

# RMSC NEWS

## Rochester Museum & Science Center



### Write Your Ticket to Stardom

Author Isaac Asimov will judge the first science-fiction story contest sponsored by the Strasenburgh Planetarium. Plans are for the winning entry to be published by the Gannett Rochester Newspapers and, if suitable, to be made into a star show.

Deadline for all entries is October 12. Stories should be science-fiction, not fantasy; in other words, the plot and characters should stem from a plausible, scientific base.

A private party will be held in the Star Theatre early next year to honor all winners.

Following are submission guidelines:

1. Stories should be between 3,000 - 6,000 words.
2. Cash prizes of \$100 - first place, \$50 - second place and \$25 - third place will be awarded. An additional \$250 purchase prize will be awarded if a story is chosen to be developed into a star show; suitability will be determined by the Planetarium staff. If the purchase prize is awarded, the author must grant exclusive production rights to the RMSC. If the show is later sold to another planetarium, the author will receive a residual of \$100 for each sale.
3. Entrants under age 18 must include the signature of a parent or legal guardian with their entry. All entrants should clearly print their name, mailing address and phone number

on their entry. Send entries to: SCIF, Strasenburgh Planetarium, Rochester Museum & Science Center, Box 1480, Rochester, New York 14603.

4. Entries will not be returned, so submit a photocopy rather than the original of your story.
5. Each entrant will receive two free admission coupons to the Planetarium.
6. Stories should be written for production as a Planetarium show. A few pointers:

A. A variety of visual scenes, or settings will add interest. The more scenes, the better.

B. The Planetarium is a visual medium, so writers should "think visual." The script may almost be seen as a succession of captions for the visuals.

C. Full-dome environmental scenes are better than small scenes set in a localized area of the dome. A useful technique is to imagine the Planetarium audience in the midst of the action, as participants in the show.

D. Planetariums specialize in producing visuals of astronomical objects and space hardware. Examples are stars, galaxies, planets and rockets.

E. Planetariums do not usually show the characters in a story. If characters are used, they may be heard but almost never seen. An example is within the visual environment of a spaceship's bridge, we may hear the ship's officers reacting to a dramatic occurrence, but

*(continued next page)*

### English Ceramics Expert Lectures - Aug. 8

The anthropology/archaeology section will sponsor a lecture on mocha-decorated ceramics August 8. C. John Smith, the recognized authority on mochoware, is visiting from England and will speak at 8 pm in the Museum Auditorium.



*Mocha-decorated pearlware pitcher from the Museum collection. English, c. 1800-1820. Height: 5-5/8".*

Mochaware is an inclusive term used by antique dealers and collectors for a wide range of popular 18th-early 20th century ceramics distinguished by moss-like decorations. Specifically, mocha is the technique for producing these designs which resemble those found in the mocha stone (agate). It was used successfully on English creamwares, pearlwares, and ironstone and yellow wares.

Smith, a potter and instructor of ceramics and glass at Stourbridge College, will discuss the history of these wares with examples from the Museum collection and tell how pieces may be dated and attributed.

The lecture is open free to the public.

### Scholarship Fund Established

We are pleased to announce a new scholarship fund has been created in memory of the late Sondra Greenstein, wife of trustee Andrew Greenstein. Made possible by a generous contribution from the law firm of Goldstein Goldman Kessler & Underberg, the fund will be used for

tuition aid for the preschool program at the School of Science & Man. Grants covering up to one-half of the tuition cost are available for youth ages 3 - 5.

Those interested in making contributions or applying to this memorial fund are requested to contact Robert Frasch, Director of the School of Science & Man. Each application will be reviewed by a committee. Funds are presently available for the 1979-80 school year.

## Write Your Ticket to Stardom *(continued)*

we will not see them.

Asimov scripted the popular star show *The Last Question* in 1972. His own definition of science-fiction is "that branch of literature which deals with the response of human beings to advances in science and technology.... it constantly considers the future .... it doesn't escape into the 'never was' as fantasy does, but into the 'just possibly might be.'"

For further information on the science-fiction story contest, contact Planetarium Producer Fran Bidy.

## Summer Films for Children

Adventure abounds this August in Walt Disney color films starring Pippi Longstocking, the invincible eight-year-old girl. The series is based on the children's books by Swedish author Astrid Lindgren first made popular in the 1950's.



Each Pippi Longstocking adventure will be shown at 2 pm in the Eisenhart Auditorium on Wednesdays in August. The box office opens for ticket sales at 1 pm. Admission is \$1 for everyone.

August 8 - *Pippi Goes on Board*. When Pippi jumps off her father's ship so she can return to her friends, Captain

Longstocking throws her a bag of gold, which she must save from clever crooks. (84 minutes)

August 15 - *Pippi in the South Seas*. In this swashbuckling adventure, Pippi rescues her sea captain father, who has been kidnapped by pirates. (85 minutes)

August 22 - *Pippi Longstocking*. The original film starring the red-haired, freckle-faced heroine. (99 minutes)

August 29 - *Pippi on the Run*. When Pippi decides to run away with her friends Tommy and Annika, the trio encounters many exciting adventures, including a barrel ride over a waterfall, a tightrope walk and Pippi's rescue of a baby from an angry bull.

In addition to the Pippi Longstocking series, children may enjoy nature and animal films on Mondays in August in the Eisenhart Auditorium. Admission is \$1 for everyone, and tickets go on sale at 1 pm. (97 minutes)

August 6 - *King of the Grizzlies*. The picturesque Canadian Rockies provide the setting for this high adventure story of a former trooper whose cattle empire is disrupted by a giant grizzly bear. (93 minutes)

August 13 - *White Wilderness*. This Oscar winning, true life story explores the home of the most savage, as well as the most gentle creatures on our continent. The polar bear, grey wolf, musk ox, wolverine, caribou, whale and reindeer star in this wildlife epic. (90 minutes)

August 20 - *Ride a Wild Pony*. Set in the beautiful Australian outback country, this touching film tells of a poor youngboy trying to recover his pony. (90 minutes)

August 27 - *The Bears and I*. A Vietnam veteran breaks a tribal taboo when he starts raising three motherless cubs on a remote Indian reservation in this wilderness drama. (88 minutes)

## Star Trek Star Stars

*Juggernaut* is the hit science-fiction show now playing through Labor Day in the Strasenburgh Planetarium. The show stars William Shatner as the spaceship commander who attempts to stop a rogue planet on a collision course with Earth in the year 2039.



photo courtesy WHEC-TV

In a *Democrat and Chronicle* review, Popular Arts Editor Jack Garner called the show a "real thriller," and said the Planetarium was to be credited for the "high quality of visuals" and "superb music."

Showtimes daily in the Star Theatre are listed on the newsletter calendar.

## In Memoriam

Philip H. Dardenne, Finance Director for ten years, passed away suddenly on June 17. The loss is deeply felt by everyone at the RMSC.

Mr. Dardenne became responsible for the fiscal administration of the RMSC in 1968, when the operation of the complex transferred from the city to a citizens' board, and the county began to provide the financial base of support. Executive Director Richard C. Shultz recalled this as an important, transitional time in the RMSC'S history. He praised Mr. Dardenne as the "architect" of an accounting system still in effect and characterized him as "sensitive and meticulous in his work."

31 Cliffside Drive  
Route #5  
Canandaigua NY 14424

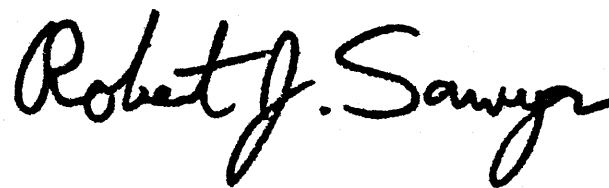
24 September 1979

Dear Planetarium Staff:

Enclosed is a photocopy of "Motive", my entry for the science fiction story contest announced in the August 1979 issue of RMSC News.

Whether I win or not, knowing that Isaac Asimov will read my words is certainly reward for the effort in writing this story.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert J. Sawyer". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Robert J. Sawyer

# Rochester Museum & Science Center



Bausch Hall  
Strasenburgh Planetarium  
School of Science and Man  
Cumming Nature Center  
Eisenhart Auditorium

December 28, 1979

Mr. Robert J. Sawyer  
31 Cliffside Drive, Rte #5  
Canandaigua, New York 14424

Dear Robert:

The response to our first-ever Science Fiction Story Contest has been gratifying and exciting. We received almost three dozen entries, and we'd like to thank you for your time, interest and story. The quality of the work of Rochester's writers, as reflected by the entries we received, is very high. As a gesture of our appreciation of your support for the contest, we have enclosed two guest coupons for your use.

After lengthy and difficult judging, we are pleased to announce the first, second, and third place winners, as selected by Dr. Isaac Asimov:

- 1) Exodus, by Joanne Mitchell, Ph.D.
- 2) Palisades, by Peter Wm. V. Fedorchuck
- 3) The Expatriates, by James A. Abbot, M.D.

The purchase prize is still under consideration, and will be announced in January.

We would like to invite you to a reception for all entrants at the Strasenburgh Planetarium, 663 East Avenue, at 8 pm on January 18, 1980. At this reception, the awards will be presented, refreshments will be served, the first-place story will be read, and everyone will have a chance to see our current show, Illusions. You are also invited to bring one or two guests with you. Please let us know whether or not you will be able to join us, by calling 244-6060, (Monday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm) and asking for Josie Estill.

Cordially,

Francis C. Bidy  
Associate Producer  
STRASENBURGH PLANETARIUM

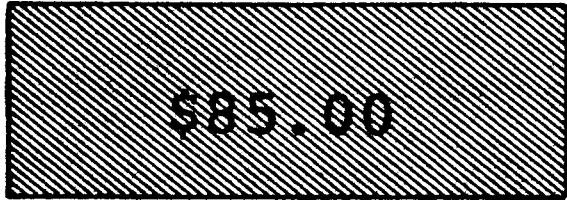
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# ROCHESTER MUSEUM AND SCIENCE CENTER

657 EAST AVENUE  
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14607

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No. 022512

DATE	CHECK NO.	PAY TO THE ORDER OF	AMOUNT
Jan.16/80	22512	Robert J. Sawyer 31 Cliffside Drive Route #5 Canandaigua, New York 14424	 \$85.00 \$85.00

TWO SIGNATURES REQUIRED OVER \$1,500.00  
ROCHESTER MUSEUM AND SCIENCE CENTER

*Donald H. Mack*

UNIVERSITY - CULVER OFFICE  
MARINE MIDLAND BANK  
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14607

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ROCHESTER MUSEUM  
& SCIENCE CENTER

DETACH AND RETAIN THIS STATEMENT

THE ATTACHED CHECK IS IN PAYMENT OF ITEMS DESCRIBED BELOW.  
IF NOT CORRECT PLEASE NOTIFY US PROMPTLY. NO RECEIPT DESIRED.

DATE	INVOICE NO.	ACCOUNT NO.	NET AMOUNT	VOUCHER TOTAL	MEMO
Jan.16/80		67-701	85.00	85.00	<u>1980</u>

# Rochester Museum & Science Center



Bausch Hall  
Strasburgh Planetarium  
School of Science and Man  
Cumming Nature Center  
Eisenhart Auditorium

June 16, 1980

Mr. Robert J. Sawyer  
31 Cliffside Drive  
Route # 5  
Canandaigua, New York 14424

Dear Rob:

I'm very pleased with the progress we're making on Futurescapes, the show based on the three purchase-award stories. The process of adapting the three stories to a very exacting visual medium has been long and difficult, but the planetarium staff is now eagerly anticipating opening night. The show will open at 8 pm on Monday, June 30.

Please accept our invitation to join us for the opening night performance. After the show, we'll all (staff, writers and actors) get together for pizza and beer/wine/soda. Feel free to bring a guest. Please let me know whether or not you'll be able to join us (244-6060 - if I'm not available, leave a message with Josie Estill).

I've enclosed a copy of the show script for your interest. Visual cues are noted in the margin.

Cordially,

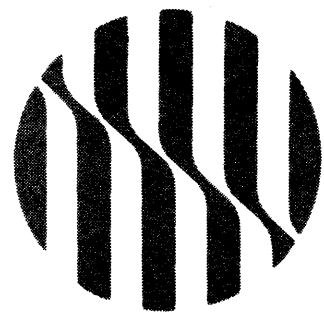
Fran Bidy,  
Producer  
STRASENBURGH PLANETARIUM

FCB/jfe  
Enc.

# HEXAGON

JUNE 1980

YOUR CONNECTION WITH THE ROCHESTER MUSEUM & SCIENCE CENTER



**Rochester Museum  
& Science Center**

657 East Avenue • Post Office Box 1480  
Rochester, New York 14603  
(716) 271-4320



**Premieres**

Adaptations of award-winning short stories from the Strasenburgh Planetarium's recent science fiction writing contest constitute its newest feature presentation *Futurescapes*, opening Monday, June 30. Each of the show's three segments proposes a different tale of what the future may hold for us.

The first segment, "Motive," is from a story by Robert J. Sawyer of Toronto and Canandaigua. This is a murder-mystery set far in the future when the earth has joined other civilizations in the exploration of our galaxy. Diplomatic relations are about to be opened with yet another civilization when a charismatic ambassador dies under mysterious circumstances. This is a classic whodunnit with a surprise ending.

"Palisades" is adapted from a story by Peter Wm. V. Fedorchuk of Wayland. As the story opens, three astronauts are engaged in a routine mission to service a giant, earth-orbiting satellite. When their mission is sud-

denly interrupted by the abrupt arrival of an alien presence, this futurescape becomes a bizarre struggle to communicate.

The last story in the trilogy is "Exodus," by Joanne Mitchell of Rochester. This is the story that Dr. Isaac Asimov selected as the first prize winner in the Planetarium's contest. The first space colony is under construction in earth's orbit. It is soon to be populated by a carefully screened crew. The well-orchestrated plan goes awry when a group of unwelcome guests arrives in their home-built rocket. They are refugees from earth, eager to work, and dedicated to a future in space. Will they be sent back to earth, or allowed to remain as the first colonists? "Exodus" is a warm and moving story, with an unexpected double twist at the end.

*Futurescapes* premieres at 8 pm Monday, June 30 and continues through Sunday, October 19, with performances daily. For showtimes and admissions, consult the HEXAGON calendar.

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