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

Next Meeting: September 30 1998, 7:30 P.M.*

ISSUE #72

THE ORANGE PULP

***Doors Open 7:00 PM** (Remember: "LLUP" means Push)

THE ORANGE PULP

NEWSLETTER OF THE ORANGE COUNTY SCIENCE FICTION CLUB

ISSUE #72 Vol 12, No. 5, September 1998 (remove from news stand in March)

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The Chief Speaks

Not much to say this time. We had a great time last meeting when Chris Butler gave his presentation. Thanks a lot to Dick Nordrum for getting us such great speakers.
I always welcome more submissions to the 'Pulp. If you want to do a movie review or talk about a game or submit some of your own artwork or even a skiffy puzzle (maybe re-arranging the spelling of authors names to spell something else) - Send 'em in. The next person to send in something I don't like will get a personally designed OCSFC rejection slip. A real collectors item!

We received a postcard from the South Florida Science Fiction Society a few months ago suggesting that we add **http://scifi.maid.com/sfsfs.html** to our list of web pages we published a short time ago. Try it!

Catherine Curley asked me to publish her change of address which is as follows:

Catherine Curley
1415 West North Street #925
Anaheim, CA 92801
(714) 563 - 7540

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

July: Terry Black was back for a return visit. He discussed his current work on "Tales From the Crypt" and gave out tips for those who want to be screenwriters.

August: Artist, Chris Butler gave a wonderful presentation about his work.

Upcoming Meetings

September: Octavia Butler will be back for a return visit.

October: Brian Lowry Staff writer for the L.A. Times published guide books for The X-Files

November: Nothing official yet

December: nope, uh uh, sorry, forget it

THE READERS GROUP

The readers group will discuss these books after the meetings indicated:

September - Octavia Butler

Note: I've lost track of my notes somewhere while packing for my recent trip. You'll have to get this information at the next meeting.

Stardust

by Timothy Cassidy-Curtis

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Chapter 10

STARDUST (continued)
X.

Two gees. The ship began to rock.

Three gees. The ship started to buck.

Four gees. Captain Star-Space-Star started to sweat, as he fought the controls.

Five gees. This was no longer any fun.

Six gees. "Admiral," Star raised his voice to me, over the growing din "I don't know how much longer I can handle the controls."

Seven gees. "Captain," I replied "I don't think you have a lot of choice."

Eight gees. Even my eyelids felt heavy. I was making a severe dent in the furniture.

Nine gees. It was almost over. I pondered heavily about the alternatives which lead to this excruciating moment.

Ten gees. There were none.

The let down was almost a rush. The release of push on our bodies felt like we were floating. I felt light as a feather. Looking at the readout I saw it was still two gee's.

"Note the oval behind us." I directed Star. He looked.

"That's where we want the ship. Put the propulsion section directly in the middle, and whatever you do, do not let it get outside." Star nodded. The acceleration had abated to one gee.

"Sir," Lieutenant Sean Christopher piped up "what happens if we do?"

Star jockeyed the ship into the oval, and looked at Sean.

"Do you really want to know?" he asked darkly.

Sean gulped and returned to his board. "Belay that request, ...sir." He wisely decided to forgo the details.

Star touched the controls, minutely adjusting the ship's position as I studied read outs of our situation.

"Piece of cake." Star announced "I could do this all day."

"Mmm..." I said. "I'm afraid we won't have that long."

Star glanced over with concern.

I showed them our presumptive safe zone.

"It's shrinking."

Chapter 11

"It's shrinking."

Captain Patina Star of HRMSS St Zoe looked up from the discouraging announcement.

The science officer examined his readouts. "At this rate, the James' position will go unstable in two and a half hours." Making fine adjustments, he continued, "Make that exactly one hundred twenty five minutes, zero seconds...mark!"

A readout appeared on the Zoe's main bridge screen marking the exact time.

"After that, they fall into the shock line." he concluded.

Dismissing him, Patina Star turned to her helmsman.

"What's our ETA?" she asked.

"Two hours, exactly..." said the helm "...mark!"

Patina pondered darkly, for just a moment, then opened comm.

"All hands, this is the Captain. We are going to rendevous with the James and attempt rescue." she informed them "We will have less than five minutes to get in, get connected and get out. It's going to be tight, so let's get it right the first time."
She cut comm.

"Ops," she addressed Lieutenant Mary Shelby "what's our best connection scenario?"

Mary considered as she looked up to her Captain.

"It'll have to be manual." she judged. "An automatic hookup might be faster, but it won't have the flexibility to deal with nonstandard emergencies. In this case, only live judgement and flexibility will do."

Patina considered the advise than asked. "Who do you recommend on the virtual hookup controls?"

"Prime Tech Ellen Meigs." was the immediate reply. "And, second guessing the James," she essayed "there is one person I hope they'll have on their end."

"Who?" Patina Star didn't like second guessing her husband, but she was curious.

"Senior Tech Jeffery Coshocton."

THE HUGOS

In case you missed the Worldcon in Baltimore here are the Hugo Winners

* BEST NOVEL: Forever Peace by Joe Haldeman (Ace)

* BEST NOVELLA: "...Where Angels Fear To Tread" by Allen Steele (Asimov's October-November 1997)

* BEST NOVELETTE: "We Will Drink A Fish Together... " by Bill Johnson (Asimov's May 1997)

* BEST SHORT STORY: "The 43 Antarean Dynasties " by Mike Resnick (Asimov's December 1997)

* BEST RELATED BOOK: The Encyclopedia of Fantasy edited by John Clute & John Grant (Orbit, St. Martin's Press)

* BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION: Contact (Warner Bros. /South Side Amusement Company) Directed by Robert Zemeckis, Story by Carl Sagan and Ann Druyan Screenplay by James V. Hart and Michael Goldenberg; Steve Starkey and Robert Zemeckis, Producers.

* BEST PROFESSIONAL EDITOR: Gardner Dozois (Asimov's)

* BEST PROFESSIONAL ARTIST: Bob Eggleton

* BEST SEMIPROZINE: Locus edited by Charles N. Brown

* BEST FANZINE: Mimosa edited by Nicki & Richard Lynch

* BEST FAN WRITER: Dave Langford

* BEST FAN ARTIST: Joe Mayhew

* JOHN W. CAMPBELL AWARD for BEST NEW WRITER of 1996 or 1997 (Sponsored by Dell Magazines]: Mary Doria Russell

IMMORTALITY
By Dr. Ben Bova
Reviewed by Dave Silva

Arthur C. Clarke once wrote that every revolutionary idea evokes three stages of reactions;
1. At first people say, "It's completely impossible."
2. Then they say, "Maybe it's possible to do it, but it would cost too much."
3. Finally they say, "I always thought it was a good idea."

Back in January of this year I wrote "Immortality Themes in S.F." This was prompted by an article in the L.A. Times about how the Geron Co. Had developed a process to grow healthy human cells that can multiple time and again without dying. In other words immortality! Complicated as it is, we are what our 100 trillion individual cells make us.

I highly recommend this book for no other reason than it fascinating reading. Dr. Bova, as opposed to science fiction writer Bova, starts with some facts on human aging and lifespans. He shows in as layman like terminology as possible of why certain cells are programmed to commit suicide (apoptosis). There tends to be two scientific theories on aging at this time. One says that aging is a wearing down of the body by free radicals, oxidation and glucose browning. The other is a purely cellular approach where telomeres, which is a genetic countdown system (the Hayflick limit) in each cell, shortens each time the cell divides until the telomere is gone. Telomere keeps genetic strands within the cell from tangling and dying off. Certain cells like cancer cells and germ cells produce a substance called telomerase that replenishes the telomere so the cell will never die.

Bova discusses the Human Genome Project, which should be completed by 2005 at less than the projected $3 billion price tag. From various quotes on the back of the dust jacket and within the book experts in the fields of genetics, biomedicine and aging are guessing that within fifty years people will no longer have to grow old. Right now with injections of hGH, human growth hormone, the effects of aging has been reversed in clinical tests. So, if the experts are right, that means that children alive today could have unlimited lifespans as long as they don't meet with a violent death, or contract some incurable disease that even the medical technology of the future can't cure

Bova goes through biomedical applications of nanotechnology, cloning and tissue regeneration. As science unravels the secrets of life they are learning how we might regenerate whole organs, limbs and even muscle and nerve tissue. Of course, as the experts are guessing about when life extention treatment will be available and how effective they will be, they are also uncertain as to the cost. If the treatments are very expensive then society is going to have to deal with difficult political and philosophical questions. If there are efforts to ban research it is unlikely they will be successful; there will be wealthy people who don't want to grow old and die. In fact, few of us, regardless of economic status would choose to grow old and die. If death is a choice where does that leave religions that rely on reward and punishment after death?

Here is a quote from Bova on long-range responsibilities: "One great advantage of a world in which human life spans are measured in centuries is that it will finally allow us (or force us) to tackle the truly long-term problems that we face. Today most people hardly ever think about the long-term future. 'Why worry about global warming if it's not going to have any real impact until after I'm dead and gone? Who cares about budget deficits? Or population growth?'"

"The long-term problems of our environment, of our racial relations, of government deficits, of the economic disparities between rich and poor---people who live for many centuries will not be able to ignore them or pass them on to future generations.
Immortality will bring not only wisdom but responsibility. The human race will end its adolescence and attain true adulthood at last."

October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 *If the Pulp is not done by today - it's late - really*	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Jedi Knights	19	20	21	22 Holiday for strings	23	24
25	26 Holiday Inn	27	28 OCSFC 7:30	29	30	31

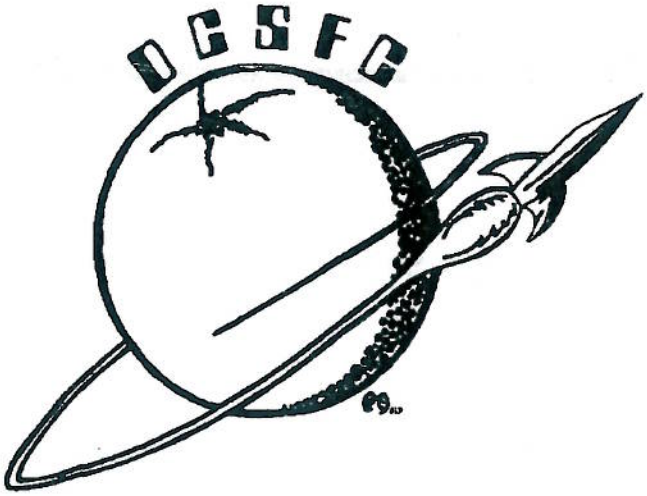
November

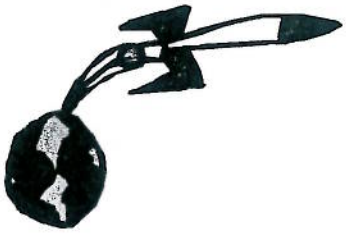
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Jedi Knights	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 OCSFC 7:30	26 Turkey Day!	27 LOSCON	28 More LOSCON
29 Even More LOSCON	30 Enough Already!					

Orange County Science Fiction Club

September 30: Octavia Butler

October 28: Brian Lowry





The Club meets at the usual place, in the community room of 2400 E. Chapman, Fullerton, A half mile west off the 57 freeway (corner of Chapman and St. College)

Last Wednesday of Every month except December