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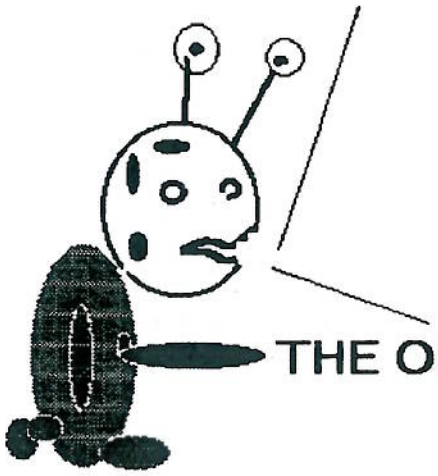

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ORANGE COUNTY
SCIENCE FICTION CLUB

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

NEXT MEETING: November 25, 1992 7:30PM*

OCSFC

ISSUE #37

# THE ORANGE PULP

*Doors open 7:00PM (or within reason)

# NEWSLETTER OF THE ORANGE COUNTY SCIENCE FICTION CLUB

**ISSUE #37 VOL. 6 NO. 6, NOVEMBER 1992**


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|---|---|
| **EDITOR** | **Jeff Stein** (don't call me chief!) |
| **ASSOCIATE EDITOR** | **Dave Silva** |
| **SUBSCRIPTIONS** | **Ken Williams** |
| **PROGRAM DIRECTOR** | **Marcia Starke** |
| **OCSFC LOGO** | **Mac McMahon** |


**Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 25, 1992 at 7:30 pm. Fullerton Savings, 2400 East Chapman, Fullerton, a half mile West off the Orange Freeway.**

## In Editorium

Since there won't be a December meeting it means that we're coming to the end of the OCSFC year. It's been a good year for us, we had lots of great speakers Including Tim Powers, the guys from the Tesla Society, Carlos Mondragon from Alcor Life Extensions, and Barry Short. We also had our 10th anniversary party. Not to mention lots of videos, book discussions, and after-the-meeting get togethers at the restaurant across the street. Of course the most important event has been the opening of the Pick-n-Save across the parking lot from the meeting.
For the November meeting, bring books to trade and ideas for next years events.

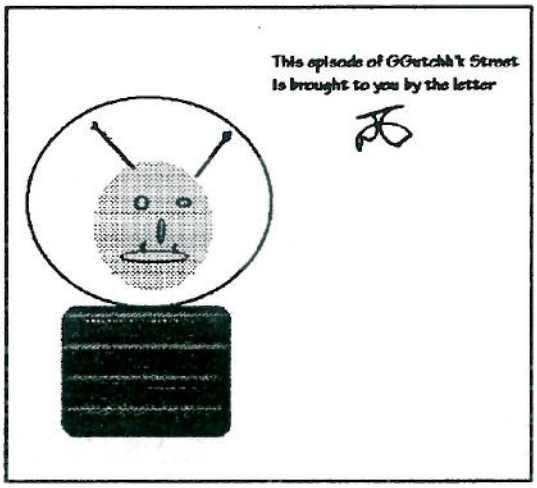
**Letter to the Editor**

**I'm still waiting for someone to send me a letter!**
**Jeff**

## Submissions to The Orange Pulp

**Send your short story, article, or other items for publication consideration to:**

**Jeff Stein**
**1700 W. Cerritos #312**
**Anaheim, CA 92804**



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| November | 20 | SFO Meeting |
| | 25 | Orange County Science Fiction Club Meeting 7:30 |
| | 27 | LosCon through 11/29 |
| December | 4 | SFO Meeting |
| | 9 | OCSFC Movie Night |
| | 18 | SFO Meeting |
| | 19 | Jedi Christmas Party |
| | 20 | Jedi Knights Regular Meeting |
| | 30 | OCSFC, NO MEETING THIS MONTH |
| January | 13 | OCSFC Movie Night |
| | 15 | SFO Meeting |
| | 17 | Jedi Knights Regular Meeting |
| | 27 | Orange County Science Fiction Club Meeting 7:30 |

For Jedi Knights information call (714) 826-5625
For movie night information call the Galactic Archives (714) 693-0673 on the movie date
For SFO (Science Fantasy Organization, formerly STAI) call (714) 557-1975

## PREVIOUS MEETINGS

**September 30**- Elise showed her edited video of Magicon. The tape had lots of shots of us OCSFC'ers sitting around in the central area of the con, and lots of pictures of us sitting/standing around at the Callahan's Place party. The tape also had the masquerade with some great pictures taken from the back of the auditorium without a tripod. Finally the tape showed the closing ceremonies.

**October 28**- Chuck Fete gave his talk on the Tesla convention that he attended in July. He talked about the convention itself as well as the various groups of people who attended the convention. One of the most interesting parts was his description if Nicola Tesla and his many ideas such as using alternating current versus Edison's direct current. Chuck also talked about some of Teslas ideas which haven't come to fruition yet, but are still being tried today.

## NEXT MEETING

Our November meeting will have three components 1). It will be our annual book swap meeting. Bring those books that you would like to sell or trade, the ones that are taking up all that extra space that you could be using for other things like new books for example. 2). We will have our business meeting, which means that we will discuss the fiture of the club and what we'd like to be doing next year. 3). Dave Silva will talk about specialty publishers and hard cover books. Who are these "publishers" and why do people pay so much for their books? Dave will tell all!

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN DECEMBER, see you all January 27.

## MOVIE NIGHTS

**October**- Here is Marcia's review of our October movie: On Wednesday October 14, there was a severe shortage of any movies of the science-fiction type to be seen on our hallowed movie night. So, my choice being the better, members Mac, Jeff, and I saw "Under Siege". We were hoping this special Steven Seagal movie would have a lone alien or two, but...no luck. Mr. Seagal takes on some mean dudes who try to take over the US Battleship Missouri on its last voyaage to be decommissioned. For an action-jackson macho pic, I kinda liked it. This movie grossed $42.5 million after just three weekends, according to the Los Angeles Times.

**November**- We saw the new directors cut of *Bladerunner*. Deckard, the bladerunner goes out after renegade replicators. A good SF movie, I did not see the original so I cannot judge the difference between the two movies

We usually go out to a movie on the second Wednesday of each month. See the Calendar of Events for the number to call for more information.

## BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

For the last couple of months we've been reading *Dracula* by Bram Stoker and *Dracula Unbound* by Brian Aldiss all of this reading was culminated in seeing the Movie *Bram Stoker's Dracula* on Friday the 13th.
Our next book will probably be Mutant by Lewis Padget and we will probably discuss it at our January meeting.

## CON STUFF

### UNICON in review

On November 7th I attended what turned out to be the smallest con I've ever seen. UNICON, hosted by the city of Irvine, was held in a large multipurpose room operated by Youth Services of Irvine. There were about four dealers tables, a TV and VCR playing movies all day and panel discussions going on in another room. There was no admission charge and no parking fee, so, it should have brought a large number of people, but the turnout was quite disappointing. The Jedi Knights had a dealers table as well as did SFO but the Jedi's went one step further. Since they couldn't have a room party (there being no hotel and no night) they had a room party in the main room of the con and had free soft drinks and munchies.
As disappointing as the turnout was, I hope that they will continue to have this con yearly and that they will put a greater effort into publicizing it. We could really enjoy a good local con every year and this is the perfect setting.

### LOSCON

Jim Shaun Lyon says it best from his Compuserve Science Fiction Forum message of November 15:

Remember, only 11 more shopping days until LOSCON 19, the Los Angeles Regional Science Fiction Convention.
We have great guests! Barbara Hambly, Mike Glyer, David Hartwell, Don Maitz are our GoH's. And to name a few more: Larry Niven, Jerry Pournelle, Janny Wurts, Steve Barnes, David Brin, Dave Trowbridge, Kathryn Cramer, Raymond E. Feist, John Vornholt, Mel Gilden, Harry Turtldove, Bill Rotsler, Brad Lineaweaver, Vernor Vinge, Arthur Byron Cover, Chris Bunch, Leslie Fish, the L.A. Filkharmonic and Windsong, Daffyd ab Hugh, Bill Kreisler and a special one-hour Friday panel with Special Guest Ray Bradbury.

We have some great panels. Joe Straczynski, executive producer, gives you aspecial look at the upcoming SF series Babylon Five. Folks from NASA and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory give you an inside look at NASA' s plans for the next twenty years. The Costumers Guild West hosts a special Costume Exhibits Room full of the best fashions on the West Coast. The L.A. Filkharmonic, Windsong and Leslie Fish are featured in filksinging concerts. We have SF film previews, two 24 gaming rooms, Japanimation, a Casino Night and much, much more.

It's Thanksgiving Weekend, November 27-29, 1992, at the Los Angeles Airport Marriott on Century Blvd., one block east of LAX Airport. Memberships are a mere $30 at the door. Come join us.

Cheers!

### CON-DOR

I've just been given information about a con being held next March. CON-DOR will be held March 5-7 at Town & Country in San Diego's Hotel Circle. GOH's will be Octavia Butler and J. Michael Straczynski. $25 before Feb 15 or $30 at the door. For information call (619) 291-7131 or write CON-DOR P.O. BOX 15771, San Diego, CA 92175. If registering by mail make checks payable to Con-Dor and include a SASE.

# TOLKIEN STARTED SOMETHING

by

Dave Silva

In 1914, George Allan England 's epic adventure of earth's distant future, *Darkness and Dawn* was published.... all 673 pages of it in one volume. Since then, England has slipped into relative obscurity, but after his greatest work had fallen into public domain it was reprinted in five volumes by Avalon Press, from 1964-1967. I have never seen the original, but simple arithmetic tells me it must have been 673 pages of fine print. The point being, that if England were alive today he might say, 'I really got screwed! I could have sold five books instead of just one. '

Now that anything enjoying modest success seems to have a sequel. a trilogy, or more, it all seems such an obvious formula for maximizing profits. When Asimov wrote his Foundation trilogy it was as a series of "TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF ASTOUNDING" installments. The Foundation trilogy was reprinted in hardcover edition of a few thousand copies by Gnome Press in the early 1950 's. Then it was published in paperback, with title changes by Ace and sold well. Then it vas republished by Doubleday, in 1963, and it just kept on selling. Realizing his original trilogy had many loose ends, Asimov wrote *Foundation's Edge*, in 1982. This was the beginning of a process that tied together the earlier robot books, with Susan Calvin and R. Daneel Olivaw and the Foundation novels to complete his future history.

One advantage of breaking an epic size tale into several books is, that if the first book is good, it provides a built in market for the next one. Philip Jose Farmer's River World series started with the Hugo winning, *To Your Scattered Bodies Go*. Each of the next three books in the series is generally considered to be worse than the one preceeding it. But by then, most readers were committed to seeing River World through to its unsatisfactory conlusion. An example of poor merchandising goes back to 1818, when Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* was published in 3 volumes. They didn't even take advantage of her well known name....publishing it as author anonymous. Even then, it must have been hard to convince book buyers to spring for a 3 volume set by an unknown author.

It seems that Tolkien really started something more than a runaway best seller when he wrote *The Lord of the Rings*. He started a wide scale trend toward epic length stories, much the way that the Star Wars trilogy started a flood of movie sequels. *Lord of the Rings* convinced writers, new and old that epics would sell; most important of all, it convinced publishers to buy them. Every reader who closes that cover of a truly enjoyable book has that tinge of regret, that it was so good and ended so soon. The strength of a good epic is a satisfactory conclusion that doesn't end too soon.

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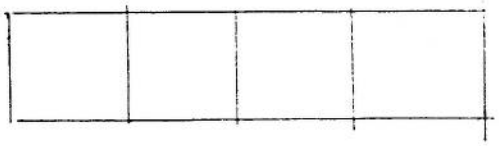

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