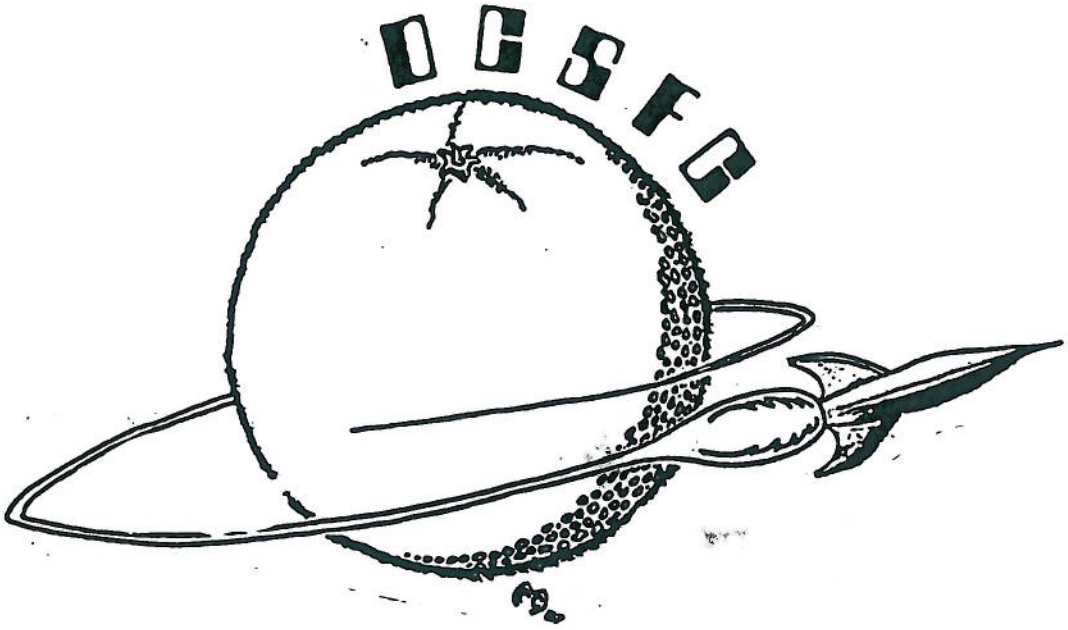


ORANGE COUNTY
SCIENCE FICTION CLUB

5727 E. Stillwater Av. #9,
Orange , CA 92669

NEXT MEETING: March 27th, 7p.m

ISSUE # 27

THE ORANGE PULP

ORANGE PULP

NEWSLETTER OF THE ORANGE COUNTY
SCIENCE FICTION CLUB

ISSUE #27, VOL. 5 NO.3, MARCH, 1991

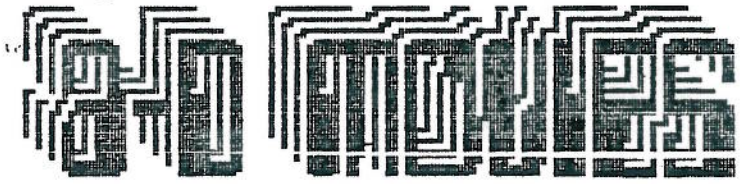
EDITOR..... Dave Silva

SUBSCRIPTIONS..... Ken Williams

PROGRAM DIRECTOR.... Marcia Starke

COVER ART..... Mac McMahon

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, March 27th, 1991, at 7pm. Fullerton Savings, 2400 East Chapman, Fullerton, a half mile West off the Orange Freeway.



Clubmember Jeff Stein brought two vintage 3-D movies for our viewing enjoyment. "The Creature From the Black Lagoon" and "It Came From Outer Space", which was screen written by Ray Bradbury. These weren't videotapes, they were 20 minute condensed film versions of the original movies. Jeff said the idea behind these short films was aimed at people who wanted their own film libraries at a modest cost.

Mac McMahon, owner of Galactic Archives, provided 3-D glasses for everyone. Not in 3-D, but equally enjoyable, was a showing of "Star Trek Out-takes: Part I", from the original TV series.

MARCH 27TH MEETING

Pete Miller and Brent Turner will lecture on the life of Nickolai Tesla, an electrical scientist and entrepreneur of the early 20th century. Tesla was a man clearly ahead of his time. Please leave your heavy metal objects at home, as rubber is the chic wear of the evening. Our community room will be transformed into an electrical laboratory that will demonstrate the concepts behind the man.

Will schedule a trip, for a Sunday in April to the Tessmann Planitarium for a program presented by the Orange County

Astronomers.

APRIL 24TH MEETING

Meet a new Hollywood producer night. Guest is from Orange County and has one Sf film to his credit. Can't say who it is, but if they aren't on location that night they have agreed to come. If not, will have an open meeting.

They have a Museum of Natural History, in Mission Viejo, that specializes in dinosaurs. If there is sufficient interest we could schedule a field trip sometime in May.

CLUB TRIP TO IMAX & MUSEUM

At the Februry meeting we scheduled a club trip to the IMAX theatre and the Museum of Science and Industry, at Exposition Park in Los Angeles. The monster screen at the IMAX will be the feature event, while the museum is right there for those who want to see it too.

We will meet at Fullerton S&L on Saturday, March 23rd, at 9:30am, and will carpool from there.

OCSFC MEETS THE APPLEGATES

The OCSFC movie for February was "Meet the Applegates", starring Ed Begley Jr. and Chaning Stockard. This might come under what Siskle and Ebert term "guilty pleasures. Giant bugs from the Amazon forest trying to pass as an average American family. It worked for us as a comic satire on modern America. Not great, but worth a VCR rental.

"Bride of the Re-Animator" was the March movie. Made by the same people who did "Re-Animator" and "From Beyond". This slash and gore story has no relationship to anything written by H.P. Lovecraft, except for an occasional mythos reference thrown in.

The next movie night will meet at Galactic Archieves, 5219 E. Orangethorpe Av., in Anaheim Hills. Time 6:30pm, April 10th and May 8th.

BOOK OF THE MONTH

RUSALKA by C. J. Cherryh

At the January meeting Katherine Curley proposed the OCSFC Book of the Month project. The idea was, whoever wished to participate, would read a preselected book and give our views on it when we went to Coco's after the meeting.

Certain guidelines needed to be established in selecting the Book of the Month(BOTM). The BOTM needed to be a current science fiction, or fantasy, novel that we hadn't read, and was easily attainable. Also, we needed to form a consensus on a book we would all enjoy reading. That's the tricky part.

Our first BOTM was "Rusalka", a fantasy by C. J. Cherryh, based on medievil Russian folklore. Winner of two best novel Hugo Awards, Carolyn Janice Cherry speaks Russian, studied antropology, archaeology, classical history, and linguistics at Oklahoma Univ. She has also taught Latin and ancient history, so she was well qualified to write this novel. There were four of us who read and critiqued "Rusalka". What surprised me was how unanimous we were in our evaluation. None of us liked the book and found it to be slow, tough reading. Often it was confusing in essential plot points and character motivation. What we liked best about "Rusalka", was the basic plot idea. A young man, Pyetr, and a boy, Sasha, are thrown together as refugees from the law, and must flee their village (somewhere near Kiev). Starved and cold they find a solitary house in the woods inhabited by an old man, Uulamets. Uulamets is a wizard, whose daughter Eveshka, was murdered when she was 16 by an evil wizard Chernevog. Eveshka is a Rusalka, a spirit who haunts the woods around the house. Uulamets, by scheme and threat, enlists the aid of Pyetr and Sasha to vanquish the powerful wizard Chernevog and bring Eveshka back to life.

I think most of us in the club consider ourselves pretty competent critics of what we read. Certainly, we read more than the average person. The process is a little like being on a jury. You all observe the same evidence and interpret your own conclusions. Also, it gets you to read books you might not normally choose on your own. Even though we didn't like the BOTM all that much we had fun talking about it.

ORANGE PULP RETURNS

The comments on changing the title of the newsletter were pretty negative, so I'm changing it back. In retrospect, I think the club members were willing to go along with what

seemed a pointless change, simply because I suggested it.

You may notice there are no writing credits on the articles. Some of the writing on program notes is the work of Marcia Starke and the rest is mine.

CHANGE OF HOBBIT CLOSES

Running a science fiction book store has to be a labor of love. You could invest in mutual funds and make more money; save all that work and headaches. For nineteen years Sherry Gottlieb struggled to keep her dream alive. Change of Hobbit was "the complete science fiction bookstore", new, used, old magazines, hard to get small press editions, and if they didn't have it they could probably special order it for you.

It was a sad scene I observed on my last visit, in late February. What was left was 60% off, the bookshelves and light fixtures were up for sale. I kind of felt like a vulture picking at the scant remains of a fallen lion. It seemed, not long ago in memory, that I waited in a line that curled around the corner, where Arthur C. Clarke was singing his new book, "2010: odyssey two." Sherry knew just about everybody in SF. There were numerous signings and benefits over the years to save Change of Hobbit. Harlan Ellison writing a story-a-day in the store-front window. Signings by Silverberg, Orson Scott Card, Sheckley, Leguin, just about anyone you could name over those nineteen years. It's tough to complete with a combination of big money chains, rising rents and a recession. If you wanted to use a credit card for a purchase at C of H you had to pay the extra 4%, that's how tight their profit margin was.

It was a long trip to Santa Monica, but I would go with Graham Volker, or Marty Miller, and we would make a day of it. Change of Hobbit was a special place to a lot of fans, so I want to thank Sherry and all the people that worked there for making it last as long as it did.