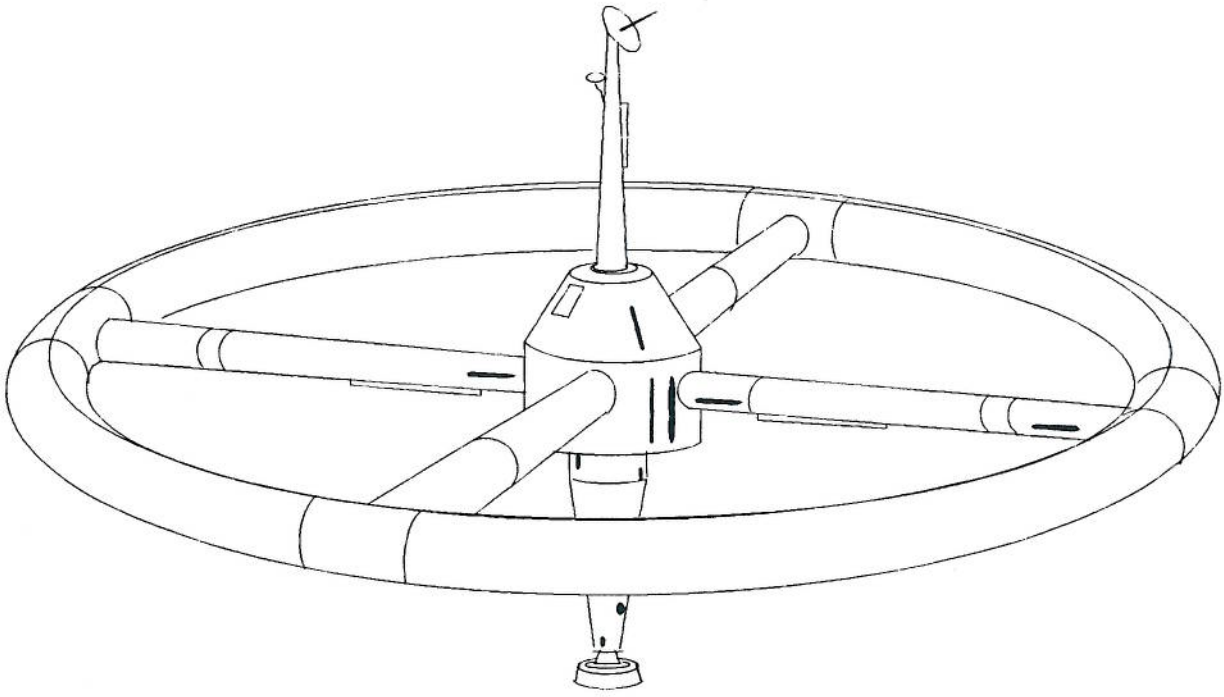

Orange County
Science Fiction Club
P.O. Box 9225
Fountain Valley, CA 92728-9225

Next Meeting: Jan 28 1998, 7:30 P.M.*

OCSFC

ISSUE #68

THE ORANGE PULP

***Doors Open 7:00 PM**
Bring your own doorbell

THE ORANGE PULP

NEWSLETTER OF THE ORANGE COUNTY SCIENCE FICTION CLUB

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The Chief Speaks

Since the last newsletter we went to LosCon and had a great time. I was able to get some artwork by Chuck Jones and Alicia Austin at the David Gerrold AIDS auction. I also gave blood at the con and was surprised to see OCSFC member Fred Lazelle volunteering there.

I received a nice letter from Don Cannon suggesting that we make one page of the 'Pulp suitable for posting showing the location, time and the upcoming schedule for the OCSFC. Everyone could make copies of it and post it wherever. What do you all think of this idea?

This issue of the pulp has Tim Cassidy Curtis' third chapter of *Stardust*, a quiz from Fred Cropper, and a very interesting article from Dave Silva on *Immortality*. I hope you all enjoy it

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 to
72437.3435@compuserve.com

Previous Meetings

Nov - This was our Idea meeting . No speakers were scheduled. (and , not surprisingly, no speakers came)

Dec - If there was a meedtin in Dec, you guys didn't tell me.

Upcoming Meetings

Jan - S.P. Somtow will be our speaker

Feb - Fred Golan - Script writer

Mar - Jefferson Swycaffer

A Quiz
by Fred Cropper

Match the Science Fiction Writers with their mystery, horror, mainstream, western novels, or non fiction

1. Richard Matheson
2. Jack Vance
3. Theodore Sturgeon
4. Chad Oliver
5. Poul Anderson
6. Frederik Pohl
7. Jack Finney
8. Isaac Asimov
9. Henry Kuttner
10. Robert Sheckley
11. Philip J. Farmer
12. Ray Bradbury
13. Robert A. Heinlein

A. The Cannibal Owl
B. The Black Widowers (collection)
C. Journal of the Gun Years
D. Fire and the Night
E. Caliber .50
F. Some of Your Blood
G. Murder for a Mistress
H. Murder in Black Letter
I. The Fox Valley Murders
J. 5 Against the House
K. Grumbles From the Grave
L. Edge of the City
M. A Graveyard for Lunatics

Hope you all have a tough time with these.

Fred

Stardust

by Timothy Cassidy-Curtis

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Chapter 3

"Well, Captain," said two feet, floating out from an engineering panel, the hull s intact."

The feet pulled away from below the panel, revealing the form of Lieutenant Amy Henry "And the COWS are home." The Carbon-dioxide, Oxygen, Water System, or COWS, was meant to operate without power. She stood, or rather floated, to a standing position to face her captain, easily overcoming the weak centrifugal force generated by the ship's slow spin.

"But every electronic system has been violently disrupted."

Captain Star-Space-Star pursed his lips and blew, realizing the extent of damage to his ship. It was a miracle that there were no casualties. It was fortunate that the hull was welded, and held together by entirely non electromagnetic means, or they would all be breathing solar wind right now. The COWS meant they had air, the hull meant they could keep it.

"By the way, sir," said Lieutenant Henry "electronic systems includes us sure Flamer will agree, but for just a moment we were all clinically dead."

She was right. Dr. Andre Flemeau, "Flamer," was a ship s staff physician, and had explained the crew s loss of consciousness. The phenomenon which had disabled the ship had also, in effect, "turned off" the electrical components of the crew, their nervous system. Biology and metabolism, however, soon took over. Everyone recovered.

...Sort of. The phenomenon had also tossed the ship violently about and people were injured. Sick bay was still full of people incapacitated by the experience. That included the First Officer, Chief Medical Officer and Engineer. Amy Henry and AndreFlemeau were deputies, filling in as best they could.

"So," Star summarized "we have to build every electrical system virtually scratch."

"And it takes electrical systems to build electrical systems." Amy added

"Not all of them." Star stated.

"No, sir." Amy sighed and smiled wearily. All engineering students were required to build a magneto, by hand. Parts were available, and could be assembled.

Thirtieth Century technology permitted high efficiency power generation equipment to be assembled from fairly easy to manipulate pieces. Most star ship engineering departments has numerous sets, simply to keep their staff in training. It was, though,tedious, time-consuming work.

"I want everyone on it," said Star, "and work in shifts."

"Captain, we need to get the first units on-line, pronto."

"Why?"

"Whatever hit us," Amy said, "was mostly absorbed by our defense fields. said.

"If it hits us again," she continued darkly, "we ll be pulverized."

Chapter 4

"There it is, Admiral."

Captain Patina Star showed me a display of space with an angry red line snaking across it.

"So, that s probably what got the James?" said Nan. She had done a superb job intercepting the HRMSS St. Zoe, which I had ordered out at maximum Mag Speed. Nan was the command pilot of my personal ship, a Full-Commander Captain, and my wife.

"We know the course filed by the James." Patina said, and a blue line appeared on the screen.

"Now backing the shock line," as the phenomenon s name was coined, a yellow twin of it reversed its course and backed to intercept the James' course, "we can estimate the location of the James when it was hit."

"Do you think it survived?" asked Nan. It was a tender subject, virtually everyone on the Zoe had a loved one on the James. That was a function of the Team Ship concept.

"Actually, yes." Patina said with a slight sigh. "We measured its field intensity. It is almost exactly the same as the James defense fields at cruise strength. It would have been mostly absorbed, but leave the James dead in space."

"How so?" I asked.

"They ld have no power, this thing would bust all the electronics, and leave the crew with a jolt."

"Well, then," said Nan "it s a good thing they only have to deal with it once."

Patina Star gestured towards the display and identified a square of space along the James course, where the yellow shock line had come to rest.

"We can estimate when they were hit, which puts the shock line in this area. With standard errors assumed, we can provide a high probability area of search." Patina pointed. "The James is likely right here."

That was good. Space, being huge, would present an insurmountable task to find a lost object. Patina had reduced it to an area of less than a day s search. We all smiled at ourselves. With any luck-

"Oh my dear Jesus, save our souls!" Nan mourned in alarm.

We all looked at the display. The angry red line had broken; it was two lines now. One had turned about and was heading straight for the James.

IMMORTALITY THEMES IN S.F.

By Dave Silva

When I went to the '97 WorldCon, in San Antonio, one of the panels I attended was on extending human life. One of the ideas they had involved freezing people and cutting them into very thin slices, transcribing the data and recreating people from that data. Other ideas involving diet, organ transplants, genetic engineering and nanotechnology promised extended life spans where people might lead healthy, vigorous lives at 120. It was lamented, that as yet, the only cells that were immortal were cancer cells, which doesn't do us much good.

Lo and behold! In the L.A. Times, earlier this month, I read that the Geron Company has developed a process to grow healthy human cells that can multiply time and again without dying. So, what scientists and reasonable science fiction writers were saying is a long time off, *if ever*, is already here. You can't help thinking that, like cloning, things we hadn't expected are here and we have to deal with them by a society that on a very broad level is mired in superstition and distrustful of science.

One of the first stories ever written by man, Gilgemesh, Deals with one mans pursuit of immortality. Robert Silverberg wrote "Gilgemesh In the Outback", a story similar to Farmer's "Riverworld", series where everybody who ever lived winds up on this really big planet. Some of the literary classics that deal with immortality are; " Frankenstein", (1818) reanimation of the dead. "She", (1887) by H. Rider Haggard where youth is renewed by entering a magic flame. "Dracula", (1897) by Bram Stoker, which shows how fleeting immortality can be since vampires are killed in just about every story you read. "A Picture of Dorian Gray", Oscar Wilde (1904) where you can let some magical object age in your place.

In more modern times Robert Heinlein had Lazarus Long. A.E. Van Vogt often used "super man" themes and "The House That Stood Still", was about a family of immortals. There is the "Highlander", series where a select group of Scotsmen try to blend into society. The results of immortals not blending in can be seen in Nancy Kress's series of books about sleepless immortals, that begins with "Beggers In Spain". It's just human nature that average people are going to resent immortals ...and especially immortals that are much smarter than they are. There are stories about brain transplants and personality storage devices. "Ubik" by Philip K. Dick allows dead people's memories to be stored in sort of a nether land so their loved ones can visit them from time to time. In Robert Silverberg's "Recalled To Life", people's favorite uncle or a grandfather can be electrically recorded and stored in a corner of your brain that you can chat and interact with, that is if all goes well!

One of the major problems with writing about immortality is that not only is the writer unable to write from experience, but since no one is immortal we just have to guess what it's really like and how society would deal with it. There is the personal problem of how we would handle living 200, 300 years. And also there is the social problems inherent in readily available immortality for everyone..

Answers To Quiz on page 3: 1-C, 2-I, 3-F, 4-A, 5-H, 6-L, 7-J, 8-B, 9-G, 10-E, 11-D, 12-M, 13-K

February 1998

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Valentines Day
15 Jedi Knights Meeting	16 Presidents Day	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 OCSFC 7:30	26	27 Con-Dor	28 Con-Dor

These little empty spaces in February represent holes in time which we can't see from our universe but can be used from other universes where the beings think they can taste the difference between the front and the back side of the water in their tea. The back side of the cream and the sugar are more difficult to deal with when the being leaves the spoon in his cup and pokes out...

March 1998

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Con-Dor	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Jedi Knights Meeting Also "The Ides"	16 Supreme Masters of the Galaxy day	17 St. Patricks Day	18	19	20 Spring springs today	21 Spring has Sprung (or sprang)
22	23	24	25 OCSFC 7:30	26	27	28
29	30	31	These spaces	are intentionally	left	blank