



First Annual
Hobbiton to Bywater
Steeple Chase
And trophy Dash

Gandalf, are
you totally sure
this is how a
steeple chase
is run?

Trust me
Frodo -
when have
I ever been
wrong?

JMT
1988



ORANGE COUNTY SCIENCE FICTION CLUB

5727 E. Stillwater Av. #9,
Orange, CA 92669

NEXT MEETING: May 25th 7pm

ISSUE # 10

ORANGE PULP

NEWSLETTER OF THE ORANGE COUNTY
SCIENCE FICTION CLUB

ISSUE #10, VOL. 2, NO. 4, MAY 1988

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NEXT MEETING: Wednesday May 25, 1988, at 7:pm. At Fullerton Savings, 2400 East Chapman, Fullerton, a half mile West off the orange Freeway.

SOMETHING NEW

As noted above, Ken and Estelle Williams will be handling the subscriptions. The label on the cover will have a number in parenthesis. This number is the whole issue number of the last issue on your subscription. So, if you have (9) on

the label it's time to renew. If the label has a "C" it means you are receiving a complimentary copy.

As you probably know Bill Hilburn has for the past few years arranged for most of the club's guests, so we have made it official by naming him the OCSFC Programming Director.

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This is the new newsletter format I've told some of you about. It can do more sophisticated things than shown here, but I'm still learning it.

.....Dave

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NEXT MEETING: MAY 25th

Two time Hugo winning author Octavia Butler will be our special guest this month. Octavia's latest Warner hardcover "Adulthood Rites", is



due out in June. This is the second in a trilogy that started with last year's novel "Down". The May 1987 issue of *Omni* contains her novelette "The Evening and the Morning and the Night", which has been nominated for the Nebula award. Octavia recently attended the 1988 International Conference of the Fantastic, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Seems there is a lot going on in her career at this time and we are really looking forward to meeting her.

JUNE 29th MEETING

Barbara Hambly, who is fast becoming one of the most popular writers in the field, will be our guest. Barbara has been closely associated with Del Rey books during her career. Her latest book "The Silicon Mage", came out in paperback in March. Check "Some books by Barbara Hambly" for titles you may want to bring to the meeting.

OCSFC CELEBRATES 5TH ANNIVERSARY

It was 5 years ago this last march that the club first met at the Fullerton Savings building. We had nostalgic old vidios night with Marcia Starke supplying the TV and the oldies. To add a little spice to the old memories Bill Hilburn brought an ice chest full of champagne, soft drinks and bags of assorted chips to munch.

We started the evening with several

episodes of *Radio Men From the Moon*, an old cliff-hanger style serial released in 1951. Playing the hero battling the sneaky invading aliens was former Lone Ranger Clayton Moore, who was a little difficult to recognize without his mask; also he was very young. This serial must have been filmed much earlier than it was released because all the cars were vintage early '40s late '30s. This was followed by *The Day From Planet Arous*, a 1958 How Co Intl. film starring John Agar and a german shepherd, who stole the show. W.C. Fields warned that if you put a child or a dog in your movie they'll try to steal your scene away. This movie has been on late nite TV countless times and is a good example of how far special effects have come in thirty short years.

April was an open meeting. Greg Funke and Mac McMahon brought books and magazines to sell and trade.

OCSFC GOES TO MEDIEVAL TIMES

On May 1st, eight OCSFC members visited the Medieval Times castle in Buena Park. It's a well orchestrated operation, designed to provide pageantry and entertainment with few dull spots. The food was better than expected and the service clicks right along like clockwork. The horses are magnificent. The general opinion among members was that, although we enjoyed the show, we wouldn't spent that kind of money to see it again. Unlesswe had relatives from out of state who were dying to see it.

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Garfield Has His Old Pal, The Cheshire Cat, Over for dinner.

ABORIGINALITY

by Michael C. Peralta

Aboriginal Science Fiction, edited by Charles C. Ryan, Dept. F, P.O. Box 2449, Woburn, MA 01888. \$12.00 for six issues. Bi-monthly.

The history of science fiction magazines is, on the whole, a story of failures. For every *Abounding* and *Abnavor's*, there have been countless publications with the lifespans of mayflies. It is encouraging, therefore, to see the success of such new and experimental periodicals as *Interzone*, the controversial British magazine which first published Geoff Ryman's award-winning novella "The Unconquered Country", as well as many other fine stories. Now the United States has its own unique SF publication

in Charles C. Ryan's lively *Aboriginal Science Fiction*.

Abn (as it is familiarly known) began life as a newspaper-sized publication, in order to accommodate the unusually detailed color artwork which fills each issue. Art lovers will be delighted by this, but many readers may be disappointed by the room thus taken away from fiction. The magazine is now published in a smaller format, which makes it easier to read, without losing any of its visual appeal.

The contents of *Abn* include fiction (usually six short stories per issue), poetry, articles, book reviews, and profiles of the contributors. A less than informative movie preview column was dropped after a few issues. Darrell Schweitzer's regular book review column is enjoyably readable, but far too much space is given to long

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descriptions of each artist and writer's private life in each issue.

Asimov fiction ranges in quality from brilliant to abysmal. All stories are science fiction (no fantasy here!) and most involve themes familiar to SF readers: space travel, parallel universes, genetic engineering, alien visitors, and so on. Most stories are quite short and some tend to be well-written, interesting, but poorly developed tales with fascinating ideas that lead nowhere. Most attempts at humor are ineffectual. (I could do without the silly editorials from the magazine's supposed "alien publisher", for one thing.) A few stories are set against the background of the *Asimov System*, a group of worlds orbiting a binary star. This setting was designed in detail by Hard SF master Hal Clement, and provides a unique set of planets for future stories.

One issue can serve as an example of *Asimov*'s flaws and virtues. In #2, the fiction ranges from the sublime ("Second Best Friend", a stylish, emotional, imaginative story of future biotechnology, by Elizabeth Anne Hull) to the ridiculous ("Almost 11", by Greg Cox, a childish attempt at *sex* farce.) Although the magazine has improved since its first issue, it still has far to go to reach true greatness. In some ways, however, it is one of the most interesting science fiction periodicals in the United States today.

NEWS COVERAGE OF HEINLEIN'S DEATH

by Dave Silva

When Robert A. Heinlein passed away at the age of 80, earlier this month it received a write-up of over a full page in the L.A. Times and two articles in the Herald that totaled over half a page. He was called one of the three great SF

writers of modern times (along with Asimov and Clarke) and one of the great pioneers of the genre. Well, we all knew that but it's a bit of a pleasant surprise to see a science fiction writer get major coverage...because he deserves it. Neither Heinlein, Asimov, or Clarke ever had a best seller till late in their careers. If Heinlein had died 20 years ago he would have been lucky to get a 2" obit in the papers; and by that time he had written nearly all of his best stories. He knew he was an important literary figure all along, it just took the rest of the world some time to realize it.

SOME BOOKS BY BARBARA HAMBLY

THE TIME OF THE DARK, ballentine 29669, May 1982 (Darwath 1).
THE WALLS OF AIR, ballentine 29670, Feb 1983 (Darwath 2).
THE ARMIES OF DAYLIGHT, ballentine 29671, June 1983 (Darwath 3).
THE QUIRINAL HILL AFFAIR, St. Martins HC, 1983.
ISMAEL, pocket 55427, April 1985. (Star Trek novel)
DRAGONSbane, ballentine 31572, Dec 1985. SFBC 1st HC, 1986.
THE SILENT TOWER, ballentine 33764, Nov 1986.
THE WITCHES OF WENSHAR, ballentine 32934, June 1987.
THE WITCHES OF WENSHAR, unwin (Eng), Sept 1987.
SEARCH THE SEVEN HILLS, ballentine 34438, Oct 1987 (original title THE QUIRINAL HILL AFFAIR).
ISMAEL, firecrest (Eng) HC, Nov 1987.
THE SILICON MAGE, ballentine 33763, Mar 1988 (sequel to THE SILENT TOWER) also LADIES OF MANDRIGYN no info.

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INVESTIGATION AT FULLTON

by Greg Funke and Fred Cropper

Carson pulled up to the new, ultra-modern, one-story complex and parked in the loading zone. Damned if he was going to walk a hundred meters to the entrance...it was also a message to management at the new Fullton Detention Complex that, "I'm in charge here!" Built on the site of a decaying old avocado packing house it could pass for a hi-tech computer facility straight out of Silicon Valley. He was so used to pedways that the short

walk tired him. ~~Back to the gym~~, he thought.

The guard at the entrance Z-Ray scanned him checking everything but his birth certificate before clearing his entrance. Two guards lead him through a series of corridors, past doors that opened on a combination of retina and palm-print scans to a door labeled WARDEN. Strange, Carson thought, they still call him Warden.

Warden Jim Volker, a tall bureaucratic looking man with squinty little gray eyes, nervously offered him a damp handshake and the slight relief of a wooden chair.

"How did it happen, Warden?"

"As you know, Mr. Carson..."

"Please call me Graham," Carson interrupted.

"Sure, Graham." Volker attempted a friendly smile, wiping his palms against his pants behind the desk. "As you know we are using a new technology for restraining prisoners. Instead of prison bars and an enclosed cell, force fields are being used. When the power is turned on an electro-magnetic field is generated whereby the prisoner is contained within the boundaries of the field."

"Gee, a prison without bars. That sounds like science fiction," Carson

replied.

"I know, but it's not, just an adaptation of a new invention. I'm sure you know this project has been handled with the utmost secrecy," Volker assured him.

"Yes, I didn't even know this place existed until DOD gave me a security clearance after your call. Can you show me where it happened?"

The warden led Carson down a corridor to a large room. Outside the entrance was a computer console. Inside, at about four meter intervals were identical sets of beds along both sides, toilet facilities, two chairs and a table in each space. It reminded Carson of the barracks in his Army days. Since the incident the prisoners had been moved to temporary quarters. Carson reminded himself that they were residents, not prisoners, and the guards were called observers.

"I'll activate the system now, Graham." The warden pushed a green button on the console. Carson experienced a faint uneasy feeling. Suddenly, the empty room was partitioned with faint lines of wavy force surrounding each group of furniture. "Notice the visibility," Volker motioned with a sweep of his arm. "the observers can see everything that all the residents are doing at any time. Yes, there were some glitches in the system. Sometimes when a resident touched the force field he would be badly burned. As a reminder, we thought that would be okay but The Powers said it was inhumane. We finally got the bugs out of that one."

"Were they sometimes burned beyond recognition?"

"No, not at all," the warden said indignantly. "Nothing like this has ever happened before."

"Show me the body."

The prison medical area held a

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charred and blackened corpse. In all his years in The Company Carson had never seen anything like it. He wanted to make light of it to hide his sick feelings. "Looks like this guy went to his own barbecue. If this ever gets out the papers will want a public investigation. Someone may have to fall on their sword if that happens."

Volker nodded, the late resident's crime had been of a politically sensitive nature, that would be worse than embarrassing if exposed.

"How'd he get so burned just by touching the field?", Carson asked.

"Well, that's the weird thing about this."

"How's that?"

"The prisoner...er, resident had just been put in his cell space and the guard was observing him when he suddenly lunged against the boundary, and this is the result. But the really strange thing about it is...."

"Yes?"

"The power had not been turned on yet!"

DEAN R. KOONTZ

by George Hamilton

I didn't become a Koontz fan and collector until I read *Suzanne* in December, 1985. *Suzanne* has a beautiful ending...stunning, unforgettable, with an element of science fiction blended in.

Night Chills was the second book I read; a thriller about subliminal suggestion: total control of the human mind. In June, 1985, signet published *The Door to December*, by Richard Paige, one

of Koontz's many pen names. Considering no one knew who Richard Paige was the book sold extremely well...about half a million copies.

If you liked *Firestarter* by Stephen King, don't miss *The Door to December*. Like Charley in *Firestarter*; nine year old Melanie in Dean's story has a power she unleashes on those who used her...

The Door to December was published in England by Inner Circle Books, in hardback, as by Leigh Nichols, in 1988. This edition had a print run of 1500 copies, of which 900 copies were distributed to libraries, leaving 600 copies for sale...and sold for \$34.95 in the U.S. This will be an extremely difficult to locate and is already a collector's item.

Here are the pen names of Dean Koontz: David Axton (suspense), Brian Coffey (suspense), Deanna Dwyer (gothic), K.R. Dwyer (suspense), John Hill (sf), Leigh Nichols (horror), Andrew

North (thriller), Richard Paige (horror), Owen West (horror) and Aaron Wolfe (sf).

If I left any names off, please let me know. Certainly the most interesting pen name is K.R. Dwyer. The first 3 letters are KR.D. When reversed, they become DR.K, which are the initials of Dean R. Koontz.

Later this year, Dean will publish a children's story, which will appeal to both children and adults. As of this writing, Dean is about to finish his latest novel (horror) which he hopes will be published at the end of 1988.

I have some paperbacks and hardbacks for trade for Koontz material I don't have. If there are other Koontz fans out there, let me hear from you. I predict in two years Koontz will be one of America's best known authors.