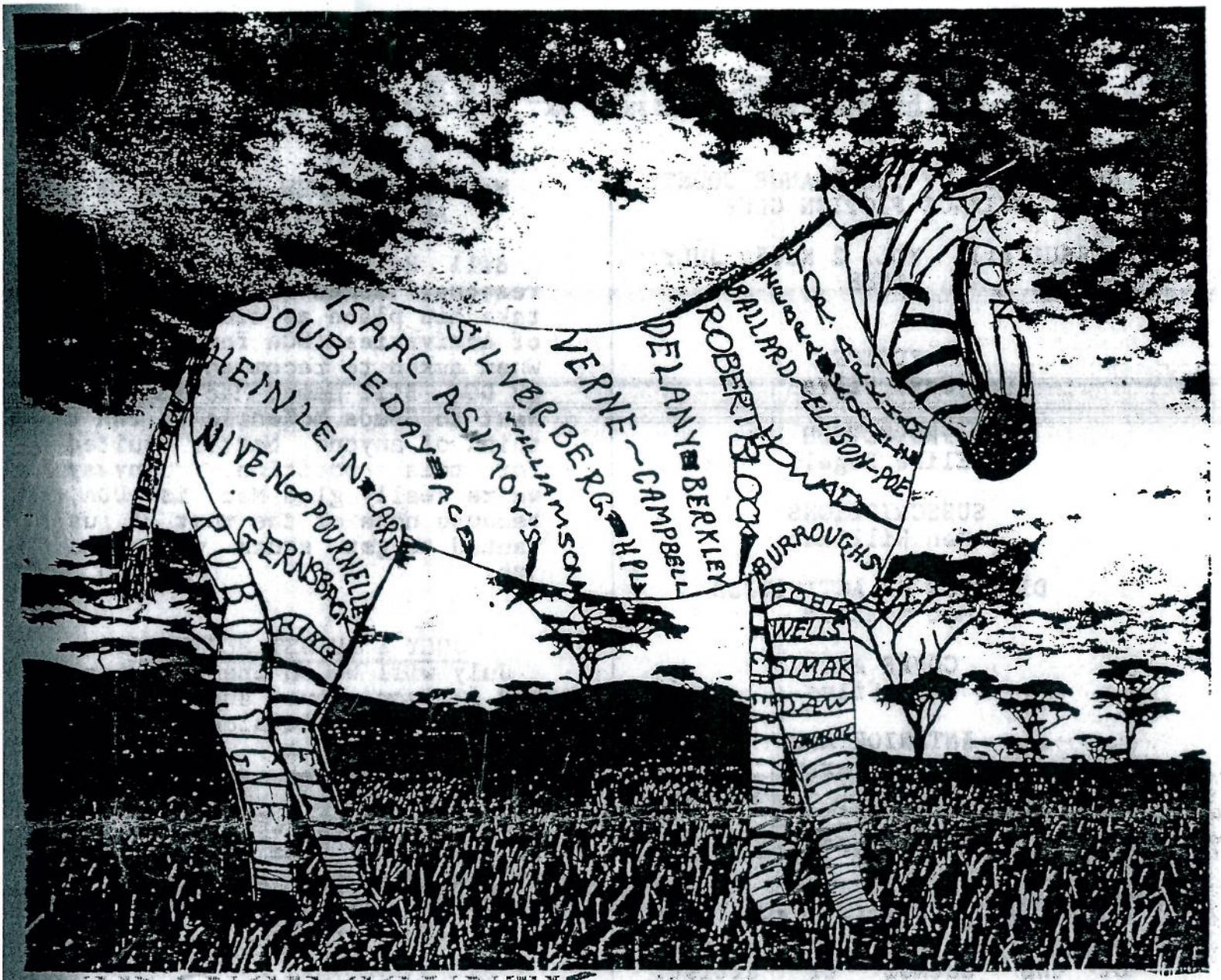
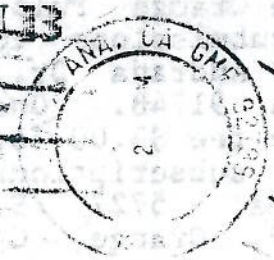


ORANGE COUNTY SCIENCE FICTION CLUB

5727 E. STILLWATER AV. #9
ORANGE, CA 92669

NEXT MEETING: July 27th, 7pm



ISSUE # 11

THE ORANGE PULP

ORANGE PULP

NEWSLETTER OF THE ORANGE COUNTY SCIENCE FICTION CLUB

ISSUE #11, VOL. 2 NO.5, JULY 1988

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Publication rights for all submissions remain the property of the author or artist. Deadline for submissions for next issue of the Orange Pulp, Sept. 12. Mail submissions to Dave Silva, 19323 Andrada Dr., Rowland Hgts., CA 91748. One year subscription fee $3.00 for 6 issues. Mail subscriptions to: Ken Williams, 5727 E. Stillwater Av. #9, Orange, CA 92669.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, July 27th, 1988, at 7pm. Fullerton Saving, 2400 East Chapman, Fullerton, a half mile West off the Orange Freeway.

Mac McMAHON NEW DIRECTOR OF ACTIVITIES FOR OCSFC

Bill Hilburn, for personal reasons, asked that someone take his place as club Director of Activities (DOA for short). When asked to recommend someone as DOA Bill named Mac McMahon. Next to Spuds McKenzie I can't think of anyone better suited for this position. Anyway we're really glad Mac is DOA, because none of the rest of us wanted to get stuck with the job.

JULY & AUGUST MEETINGS

July will be an open meeting, and if you have anything of interest bring it along. Maybe we'll have a roundtable discussion on the best SF of the year.

On August 31st we will have a cenima night. The arrangments will be discussed at the July meeting.

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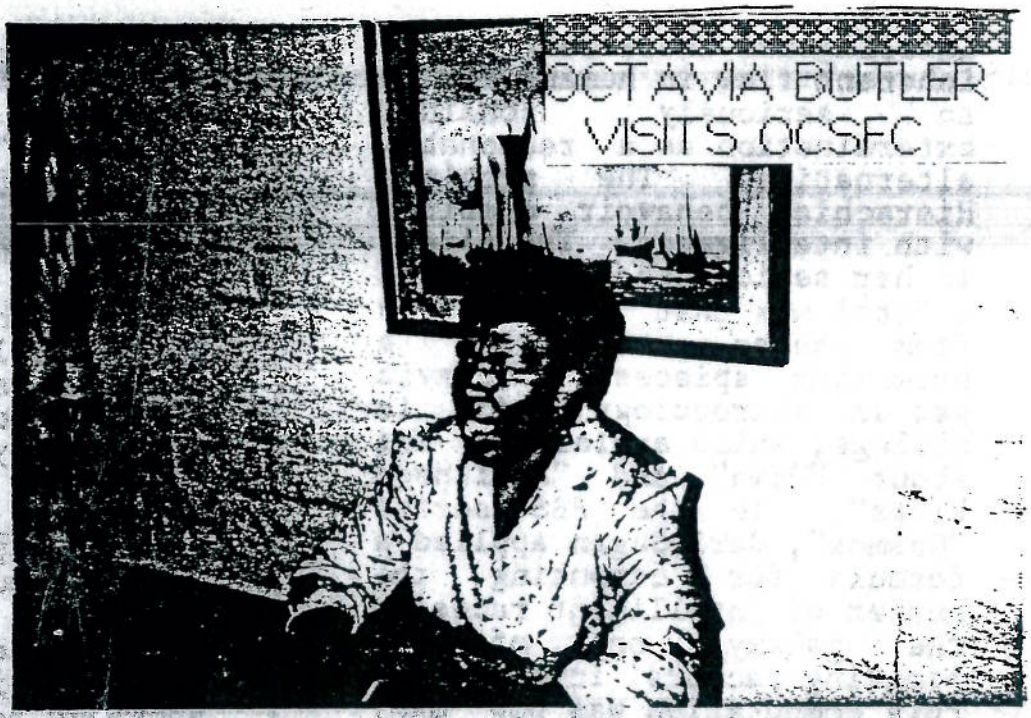

Janet Alverez brought Hugo and Nebula award winning author, Octavia E. (Estelle) Butler to the May 25th meeting and introduced her to an enthusiastic OCSFC turnout.

At age 6 Octavia discovered the library and asked her mother to get her a card, this is a strong sign that your child might someday be a writer. Like many successful writers Octavia attended the Clarion workshops and made her first sale to the Clarion anthology. It would be five frustrating years before she would make her second sale. She had an idea for a novel but the task of putting so much effort and hope into a novel was a daunting prospect, so she told herself, "I can write a short story". Each short story became a chapter, and the chapters became "Mind of My Mind", her first novel.

Octavia was able to take some of the disappointments and fears in her life and channel them into her writing, particularly in her novel Clay's Ark. She advocates using your typewriter as "...cheap therapy". This may be why the villans in her stories a depth of reality; they are, like the burglars who kept coming back to rob her, people acting within their individual concepts of reality for their self interest. Her trip to the Amazon to research her Xenogenisis Trilogy was a fascinating adventure and shows the dedication to research necessary to succeed as a writer.

On the subject of cover art, Octavia was dissappointed with the cover for "Dawn", which was inaccurate in several respects. The heroine of the story was a black woman...not a woman with black hair.

Octavia got her inspiration for the Xenogenisis trilogy from talk within the early years of the Reagan administration about "winable", and "limited", neuclear wars. She concluded, quite logically, that despite our high degree of

intelligence there must be an inherent flaw in humans for us to seriously consider extermination as a reasonable alternative. The problem? Hierachial behavoir combined with intelligence. The aliens in her series conclude this is a fatal mix that prevents us from being more than a promising spieces. Octavia was an antropology major in college, which explains a lot about "Dawn" and "Adulthood Rites". In the PBS series "Cosmos", Carl Sagan applied a formula for computing the number of intelligent races in the galaxy; one of the limiting factors involved in this computation was how many intelligent beings destroy themselves when they achieve the ability to do so. Anthopology shows that many of our current attitudes, nationalism being the lastest hierachial phase we're going through, can be traced back to survival factors that led us to be such a dominant life form on this planet. Xenogenisis presupposes a species that has successfully bridged this crisis and are faced with the sticky problem of preserving a facsinating species that is bent on its self destruction. Both "Dawn" and "Adulthood Rites" have strong central characters who are caught in a tide of events that compromise their integrity and traditional human loyalty. In their own way the aliens are as driven

(cont'd on Pg5)

REVIEW OF BARBARA HAMBLY'S BOOKS

by Elise M. Edgell

When I heard that Barbara Hambly would be the speaker at our June meeting I bought two of her books. Generally I don't enjoy sword and sorcery fantasy so decided to skim The Witches of Wenshar. The book quickly captured my attention and I found that I was enjoying the story. The female lead is very strong, both physically and in her approach to situations. Too often female characters do not exhibit strenght of character; or if they do, such strenght is still portrayed within traditional female roles. I found Hambly's characters, both male and female, are not bound by how men and womaen are limited in their abilities, and that her characters of both sexes exhibit a full range of physical, mental and emotional abilities.

Then I read The Silent Tower. I enjoyed it even more. Transporting a contemporary character to an alternate world in which magic works, and a world that does not run on electronics, can be an interesting way of pointing out new insights to our current social situation.

(cont'd on Pg5)

by their own evolutionary background as the humans, whose destiny they control. These aliens are not one dimensional, they are among the most complex and fasinating in all of SF, but this series retains its focus on people, good and bad, stuggling to survive as humans. The third book in the series will be out next June, I'll be looking forward to it.

BARBARA HAMBLY

by Dave Silva

It doesn't take you long to feel comfortable around Barbara Hambly. Maybe that's because she's a fan herself, (a long time member of LASFS) and kind of seems like someone who might just happen to show up at one of our meetings.

Barbara knows a lot of the people on Star Trek TNG and told why the show has fallen so far below our expectations. According to Barbara, the major flaw with STTNG is that Rodenberry rules with an iron hand and doesn't allow talented people to do their job without Gene changing everything they do. A lot of club members still watch the show, but then, despite its quality STTNG was about the only SF on TV last year.

On being a writer: "I'm about the only person I know who always wanted to be a writer. From the time I was 5 I would tell people I was going to be a writer and they would tell me it was too hard to break into the field. As it turned out, breaking into the field was one of the earier things I did...the tough part was making a living once I got published." Barbara related an ironic incident about working in a library, at minimum wage shelving books, and one of the books she shelved was one of her novels.

After having her first submitted piece of fiction, Time of the Dark, rejected by DAW she sent the novel to Del Rey. Lester Del Rey sent her a long letter of advice and criticism, and accepted the story upon resubmission. This was the begining of a long, close relationship with Lester and Judy Lynn Del Rey. As Tim Powers related when he was a guest at OCSFC, as much as you respect Lester as an editor, he can be stubborn, and a writer has to fight to get their view across.

Barbara has cover approval on all her books; Time of the Dark, by David Mattingly is easily her favorite cover. "I was at a LASFS dance practice when somebody comes up with a book with the most wonderful cover on earth and says,'Would you sign this?', and I had never seen the cover sketch...this was absolutely cold and it was like somebody handing me my first baby.

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(Barbara Hambly signing a copy of "The Witches Of Wenshar for a club member.)

(review)

There is a fair amount of humor in the book. Since the story's ending is a real cliff-hanger, I purchased (paying full price) the sequel, The Silicon Mage.

I would recommend any of the books by Hambly, but if you have an interest in computers, The Silent Tower and The Silicon Mage are particularly enjoyable.

****

Graham Volker will make available his list of SF Hardcover & Paperback Books for sale by sending him a SASE to:

Graham Volker
14567 Rio Blanco Rd.
La Mirada, CA 90638

Prices are very reasonable and you can save postage by picking them up at a meeting if you want to make that arrangement.

(Hambly)

It's one of my treasured moments in memory".

Currently out in Del Rey paperback is a non-SF who-done-it thriller, Search the Seven Hills, which takes place in 1st century Rome. "...it has early christains, ancient cults and people being eaten by loins." Originally this was a St. Martins hardcover titled, The Quirinal Hill Affair, which received spotty distribution.

Those Who Hunt the Night, a Del Rey hardcover due out in November, is a book Barbara is very exiced about and feels it is one of the best she has ever written. It is a vampire story, with some unique twists, that takes place in London and Paris in 1907.

After the meeting Barbara joined us at Hershel's to cap off a very enjoyable evening.

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THE FIREBRAND

by Marion Zimmer Bradley
Published by Simon & Schuster - 1987
Reviewed by Donald S. Shake

Well, this is not a science fiction novel, but it is written by one of my favorite S.F. authors; so I thought I would review it for you anyway.

In The Firebrand, M.Z.B. has re-imagined the Trojan War....and retells it from the viewpoint of Kassandra, the beautiful and tormented royal princess of Troy. The heroine of this epic tale hauntingly foresees everything she loves destroyed; gifted or cursed as she is with the power of prophecy.

The novel begins with the birth of Kassandra and her twin brother Paris. Paris is fostered by a family of shepherds, because of a prophecy that twins bring bad luck. She grows up unaware of Paris's existance, except for inexplicable visions in which she sees events through his eyes. Her mother Hecuba, was an Amazon, a woman warrior before her marriage. Kassandra is sent to spend a year with the Amazons as she is about to became a woman. There she learns of the powers of women before they are subjucated by the new wave of patriarchy.

On her return home she becomes a priestess of Apollo, the Sun God, but within her is a disturbing conflict between the "old ways", in which women ruled and religion came from the Earth Mother, and the new world of Male Gods and Kings....a world characterized by the senseless quuarrels and bold lust leading to the siege of her beloved Troy.

Blending archeological fact and legend, the myths of the Gods and the feats of Heroes, Marion Zimmer Bradley breathes new life into a classic tale. She re-invents Achilles, Aeneas, Hector, Patroclus, Helen, Odysseus, and Agamemnon as real people, engaged in a desperate struggle that dooms both victors and vanquished.

The Firebrand is one of Marion Zimmer Bradley's finest works to date.

WORLDCONS and nebulas

MYTHCON XIX (Jul 29-Aug 1 '88)Clark Kerr Center, UC Berkley, GoHs: Ursula LeGuin, Brian Attebury. Theme: Legends for a new land: Fantasy in America. Membership $25, one day $15. Artshow. Info. Mthycon XIX, 90 El Camino Real, Berkley CA94705

(cont'd on Pg9)

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NON-SCIENCE FICTION NOVELS BY SCIENCE FICTION WRITERS

COMPILED BY FRED CROPPER AND GREG FUNKE

(answers on Pg8)

1.	Isaac Asimov	A.	Murder of a Wife
2.	Richard Matheson	B.	Perish by the Sword
3.	Leigh Brackett	C.	The Beardless Warriors
4.	Ray Bradbury	D.	The Wolf is My Brother
5.	Harlan Ellison	E.	Rio Bravo
6.	Henry Kuttner	F.	The Violent Man
7.	Chad Oliver	G.	Bad Ronald
8.	Poul Anderson	H.	Some of Your Blood
9.	Robert Sheckley	I.	Montezuma's Revenge
10.	A.E. Van Vogt	J.	Spider Kiss
11.	Jack Vance	K.	A Whiff of Death
12.	Theodore Sturgeon	L.	Death is a Lonely Business
13.	Harry Harrison	M.	The Game of X

JAX BOOKSTORE

by Fred Cropper

Jack Silverman and Charlie Makros were the proprietors of Jax Bookstore in Huntington Park on Florence Avenue just below State Street. Two grander guys I have never known.

I can't remember when I met them...it must have been in the 60's...but it seemed like I knew them forever; they were timeless. Jack was a self-educated historian and Charlie was a movie buff who, when I frequently visited him at lunchtime, would talk non-stop about great movies he'd seen.

Jack had dinner with my wife, Gloria, and me a number of times. I would drive from Altadena over to Huntington Park to pick him up, and after dinner we would drive him home. He always wanted to take the bus so as not to be a bother.

Charlie rarely talked about himself but Jack revealed a tragic life. Jack hated his mother and his mother hated him. He loved his father, who was ruled by his mother, and since his father travelled in his job Jack was often denied his father's love.

(cont'd on Pg8)

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Jack married but his wife, whom he greatly loved, contracted a fatal disease - (I think it was cancer) and died a few years after their marriage. This was back in New York where Jack worked as a laborer.

After his wife's death Jack came out west with Charlie, a longtime friend, and after several years of laboring they saved enough to open a bookstore. Believe me, Jax Bookstore would have gladdened Ray Bradbury's heart. There were rows and rows of paperbacks reaching up at least 12 feet, and also hardcovers on every conceivable subject. They even had comic books above the front door in a cubby hole that was only accessable by stepladder. A part-time taxi driver named Freddie, a close friend, was their comic book expert.

In paperbacks they had Gold Medals, Graphics, Lions, SF Aces Doubles and other titles not easily found elsewhere.

I remember Charlie getting on the ladder, at a request of mine, and plucking a paperback from the higher reaches: "The Fire Goddess", by Sax Rohmer, a book I had been looking for.

"Don't tell Jack," he told me, not accepting the proferred payment.

A favorite book of Gloria's and mine was given to me by Jack when I asked him for a good mystery..."Sylvia", by E. V. Cunningham (Howard Fast) with the admonition, "Don't tell Charlie."

It got to the point that neither would take my money for books anymore.

One day an irate man came into the store and called Jack a "Jew bastard!" Jack came over the front desk in a leap and chased the man around and under a car where he commenced to batter the man. He finally allowed the bloodied bigot to get from under the car and limp down the street. Jack shouted "Never come back here again!" He never did.

Charlie had a bad heart and died shortly before my wife and I moved to El Paso in 1978. It was a very sad time for me. I called Jack to make sure he was all right.

When I returned from El Paso in 1981 I stopped by the store and found out from Freddie that Jack had died of a heart attack several months earlier.

The store was bought by a comic book company and many of the old paperbacks were still for sale. Recently Greg Funke told me the building had been vacated for the coming renovation of Florence Ave.

For me, after Jack and Charlie died, it was the end of an era.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1-K, 2-C, 3-E, 4-L, 5-J, 6-A, 7-D, 8-B, 9-M, 10-F, 11-G, 12-H, 13-I.

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TIMECON'88 (Jul 29-Aug 1) Holiday Inn & Le Baron Hotel, San Jose, Guests: DC Fontana, Grania Davis, Eric Vinicoff, plus media guests. Memb. $40 at door, one day $20. Info. Timecon'88, 124-h Blossom Hill Rd., San Jose CA95123; (408)629-8078.

SAN DIEGO COMIC-CON 19 (Aug 4-7) San Diego Convention & Performing Arts Center, Omni Hotel. Guests: Robert Asprin, Robert Feist, others. $36 at door/ kids 7-16 half price. Dealer room, art show, banquet, gaming. Info. San Diego Comic-con, Box 17066, San Diego, CA92117; (619)442-8272.

NOLACON II/WORLDCON 46 (Sept 1-5) GoH Don Wollheim. Memb. $100 at door. Info. Nolacon II, 921 Canal St., Suite 831, New Orleans, LA70112; (504) 525-6008.

BOUCHERCON XIX (Oct 7-9) U.S. Grant Hotel, San Diego, $89single, $93double. GoH Charlotte MacLeod, Mystery convention. $30 thru 10/5/88, $35 at door. Info. Bouchercon XIX, Grounds For Murder Mystery Bookstore, 2707 Congress St, San Diego, CA92110.

MILEHICON XX (Oct 21-23) Denver. GoHs: Jack Chalker, Connie Willis. Memb. $18 to 10/1/88, $20 at door. Info. Milehicon XX, Box27074, Denver, CO 80227, (303)457-8368.

LOSCON 15 (Nov 25-27) Pasadena Hilton, Pasadena CA., GoH Vonda McIntyre. Memb. $20 to 11/9/88, $25 at door. Info. Loscon 15, LASFS, 11513 Burbank Blvd, N. Hollywood, CA95155; (408)993-0140.

SILICON'88 (Nov 25-27) Red Lion Inn, San Jose. GoH Jack Chalker, Phil Foglio, Toastmaster Robert Silverberg. Memb. $20 to 8/1/88, $25 to 10/31/88, $30 at door $15 one day, dealer tables $80. Info. Silicon, Box8029, San Jose, CA95155; (408)993-0140.

WORLDCON EDITION:
or, What I Did On MY Summer Vacation

It's getting near WorldCon time again and when you receive the next newsletter that big party in New Orleans will be a memory. A large part of the next Orange Pulp will be devoted to sharing those memories with you in a special WorldCon issue.

When a new star comes along it's exciting and you wonder just how good they can be. I got that feeling when I read Songmaster, by Card. I've been reading the Hugo nominees and got that same feeling when I read Rachel In Love, by Pat Murphy. Murphy, a relative unknown, just won the Nebula for that story as best novelette, and also won best novel for The Falling Woman. The Falling Woman wasn't nominated for the Hugo, probably because it's fantasy.

Kate Wilhelm won the Nebula with short story Forever Yours, Anna, and Kim Stanley Robinson (who seems to get nominated ever year) won the novella with The Blind Geometer. Both could double this year with a Hugo, but they're no sure thing.