



# THE ORANGE PULP

NEWSLETTER OF THE ORANGE COUNTY SCIENCE FICTION CLUB

ISSUE #9, VOL. 2, NO. 3, MARCH 1988

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Publication rights for all submissions remain the property of the author or artist. Deadline for submissions for next issue of Orange Pulp, May 12, 1988. Mail submissions to: Dave Silva, 19323 Andrada, Rowland Hgts., CA 91748  
One year subscription fee \$3.00 for 6 issues. Mail to Bill Hilburn c/o Book Bin, 10720 Westminster Ave, Garden Grove, CA 92643.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday March 30, 1988, at 7:00. At Fullerton Savings, 2400 East Chapman, Fullerton, a half mile West off the Orange Freeway.

NEXT MEETING: MARCH 30TH

Marcia Starke is going to bring a TV and is going to give a video related SF talk.

APRIL 27TH MEETING

Nothing confirmed as of now, but we are working on a couple of ideas for programs. If you have something of interest to show or, some books to sell or trade, bring them along.

### NINTH PAPERBACK COLLECTORS MEETING

Mission Hills Inn, Mission Hills, Calif., Saturday, April 9th, 1988, 9am-5pm. Admission is \$2 all day. Free parking. For information call Tom Lesser, (818) 349-3844.

Guests who will be signing: Robert Block, A.E. Van Vogt, and others. Several OCSFC members will be selling there.



### IT HAPPENED AT THE JANUARY MEETING

by Marcia Starke

On our January 27th meeting, Dave Silva dissertated and digressed, on the difficulties, diversions, and delights of pulp collecting. Dave shared his big box o' pulps and magazines; everything from Amazing to Vertex (or almost Z). Memorable Dave also related an eerie tale of serendipity, in which he was buying a box of pulps, and went through it to discover a note in his dad's handwriting inserted at a Lovecraft story some 30 years before...strange but true.

The official OCSFC beverage mugs were concessionaired by Roland Gagne. These beautiful mugs are available for \$6.00



when people read more short fiction and less non-fiction, but SF hasn't suffered as much as other genres. I suspect one reason people read a lot of SF is because there is so little good SF on television. Conversely, why read a western when you can watch one on TV? Regardless of the reasons if you write short stories SF is the place to be.

### FIRST CITIZEN

By THOMAS T. THOMAS  
BAEN BOOKS 1987

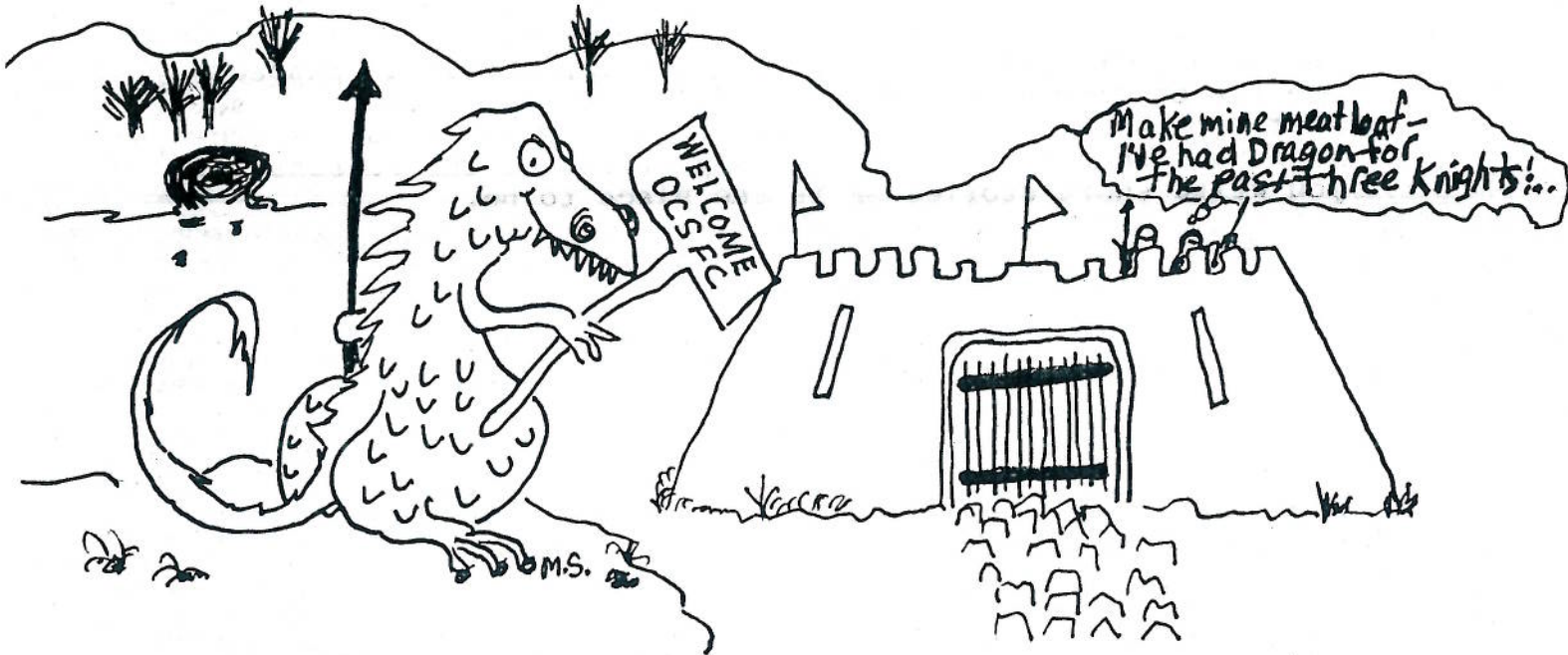
Reviewed by Roland Gagne

WHAT SHALL IT BENEFIT AN AUTHOR IF HE WRITES A GOOD NOVEL  
BUT SCREWS UP THE ENDING?

The story in a nutshell involves a man's rise to prominence during the turbulent times of America's near future. The man himself and the events surrounding him are chronicled as the U.S. moves from a democratic-republic to a twenty-first century Rome. The man, James Corbin, is typecast as a modern Julius Caesar and so shares his fate. Thus, a tale is retold.

The structure of this novel is interesting. The story unfolds through first person narrative, mostly from the viewpoint of the two main characters. Unfortunately, the drama's pace is jerky at the onset, but a rhythm soon develops sucking the reader in. Both intriguing and entertaining, the novel supplies unexpected humor and wit through ancillary events flowing within the storyline. Unfortunately the end is a flop. I am surprised a soothsayer doesn't pop out of the woodwork screaming, "Beware the ides of March!". Why the author rammed home his point with a pile driver I can not fathom. This isn't to say the novel is a total write off. All one has to do is tolerate the beginning, enjoy the middle...then speed read the ending to prevent Vomitus Eruptus.

## A Journey To Medieval Times



### CLUB EXCURSION TO MEDIEVIL TIMES

At the last meeting Marcia Starke proposed a group trip to Medieval Times restaurant in Buena Park. A show of hands was called for and there appeared to be sufficient interest to go for it.

If you weren't at the last meeting and aren't familiar with Medieval Times, it is a dinner show with the emphasis on show. Sections of the audience are assigned colours which are represented by teams of knights vie for victory. I hear it's a very good show. Cuisine is 13th century English with all the beer and wine you can drink, and there is a bar if you want something more modern.

Fifteen people, or more, are needed to go as a group and obtain a group rate. The ticket price is \$23 adults, \$16 for age 12 and under. The event is scheduled for Sunday 1:00pm, May 1st, Medieval Times castle, 7662 Beach Blvd, Buena Park, 1/4 mile North of Knotts. Bring the kids if you want. Send the check to Marcia Starke, 12371 Merrill ST., Garden Grove, CA 92640. You can reach her at (714)

241-2283 during the day from 7:30-3:45. Marcia has to have the money on or before APRIL 14th.



**THE CLUB'S  
MUG IS IN  
PRICE - \$6.00  
QUANTITY - LIMITED**

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

EXPENSES:

Price of Artwork	\$60.00
Price of Mugs (\$3.86 x 36)	138.96
Tax on Mugs	<u>8.34</u>
Total Costs	<u>\$207.30</u>

POTENTIAL REVENUE:

Sale of Mugs (\$6.00 x 36)	\$216.00
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POTENTIAL PROFIT:

	<u><u>\$8.70</u></u>
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REMARKS:

Though the profit potential is negligible on this venture it should be noted that the expense for "Artwork" can be considered a non-recurring item. The Logo for the mugs is on-file and if sufficient interest surfaces another batch of Mugs can be produced.

## WHAT IS A MAGAZINE?

by Dave Silva

During my talk on the history of SF magazines, at the January meeting, I noted that some magazines looked like books and some books looked like magazines. Chuck Fete asked an excellent question, "What's the difference between the magazine 'Destinies', which is an anthology of stories and Ballantine Books 'Star' series of anthologies edited by Frederick Pohl during the 1950's. We agreed that so far as content was concerned there was no real difference.

So, what is a magazine? We usually look at a publication and think because of its size, or shape or cover, that this is a magazine, or this is a book. Yet, "Destinies" looks like a book and other magazines like "Perry Rhodan", "Impluse" and for a time "New Worlds", also looked like books. Galaxy Novels were a series of books that came out in the same digest size as their magazine and later (starting with #32, "Address Centauri") changed to paperback size. In the 1940's and 50's, Mercury Mysteries and Merit Books published novels in digest format. So, appearances can be deceiving.

Magazine comes from the arabic word makhzan which was a granary, or storage place. The modern usage pertains to the compartmentalized nature of periodicals (i.e. gun magazine) in that they have stories, articles, book reviews ect.

The most basic differences between books and magazines is not content, but is the manner they are published and bought. The reader subscribes to a magazine, putting his trust in the quality of the publication by buying future issues sight unseen. Because of the return of unsold newstand copies it has always been much more profitable to depend on subscriptions than the chance someone would buy an SF magazine during the brief time a newstand could keep it on display. The May issue of Analog has a month before it's replaced by the June issue. A magazine is periodical; it comes out only once according to a pre-set schedule, although magazines struggling to survive may frequently change their schedule. By contrast a book can be released at any time, and reprinted if the publisher thinks it profitable. If a book comes out in May and it's still on the shelf in June the seller doesn't have to worry about it being outdated.

From the writers viewpoint books have much more profit potential than magazines, because of reprints he can be paid royalties that reflect the popularity of his efforts. A big selling author, like Asimov, can benefit from ad campaigns to promote a huge first printing of a new novel; magazines that used to serialize his new novels can't do this. Because of these simply economic facts the magazine, which once dominated the field of science fiction, has become a minor though important part of the genre.

Magazines still perform an important function as the main source of new short fiction. According to the 1987 Nebula award nominations in the categories of novella, novelette and short story, IASFM published 9 nominees, F&SF 2, Omni 2, Amazing 2, and 6 were published in original anthology books. Three of the nominees got double duty for their authors by being published in both book and magazine form in 1987. New writers can't always brake into the book field with a novel. Often they need to develop their skills in the magazines writing shorter fiction.

#### SOON TO BE RELEASED BOOKS BY LOCAL AUTHORS

Philip K. Dick, "MARY AND THE GIANT", (non-sf) Feb., Gollancz (UK).  
 Greg Benford, "GREAT SKY RIVER", Feb., Gollancz (UK).  
 Diane Duane, "DEEP WIZARDRY", March, Dell Laurel Leaf.  
 Tim Powers, "ON STRANGER TIDES", April, SFBC.  
 Greg Benford, "GREAT SKY RIVER", April, SFBC.  
 Dean Koontz, "THE HORROR AND DARK SUSPENSE NOVELS OF DEAN R. KOONTZ", Edited by Bill Munster, (non-fiction) May, Starmont.  
 Dean Koontz, "LIGHTNING", May, Headline (UK).  
 James Blaylock, "LAND OF DREAMS", June, Grafton (UK).  
 Philip K. Dick, "THE BROKEN BUBBLE", (non-sf) June, Arbor House.  
 Philip K. Dick, "DR. BLOODMONEY", July, Carroll & Graf.  
 Greg Benford will co-edit "NUCLEAR WAR", with Martin Greenberg from Ace in July.  
 Greg Benford, "IN ALIEN FLESH", July, Gollancz (UK).

The reason I list local authors upcoming books is that I know some of you collect them, or read them, or you are simply interested in what our local writers are doing. In the case of English editions, or small presses like Starmont, they can be out of print before you know it.