




Son Of:  **Official Journal of The**  

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

Brought To You By: K. D. Wentworth, Uncle Guido and Simon McCaffery

Special "Keep your diaphragm tight" Issue •
August 1997

***** HELLO OSFW *****

The August meeting will be held Friday, August 8th, at the home of K.D. Wentworth at 7:00 P.M. Address: 6915 S. New Haven. Directions: Turn north off 71st St. onto Oswego (at the stoplight). Drive one block to 69th. Turn left. Drive one more block to New Haven. Turn left again. The house will be on your left. Phone: 523-9729. Homemade ice cream will be served so bring your appetite.

***** UNLOCAL NEWS *****

SLIDERS has been picked up by the Sci-Fi Channel.

***** LOCAL NEWS *****

The OSFW Twentieth Anniversary Gala will be held on Saturday, Sept. 27th, in the Faculty Study at McFarlin Library. All members, past and present, are invited, along with their families. Watch this space for further information next month.

R.A. Lafferty received an Honorable Mention in THE YEAR'S BEST SCIENCE FICTION: FOURTEENTH ANNUAL COLLECTION for "Goldfish" (published in CRANK #7).

New member Tim Jenkins' game book ROLEMASTER: PULP ADVENTURES was published last month.

New (and former) member Bill Allen's story "The Book Burning" (co-authored with Gary Jonas) appeared in YARD DOG COMICS #8.

Chris Oseland's story appeared in the July

issue of MILLENNIUM along with, as she terms it, some "vaguely relevant art."

Barbara Thrower's story "The Vulture Watching Woman" was published in NONSTOP.

KDW's story "Amethyst Nights" was published by the on-line magazine TOMORROW and can be accessed at www.tomorrowsf.com. She also received an Honorable Mention for "Burning Bright" (ABORIGINAL SF, Summer, 1996) in THE YEAR'S BEST SCIENCE FICTION: FOURTEENTH ANNUAL COLLECTION.

***** GOOD REJECTIONS *****

Barbara Thrower: DREAMS OF DECADENCE, BENDING THE LANDSCAPE, TALEBONES, FASF, Stephen King's agent.

KDW: SIRENS, DAEMONS, AND OTHER LOVERS

***** NASTY REJECTIONS *****

R.R. Bodine: ALTERNATE KENMORES

***** DO YOU REMEMBER? *****

(A Sentimental Essay)

Do you remember when you found the listing at the library? Do you remember receiving your first issue of the World's Most Obscure Publication? Do you recall reading it, puzzling at its contents? Do you recall the first time you read one of Eddy's responses, or Halifaxes', or listened to the ravings of some bitter guy in his laundermat? Do you remember the first time you

went to a meeting, stood on the doorstep hearing the voices laughing inside, dreading they would all be wearing pointy rubber ears and T-shirts that say TASHA YAR LIVES, and your relief that all (pretty much all) looked normal, and then you saw the snack table and all of your nervousness vanished, and soon you became one of them, eager to gather and read off your rejections, share the joy of your sales and publications, salve the occasional disappointments in Dr Pepper and Little Debbies....

My, how time flies. For some of us, OSFW has been an important (and fun) part of our lives for nearly ten years. Several of us have been around since the beginning, 20 years ago. For some, the wonderful madness is only beginning. Long may the Jetpack Clam fly!

*** CONTINUUM ***

by SM

*July, 1997
on Bloated Epics, Butterflies
and Blarney in the Afterlife*

A decent crowd met at Barb Throwers' folks' house for the July meeting. We discussed the upcoming 20th OSFW Anniversary party in September (a letter will be heading to all members, present and past, shortly). It was suggested that we use some excess money in the treasury to buy...a HAM. It was also suggested we use the dough to buy BOOZE. HAM or BOOZE?? A tough call; perhaps we can settle this at the next meeting. At first I was a bit skeptical, but then the image of that large, fatty ham kept intruding into my thoughts, in the shower, at work during high-level meetings, at home while reading the children their bedtime story.

Paul: Paul read Chapter 6 of his "bloated epic," the Ass-Kicking chapter, and he wasn't kidding, folks. Talk about opening a jumbo can of Conan-brand whup-ass! Arkander and a band of warriors head off to a cold, desolate killing ground to face one of the most fearful enemies ever depicted in fantasy, the inhumanly strong Urjuk, a.k.a. the "Cruel Ones." Paul did a great job of building up the suspense, and the battle scenes were riveting. The fearsome band of Urjuk are defeated, but only

Arkander and Targan survive.

KD: Kathy read a humorous sf (of sorts) story, "The Butterfly Effect." When Kyle's barrel-racing belle walks out the door he receives some strange help from his pal, Bruno, and Chaos Theory, specifically the Butterfly Effect, which dictates that small changes can reverberate to create large changes. Through a series of daffy misadventures, Kyle manages to win back the seductive Rosalie.

Elsbeth read part of a short story, "Moses & Flight of Dogs." Set in Tulsa, we are introduced to several interesting characters who have begun to interact in the setting of a music event along the Arkansas River. I particularly liked the mysterious guy-with-a-scary-dog, Jerry, who is following Joan. I'm looking forward to reading the middle and conclusion.

Tim brought us a prelude to a series of fantasy stories involving the supernatural adventures group of heroes chosen to champion causes on Earth. Irishman Bram wakes from death (speared by a pike) to find himself in the company of his kinsman in a strange, timeless afterlife. There he meets his brother, Davy, dead for six years, who explains their situation. They exist on the mythical isle referred to in literature as Avalon, where they remain healthy and immortal until called upon to return to the world of the living to champion some cause. I liked the fact that they are not truly immortal, and can be killed forever during these adventures.

*** PRESIDENTIAL NOTES ***

by Greg Lower

A few imponderable questions:

What is the speed of dark?

People in Hell, where do they tell people to go?

When you're sending someone Styrofoam, what do you pack it in?

Why are there Braille signs on drive-up ATM's?

If women wear a pair of pants, a pair of glasses, and a pair of earrings, why don't they wear a pair of bras?

How come you never hear about grunted employ-

ees?

Why is it a kid can find a drug pusher and the police can't?

After eating, do amphibians have to wait one hour before getting out of the water?

If white wine goes with fish, do white grapes go with sushi?

What's another word for synonym?

If someone with multiple personalities threatens to kill himself, is it considered a hostage situation?

When sign makers go on strike, what is written on their picket signs?

Where do forest rangers go to "get away from it all"?

Why isn't there mouse-flavored cat food?

Why are builders afraid to have a 13th floor, but book publishers aren't afraid to have a Chapter 11?

How can there be self-help groups?

Why do you need a driver's license to buy liquor when you can't drink and drive?

Why are cigarettes sold in gas stations when smoking is prohibited there?

If a cow laughed, would milk come out her nose?

Why are there interstate highways in Hawaii?

Why is it that when you transport something by car, it's called a shipment, but when you transport something by ship, it's called cargo?

Why do we play in recitals and recite in plays?

Why isn't phonetic spelled the way it sounds?

Where are Preparations A through G?

Are there seeing eye humans for blind dogs?

If knes were backwards, what would chairs look like?

When you open a new bag of cotton balls, are you supposed to throw the top one away?

When your pet bird sees you reading the newspaper, does he wonder why you're just sitting there, staring at carpeting?

What happens to the first 6 "ups"?

Why does your nose run, and your feet smell?

If olive oil comes from olives, where does baby oil come from?

How much deeper would the ocean be if sponges didn't live there?

Did Washington just flash a quarter for his ID?

Why in a country of free speech, are there phone bills?

Why is it that, when a man talks dirty to a woman, it's sexual harassment, but when a woman talks dirty to a man, it's \$3.95 per minute?

***** UPDATED MARKET REPORT *****

CHANGES

STARLIGHT 2 now reports they will be open until the end of the year.

VIPERBLUE lost its funding and won't be publishing at all.

BAEN Books reports they have cleared out their slush pile up through August, 1996.

NEW WORLDS no longer accepts any unsolicited manuscripts.

DAUGHTERS OF NYX is no longer publishing.

LITTLE GREEN MEN will reopen in September. "No horror, no excessive sex and language."

THE FRACTAL is taking 6-8 months to return manuscripts.

FREEZER BURN is closed until October.

The Stearns anthology AN OGRE'S DOZEN is now officially cancelled.

AFTERSHOCKS has changed its address to 655 John Muir Dr., #417, San Francisco, CA 94132.

INFINITE EDGE's new address is 801 Legacy Dr.,

Apt. 2511, Plano, TX 75023.

ZONE 9 is officially defunct.

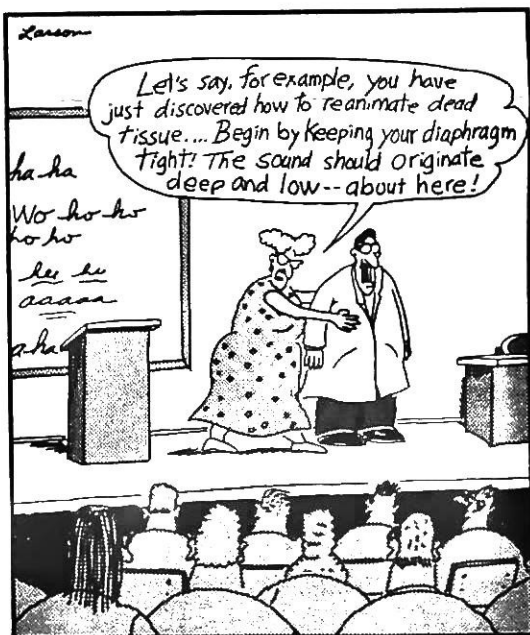
Pay rates for ABSOLUTE MAGNITUDE had been changed to 1-5 cents/word because of financial problems.

In a recent interview in SPECULATIONS, new F&SF Editor Gordon Van Gelder said "I don't think I have a strong preference for any one kind of fantasy. I like to see writers taking chances and I'll usually follow them whether they go into the slipstream or rethinking a classic theme. . . . I read a lot of 'New Wave' writers like Ballard and Delany when I was younger and they influenced me a lot, but I also like a good ol' skiffy story just as much when it's done well. . . . I'm always open to a story that will spin my head around, whatever genre it's in. . . . I guess what I hate to see more than anything is a story that's boring."

In an even more recent interview in SPECULATIONS, Editor Stanley Schmidt of ANALOG said ". . . a great many stories go home not because there is something wrong with them, but simply because I don't see anything special enough to make them stand out from the competition. I only buy between one and two percent of what I get. . . . one of the commonest problems is not having an imagination-catching idea."

Also from a SPECULATIONS interview, this time with Gardner Dozois: "What we're looking for in ASIMOV'S is something with prose narrative, with plot, with storylines that grip you. Beginnings and ends, and middles. All that sort of passe stuff which they're not looking for in the literary markets. . . . my criterion test for a really good story is that if I'm reading the manuscript and I forget that I'm supposed to be evaluating it. I just become absorbed in the story and a half an hour later I say wow! That's the kind of story I want to buy."

AGE OF WONDER has increased its pay rate for professional writers to 4-5 cents/word.



In their final year, all research science students are required to take one semester of Maniacal Laughter.

*** MANY THANKS TO ***

KDW
Uncle Guido
Greg Lower
Angela
Mad Scientists Everywhere

*** SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION ***

A 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), prorated by quarter, to:

K.D. Wentworth, Treasurer
6915 New Haven
Tulsa, OK
(Checks should be made out to K.D. Wentworth)

Please note: An "X" on your mailing label indicates OSFW has no record of either 1997 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 PC 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:smccaffe@vyvx.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 special anniversary September issue: August 20

We look forward to seeing you all

Writers. All contributions © the authors. Pg.4