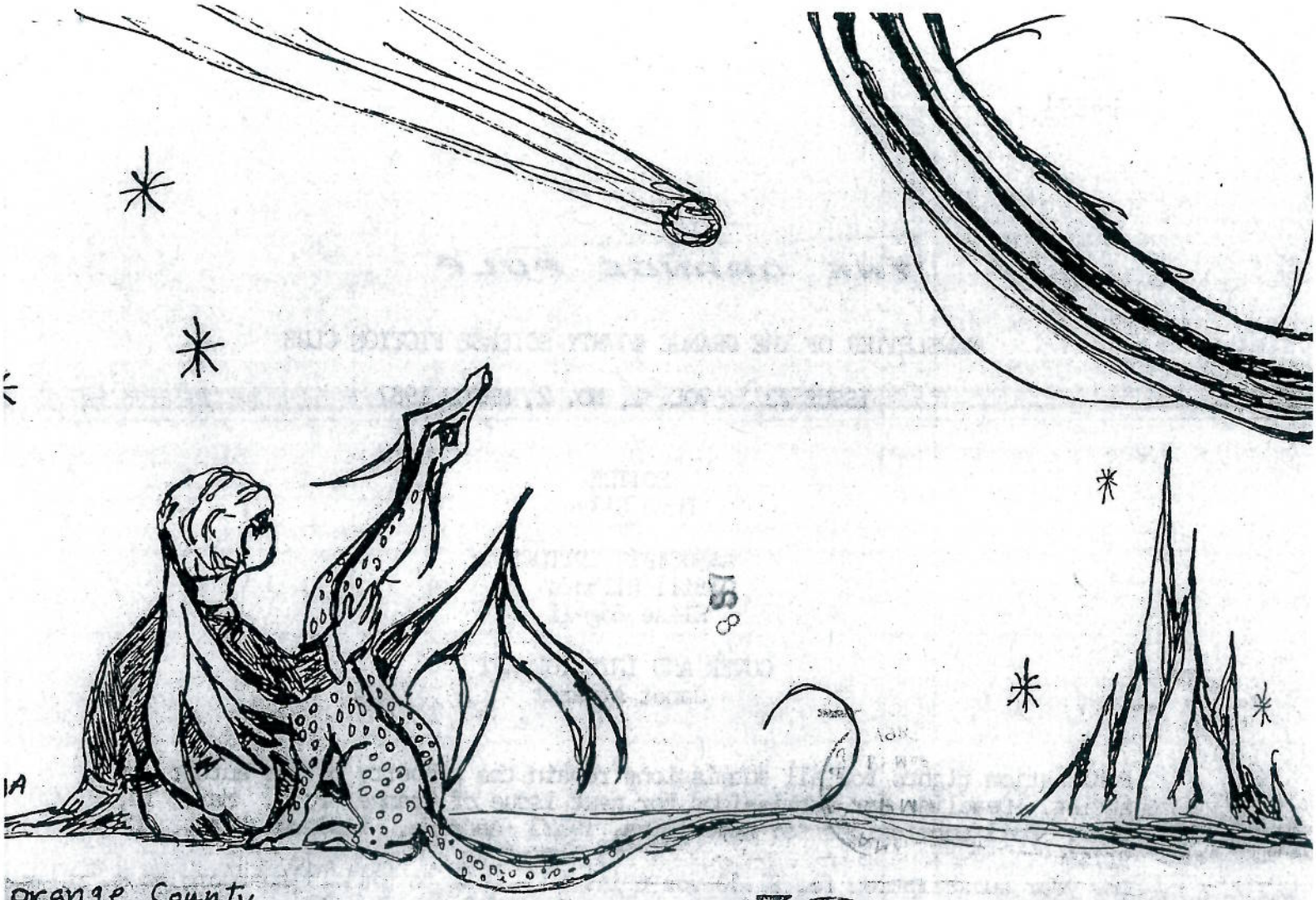

orange County
Science fiction
Club

10720 Westminster Ave.
Garden Grove, Ca. 92643

Next Meeting: MAR 25TH
7:00PM

The Orange Pulp

ISSUE #03

THE ORANGE PULP

NEWSLETTER OF THE ORANGE COUNTY SCIENCE FICTION CLUB

ISSUE #3 . VOL. 1, NO. 2, MARCH 1987

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Publication rights for all submissions remain the property of the author or artist. Deadline for submissions for next issue of Orange Pulp, Mar. 10, 1987. Mail submissions to: Dave Silva, 19323 Andrada, Rowland Hgts., CA 91748
One year subscription fee $1.50 for 6 issues. Mail to Bill Hilburn c/o Book Bin, 10720 Westminster Ave, Garden Grove, CA 92643.
NEXT MEETING: March 25, 1987, at 7:00. At Fullerton Savings, 2400 East Chapman, Fullerton, a half mile West off the Orange Freeway.

MARCH MEETING

Jefferson P. Swycaffer, promising new author, will discuss his work and the state of San Diego fandom. See article by Michael Peralta.

APRIL 29th MEETING

This may be an open meeting where people bring books and horsetrade. We may have a surprize program. Be ready for anything.

A big **WELCOME** to the following new Orange Pulp subscribers: Ned Ashby, Cris Butler, Dean Frost, Frank Kouri, Michael Stark, and Susan & Jim von Sehmacht.

UPCOMING CONVENTIONS

March 21-22: CREATION CON at Disneyland Hotel. At door admissions $15 per day. Harlan Ellison scheduled to appear both days.

April 4: STAR EXPO at UC Irvine campus. At door admission $8.50. Guests Greg Benford, David Brin, Robert Forward, and Octavia Butler
April 4: 8th PAPERBACK COLLECTORS CON in Crown Royal Room of Holiday Inn, 8244 Orion St., Van Nuys, 405 fwy 1/2 block east of Roscoe, admission $2. Guests Robert Block, Harlan Ellison, and A.E. Van Vogt.
April 17-19: EQUICON '87 at Sheraton-Universal, 333 Universal Terrace Pkwy, Universal City, Membership $35. Guests Harlan Ellison, David Gerrold, and Catherine Hicks.

CLUB EXCURSIONS

April 12: Tour of J. Lloyd Eaton Collection at U.C. Riverside. This date is the conclusion of Eaton Conference. Authors attending: Greg Benford, David Brin, Poul Anderson, Harry Harrison.
Meet at Fullerton Savings building at 11:30 for car pooling. Depart at 12:00.

June 14: Tour of Jet Propulsion Lab.
Meet at Fullerton Savings at 10:00 for car pooling. Depart at 10:30

AWARDS AND ITEMS

Orange County resident James Blaylock, who has been a guest speaker at the club, has had his novel "Homunculas" nominated for the Philip K. Dick Award as the best original novel published in paperback during 1986.

Robert Silverberg and Karen Haber were married Feb. 14th (Valentine' day for "Lord Valentine' Castle")

Orson Scott Card's "Speaker For the Dead" led all nominees in the balloting for the Nebula award. "Ender's Game" swept both the Hugo and Nebula last year; if its sequel "Speaker" follows suit it would be the first time in the history of the Hugos that an author has won in consecutive years. Sam Delany's "Babel-17" tied for the Nebula in 1966 with "Flowers For Algernon" by Daniel Keyes. Delany won it in 1967 with "The Einstein Intersection". By winning the Hugo in 1983 "Foundation's Edge" by Asimov was the first sequel to win a major award. Other nominees for the Nebula are: "Count Zero", William Gibson, "Free Live Free", Gene Wolfe, "The Handmaiden's Tale", MargaretAtwood, "The Journal of Nicholas the American", Leigh Kennedy, "This Is the Way the World Ends", James Morrow.

CLASSIFIED AD

"SCI-FY" Wants to rent master bedroom, 1 bath, in Orange County. Unfurnished preferred. I am not a smoker/drinker. Call Marcia Starke (714)241-2066 weekends.

A MIDWINTER KNIGHT'S DREAMS:
FOUR NOVELS BY JEFFERSON P. SWYCAFFER RECONSIDERED

by Michael C. Peralta

Not In Our Stars (Avon, September 1984)
Become the Hunted (Avon, July 1985)
The Universal Prey (Avon, October 1985)
The Praesidium of Archive (Avon, January 1986)

Those fans fortunate enough to have been able to read Jefferson P. Swycaffer's lively APA-zine "Archive Midwinter", or any other of his fannish writings, know him to bea a writer of unusual wit and imagination. These qualities became clear to a larger audience when his first science fiction novel was published in 1984. Since then he has had three more books published, all set against the same far future background. Swycaffer's universe is one in which the Concordat. a bureaucratic government based to some extent on that of the Soviet Union, attempts to hold together the remnants of a vast interstellar empire, which has fallen long before the books take place. The characters in these stories struggle to serve their government as well as possible, while facing the imminent breakdown of the Concordat. The autumnal mood of these books, in which the protagonists are often pessimistic, resigned to fate, and prone to serious blunders, is unusual for science fiction, although the novels of Poul Anderson (particularly his series concerning Dominic Flandry) are an obvious influence.

Although it was not published until after Not in Our Stars had been in print for many months, Become the Hunted is clearly the first in the series and was probably written before any of the others. This brief tale provides a detailed background on the Concordat which is useful for any reader approaching the other books in the series. The plot is a simply one about a typical "Man Who Knew Too Much" hunted by a ruthless assassin in the ruins of a city devastated by the crash and explosion of a space freighter filled with "reaction fuel". Although the story is an unremarkable example of science fiction action-adventure, the background and characters are interesting enough to hold one's interest. We see in this book the work of a promising young apprentice writer.

Not in Our Stars, seems at first to be a typical space opera, full of space battles and vast fleets of star-faring dreadnoughts. Once the climax of the book is reached, however, one realizes that the whole point of the novel is to turn a common cliche of adventure fiction on its head, as the protagonist, Admiral Michael Devon, becomes something much different than one would expect. To say any more would be to ruin the impact of the book, but it can be hinted that the reader should be prepared for a shocking, yet logical outcome. Aside from this powerful ending the book suffers from lenghty descriptions of familiar battle scenes, and is a bit too long for its own good. Swycaffer had yet to find his own voice at this point.

The Universal Prey opens like a variation on Become the Hunted; indeed, the main character here is James Tyler, the same professional killer seen in the earlier novel. Here his mission is to assassinate the man responsible for a nuclear war that destroyed most of an entire planet. It soon becomes clear, however, that Swycaffer is more interested in the personality of Tyler and his slow realization that he is in a dirty and immoral business. The melodrama of a suspense story is cast aside in favor of a fascinating character study, and this novel is probably the most interesting and unusual of the series.

Although published as a novel, The Praesidium of Archive actually consists of six loosely linked short stories and a very short connecting piece called "Upon the Eve of the Last of Days". (The mood of twilight is typical of Swycaffer.) Each story focuses on a different member of the ruling board of the Concordat, and all are effective character studies. Of the six, the best are "Case and Cause", a provocative look at religion and dreams, and "To Live; To Learn", in which we are introduced to the alien Vernae, who baffle humanity with their submissiveness. "Archive Midwinter" (a title familiar to those in the same APA as Swycaffer) is a brief but effective coda which gives a clear sign that the Concordat is doomed to fall. "The Damnable Price", "Escalation", and "A Precise Young Death" all have powerful moments, but suffer from an attempt to link them to an unremarkable space war.

All in all, Swycaffer has progressed from a promising apprentice to a talented journeyman, and he shows every sign of becoming a master in the near future.

FOR LEM LOVERS ONLY

by Marcia Starke

There is a good article in the December, **Discover** magazine about Stanislaw Lem, written by John Tierney. It's a fairly extensive and comprehensive article about the author, his stories, and his philosophy. For those not familiar with Lem, he is one of the better known science fiction writers from the European continent, (Polish) his books having sold more than 12 million copies in 30 languages. Some of his better known works published here in the States are "Solaris", "The Futurological Congress", and "Memoirs Found In A Bathtub".

And, coincidentally, I was in Crown bookstore and they had Lem's book of critical essays, "Microworlds", in hardback, for the lovely low sum of $2.98. If you have time to scan the aisles at Crown, and are swift on the pick, you can find some pretty good morsels (sometimes). I have even found signed science fiction hardbacks on rare occasions (but no biggies have been bagged)

Lem it or leave it.

REBEL WITH A CAUSE

by Dee Craig

At our February 25th meeting, we were privilaged to have as our guest speaker artist-illustrator, Alan Gutierrez. Alan, currently residing in Sedona, Arizona, is a former O.C. resident who attended Orange Coast College as a civil engineering major. It was during his studies at O.C.C. that he decided on an art career. He discovered issues of "F&SF" and "Analog" in the school library and made up his mind that that was the kind of cover art he wanted to do. The transition from novice to popular illustrator were not to be achieved without a struggle.

After grauation from O.C.C. Alan went to Art Center College of Design in Pasadena. His studies at Art Center were constantly subjected to peer pressure to conform to what was then the vogue in the advertising illustration field. Some of his teachers believed that SF art, no matter how technically well performed, was not to be taken seriously. Alan refused to conform, marking himself as a rebel early on in his career. During his

8th semester at Art Center he was told his GPA was a faction too low to permit him the independant study he'd been promised for preparing his portfolio. He boycotted two classes in protest, which nearly resulted in his explusion. A counselor assisted him in working out a compromise that allowed him to graduate and do some independant study.

Among the illustrators that influenced Alan during his early years were Don Dixon, Rick Sternbach, David Hardy, Chris Foss and Kelly Freas. Ironically, he credits the famous writer Goethe's theories on color with being one of his greatest influences

In his last year at Art Center Alan did a cover for "Rigel" magazine (he did 5 covers before it folded), and two paintings for a planetary geologist at JPL. Alan moved to New York after grauation to establish himself as an illustrator. His first cover assignment came from Tor books to do a cover for a David Drake novel. He has since provided the cover art for nearly 60 novels, including covers for Fred Pohl, Roger Zelazny, Gordon Dickson, and Frank Herbert. His work has also appeared in Popular Mechanics, Fantasy Book, the L-5 Society, and most recently the Feb. '87 issue of Analog.

At one point Alan did the artwork for TONKA's "Legions of Power" toy series. He said that "TONKA's demand for the use of certain vivid colors taught him valuable lessons about the use of color that he never learned in school." Arizona's sunsets and scenery have also provided a source of inspiration for his paintings. His reputation in the field now allows Alan to choose the type of atmospheric covers he does best, such as, the soon to be released, "Ragged Astronaut", by British author Robert Shaw,in which the Arizona influence is prominent.

At the conclusion of the slide presentation Alan fielded questions from the group. Asked if he ever discussed illustrations to be used with the author, Alan admitted that was rare and that the ideas usually came from the text of the story itself. When asked about the value of formal training at a place like Art Center, Alan replied, "I don't feel bitter about the treatment I received. They were acting according to the vogue of the day, and were attempting to train their students to work in that market. I was fortunate, while still in school, to sell a majority of my paintings at conventions. Most students were only able to put their works into their portfolios. You learn valuable lessons at a formal art school, but face extreme social pressure to conform to contemporary art values."
Alan brought numerous paintings along that showed how he had developed a work from a pre-production rendering to its completion. Nearly all the pieces he brought were for sale, and I'm happy to report the membership sent Alan back to Arizona with a far lighter load than he arrived with. We hope Alan enjoyed his visit with OCSFC as much as we enjoyed having him, and that he continues to enjoy a fruitful career.

THE SONGS OF DISTANT EARTH

BY ARTHUR C. CLARKE
BALLANTINE BOOKS - 1986

Reviewed by Roland Gagne

In writing there are two mortal sins: Not ending a novel and writing a boring story. Arthur C. Clarke has committe the latter of the two crimes against S.F. readers.

The story in a nutshell involves a peacefull world named Thalassa colonized by a robot ship from Earth bearing human and animal genetic material instead of people. Centuries later, their decendants are visited by a statship from Earth carrying, in hibernation, refugees from an Earth now blown away in a stellar explosion. Those of the starship "Magellan" are merely stopping over for a few months to pick up a bit of ice, (to replenish the ship's ice shield that protects them in flight) before continuing on to their destination. The book mostly details what happens when those from Earth (proud, arrogant, and aggresive) meet those of Thalassa (easy going, laid back and un-hurried).

The best thing I can say about this book is its detailing. Everything is tied up with no loose ends dangling in the breeze. The next major plus for this book involves its format. The tight, neat chapters are a joy to encounter. The story's unfortunate aspect is that it is dull, dull, dull. It's like watching one of those seemingly endless travelogues some neighbors have a passion for creating after a vacation. The characters function in a robotic - emotionless - manner. What possibilities arise to create some dramatic tension and intrigue are quickly an efficiently snuffed out. I am not saying that this novel should be consigned to the nearest landfill, no. If you enjoy hard science-science fiction you might enjoy this book. If your interests lie in the science fiction-fantasy direction find something else to read; a dictionary would be just as exciting as this story.

MOVING UP

Or: Some Of The Frustrations Of A New Paperback Collector

by Greg Funke

Around the summer of 1980 I was fairly content with 1500 or so science fiction paperbacks. After all, the Ace "alphabet", Lancer, and some other runs were almost complete. There was always the cover art, new book lines and all sorts of SF esoteria to think about collecting.

Funny how most things never remain the same.

The content feeling received an abrupt jolt with the publication of the **Paperback Price Guide.** Naturally, the SF prices appalled me, but the price debate is mostly old ground by now. What else the price guide did was expose me to all those other books. There they were all laid out by publisher, number, title, ect. The logical sequence really grabbed me. Like the guy who climbed the mountain because it was there, these books were asking to be collected just because they existed. What to do?

After much thought, the first of many fateful decisions was made. Why not collect all the SF? Should be easy; I had most of them already. Besides, Hillman 41 ("The Dying Earth" by Jack Vance) was probably easy to find (ha!). List made, I started to look. Didn't find them all as you probably guessed. Now let me mention that Orange County was mostly settled in the early to mid 1960's. Not the best place to find 1950's books. I knew all the bookstores and even went into Los Angeles County. No luck!

Well, if you can't find the SF, how about some of the others? By this time I was really being sucked in and was excited about all the books in the "Guide". Couldn't find these either. Where were all the books?

There had to be a better way. How about looking for some collectors? At this time I did not know any other collectors, incredible as it may seem. They probably had all the books; Right? Close! So in asking around I found some big-time collectors (hereafter referred to as BTC).

These guys were very friendly. Incidently, I have not found any women collectors yet; if you are out there please call me. Most of them invited me over to gasp and stand amazed at thousands of vintage PB's. The more I saw, the more I wanted. However, one problem arose: they only wanted to trade. If I had so and so number, a dust jacket PB, or something else I had never seen, then maybe we could do business. It reminded me of the chicken and the egg, or perhaps Catch 22 revisited. How about cash? You know...money talks...no way! Big frustration!

Other things arose as I got further into PB collecting. Time is not of the essence. Can anyone tell me of a slower group of people than book collectors? I said people, not turtles. When they say "speed kills", book collectors are not mentioned. Of the world's three greatest excuses, one, "the check (book) is in the mail" applies here for sure.

Patience. Nice word. Something I need. As a loan broker, patience is five minutes. I had to learn not to jump at the first deal that came along. Even if you are dying for the book, first think and see if it is not overpriced.

I would find a book that had been on my want list for months and jump on it. Invariably another one would show up soon afterward, usually at a better

price. If I could only **borrow** all the books I want, then when they showed up at a cheaper price I would return them all. Does this happen to anyone else?

Eventually, I somehow managed to work a few deals with the BTc's and to talk them out of a few books. By also purchasing some through the mail my collection had grown to 1/1000th of what I would like.

Considering all of the above, I wondered what would happen if I were ever approached by a newer collector and asked the same questions I had first asked. So I decided then and there to sell, not trade, some books to this future person. Book collecting makes me feel good and if I can help some other collector get started (sucked in), it will help me rationalize this possible psychic syndrome I have.

Sure enough, not too long ago he shows up all excited and agressive. I kept my promise and sold him some important, for me, books. Nice guy, but I have to tell you that if he offers me any more unworty books for my Midwood Frazetta, I will put out a contract on him.

Please remember, all you BTC's that you started out new. Give the new people a chance. After all, have you thought how tough it would be to get what you have if you started all over again today?

Editor's Note- Greg mentions that he has never met a woman collector...neither have I. There are women who are avid readers and have a lot of SF books, but they don't seem to have the same possessive, obsessive attitude as men. And no Greg, I still won't trade my first printing of Pocket Book 1.

COLLECTING BY THE LETTER

by Linda Woeltjen

Let' suppose you don't have a pile of old pulps in the closet and the cost of building a collection boggles your mind. Here's an inexpensive way to acquire writings by your favorite authors; perhaps ones that you will treasure.

Piers Anthony, long ago, encouraged his fans to write to him in care of his publisher. He felt that the volume of mail he received would encourage the publisher to buy more of his books. There is, I believe, some truth in this. You can contact authors through their publishers, and many of them will respond. You never know what you might get back.

Joy Davidman wrote to C. S. Lewis because her sons enjoyed his Narnia series. He replied and their postal exchanges built into a relationship that resulted in marriage.

H. P. Lovecraft maintained regular correspondence with over fifty individuals, including Robert E. Howard, Clark Ashton Smith, Robert Block, Fritz Leiber, and C. L. Moore. Many of these had first written to him as fans praising his work. Recently, Marion Zimmer Bradley saw some hidden talent in a fan's letter. Though the letter writer had no ambitions in this area, Mrs. Bradley encouraged her to try writing. She even sent along guidelines for the anthologies she was editing. As a result, the fan ended up selling the first story she had ever written.

Today, with typewriters, computers, and copy machines, the odds are against getting letters written in longhand. Still, the signatures are collectable. To me, what matters most is getting a hint of what the writer is like, apart from his or her work. This is what turns letters into treasures for me.

Authors are people. They like to be appreciated, and they like sincerity. Don't write to someone just to get his autograph. Tell the writer why you liked his latest book. Be aware that well-known artists are going to be swamped. Piers Anthony got to the point where he was answering sixty fan letters a month and falling behind on his novels. He began urging fans not to write. Newer authors, though, will appreciate your interest and incouragement.

Whether you chose to write to a well loved superstar or a promising newcomer, one thing is certain. You must write with the intent of showing your appreciation, rather than seeking something for yourself.

If you get nothing back, you will at least have cast a vote for your favorite author with her publisher. You may get a form letter with an autograph, or you might get something more personalized. Whatever the response, it will only cost the price of a stamp.

LAYERED LETTUCE SALAD

1 head lettuce
1 cup celery, diced
6-8 eggs, hard boiled and chopped
1 16 ounce package frozen tiny peas
1/2 cup diced green pepper
1 sweet onion, diced
2 cups mayonnaise mixed with
  2 tablespoons sugar
1-1/2 to 2 cups grated cheddar cheese

Tear lettuce into bite sized pieces and place in a 9 by 12 inch glass dish (I use a straight sided glass salad bowl). Layer rest of ingredients in order given. Add sugar to mayonnaise and spread over the top as you would a frosting. Top with grated cheese, cover and store in refrigerator for 8-12-24 hours. The lettuce stays crispy. It tastes better when it has had a chance to stand for a while.

Elise Edgell