special armadillo issue

(DASYPUS ENCOUBERT)

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ORANGE COUNTY
SCIENCE FICTION CLUB
5727 E. Stillwater Av. #9
Orange , CA 92669

NEXT MEETING: November 20th, 7pm

The Orange Pulp

ISSUE #THIRTEEN

NEWSLETTER OF THE ORANGE COUNTY
SCIENCE FICTION CLUB

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NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, November 30th, 1988, at 7pm. Fullerton Saving, 2400 East Chapman, Fullerton, a half mile West off the Orange Freeway.

NOVEMBER MEETING

Our next meeting, November 30, will be a video night. We will kick it off with a special Star Trek video never before shown on network TV. Then we will show the two half-hour interviews Isaac Asimov did on Bill Moyers' excellent show "A World of Ideas." Rounding out to evening will be selected episodes of the serial "Zombies of the Stratosphere", with Leonard Nimoy in his first screen role.

For the first time in OCSFC history there will be a December meeting. Why? because the last Wendesday of the month falls on the 28th right between Christmas and New Years and we have the room available. Mac Mahon's birthday is Dec. 30 and Marcia Starke's is the 31st, so we are going to have an unbirthday party with refreshments and fun, but no presents.

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NATIONAL SPACE SOCIETY ADDRESSES OCSFC

NOTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

The shuttle is back in operation and there seems to be a more positive public and political attitude toward our country's presense in space. This doesn't happen by chance; in a preticipatory democracy that means having an effective, grass-roots organization making things happen. The NSS is responsible for the full funding of the space station project. NSS also got both presidential candidates to issue position papers on the space program, knowing the political climate would produce pro-space stances.

Our guest, Randy Gigante from NSS, is one of those volunteer activists who speaks to people about why it is important to have a manned presense in space...and why we need it now. We saw a NSS slide show entitled "The New Harvest", which showed present benefits of projects like the shuttle program and satellites. The show projected designs for the Space Station, space colonies, a lunar base, and a manned trip to Mars.

After the film Randy gave a brief speech and answered questions from the audience. One topic discussed was the potential for the space program to benefit the environment. Randy admitted this was a tough selling point. You have environmentalists who view technology as the problem, not the solution, also there is widespread apathy, especially in the South, toward spending tax dollars on long range technologies. I would recommend Ben Bova's book "The High Road", Houghton Mifflin 1981, if you, or anyone you know, is interested in a well thought out examination of this subject.

Before the shuttle, benefits from satellites and related technology spin-offs from the space program were returning $7 to the economy for every dollar spent. Now, every space

project is a political battle. We need to lower costs and show real benefits, but we can't achieve this if every program is cut to the bone. Sometimes to get from here to there you need potical vision that can see beyond short term profits. The NSS is working hard to overcome what I consider to be a penny-wise, pound-foolish mentality.

After the meeting Randy joined us at Herscell's for coffee and snacks.

OCTOBER MEETING

This was the grand opening for OCSFC members at Mac McMahon's new book store, Galactic Archives, 5219 Orangethorpe, in Anahiem Hills. Marcia Starke brought Champange, cookies, chips & dips and soda in abundance. Except for some serious book dealing it was a very relaxed meeting. If you have a valid Orange Pulp subscription Mac will give you a 10% discount.

In Octoberber the OCSFC theatre group attended "Alien Nation", a near-future detective story that may soon be a TV series. On November 9th they saw "They Live", a pretty good low budget effort that is reminiscent of Eric Frank Russell's Fortian novel "Sinister Barrier".

signings

Barbara Hambly and S.P. Somtow will be signing on Sunday, Dec. 4th, 2-5pm, at Dangerous Visions, 13563 Ventura Blvd., Sherman Oaks. When Barbara was our guest at the June meeting she talked about her upcoming book Those Who Hunt the Night; she felt it was one of her best books. The reviewer in Locus said "...Barabara Hambly's best book to date." Barbara will be signing that book and Somtow will be signing his latest, Aquila and the Sphinx.

Also at Dangerous Visions, on Saturday, Jan. 21st, 2-5pm, Dean Koontz will be signing Midnight. Already out by Dean is Oddkins a beautifully illustrated, over sized book, also, from Dark Harvest a thriller called The House of Thunder.

Since Dangerous Visions is a long way maybe those interested could work up a car pool.

AGAINST AN ORANGE LANDSCAPE

GREGORY BENFORD

Here's that mythic landscape, The Future, coming at you hard and fast:

> The northbound lanes swoop up as they cross the great sprawl of the intersection with the San Diego, Del Mar, Costa Mesa, and San Joaquin freeways. Twenty-four monster concrete ribbons pretzel together in a Gordian knot three hundred feet high and a mile in diameter--a monument to autopia--and they go right through the middle of it like old bugs through the heart of a giant. Then Jim's old buzzbox hums up a grade and suddenly it's like they're in a landing pattern for John Wayne International Airport over to their right, because the northbound Newport is on the highest of the stacked freeway levels, and they are a hundred feet above mother Earth. Nightime OC, for miles in every direction.

Kim Stanley Robinson's The Gold Coast is a densely packed, present tense narrative of Orange County in a few decades. The slow growth wars are over; the developers won. All is concrete and steel, zippy transport in computer-guided cars, a canvas of mallsprawl and techtalk.

As a native of the county, Robinson knows its byways, subcultures and flavors. His novel details a science fiction vision of frenetic pace and concealed ennui. Its nominal hero, Jim McPherson, is the familiar angst-ridden undeveloped pseudo-artist, limping along amid a culture he neither understands nor likes. Somethings wrong, and he only vaguely sense that the county has become something far less inspiring than it once was. He collects orange crate labels, fragments of a dead past, yet suspects he's merely indulging in sentimental exercises as an "ace culturevulture." At a stoned party he brags that he is "fourth-generation OC. ...I have a race memory of what it used to be like when the orange groves were here." But, "Nowadays we'd have a hard time living that slowly though, don't you think?"

Not thinking is what most of Jim's friends do. Their quick, empty lives spiral around lush parties. Designer drugs are administered by eyedropper, bringing sensations suggested by their names: Apprehension of Beauty, Funnybone, Pattern

Perception. TV-assisted sex occurs between "ally" couples which change easily and often. (But woe if your media rig blows out during the act, for then you get electronically-induced detumescence.)

Jim searches for meaning in this urban crunch, finding some scraps of satisfaction in sabotaging defense research firms. His father, an admirably drawn minion of Laguna Space Research, can't get through to Jim. Robinson does not yield to the temptation to make the ever-burgeoning armaments industries simple bad guys. The sharpening of the father-son conflict, which comes as Jim decides whether to sabotage his father's own company, yields no easy answers.

This is because the true protagonist of the novel is historical Orange County itself, which emerges in wonderously written sidebar chapters. We witness the slow lives of hunter-gatherers, the mission days, the historical pressures that accelerated the county into headlong "progres." Fragments of this golden past linger in the present of the novel, too. There is a beautifully rendered rhapsody about the necessity of surfing at night, because the days are so clogged with the tough new breed of surf Nazis. Robinsonson's description of waves and the dynamics of resonanting with them is a technical and literary marvel.

This is the second in Robinson's contemplated trilogy about Orange County, the first of which was The Wild Shore, set in a time after a brief, limited nuclear war. Together they frame the wide range of possibilities open to us in a technically dominated future. Need the centripetal commandments of economics and invention crush all local flavor? In a telling scene in which Jim and friends tour Moscow, they make a distrubing discovery:

> Up on a hill they figure they're in Party territory, everything's upscale as always in the hill districts of a city. And in fact they reach one cul-de-sac with a view over much of Moscow, and stare about them amazed. Sandy sputters, "Why it's--it's--it's condomundo! It's just like--just like--" and they all pitch in: "Orange County!"
>
> Total collapse. They must return immediately to the hotel and order more champagne. OC has conquered the world. "James Utt would be proud," Jim says solemnly.

Conventional wisdom of the late 1980s suspects that the

county's dynamic will fade with the rising price of oil, but Robinson thinks not. He constructs a freeway-dominated system based on electric cars following magnetic tracks. Anything to preserve the iconography of autopia. Life's pace increases still more, as two ambulance drivers find:

> They've reached the backup. Ahead of them the brake light symphony is blinking, redred, redred, redred, redred, redred. Overrides everywhere, nowhere for people to go, impossible for the computers to clear things up when the lanes clog this badly, it's time to take the old Chevy supertruck offtrack, yes this baby had an internal combustion engine under its hood. "Independent lo-comotion," Xavier sings as Abe turns the key and revs the engine, 1056 horsepower, atavistic Formula One adrenaline rush here as he steers them off the magnetic track into the narrow gap between fast-track cars and the center divider, roaring along in vibratory petrol power, let the poor saps breathe a bit of power smog as they zroom by almost taking off door handles, sidview mirrors, sure why not clip a few to give them a story to tell about this ten-millionth traffic jam of their OC condo lives?

The Gold Coast is ambitious, accomplished, deeply angry. Only Mojeska Canyon remains unblemished by freeways and houses in Robinson's daunting vision. But is this inevitable? The imperatives of speed and greed need not win out. Certainly no one imagines that an infinite number of people can cram into a phone booth; the discussion is about what the limiting number should be.

Robinson's implied answer is that when the culture begins to lose its sense of connection with the land, matters have gone too far. The hardnosed, soil-centered conservatives have vanished, having failed to conserve the signature of their time: the orange groves. Current thought masquerading as conservative treats the county as a cash cow, now that the real cows are gone. Soon there will be too little water, though for the moment there are plenty of crocodile tears about providing housing for immigrants to California.

Our social problems are increasingly best phrased in terms of If this goes on... It is particularly appropriate that the growth issue has been confronted so well by Robinson, a county native, for this rapidly filling landscape is now emerging as a literary laboratory. The rise of Orange County in novels is rapid and notable.

Though Jessamyn West's South of the Angels in 1960 perhaps set the tone for decades (redneck rightwing farmers), the 1980s have seen a complete revision. From the bestselling Orange novelist Dean Koontz to artful fantasy author Tim Powers, resident of Santa Ana, writers have portrayed a county rich in subcultures and fundamentally innovative. In contrast with the familiar Los Angeles Times impression that all revolves about the inner city, which the Times offices overlook, novelists have seen that the right model for the county is not the suburb (a largely irrelevent 1950s term) but the "outer city." This pattern of decentralized nodes emphasizes fluidity of ideas and traffic, with ample allowance for odd communities like Kim Nunn's Huntington Beach surfers or Robert Ray's nostalgic, Chandleresque mean streets.

From Ted Taylor's The Stalker to A.E. Maxwell's ironic Just Another Day in Paradise, the mystery novel has concentrated most on local atmosphere. Though there is a heady mix of sex, power is the true game. T. Jefferson Parker's Laguna Heat stressed this even more, marking him in the media as perhaps the generic Orange County Novelist. It will be interesting to see if his foray into Little Saigon brings off another rendering of milieu. These are "regional" novelists, arguing by carefully examined example against the homogenization of southern California life. They are better sociologists than many would credit.

The Gold Coast's dust jacket is a computer-generated photo-painting of a future county crammed against snowcapped mountains. The alabaster peaks are anti-realistic assemblies from the Sierras, looming like the promise of the past over the future's threat. As the first notable science fiction novel set in the county, it carries the terms of discussion far further than the mysteries probably can. Its pervasive sense of opportunities lost, of people detached from the smothered natural environment, of pointless stifling energy--all this cautions us to look again for the orange landscape receding behind the billboards.

Greg Benford wrote the above article for the Journal of Orange County. He felt this would be of special interest to Orange County fans and was kind enough to let us use it.

collaborations

Match the authors with their writing partners
compiled by fred cropper & dave silva

1. Fredrick Pohl	A. Randall Garrett
2. Larry Niven	B. Bill Prozine
3. Cyril Kornbluth	C. Fletcher Pratt
4. Richard Matheson	D. Jerry Pournelle
5. Henry Kuttner	E. Leigh Brackett
6. Philip K. Dick	F. Poul Anderson
7. Isaac Asimov	G. Thomas N. Scortia
8. L. Sprague DeCamp	H. Frederick Pohl
9. Ray Bradbury	I. C. L. Moore
10. Barry Malzberg	J. Judith Merrill
11. Gordon R. Dickson	K. Charles Beaumont
12. Frank Robinson	L. Roger Zelazny
13. Robert Silverberg	M. Janet Jepson
14. Jack Williamson	N. C. M. Kornbluth

(For answers see bottom of last page)

Halloween Party

by Marcia Starke

On Sunday, October 16, Ken, Mac, and I attended the Jedi Knights of Orange County Halloween bash. My two accomplices were in costume (sort of), while I opted for semi-street.

The Jedi's had a snackful spread, a lively trivia contest, music, and a costume contest of sorts. I think they dress like this most of the time. My thanks again to hostess Ms. Roggins and her entourage for the fine time and the tasty treats.

A DAY AT UNIVERSAL

Dave Silva

Only seven of us went on the Universal Studios tour. I don't think most of us had seen it before; it has gradually changed and grown over the years. I remember when it opened, and figured there was no hurry, that eventually I would be forced

to take some relative there--but that never happened.

Outside of usually gouging for parking and food the cost is reasonable. It takes about seven hours for the six arena events and the tram tour, so it was a full day with very little dead time. The big event...the reason we went..was the new Star Trek tour. Greg Funke got to play a part in the Star Trek episode we attended. At the time I saw it I didn't recognize him because of his costume. If you attend the next meeting you'll get to see the entire episode, so I don't want to give anything away.

Probably the most entertaining show is the "Conan the Barbarian" event, it's a well staged mini-drama loaded with special effects. All in all, a very pleasant day.

recent works by harlan ellison

compiled by martin miller

COMIC BUYER'S GUIDE: #745 2/26/88 GUEST EDITORIAL
#746 3/4/88 BOOK REVIEW
#756 5/13/88 LETTER
#761 6/17/88 LETTER

MAGAZINE OF F&SF: 1,88, 2/88, 5/88, 8/88, 9/88 HARLAN ELLISON'S WATCHING MOVIE COLUMN
7/88 ORIGINAL STORY "EIDOLONS"

MIDNIGHT GRAFFITI: #1, 6/88 ORIGINAL STORY "THE FUNCTION OF DREAM SLEEP"

OMNI: 1/88 ORIGINAL STORY "THE AVENGER OF DEATH"

PLAYBOY: 1/88 ARTICLE "THE SIXTIES: A REAPPRAISAL PART TWO: HAIL THE LIGHT"

THE ARMCHAIR DETECTIVE: SUMMER 1988 INTTERVIEW

PULPHOUSE: #1, FALL ORIGINAL STORY "SHE'S A YOUNG THING AND CANNOT LEAVE HER MOTHER"

COMICS; GRAPHIC NOVELS:

"NIGHT AND THE ENEMY", 1987-COMICO with KEN STACEY

"VIC AND BLOOD" #1 & 2-1988-MAD DOG GRAPHICS with RICHARD CORBEN

BOOK APPEARANCES:

STARHUNTERS: VOL. II, "THINGS HUNTING MEN", DAVID DRAKE editor

"TERRY'S UNIVERSE", BETH MEACHEM editor-1988-TOR AFTERWORD

"THE YEAR'S BEST FANTASY: FIRST ANNUAL", E. DATLOW/T.

WINDLING-editors-1988-ST. MARTINS REPRINT STORY
"CHARLES BEAUMONT: SELECTED STORIES", 1988 DARK HARVEST Ltd. & Trade, Intro. to story "THE HOWLING MAN".
"DOGTALES!", J. DANN & G. DOZOIS editors-1988(sept) ACE REPRINT STORY
"RIPPER!", G. DOZOIS & S. CASPER editors-1988(sept) TOR REPRINT STORY
"WRITING FOR TV", STUART KAMINSKY-editor-1988 DELL ADVICE & COMMENTS

BOOKS:
"NIGHT AND THE ENEMY", 1988 GRAPHITTI, HC Ltd. to 1500 Signed & Numbered. Contains original story "THE FEW, THE PROUD"
"ANGRY CANDY", 1988 HOUGHTON MIFFLIN, collection, (1st edition)
"ANGRY CANDY", 1988 EASTON PRESS, Ltd. signed editon

Answers to quiz: 1-N, 2-D, 3-J, 4-K, 5-I, 6-L, 7-M, 8-C, 9-E, 10-B, 11-F, 12-G, 13-A, 14-H

A NOTE FOR SUBSCRIBERS---In the last issue or two a lot of subscriptions have lapsed. We have been, in most cases, sending out copies anyway, because we feel to keep the club going members must be aware of the activities. Please check your subscription label. We appreciate your participation and support.