning on a high then falls slowly downward with the decline assimilated naturally in the action. All events occurring between Deingillian and Terran Forces resolve each other in a rather one sided annihilation to the last ship Yamato, which triumphs over the enemy. But the Yamato alone is the only savior of the Earth left to win out over the other enemy Aquarius. It is at this point in the story that the Yamato and Aquarius that the film turns its darkest before the light and the decline halts and all begins to mellow and become at ease, thus end. Nishizaki, in my opinion did well not to do otherwise. What I found interesting was Yuki Mori's (Nova) point of view being expressed at certain points in the film through songs. The songs this time are a reflection of the characters thoughts and feelings, not just interlude pieces as in Be Forever Yamato.

Hiroshi Miyagawa can put another notch in his music box. He's great. I love his work for the entire Yamato series. It's truly stupendous stuff. Final Yamato is no exception. And again the music differs just like all the other elements in this film from their usual. The film's score does show character tonalities while still reflecting the overall prevailing futureless visual concept. There are no light, joyous, merryful character tonalities of similar like in Be Forever Yamato, New Voyage or the third season episodes. The character tones are distinctatory in the case of the theme for the Deingillians from other music. The only numbers which I remember with some sense of color to them is the music for Lugal's horseback attack on the Yamato. The other is a number which stands out of the whole film entirely. It's a rockish, jazzy, symphonic battle theme piece. On the Final Yamato BGM Pt. one album CX-7081 the theme is known as "Fight Cosmo Tigers!" Although my attention was mainly focused on the visuals more so than the sound-track. I didn't pay hard attention to the music that did go on in the film. But those bits that stood out I enjoyed immensely.

Space Cruiser Yamato- the Concluding Chapter, was a production executed in an excellent manner. It differs to some extent from the usual type and feel of its preceeding and well established style. It is a Yamato film definitely, but it is done differently. Don't get the impression that it is devoid of action because we know that it's not the Space Cruiser Yamato style. It will be a while before the Japanese public and program fans get over this one for the saga has been laid to rest. Our chance to see Final Yamato will come during the Worldcon/ConStellation in Baltimore, Maryland on Sept 1st thru 5th. If you are attending reserve some time to see this, it will not be time wasted.

Two new characters from "Final Yamato"

LUGAL

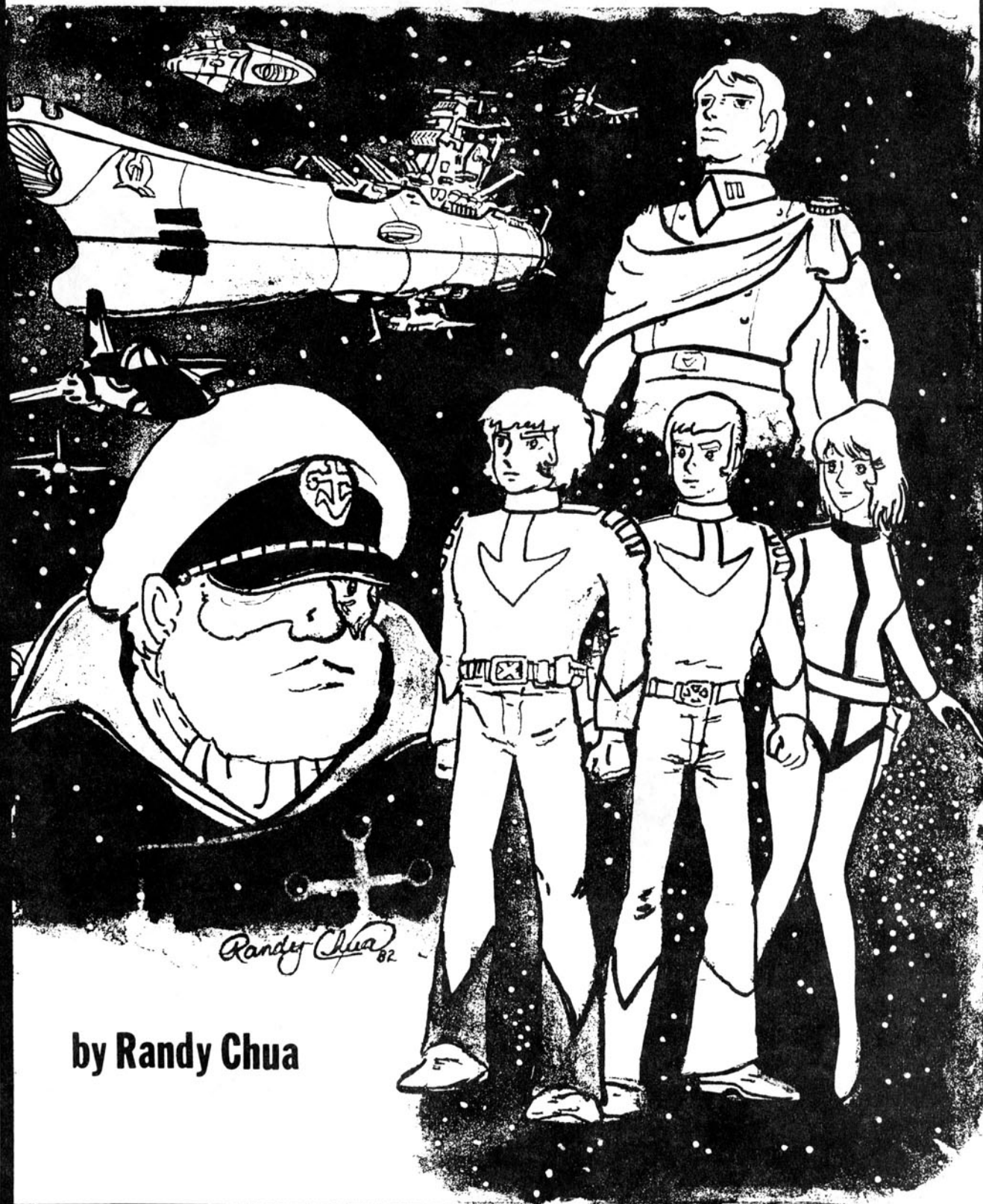


Here is a translation from the Anime a Japanese Animation magazine from Japan. It gives a short explanation of the plot of Final Yamato-

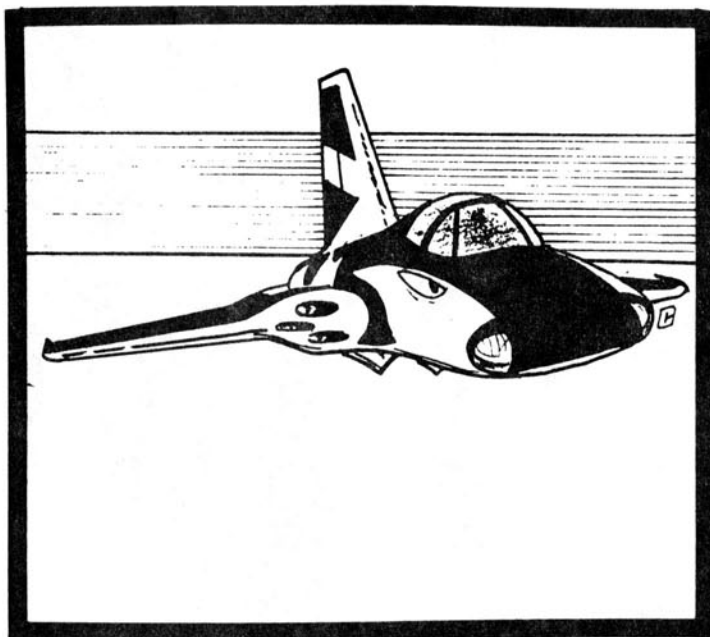
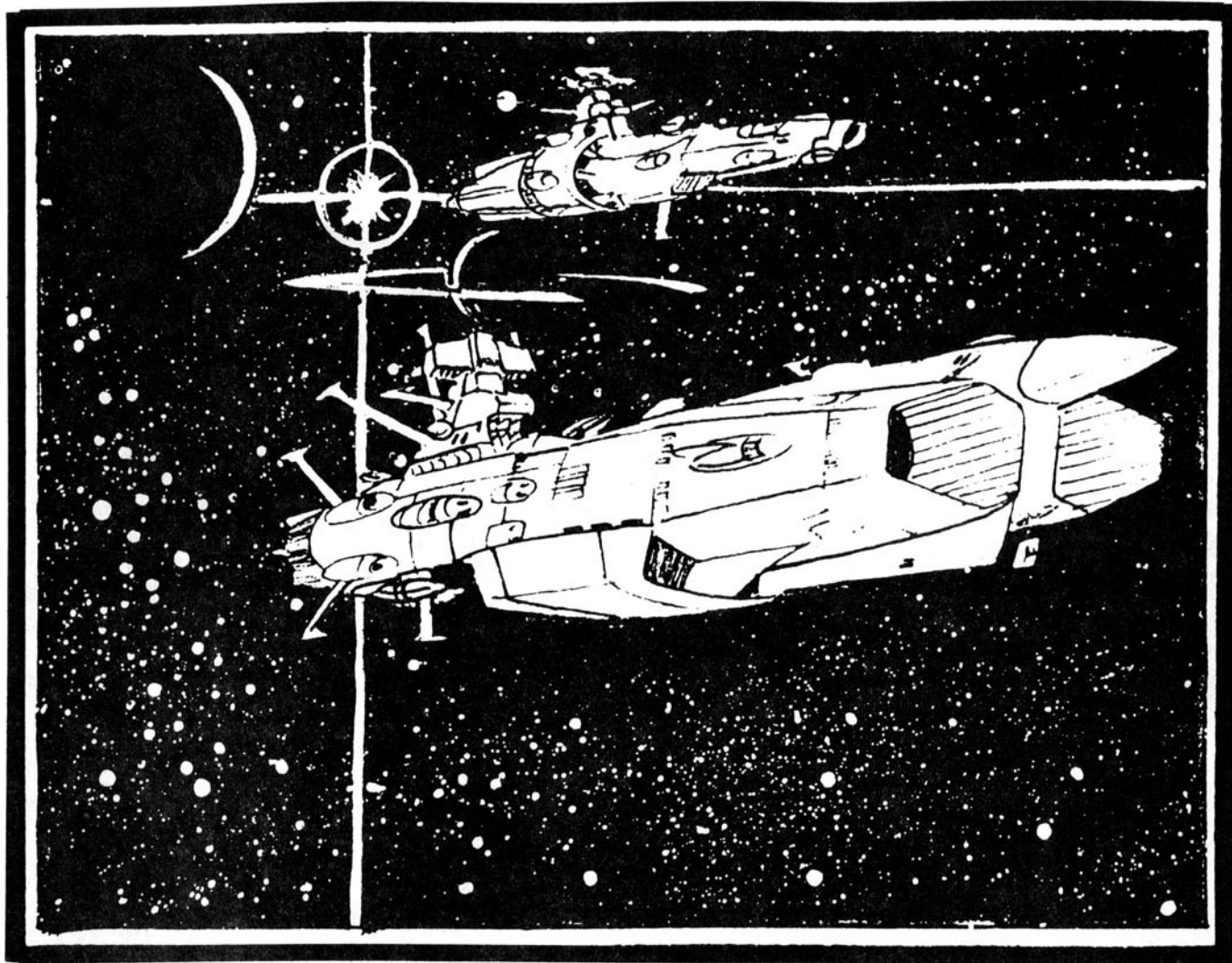
This story, "the spaceship Yamato", is about fighting in the universe. Yamato is the spaceship which Susumu, Yuki, and other spacemen ride on. The fight named Dingil to save Earth. Dingil try to occupy Earth with their power. People on both sides know that they are originally born on the Earth and the people of Dingil would not stop to fight because they believe only the strongest people can exist by killing the weak people and destroying their happiness.

-Translated from the March 1983 edition of "the Anime" magazine, volume 40

# The Art File



by Randy Chua



Members of the club with a talent for art are welcomed to submit artwork to the Art File. Art can deal with Star Blazers or Japanese Animation in a serious style or a humorous one. Please ink all work. Also we like quality and detail. Composition counts too. Send your art work to: the Art File, c/o SBFR

# LUNACON '83 REPORT

by Michael Pinto

Our story starts way back when in 1957 when the Lunarians, also known as the New York Science Fiction Society held their first science fiction convention called Lunacon. So on May 12th, 1957 the first Lunacon was held with an attendance of 65 people, who were fans from New York.

From that first convention in 1957, Lunacon has changed alot. For example take Dave Kyle who was just a fan back then, he is fan guest of honor at this years Worldcon. As you can see many things have changed.

Now lets take our story to 1982 in a pizza place in the heart of New York City. After the August Creation Convention which hosted the "Star Blazers ConClave" a bunch of fans got together to celebrate the event and make plans for the future. So in a pizza place not far from Penn Station these fans made their choice, they didn't want to do a mere Creation Con, they wanted the Lunacon '83 convention.

So after several months and a double-sided flyer which proclaimed from Desslok himself, "Be there or I will blow up your wretched planet" there was a room reserved for showing Star Blazers at the Lunacon '83 Science Fiction Convention at the Sheraton Hgts. Hotel in Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey.

The Lunacon '83 convention which ran from March 18th to 20th had alot to offer. Anne McCaffrey who is famous for her Dragon of Pern novels was guest of honor. Fan guest of honor was Don & Elsie Wollheim. Don Wollheim is an old time fan responsible for inventing the science fiction convention back in 1936. He also started the first fan APA for science fiction. The artist guest of honor while not being Japanese or an animator was talented at illustration; her name is Barbi Johnson.

The convention itself was big. Over 1500 people came to Lunacon. The convention dominated the hotel. The convention itself featured a high quality art show, a dealers room which had everything from Japanimation stuff to books, a wargaming and computer room, films, video, a book exhibit, a radio room and a room for science fiction soundtracks. Of course there was the Star Blazers Video Room. In addition to this at night there were parties, the con suite party, the New York in '86 party, the Philadelphia in '86 party, the New York in '89 party, and the parties were as good as they were numerous.

The Star Blazers Video Room itself was packed tight right up to the doorway. In fact this surprised many officials at the convention. Fans from as far as Boston and Philadelphia came to see this convention for the room. It also seems that the Star Blazers room got some publicity on a local foreign language station WNJU-TV (channel 47) which in the past showed some Japanimation. The room was one of the most popular at the convention.

The programming of the room featured Yamato movies. It seems the most popular of these was Arrivederci Yamato shown on Sunday of the convention. We also showed Mobile Suit Gundam and some Captain Harlock. Another popular feature was a movie called Towards the Terra which was narrated by fan artist Colleen Winters who did a great job explaining the movie which dealt with psychic wars in the far future. In addition there was a slideshow on the Final Yamato movie which went over very well. Also in the regular video room a parody of Star Blazers called "You say Yamato" was shown. In addition to this the Star Blazers video room featured a joke reel by Jim Kaposztas which went over very well.

Traces of Star Blazers could be seen throught the entire convention from costumes (everything from Desslok to Nova, and two Wildstars), to copies of the Star Blazers Pandom Report in the fanzine room, to books, posters and models on sale in the dealers room. In fact in the Lunacon program book there was a half page ad for the Star Blazers Fan Club.

Of course what would a convention be without the fans and conversation to go with it? Fans came from the Boston chapter of the club, the Philadelphia chapter, members from the New York Cartoon/Fantasy Organization were there. In fact two members of the Delaware chapter, Tom Brevoort and Steve Circala stoped by. Also the people who edit Highly Animated, a Japanimation fanzine were there as well. The rest of the convention featured minor writers like Isaac Asimov, who did by the way have a Japanimation robot for his tie clip.

We seem to have put a good impression on the committee of Lunacon. I would like to thank Elyse S. Rosenstein who was chairman of this convention for having us, and Kathleen Morrison who helped out a great deal. As for our own people who ran the show and deserve their fair share of the blame, thank you Robert Fenelon for narrations, Jim Kaposztas who was our video wiz, and Jolynn Horvath to whom we owe much. Also superthanks to those who were there when we needed them, Robert L. Carroll, Brian Cirulnick, Stephen Boyd, Moya Price and Robert Rozek for playing their part at the convention. Thank you who attended. By the way don't skip over this list, these people may become famous some day.

On a last note Larry Carmody, chairman of Lunacon '84 has invited us back to do it all over again next year, and I would like to thank him for that. If you would like to join this madness write the Lunacon '84 address as listed in News and Notes.



## Lunacon '83

MARCH 18-20, 1983  
SHERATON HGTS. HOTEL

Hasbrouck Height, NJ

The logo from the Lunacon '83 convention, which was designed by Barbi Johnson, the artist guest of honor. Design (c) 1983 by Barbi Johnson.

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# BALTICON REPORT

by Chris Bond

Well another Balticon has come and gone, and I am happy to say that this Balticon went well. Balticon 17 was held at the Hyatt Regency Baltimore a fabulous fourteen story hotel on Baltimore's dynamic Inner Harbor. The Hyatt Regency alone is worth the trip into Baltimore, the hotel has many things to satisfy a guest. For instance, the Trellis Garden, a glistening indoor lake, skylights, a relaxing rooftop lounge/restaurant where you can enjoy the panorama of the Inner Harbor, and the Lobbibar-Atrium, this is the most spectacular part of the Hyatt Regency. This six story atrium allows you to enjoy clear sparkling sunlight by day giving way to subtle reflections of the night. The Lobbibar is the perfect setting for a casual meeting. These things and more made Balticon 17 very enjoyable.

Before I get into the convention itself I would like to thank a few people for their help. First I would like to thank Kevin Bond and George Boukas for their help with the Star Blazers Rockville Room, members of the Cartoon/Fantasy Organization for their help with translation, and Jessica Roberts for being a friend.

For the convention itself first let me tell you all though there were not many fans in costume, Japanese Animation Fandom (also known as Japanimation) was as strong as ever. The dealers room alone was a dream, many dealers had books, posters and models from many Japanese animated shows. It seems that Space Cruiser Yamato or Star Blazers dominated at this convention. The Star Blazers Rockville Room went very well. The fans who came by enjoyed it very much. The favorite shows were the new Captain Harlock, "My Youth in Arcadia", Eternal Orbit SSX, Lupin II and of course Arrivederci Yamato.

With this Balticon 17 is history. Star Blazers Rockville is looking forward to Balticon 18 next year and of course Worldcon this September which will also be held in Baltimore.

## News from Michigan

by Jerry Fellows

Being as the valiant leader of our chapter finds himself busied with many projects these days, I shall take it upon myself to fill everyone in on our chapters goings-on.

While we have a relatively small group, we are trying to get our fellow Michiganians interested and better yet, excited about Star Blazers and Yamato. So, on the week of January 28th at ConFusion 101 and again March 19-20 at Nova 8, we held our infamous Star Blazers/Yamato Micro-Con.

Thanks to the help of Ardith Carlton and company, as well as our own resources, ConFusion brought many animation fans out of the woodwork. A tremendous range of animation was shown, from Star Blazers to Macross. Everyone had a lot of fun, and they were reluctant to leave when we had to shut down.

Nova 8, a free convention, brought the world of animation to many who thought the art was limited to such mindless drek as "Gilligan's Planet". Being new fans, they naturally preferred English shows, which kept us primarily to Star Blazers, and dubbed features and shows such as Capt. Harlock, Roger Corman's Galaxy Express and (a big hit) Mazinger Z. But for the few long time fans we had Macross, Endless Road SSX and of course Yamato. This Micro-Con was a huge success, and we were asked to repeat at next year's Nova Con.

Another major project we have been working on out here was completed in mid-February. As some of you know, we have finished Space Fanzine Yamato! A lot of work went into this project, and I am happy to say, we've recieved many compliments on it. If anyone out there would like to order it, you can get information by sending a self addressed stamped envelope to Star Blazers West Michigan, our address is listed in the Fandom Report.

Planned activities generally concern themselves with the production of issue 2 of Space Fanzine Yamato, which we hope to have ready by August '83. Stay tuned to your Fandom Report for further details.

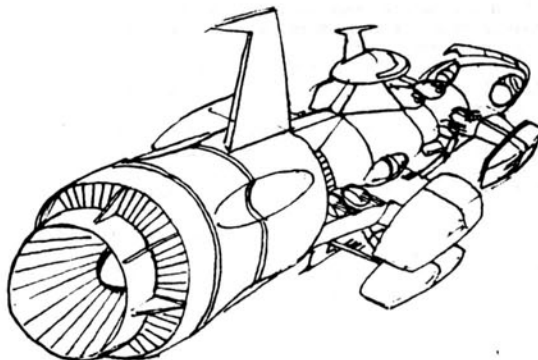
Thus endeth the report from West Michigan, I think it would be nice to hear from chapters from time to time, so we can remain informed as to what our fellow Blazer-fans are up to.

## a poem - Thoughts In 2200

by S. Rendino

Thoughts in 2200  
Other men deem me lucky,  
They see only what I've gained,  
I, Talan, now Leader, commanding our fleet,  
Saving our people, guiding, ruling,  
"As good a man as Desslok" the soldiers say,  
"Wherever he may be," and they ribaldy speculate,  
And they laugh, Gallows humour I hope.

I see only what I have lost.  
My new position is not worth my countrymen's blood.  
Shed by Terrans, or the endless wandering with it's  
hungry days and sleepless nights.  
Is isn't worth the loss of their leader, whom I still expect to find  
Bent over a pile of reports, golden hair falling about his face.  
Offering me a drink and making a bitter jest of his workload.  
I miss him. And I mourn not only the loss of a monarch,  
I mourn the loss of my friend.



# communications

Letters to the editor are welcomed from all members of the club. The best letter of each issue gets the "Fandom Report's Letterhack Award" which is a whole \$2. It's not alot, but it will cover your postage. I like to get your opinions, so let me hear 'em. Write - Star Blazers Fan Club,

I'm writing this to congratulate those people who were involved with the Star Blazers video room at Lunacon '83 and to let everyone else know what a success it was. I was also at Lunacon and enjoyed everything that they had to offer. I spent many hours sitting on the floor watching more Japanese animation in 3 days than I probably have in my entire life. Besides Star Blazers I got to see Capt. Harlock episodes, Adieu Galaxy Express and parts of the Mobile Suit Gundam movies. Luckily for those of us who didn't speak Japanese there was someone there to translate for us. As well as seeing great movies, I also met lots of people in the video room. I enjoyed chatting between features and in the halls. Unfortunately I did not get the names of most of the people who I talked to, including the names of the people who were running the whole shebang. My apologies for not being able to congratulate them personally by name. Even without knowing their names I enjoyed their company immensely.

That's quite enough for now. Once again I'd like to congratulate everyone on a job well done. I hope to meet everyone again at the next con.

Anastasia Papadatos

I greatly enjoyed your showing of Japanese animation at East Con on June 25 and 26. The quality of the animation was as good technically as anything I have ever seen and the plot lines were far superior.

I most sincerely hope that you will be able to persuade various television stations to show "Star Blazers" in a time slot where adults can watch it and enjoy the show rather than pre-school children.

I believe 7:00 P.M. to 8:00 spot would be ideal for me since it would allow me to watch without interfering with my job. It was most unfortunate that when "Star Blazers" was introduced on channel 27 (WTAF) it was shown weekdays in the afternoons and I was never able to see it.

My present age is thirty-four and I have been playing political and military simulations for twenty years.

Lee A. Hollensteiner, B.A.

I don't know if you will remember me, but some of the others in your club might. My name is Mary and my friend and I were in the Con Suite watching Yamato at the recent Empiricon 4....What I want to say is that your Star Blazers club is great, the people are super nice, and I would like to join. I'm already a member of the Cartoon/Fantasy Organization, but I just can't get enough of the action. First it was Gatchaman, then I got hooked on the Harlock storyline, and now I've got to know more about Yamato. It's a vicious chain reaction!! And I still hardly know a thing about Gatchaman and Harlock....HELP! OK so I am beyond help... enclosed find membership fee....

Mary Roswell

-I printed these letters for two major reasons. Recently a friend of mine asked me, what do we get out of these cons? I think the following three letters answer the question. The other reason is that people in this club have never been to a convention and want to know if they should go. Again the letters answer the questions. These letters were the results of three different conventions, but they share something in common.

I was shocked when it was only by chance that I found Star Blazers on KTXL, Sacramento-Stockton at 8 A.M. Then I looked at some of my Star Blazers Fandom Reports and found the explanation. The club is so eastern! I feel this is an issue that must be resolved. Am I one of the few west coast fans? I doubt it. There must be enough to start chapters in the west as well. Please send me information on starting a chapter.

The smaller type in the newsletter should really be an improvement, and is a major reason for my re-newal.

Roger G. Hawkins

-You are right the club is eastern. This is because the club was started in New York, and in the west it seems to me that the Cartoon/Fantasy Organization has a better foothold after all that is where they started. But still that is no excuse. There are alot of members in Oregon, where my understanding is that it has done very well. I would like to encourage you and all west coast fans to start up chapters. I will try to help as much as I can. I thank you for your letter. I wish more people were like you, and had your spirit. I think you get the award this issue. How about it out there in the west?

I suppose if I don't write something here you will accuse me of being "inactive". Please stop browbeating those of us who are content to just sit back and enjoy. I thought I was joining a fan club, not a political action committee.

All that aside I have a question. I have heard that Westchesters new Star Blazers series has 50 new episodes. Where did they come from? Yamato III has only 25 chapters and there isn't enough in the movies to make 25. Were more chapters produced in Japan, then not shown?

Jon V. Wilmmunen

-You are right to an extent, in this club we don't try to just be a fan club, we want to get things done. If Star Blazers was on, oh say ABC at 8:30 weekdays. Then we could just sit back. But Star Blazers is far from that. If we ever want to keep the show alive and bring over more Japanimation, it is up to the fans to do it. Sitting back and enjoying the show is the reason why I started this club. But if we don't move out of our seat and write or do something, we may be sitting back to watch nothing. Getting involved isn't a pain, it's a labor of love. To get involved you don't have to run a convention, you can just write a letter. Next it seems that Westchester had planned for 50 or more new episodes, but it never happened in Japan, so now they will use what they have from Yamato III. But don't forget that they will go to the cutting floor, rescript, take from movies, like they did before.

"The letter column became part of the science fiction phenomenon in the very first science fiction magazine, Amazing Stories, and it sprang to life at the behest of the first science fiction editor, Hugo Gernesback."

-Isaac Asimov, from "Asimov on Science Fiction"



Of course Nausica  
is dear, sweet girl -  
but I think mom capitaine  
needs someone  
more mature to  
serve under him....

by Sue Crites

## ADS & MORE

Ads in this section are free to all members of this club free of charge. Larger ads costs more, a full page ad is \$17, half page \$10.50 and quarter page is \$6. The editors reserve the right to reject any ad on an editorial basis. Ads can be use advertise a product, give a personal note to a friend or just about anything.

WANTED - "THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK" Radio show on audio cassette tape. Will supply tapes. Bob Napton,

FULL COLOR STAR BLAZERS/YAMATO CHARACTER PORTRAITS - In any pose you desire on sturdy mat board with crystal clear coating, 12 x 17, suitable for framing. Send \$12, characters, and pose (s) desired to; Kevin Grays,

I WANT TO THANK ALL OF THOSE WHO HELPED OUT AT THE LUNACON '83 SF CONVENTION!!!!!!!!!!!!!! - MJF

Star Blazers theme as played by the computer. Send one cassette to: Matt Manarino,

AGAINST THE WALL: A magazine of self-liberation and voluntary alternatives, published 10 times a year. Sample copy, \$2.

WANTED; Any Japanese animated films on VHS tapes, Especially Star Blazers, Battle of the Planets, Force Five etc. But all considered. Send list of films and asking price to Ryan Konkoski, Will pay top dollar.

Wanted; Video tapes of Star Blazer/Yamato movies with English translations. Frank Young,

Wanted; Will buy or trade any merchandise on Star Blazers and William Shatner. Anything from clippings to posters & records. Send SASE of what kind of merchandise I want and for the price I will pay & what I will trade for. Write Dominick Roman,

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ROBERT FENELON!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The deadline for TRILAINA #4 is August 20th.....

WANTED - right translations of Be Forever, Arrivederci, Gundam I & III and Yamato II (condensed version) to go with tapes or movie novels. Also looking for Harlock, episodes #4 to end first season (except last 3) subtitled english over French Albator, but I will take either on VHS vassette. Caren Perlmuter,

## EDITORIAL

Instead of using this editorial space for some off beat or crazy idea of mine I would like to write about someone who I know. Star Blazers/Japanese Animation fandom is for the most part a new thing. There are many fans who have done much to make Japanese Animation known to the science fiction community, and the United States as a whole. They run fanzines, start chapters, run clubs, run conventions and write letters to television stations. These are the unsung heroes of fandom. Some of these fans go on and contribute an accomplishment that stands out. For this column I would like to honor such a fan, and I should add that he knows nothing about this.

The fan I am speaking about is Robert Fenelon. I first met Rob at the August Creation Convention last August. I had made arrangements to run the Star Blazers Conclave. But Rob stepped in and helped organize things on the spot, this seems to be his outstanding talent.

Robert Fenelon later played a major part in helping me put together Lunacon. When there was a crisis, he didn't turn away in fear, he faced it. And believe me when it comes to helping run a science fiction convention, there are many a crisis to be faced, and Rob has faced up and come out of every one of them.

Not too long ago I ran my first science fiction convention. It was a one day science fiction convention called Shercon I, which I ran for the Long Island Science Fiction Society. Outside two episodes of Star Blazers, there was little Japanimation to be seen. There were speakers to be put on panels, chairs to be set up, movies to be shown etc. And although there was little to do with Japanimation, Robert Fenelon was there helping out. It was because of him, that running my first convention was just that much more of a better experience.

Then there was East Con. I couldn't make that convention, I was graduating from High School. But with the help of Jim Kapesztas, Robert L. Carroll and Joe Gunder he ran the whole thing the entire convention. And looking back, he did a damn nice job, and I have heard this from more than one person.

I knew about Empiricon Four a week before the convention started. Yet for all the last minute hassels, and there were many, Rob was there and helped out a great deal. We packed that room inside the con suite. He helped put together a program at three A.M. with a group of people around him telling jokes endlessly. Yet he came through.

Sometimes you can catch him at a convention, that is when he is not running around or doing a translation. He has a Desslok costume that doesn't look half bad. I think the crowning touch for me at Empiricon was when I read a flyer that the Boston Star Blazers Chapter was handing out. It read on one line, "Who is this Rob Fenelon anyway?"

For me Robert Fenelon has made a difference to the last few months of fan activity here. For this I thank him. And don't be surprised if one day he comes to a convention as fan guest of honor. He has done much for Star Blazers and for that matter this club.

Robert Fenelon has also helped alot with Worldcon and the Japanimation activity there. He has also improved this clubs relations with Westchester Films. Yes Robert Fenelon has made a contribution to this young Japanimation fandom.

Of course Rob has not done this alone. I must also say that Rob has some very good friends that have helped him along the way in every way. I have seen his friends in action, and I must say that Rob is lucky to have them. These friends have guided him and helped him, and for this they must be thanked. They know who they are.

So I honor Robert Fenelon with my editorial space. I reserve this space for crazy ideas, politics etc., but this issue I am giving up this space. And Rob, you deserve it. Thank you for making this club what it is, and what it can be.

