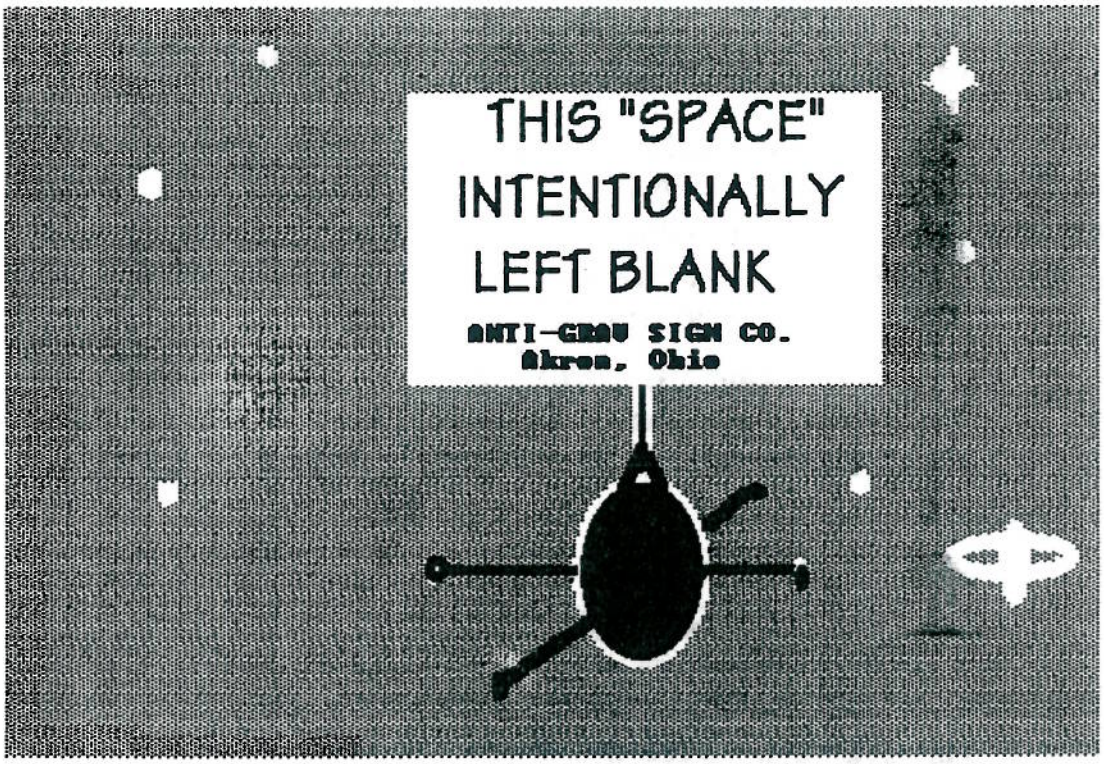

ORANGE COUNTY
SCIENCE FICTION CLUB

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

NEXT MEETING: <u>May 26, 1993 7:30PM*</u>

ISSUE #40

THE ORANGE PULP

*Doors open 7:00PM (or whenever)

92714-3273 63

NEWSLETTER OF THE ORANGE COUNTY SCIENCE FICTION CLUB

ISSUE #40 VOL. 7, NO. 3, May 1993 (Stardate Unknown)

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, May 26, 1993, 7:30 pm at The Usual Place, 2400 East Chapman, Fullerton, a half mile West off the Orange Freeway. (SE corner of Chapman and St. College in Fullerton)

NOTICE:
IF YOU
RECEIVED THIS
NEWSLETTER
WITHOUT A
COVER, IT WAS
PROBABLY LOST
SOMEWHERE.
NOBODY WOULD
ACTUALLY STEAL
A THING LIKE
THIS

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From the PULPit (or if you prefer, the Pulp Pit)

Well, The Orange Pulp didn't get nominated for a Hugo award this year again. I'm not really surprised though, I didn't nominate it. Our club and its associated newsletter are not really "worldly" enough for an award of that magnitude. Being small also has its advantages. I can have a lot more fun putting this thing together and trying to give out accurate information about local events than I would be able to with a larger publication.

Now! on to the Letters!

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

Here's a letter. Quit your whining.

D. Jsomethingorother

Dear D.

I think you're missing an important point. Whining and Whine tasting have become important cultural rites to be used in formal situations when you can't get your way. The best examples are to be found at the many whineries in the California Whine country.

Dear Editor-N-Chief* of the Orange Pulp:
Contrary to popular belief, Marcia is not going to quit her job and go work for the production crew of SIGHTINGS as the resident UFO groupie. Rather, she has obtained a position as high priestess for the Church of Close Encounters Therapy Salon in Newport Beach.

Sincerely yours

J. Alek Hi-Neck

Dear J. Alek,

I'm afraid you've got it all wrong, the popular belief is that Marcia is becoming the resident UHF groupie for SIGHTINGS and will act as liaison to the Church of Close Encounters Therapy TV station on channel 184.

***Don't call me Editor-N-Chief either**

Submissions to The Orange Pulp

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

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May	**26**	**Orange County Science Fiction Club Meeting 7:30**
June	**1**	**SFO Regular Meeting - Last meeting until October**
	9	**OCSFC Movie Night**
	20	**Jedi Knights Regular meeting**
	22	**UniCon V Planning Meeting**
	26	**Bookstore Crawl "Orange County Crashout"**
	30	**Orange County Science Fiction Club Meeting 7:30**
July	**14**	**OCSFC Movie Night**
	18	**Jedi Knights Regular Meeting**
	28	**Orange County Science Fiction Club Meeting 7:30**

For Jedi Knights information call (714) 826-6313
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
For OCSFC Information call (714) 552-4925

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

March- Science Fictionary

We had a lot of fun with this game which I believe was also hosted at LosCon by Ron and Dina. There were no prizes and nobody kept score. The goal, like in Pictionary is to express an idea completely through drawn pictures It's important to remember that all forms of writing started out with pictures. Chinese and Japanese Characters still have some pictorial representation in them. The next time sombody shows me prehistoric cave pictures, I will imagine cavemen sitting around playing this game.

April- Chris Curry

We always have a great meeting when authors show up and this one was no exception. Chris can be catagorized as a Horror writer. Her book list includes Trickster and Winter Scream both published by pocket books and Panic also to be published by pocket books. She also writes under the name Tamara Thorne. Zebra books will publish Body House in February 1994.

Chris Curry

NEXT MEETING

World War II Warner Bros. cartoons

What ever happened to all the propaganda cartoons from WWII? A few of them still get shown on TV as long as they're not too politically incorrect. I don't know what Dina is going to show us, but I expect that they will be unusual. (Note: current politically correct thought only allows Nazi's to be the bad guys)

June Meeting

The speaker for June is Artist Don Dixon.

MOVIE NIGHTS

April- Fire In the Sky

This was probably the most appropriate movie for us to see because 1) It was Science Fiction and 2) There is no 2. "Based on a true story" can mean either that Travis Walton was picked up by aliens or that the events around the abduction actually happened (i.e Travis was really missing and when he was found, he really told the authorities that he was taken by aliens). The scenes aboard the alien space craft were entirely fictionalized. (Of course a lot of movies are fictionalized, they're supposed to be entertaining).

May- No Movie

We must like No Movie a lot, we see it so often, actually It really is getting hard to find a Science Fiction movie to see every month. This is one of the months where we couldn't find one. I expect we will be seeing Jurassic Park later this summer.

The Reading Orbit

April- The Gripping Hand - Larry Niven and Jerry Pournelle
The Gripping Hand is a sequel to The Mote in God's Eye by the same authors. It does not have a "what has gone before" section at the beginning so to truly understand the story and characters one needs to have read The Mote... previously. This is why I read both books (total about 1000 pages) over the month of April (and received an award at the April meeting). In my opinion The Gripping Hand was not as good as The Mote. I like strong characters, which both books had, but I also like colorful scenic descriptions which make me want to say "Wow" and I don't feel that Gripping Hand, went to enough places and did enough things to satisfy me.

May- Deus X- Norman Spinrad
We will probably discuss this book after the meeting in the restaurant across the street. It is a short novel, only 177 pages and if you have a copy you may still have time to read it before the meeting.

June- Doomday Book- Connie Willis
This is a 1993 Hugo nominee, but we won't have discussed it in time for the vote.

July-The Trikon Deception - Ben Bova and Bill Pogue

CON STUFF

ConFrancisco- WorldCon 1993

September 2 through September 6, 1993 at the Moscone Convention Center in San Francisco. This is the Worldcon for 1993 and if you want to go you should start making plans now or earlier. The attending membership is $125 through July 16th and at the door it will be $145. Guests of Honor include Larry Niven, Alicia Austin, Tom Digby, and Mark Twain (as the dead Guest of Honor). If you attend, you will be given the opportunity to vote for the worldcon site selection in 1996. Since Los Angeles is the only name on the ballot it has a good chance of winning. If you vote (pay the voting fee) and pay the conversion fee to attending membership you will have paid only $65 (I think) for your membership to worldcon in 1996 which, if Mike Glyer is correct, will be held in our backyard at the Anaheim Convention Center. If you wish to write to ConFrancisco their address is 712 Bancroft Rd., Suite 1993, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.
I have just received word that PR#6 is in the mail. It contains the final Hugo ballots,

UniCon V

Saturday, November 6, 1993 10:00 AM to 4:00 Pm at the Youth Services Center, 14301 Yale Avenue, Irvine, CA 92714. In the past few years this con has not been very well attended, but it has the potential to be a great con for our local area. The event director is Claude Ervin and this year he is getting some much needed help in publicity and planning for UniCon. So far the plans include a masquerade (they have a nice stage and sound system), yogurt tasting (a healthy alternative to the ice cream social), an art show, guests, videos, a dealers room, a swap room (like a dealers room except no money changes hands, just swapping stuff). The Jedi Knights will be providing snacks. Best of all admission is Free and parking is Free.

If you wish to have a table in the dealers room the prices are as follows: 4 foot $20, 6 foot $25, 8 foot $30.

If you would like to get involved as a volunteer or to arrange for a dealers table call Claude Ervin at (714) 724-6750. The next planning meeting is scheduled for June 22, 1993

ConAdian - WorldCon 1994

This is information from PR#3. Location: Winnipeg Convention Center in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Guests: Author: Anne McCaffrey; Artist: George Barr; Toastmaster: Barry B. Longyear; Fan:

Robert Runte. Rates: Attending $85, Supporting $25 through September 30, 1993. Address ConAdian P.O. Box 2430 Winnipeg, MB R3C 4A7, Canada (all prices are in U.S dollars)

Bookstore Crawl- Orange County Crashout

This event, hosted by the Jedi Knights has always included members of several different Orange County groups. This year the bookstore crawl will be held on June 26. We will be leaving Orange County (hence the title) and going to beautiful downtown Burbank where bookstores will be in walking distance of each other. For more information call the phone number for the Jedi Knights listed in the calender of events section.

ROBERT SHECKLEY: SCIENCE FICTION'S KING OF COMEDY

by Dave Silva

One of the hardest things to write is a funny story. Through hard work writers can improve their skills, but if they don't have a natural comic gift they'll never learn to write really funny stories. For my taste there's nothing worse than a comedy that isn't funny; and nothing more enjoyable than one that is. Another problem with writing comedy is the lack of recognition. A comedy has never won the Oscar for best picture and is rarely nominated. In the SF field a comedy has never won a Hugo for best novel, although several, such as, "A Canticle for Lebowitz", and "Call Me Conrad", have had comic elements. Comedy is generally viewed as "...not serious literature. " Robert Sheckley 's first published story, "Final Examination", appeared in the May 1952 issue of Imagination. By the end of the decade he had written a hundred short stories for the magazines; some under the name of Finn O'Donnevan, and one as Phillips Barbee. Most of his memorable stories, during the '50s, Were in Galaxy, when Horace Gold was editor. His first hardcover collection, "Untouched By Human Hands", Ballantine 1954, is my favorite single author SF collecticn of all time. If I were forced to compare Sheckley to other writers I would describe him as a combination of Fred Brown and Douglas Adams at their best. Author of "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy", Douglas Adams said "...if I had read Sheckley stories from the '50s any earlier than I did, I think I would have almost given up the idea of writing myself. Even substandard Sheckley is a heck of a lot better than most people's best." A lot of fans aren't familiar with Sheckley, because he doesn't do conventions. Born in Brooklyn, he has lived in London, Paris and Spain. During much of the '70s he gave up SF to write mysteries. Also, in recent years, ill health has cut into his literary output. I did get to meet him at a signing at Dangerous Visions bookstore a few years ago. He came in late, hair half combed, smoking a cigarette and looking for an ashtray. When he signed my copy of "Untouched By Human Hands", he said wistfully "Boy! This is really scarce. I wish I had one of these." Ballantine only printed about 500 hardcover copies. Sheckley went on to say he moved so often that it was difficult to keep a lot of books. A typical Sheckley story has an original idea and a strong ending. In "The Impacted Man", the hero finds himself back in the stone age whenever he trys to leave his apartment. In "'The Academy", the detection of deviates is achieved by placing sanity meters in all public places. In "A Ticket to Tranai", wives are placed in suspended animation when not needed by their husbands. With the extra years they enjoy several married lives, plus the financial benefits of multiple widowhood. In "Can You Feel Anything When I Do This?" a very versitile vacuum cleaner falls in love with a woman, who comes into his store, and has himself delivered to her apartment. In "The Same to You Doubled", a man gets 3 wishes with the catch that his worst enemy gets whatever he gets for himself doubled. A typical Sheckley twist in this story is that the hero didn't know he had a worst enemy. When I would get a new issue of Galaxy I would check to see if it had a Sheckley story and read it first. You don't have to like SF to enjoy a Sheckley story. If Sheckley had received the broad type of marketing that Bradbury did, he wouldn't be such an underrated writer today.