The X Piles

ORANGE COUNTY
SCIENCE FICTION CLUB
P.O. Box 9225
Fountain Valley, CA 92728-9225

NEXT MEETING: May 29, 1996 7:30 PM*

ISSUE #58

THE ORANGE PULP

* Doors open 7:00 P.M.(Because of the large crowds at the last one, we will be postponing this months 5 hour door opening ceremony until another day)

THE ORANGE PULP

NEWSLETTER OF THE ORANGE COUNTY SCIENCE FICTION CLUB

ISSUE #58 VOL 10, NO. 3, May 1996

EDITOR	**Jeff Stein** (It's a lonely job!)
ASSOCIATE EDITOR	**Dave Silva**
SUBSCRIPTIONS	**Marcia Starke**
PROGRAM DIRECTORS	**Marcia Starke and Greg Funke**
OCSFC LOGO	**Mac McMahon**

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 29, 1996 , 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 Novels:

For May: *Night Relics* by James Blaylock

For June: *Bring Me The Head of Prince Charming* by Zelazny and Sheckley

PHONE NUMBERS:

Orange County Science Fiction Club: (714) 552-4925

Jedi Knights: (714) 826-5625

Galactic Archives (714) 693-0673

The Chief Speaks

The Orange Pulp received a lot of material this time. Besides Dave Silva's article on the Hugo awards, we also received a story from Fred Cropper, and at least a page full of cartoons from Catherine Curley. I'll free up a page in the next issue and put the cartoons there. In the mean time she also sent us some news clippings and a "want ad" which I shall paraphrase right here.

. Warner brothers will make its decision in May whether or not to continue Babylon 5.

. Feb 14 is the day that Star Wars will be re-released with new footage and digital sound to celebrate its 20th anniversary.

. William Shatner, Patrick Stewart, and Malcolm McDowell will return to their "Star Trek" roles for an upcoming CD-ROM based on Star Trek Generations.

And the Want Add:

I am looking for a copy of Bob Shaw's short story *Slow Glass* to borrow or buy. Anyone have it?

Catherine Curley (714) 638-8903

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

or by EMAIL Compuserve: 72437,3435 or Internet : 72437.3435@compuserve.com

Previous Meetings

Our speaker for March was **Molly Squire** who entertained us with magic and talked about King Arthur, Merlin, Camelot and those times and places. She brought a great deal of evidence that these people may have really existed although the stories and legends concerning them have changed a great deal over time.

In April, Science Fiction Author, **Debra Wheeler** spoke to us and read a very interesting and entertaining short story that she wrote. Her book *Northlight,* was the reading group's selection for this month so we were able to ask some good questions.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Greg has now booked speakers up through August.

Please don't forget, Greg wanted us to know whether or not we want to buy the new **t-shirts** this month.

Jim Blaylock will return as a guest speaker in May

In June **Atara Stein**, an English Professor at Cal State Fullerton who teaches a class about SF writing will be speaking to us.

July's speaker will be **Colin Kersey** author of *Soul Catcher.*

And, in August, our own **Dave** (pronounced "Daiv") **Moore** will tell us about the project he's been working on and bring some of the other members of his group.

Orange Berk

by Jeff Stein

Berk sat in the aliens chair and listened to him/her/it "Oh, yes we call your star system *Snuggle Bunny* because of some fund raising event for astronomers. You say you're from Snuggle Bunny 3?"

"uh, we call it Earth, I came here for my free gift" said Berk.

freeeeeeooowwwp "Ok, you've got your gift" said the alien

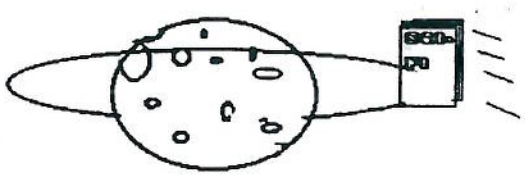
"us, what is it?" said Berk, not noticing anything.

"You're Orange!" said the alien "Every square inch of you is Orange! isn't it beautiful?

"*Freeeeooop*" said Berk, now noticing the orange color on his arms " I can't go back like this! Orange is the most dispised color on Earth!, where can I go wash this off"

"uh, er, uh you *want* to *wash it off?* " said the alien, too bewildered to listen for the answer **To Be Continued**

THE READING ORBIT



The book for April was *Northlight* by Deborah Wheeler. I found it to be entertaining although, like many books, there were situations in the story where I had to say "I wouldn't have done that"

The book for May will be *Night Relics* by James Blaylock. This is a ghost story, not SF. I was able to find it at B. Dalton in the general fiction area. The story is located in the canyons and hills of southern Orange County.

TO VOTE, OR NOT TO VOTE. THE HUGO QUANDARY.

By Dave Silva

If you purchase a membership to a WorldCon you are eligible to vote on the Hugo nominations and the John W. Campbell Awards. If you choose to do this, by the March 15th deadline, you then have about four months to affect the outcome of science fiction's most prized awards. Now, you don't have to vote if you don't want to. At the Intersection WorldCon, in Glasgow, 744 Hugo ballots were cast, a record for an overseas WorldCon. Still that means that a large majority chose not to vote at all. In the nominations for best novel only 202 voters participated in voting.

Hypothetically, lets say a club member, let's call him Chuck Fete, had published his first novel, let's call it "E-mail From Hell", in 1994. Supposing club members, friends and relatives mustered 32 nominating votes for "E-mail From Hell," it would have made the final ballot in the best novel category. Suddenly, hundreds of people would be visiting libraries, checking out book stores and scrambling to get a copy. Also, Nancy Kress who only got 31 nominating votes for "Beggars and Choosers," wouldn't have made the final ballot. With the Australian system of voting used on the Hugos "Beggars and Choosers," ended up in 3rd place.

I used to vote, but I haven't in recent years. Reading the stories and comparing their relative merits is very enjoyable. My wife, Marcia would vote too. After we marked our ballots we would compare them and discuss why we each voted the way we did. Needless to say, if you've committed all that time into reading the stories and voting, you're much more into the awards ceremony than if you didn't.

There were 11 different categories in the Hugo awards last year. The only categories I would vote on were dramatic presentation, novella, novelette, short story, novel if I could find four of the five, and find the time to read them, and sometimes professional editor, when I was reading a lot of magazines. There are a number of best of the year anthologies that reprint most of the shorter fiction. What I would do is look in Locus to find where the stories were printed, then I would usually end up buying Gardner Dozois's best of the year anthology, and maybe Daw books Best Science Fiction of the Year. Whatever was missing I could almost always find at the library in the back issues of magazines. One of the problems in voting for the most prestigious award, which is best novel, is that unless you're one of those people who read just about everything new that's printed, by the time you find out what is nominated, the hardcovers are no longer at the bookstores and they won't be reprinted in paperback before the voting deadline ends.

The integrity of the Hugo voting has always been suspect in my mind. First of all, merely buying a WorldCon membership hardly qualifies you as an able critic. Also, how many people who vote on best Non-fiction Book actually read all five? It's much easier to vote for best Original Artwork than to vote for Professional Artist. In best Original Artwork you can compare five individual covers and make a judgement. In best Professional Artist you are required to know each artist's body of work over the entire year. What I think usually happens is voters say "Okay, we all know Michael Whelan is the best artist, so let's give it to him again." Sometimes the electorate rebels, maybe for the sake of rebellion. Locus was second last year in best Semi-Prozine and Whelan was a close second in Professional Artist. Maybe the WorldCon being in Scotland, with a different group of voters, had an effect on the results. The Hugos are also very much a popularity contest. Some people like Connie Willis, who is a fine writer, have a big edge because people like her. This edge is magnified when a voter hasn't bothered to read all the nominees in a category.

If you intend to vote on the Hugos this year, my advice is to start soon, because it's the sort of thing that takes more time than you think it will. You have only three months, from April 30th to July 31st, to mail your ballots. In case you're wondering how many nominating votes it would have taken to get The ORANGE PULP on the final Hugo ballot as best Fanzine, the answer is only 24.

Hey, What's going (C)on there?

BayCon, San Jose May 24-28 $45 till April 30. If you'd like a reason to take a drive up the coast

L.A. con III Aug 29- Sep 2 **1996** L.A. con III P.O. Box 8442 Van Nuys, CA 91409. Or write to the E-Mail Infobot through internet: lacon3-info@netcom.com $130 til July 31, $150 at the door

November 29 - December 1, Burbank Hilton $25 through July 15

1997 Worldcon : San Antonio, LoneStarCon II

1998 Worldcon: Baltimore

Editors Note:

I received a letter and the following story from El Paso, Texas. Looks like Fred has moved!

Dream Girl

by Fred Cropper

I can't tell you the date but I remember it was on a Friday that I first met her. I had gone to bed at the usual time, midnight. I always dream a lot toward morning but this time it was different. I was in my own living room, standing with my back to the front door when she appeared, seemingly out of nowhere. The front door was locked so I know she didn't come in that way and the back door was blocked off since nobody ever used it.

Well, I was kind of dumb-struck. She was undoubtedly the most beautiful girl I had ever seen, in her twenties I would guess. She had this halo of golden hair and these golden eyes that pierced your soul.

She was wearing very normal looking flat shoes and a summer dress which was a little strange since it was February.

She walked right up to me, I still hadn't said anything, and she kissed me fully on the mouth and said, ''Oh, Beloved, how long I have looked and waited for you.''

Needless to say, I was about as excited as you can get. I finally spoke, ''Jesus, where did you come from?''

''I have come from a long way off, from another planet, but I have been looking for you for several years.''

Well, I didn't know what the hell to say. I started to ask her, why me, but the alarm went off and left me all by myself. I couldn't figure what was going on. I thought about her all day long.

That night about midnight I was getting very sleepy; so I turned in wondering if she'd show up again. Well, yes, she did.

She told me she was from the Plaeades where the inhabitants were largely humanoid. Her father was one of the planets leading scientists and had been studying an earth family for several years. What family? Mine; Mom, Dad and me. Since dear old dad could deny his beloved daughter nothing she was able to follow the observation too. She began to get interested in one of the subjects. Guess who?

Her name was Mar-ya pronounced pretty close to the earth name Maria. Of course, she knew my name.

She got to know the instrumentation pretty well and with daddy's help (I told you she was spoiled) she was able to project herself into someone else's dream state. Daddy couldn't project his daughter into the waking state yet but he was getting very close.

Anyway, I was her beloved; she told me repeatedly and as time went by and she kept appearing in my dreams I was falling so much in love with this lady I couldn't see straight. My job was going to hell and my personal life was a wreck. I only lived to sleep.... and dream.

One day at work I saw this blonde approaching my desk. I was startled because it looked like Mar-ya. She came up to my desk. ''Great news, Danny! Daddy made the big breakthrough.''

The End

To hang this calender on the wall drill a hole right here

May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Note:						
26	27 Memorial Day Observed	28 Memorial Day Remembered	29 OCSFC 7:30	30	31	

June

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Most cause	of June	this doesn't	week start	got till	wasted Saturday ->	1 Full Moon June, Spoon
2 7/6 Moon	3	4	5	6	7	8 Last Quarter That's all
9	10	11	12	13	14 Flag Day Wear a bib at lunch	15 New Moon
16 Fathers Day Jedi Knights	17	18	19	20 Summer Solstace (A long long day)	21	22
23 30	24	25	26 OCSFC 7:30	27	28	29

July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4 July the Fourth	5	6
7 Last Quarter	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 No More Quarters	16	17	18	19	20
21 Jedi Knights	22	23 First Quarter	24	25	26	27
28	29	38 Next Quarter	31 OCSFC 7:30	To Be Continued..		