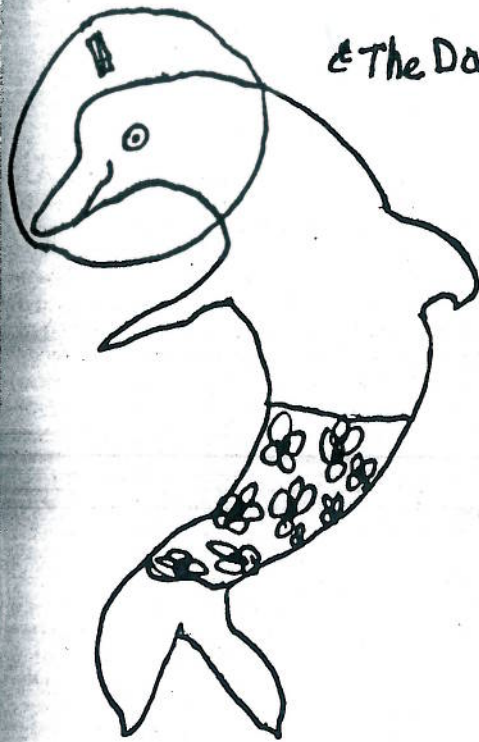


↳ The David Brin



↳ The Anne McCaffrey



↳ The Stephen Hawking

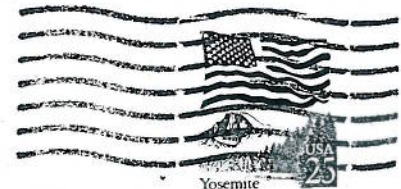
The Long-Awaited SWIMSUIT EDITION!!!



ORANGE COUNTY SCIENCE FICTION CLUB

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

NEXT MEETING: July 25th, 7pm



ISSUE #23

THE ORANGE PULP

ORANGE PULP

page 1

NEWSLETTER OF THE ORANGE COUNTY SCIENCE FICTION CLUB

ISSUE #23, VOL. 4, NO.5, JULY, 1990

EDITOR..... Dave Silva
PRODUCTION..... Elise Edgell
SUBSCRIPTIONS..... Ken Williams
PROGRAM DIRECTOR.... Marcia Starke
COVER ART..... Marcia Srarke

Publication rights for all submissions remain the property of the author or artist. Deadline for submissions for next issue of the Orange Pulp, Sept., 15th. Mail submissions to Dave Silva, 19323 Andrada Dr., Rowland Hgts., CA 91748. One year subscription fee \$3.00 for 6 issues. Mail subscriptions to: Ken Williams, 5727 E. Stillwater Av. #9, Orange, CA 92669.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, July, 25th, 1990, at 7pm. Fullerton Saving, 2400 East Chapman, Fullerton, a half mile West off the Orange Freeway.

JULY 25TH MEETING

Marcia is going to bring her TV and VCR and show THE WIZARD OF SPEED AND TIME.

AUGUST 29th MEETING

This will be an open meeting. Take note --- this meeting falls on the 5th Wednesday of the month, not the 4th. We may discuss plans for some group activity at the NASFIC in San Diego that weekend.

MAY MEETING 6 MOVIE EXCURSION

There was a lot of talk at the May meeting about comics and animation. Since "Roger Rabbit" and "The Little Mermaid" movie moguls are taking a fresh look at every comic character

ORANGE PULP

page2

new and old. The recent success of "TMNT" and "Dick Tracy" will only serve to convince them to launch new comic oriented adventures.

The monthly movie group went to see the blockbuster "Total Recall".

TERRY BLACK TALKS ABOUT SCREENWRITING

Our special guest for June was award winning screenwriter Terry Black. Terry is a tall man with an friendly outgoing manner. He looks like he could have played football in his college days. Terry lives in Costa Mesa and has been a full time screen writer since he received \$100,000 from New World Pictures for his first movie, "Dead Heat". He immediately quit his job as a computer programmer, which he says is a natural response since every computer programmer he ever met wants to do something else.

His first sale was to Mike Shayne's Mystery Magazine for \$25, which he describes as the biggest thrill of his life...more exciting than his first movie sale. He jokes about the sibling rivalry between him and his younger brother Shane Black, who received an advance of \$250,000 for his first sale "Lethal Weapon". exactly 10,000 times what Terry got for his first sale. Eventually he was able to one up Shane. He had done an episode for HBO's "Tales of the Crypt", about a man who works for a carnival and has nine lives. He becomes very successful selling tickets to people who come to see him die, keeping a careful count on his remaining lives. It was nominated for an ACE award (Award for Cable Excellence). His competitors were Ray Bradbury and a Henry James adaptation of "The Turn of the Screw", among others. He seemed a poor bet to win, so he didn't bother to write an acceptance speech. When they announced "The winner is Terry Black" he thought 'Oh shit! What now? I'll say something about my little brother Shane...that always works'. He said, "I'd like to thank my snot-nosed little brother Shane, author of 'Lethal Weapon', who gave me the kick in the pants I needed to launch my own writing career. This'll show the little bastard I can do it too." Later he noticed the Christian Broadcasting Network was one of the channels carrying the awards and he was the only one who used the word bastard.

Treat Williams, who stars in "Dead Heat" has a great sense of humour and is responsible for coming up with some of the funniest lines in the movie. Vincent Price also has a cameo role in the movie as the world's oldest man, who keeps himself

ORANGE PULP

page3

alive with a resurrection machine. Although Vincent Price plays a despicable character, as soon as they say cut he becomes the world's most wonderful man. The last day of filming there was a double line to get his autograph.

Terry feels this is a great time to be a writer, because with the widespread influence of TV and movies you can reach literally millions of people. He used the movie "Romancing the Stone" as a good example in the use of plot reversals, of which he counted 87 throughout the movie. To keep an audience interested when things are going too good, something bad must disrupt all the best laid plans, and when things seem hopeless the characters must find a way to succeed.

Terry read an excerpt from "Carmen's Calamity", a new episode of HBO's "Tales From the Crypt", that was to be aired the week after this meeting. It starred Harry Anderson, of Night Court, as a cartoonist who conjures monsters from his imagination. In the scene a band of young boys discover one of the monsters he has created.

Our thanks to Terry Black for a very enjoyable evening.

THE THREE FALSE QUEENS

by Fred Cropper

In the 1970's I acquired the information that Theodore Sturgeon had written an Ellery Queen mystery novel titled THE PLAYER ON THE OTHER SIDE. I asked Ted Sturgeon about this "ghosting", when I met him at an early Star Trek convention. As I remember he smiled but didn't elaborate.

It wasn't until the 1980's, while talking to Don Cannon, of Aladdin Books, that I found out two other science fiction writers had also written Ellery Queen novels. Jack Vance had written three: THE FOUR JOHNS, THE MADMAN THEORY, and A ROOM TO DIE IN. Also, Avram Davidson had written AND ON THE EIGHT DAY. All the books, including the Sturgeon, were written between 1964 and 1966.

I finally wrote to Lloyd Curry, the antiquarian book dealer back in New York. He told me the novels were written under contract (written for hire) for Random House. They were probably revised by Frederick Dannay (the EQ books are written by DANNAY and his cousin MANFRED B. LEE). The writers (get this) were forbidden by contract to acknowledge their

ORANGE PULP

page4

work...and Currey remembers an angry letter from DANNAY when he attributed these novels to the real authors. Curry doesn't know for sure about Jack Vance, but Avram Davidson and Theodore Sturgeon were clients of Robert Mills and through him they became involved in ghosting the novels. Which sheds some light on Ted Sturgeon's enigmatic attitude when I asked him about his EQ novel.

Piecing the rest together, it would appear that DANNAY and LEE (aka Ellery Queen) contracted to write six novels for Random House and (for whatever reason) they were unable to do it. Therefore, they farmed out the books. It is our great luck that three top-notch science fiction writers got the jobs.

Editor's Note

One nice thing about publishing an obscure club newsletter is that I probably don't have to worry about getting a nasty letter from Mr. Dammay.

EARTH by David Brin
Bantam; \$19.95 - June 1990

Reviewed by Dave Silva

A new novel by David Brin is a major SF publishing event. His first novel, "SUN-DIVER", was published by Bantam in 1980. In ten years he has written only seven novels (one a collaboration with Greg Benford "HEART OF THE COMET") and a short story collection. Twice he has won the Hugo with "STARTIDE RISING", and with it's sequel "THE UPLIFT WAR". His post-holocaust novel "THE POSTMAN", was nominated for a Hugo and "HEART OF THE COMET" took second place in the 1987 Locus Awards. He won the Locus poll as the readers favorite author of the 1980's.

"EARTH" is over 500 pages. Brin goes for the home run each time up...big books with big themes. The year is 2037 on Earth and there's good news and bad news. The good news is that civilization hasn't collapsed, the world is at peace and we're trying hard to deal with our most serious problems. The bad news are the problems...10 billion people, global warming, flooded lowlands and a depleted ozone layer. Brin, who has a doctorate in astrophysics, deftly creates a problem of greater immediacy than the aforementioned. By this time oil reserves have been depleted and the world has turned to alternate

ORANGE PULP

page5

energy sources. Secret experiments to create small black holes, to be used as energy sources, have been exposed by the media and shut down. The novel's protagonist, Alex Lustig, a scientist who worked on the clandestine project, suspects a singularity may have fallen to the center of the Earth and could be growing in size. The truth is not that simple.

There are a lot of plot twists in "EARTH". There's plenty of action with several factions fighting to influence the outcome. Brin tries to give us a real sense of the world that is 2037 by shifting viewpoint to other characters every chapter or two. He succeeds in that respect, however, I felt the continuity of the story suffered because of that. My wife is reading "EARTH", so I asked her what she thought of it. She said, "I suppose he's going to be able to tie all these characters together, but right now it's confusing." That's the way I felt about it. Certain chapters, while interesting in themselves, have little to do with the book's central problem.

One of the problems Brin attempts to deal with is man's inability to recognize his view of the world as an outgrowth of his evolution. Brin gives examples of how every species is regulated through competition and co-operation, except for man. There are new religious movements in 2037; the Gaians, an extension of today's "Greens", The "Ra" boys, who by worship the sun despite the risk of cancer and blindness.

Perhaps as interesting as the book itself is the afterward Brin wrote about the unique problems of writing a novel set fifty years in the future. Maybe Brin tries to do too much in one book...the plot twists toward the end are pretty hectic, but I liked it and would recommend it.

orange segments

The Dec. 1990, issue of F&SF will be a special Stephen King issue and will feature a new story by King. This will be F&SF's first "special author" issue since they did one for Harlan Ellison in 1977.

Orange County authors Tim Powers, Dean Koontz and Greg Benford were among the many authors attending the 90th annual American Booksellers Asso. Convention held in Las Vegas, June 2-5

Tad Williams will sign his new book "Stone of Farewell" at Dangerous Visions, Saturday, Aug. 25th, 2-5pm.