SPECIAL DINOSAUR ISSUE

Designer Dinosaur by Marcia

ORANGE COUNTY
SCIENCE FICTION CLUB

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

NEXT MEETING: JULY 28, 1993 7:30 PM*

Scheduled Guest Speaker

GREG BENFORD

ISSUE #41

THE ORANGE PULP

* Doors open 7:00 P.M. (Come and watch them open)

THE ORANGE PULP

NEWSLETTER OF THE ORANGE COUNTY SCIENCE FICTION CLUB

ISSUE #41 VOL 7, NO. 4, JULY 1993 (ISBN unlisted)

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

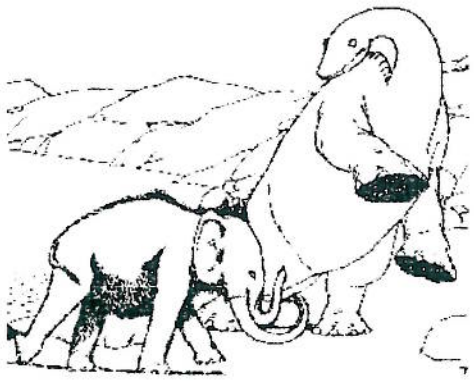
Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 28, 1993, 7:30 PM at The Usual Place, 2400 East Chapman, Fullerton, a half mile west off the Orange Freeway. (SE corner of Chapman and St. College in Fullerton)

The Reading Orbit Discussion Book: The Trikon Deception

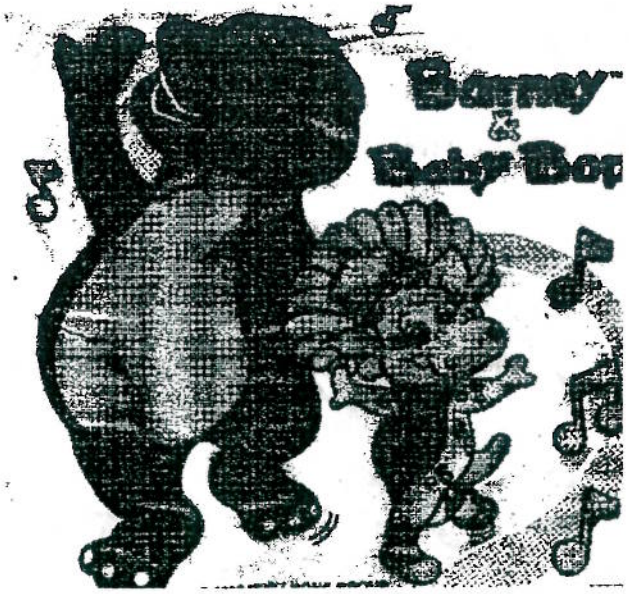
by Ben Bova and Bill Pogue

From the PULPit (rantings on orange paper)

It seems as though EVERYONE is doing something with dinosaurs this year. We at the Orange Pulp are no different, although we try to be different. This issue, then, is our attempt to *get Jurassic in gear* and maybe when we're done the world of science fiction will return to normal, well, not exactly *normal*, but... aw skip it... ON to the Dinosaurs!



Gertie the trained dinosaur by Windsor McKay about 1914. First live action cartoon.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

[EDITOR'S NOTE: THIS LETTER WAS FORWARDED TO US BY THE NATIONALLY SYNDICATED COLUMNIST, THINKING WE WOULD HAVE MORE EXPERTISE IN THIS MATTER.]

Dear Miss Manners:

How does one politely correct another when that person keeps using the term "sci-fi," a term that is considered very degrading by us aficionados? For example, at an elegant dinner party someone will invariably come up and say, "Oh, I hear you're into that sci-fi stuff." Or, "Do really read those sci-fi books?" Or, "Did you see that sci-fi movie on TV last night?"

As all those with taste and manners know, the correct term is "SF." [Although there is a humorous contingent that's taken that outdated "sci-fi" label and just pronounce it "sciffi" (rhyming with jiffy) -- but that's all in fun and I'm sure the joke is lost on non-fans.]

Since you are known as such an elegant arbiter of good taste and practical advice, I am anxious for your input since I believe if I hear the word "sci-fi" one more time at a soiree, I'm likely to hit someone over the head with a silver gravy boat.

MIXED UP AMONG THE MUNDANES

Dear Mixed and Miss Manners,

You don't mind if I eat while I answer this do you? Good! {slobber} I used to object to the term "sci-fi" also, but then I got to thinking that Audiophiles don't object to the term "hi-fi" and make everyone call it "HF"{drool} also the term "SF" can mean San Francisco as well as Science Fiction (this will cause no end to the confusion at ConFrancisco) {more drool}. Those fans who want everyone to use terms other than "sci-fi" like to think of the genre as "character oriented stories where some aspect of science fiction plays an important part in the plot of the story and bear absolutly no relation to the 'monster movies' that everyone thinks of as sci-fi".{belch} These same people all just went gah-gah over Jurassic Park. Therefore I believe they are truly fans of "sci-fi". Put that in your gravy boat!

The Editor

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

July	**28**	**Orange County Science Fiction Club 7:30**
Aug	**11**	**OCSFC Movie Night**
	15	**Jedi Knights Regular Meeting**
	25	**Orange County Science Fiction Club 7:30**
	31	**Signing by Robert Bloch at Aladdin Books 12:00 Noon- 2:00 PM**
Sept	**2-6**	**ConFrancisco- 1993 WorldCon**
	8	**OCSFC Movie Night**
	19	**Jedi Knights Regular Meeting**
	29	**Orange County Science Fiction Club 7:30**

For Jedi Knights information call (714) 826-5625 (NEW NUMBER!)

For Movie Night information call the Galactic Archives (714) 693-0673

For SFO information (formerly STAI) call (714) 557-1975 meetings will resume later this year

For OCSFC information call (714) 552-4925

PREVIOUS MEETINGS

MAY

Dina gave us a fun program of Warner Bros. and other cartoons of the World War II era. These are cartoons you usually don't see on TV anymore because they are no longer politically correct, the quality is not good enough for television or the producers would rather show cartoons that sell a current idea or product.

JUNE

Artist Don Dixon gave a wonderful program showing slides of his work on book covers and other science fiction art as well as science fiction that art that influenced him. This was one of those great meetings when nobody wanted to leave when the meeting was over.

NEXT MEETING

Greg Benford

We've been waiting for this meeting for a long time. Full time professor of physics at UCI and writer of Science Fiction Greg Benford will be our scheduled speaker. Among the long list of books he has written is *Great Sky River* which was read and discussed by The Reading Orbit last year.

Meeting after the meeting

This month we are going to try something a little different. After the meeting we will be going to Round Table Pizza for our after the meeting festivities instead of the usual place. The pizza place is in the same shopping center where we hold our meetings.

AUGUST MEETING

John Cannon

From Aladdin Books, John Cannon is scheduled to speak to us and give us a slide presentation about magic its history and how it applies to science fiction.

MOVIE NIGHTS

June

This movie night was a week later than scheduled. We wanted to wait for the opening of Jurassic Park. The wait was worth it!. Not only was this a great science fiction movie but it ushers in a whole new technology for movies of the future.

July

For various reasons we did not attend a movie in July.

The club movie night is usually the second Wednesday of each month, but due to film schedules and our schedules it has become very tentative. It is important to call ahead if you want to attend the movie with us.

THE READING ORBIT

MAY

BOOK REVIEW by Catherine Curley

(The READING ORBIT's May Reading selection.)

DEUS X by Norman Spinrad

Who could imagine a pot-smoking, reggae-rapping Rastafarian becoming the savior of the Roman Catholic Church? Well, Norman Spinrad has in this little gem of a book. It's the dying days of a polluted planed Earth where technology allows for the transmigration of the self into a computer matrix as a form of eternal life. But a Vatican computer snafu leads to a spiritual crisis that Pope Mary I must reconcile and do so quickly. So who ya gonna call? -- our wily Rastafarian, of course!

The story is told in the first person, but Spinrad digs further into his writer's bag of tricks by changing the viewpoint character in the different chapters. This is a writer in top form and a delight to see how he creates a distinct voice for each character.

Filled with literary puns (How many can you find? Hint: Start with the book's title.), Spinrad takes very serious subjects-- what is life? what is the soul? -- but his snappy writing and wicked wit makes this a delightful page turner without damaging the dignity of the central questions. His private eye (whose name is a two-level pun so I won't spoil the surprise for you) is one of the more unique and endearing creations to hit the page.

At only 177 pages (and with large type), you can zip through this joyful novel in one sitting. And let's hope Spinrad can find other adventures for his delightful Rastafarian rascal

Thanks to Marcia Starke for suggesting it to the READING ORBIT.

JUNE

Our discussion book for June was *The Doomsday Book* by Connie Willis. This was a great book and well deserving of the Hugo nomination that it received. Connie Willis picked a very interesting time in history to write about. A character from our future traveled back to the 1300's, in the time of the plague. The time travel was accomplished by means of a "net" which would not allow time paradoxes to occur. This story line gave the author an opportunity to follow events in our future as well as our past. It was interesting to see the differences as well as the many similarities presented.

Next Book - July

Our book for July will be *The Trikon Deception* by Ben Bova and Bill Pogue

August

For August due to getting ready for ConFrancisco we will be reading a short story. The story will be the title story from Connie Willis' Antholory *Fire Watch.* Since this is a short story this would be a good time to join us and see how much fun it is to share the adventure of reading. If you can't find the book in a library or used book store Catherine will send you a copy of the story if you send a SASE Kraft (larger than a no. 10) envelope with $1.21 in postage already on it and $1.50 to cover handling to 11930 Banner Dr. #67 Garden Grove, CA 92643. To send it out in time she needs to receive this by Aug 15. You may also call her at (714) 638-8903 or see her at the meeting.

The short story *Fire Watch* is also in Asimov's SF magazine 2/15/82

MORE STUFF

Signing by Robert Bloch

Robert Bloch will be signing his long-awaited autobiography *Once Around the Bloch* on Saturday July 31 from 12 noon to 2 PM at Aladdin Books, 122 W. Commonwealth Ave, Fullerton (714) 738-6115

Conventions

There's not a lot of room to talk about conventions this month. If you haven't registered for Con Francisco by now you will have to pay the full "at the door" price unless you can find someone to sell their membership to you. Orange County's own UNICON is coming up November 6, call Claude Ervin at (714) 724-6750. LosCon will be held as usual over Thanksgiving Weekend. This year it will be in Burbank. We'll give you more information as we get it.

More Stuff Cont'd

The Marcia Show

On July 15, our own Marcia Starke was interviewed by Melissa Monk for Multivision Cable's local news. Marcia talked about the OCSFC in between clips of science fiction films from the Sci-Fi channel. The segment was aired every half hour all Thursday evening and Friday morning as part of CNN Headline News local edition as well as Multivision's own news show on channel 3. If you were not able to see the segment, we will probably have a video tape of it at the August meeting. Ranting and raving is back in style.

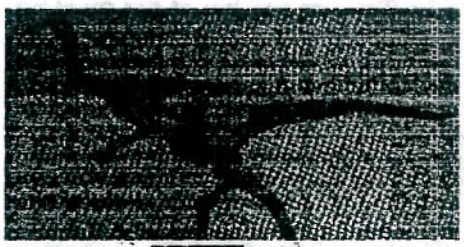
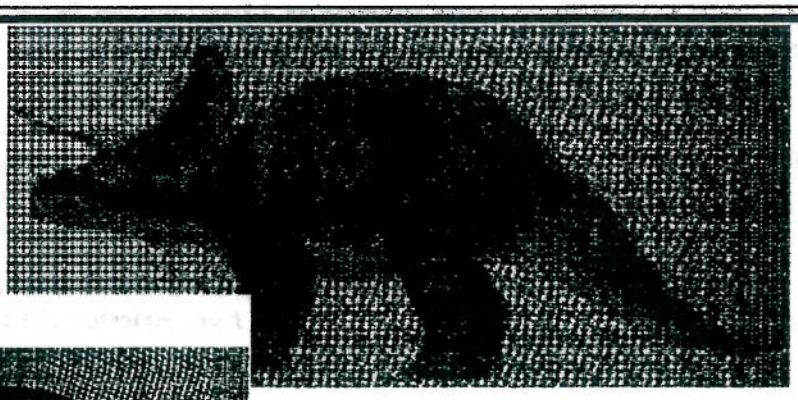
DINOSAURS IN SCIENCE FICTION

by

Dave Silva

The visually stunning "Jurassic Park", has caused a renewed interest in those giants from our distant past. Dinosaurs have always been a fasinating suhject and PBS ran an excellent series on them a cauple of years ago. It is generally true that ancient history changes drastically because small clues can lead to major revisions in a field where so much of what we know is based on speculatiotn. That dinosaurs are warm-blooded, closely related to birds, more intelligent and more social than previously thought, are all recent ideas.

By their nature, if you have dinosaurs in a story, the story becomes science fiction. During the era of the dinosaurs, the Cretaceous, Triassic and Jurassic periods, Earth very much resembled an alien planet. Strange animals and plant 1ife, even the continents and climate were different. Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Lost World", was one of the earliest stories about dinosaurs. This used the dinosaurs survived in a remote corner of the Earth storyline Which was more plausible in 1912, when Doyle wrote it. Disney also used this line in its mega-flop film "Baby". Since man and dinosaurs never came close to inhabiting the earth at the same time, (a fact blightly ignored in the film One Million BC) various methods of bringing them together must be invented.

In the 1979 antholagy "The Dawn of Time", subtitled; Prehistory Through Science Fiction, the first 3 stories are about dinosaurs. The first, and best known SF story on the subject, "A Gun For Dinosaur" by L. Sprague DeCamp, uses time travel ta go back and hunt the biggest game of all. The third story, by Robert R. Olsen, "Paleontogogy: An Experimental Science", (from Analog 1974) uses much the same method of creating dinosaurs in a modern world as "Jurassic Park" used. Told in a series of dry scientific reports, a sing1e Tyrannosaurus is cloned from genetic fragments found in fossils and computers are used to integrate the genetic fragments into a viable egg. As the T-Rex gets bigger they attempt to contain it in an elephant compound at the San Diego Zoo. Of course, it escapes and terrorizes the countryside.

You could have dinosaurs exist in an alternate world where they never became extinct. Another idea wauld be having dinosaurs inhabit an alien planet where by some degree of parallel evolution they also developed. One thing is pretty clear, "Jurassic Park", is pure entertainment and easily the best movie ever done on dinosaurs.