

**THE ORANGE
PULP
OCSFC**

**0720 WESTMINSTER
GARDEN GROVE,
CA 92643**

NEXT MEETING

**WED. SEPT. 30TH
7:00 PM**



ISSUE #06

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NEWSLETTER OF THE ORANGE COUNTY SCIENCE FICTION CLUB

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COVER ART....George Hamilton, copyright 1987

INTERIOR ART....Janet Alvarez

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One year subscription fee \$2.00 for 6 issues. Mail to Bill Hilburn c/o Book Bin, 10720 Westminster Ave, Garden Grove, CA 92643.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday Sept. 30, 1987, at 7:00. At Fullerton Savings, 2400 East Chapman, Fullerton, a half mile West off the Orange Freeway.

RECENT EVENTS

This has been a active summer for OCSFC. Thanks to our hosts, Elise and Ross Edgell, the annual club party was the most enjoyable event of the year. New events at this year's bash were the Trivial Pursuit game, chef Roland Gagne's midnight spaghetti, and a bridge game. We had more movies than we could see, even with shows running till four in the morning.

At the **July Meeting** Eric Gerd's troupe of Filksingers, Karen Willson, Chris Weber, and Tera Mitchell, from DAG Productions, entertained us with a musical history of an art form that has grown into a standard part of fandom and convention activity.

In **August**, club member Richard Nordrum, arranged a presentation by the ORANGE COUNTY ASTRONOMERS. Kris Butler, a dynamic speaker, presented slides both, real and simulated, of how the universe around us is, or could be. Doug Ostroski and Richard Nordrum showed us some of the spectacular sights of the universe, nebulas, planets, far galaxies that are a natural source of wonder for science fiction fans. After the meeting,

members were able to view objects in the sky through a telescope that Walter Clarke had set up in the parking lot. It is through Astronomy, perhaps more than any other science, that humans can challenge the most basic secrets of reality; it shows us that there isn't much we can't know if we apply scientific methods and hard work.

The Dean Koontz autograph party was a big success. Dean took ample time to talk with everyone and personally inscribed every book with a different inscription. He made this an enjoyable experience for everyone involved. A special thanks to Bill Hilburn, who ran this event really well, and to George Craig, who spent long hours behind the camera. Afterward, 15 club members gathered at Baker's Square for dinner and a rap session.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 30th, 7pm, Wednesday.

If you've said to yourself, "Golly gee whiz! The 2 hour premier episode of 'Star Trek: The Next Generation' falls on the same night as my stupid OCSFC meeting...and like I've only been waiting 20 years for Star Trek to come back on TV." Not to worry! We're bringing a TV to the meeting (along with popcorn and soft drinks) so you can watch the long awaited return of STING at 8pm with kindred souls. We can use the commercial breaks for critical evaluation...commercials should provide some useful purpose.

Rhondi Salsitz, aka Vilott, Ingrid, will hold a writing seminar at 6pm. For those of you who want to improve your writing Rhondi will outline some of the things a writer needs to know in this initial session.

The club T-shirts will be available at the meeting, also the free 8x10 black and white glossies from the Dean Koontz autograph party will be passed out. If you can't attend the meeting you can drop by Bill's Book Bin and pick them up there.

OCTOBER 28th, MEETING

Greg Funke will give a talk on the history of paperbacks, aided by selected examples from his vast collection.

FOR SALE

GEEPI: THE BOOK OF THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN FEDERATION, is now available. At-cost price is \$9.00. Read selections from club members.

Contact Rose Secrest at club meetings or call (714) 870-9360.

CACTUSCON PANELS AND PROGRAMMING

By Marcia Starke

The nine-track, five day programming for the Cactuscon was a bit confusing when you first set sight on it, and it took a few of us a time to figure it out. I sampled a bit in all categories: Space, Horror/Fantasy, Slide Presentations, Science Fiction, Costuming, Fans, Art, and Professional. Things seemed to go in a looseknit, laid-back style, but events began on time. I found a lack of attendance at about 50% of the panels I attended. My guess is that a lot of Con goers are turning into media heads. The best attended offering was the "Star Trek Second Generation" talk by Bjo Trimble. The panel I most enjoyed was "Fandoms Golden Years", a slide presentation by Juluis Schwartz; it was fun to associate the old names in fandom with faces. On the Starke Scale of Enjoyability: 6+

NASFIC DEALER ROOM REPORT

By Greg Funke

There were about 125 dealers of all sorts at the Phoenix Con. Usual percentages applied, 50% book dealers, 35% jewelry, T-shirts, games, posters, ect. and 15% miscellaneous, comics, art-prints, Japanese animation books and pictures, and whatever. Also present were a dozen booths of book publishers, game manufacturers, fan clubs (Star Wars and Star Trek) and even a cryogenic outfit, i.e. freeze my body and wake me when medical science says I can live forever.

The used book prices were high, even by our resident book dealer standards. The book dealers I talked to said it had not been a good show for them. There were plentiful sales of T-shirts, new paperbacks, Star Trek related material, and from what little I heard of, jewelry. All in all a fun dealers room to browse.

Upon departure I felt the dealers knew that our club members had been there. Our forceful discussion of basic pricing I'm sure will give them all something to think about for a long time. Dare I say the "we humbled them" at their own game?

BOOM TIME IN ORANGE COUNTY SF

Just about every SF writer in Orange County is having something published in the last half of 1987. All of the following information was obtained from my September issue of Locus, which gives you more information on what's happening in SF than any publication I know.

Tim Powers will have a historical fantasy "On Stranger Tides", about the pirates of the Caribbean, circa 1718, that will be published in hardcover by Ace in November.

James Blaylock's "Land of Dreams", Arbor House-hc, July, takes place in the same alternate world as "Paper Dragons". Locus rated "Land of Dreams" as "...Blaylock's best book yet, recommended."

Dean Koontz will get \$3 million for his next 3 books from Putnam. Roger Corman bought the movie rights to "Watchers". Dean gets \$100,000 plus 25% of the producer's gross; so he is betting heavily that the movie will do well. "Watchers", is the most riveting book I've read in a long time. "Twilight Eyes" is out now and "Lightning" will be coming out January in hardcover by Putnam. The July issue of "Fantasy Review" has an interview with Dean.

Greg Benford has sold 2 alternate world anthologies to Bantam. Out this July is "Across the Sea of Suns", which has a new ending to conform with the sequel "Great Sky River", out in December in hardcover from Bantam. Also an anthology with Martin Greenberg "Hitler Victorious", is out in paperback from Berkley. Alternate history worlds and shared world anthologies seem to be the most popular trends in SF today.

St. Martin's published Philip K. Dick's "I Hope I Shall Arrive Soon" this month. "Radio Free Albemuth" by Arbor House appeared earlier this year.

Charles Ingrid's "Lasertown Blues", sequel to "Solar Kill", will be out February by DAW, the second of 6 books sold to DAW.

THE AMERICAN BOOK OF THE DEAD

By Stephen Billias
Popular Library 1987

Reviewed by Roland Gagne

A BOOK WITH THE EFFECT OF FALLOUT: SLOW BUT DEADLY.

The story in a nutshell involves Bertie Rupp, a man deathly afraid of 'THE BOMB', and his journey. But his travels go beyond mere geography to a search for truth and enlightenment. Bertie's search soon narrows to a quest for: The American Book Of The Dead. Encountering an odd assortment of characters, Bertie's search becomes more difficult when nuclear war goes

from threat to vicious reality. With the aid of an extraterrestrial, Bertie and his entourage survive, and his search continues...quickly going from weird to bizarre.

Examining this book - and Bertie's travels - logically one would say: Alright! who's kidding who. But this book is so well crafted that it not only suspends the reader's sense of reality, it vaporizes it. One is caught up in this low-key black comedy interwoven with Zen-Buddhism and is taken for quite a ride. However, don't let the thought of Zen philosophy worry you. While it does flow freely it doesn't overflow the dam, and you'll be looking forward to those epigrams scattered about the story. The only glitch in this book is an anti-business streak of viciousness that becomes somewhat stereotyped and moronic. On the whole, if you are looking for something new, fresh and beyond the realm, this is it.

ESCAPIST ENTERTAINMENT

By Linda Woeltjen

If there was any good science fiction out in the theaters this Summer, I missed it. I did, however, see a few enjoyable films. While I define good science fiction as being both accurate or speculative with science, as well as thought provoking, most movies tend to be pure escapism. A good adventure can provide a respite from "real life". (In my case, the harsh realities of life included having three kids home all Summer. Their tastes dictated which movies we saw.)

I expected little from "SPACEBALLS", having seen the promos. Mel Brooks' humor is too broad for my tastes, and I figured all the good bits were used in the advertising clips. For the most part, this is true, but the climactic sequences, spoofs of Transformers and "PLANET OF THE APES", were a pleasant surprise.

Much funnier and more interesting was "INNERSPACE". This was a spoof of sorts, lifting ideas from "FANTASTIC VOYAGE", "THE RIGHT STUFF", and "2001". (And who knows what else.) Unlike "SPACEBALLS", the characters were three-dimensional and likeable. "INNERSPACE" was far superior to "SPACEBALLS", and suffered more from underadvertising than anything else. If you get a chance, you might want to take a look at it.

The big surprise of the Summer, though, was "MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE". I'm a fan of cartoons, so I didn't mind the idea of bringing out a He-man movie. I did wonder a bit whether it would be any good. Most comic heroes have not fared well in live action films. They come across as too good to be real, and that's pretty boring.

"MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE", though, overcame all this. He-man and Skeletor, and the other Eternians, are not really the main characters of the story. Instead, we follow two teen-agers on our own planet. (Much of the movie was

filmed in Whittier.) They find a time key that both the good and evil Eternians are seeking. The story is at once simplistic and engaging. Its humor never went too far, never tried to beat another laugh out of an old joke. Stereo-typical characters always had a twist that made them unique instead of cardboard. The special effects were good, and the suspense well developed. Children might have been disappointed by Dolph Lundgren's portrayal of He-man and by the absence of many familiar characters. Mine weren't though, because it was a movie that succeeded by it's own merits, not by the audience's familiarity with the cartoon series.

Early this spring, I heard rumors that the studio wasn't going to do much publicity for this film. They apparently thought that the movie would fail because too many people would think it was animated. As far as I could tell, the limited advertising they did only allowed a good movie to go overlooked. I recommend it as a good time.

A GREG BENFORD BIBLIOGRAPHY

Compiled by Dave Silva

In discussions around OCSFC, about books and science, the name Greg Benford is often mentioned. This has little to do with Greg being one of the most prominent SF writers in Orange County, it is simply that most people who join OCSFC like a good, hard science fiction story. For you Benford readers here is a list of his fiction books. Let me know of any corrections or additions.

- ACROSS THE SEA OF SUNS-hc (sequel to "In the Oceans of Night") Timescape, Dec 1983
SFBC #1814, Feb 1985
Bantam-pb, 26664, July 1987.
- AGAINST INFINITY-hc (Nebula nominee) Simon & Schuster/Timescape, Apr 1983.
Pocket-pb, 45901, Mar 1984.
- ARTIFACT-hc Tor, May 1985.
Bantam UK(Eng)-hc, Nov 1986.
Bantam UK(Eng)-pb, 17206, Nov 1986.
- DEEPER THAN DARKNESS-pb Ace 14215, 1970
- FIND THE CHANGLING-pb (with Gordon Eklund) Dell 12604, Nov 1980.
Sphere (Eng)-pb, 1569-5, Dec 1986.
- HEART OF THE COMET-hc (with David Brin) Bantam/Spectra, Feb 1986.
Bantam-pb, 25839, Feb 1987.
Bantam UK(Eng)-pb, 17291, Jun 1987.
- HITLER VICTORIOUS: 11 STORIES OF THE GERMAN VICTORY IN WORLD WAR II-hc (Editor with Martin Greenberg.) Garland, Aug 1986.
Berkley-pb, 10137, July 1987.
- IF THE STARS ARE GODS-hc (with Gordon Eklund, shorter version won 1974 Nebula award) Berkley/Putnam, 1977.

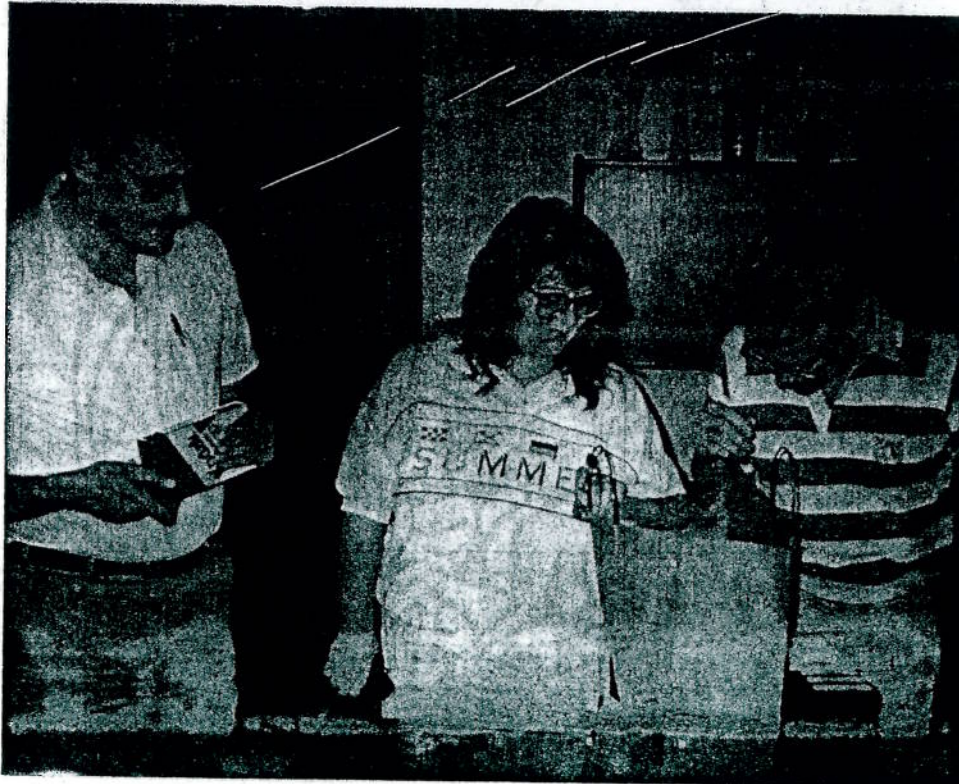
- Berkley-pb, k3761, May 1978
Ace-pb, 37066, Nov 1981.
IN ALIEN FLESH-hc (Collection 14 stories) Tor, Mar 1986.
IN THE OCEAN OF NIGHT-hc Dial 1977
Dell-pb, 13999, Aug 1978
Bantam-pb, 26578, June 1987
JUPITER PROJECT-hc Thomas Nelson, 1975.
Berkley-pb, 4569, Oct 1980
Tor-pb, 53179, July 1984.
THE STARS IN SHROUD-hc (Rewritten version of "Deeper Than Darkness" 3rd
in the "Oceans of Night" series.) Berkley/Putnam, 1978
Berkley-pb, 5173, Aug 1979
Tor-pb, 58181, Nov 1984.
Sphere (Eng)-pb, 1571-7, Nov 1986.
SHIVA DESCENDING-pb (with William Rostler) Avon, Mar. 1980
Tor-pb, 53183, Oct 1985.
TIMESCAPE-hc (Nebula and Campbell award winner) Simon & Schuster, July
1980.
Collanz-hc, Nov. 1980, Eng. 1st.
Pocket-pb, 83389, June 1981
Sphere (Eng)-pb, 1630-6, Dec 1986.



PARTY
PICTURES



Mac McMahon
(right) asks
Bill Hilburn,
"Is this shirt
genuiene dacron,
or some kind of
exotic blend?"



Marcia Starke
tells Greg Funke
"You take it out
of the bag! I'm
not going to
touch that
thing." Ken
Williams (left)
stands a safe
distance away.