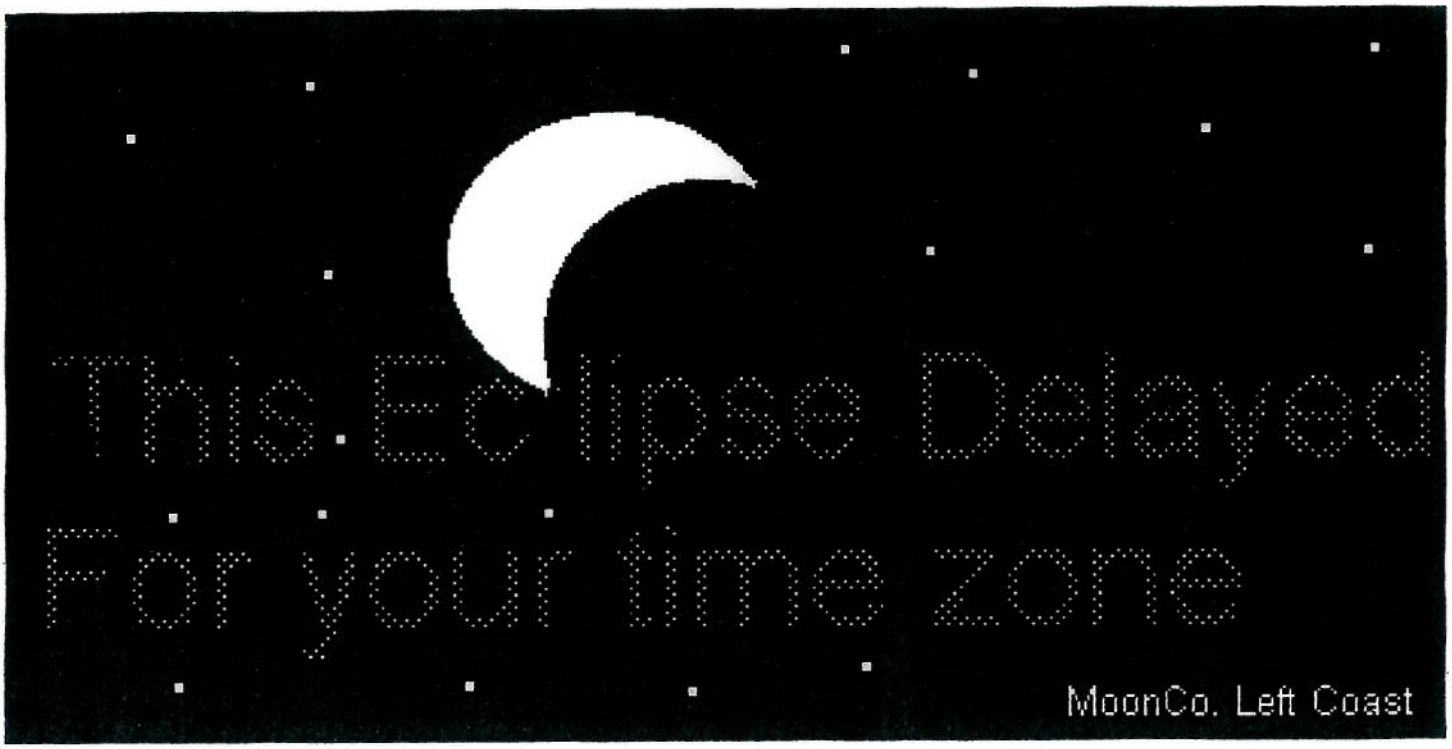


ORANGE COUNTY
SCIENCE FICTION CLUB
P.O. Box 9225
Fountain Valley, CA 92728-9225

NEXT MEETING: May 28, 1997 7:30 PM*

ISSUE #64

THE ORANGE PULP

* Doors open 7:00 P.M. (Tip the doorman $2.00, you'll find him inside)

THE ORANGE PULP

NEWSLETTER OF THE ORANGE COUNTY SCIENCE FICTION CLUB

ISSUE #64 VOL 11, NO. 3, May 1997

EDITOR	**Jeff Stein**
ASSOCIATE EDITOR	**Dave Silva**
SUBSCRIPTIONS	**Marcia Starke**
PROGRAM DIRECTORS	**Marcia Starke and Greg Funke**
OCSFC LOGO	**Mac McMahon**

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 28, 1997 , 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)

A nominal fee (ha! $2.00) is requested to help defray the cost of using the meeting room.

The Reading Orbit Discussion Novel:

For May: Dan Simmons *Hyperion*

Phone Numbers:

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

Jedi Knights: (714) 826-5625

Galactic Archives: (714) 693-0673

The Chief Speaks

Saturday, May 17, I got up early and got on a plane for Phoenix to attend LEPRECON 23. Mike Willmoth, whom I met through Compuserve, met me at Sky Harbor Airport and drove me about an hour to Casa Grande and the Francisco Casa Grande Resort where the con was being held. First of all, it was over 100 degrees (but it was dry heat) and everything was air conditioned (except the outdoors) Other than that it appeared to be a typical local con with Panel discussions, Art Show, Dealers Room, Gaming, Japanimation, video room, masquerade, filk (including guests L.A. Filkharmonics). They even had George Johnson from **Babylon 5** as media guest of honor. He was in several programs and tried to answer all the questions from the fans without telling them anything that would say if there is going to be a 5th season or what are all the things that are going to happen. What he did say was that there will be two two hour movies , a spinoff, "Crusaders?" and that TNT will begin airing all the B5 episodes at the beginning of next year.

The dealers room was much like the dealers room at Con-Dor or LOSCON, just different vendors. I bought a few knick knacks.

The resort was surrounded by desert. (actually several miles outside of Casa Grande). This would be a great place for a UFO to land. The ET inside could quietly step into the convention, join some panel discussions, and leave. Nobody would believe it.

It was a lot of fun, but probably a little far for a So CA resident. I still might go next year!

SUBMISSIONS TO THE ORANGE PULP

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

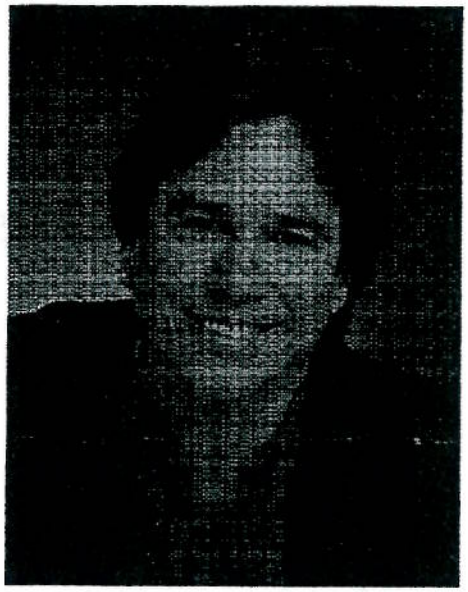
Jeff Stein

1700 W. Cerritos #312

Anaheim, CA 92804

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

Previous Meetings



March - **Richard Hatch** was our guest speaker (yes, **The**, Richard Hatch) He told us lots of anecdotes about the filming of *Battlestar Galactica, The Streets of S.an Francisco, and All my Children.*

(photo from web page http://www.pair.com/iwc/RichardHatch)

Our April program was a video - **Electronic Odyssey, The Story of Theremin.** Both Theremin the person and Theremin the musical instrument were discussed.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

May- **Dan Fraga**, comic book illustrator and author who has just been assigned **Spiderman.**

June- We have re-scheduled **Rick Sternbach** for this meeting.

July- Our first ever producer guest **Don Murphy**, producer of the movie *Natural Born Killers.*

KASOVERDAY

by Fred Cropper

It wasn't until twenty-five years after the millenium that NASA undertook another manned space flight to the moon. Oh sure, they had sent an unmanned flight a couple of years after the new century began and it had landed all right. Of course it had gathered samples and did all sorts of tests and took many measurements but that flight never got back to earth. At least that's what NASA told us. The major rumor was that the Chinese had intercepted our moon rocket when it got close to earth. Of course, that could never be proved and the U.S. certainly didn't dare make any accusations.

The new flight carried four astronauts: Rudy Rodrigo, Dr. Susan Chen, a curvaceous medic with an I.Q. of 185, Erasmus Jones, an Olympic Decathlon winner and physicist and myself, Hans Stephan, geologist. Rudy, a lieutenant colonel in the Army, and I were going down to the surface.

We arrived safely with no ''glitches''. Rudy and I took the lander down. Moon dust obscured the large port for a minute and then settled. We had landed on the dark side this time. I thought of Neil Armstrong's famous phrase, ''One small step for man.....'' as the large hatch opened. I went down the ladder first but I couldn't think of anything momentous to say, so I just said, '' Here we are again on the moon, folks.'' I felt kind of dumb. Rudy followed me down. We had turned on our mercury vapor lamps. No longer the bluish lights you used to see as street lamps, but now a dazzling white light that lighted up an area of about one square mile. With two lamps we had a hell of a lot of light around us.

We walked to an area (if you can call that walking) where there was a huge crater which I immediately named Mare Taurus. We continued walking, our suits keeping us warm in the extremely cold outside.

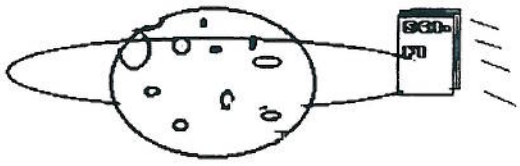
We came to a ridge of material that looked entirely different from the surrounding powder. Rudy walked over to the ridge, bet over and broke off a piece of the greenish material. It was fairly soft and looked like....

''Oh, my God!'' Rudy said, ''the moon is made of queso verde!'' In his astonishment he had slipped back into his native Spanish.

On my comline I said, ''Suzy, Razz, the moon is made of.....'' I just couldn't say the words. ÿ

THE READING ORBIT

The book for May is Dan Simmons *Hyperion*



The Cons are coming! The cons are coming!

1997 Worldcon, San Antonio, Texas, LoneStar Con 2, P.O. Box 27277, Austin Texas 78755-2277

LosCon 24 Nov 28-30, 1997 Airport Hilton, Burbank, CA

Westercon 51:Concept, July 2-5, 1998, San Diego, http://www.westercon.org/51/help.html

1998 Worldcon, Baltimore, Md, Bucconeer P.O. Box 314, Annapolis, MD 20701

1999 Worldcon, Melborne, Australia, P.O. Box 266 Prospect Hts. IL 60070-0266

2000 Worldcon: Bid only Chicago in 2000, vote at LoneStar Con (no other candidates)

Orange Berk

by Jeff Stein

"If you'll look to your right, you will see one of the seven wonders of this section of the universe", droned the computer. "I didn't know you could talk!", replied Berk while not looking to his right.

To Be Continued! Next: The five Clacker Planets

CARL SAGAN'S CONTACT

By Dave Silva

I recently reread "Contact", Carl Sagan's only work of fiction, originally written as a movie script in 1980-81. When the movie didn't materialize it became a novel, which came out in 1985.

It's rather easy to be critical of "Contact", because it predicts events in the near future. We know that in 1997 the Soviet empire no longer exists and that a woman wasn't elected president of America in 1992, and re-elected in 1996. Also, we haven't been contacted by a technologically superior Alien civilization, who radios us detailed instructions for building a machine.

Once the alien code is broken there is a heated debate; the Vegans (the message comes from Vega's direction) tell us nothing about themselves and nothing about what exactly this very expensive machine will do when activated. We do know the Vegans received a television broadcast from the 1936 Olympics in Nazi Germany, because they beam it back at us as a pre-amble to their message. Eleanor Arroway, Ellie, is head of the decoding project and argues for building the machine. Some argue the machine could be a Trojan Horse---you activate it and the aliens are waiting on the other side to take over Earth. Others warn it could be a doomsday machine, where we conveniently eliminate ourselves as a source of future competition.

Of course, they do build the machine despite the cold war and the natural inclination of countries to distrust each other almost as much as they do the aliens. Its interesting that Sagan writes one fiction book and makes the lead character a woman scientist. I got the feeling that Ellie views the world very much like Carl Sagan. When religious leaders and millennium end-of-the-world prophets denounce the machine as the work of the devil, Ellie argues for science and reason. In fact, you get what you might expect from Sagan, philosophical discussions on the nature of God, science and the probability of intelligent life beyond Earth. If you're looking for action thrillers this isn't it.

When asked by the press about the world population crisis, Ellie replies, "Do you mean am I for or against it? You think this is a key question I'm going to be asked on Vega, and you want to make sure I give the right answer? Okay. Overpopulation is why I'm in favor of homosexuality and a celibate clergy. A celibate clergy is an especially good idea, because it tends to suppress any hereditary propensity toward fanaticism." Sagan doesn't just try to glorify scientists; he sometimes shows them as overly ambitious and difficult to deal with.

If you read "Contact", you won't be able to predict the ending. Also, you might not like the ending. I'm sure a more commercial writer would have felt compelled to write a sequel to this novel, if he was going to end it this way.

Among Carl Sagan's non-fiction books I highly recommend his last book "The Demon-Haunted World", which has a particularly interesting chapter on flying saucers. Also, "Pale Blue Dot"; subtitled "A vision of the Human Future in Space", is one of his best.

Editors Note: I have the following information:

Warner Bros, Presents **CONTACT**, based on the novel by

Carl Sagan, Based on the story by Carl Sagan & Ann Druyan

Screenplay by Michael Goldberg

Directed by Robert Zemeckis

Starring: Jody Foster, Matthew McConaughey

Coming to Theatres 1997

The Orange Pulp Presents

-The Calendar-

June 1997

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Busting out begins	9	10	11	12	13 Friday the 13th	14 Flag Day
15 Jedi Knights Fathers day	16	17	18	19	20	21 Summer Begins
22	23	24	25 OCSFC 7:30	26	27 Busting out all over	28
29	30					

July

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
-1 A NEGATIVE DAY	0 A ZERO DAY	1	2	3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 DEPENDENCE day
20 JEDI KNIGHTS [illegible]	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 OCSFC 7:30	31		