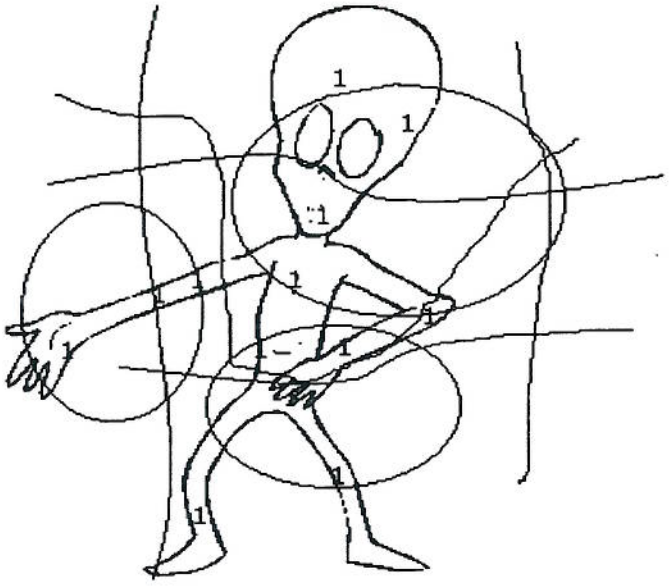
OCSFC Paint By The Numbers



1 - Orange
(what did you expect?)

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

Next Meeting: November 25 1998, 7:30 P.M.*

ISSUE # 73

THE ORANGE PULP

***Doors Open 7:00 PM** ("HAL, Open the door")

92604/3273

THE ORANGE PULP

NEWSLETTER OF THE ORANGE COUNTY SCIENCE FICTION CLUB

ISSUE #73 Vol 12, No. 6, November 1998 (try to remember this kind of November)

Editor **Jeff Stein** *(I aim to please, I'm just not a very good shot)*
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The Chief Speaks

Well, this is the last 'Pulp of the year. I want to thank everyone who submitted things for publication this year and hope that you will continue to support this newsletter. Alas, nobody won the coveted full color Orange Pulp rejection slip as everything I received was acceptible for publication and was published. The offer continues into next year too, so please submit. You might actually "win for losing".

I'm always looking for someone to do regular articles for the 'Pulp. If one of you is interested in covering media (movies, tv, music, animation, computer stuff, mime, karaoke, lantern slides, and/or funny hats) please let me know at the meeting.

As requested, I prepared a list of all the books that were read by the readers group. In doing so I had to go through all the old issues back to the beginning of that group. The Orange Pulp goes back to Jan 1987. We forgot to celebrate our 10th anniversary of the Pulp. The first issue that I edited was January 1992. It seems like last month.

As of this writing, I have no information on guest speakers for November or beyond into next year. Since November is our last meeting of the year we will probably be talking about what we all want to do next year. It is also a good time to renew your subscription to the Orange Pulp and to pay for a full year of meetings. In short: Bring Money!

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

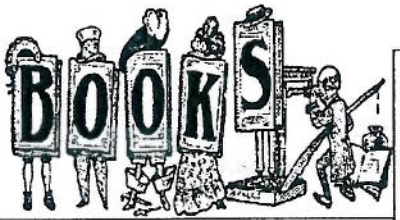
September: Author, Octavia Butler was back for a return visit.

October: Our guest wasn't able to be here so we had an open meeting. One of those things where we sit around in a circle and talk.

Upcoming Meetings

November: Nothing official yet As usual we'll be discussing plans for the upcoming year.

December: If we were going to have a meeting in December it would've been really great.



List Of Books
(all the books that the readers group has read based on issues of the Pulp, scraps of paper and other insights)

pre 1993
Rusalka by Cherryh
Clark County, Space by Alan Steele
Stars In My Pocket Like Grains of Sand by Samuel Delany
Venus Plus X by Theodore Sturgeon
The Hemmingway Hoax by Joe Haldeman
The Three Stigmata of Plamer Eldritch by Phil Dick
Great Sky River by Greg Benford
Frankenstein by Mary Shelly
Frankenstein Unbound by Brian Aldiss
The Green Millinnium by Fritz Lieber
Preferred Risk by Edison McCann (Fredric Pohl)
This Immortal by Zelazny
Starship Troopers by Heinlein
The Forever War by Haldeman
The Difference Engine by Gibson and Sterling
Dracula by Stoker
Dracula Unbound by Aldiss

1993
The Turing Option by Harrison and Minsky
The Hollow Man by Dan Simmons
The Gripping Hand by Niven and Pournelle
Deus X by Norman Spinrad
Doomsday Book by Connie Willis
The Trikon Deception by Ben Bova and Bill Pogue
Fire Watch by Connie Willis (Short Story)
Steel Beach by John Varley
Wolves Of Memory by George Alec Effinger
Barnacle Bill The Spacer by Lucius Shepard (Novella)

1994
Glory Season by David Brin
The Children of Men by P.D. James
No Time Like Tomorrow by Brian Aldiss
Always Coming Home by Ursula K. Leguin
Phoenix in Flight by Sherwood Smith and Dave Trowbridge
Agent of Byzantium by Harry Turtledove
Mars by Ben Bova
Bimbos of The Death Sun by Sharyn McCrumb
A Fire Upon The Deep by Vernor Vinge
Beggars In Spain by Nancy Kress

1995
Virtual Light by Gibson
Captains Outrageous by Roy Young
Neuromancer by Gibson
Last Call by Tim Powers
Gun With Occasional Music by Jonathan Lethem
UBIK by Phillip K. Dick

1996
Lethe by Tricia Sullivan
Amnesia Moon by Jonathan Lethem
Northlight by Deborah Wheeler
Night Relics by James Blaylock
Bring Me The Head of Prince Charming by Roger Zelazny
Witch Light by Nancy Holder
Don't Forget Your Spacesuit Dear by Jody Lynne Nye

1997
The Diamond Age by Neal Stephenson
Brightness Reef by David Brin
Hyperion by Dan Simmons
Dawn by Octavia Butler
Ringworld by Larry Niven
Valis by Philip K. Dick
{missed a few in here}

1998
{here too}
Destiny's Road by Larry Niven
Stand On Zanzibar by John Brunner
{something} by Octavia Butler
To Say Nothing of The Dog by Connie Willis (Scheduled for January)
Jack Faust by Michael Swanwick (scheduled for November)
Vor Game by Lois McMaster Bujold ??

Please feel free to make additions, deletions, corrections, edits, poke fun at, be horrified by, or completely ignore this list.

Jeff

Weight for the Stars
by
Wayne Edward Sherwood

Copyright 1998 by Wayne Edward Sherwood

Jenny, it's not like I don't love you. But you said it yourself, you don't really see us getting married.

Because someone has to go and I'm glad I'm one of the lucky ones.

I've told you before. The mission is scheduled to last about fifty years. Of course that depends on if we get there and back safely.

Jenny, I've seen all of the test results and I believe it will work. Moreover you know everyone that is going has been put under for a month just to show us what it would be like.

It felt like nothing. There were no dreams or any sense of time passage. I went to sleep and woke up a month later. That was all.

I know you'll be in your seventies, but I'm sure you'll be able to find someone else. I'm not the only man in the world.

Now don't start crying. Of course I'll miss you, but our cohabitation contract is up next year and you've mentioned several times that perhaps we shouldn't renew it this time. I thought you wanted to see other guys.

You don't really believe that. I didn't volunteer to go to Proxima Centauri just so I could get into Karen's panties do you? Besides I'm not attracted to her. We'll be asleep during the trip there and back. That makes it hard to fool around.

I've explained it to you before, it's not really suspended animation. It's called Metabolic Ultra Retardation.

No, they don't make us stupid, they retard our metabolism.

The process will slow our metabolic rate down so far that our hearts will only beat once an hour and we'll only need to take a breath every five hours.

Of course we'll age, but at a very slow rate. The doctors figure that during the twenty-five years it will take us to get there, we'll age about six months. So by the time we get back we should only be about two years older, metabolically.

The extra year will come from the time we take exploring the planets around Proxima

You know which planets. The ones discovered by the 100-meter telescope on the far side of the moon.

Yes, you're right, we might not find a planet around Proxima that will support Earth life, but there are always the planets around Alpha Centauri. And Alpha won't be that far away. We plan to check it out too.

I don't know what I will do when I get home.

Well yes, the five million dollars that I'll get for making the trip is one of the reasons I'm going, but as a biochemist I couldn't pass up the chance to explore a whole new world.

What do you mean by that remark?

Of course I don't look like a normal explorer, but that is one reason why I was chosen for this trip.

It all has to do with the metabolic retardation process. You've read the articles, so you know why.

Ok I'll explain it to you one more time. The process does not stop the metabolic functions of the body, it just suppresses them to an ultra slow phase. As a result our bodies will still need to be nourished. To accomplish this it would take a unit at least the size of two refrigerators to nourish each person for the duration of the voyage.

You know why? Because the flow of nutrients would have to be constant and the machinery would have to make sure the I V lines did not become plugged or the person would die. So the best solution would be to get people who could live off of their own body fat for the relative six months it takes to get there.

You don't have to get sarcastic, but yes it does help that I look like a blimp. For once in my life I have the advantage because of my weight.

Of course there is a risk factor involved, but I am willing to take that chance. You would too if it was given to you.

Yes you would. I know you to well enough to say you'd never turn down the chance to go to the stars.

Jenny, there is danger in every aspect of our lives. We could be killed any where, at any time in this world we live in. Going to the stars is just another risk we have to take.

Continued on next page

Stardust

by Timothy Cassidy-Curtis

copyright 1998 by Timothy Cassidy-Curtis

Chapter 12

"Me?" Jeff Coshocton asked, disconcerted.

"You, buddy-boy." Charlie Medina confirmed. "You've got high score on Catch-A-Ship."

It was true. One of the most critical maneuvers, a star ship hook-up, was actually one of the most popular video games on board. Everyone played it, including those who would never perform an actual hook-up, even me; I've made fifth level.

Ship hook-ups were enlisted duties, so Jeff had to be qualified. Jeff, however, was the only one to get to tenth level. That was way past qualified, that was champion. He knew he was good on the game, it was just reality he was unsure of.

We had enough power to operate the lifts, and sent one down to the propulsion section to collect Jeff skills, and Charlie's excuses. The skills we needed badly. The excuse we suffered. Charlie was off the hook, for now, and Virginia Logon appeared more than usually relieved. There was one more thing I needed to tell Jeff.

"Tech Meigs will be on for the Zoe." I said.

"Ellen?" he sounded...curious...like it was a first date.

Chapter 13

"It's getting bad, Admiral." Captain Star-Space-Star was intently concentrating on the display. The area of safety had shrunk to a size small enough to give a seasoned pilot concern.

I switched another display to sensors, which were now operating. A blue dot appeared, and was closing, fast.

It was the St. Zoe. "Hang in there, Captain, here comes the cavalry."

"Really," Star quipped "I didn't know Earth Corps had a unit out here."

"Funny." I said. "Drive." We both smiled, the mounting stress relieved somewhat. Not that Star's job became any easier. The safe area had shrunk alarmingly in the last two hours. Star twitched, and the James swerved imperceptibly, but contacted the edge of the area. The ship lurched violently.

"Steady, Captain." I cautioned.

Star said nothing. He was total concentration.

Weight for the Stars continued

Yes I do have to take it. Haven't you been listening? Don't you understand yet? There is too much at stake for me to just forget it and walk away.

Of course I'm being selfish, anyone would be. Look at what I'll be gaining.

Okay, I'll spell it out for you. First I'll come home to five million dollars.

Yes money is important to me. Hell I'd go for the money alone, but I'll also be one of the first people to see planets that don't belong to our system. My god, I'll be in the history books forever.

Does that shock you? You know my ego is big enough to risk my life for that reason alone.

Next reason. I'll be able to see the future, to live in a future that is still fifty years ahead of us and to me only two or three years will have past. I'll be asleep for 49 of those years.

No, no, there is one more reason. After the trip is over, I will have lost so much weight, due to my body using the stored up fat, that I'll finally be the thin man I've always wanted to be.

Yes, I know, I sound like a man obsessed and in a way I am, but just think of it. Think about what I'll be getting. Five million dollars, the opportunity to see the future, the chance to walk on planets around another star and to come home a thin man.

You're damn right I'm going. Don't you understand by now Jenny, this is the ultimate diet I've always been looking for.

MY FAVORITE AUTHOR

by Dave Silva

When people would ask me who my favorite author was I would say that if I had to choose just one it would be Isaac Asimov. The reason for that was he had a talent for making nearly everything he wrote interesting and readable. Looking at the library catalog there were 449 titles listed under Isaac Asimov and that certainly doesn't represent the sum of his literary output, because there was a steady stream of editorials and science articles in magazines during his 53 years of writing.

Every month my father would pick up the latest issue of Astounding Science Fiction. Back in the 1940's Asimov had his novels serialized in Astounding and that's where I started reading the *Foundation* series. You would have to wait nearly a month to find out how the story continued, but I think I was too young to be annoyed by this, rather it was something to look forward to. My favorites short stories were the robot stories, because they were an insightful commentary on human values and rational thought.. If you wanted romance or high adventure you weren't going to find that in an Asimov story. The drama, and comedy, was often an intellectual mystery to be solved. It would be very hard for a writer to copy Asimov's style because they would need to write as smart as he did.. Also, it would be very difficult to emulate his sense of humor. In the books that Robert Silverberg wrote based on Asimov stories; "The Positronic Man" and the expanded "Nightfall" he does about as well as anyone could. In fact "The Positronic Man" would rate as one of my favorite Asimov books (his name is on the cover) if he had written it.

A lot of what I know, or have by this time forgotten, I learned from reading Asimov's articles, editorials and non-fiction books. How he did it all is a wonder; just the research needed to write "Asimov's Guide to the Bible" 1,200 pages, or "Asimov's Guide to Shakespeare" 800 pages, would seem to have taken any mortal years. Some of this can be explained by how persistent he was about writing. He didn't like to take vacations. His attitude was why should I waste time going to Bermuda when I've read all about it, seen pictures of it, and would have to fly to get there. My theory is that at some point he knew so much about so many subjects that he realized that he had enough material for a book about, for instance humor, almost off the top of his head, with only minimum research. To write a book like "Asimov's Guide to Humor" examining why people find things funny and make it entertaining takes a fearless attitude by a writer.

I heard Asimov speak at a WorldCon in Boston. The auditorium was packed because since he didn't fly to conventions a lot of fans had never seen him. He told this story about the first time he met Harlan Ellison. Harlan was a young fan yet to make his mark as a writer. He came up to Asimov with a group of Harlan's friend hanging in the background. Harlan asked, "Are you Dr. Isaac Asimov author of the Foundation series and I Robot?" Isaac smiled at this gushing young fan and replied "Yes."

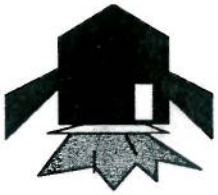
Harlan continued, "The Isaac Asimov who is the author of countless books on science and medicine?"

Isaac enjoying all this attention answered, "Why yes I am."

With great sincerity Harlan said, "I just wanted you to know Dr. Asimov that I think you're a real .....Nothing!' And all of Harlan's friends broke up laughing.

Later in the Con I waited through an autograph line to get him to sign some books (there was a 3 book limit). He was flirting with some young girls standing next to him, laughing, joking and just seemed to take enormous joy in meeting people. A few years later at the 1992 WorldCon in Orlando, when the news came in that Isaac had died they organized a memorial tribute to him. Robert Silverberg chaired the panel that included, if my memory is correct, Fred Pohl, Harlan Ellison, Martin Greenberg and 3 or 4 others. They recalled how often as an editor he really went out of his way to help young writers. There were humorous stories like how much trouble he had making the transition from typewriter to computer. When his computer wouldn't work after doing every thing he could think of he finally called a service man. Isaac lived in a New York apartment high up where you had to take an elevator. The service man promptly plugged the computer into the wall socket wrote a bill for $100+ and left. Asimov wasn't the sort of man who would have wanted anyone to mourn his passing.

Right now I don't have a favorite author, but that's okay, a favorite author is something that happens its not something you really need.



December

1998

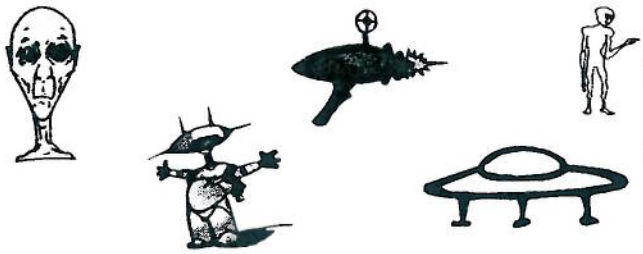
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Jedi Knights	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Don't even think about it!	31 Prepre for the year of the 9's		

January

1999 <- look at all those 9's

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Get back to work	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14Chocolate Day	15	16
17 Jedi Knights	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 We're Baaaack! OCSFC 7:30	28	29	30
31						

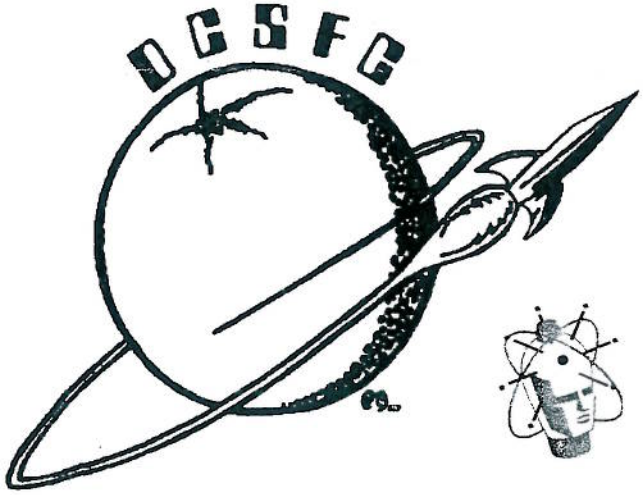
Orange County Science Fiction Club

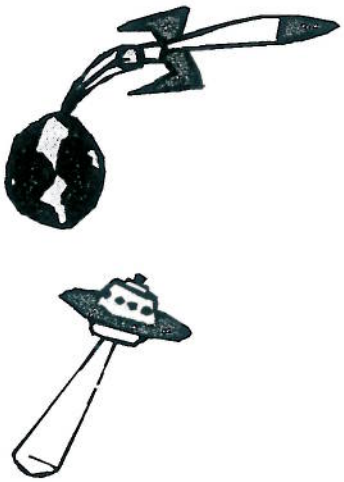


November 25: Open Meeting

(No meeting in December)

January 27: Open Meeting





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)

For Info: (949) 552-4925

Last Wednesday of Every month except December