

**Son  
Of:**



Official Journal of The

# GENIE

(Great Pagoda Insurance Company)



Otherwise Known as: **The Oklahoma Science Fiction Writers Newsletter**

Brought To You By: K. D. Wentworth, Warren & Lana Brown and Simon McCaffery

Special "Scully's Secret Mole" Issue • April 1996

**\*\*\* HELLO OSFW \*\*\***

The April meeting will be held at the Greg Lower residence in Sapulpa on Apr. 12th, at 7:00 P.M. The phone number is 224-2535; work 224-5185. **Directions:** Take U.S. Highway 75 south from Tulsa (75 runs through the downtown area; you can reach it by way of the Broken Arrow Expressway, I-44, I-244) to 117 West Exit (1 mile south of the Creek Turnpike). Go to the 3rd stoplight (about 5 miles to the 1st stoplight, then 2 more miles; if you reach the Wal-Mart, you've gone too far). Turn left on Hickory, go 1 mile south to stop sign. Head straight through stop sign and take the first right onto Galaxy Road into Southern Hills Apartments. Greg's building is #403, on the northeast side in back. It's Apartment F, to the right at the top of the stairs.

**\*\*\* NEWS \*\*\***

We missed out on the First OSFW Read-off of Published Spectacularly Bad SF/Mystery/Time Travel prose at the last meeting. I was unable to attend, due to a death in my family, so we will try again this month. Bring the worst example you can find of a published paragraph in sf, fantasy, or horror and astound us all. A prize will be awarded. (No fair writing it yourself!)

**\*\*\* UNLOCAL NEWS \*\*\***

Fantasy writer Evangeline Walton died in March.

GENie has a new lower-cost plan called GENie Lite which provides five hours of e-mail for \$7.95 a month, and additional hours for \$2.95 each. It works particularly well for those who have a freeflag.

Papers were signed on March 7th to sell Dell Magazines (including ASIMOV'S, ANALOG, and HITCHCOCK'S) to Penny Press. The new owners said it would be business as usual until further notice, and the offices will stay in Manhattan.

**\*\*\* LOCAL NEWS \*\*\***

The Afghanistan Perceivers, a local Sherlockian club, meets the last Thursday of the month at the Cherry Street Brewery (15th and Peoria) here in Tulsa. A story from the Conan Doyle canon is selected for discussion each month and someone is brought in to speak on a related subject. For example, they recently had a zoo worker discuss the fictitious serpent in "The Speckled Band." They also have a quiz on the story of the month. KDW made the mistake of winning last month's quiz and so had to write this month's.

**Simon** has changed jobs, leaving NatCom and the magazine publishing biz to join Warren at Vyvx, the international fiber-optic video services company, based in downtown Tulsa. You can reach him at 588-4909, or send e-mail (including all GPIC submissions) to: [internet:mccaffs.vyvx1@gw.twc.com](mailto:internet:mccaffs.vyvx1@gw.twc.com).

"Some of you may have sent e-mail to my old CompuServe address in the last two weeks and not received a reply. If this is the case, you have my sincere apologies," McCaffery said. He added that his CIS address is kaput, though he will be signing back on GENie.

After a long and arduous quest surpassing anything from *The Lord of The Rings*, **Warren** and **Lana** are closing in on selling their house and moving into their new home later this month. (Warren still has all his fingers, and Lana's feet are hairless.)

**\*\*\* OFFICE MOVE DISASTER #1  
(ORIGINALLY TITLED: "PATHETIC  
EXCUSES, PART I") \*\*\***

From the President:

In moving all my disks, notebooks, etc., from my old office at CityPlex to my bunny-sized cubicle at the Tulsa Depot, I managed to misplace my notes from the March meeting at Susan's. There were no sales or publications reported, but Brad, Greg and Barb all had good rejections. Sorry I can't list them in detail. Barb is now upgraded to an Active member in SFWA. My

sincere apologies if I've forgotten some important news!

\*\*\* CONTINUUM \*\*\*

March 1996

or...

*Why Imps Are A Vampire's Best  
Friend, and Aliens Prefer  
Red-haired Asian Kids*

\*\*\* OFFICE MOVE DISASTER #2  
(ORIGINALLY TITLED: "PATHETIC  
EXCUSES, PART II") \*\*\*

You guessed it! My notes on stories read at the March meeting are MIA, AWOL, abducted by implant-packin' extraterrestrials. (Speaking of ETs, you are probably wondering about Scully's Secret Mole...so here's your "X-Files" trivia for this month. According to a recent cover article in *TV Guide*, Gillian Anderson has a Monroe-like beauty mark by her mouth that Chris Carter has always ordered be covered by make-up. Next month: David Duchovny's Secret Tattoo!) Nine or so folks made it to Susan Bischoff's beautiful hill-top home, and although the meeting was shorter than most, everyone seemed to enjoy a fun, relaxed evening.

Barbara read a first-rate short story that explains what really happens to the blood-drained corpses left over from the nightly feeding of vampires. I believe this story was titled "The Imp of a Particular Evening." (Barb, I hope I'm not too far off with that.) This was easily the best vampire short story I have read/heard in quite some time. The central idea is quite inventive, and brought off with enough half-shadowed creepiness to fill a trio of X-Files episodes: All vampires deliver the bodies of their victims to the secret dwellings of the Imps, along with whatever gold or valuables belonged to the victim. In return, the imp's dispose of the bodies in some mysterious fashion. Barb's vampire is obsessed with the fearsome imp's, and eventually manages to discover their dark secret. If you didn't hear this one, folks, ask Barb for a copy or e-mail. It's one of her best.

Elspeth read part of a new novel involving a remarkable red-haired Asian boy of mixed racial parentage who has been abducted by an advanced extraterrestrial race. As always, Elspeth spices her story with unique insights and perspectives into her characters, and the prose is sharp and lyrical. I was intensely curious to learn more about her young protagonist, his unusual talents, and why he has been chosen by the aliens. Hopefully we'll hear more at future meetings.

\*\*\* MATCH WITS WITH PROFESSOR  
MORIARTY \*\*\*

By KDW

KDW recently drew this test up for Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes story, "The Engineer's Thumb" Reread the story, then give it a try and see how well you score.

QUIZ FOR "THE ENGINEER'S THUMB"

1. What was the engineer's name?
2. When did the story take place?
  - A. Winter of 90
  - B. Summer of 89
  - C. Fall of 88
  - D. Queen Victoria's 2nd cousin's birthday
3. What kind of engineer was the main character?
  - A. A hydraulic engineer
  - B. A stress ratio engineer
  - C. An architectural engineer
  - D. A choo-choo engineer
4. How did the engineer lose his thumb?
  - A. Someone bit it off.
  - B. It was chopped off with a cleaver.
  - C. He fell under a speeding carriage wheel.
  - D. He left it in the cheese department at Harrods and when he went back, it was gone.
5. Which thumb did he lose?
  - A. The right
  - B. The left
  - C. It doesn't say
  - D. It wasn't really his thumb, it was his sister's
6. What did Sherlock serve the engineer for breakfast?
  - A. Fresh rashers and eggs
  - B. Tea and crumpets
  - C. Coffee and fresh toast
  - D. Kibbles and bits
7. What kind of accent did the Colonel have?
  - A. Australian
  - B. German
  - C. Austrian
  - D. He was a bit salty with a dash of lemon pepper
8. To which firm had the engineer been previously apprenticed?

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- A. Farintosh and Stoner
  - B. Venner and Matheson
  - C. Holder and Stevenson
  - D. Conan and Doyle
9. What was the hydraulic press supposedly used to do?
- A. Compress fuller's earth into bricks
  - B. Stamp metal
  - C. Press olives
  - D. Wring water from the laundry
10. What was the hydraulic press really used to do?
- A. Compress fuller's earth into bricks
  - B. Stamp metal
  - C. Press olives
  - D. Wring water from the laundry
11. What important detail did Sherlock learn about the horse?
- A. It was chestnut.
  - B. It was lame.
  - C. It was fresh.
  - D. It had been born in Istanbul.
12. What was wrong with the hydraulic press?
- A. The piston was cracked.
  - B. One of the indiarubber bands was missing.
  - C. One of the side cylinders had a slight leakage.
  - D. It was depressed.
13. How did the engineer know the Colonel had lied about the purpose of the press?
- A. There was metal on the floor.
  - B. The walls were wooden.
  - C. It smelled like olive oil.
  - D. He found crushed Legos scattered about the floor.
14. What was the mysterious woman's Christian name?
- A. Anna
  - B. Elise
  - C. Helen
  - D. Fritz
15. How did the engineer escape the press?
- A. The mysterious woman let him out.
  - B. He knocked out a wooden panel.
  - C. The press malfunctioned.
  - D. He sent it back for warrantee work.
16. How did the engineer return to London?
- A. He took the train.
  - B. He walked.
  - C. He was picked up by a passing carriage.

- D. He joined the circus.
17. How did the house catch on fire?
- A. The engineer struck a match.
  - B. The Colonel burned it to destroy the evidence.
  - C. The oil lamp was crushed in the press.
  - D. The Yankees burned it.
18. According to Holmes, what did the engineer gain from this terrible adventure?
- A. Experience
  - B. Fifty guineas
  - C. An opportunity to become ambidextrous.
  - D. A taste for Turkish tobacco.
19. What was discovered by the police in the outhouse?
- A. Copper and lead
  - B. Nickel and tin
  - C. Iron and copper
  - D. I'd rather not say.
20. What had the criminals been turning out by the thousands?
- A. Half-crowns
  - B. Shillings
  - C. Pounds
  - D. Pictures of the artist formerly known as Prince
21. \*Bonus question (5 points): Just exactly what is fuller's earth?

(ANSWERS APPEAR ON PAGE 6; NO PEEK-ING!)

### \*\*\* MARKET INFORMATION SOURCES \*\*\*

GILA QUEEN'S GUIDE TO MARKETS. P.O. Box 97, Newton, NJ 07860-0097. A "mostly monthly" market list which deals with all genres from mainstream to sf and horror. Each month, a different section of the marketplace is featured, but monthly updates are given for all genres. The speculative fiction issues usually come out about March and April. GQ also runs a few short articles about writing. Cost: \$30/12 issues. Make checks payable to Kathryn Ptacek.

LOCUS, P.O. Box 13305, Oakland, CA 94661. A monthly speculative fiction newsletter which publishes a small amount of market information. LOCUS is of more use if you wish to sell a book because you can study the "People and Publishing" section to see which

editors are buying what and from which agents. You can usually buy LOCUS at Barnes & Noble, if you would like to look at a copy before subscribing. Cost: \$43/12 issues. Make checks payable to Locus Publications.

**SCAVENGER'S NEWSLETTER**, 519 Ellinwood, Osage City, KS 66523-1329. This magazine deals mostly with small press markets, including those which only pay in copies. It's monthly and makes a real effort to stay current. It also includes a few articles and reviews, as well as a list of reported return times from various markets. Cost: Bulk mail-\$15.50/12 issues, First class—\$19.50/12 issues. Make checks payable to Janet Fox.

**SF & FANTASY WORKSHOP**, 1193 South 1900 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84108. "This workshop was established in 1980 to provide the workshop experience, as much as possible, through the mail for science fiction and fantasy writers. There are two ways you can avail yourself of the services of the Workshop. One is by subscribing to the monthly newsletter and not participating otherwise. The other is by paying a one-time membership fee of \$5 on top of the subscription cost. This pays for a copy of the membership roster and the new member information packet that tells how to get involved in the various critique groups.

"The newsletter contains articles on such things as world-building, laws of magic, alien-creating, working with editors, ect. Reading the newsletter and contributing to it are part of the SF&FW experience, but to really gain from membership, you must write, critique, and submit. SF&FW encourages participation in all three but you determine what involvement level is right for you. Since you only get out of it what you are willing to put in, the Workshop makes no guarantees about selling your work. All the Workshop can promise is a good place to grow." Cost: trial subscription for 6 months/\$8. Full subscription for 12 months is \$20, which includes \$5 for membership. Thereafter, yearly renewals are only \$15. Along with payment, send name, address, e-mail address, phone number, and your desired level of participation."

**SF CHRONICLE**, P.O. Box 011730, Brooklyn, NY 11202-0056. Another "mostly monthly" magazine, but one whose primary focus is news of the entire speculative fiction field. SFC publishes an updated market list about three times a year and sprinkles in small tidbits about changes and new markets in between. Like LOCUS, it contains a good People and Publishing column which keeps you abreast of exactly who is buying what from whom and for how much. Cost: \$35/12 issues. Make checks payable to Science Fiction Chronicle.

**SFFWA (Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America) BULLETIN**, 404 Oceanside St., Islip Terrace, NY 11752-1203. Contrary to what most people seem to think, this quarterly magazine is available to anyone who wishes to subscribe, whether they belong to S(F)FWA or not. If you join SFWA (you must have at least one professional level sale to do so), you don't need to subscribe because it is part of your membership package. The Bulletin contains articles written by professional writers on such diverse topics as model contracts, negotiating contracts, editing and copyediting, writer's block, and marketing yourself once you've sold a book. It always has a market section in the back. Cost: \$15/4 issues (one year). Make checks payable to SFFWA Bulletin.

**SPECULATIONS**, 1111 W. El Camino Real, #109-400, Sunnyvale, CA 94087-1057. A new bimonthly speculative fiction writer's magazine which has two market sections as well as articles on writing, publishing, ect. Cost: \$25/6 issues. Make checks payable to Speculations.

### \*\*\* UPDATED MARKET REPORT \*\*\*

#### CHANGES:

**PULPHOUSE** has closed up shop and ceased publication. A kill fee will be paid for stories already accepted.

**DEAD OF NIGHT** is suspending publication again.

**BLOOD AND MIDNIGHT** is closed until Jan., 1997.

**FREE WORLDS MAGAZINE** has folded.

**INTO THE DARKNESS** will cease publication after #5.

Editor Amy Stout has left Roc.

#### NEW LISTINGS

**AUDIO VERSION INC.**, P.O. Box 551, Hawthorne, NJ 07507-0551. Editor: None listed. Looking for sff/f/ other genres stories to put on audio cassette tapes. Length: 3,000-7,000 words. Payment: 4 cents/word upon publication.

**BEST NEW HORROR 7**, 130 Park View, Wembley Middlesex, HA9 6JU, UK. Editor: Stephen Jones.

Anthology looking for horror published between Dec. '94 and Dec. '95.

BLACK OCTOBER MAGAZINE, P.O. Box 871, Babylon, NY 11702-0871. Editor: None listed. New quarterly of "gothic and psychological horror." Length: up to 5,000 words. Payment: 3 cents/word+. Subscription: \$16/yr.

KEEN SCIENCE FICTION, 1481 Lidstrom Rd. East, Port Orchard, WA 98366. Editor: Teresa Keene. Monthly sf magazine. No fantasy or s&s. "... seeking to publish cut and dried Sci Fi... a moral, usually, or observation on man and science. You know the stuff. The Twilight Zone did it. So did the pulp fiction sf mags of the 40's and 50's. Isaac Asimov. Star Trek. Original, classic-style fiction... no sexual innuendo... nothing obscene... violence okay as long as not sexually oriented." Length: up to 4,000 words. Payment: 1 1/2 cents/word on publication. Return time: 2 months. Sample: \$3. Subscription: \$36/12 months.

WICKED MYSTIC, 532 La Guardia Place, #371, New York, NY 10012. Editor: None listed. "We are looking for explicit, gut-wrenching, brutally twisted, warped, sadistic, deathly, provocative, nasty, blatant horror." Length: none listed. Payment: 1.25 cents/word plus 3 copies and a free 1/4 page ad (a \$50 value) for a product or service you are promoting.

ZONE 9, P.O. Box 38074, Charlotte, NC 28273-0001. Editor: John Peyton. New monthly magazine looking for "humor, hard sf/weird/bizarre... This magazine has a humorous slant but serious stories are needed as well. The emphasis on is on hard sf, which focuses more on people than technology. As for fantasy, no s&s stories unless they are a significant departure from the usual. Also interested in seasonal stories which have at least a vague connection to the seasons and holidays. No horror, cyberpunk, explicit sex, or graphic violence." Length: 300-7,000 words. Payment: 1-2 cents/word for one time rights. Sample: \$4.50. Subscription: \$38/yr.

#### SELECTED PRO MARKETS: SHORT FICTION

ABORIGINAL SF MAGAZINE, P.O. Box 2449, Woburn, MA 01888-0849. Editor: Charles C. Ryan. Quarterly. Current needs: Short sf stories, 2,500-6,000 words. Wants strong science content, lively, unique characters, and well designed plots. Poetry, 1-2 pages; 1-panel original cartoons on science or sf; jokes, 25-100 words (must be original). Would like to see more hard sf. Send SASE for writer's or artist's guidelines. Payment rates: stories, \$200; poetry \$20, cartoons \$20;

jokes \$5; all on publication. Reporting time: 8-12 weeks. All writers have now been paid and the magazine is open again for submissions.

ABSOLUTE MAGNITUDE (formerly Harsh Mistress), SF Adventure, P.O. Box 13, Greenfield, MA 01302. Editor: Warren Lapine. Looking for action/adventure based sf, no humor, h, f, or cyberpunk. He wants to see "tightly plotted stories with memorable characters." Encourages disposable submissions with a stamped #10 envelope for a reply. Length: up to 25,000 words. "Longer stories will probably have a better chance. Thus far we haven't purchased anything under 5,000 words." The editor recently said he does not want sf with "religious overtones." He is negotiating with a New York publisher for an ABSOLUTE MAGNITUDE anthology. Will consider previously published stories and simultaneous submissions as long as they are notified of such. Payment: 3-5 cents/word plus 1 contributor's copy for FNASR upon publication. Reprints: 1 cent/word. Sample: \$5. 1 year: \$14. Reporting time: 3-4 weeks.

ADVENTURES OF SWORD & SORCERY, P.O. Box 285, Xenia, OH 45385. Submissions Editor: Randy Dannenfelser. Quarterly buying sword & sorcery, high fantasy, and heroic fantasy. "We want fiction with an emphasis on action and adventure, but still cognizant of the struggles within as they play against the struggles without. As examples, think of the fiction of J.R.R. Tolkien, Fritz Leiber, and Katherine Kurtz." Length: 1,000-7,500 words. Payment: 3-6 cents/word upon acceptance. Prefers to have a cover letter. Sample: \$4.50. 1 yr. \$14.50.

ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S MYSTERY MAGAZINE, 1540 Broadway, 15th Flr., New York, NY 10036. Editor: Cathleen Jordan. Well-plotted, plausible mystery, suspense, detection, and crime stories to 14,000 words. "Ghost stories, humor, futuristic, or atmospheric tales are all possible, as long as they contain a crime or the suggestion of one." Payment: 7 cents/word, on acceptance. Guidelines with SASE. Sample: \$3. Return time: up to 5 months.

ANALOG, 1540 Broadway, 15th Flr., New York, NY 10036. Editor: Stanley Schmidt. Currently reading all lengths. Payment: 6-8 cents/word up to 7,500 words; \$430-520 for 7,500-12,500 words; 5-6 cents per word for longer material. Wants sf with strong characters in believable future or alien setting. Reporting time: 1 month, often less.

ARTEMIS MAGAZINE, 1380 E. 17th St., STE 201, Brooklyn, NY 11230. Editor: Ian Randal. Buying near-future sf concerning lunar development or life on the moon. Length: up to 20,000 words. Payment: 5-8



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cents/word.

ASIMOV'S SF MAGAZINE, 1540 Broadway, 15th Flr., New York, NY 10036. Editor: Gardner Dozois. Buying sf and fantasy up to 20,000 words (very few longer). Dozois recently said on GENie that he wants "tight" stories in which every scene, ideally every word, serves to either drive the plot or establish character or setting in some essential way, or perhaps both. He wants to see more hard science and also more good offworld, alien planet, spaceship, or good literate space opera fiction—"something with some color and sweep and action and exoticism." Payment: 6-8 cents/word to 7,500 words; \$450-600 to 12,500 words, 5 cents/word for longer stories. Reporting time: 4 weeks to six months.

BENDING THE LANDSCAPE, White Wolf Publishing, 780 Park North Boulevard, Suite 100, Clarkson, GA 30021. Editors: Nicola Griffith and Stephen Pagel. An all-original short fiction anthology series "from writers of every background and perspective." The first three volumes will be fantasy, horror, and science fiction (not in that order). The first published will be a February 1997 hardcover. "For each story you submit, please indicate in your cover letter which anthology you would like it to be considered for. . . . There are only two rules. Contributions must (a) center around lesbian and/or gay characters and themes and (b) be set in a time/place/milieu that is outside our conventional reality." Payment: 8 cents/word upon acceptance against a pro-rata share of royalties. Length: prefer 2,000-8,000 words. Fantasy volume is now closed and sf volume is nearly full, but it is still open.

### ANSWERS

- |                    |                            |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Victor Hatherly | 19.B.                      |
| 2. B.              | 20.A.                      |
| 3. A.              | 21. Fuller's earth is a    |
| 4. B.              | kind of impure clay        |
| 5. C.              | which contains so much     |
| 6. A.              | fine sand and limy         |
| 7. B.              | material that it cannot be |
| 8. B.              | molded like most clay. It  |
| 9. A.              | easily absorbs impurities  |
| 10.B.              | from oil and fat and is    |
| 11.C.              | used as a "bleaching       |
| 12.C.              | clay" in the refining of   |
| 13.A.              | mineral, vegetable, and    |
| 14.B.              | animal oils. It was        |
| 15.A.              | originally used to remove  |
| 16.A.              | grease from cloth and      |
| 17.C.              | wool.                      |
| 18.A.              | Perfect score: 25          |
|                    | points                     |

### \*\*\* MANY THANKS TO \*\*\*

Warren & Lana

KDW

Barbara

Richard

Uncle Guido (keeps Richard's parking  
space clear at TU)

### \*\*\* SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION \*\*\*

One year's subscription to *Son of GPIC*, the official newsletter of the Oklahoma Science Fiction Writers, may be obtained by mailing a check or money order in the amount of \$13.00 (\$18 per household) to:

K.D. Wentworth, Treasurer

10804 E. 27th Street

Tulsa, OK 74129

(Checks should be made out to K.D. Wentworth)

*Please note: An "X" on your mailing label indicates OSFW has no record of either 1996 dues or GPIC subscription renewal. This GPIC will be your last.*

### \*\*\* OSFW INFORMATION \*\*\*

The OSFW meets at members' homes the second Friday of every month to read, critique, and promote in general SF, Fantasy, and Horror writing. All willing to contribute and (after a couple of trial meetings) pay their dues are welcome. **There is no age limit but parents should understand that material with adult themes and language is read and discussed.** Membership dues are \$13.00 per year, adjusted by nearest quarter, which includes a subscription to GPIC. Checks should be made out to K.D. Wentworth, and may be sent to K.D. at the address above.

### \*\*\* GPIC NEWS AND ARTICLES \*\*\*

GPIC solicits news and articles from OSFW members. We prefer they be on disk or sent via e-mail. Pseudonyms are OK. We accept files on either a 3-inch Mac or DOS disk (720k or 1.4 meg. — no 2.8 meg). We like RTF files but we can convert most Word and Word Perfect files; always include a separate ASCII file just in case. Otherwise, arrange to send them by e-mail to Simon at [internet:mccaffs.vyvx1@gw.twc.com](mailto:internet:mccaffs.vyvx1@gw.twc.com). You retain copyright on material. If this is of special concern you might let us know who you really are along with your pseudonym. We reserve the right to edit (although we try not to).

### \*\*\* NEXT GPIC DEADLINE \*\*\*

Pesky deadline for May issue: April 25

*We look forward to seeing you all!*