

As I wrote this article I found myself thinking that these would most likely be the FINAL words I would write about this. As the show that has brought controversy, and heartache to.....others comes to it's end. But even as that end has come I find my mind still thinking about this show.

What I'm talking about the show called Battlestar Galactica. Or what some refer to as....the Ron Moore show. There's another name it could be called by but I'll hold off from using until the end of this article.

I've made no secret about my feelings about this show. It's caused me a good deal of friction with a lot of people I consider my friends. And it causes me heartache whenever I think about how things have developed. Often my feelings on the matter have gotten the better of me on this, but they don't really know my side of the story on this matter.

So tonight. One time only. After that you can throw this article in the trash if you want.....I tell all about Battlestar. My side of the story.

Like many others I was a fan of it when I was a kid. I watched the 78 version until it went off the air. I don't remember how I felt about the cancellation but I was into TV pretty well at the time. When my family got their first VCR Galactica 1980 was the first show we recorded. My first lessons about the Nazis came from this show. Probably one of the few good things I got from it was something to learn from.

Then it went off the air. Sad as I expected more to come.

Over time I moved on. Went to school. Parents divorce. Neither of which were highlights of my life. House got bulldozed, college, and so on. I found other shows to watch. Star Trek, Babylon 5, etc.

I first heard about Richard Hatch's efforts through an article in Starlog. Didn't think much of it at the time. I only saw him on TV once or twice on TV after Galactica. Once on Fantasy Island the second on MacGyver where he played a villain after MacGyver and a guy played by Edward Mulhare from Knight Rider fame. After that not so much.

Then Maximum Press came out with a Galactica Comics line and I picked up the issues I could. They were done in Limited Series format and they ended with a series called Journey's End. More was promised, but none came.

However that wasn't all. Richard Hatch had come to Marcon promoting his efforts to bring back Galactica. He said he attended a convention one year and was surprised at how many people recognized him. To that end he decided to see what he could do about reviving this show himself. The Maximum Press comics was one avenue he was pursuing. Another was a series of novels he was doing.

And another was through a concept trailer. All of these approaches were to have the series take place twenty plus years later. The events of Galactica 1980 were to have been forgotten with the exception of probably one episode 'The Return of Starbuck' which was supposed to have been a second season episode called 'Judgement Day'. The old generation would have grown with the times teaching a new generation that had been born in space with cheese and camp that critics these days frown upon kept to the barest minimum if not non-existent.

The logic to the dismissal of G-1980 was that fans of Highlander dismiss Highlander 2 as having never happened(Immortals from the planet Zeist? Please, I say with an eye roll). **And as Larry Hama of G.I. Joe comics fame once said 'fans are keepers of the canon. If they don't like something they put it out of existence. Just like Cobra-La.'** He was making reference to the creation of the city of Cobra-La and its related concepts and characters in G.I. Joe the movie. They didn't take well to fans so they said 'that didn't happen'.

The trailer Richard Hatch had done was called 'The Second Coming'. It was a visually exciting spectacle. At least I thought it was, as did others as it seemed to garner standing ovations whenever he played it. It

was hoped he would make it into an actual movie or bring about a new series. He shot in different locations, one even a warehouse. All without Universal's knowledge.

I listened to Mr. Hatch speak. He was, and is, a great motivational and inspirational speaker. He encouraged others to follow their dreams. Never give up. And he gave speeches on his passion for Battlestar. A passion that had caused him to apparently run up credit cards and take out a second mortgage on his home so he could make his trailer.

He spoke of fans that rallied to his side with costumes, props and sets. I remember what he said of the fans and how it was a fan base that went three generations. Parents that were now grandparents, kids that were now parents, and their kids.

Small? Insignificant? (a little foreshadowing here) Not in my mind after listening to this. Although there was a part of me that did find the three generations bit a little hard to swallow.

Still he made someone feel good when one wasn't up to it. **He saw fans as people. Good people that wanted the best entertainment for themselves and their kids. People with passion and drive. He didn't see fans as idiots and morons that tell us to 'get a life', as so many have done in the past. But regular people with 9 to 5 jobs and a passion for something that brought good memories and feelings.**

He saw something good about Battlestar, and he saw something good about its fans. How could one not love that?

To Richard Hatch Battlestar's revival was, and I quote, **"a labor of love"**. I believed that.

He spoke of investors that were willing to foot the money so a project could be done. He once indicated that he had \$40 million or so from investors to get an actual project off the ground. All he needed was the go ahead from Universal.

That go ahead did not come.

Incidentally, Mr. Hatch indicated one time that he could have kept going with filming after 30 minutes if he and his people wanted to. I asked if Mr. Hatch could have kept going with filming on his trailer project why didn't he? He said it probably would have been good if they had done a whole film and sent it to Universal but he had to draw the line somewhere. Especially as he was paying for it out of his own pocket. His original trailer was to last 30 minutes, but he shortened it down to 4.

Nevertheless he kept trying. However one more obstacle would come up. Series creator Glen A. Larson.

It was reported that Glen Larson had some rights to Battlestar to make a feature film, and he sought to do that. However there were problems with the proposal. First off was Larson's track record with shows and films.

Larson was well known for his shows in the 70's and 80's. He had some hits: Knight Rider, the Fall Guy. But he also had some misses: Automan, Highwayman, Galactica 1980. So his track record, despite past successes was spotty at best. That was one problem.

The second problem was the film he wanted to do. He didn't want the Galactica to appear at all. This story was going to be about the Pegasus, directly taken from the episode 'The Living Legend'. From what I gathered Commander Cain took the Pegasus out into space where he comes across Earth and discovers that they had arrived there by way of the Battlestar Atlantis. A battlestar that was buried for yahrens.

Not far behind would be the Cylons and the Pegasus would have to defend Earth from their attack. The film would end with Cain taking the Pegasus out into deep space trying to find the Galactica and the rag tag fleet that was supposed to go to Earth.

The problem, or problems as the case may be, is that one:to do it the way Glen Larson described would have required one to go back to a 1978 mindset to enjoy the film. And I believe no one could have done that. It would have been like Star Trek:The Motion Picture taking place after the last episode of the classic series. It would have required a mind set to go back to a previous time that some weren't even born in. The passage of time for characters needed to be reflected. And it seemed Larson was not looking to do that, even if there had to be recastings as Lloyd Bridges would not be able to play Commander Cain again.

Third problem:Larson's choice for a production partner. Todd Moyer.

Moyer was the producer for the Wing Commander movie based on the video game. A movie that was regarded as 'bad' at best. It looked cheaply produced, acting was not captivating, and there seemed to be little to no connections to the game series despite Chris Roberts' involvement with the film. Malcolm McDowell did a few scenes as Admiral Tolwyn before deciding to leave in mid production. David Warner replaced McDowell in the film.

FYI, Chris Roberts was the creator of the Wing Commander game series. He directed the film clips for Wing Commander III and IV, and he directed the film as well. When I looked at the film Roberts directed that Moyer had produced I thought Roberts could have done a better job. Others probably thought the same way, so when Todd Moyer's name came up for Larson's production....well the reception was not so....well received.

Also it seemed like Larson was keeping his distance from fans. Standing on an ivory tower that was apparently Hollywood looking down on fans while Richard Hatch was coming down to the fans level being the 'man of the people'. My support was leaning greatly towards Hatch.

What can I say? I'm a sucker for a 'man of the people'.

Also there was doubt that Larson actually had the film rights so he apparently filed Separation of rights, and was granted the movie rights in an official capacity. This has been confirmed by both Tom DeSanto and David Eick. Them I'll get to later. Still more to say about Hatch.

To many fans Richard Hatch seemed different. He was approachable, receptive, someone who listened to what people had to say and tried to incorporate that into what he wanted for Galactica. His trailer also reflected a passion and work ethic that I thought people would not have been able to say no to.

They found a way I'll leave it at that.

But I guess even Hatch's efforts were not flawless. His first two books 'Armageddon' and 'Warhawk' touched on a concept of people born of 'pure Kobollian blood'. This was to reflect people born directly of the bloodline of the Lords of Kobol, and supposedly had a special divinity that made them able to lead, not to mention mental and telepathic powers. Or to stand against the demonic Count Iblis who was the devil from the episode 'War of the Gods'.

The whole 'pure Kobollian blood' angle didn't work with a lot of fans. I guess I myself had a few issues with it. Mr. Hatch was also looking to build on the existing mythology in saying that Kobol was a colony from the planet Parnassus, where fighting amongst themselves caused people to leave their world and settle other worlds. And then those settlers would settle more worlds. And so on. And so on.

I guess he wanted to explain why there would be so many humans in the universe if they weren't all from Kobol, or stragglers from the 13th tribe. Incidentally Mr. Hatch retracted the 'pure Kobollian blood' angle from his novels, which kind of declined in quality. Mr. Hatch blamed this on publishers taking the first draft when he still had much work left to do.

But it was based in the original universe, and people still bought them if for no other reason than to show support for the original Galactica. Plus Richard Hatch had the fans on his side. Including me. **IMO he did a lot of work, work outside a normal proposal (the trailer), and I wanted to see that work rewarded. I think a lot of other people did too, hence the support he had.**

Besides, he did better than anything I would have come up with. If it was me I probably would have done something that would have acknowledged Galactica 1980 as canon, and would have fallen flat. I felt I was always missing something when I spun my ideas for Galactica around in my head.

Listening to Richard Hatch, and reading his work (especially the Maximun Press comics-I thought those did a Continuation approach the best way possible) I had an idea what I was missing. The mythology. The setting and characters that were part of that setting. Galactica always had a Chariots of the Gods theme laced in with many different faiths set amongst a setting out in space. It had Earth as part of a great cosmic scheme unlike other shows where it either had Earth alone or at the center of the universe.

**It also showed us that we were a species worth saving, because we could do great things.** Not to the length Richard Hatch took Apollo with the 'pure Kobollian blood' aspect, but still we were capable of doing so much more. **No matter how much darkness there was, no matter how bleak things got humanity was at its best when things were at its worst.**

That's what I was missing with my ideas, and that was what Richard Hatch had shown and it made sense to me. He seemed to be on target, even more so than Larson. Plus he was a 'man of the people' to fans. He had support of them.

Then one day came a decision from Universal. They were going to go ahead with a Battlestar Galactica series headed by the producers of the X-men movie. Bryan Singer and Tom DeSanto. It would be done in conjunction with Fox.

Very little was revealed about the production, if anything at all. What was known was that they wanted to make sure their production was well endorsed by Glen Larson, who was the Galactica creator. A move that made sense, but was cause for concern with some fans as the proposed project with Todd Moyer was still fresh in people's minds. Even as it fell through apparently. Also Richard Hatch was still in play as the 'man of the people' in the fan community. He still had fan sympathy and he kept hope for his 'Second Coming' proposal alive.

A new Centurion proposal was leaked out involving Cylons with a 'Y' flashing red light. Pictures of this model were leaked on [battlestargalactica.com](http://battlestargalactica.com). However it would be revealed that this model was a fake. There was another model considered that was more of a gladiator model, and it was supposed that that would be the new model for the new Cylon Centurions. Still very little was being released about this project. The reason being that Tom DeSanto wanted to keep things as a surprise, like a present to be opened on Christmas morning.

This cone of silence would be considered a factor that would bring this project down. Another was 9/11.

Due to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center that led to the towers' destruction and thousands dead. Not to mention a country on high alert, everything was immobilized. Production of the Galactica project was held back a month, but when work resumed Singer was faced with a scheduling conflict.

He had to report to work on the set of X-Men 2 and begin his directorial duties. It was said that Singer had to choose which of his two 'children' he had to look after.

Singer chose X-Men 2. DeSanto was left with the Galactica project alone, even though Singer would retain an executive producer credit. DeSanto scrambled to find a new director for his pilot and found one in

Nicholas Meyer, director of two of the best Star Trek films. Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan and Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country. Meyer also had a producers credit for Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home.

But tragedy continued to hit DeSanto as Fox, which hadn't totally cemented its reputation for poor Sci-Fi treatment yet in the eyes of some, pulled its support for the Galactica project leaving DeSanto scrambling to keep the project alive. He thought he found a lifeline with the Sci Fi Channel who agreed to promote the project as a two night mini series. In retrospect, Fox probably would have given Battlestar the same treatment they would have given to the show that replaced it...Joss Whedon's Firefly.

As DeSanto went to work on rewriting his script to accommodate the mini series format he would find out secondhand, that on April 2, 2002 (year speculative) that DeSanto would not be in charge of the project. A project he considered to be a dream of his and he was being forced out.

Now here's where the real fireworks begin, and where tempers really start to flare....with fans.

The day after April Fools day 2002 it was announced that Sci Fi Channel would do a new Battlestar Galactica series. A series Bonnie Hammer said was an opportunity to 'reimagine' a series. Ronald D. Moore and David Eick were listed as head producers. DeSanto was not even in the equation.

Out the gate the term 'reimagine' was cause for concern. Because when fans got together they were asking for an updated continuation with as much of the original cast as possible, but working with a younger cast as well. Something for older generations as well as new. As such we waited with baited breath looking to see what Ron Moore would provide.

First interview that came up was on battlestargalactica.com that Moore had. **In it he said the decision to reimagine was his because continuing the show didn't interest him as much as going back to the beginning and retelling the story had done.** Right out the bat he was saying he was putting, and pursuing, his own interests above those of the fans that wanted a revival.

**Ron Moore was taking 'a labor of love' and going into business for himself.**

And BOY was he in business for himself!!!

Some time later Moore sent a copy of the script for someone to review. That someone sent out a list of pros and cons showing what did work, and what didn't. Suffice it to say the list of cons outweighed the pros.

From the beginning he told of how Starbuck and Boomer would be turned into women. The setting and mythology were all gone replaced with something out of Top Gun (Incidentally Ron Moore worked with Tom Cruise on Mission Impossible:2.) It was painting the Cylons as created by humans. Two characters named 'Laura Roslin' and 'Number Six' were introduced. Right off the bat we could tell this was nothing like the rich backdrop setting the original provided. Emphasis on dysfunction and not much in terms for someone to get behind and root for. No sense of honor. No sense of nobility. No.....heroes. And that was just for starters.

I should point out that J.Michael Steczynski made his characters on Babylon 5 flawed, yet he also let their noble moments shine through. Some later in his series. Some earlier on. Suffice it to say Moore is no Straczynski.

But for the most part it seemed like it was change for change's sake. It was Moore putting his fingerprints on someone else's work, putting his own name on it, and making it to his own liking.

Another sore spot was Moore comparing his show to 9/11. Something DeSanto said he wanted to do. But while DeSanto at Galacticon (something I'll get into later) said he wanted his 9/11 comparison to be a reflection of the heroes on that day, and of a nation banding together. Moore's....didn't come off that way.

From the line 'the Cylons were created by humans' it looked as if he was saying America basically created its own terrorist problem in the eyes of some. The Cylons apparently were supposed to represent Al Qaida as they had 'found god'. This was leading to wondering if a Count Iblis reimagining would be far behind. A reimagining of Count Iblis was considered a 'pro' if memory serves me correctly.

And as the review kept coming in there was a lot of sex, baby killing, dysfunction, soldiers fighting each other, no sense of camaraderie. No mutual respect. It was as if Moore was saying 'we deserved what we got on 9/11'. At least that was how it came off as.

Needless to say....fans were not happy. Letters were written, e-mails were sent, etc. And we got a response...from Ron Moore himself.

He said we had been heard, and our voices did count but his decision to reimagine remained the same. He also indicated that he was sorry about it, but.....

**....it's like we rallied behind to have something brought back, and this guy was having his way with it. Saying we did matter....but didn't all at the same time.**

So we continued to write, protest....and bargain. This is where Milton James comes in.

He seemed to make his appearance at a Star Trek board trying to get support for Moore. Then he came over to the Galactica boards and then seemed to make an offer of peace as he represented a fandom called the Neo-Galacticans. Neo being new. We were labeled as the 'Retro Galacticans' by him. Retro being old.

The fanbase decided to take Milton at his word. We didn't want trouble. We wanted our show back, and we wanted it honored properly. With respect it deserved. He seemed sympathetic.

After a while rumors started to swirl that Universal was looking to tell Moore that his story was to be a prequel to the original. Fans considered this and while we decided that while it would not be a continuation of the original it would at least work with the original and leave that storyline intact, as well as what it represented. We figured it was the best that could be done with all parties coming out winners to some extent.

A poll was taken as to whether or not a prequel would be supported. I myself put in a vote for one, as did others. Fans thought progress was being made.

Fans would find that would be so not the case.

As a matter of fact fans would find there was NO consideration for a prequel at all. Nor for any other options. Side story or distant continuation which we also considered. All the studio wanted was what Ron Moore and David Eick wanted-reimagined.

And what was Milton's reaction to this?

Well it turned out it was nothing more than a sick joke. He and his 'Neo Galacticans' just wanted to get hopes up so he could dash them for fun and games. **He even said two phrases that I will never forgive him for nor forget.**

**"We will do anything we can for our boy."**

**"You deserve to be screwed."**

I was really hurt by this, especially the last line. Until this I always thought fans respected each other's fandom and supported them despite disagreements. That was not the case here apparently.

But this was not all Milton had done. He continued on the attack with his 'Neo Galacticans'. Mainly on the Galactica boards the Sci-Fi channel was setting up. But then he started to branch out in a few areas.

On a Galactica mailing list I heard he was getting hopes up again only to dash them again. Calling fans gullible and stupid and finding entertainment in it. At the end he would conclude 'RON MOORE RULES!' Whether it was him or not I don't know. Regardless more trolls came out of the woodwork.

One I remember was called SWClonekiller who was calling Galactica 'the evil clone' and its fans 'old f\*cks' reviving an argument that said that Battlestar was a clone of Star Wars despite a court case ruling that it wasn't. Battlestar made use of several people that worked on Star Wars, most notably John Dykstra who was a Star Wars producer that also helped produce Battlestar. And that the show proposal Battlestar was created from, Adam's Ark, was created before Lucas thought of the idea for Star Wars. And that people listened to Stu Phillips' music and saw no comparison to John Williams' music.

Regardless SWClonekiller said he was out to 'destroy the evil clone' all for the greater glory that was Star Wars. And to this day there are fans of Moore's work that continue to use this argument to justify Moore's 'superiority'.

Jumping ahead here I am viewing the apparent attitudes of said fans of the **'Star Wars' clone argument to be of the mindset that Battlestar was guilty until proven innocent....and even then it was guilty.** Some continue to hold this belief to this day as they seem to praise Moore.

But getting back on track more clones, and trolls, started to appear. Fans were being attacked as being intolerant of change, which I believe is B.S. Even with a continuation there were changes fans would have had to accept. Most notably the loss of Lorne Greene and John Colicos. We also knew the original cast couldn't go on like they could when they were younger, despite a scene Richard Hatch mentioned in his trailer for the Second Coming that had seventeen and seventy year olds doing one armed push ups together believing that their next day could be their last.

Other attacks came in the form of the quote **'punishing the retros for their crimes'. What crimes?** Not worshiping Ron Moore? We were also accused of wanting the 70's, disco and feathered hair back. This was a popular 'Milton' argument.

My individual response to this argument was, and still is, that **I was too young to disco and I didn't care if my hair was feathered or not. The 70's for me consisted watching Sesame Street and the Match Game with Gene Rayburn. On a Galactica note my response to that accusation was, and still is, that if we wanted the 70's back we would have gone with the Larson/Moyer project as I think Moyer would have catered to that....'dated' thinking. Also I had real doubts that Larson had moved on with the times.** His last known TV producing gig was with Atlantis Television and a syndicated show called 'Night Man'. This is also the company that produced season 4 of Airwolf and Earth:Final Conflict if my memory serves me correctly.

But getting back to topic more and more attacks came forth from trolls. Not that we didn't have one or two of our own. Most notably-Languatron.

Languatron, who reportedly went by the name Andrew Fullen, was an interesting troll that sought to make Universal look like an 'evil empire' of sorts. Not that that wouldn't have been hard to prove with the apparent disregard shown to the continuationist fans. But his posts seemed to have an 'out there' feel about them, even to some of the continuation fan base I believe. I know I was starting to be concerned.

Milton then started to show a series of handles on the Sci-Fi board. Handles that seemed to reflect support for Moore's show. It was here that the phrase 'give it a chance' started to be floated around. Most notably by the next Ron Moore ally to cross the pike. A reviewer from the site SyFy portal by the name of Michael Hinman.

Around the time Hinman appeared was when the trolls started doing a mantra of 'give it a chance'. Not that there still wasn't a call of branding the old school fans of 'old f\*cks' and 'stuck in the past' as well as others. I think the term 'Nazi' was thrown in there somewhere as well.

**The Nazi name I found very disturbing. Especially since it was the name of a hate party that was a factor in World War II, and led to the deaths of 6 million plus Jews and others across the world. So if any old school fans took offense to being called 'Nazi'. I'd say that offense is warranted.**

When Hinman came onto the boards he was joining the mantra. In many cases it seemed like he was browbeating fans over the heads with it. But 'give it a chance' was not the only message he had to say.

He also said that fans of the old Galactica were a 'small, insignificant, minority.' And in the end they just didn't matter. A claim that went against an article I read in an old issue of Sci Fi magazine with David Eick which indicated that the fans of a continuation were actually a 'large number' and Richard Hatch's 'three generations of fans' line at conventions. Conventions where he got a standing ovation.

Hinman also said I arrogantly spoke for all fans when I didn't when I left a post. I apologized as a courtesy but I believed I was speaking in regard of fans of the continuation effort. Not necessarily 'for' them, but in regard of them. **I also asked him point blank on line on the Sci Fi boards if it was okay to screw the audience over in favor of the agenda of a few.**

**His answer "To get a bigger audience, yes."**

**Suffice it to say I was offended. Not that he would probably care.**

**But basically he said it was okay to screw audiences over and tear them down in favor of one or two men that were out for themselves and anyone who agreed with them.** Audiences that worked hard, petitioned, and attended conventions so they could have a show they loved brought back.

I can honestly say this added to the sense that I as a fan was being belittled and devalued. And Hinman was just another log on the fire.

Incidentally, did I 'give it a chance'? As much of one as I cared to. But more on that later. There's still quite a bit to go.

Troll attacks seemed to continue, and also around this time troll websites started to appear. Seeming to welcome fans, as I went to one. When I registered I was welcomed, but then I was asked to abandon the original Galactica like it was a pagan god, and embrace the 'superiority' of Ron Moore's version. They seemed to be carrying on like Moore was some sort of god now.

Scary, and nauseating as well.

Also around about this time Sci Fi Channel put up a website for their new Galactica. On it was a message from Ron Moore, as well as a line that would get him into trouble and be another 'log on the fire' so to speak.

On the opening page Ron Moore gave a speech about how Galactica was a sleeping giant ready to be awakened, but that he couldn't expect that giant to be poked with a stick and continue its journey. It needed a makeover.

In the speech he was touting his efforts dismissing the old show as 'popcorn' in favor of his 'hearty meal'. When he referenced those that wouldn't agree with, or like his take he said **'Thanks for coming, but the popcorn is in a different aisle.'**

This quote really offended fans as **it seemed like Moore was saying 'The old show, what you fans wanted is NOTHING compared to what I'm going to do.'** In an interview on the former Cylon Alliance he said he was sorry for the crack implying it was a joke. And I would like to believe that he didn't intend for the quote to be taken that way (although I have my doubts). But the ball was already rolling and it rolled even farther with the line.

He was devaluing the old show in favor of his own agenda.

Now I know some will say 'It's just a TV show' around this point. And I agree with them on that. But it was also a TV show that had fans seeking its revival, and that show was being disrespected, as well as its fans, and the message the old show had.

What was that message? I'll get to that later. Still more steps to go. Steps like Edward James Olmos's comments, a script leaked, attacks on one fan named the Two Brained Cylon, the Colonial Fan Force-as well as a new voice of damnation, a comment from Katee Sackhoff that made her enemies fast, a visit to Galacticon where I saw Moore speak as well as DeSanto, and two other trailers. Where to next?

I guess I'll start with comments made by Edward James Olmos.

Olmos seemed to have some sympathy to original series fans. He made a few comments saying that if one was a 'purist' to not bother watching. **"Don't waste your time. Don't go through the pain."**

He even spoke out about it at a promotional press conference telling fans of the original not to watch. "It would hurt them. And that he wasn't prepared for the backlash that followed." It seemed like he had become aware of the cloners as well as he seemed to be reaching out and giving original fans that hoped for a return fair warning.

**Although I will admit I resent the term 'purist' as I think of the hate group on the show 'Alien Nation'. And they were individuals that couldn't accept any change of any kind.**

Also around this time the script to the mini series was leaked. I don't know by whom. But I was able to obtain a copy.

Bear in mind, until this time my only information until this time was a reviewers statement, some cast and character information, and some viewpoints. Not to mention troublemakers supporting 'their boy'. So I didn't have a good feeling going into this.

It would turn out that my feelings were warranted.

If this was what Ron Moore intended for his 9/11 message I was horrified. It immediately opened with the quote 'The Cylons were created by humans' what was he trying to say here? We as a people created Al Qaida? We as a people decided to arm terrorists to kill us? Or were we as a people trying to impose our view of the world on everyone?

I know I didn't say anything like that. I know I didn't say 'let's arm terrorists or let's impose our world view on everyone'. I want to see the world's wonders not be seen as a world horror.

And then there was the sex going in. What? What was that for? There was like three instances of sex in the first 20-30 minutes alone. And the dysfunction? How can I get behind that?

I didn't see any character I could get behind. Anyone I could root for. It just looked like Moore was taking names and putting them on characters he wanted. He said he didn't want 'cookie cutter' characters of old Sci Fi. What I think he got instead was 'cookie cutter' characters from soap operas.

Gaius the 'no good Doctor'. Six the 'Psycho hose beast'. Kara the 'hit first ask questions later brute'. Lee the 'I hate my father' guy. Saul the 'drunk'. One soap opera stereotype after the next.

It was, as one fan pointed out, **'Melrose Place in space'**.

**What was Moore trying to say here? That we were a screwed up culture? That there was nothing here worth rooting for? That there were no 'good guys' to get behind?**

Let me get back to my views on this before commenting further.

The setting? One of the things that made the original special was the civilization beyond the stars setting. With the Colonial culture rooted in mythological traditions. It gave us the sense that even though we were different than humans from beyond the stars we were also very much the same. We were brothers of man.

Moore's setting? Too Earthlike. Right down to the names. Those names that were known and loved were Top Gun call signs. There was no mythological feel or connection. At least only in a token way. Not the way the original had.

It was like Earth was the center of the universe when it came to culture. It didn't have the 'Earth is a part of something grand' that the original had.

Was Moore trying to do an 'America thinks its the center of the world theme?' Was this part of his 9/11 message too?

And the lottery? It looked again like it was humanity at its worst. It didn't show humanity at its best. Which was always an endearing trait in Sci Fi. If I want to watch the worst I'll watch a soap opera.

So all in all what was the message being portrayed here? The 9/11 message Moore said in interviews he wanted to portray?

America created Al Qaida? We are a dysfunctional sex crazed society? Our military is undisciplined or they're not the heroes people say they are?

Or was his underlying 9/11 message 'we deserved what we got?'

A lot of people hung on that 9/11 quote wondering what to expect. A lot of people were sickened by what they read. And don't get me started on the baby killing that Six did. Or Eick's comment about it saying our reaction to baby killings was our 'human prejudice'.

A lot of people, I think, would agree that that was not a good thing to say.

Nevertheless we continued to voice our objections. And those objections went unheeded. Critics like Hinman, and clones like Milton looked like they were being given preferential treatment. Probably because they were all for Moore's agenda. One fan however came under direct attack from these 'fans'.

His handle was 'The Two Brained Cylon'.

'Two Brain', as he came to be known. Was under attack from all directions. Clones and thugs really seemed to be ganging up on him. Mostly because Two Brain seemed to be constructing solid arguments as to why he could not agree with Moore's views. The rationale he gave seemed to bring many continuation fans to his defense, especially against the hate filled fans wanting to crap on the old show and its fans.

And yet it seemed like those hate filled fans were being given the free pass. All because they worshipped 'their boy'.

Years later when 'Two Brain' was going through a divorce, those fans that attacked him reportedly celebrated the divorce. I will safely say I felt disgusted by this.

And yet Moore showed up to offer some support. I saw a post of him apparently telling the cloners to knock it off. He said that they were doing him no favors, nor his show any favors.

Well that was true. They weren't. And he did do a small contribution to an effort called 'the Colonial Fan Force' which was looking to have an ad printed in Variety magazine. What was the ad about?

Getting the original Galactica on the big screen, with Tom DeSanto as producer.

It would turn out that Glen Larson DID in fact have the feature film rights to Battlestar. Something confirmed at the 25th anniversary Galacticon which I had attended.

It had some endorsements from a publication 'Hollywood North Report', also from Richard Hatch, Dirk Benedict, Ron Moore, and Aaron Douglass who played Tyrol and considered himself a 'purist' as well.

But unfortunately any bridges to the old fans seemed shattered by those that sought to tear them down and put 'their boy' on a pedestal. Including clones, who would later be revealed thanks to Two Brain, were the work of someone named Ted Gorospe'. Another notorious reviewer named 'Lee Goldberg' who called fans of the Fan Force 'clueless morons' before going on to attack fans of 'Enterprise' for their revival efforts.

Some time later he would give Ron Moore a ringing endorsement. Mostly because, I think, his show pissed off so many fans. And I believe he thought fans needed to be 'put in their place.'

Goldberg did not have a good track record among fans. He worked on a few 'stinkers' in the past. Shows like 'The Highwayman', 'She Wolf of London', and 'Seaquest DSV'. Seaquest however had potential to be better than it came out to be. And it was reported that when fans spoke on how to save the show when it was in trouble Goldberg ignored them.

And when the show was cancelled Goldberg reportedly blamed fans instead of himself. The people who wanted the show saved more than anything and he ignored them. And when the show ended he blamed them. Go figure.

At some point I believe Moore said there was room for another Galactica, but the practice of those words would be far from perfect. Especially with the damage that had been done, and was continued to be done. Most notably, from the actress who had played Kara Thrace-Katee Sackhoff.

It would be reported that Katee was given the role of Starbuck as 'stunt casting' saying that Moore just wanted 'cheap buzz' as well as his own way. This went against the grain of fans especially, as Glen Larson had said in an interview that the role of Starbuck was created especially for Dirk Benedict. Fans asked 'Why couldn't Moore have used Sheba? Or Athena? Or even Cassiopia?'

As Moore would later reveal in a third season interview show I believe, he wanted to get people talking. And changing the gender of a popular character was a sure way to do that. As well as make them angry. And a lot of fans were angry. A lot, but not all.

But when Katee Sackhoff gave her infamous quote, a lot more fans were angry. Especially me. To the point where she might as well have been public enemy number one to a lot of people. The quote?

**"I'm Starbuck! Deal with it!"**

This was a slap in the face to a lot of fans who worked to get Galactica back. **And it seemed like Sackhoff was going to be Moore and Eick's personal symbol giving the impression that they considered themselves above the audience, and that they would do anything they wanted to any property they wanted.**

Well almost any property. Moore wanted to reimagine Dragonriders of Pern, but the McCaffery's stopped him there. Eick tried with Bionic Woman, but bad ratings and a writers strike killed that idea.

I will admit that I was upset about Moore changing genders here as I thought (and still do think) he was pursuing his own interests over the fans, but until Sackhoff's quote I had reserved judgement. When she gave her quote, judgement was passed.

It was like she was putting out a forest fire with napalm. She was looking to burn anything in the forest that offended her with no regard for those that were willing to give her a shot.

One thing I believe is that an actor, writer or director: anyone who puts on a production does it for an audience. If they are not in the business for an audience, to give them what they want, then they have no business being there.

**And you never NEVER look down or disrespect that audience.....EVER!!!**

Katee Sackhoff disrespected the audience with her quote. And she lost respect of quite a few fans I think. **Some still hold a grudge today, as she has, as far as I know, to this day NOT apologized for it. So does she think she is above the audience as well?**

**Or does she think she is above that sort of courtesy? Just as it seems like Moore and members of Hollywood apparently think they are above any sort of courtesy.**

Regardless things didn't look too well. Clones, trashing reviewers, disrespectful actress, writers out for themselves. Where to next?

GALACTICON.

I attended the 25th Anniversary Galacticon at Universal Studios in L.A. First time I think I had really gone to L.A. in recent memory. Word of advice, if you go to L.A. don't go alone. It can be a very intimidating city, and you can get lost in there. Or feel like you can get lost in there.

Galacticon was interesting as I got to see all the different versions of Galactica that were on the table through trailers. Richard Hatch's Second Coming, Ron Moore's version-of which he made a trailer of, and a concept trailer of Tom DeSanto's aborted version. First let me start off with Moore's version.

Ron Moore attended the first night of Galacticon, and I saw him speak (I kid you not). His first opening line was 'I killed Kirk'. Dull laugh there. A reviewer said the crowd was 'hostile'. I guarantee you that we were not as I was in that audience. Richard Hatch kind of smoothed things over. I guess he was the opening act.

I saw Moore's trailer which had a few scenes from the mini series. Most notably the card game scene and the fistfight that followed. I was not impressed. It seemed so, dull, lifeless, and the fistfight that followed?

I was just sad. It was like I read in the script. **And in my imagination as I read the script I imagined the cigar to be bigger.**

**I support a revival, devote time to writing letters, support a trailer, get screwed, attacked, berated, told I didn't matter and that it was okay to screw me over for what I saw before me?**

**I was saddened and heartbroken. And that's just starting out.**

Before I get to the next trailer I saw I wanted to point out another thing. Glen Larson was present at Galacticon as well. And he made a grand announcement that he HAD in fact acquired the feature film rights to Galactica and he hoped to get a project done in 18 months.

Fans hoped Glen would do it with Tom DeSanto as Tom wanted to do it, and apparently Tom had some meetings with Larson. Also it was asked if Apollo and Starbuck would be in it. Larson said they could be, if memory serves correctly.

What happened? **Well 18 months had passed. And what happened? Take a guess. Take a good guess.**

I saw Richard Hatch's second coming trailer again. Really that was a symbol of fans coming together if there ever was one. I truly felt that trailer brought out the best of people and fans. 'How could one say no to that?' I thought. Well Universal found a way.

Second Coming wasn't the only trailer I saw. Hatch also displayed a concept trailer for 'Great War of Magellan'. A concept Richard would like to work on. It centers around an ageless man called Akillian and his story of a war against a relentless foe called the Kabba in the Magellanic Cloud. Apparently it was a story of humanity finding its roots. Hatch played Akillian for most of the trailer. The beginning and the end of it Richard Lynch played an aged Akillian who was found by a Mars survey team who looked to take him back to Earth. On the journey more of the story would be told.

It looked interesting. And frankly if anything I thought this would be a property I would let Moore get his hands on as he would have built a new concept from the keel up. He would have set the show's identity with Hatch watching I think.

Also that day I caught Tom DeSanto's speech and concept. **Now this I was interested in seeing. Finally the cone of silence was being lifted.**

DeSanto spoke out that he was still contractually tied to the mini series, even though he was no longer in charge. And a lot of his ideas were apparently up for grabs.

DeSanto explained that the opening scene he was to have had was Dirk Benedict's Starbuck lighting a fumarello (cigar) on the command deck of the Galactica as it was being decommissioned. Also present would have been fleet commander Orin (A derivative of the name Orion just as the name Baltar was apparently a derivative of Balthazar). Boomer would have been a military trainer having the respect of all the cadets he would have trained.

Orin would actually have been Boxey, all grown up. He's appointed Commander of the fleet, but it seems like a token gesture to him. What is there to command? The Galactica is being decommissioned. There was hardly much need of a military, and everyone had settled on a new outpost believing themselves safe

from the Cylons. Starbuck would have been retired, or semi retired as the case may have been. Continuing on his womanizing ways. Essentially he would have been 'the boy that would not have grown up'. Well to an extent, he would have had a daughter which brings me to the first thing DeSanto wanted to do.

Remember when Moore changed Starbuck's gender? Well DeSanto wanted to change the gender of the baby that would have been Dr. Zee in Galactica 1980. If the show was to be renewed DeSanto wanted to re air the Galactica 1980 episode 'The Return of Starbuck' and have it go back to the original title of 'Judgement Day'. The baby born in the episode would have been a girl, and she would have grown up as a warrior with her origins further explained had the series been picked up.

There also would have been younger characters for younger audiences to get behind, according to DeSanto. So this idea was not just to cater to old school fans only. **I believe DeSanto wanted to grab the widest audience possible. Young and old. But without the cheese and camp that the original was so criticized for.** More on that later.

A classroom scene would have also been featured explaining what had happened in the past 20-25-30 yahrens since the original episode 'The Hand of God'. Essentially the Pegasus would have found the Galactica, but met up with the worst Cylon Attack ever. Sheba would have been on the Pegasus and would have left with it when it got separated from the fleet. The Galactica would have been severely crippled, Adama would have been killed in battle (although there was a rumor of Ian McKellan cast as Adama), and Apollo would have been lost in battle. As such the Galactica and the rest of the fleet flew on alone.

Eventually they come across an asteroid field that appeared to have all the elements needed to sustain the people of the fleet. Tired of wandering the fleet decides to settle. Tigh, or Orin, warns that they had to keep going as the Cylons would surely follow. But those words fall on deaf ears. The fleet stops and settles.

The colony evolves into a 'Vegas in Space' setting, revolving around the mythological and religious overtones the original series had. The concept here would be how humans were worshiping the golden calf.

Yahrens pass and the Cylons are but a memory, something to tell stories about, or like something you blast on a video game. The people believe they are safe. They are wrong as it is discovered on the other side of the asteroid field is a Cylon Base Ship, ready to attack.

As the Galactica is about to be decommissioned by the female president apparently named Maya (a president that has a history with Starbuck-who doesn't probably?), the Cylons strike. Defenses are stripped, the Galactica's main guns are taken out all seems lost when a transmission comes in...from the Cylons. They order all humans to board their surviving salvageable ships, and meet the base ship at pre set coordinates.

Orin however refuses to surrender, as he expected the Cylons to return one day. And even though the Galactica is without its big guns, Orin had an ace up his sleeve. A new generation of Viper put together without the council's knowledge. Don't know how he was able to do that, but still it probably would have been explained later had the show continued, if not aired.

Orin then takes the Galactica into battle with Vipers and limited weaponry. He provides cover for the fleet to escape, and as a coup de gras sends the asteroid colony into the base ship emphasizing the destruction of the calf Moses brought about in 'the Ten Commandments' as well as a pyre for the adultery and sin that took place all those yahrens. It was a burning away of a symbol of decadence and wickedness, at least that was how it seemed to be presented.

Orin then decides that the voyage to Earth is to resume. But then they take a look at the coordinates that were provided by the Ship of Lights beings, and they are discovered to be wrong. The fleet had been

heading in the wrong direction. Why we don't know. But to get back on course they have to return to the Colonies, which are occupied by Cylons.

The final scene would have been a view of the Cylon Homeworld. A world of machinery, and inside one building humans sat hooked up to machinery like the Borg Collective without cybernetic implants. As the camera pans across the crowd they come across one person in particular-Captain Apollo. He sits as we pan to his eye. In that eye a red sensor bounces back and forth. He is part of a Cylon Collective.

Further Q & A revealed that DeSanto had a plan for his series. The Cylon Collective would have been Baltar's idea. A plan to save himself and part of humanity as well. He is recovered from the planet Adama marooned him on in 'The Hand of God', and before he is to be put to death he makes a proposal to the Imperious Leader. He proposes to make humans Cylons, and that there is no need to exterminate them all if they join. Basically join the Cylon Collective, or die.

**I will admit a few question marks about this one as it seemed to reminiscent of the Borg on Star Trek, but I also figured that the idea would be up for modification.**

Basically DeSanto wanted to find a way for Cylons to fly their ships without using controls, which seemed to be a minor complaint on the original Galactica. Why did machines need to operate machines? Why not directly connect to them and be one with them?

I guess a Cylon Collective would have been a good way to bring Baltar back, but in a different body if they needed to as John Colicos had passed on. Still the idea could have used a little work.

DeSanto also told of the Apollo arc, as it would have had Orin try to rescue him. Orin's son would wonder why his father would go to such great lengths to rescue him. For Orin it would be to get back something he loved as he thought so much had been taken from him. Apollo would have been helped by the Ship of Lights beings, one of them being Serina-played by Jane Seymour-who evolved after death.

Another factor would be the son of Iblis, who carries on his father's crusade after the son slays the father. Another mythological reference, don't quite remember which one though.

I won't say this version was perfect, but it still worked with the original, and the sense of hope and faith the original portrayed. The Viper scene seemed like an obvious plothole as where did Orin get those ships would be a good question. Sure he built them, but how?

Also the Cylon/Borg idea could have used a little work, as it seemed too close to Star Trek. And the Ship of Lights questions....well I don't know about anyone else, but I found myself thinking about the Vorlons and Shadows from Babylon 5, and their relationship. Granted the Lightship beings would have had a more divine 'feel' to them as they were rooted in different faiths, and were presented that way to an extent.

Images were also shown of sets being built, and the new Viper being built. DeSanto had used a boat building principle to get the ship half constructed. The Viper never was completed. It was destroyed along with the sets when Moore and Eick took over.

**I won't admit that DeSanto's Galactica was perfect, but I believe it was closer to what fans wanted.** Darker storytelling, yet the sense of hope and faith is maintained. The mythology and setting preserved, and a new generation working with the old. No cheese and camp as far as I could tell. DeSanto admitted the original did have that, but it also admitted that it had good Sci Fi-which is what he wanted to focus on. He also said that he wanted Moore as a show runner, which made sense. His experience on DS9, and the DS9 type of storytelling seemed like a good match for what DeSanto wanted to do. DeSanto also said he wanted to use 9/11 as a theme after 9/11 happened to show humanity rallying together, just as people rallied together after the Trade Towers were destroyed. **DeSanto wanted to show the best of people shining through, just as the original had done.**

Sadly that was not to be, partly due to Fox, who ordered Brian Singer to choose between Galactica and X-Men 2. Singer chose X-Men 2. DeSanto tried to keep the project going with a new director. First name on the list, Nicholas Meyer who directed Star Trek II and Star Trek VI. But then Fox pulled the plug, and DeSanto scrambled to find a new outlet. Sci Fi channel seemed to be a white knight in this as they sought to pick it up, and DeSanto would be back to work.

That didn't happen. DeSanto was ousted. Eick and Moore were brought in, and the reimagining began.

Looking at this I can see where Moore got a lot of ideas from. The decommissioning, a female president, a gender bending, the 9/11 theme that Moore would use in his own interviews to indicate his theme. It would seem that a lot of Moore's ideas were stolen from DeSanto's work. Kind of like Jerry Reed stealing Henry Winkler's playbook from the movie 'the Waterboy'.

**And yet while DeSanto's view was not perfect, I would rather have had an objective, and questioning, view than be a drooling sycophant worshipping everything Moore had done, and attacking people if they didn't find their 'boy's' view to be 'perfect'.**

And Fox, well I realized later on they did not have a good track record with Science Fiction, as the only show that lasted on Fox was the X-Files.

**So the day came when the mini aired, I was going in with a tainted view of fans, a tainted view of reviewers, a script I had read, and a sense of loss over what I believe should have been. A property fans worked to be revived was being brought in on someone else's terms-not the fans' terms (especially as they were willing to negotiate for another format that allowed the original continuity intact and still gave Moore a good amount of the creative freedom he wanted [give and take on both ends of the spectrum, even if the the negotiation proposal for a prequel was a sick joke]), and its fans screwed over unless they thought his work was 'great'.**

**Fall in line, or be discarded until you do fall in line. Those seemed to be the choices.**

As a matter of principle I refused to watch, but my brother asked that it be recorded so he can watch it later. He was on the road at the time. Reluctantly, I agreed.

Bear in mind, this was before hulu.

After all was said and done I indulged curiosity and watched the first fifteen to twenty minutes of the tape. With the exception of the one planet with twelve cities being replaced by the twelve planets, it was basically the same as I had read right down to the sex scenes at the beginning.

Reviews from fans I read showed there were only one or two changes done to the script. The twelve colonies obviously had gone from being twelve cities on a planet to being twelve planets again, as well as a removal of a line 'we are the flawed creation' out of concern that it would be taken as an anti-American message according to reports on cylon.org .

I want to focus a little bit on the 'we are the flawed creation' line. I'm wondering what were we supposed to get out of that? Especially in a show that was supposed to revolve around a 9/11 message?

Remember in earlier interviews Moore said he was looking to do a 9/11 allegory with his mini series, much like DeSanto wanted to do. **But while DeSanto was looking to promote the BEST that was brought out of people on 9/11 Moore sought to promote the WORST of people. But what Moore didn't realize, failed to realize, or didn't care to realize is that the worst of people often needs to tear down the best in order to validate, or justify, itself.**

And the 'we are the flawed creation'? What did he mean by that? Was he referring to America with that line? Was he saying that America is a country that sought to play god with the rest of the world? That America is to blame for all the world's woes, and because we are so screwed up that we deserved what we got?

I'll want to get back to these questions later, and rest assured I will as there's a lot I want to say here. Right now I want to reflect on the Colonial Society Moore had painted that seemed to reflect America in Moore's mind.

Colonial society in Moore's show seemed to be a sex crazed society full of dysfunction and everyone pretty much hating each other. Lee hating his father. Kara hating Tigh Basically everyone pretty much hating each other unless they were having sex with one another. Everything also seemed 'Earth like' as everyone had first and last names as if giving an American reflection. As if saying 'We are the world' supposedly instead of 'We are part of a greater whole' as the original seemed to invoke with its larger than life setting and mythology.

Eick also found other ways to piss people off as a scene involving Number Six killing a baby brought up some concern. David Eick's response didn't make things any better as he said the horrific reaction of a baby dying 'was our human prejudice'.

## **WHAT?!**

What did he mean by that? Was he saying that people are bigots for hating babies getting killed? I'm not sure I want to know.

Regardless, the mini aired. Numbers were high for Sci-Fi as they went all out on media promotion, not to mention fans that worked to revive the property. 3.2 to 3.3 I believe the numbers were. Right up there with some episodes of WWE Monday Night Raw on USA. Some were disappointed. The media however was elated, as were fans that agreed with Moore's take.

And it seemed that there was no end to the gloating.

On Sci Fi boards the Moore backers boasted like they had won a grand victory. In his Sy Fy portal article Michael Hinman gloated about how right he was in his backing of Moore's show. A man that called fans of a continuation 'small and insignificant', and that it was okay to screw them over to get a bigger audience.

I know what you're saying. It's just a few individuals. Nothing to get bent out of shape about right? Wrong!

For the media had found their golden child in Moore's show. TV Guide, Time, Rolling Stone, Entertainment Weekly, a lot of them were praising Moore for his efforts. And many of them followed the trolls example of taking potshots at the original. Entertainment Weekly said 'Superior to the original', and that quote is posted on the DVD box of the mini series. TV Guide compared the mini to the drama of '24', but instead of calling it a '24' rip off TV Guide gave it high marks. They even gave a 'cheesy campy' line when referencing the original.

It was as if the media had to tear down the original to build up Moore's show. Tear down something that had a hopeful positive message about people in order to promote a dysfunction heavy, apparent blame America show that was done by two self promoters, and supported by a troll and his army of clones and thugs, despite the high numbers of viewership. Even the fan magazine of the mini seemed to try to show how 'inferior' the original was to Moore's 'new hotness' as I looked at a comparison between the old and new shuttles the series' used.

So by my estimation, and the estimation of others, even if the media didn't know about Milton, Hinman, or Lee Goldberg they seemed to be following their examples. **That made things worse, as it seemed**

**a free pass and a pat on the back for a job well done was being given to bad behavior, self promotion and dismissal of audiences wishes unless they agreed with the people in charge.**

Eventually the mini aired in a condensed form on NBC on Saturday Night. Continuation fans took some measure of satisfaction that it finished 4th place. They would later take satisfaction of a Sci Fi original movie starring Dirk Benedict called 'Earthquake' scoring higher than the episode of Moore's show airing that week. Oh wait, I'm getting ahead of myself aren't I?

Yeah, due to the numbers it was decided Moore's show was going to series. The slap in the face fans got, and yes even Moore was quoted saying that the reimagining was a 'slap in the face' to fans wanting a continuation, was going to continue.

Before I proceed further I wanted to make a comment about Entertainment Weekly's line 'Superior to the Original'. **How is a show that is 'Superior' tend to glorify itself with dysfunction, sex and political propaganda over a supposed 'Inferior' show that was about hope, faith and how we as a people (despite our flaws) were worth saving?** This latter part was emphasized in a council of the twelve meeting in the first part of 'Greetings from Earth' where Dr. Salik was taking a moral stance about releasing survivors from a cryo ship, and Adama gave a line saying that "Something miraculous has happened here. Don't let it pass."

When a council member asked what Adama meant Adama said **"Dr. Salik has shown me that we are a species worth saving."**

I'll say no more in this regard. I'll let the statement stand and go from there. Any more I'd feel like I was digging my own grave.

Still what makes Moore's show 'Superior'? The writing? I'll admit that scripts are not rushed like they were in the original, but what about the sex elements that were not needed like Gaius masturbating with holo Six, or the pooping ship? The effects? Granted Galactica's effects were state of the art at the time, but so was the original Star Wars'. And they still hold out well in the minds of some.

Note I said 'some' not 'all'. Some do not count the special editions Lucas had made, and thought the films were fine as they were. And nowadays, with CGI EVERYONE's effects are supposedly 'superior' to Battlestar, Star Wars and other Sci Fi of yesteryear. But you won't hear anyone saying Moore's effects are 'Superior' to that of the original Star Wars will you?

The drama? Too soapy and dysfunctional for my taste. For me I prefer the term 'superior' as described by Greg Cox in the second part of his Eugenics Wars novel in **that 'Superior' people are those that learn traits like compassion, and empathy. To Cox THOSE are the 'superior' humans. Not ones that have attributes grown from a test tube. That what truly mattered could not have been found in genes, but what we could learn from our better natures.**

So 'superior'? I don't see it.

I won't say that the humans on the original Galactica were perfect. In fact they were far from it. Quite a few of them, most notably on the council, tried to undercut Adama and pursue their own interests. Most notably Sire Uri in the original movie, and Sire Domra in the episode 'Baltar's Escape'. But the original also showed that despite our flaws we are at our best when things are at their worst, and can become more than what we are.

This point was brought home in the two part episode 'War of the Gods' where it is showed that perhaps one day we can evolve into beings like 'angels' or evolve into a highly developed state. War of the Gods showed people a direction where we as a people can go. Whether it is a highly evolved angelic state, or a demonic follower of Count Iblis, if not be like Iblis himself. This is a message I find Moore's show lacks as it tends to glorify darkness.

But back on topic, Ron Moore's show. Season 1.

I decided to watch the episode '33' on an encore airing. I would not support the show by watching it on a scheduled one, to see if I was missing anything. I couldn't get into it.

As I watched the show, and I made it through the whole hour, I couldn't find any memorable dialogue, and the scene involving the Olympic Carrier (which I believe was supposed to be a parallel to the moral dilemma of the Doctor in the Doctor Who episode 'The Fires of Pompeii'), I just couldn't get anything out of that. Also the whole time I was feeling like a traitor for watching it. Yes I know Galactica is a TV show, but I was feeling that if I continued to watch it I was condoning the poor treatment that the show fans rallied behind, not to mention the fans itself unless they agreed with what Moore had done. Also I just couldn't find anything about this show that I could really get behind. Stories seemed to favor soap opera dysfunction, shock value storytelling and characters, that used names of previously loved characters, came off as unlikable.

So when the second hour came I turned it off, and decided I would not watch it again. Summaries on the net let me know what I missed, and from what I read it wasn't much.

One thing I read was Kara crashing on a planet. Excuse me, but wasn't that plot angle decried as being a flaw of the original. Why use it again? I thought it was going to be different. Going back to the colonies-wasn't DeSanto going to do that? Ships that poop? What's the point? And the return to Kobol, didn't the original do that?

So it just seemed like Moore was just recycling plot points from the original and doing gross outs. Not to mention ideas. However, that was also when Richard Hatch came to the dance.

He was offered the role of Tom Zarek. A political prisoner that was held on the prison barge that had gathered a set of followers, and had held a party held by Lee Adama hostage. I didn't watch the episode, but afterwards Hatch had changed his position on Moore's show.

When the mini had aired Hatch had said no to a cameo role figuring that what was done was not what the fans wanted. He even said so in a statement he had written. I guess since he gathered the fans together to bring Galactica back he felt a sense of loyalty to them. But after the Zarek episode Hatch seemed to become one of Moore's biggest backers.

**From a business perspective I could probably see why he would have done it, as the Second Coming trailer cost him a lot to make. To the point where he had taken out another mortgage on his home I think, not to mention maxing out his credit cards. From a personal perspective I had felt like I had been sold out. And I wasn't the only one as other fans voiced their displeasure.**

Another bitter pill to swallow after a few whole jarsful. With more to come.

When season 2 came, that was when the Living Legend remake came out, and it looked like the same old tricks from Moore. Gender bending Cain (I'm betting Larson wasn't happy with that as Cain was his creation exclusively-it was reported he came up with Cain on his own with no help from Leslie Stevens), shock value with an apparent rape scene with Sharon the Cylon? This was the last straw with quite a few fans of the original as they left. Chances used up.

It was also around here I believe that Tom DeSanto tried another time to get his Galactica project up and running. **This time as an animated show, with support from Cartoon Network.** DeSanto submitted the pitch to David Kissinger, head of Universal at the time and Kissinger said 'he would think about it'.

After a bit Kissinger got back to DeSanto and said 'no'. The official reason was that Universal didn't want any brand confusion. DeSanto apparently accepted the explanation. Fans did not.

**The 'brand confusion' explanation was considered to be the official one. Unofficially it was reported that David Eick BLOCKED the animated project. The apparent reason being was that Eick wanted no version of Galactica competing with his and Moore's.** He apparently wanted the spotlight on nobody but the two of them. And he wanted THEIR version to be the only game in town.

Personally I think that the 'brand confusion' explanation is a bunch of bull. Warner Bros. had released a Superman Movie called 'Superman Returns' around the same time the series 'Smallville' was still airing, which was about Superman before he became Superman. And fans were able to tell the difference. And fans had already made their distinctions between the original Galactica and Moore's version. We are not stupid to not know which was which.

This sucked because having an animated Galactica airing while Moore's was airing would have benefited all parties involved. What one version didn't cater to the other one would. An effective one two combo. Instead it seemed like Universal would only cater to a specific group-those that catered to Moore and his agenda.

Incidentally, TV Guide ran an article where it was apparently reported that David Kissinger had contacted David Eick after talking with Tom DeSanto the first time and saying that a continuation was wanted. Eick refused the idea and said he wanted to do a remake instead. **So does this mean that Moore and Eick BOTH pursued their own interests at the expense of the fans? That BOTH of them were in business for themselves?**

Season 3 came and it was reported to be parallels to the Iraq war, again not favorable ones. Since I didn't watch I can't confirm or deny this (most of my information came from reviews posted by a poster named Stallion Cornell), but I did hear the word 'insurgents' was used, and not in a good way. Kara was supposedly killed off, but came back later-I don't think anyone really bought that as she was the most high profile character.

Fans hoped season 3 would have ended it, as best projections were that it would have gone three years. Fans of Moore's work were hoping 5. **Regardless it went to season 4, which I would say, from a business perspective, is smart thinking as it would leave more opportunities for a syndication package than a three season deal would. Also since reviewers were going ga-ga over it I guess Sci-Fi Channel needed to save face with them, even if they made their decision at the expense of fans.**

I say that a lot don't I?

From what I hear there were a few gems, but quite a few stinkers as well. The dark tone is still maintained, if not overly dark. I just find it so disappointing. And my thoughts have gone a mile a minute here, most notably with the positive reviews in news magazines. Magazines that took an anti-Bush stance.

I guess it was assumed that since Moore's show had some anti-Bush themes a free pass could be given to it. Especially since someone somewhere (don't remember who) made a comment on how the Original seemed

to be a pro-Bush show because it had religious themes to it and spoke highly of the military. It was also decried as a show for the 'religious right'. An accusation I found to be bull.

**And I wondered, by bashing George W. Bush, how have they BECOME George W. Bush?** I came up with a few answers.

And before I give my answers let me just say **I don't give these answers as a member of the right, the left, or center. Basically, it seems like I've been grilled by both sides of the political spectrum for one reason or another. I give these views as, as far as I'm concerned, a regular person.** That being said here are my comparisons.

First let me start off with Ted/Milton and his clone handles and handlers. He basically came off as someone who would do anything for 'his boy' and that anyone who disagreed 'deserved to be screwed'. To that extent he was apparently willing to throw his support for Moore anyway he could. Even if that way was the worst way.

Ted/Milton wanted Moore to win at any cost.

Just as supporters of Bush wanted him to win at any cost during the South Carolina primary during the 2000 presidential election. Bush was 'their boy' and they wanted him to win against John McCain at any cost.

Senator John McCain had won the New Hampshire primary by 19 points causing the Bush campaign grave concern. To that end they went on a smear campaign against McCain. First involving a series of anonymously authored leaflets implying that McCain's tenure as a P.O.W. had either driven him insane, or turned him into a 'Manchurian candidate' who could be turned against the United States with a whispered command. The worst rumor however concerned McCain's adopted daughter Bridget, who had been adopted by McCain's wife from Mother Teresa's orphanage in Bangladesh.

The rumor however said that the child was the result of McCain's relationship with a black prostitute. A very ugly rumor and has been taken as 'below the belt'. The rumor had been speculated to come from Karl Rove. A man reportedly called 'the Architect'. Also televangelists, dissatisfied with McCain's lukewarm abortion stance, and the National Right to Life Committee mailed leaflets out showing support to Bush.

McCain said he didn't want to "Take the low road to the highest office in the land. I want the presidency in the best way. Not the worst way." Sadly it would be the worst way that would win out in South Carolina, setting the stage for Bush to secure the nomination.

Granted this was not 'clone handles', but the mentality was the same as Ted/Milton's. Do anything they can for their boy and win at any cost. Even if it's the worst way possible, like defacing other individuals for their own gain. And that's not the only comparison I have. I have others.

When the President-elect was announced at the 2000 election. Bush was given the victory by the electoral college. But it was said that Al Gore had won the popular vote, and that he should have been President citing voter controversy in Florida. A state where I believe Bush's brother Jeb was governor at the time.

Eventually, the decision was remanded to the Supreme Court. And it was reported that they voted that the nomination go to Bush by one vote. And despite that one vote margin some democrats had, and still do, cried 'foul'. It only ended when Al Gore withdrew from the Presidential race ceding the election to Bush.

So what do we have here? The popular vote was with Gore, but the electoral college and the Supreme Court gave the election to Bush? Is this saying that despite the numbers going to Gore, a select few in power gave the vote to Bush?

Is that any different than Richard Hatch, or Tom DeSanto getting the popular support of the fans, only for Universal Studios, David Kissinger and Bonnie Hammer to give the job to Moore and Eick? Well, more Eick than Moore I guess. But still, powerful organizations went against what a large number of people had wanted. One in government circles, the other in entertainment circles.

And once Eick and Moore got the job did they not put their own agenda ahead of those of the fans? Just as Bush had apparently put his agenda ahead of the people he was supposed to serve? For Moore and Eick, it was re-imagining Galactica and promoting their own politics and agenda. For Bush, it was apparently to promote the agenda of big oil companies and promote policies that went with his faith, and then shoot down other policies like stem cell research that went against it. Not to mention the theory that the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are excuses to fill the pockets of Bush and his supposed business buddies.

**Essentially both parties apparently placed themselves above the wishes of the people, and pursued their own agendas despite their outcry.**

Do I have any others? Maybe a few more. Like the arrogant and dismissive attitude reportedly taken towards the original. **Dismissing it like an inferior product despite its hopeful message.**

Is that any different than the apparent dismissive attitude Bush and Cheney reportedly took towards civil liberties in their anti terror policies as reported by media sites such as MSN.com? Policies that were considered by some to be in violation of the constitution if not possibly the Geneva Convention? Policies that led to the creation of Guantanamo Bay and the reported mistreatment of prisoners at Abu Gharib? Not to mention illegal wiretaps considered by some to be an invasion of privacy? And does that make David Eick like Dick Cheney?

In an additional note the scene that had Tigh interrogating Valeri. It was considered by some to be a reflection on Abu Gharib and Guantanamo Bay (More Gharib than Guantanamo). Was that also supposed to be a reflection on U.S. troops as well? Was the theme 'Blame America' there?

On the show '24', which critics consider a 'worthy counterpart' to Moore's show, the character of Jack Bauer tortures only if there is no choice. From what I heard others say it is not indicated if Saul had a choice or not.

But getting back to the topic of Bush comparisons how about one where Moore's show tend to cater to a select few. What are that select few? Well here's the list. Apparent followers of left wing politics as it seems that the show caters to that sort of political bent, critics, executives and reviewers in Hollywood, and those that outright agreed with Moore and everything he did for reasons of their own.

Let's take these one by one and compare them. Starting out with the apparent left wing political followers.

I guess what I'd want to ask here is 'why cater to one political viewpoint?' Isn't 'bi-partisanship' the rallying cry of the current administration? Is it not best to see people as people? And not as left, right or center? One would probably have gotten more to watch had the politics been left out.

Critics, executives and reviewers. Individuals considered part of an 'establishment' at times much like the government and big business can be considered part of the 'establishment'. Bush had been reported to cater to big business and special interests at the expense of the American people. Most notably the big oil companies. Is Moore catering to the reviewers, critics and executives any different than Bush's as both seem to have been done at the expense of people/fans?

It looks that way to me.

And finally those that agree with Moore. Where does that leave those that disagree? Especially those that helped revive this property? **Because if you ask me the Galactica fans are part of an audience that dwarfs the audience of those that follow Moore any day.**

What is that audience? **The family audience.**

The family audience, by numbers alone, consist of men, women and children. All watching one program at one time. A mass number compared to Moore's show that seems to have at best an 'adults only' bent. There may be some kids that watch, but there are parents that can't let their kids watch his show due to its content. But instead of providing for the family audience that Galactica provided, the audience Richard Hatch said consisted of three generations of fans, Moore sought to cater to an audience that favored him and his views. the rest of that audience was seemingly dismissed as having no relevance.

So in attacking one perceived brand of evil with another have they not become that said evil? **Meaning that if George W. Bush is this 'ultimate evil' that needs to be bashed at any cost why stoop to his level to beat him? Why use his methods, tactics and attitudes? What happened to being 'better than your enemy'?**

**And has Hollywood, and we as a people, turned our backs on being 'good' in a quest to be 'real'? Have they embraced not only the politics of 'Anything Goes', but also the politics of 'How low can you go?'**

**Or have Moore, Eick and Hollywood decided, like Bush and the government apparently decided that might makes right?**

It's kind of ironic that the media is all for Barack Obama, not saying that I disagree with that mind you, as he gave a message of change and a message of hope for the future in his election. Especially since to me and many fans the Original Galactica was all about 'hope' and 'faith' under the direst of circumstances. That people were at their best when things were at their worst. A message that I think went hand in hand with President Obama's message. And yet to praise Moore's efforts and his message, people turned their backs on the hopeful message.

**And then I go back to my question 'In the quest to be 'real' have we turned our backs on being 'good'? Has Hollywood decided that when it comes to money the motto should be 'win at any cost' just as Ted and his trolls had apparently done? Just as many others had apparently done?**

**Where does Hollywood say 'This is the line. We don't cross it.' Do they even say that anymore?**

I just take a look at things now, and I just wonder what has brought the world to this state. A state where a man dressed in a Barney the Dinosaur suit gets beat down and people laugh about it like Beavis and Butt-head. As well as seem to glorify it.

Years ago I saw a news story that had a man dressed as Barney beat down by a group of thugs. It made the late night shows as a 'joke of the day' thing. Especially 'Saturday Night Live' where it did at least two bits that had Barney getting beat up on. One of those times by Charles Barkley as they played a basketball game.

The character that promoted caring and sharing was getting beat up on while the bad boy was getting laughs. I thought caring and sharing was supposed to be a positive message. Why glorify the beating down of the messenger?

That is but one of several thoughts I had as I thought of this article. More came.

Science Fiction has always been the genre that had 'something to say'. Some 'message' it wanted to get across. Other times it was for fun, but many times it had something to say. Sit coms also had messages to say, morals of the day if you will. Even some Saturday morning cartoons had a message to get across.

Soaps I think had no such moral message. In my opinion they just seem to be an indulgence of the worst aspects of people. **But as I said before what most people don't realize, fail to realize, or don't care to realize is that at times the worst aspects of humanity needs to tear down the best aspects on order to validate and indulge itself.**

And that's what I think has been done to Battlestar Galactica. A show that promotes the best aspects of people in the worst situation that has been torn down by the worst aspects of people in order to validate a political, and personal, agenda at the expense of the fans that supported the show. Not to mention look to glorify said worst aspects.

But it's not just the show that was torn down. The fans were torn down too. Not by everyone, just by a few. But if you ask me a few is all one needs to make up one's mind.

**It didn't have to be this way.**

**I think an agreement could have been made so that ALL parties benefited to a certain extent. They may not have been totally happy with the arrangement, but at least fans would have felt like their views had been valued.** And remember we had recommended alternate options: Prequel, sidestory, distant continuation. If Ron Moore wanted creative freedom to do what he wanted, he could have had it with any of those three. Those ideas were turned down. There was no wish to honor the original universe in any way but in token gestures, as far as I could see.

Now I find that the idea of prequel and sidestory is being considered for Moore's version with a proposed series 'Caprica' and the TV movie 'The Plan'. **Why does it seem like the original gets every shafting while Moore's gets every break?**

As I mentioned above, reviewers tend to compare it to the series '24'. Interesting as when I read the script it seemed a lot like '24' with the use of split screens. So why do reviewers consider Moore's show a 'worthy counterpart' to '24' but when Galactica is compared to 'Star Wars' it's considered a 'ripoff'? Are people glorifying dysfunction and disrespecting hope?

What does that say about us as a people? In the original Galactica episode 'War of the Gods' when Starbuck, Sheba and Apollo were brought on board the Ship of Lights they were met with angelic beings that said **'What you are now we once were. As we are now you may become.'** **Giving us a sense that we could outgrow our darker aspects and become something grand. Or we could become like Iblis who uses his powers to lead others down a self serving path that leads to death.**

**So what does that mean for us as a people? Do we become something like the beings of light? Or do we become followers of the dark will of Iblis? Or worse, do we become something like the Daleks on Doctor Who? Hate filled creatures that seal themselves away from everything, hating all that is different, and maintaining a smug sense of superiority?**

On a political note I want to address 'the Cylons were created by man' line. Was he saying that 'all Americans created their problems like Al Qaida' like 'all humans created the Cylons'? Or does it actually fall to one guy to get the ball rolling and getting others to follow along, or be drug along, for the ride and in

the end pay the price for it? This approach has been seen before with the character of Davros in Doctor Who and in Gul Dukat in DS9. One putting his own agenda above all else and 'encouraging' others to follow along or be discarded. And usually those discarded pay a price as well.

**So does everyone follow along? Or does the blame start with 'one guy' who gets the ball rolling? Me I tend to believe it starts with 'the one guy'.**

Getting back to the belittling of fans by some cloners and Hollywood individuals. **I find it to be very insulting as they tend to belittle the very foundation the industry was founded on. They should not tell how members of the audience 'don't matter'. Because if they do that then who are their productions for?**

When I studied theatre in college I was told **'A writer, director, and actor do what they do for an audience. If they are not there for their audiences they have no business being there.'** Also I must add that **if it wasn't for the audiences the institutions, and studios of Hollywood would not exist today.**

So what gives them the right to belittle audiences? So would say the concept of 'freedom of speech'.

**But is it really 'freedom of speech' they want? Or do they want a free pass for bad behavior?** A free pass saying that it's okay to belittle members of the audience, it's okay to treat them like dirt, call them morons, dipsh\*ts or whatever. I tend to lean towards the latter question for my answer. As members of the industry seem to think they are above showing any sort of courtesy to the audiences they are supposed to be providing for.

**We wanted Battlestar Galactica back in the best way, not the worst way. Sadly it looks as if the worst way had won out.** Which makes things all the more tragic.

Because if there was no fan revival effort, if Richard Hatch had not gone from town to town promoting a trailer he made with his own money and with fan support, had Universal looked in the ideas vaults and pulled this idea out on their own initiative, my reactions would not have been as....passionate as they have been. Unfortunately for the fans the revival effort, did happen, Richard Hatch did make his trailer to help build up the fanbase, and at the end of the day what happened?

Fans were screwed, trolls and cloners were catered to by the media. Those same fans were devalued by the same media as well as the show they loved as they followed the message laid down by Milton James joining a lovefest of praise that seemed to make Moore and Eick out to be some sort of TV gods as they made everything about Galactica out to be garbage compared to the golden footage Moore was turning out. A praise that I believe is tainted.

Really, what is it fans of Moore's show enjoy? Is it the show itself? Is it because their 'boy' is working on it? Do they want someone and something to kick around? Or is it all three?

**So in a nutshell, a loved property falls into the hands of a self promoter (or a pair of self promoters), clones and trolls undermine the fanbase, critics try to make us out to be stupid, small and insignificant-not to mention of no relevance, and they also devalue the property and ideas we fought for to make room for the self promoter's agenda. Oh, and let me add how mainstream publications joined in said praise and belittling as if patting them on the back for a job well done.**

**So when I say that 'with few exceptions Ron Moore's show is a show made by a\*\*holes for a\*\*holes' that is a claim I can back up. In case readers were wondering if they are one of the exceptions my answer is 'are you'?**

**I'm not saying that there aren't some good people in the Moore show fandom, and that they would say that it wasn't fair for me to put them in this category. What I say to this is-You're right. No it's not. But please understand Milton/Ted has been the public face of this fandom for a while now. He was the first 'fan' we came into contact with, and it was his message and tactics that the media apparently picked up on.** Not that Moore didn't contribute a little himself at the beginning.

I was told that the decision was 'just business and they didn't set out to screw anybody'. Doesn't matter, they did anyway. Hollywood put their agenda, egos and 'boys' over the good, and wishes, of the audience they were supposed to provide for.

And it also leaves me wondering with Moore's show being as it is **what will they do with the original? What are they going to do to mend fences with the audience that fought for it? What scares me is that I may know the answer to this question, and I don't like it.**

**That answer-'Nothing. Why should we? We're fine with things as they are. Moore's version is standing tall, and the one fans want is in the garbage where it belongs.'**

If this is the answer I don't like it.

I believed a continuation was the best way to go to bring in as many fans and non fans as possible. I still do, but I and others were willing to negotiate and compromise as long as the original was respected and worked with a new production. Would it have been ideal? No, but all parties would have been represented on an equal basis. None would have been favored over the other. Both sides would have gotten equal representation.

This didn't happen, what happened was token gestures were made to make it seem like they were providing for the one group (original fans) while the other (Moore and his supporters) had their agenda. Something that seems reminiscent of the politics of the Bush administration.

Currently news has hit the airwaves about Glen Larson negotiating the use of his feature film rights to make a Galactica movie. I mentioned my reservations about a Larson film. They are reservations I still have, as it would depend on who he gets as a production partner and what story he wants to tell. If it's the Pegasus story, I will have some reservations about it. If it's something else, I might be curious.

**Personally I think Galactica should be given back to Tom DeSanto. He seemed to care about the property, the fans and what investors wanted. Not to mention that doing Galactica was one of the dream projects he wanted to do and it was taken from him.** There is hope from fans that DeSanto will take the production reins of the proposed film. If he does then I will feel like the project would be in the hands of a top quality producer, and not another Todd Moyer.

Regardless I think that something should be done with Galactica. As there is still a section of the fanbase not factored. A fanbase that I believe is part of the larger family audience the Original provided for. If Universal and other studios are worried about profits well then let me just say this.

**'If you green light the film you have a chance of making money. If you say no then you've got none.'**

Especially now as I believe folks are tired of reality shows and 'real people'. I think they want to see **'good' people.**

**People that stand up for themselves for a cause they believe in, are willing to sacrifice themselves for one another for their life is as valued as any one else's despite any flaws they might have had. Where is someone falls they do not laugh at the fall (as is tragically common), walk past them or carry on like they don't exist or beneath their notice, but rather offer their hands to help them up. Helping them get back on their feet so they can begin their journey's walk again.**

**People need to believe that heroes exist, that they haven't been killed off or taken to a back alley and beaten down within an inch of their lives.**

Besides in the Doctor Who episode 'the Deadly Assassin' Borusa said **that 'If heroes don't exist it's necessary to invent them. Good for public morale'. Nowadays I believe that Hollywood has decided the morale of the public is 'not their problem'. Which makes me wonder if the Hollywood industry is not part of the problem.**

**Which leads me to once again asking 'Have we turned our backs on being good people?'**

Some people will read this and say **'Toughen up. You got screwed get over it'. Well instead of me toughening up, why don't they 'soften up'?**

What's wrong with them showing a little compassion to their fellow person? Helping them up if they fall? Providing a solution to their problems and not worrying about their own?

**What happened to caring?**

Because when people cared about one another the best parts of people have a chance to flourish and shine. Honor, nobility and heroes take center stage. When people don't the worst have their field day where the dark, self serving aspects drag those noble virtues down for its own gratification. In Moore's show it seems like his characters just don't care. **And that is why his show will NEVER be Battlestar Galactica to me.**

**To me it will be Galactica In Name Only.**

And that's not a 'derogatory term'. It is what it is.