ISSUE #30

ORANGE COUNTY SCIENCE FICTION CLUB
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ORANGE PULP!

The Newsletter of the Orange County Science Fiction Club.

Issue #30 Vol. 5 No. 6, September 1991

Next Meeting: Wednesday, Sept., 25th, 1991, at 7pm. Fullerton Savings, 2400 East Chapman, Fullerton, 1/2 mile West off the Orange Freeway!

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ChiCon V/ WorldCon 1991 and Hugo Update

Best Novel: The Vor Game by Lois McMasters Bujold.

Best Novella: The Hemingway Hoax by Joe Haldeman.

Best Novelette: The Manamouki by Mike Resnick.

Best Short story: Bears Discover Fire by Terry Bisson.

Best Dramatic Presentation: Edward Scissorhands, 20th Century Fox.

Best Artist: Michael Whelan.

Best Non-fiction book: How to Write Science Fiction and Fantasy by Orson Scott Card.

Best Editor: Gardner Dozois.

John W. Campbell Award: Julia Ecklar.

The least surprising result is, of course, Michael Whelan as best artist. He wins it every year, except for the one year when he withdrew his name from the ballot. If you only read one anthology a year it should be Gardner Dozois' "The Years Best Science Fiction". This giant volume has become the standard of the genre. People who vote on the Hugo find that,

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OCSFC Annual Party

The club party at Marcia Starke's home, on August 17th, was a very enjoyable evening. It was somewhat smaller and laid-back, than previous club parties. We barbequed outdoors and the food was exellent. Mostly we just sat around and talked about a wide range of things. Everyone joined in and it just really seemed to flow. Later, we watched the classic silent film "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligeri".

LosCon 18

LosCon 18 will be held at the Long Beach Hyatt Regency Hotel and Long Beach Convention Center, Thanksgiving weekend, November 29th-December 1st. If you're planning to attend LosCon, or are interested in dealer's room/ art show information. Write to: LosCon 18, 11513 Burbank Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91601. Pre-registration is $25 before Nov. 15th, or $30 at the door.

Movie Nights OCSFC Style

Not much need be said about Terminator 2 (August) and Dead Again (September). Dead Again is about re-incarnation and pre-destination, where the same people are fated to meet in life after life. Dead Again is really only marginally a fantasy, but we chose it as the best available movie.

Upcoming OCSFC Movie Nights are Oct. 9th and Nov. 13th. We will meet at 7pm at Mac's Galactic Archives, 5219 E. Orangethorpe, in Anaheim Hills. The Addam's Family is scheduled for release in November and if possible we will see it.

July Meeting
Rhondi Salsitz

Rhondi is the author of thirty books. She was first published in 1982, so thats about three books a year. In the past few years, with the success of her Charles Ingrid books, it's been more than three a year and that's at least a full-time job and a half.

Her next book "Patterns of Chaos", has a Vincent DiFate cover and is about faster than light travel. The aliens in the story accomplish FTL by psychic means, they imagine where they want to be...and there they are! Also, Rhondi has a book of over 700 pages with New American Library that she describes as "a cross between White Fang and The Lord of the Rings." This will probably be published under the pseudonym Anne London.

Talking about her work schedule, Rhondi says, she might write ten pages a day, she might write upto forty pages, or she might just take the day off! She also reads manuscripts for Romance Writers of America, and of course, she attends SF Cons. Lately Rhondi has had a touch of writer's block, or "creative avoidance" as she prefers to call it. She has some interesting methods of working through it. Her son sent her a piece of the Berlin Wall and by contemplating the improbability of the events that have taken place there she is able to channel her thoughts in creative directions. For writing Fantasy she has a piece of clear, blue agate that she uses, much like a crystal ball, to get untracked. Then too, she says writing the monthly bills is the best incentive to get back to work! She sold a short story recently to a DAW anthology called "Horse Fantastic", only the second she's ever sold. She commented that Locus used to be the place writers looked for market news. Now that's pretty much been replaced by the computer modem networks.

Rhondi talked about breaking her cover as Charles Ingrid last year. "It was a signing at Aladdin Books and there was this military guy who came in. I could tell that he was probably from El Toro. Black chinos and a rolled up T-shirt, with an Air Force emblem. He had about five "Sand Wars" books that had been read so much that the covers were falling off. When I told him I was Charlie he almost shit in his breeches. After shuffling from one foot to the other, and staring off into space, he disapeared and returned with five brand new copies. He asked me to sign both sets as Charlie and under my own name. 'You can't be a woman', he told me. 'I've read these books and read these books...and you just can't be a woman!'

There has been some interest in both the "Sand Wars", and the "Marked Man" series from movie makers. Also, she is still writing a series of adult books about dragons under the name R.V. Salsitz. It's always great to have Rhondi as our guest.

Book Of The Month: Venus Plus X by Theodore Sturgeon

The Book of the Month project has come up with some real dogs recently, but this time we got lucky! I used to belong to a gourmet club where each of the six couples would prepare part of the menu. It was always a dish that sounded good but that they had never cooked. Sometimes it was great, or just okay, and sometimes it went discreetly down the garbage disposal. That's the way Book of the Month is. It's trying something you might not decide to read on your own and hoping to be pleasantly surprised.

Everyone enjoyed "Venus Plus X", and we were amazed at the daring social themes Sturgeon tackled in this 1960 novel. There are two seperate, complimentary stories in "Venus Plus X", written in alternating chapters. Sturgeon explores in depth the seemingly senseless conflict between the sexes; why men feel they need to dominate and demean women. The most intriguing part of the book takes place in a utopian society where everyone is bi-sexual. It's one book that's so far ahead of it's time that it doesn't seem dated at all.

Our book for the September meeting is Joe Haldeman's " The Hemingway Hoax", which just won the Hugo, and had earlier won the Nebula for best novella.

September 25th Meeting...

Our special guests will be Scott Broedin and Richard Coyle. Scott and Richard have worked as prop men on the Star Trek movies. They will bring some props and show slides to aid in their presentation. Props for movies set in the future require a lot of creative input to be convincing. What should a computer in the 23rd century look like? And how do they arrive at those decisions? It should be an interesting program.

We will discuss having a pizza party or dinner out in the near future. Also, we want to wish OCSFC members Ed and Lela Pawelczyk, who have moved to

...and in October

Tentatively we are going to watch Roger Corman's film adaptation of Brian Aldiss's book "Frankenstein Unbound." The idea is to read the Aldiss book and compare the two. We will talk about this at the September meeting.

Just a Reminder!

We, members of the newsletter staff, are forever looking for new ideas to better our newsletter. At times our string of ideas gets a little thin! If you have any ideas, topics or suggestions for us please don't hesitate to let one of us know.

SF: Hugos and Stuff...

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year after year, more of the Hugo nominated stories appear in Dozois' anthology than any other. This gives Dozois an enormous advantage in winning the best editor award every year.

"The Vor Game", by bujold, was an entertaining, well paced action/adventure story. That's really the best that I can say for "The Vor Game", not good enough to enthusiastically recommend, but more entertaining than the competition.

Winnipeg will host CONADIAN the 1994 WorldCon, to be held Sept. 1-5 at the Winnipeg Convention Center. Louisville ran a close second. The last Canadian WorldCon was in Toronto in 1973.

August Meeting

An Introductory Course in Gaming

Some things you can only learn by doing. As an experienced gamemaster, Mac McMahon knows you can't really understand gaming without actually playing.

Dungeons & Dragons (D&D) is of course the best known example of gaming. However Mac chose one of his personal favorites for the club,"The Call of Cthulhu", a game more in the SF tradition. After a brief talk on the evolution of role-playing games, we devided ourselves into two groups and set out the pieces.

Mac, as the Gamemaster, gave us a senario to build our characters around. We were to be Scotland Yard Detectives, investigating a murder that concerned a mysterious craft that lands in the English countryside, near London. First we had to fill out a sheet defining the strengths and weaknesses of our character. Gaming is an exercise in for the imagination. Unlike other games the object is not to win or defeat your opponent, so much as to develope a story and use your creativity to solve a mystery. Under the Gamemaster's guidance you interview characters in the story, search for clues and decide on courses of action.

We got into the game enough to get a bare bones understanding of gaming. The game can go on and on, your character changing according to skill of play and the luck of the dice; in that respect gaming attempts to reflect life.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS: Subscriptions to the Orange Pulp are $5 a year for six issues and include club membership. Make checks payable to Ken Williams, 5727 E. Stillwater Ave. #9, Orange, CA 92669 (number at top of label indicates last paid issue number.)