

Low Cost Virtual Reality Head Mounted Device

This device, when placed over the head, immediately immerses the user in a world of darkness and diminished sound. The real adventure begins, however, when he begins to run out of air!

**ORANGE COUNTY
SCIENCE FICTION CLUB**

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

NEXT MEETING: March 29, 1995 7:30 PM*



ISSUE # 51

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

THE ORANGE PULP

* Doors open 7:00 P.M. (Based on statistical models made over many years of the doors opening. The probability of the opening being earlier or later is: MAYBE)

THE ORANGE PULP

NEWSLETTER OF THE ORANGE COUNTY SCIENCE FICTION CLUB

ISSUE #51 VOL 9, NO. 2, March 1995 (The first issue of the rest of your life)

EDITOR Jeff Stein (I'm the editor and I don't have to eat broccoli)
ASSOCIATE EDITOR Dave Silva
SUBSCRIPTIONS Ken Williams
PROGRAM DIRECTORS Marcia Starke and Greg Funke
OCSFC LOGO Mac McMahon



Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 29, 1994, 7:30 PM at The Usual Place, 2400 East Chapman, Fullerton, a half mile west off the Orange Freeway. (SE corner of Chapman and St. College in Fullerton)

The Reading Orbit Discussion Novel:

Neuromancer by William Gibson

The Chief Speaks

I had a great time at Con-Dor. I was only there for one day but I was able to see some good panels and meet a few authors and visit the huxters room. I met Jerry Doyle (Babylon 5) walking around in the parking lot. I didn't really have anything to say to him other than he has a great show, etc. I also met up with our former guest speaker Sherwood Smith, she asked how we were doing and there was more small talk. I wasn't really impressed with the dealers room, there were only a couple of dealers that had books. The dealers booth I liked best was Mysterious Galaxy (San Diego (no, San Diego isn't a mysterious galaxy, their store is in San Diego (oh, forget it))). I wish I had seen more OCSFCer's there.

Virtual Mail to the Chief



Dear Chief (or Virtual Chief)

This is just a virtual note to let you know that it's about time you did an issue of the "Pulp" about virtual reality. Now that everyone is tired of it and they are not applying the "virtual reality" label to every new thought and product you can do an intelligent analysis of the concept.

Virtually Yours,

Hedmount Defice

Dear Hedmount,

I think you're being virtually unrealistic.

The (Virtual) Chief

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 29 Orange County Science Fiction Club 7:30
April 1 April Fool's Day
12 Maybe we'll see something on *this* Movie Night
16 Jedi Knights Regular Meeting
26 Orange County Science Fiction Club 7:30
May 1 Mayday! (or possibly May Fool's Day)
10 This "no SF movie" thing *can't* go on forever
21 Jedi Knights Regular Meeting
31 Orange County Science Fiction Club 7:30

For Jedi Knights information call (714) 826-5625

For Movie Night information call the Galactic Archives (714) 693-0673

For OCSFC information call (714) 552-4925

Previous Meetings

Our January meeting was the first one that I've missed in a long time. It was supposed to be an open meeting for open minds. I've been told that most of the cast of *Star Trek: Voyager* showed up and that they were giving out **free money**. By the way, did I mention that April Fool's day was approaching.

OK, on to February (for real). **Roy Young** author of *Captains Outrageous* came to talk to us. He brought along his agent and the cover art for his next book. He talked about how he came to become a writer and answered questions from the group. A fun evening for all!

March, April, and Beyond

(What would SF be like without "and beyond")

Well, It looks like Greg and Marcia have been busy lining up programs for the next few months:

In March, we're going to have Rich Gainer, who will be doing a program concerning SETI. I'm told that he is bringing a 30 minute video from NASA.

In April, Ed Thomas, owner of Book Carnival will give a talk with anecdotes about the book business, authors, mystery, and science fiction. His store has been open since the early 80's.

May will bring us an astronomical artist. Chris Butler will show us a program of slides.

June, July, August, September, October, November: "And Beyond"

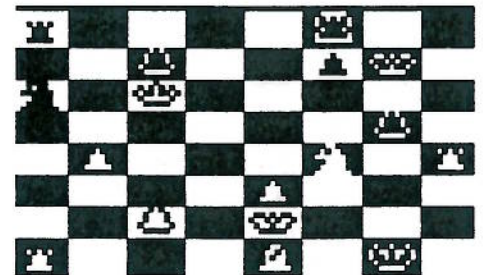
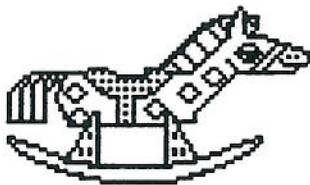
MOVIE NIGHTS

I wish I had something to put here, we haven't been to a movie for the last couple of months.

The club movie night is usually the second Wednesday of each month, but due to film schedules and our schedules and our attitudes and the conditions of our cars and the weather and the phase of the moon and the price of butter, it has become very tentative. It is important to call ahead if you want to attend the movie with us.



Early Forms of Virtual Reality

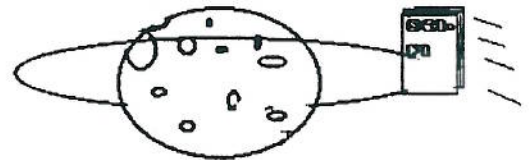


THE READING ORBIT

The book for February was supposed to be *Captain's Outrageous* but we wound up talking about Gibson's *Virtual Light*.

The book for March is Gibson's (again) *Neuromancer*.

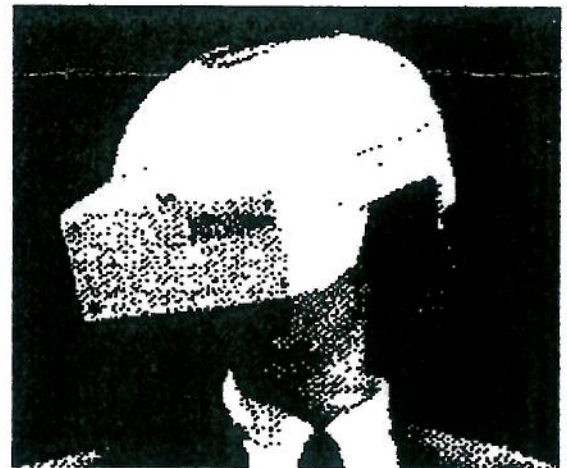
We have talked about possibly reading short stories or novellas from Asimov's or other sf magazines. Please let us know how you feel about this idea. We would like to get a few more people involved in our discussions. The stories are what sf is all about.



Do We Need Virtual Reality?

Why do we need Virtual Reality (VR), well, we don't need it but we could make our lives better. Here are some ideas:

1. VR for bank customers so they can have the joy of seeing an error in their favor for a change.
2. VR for teachers so they can enjoy the kind of classes all the students listen and learn.
3. VR for students so they can pull some of the stunts that they've always wanted to.
4. VR for mosquitos so they will think they're sucking blood when they are really on life support. (Mosquito life support, this I gotta see)
5. VR for Wylie Coyote so he can finally have the thrill of catching the Road Runner.
6. VR for the Road Runner so he can finally have the thrill of getting caught.
7. VR for telephone solicitors so they can have the enjoyment of hearing someone saying "yes!"
8. VR for sf club newsletter editors so they can see what it would be like to be a real editor.
9. VR for politicians, no, wait a minute, they already live in a virtual world.
10. VR for health professionals so they can live in a world where *everyone* cares about diet and exercise.



Hey, What's going on there?

Intersection- '95 Worldcon, Glasgow Scotland, August 24-28 A good reason to visit Scotland.

NASFIC/Dragon*con 95 Atlanta Hilton and Towers July 13-16. Nasfic is held in North America in years when the Worldcon is outside of North America. It is of Worldcon quality.

The Chocolate Festival Mar 25-26 at The DragonMarsh 3737 6th St Riverside. The flyer I have says "more info to come" but it's getting a little late for that.

L.A. con III Aug 29- Sep 2 1996 \$90 till June 30, 1995 then the price of membership goes up to \$110. L.A. con III P.O. Box 8442 Van Nuys, CA 91409. Or write to the E-Mail Infobot through internet: lacon3-info@netcom.com

LAFAYETTE RONALD HUBBARD: MASTER OF THE WORLD

By Fred Cropper and Dave Silva

If the above name seems vaguely familiar, perhaps L. Ron Hubbard seems more so.

L. Ron Hubbard was a fairly good science fiction writer in the late 1930's and 1940's. SLAVES OF SLEEP, a novel and FEAR a novellette are thought by some to be science fiction classics and hardcover editions in top condition bring three figures.

In the late 1930's Ron Hubbard was heard to say, "a man could get rich starting his own religion." This was probably the gestation period for Ron's massive concept, which first became Dianetics, and later, Scientology.

Ron's "baby" DIANETICS- THE MODERN SCIENCE OF MENTAL HEALTH was born full blown in 1950, not in any medical journal, but in the May issue of Astounding Science Fiction, edited by that great cynic John W. Campbell. John W. must have had his brain turned off, because he embraced Dianetics as if it were his own child.

Dianetics was a sort of do-it-yourself psychiatry, filled with enough psychobabble and gobble-de-gook to fill a steamer trunk. Ron had lifted (with both hands) Freudian psychology, twisted enough not to immediately reveal it's source. Terms like, engrams, clear, auditing, reactive mind, electro-psychometer (E-meter) and a host of others, enough to boggle the mind, became the mainstay of Dianetics.

The general idea was to get rid of your engrams, bad things in your personality, caused by various traumas in your life, by the process of Auditing, until you reached the clear state. The cures claimed by Dianetics would make a snake oil salesman blush.

Needless to say, many involved in THE MODERN SCIENCE OF MENTAL HEALTH wanted to be chiefs instead of indians. What followed was a factionalism that just about sank the new "science". Ron came out on top and started using the term Scientology, expanding Dianetics into a religion. What probably helped the transition was the American Psychiatric Asso. and the A.M.A were threatening to sue Ron for practicing medicine without a license.

Lincoln said, "You can fool some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time,...". There's more to this quote, but Hubbard must have felt this part particularly encouraging.

Many people prominent in the early years of Dianetics were from SF; Campbell, Van Vogt, Ackermann who was Ron's agent. How did bright people like this get taken in? In general, the people who knew Hubbard would contend that in spite of half of everything he said being bullshit, they felt he was on to something big.

Everyone agrees Hubbard had an incredibly quick mind. He could write almost 70 wpm and never revised any of his first drafts. Even when old, out of practice and in ill health, "Battlefield Earth", some 800 pages, took him only two months. As a public speaker, he could hold an audience for hours, speaking extemporaneously. Also, he was a gifted hypnotist, which he demonstrated as a guest at a LASFS meeting in the late 1940's. If it weren't for his glaring personality flaws, beyond his ability to control, he would have been a much more effective leader for his movement. Hubbard demanded total loyalty, while alienating loyal supporters. He had wealthy patrons, whose money he spent like water and took a, "What have you done for me lately?" toward them.

In the late 1970's I was selling books at a Westercon in L.A. At a nearby table there was a guy trying to pass out Scientology literature. He wasn't having much luck. By this time Scientology was getting a lot of bad press and its SF heritage wasn't much help. The AMA, the FDA, the FBI were on their tail and they received no supports from potential allies in organized religion. The FBI thing was Hubbard's fault; he would write letters to the FBI accusing his enemies of being communists and subversives. Then when he was asked in a public interview what he thought of Hoover, Hubbard described him as "stupid."

An amusing story took place on one of Hubbard's ships that he used as a training center for Scientologists. The young trainees had little or no seafaring experience and were concerned about being up to the job. Since reincarnation is a tenet of Scientology belief, Hubbard told them, that You've all been sailors in a previous life. So they should stop pretending they didn't know what it was all about. This made them feel a lot better.