



Special Eddynet Issue • December 1995

*** HELLO, OSFW ***

The OSFW Xmas party will be held December 9, at 7 p.m. at the Brown residence: 1223 South Evanston Ave., Tulsa, OK 74104, 592-0603.

The usual potluck affair, with spouse/guest, children invited. Bring a gift for the exchange, \$10.00 limit; fun counts more than \$\$\$.

IMPORTANT: Bring 2 pages of prose (something you have not read at a prior meeting) in a plain manilla envelope. Make sure your name does not appear on the excerpt. We'll mix them up, read them, and see if members can guess the authors. A prize will be awarded. Unless you want to pay them now, bring your 1996 OSFW dues to the Jan. meeting. —Best, Warren

Departed member **Chris Oseland** recently won a \$1,000 prize in a Freedom from Religion Essay contest.

KDW signed **THE IMPERIUM GAME**, **MOONSPEAKER**, and **HOUSE OF MOONS** in Tahlequah at the Cherokee Historical Museum Bookstore on Dec. 2nd.

Alma reports on her recent writing endeavors:

"I haven't been sending much out lately. I've been concentrating on my <ahem> novel. My last stories published were earlier this year:

"Pigging Out" - DEADLINES - Jan 95

"The Chronoprobe" - ZERO GRAVITY FREEFALL - Feb 95

"The Last Earthman" - PIRATE WRITINGS - Spring 95

"Crystal" - GALAXY #8 - Apr 95

She's had eight reprints appearing in two Internet mags via the WWW:

TECHNOMANCER and dEPARTURE fROM nORMAL (that's how they write it...).

Barbara received her first letter of fan mail, forwarded by ABORIGINAL SF. It was from this nice lady in Pennsylvania, who said she was reading back issues of ABO. She loved "Fence of Palms," and said

she would be on the lookout for any magazines/books that had Barb's name in them.

Eclectic Press, a local Internet Publisher for new and unpublished authors, is looking for writers of speculative fiction. As of now, the site is up and running and if you get onto the Internet the address is: <http://www.eclecticpress.com/>

"On the site it gives basic rates for authors and submission guidelines. If you would like, I can mail you a brochure. You can reach me at eclectic@tulsa.com or you can mail me at:

Eclectic Press, P.O. Box 701013, Tulsa Ok 74170-1013 — M. Peter Tierney"

Greg had good rejections from **SPACE & TIME**, **ABSOLUTE MAGNITUDE** and **THE SILVER WEB**.

Brad had good rejects from **CENTURY**, **SPACE & TIME**, **TALES OF THE UNANTICIPATED**, **NEW ALTARS** and **BENDING THE LANDSCAPE**. He received a letter from editor Betsy Mitchell at Warner/Aspect saying she would keep Brad in mind for tie-in *Highlander* novels. He also has a brief credit in **ST:NG NITPICKER'S GUIDE PART II**. Good nitpicking, Brad! **Note:** Brad is running for Secretary of SFWA; elections are in March.

Simon's story, "Attack of the Fifty-Foot Cafeteria Woman," appears in the Mid-December issue of **ALFRED HITCHCOCK MYSTERY MAGAZINE**. His 1991 **HITCHCOCK** story, "The Deep End," was reprinted in the Berkley paperback, **THE HAUNTED HOUR**. He also received good rejects from **ABSOLUTE MAGNITUDE** and **CENTURY**.

*** EDDYNET...COMPUEDDY...EDdy? ***

Under Construction: The OSFW Home Page
By Chris Merle

You've seen it on TV. You've read about it in the papers. And now, the power of the Internet is being unleashed to bring the OSFW to the world. The

medium to accomplish this . . . The World Wide Web.

What is the world Wide Web? The Web is a part of the Internet, which is a network of computers spanning the globe. The best way to describe it, is by what you need to access it. You need a personal computer, a fast modem, and an on-line service that offers browser software. The Web is a new form of electronic publishing. The documents that you can view can contain images, formatted text, sound bites and video clips. But wait, there's more. These documents have links that can point your browser at other documents that can be found on other web servers around the world.

How can you participate? The purpose of the OSFW Home Page is to promote the group. It is not intended to be a resource for members. It is intended to be a repository of information about the members in the club. What I would like to get from each member is a short biography (not more than a paragraph) and a bibliography of published and soon to be published works. If I do not get a bio, I will consider that tacit permission for Eddy to make something up (Are you reading this, Eddy? [*Yes I am—Eddy!*])

If you have e-mail, send your info to:

merle@a.cs.okstate.edu

The address of the home page is:

<http://www.cs.okstate.edu/~merle/osfw.html>

If you already have a home page of your own, I will include a link to it. Any comments, corrections, or suggestions are welcome and encouraged. The OSFW Home Page will move to America Online as soon as I get the details worked out with them. After 45 days, members can set up their own home pages.

— Chris Merle

Although the software to access the World Wide Web is user friendly, it needs a fair amount of computing power. Here are my recommendations for a minimal set up.

The machine: At least a 486SX with Windows 3.1 or OS/2 Warp. [*Eddy reports a 386 40Mhz works fine on AOL*] or a Macintosh with a 68LC40 processor with MacOS 7.1.

The modem: At least a 14.4K bps modem

This is the key component. With a slower modem you will not be able to take advantage of the graphical web browsers. Images can be quite large and take considerable time to download. There are text-based browsers available for slower machines and slower modems.

Service providers with graphical web browsers:

Windows/Mac America Online

[probably CompuServe and Prodigy too]

Mac, eWorld

Some of these services give you ten free hours for your first month, and thereafter cost is around \$10.00 a

month. If you are a power user you can try a direct Internet provider, but most of them charge around \$30.00 a month.

Special Note:

OSFW people who are members of the SFWA or HWA can get a free home page from Greyware Automation. AOL offers web space for subscribers, but may be too tame for Eddy and his ilk. E-Mail Chris for further Greyware info.

*** CONTINUUM ***

November 1995

or...

*The Stu-u-uttering Dead,
VR Vampires
and Cyborg Combat*

By S.M.

Seven (we're slipping) folks enjoyed a snack-laden evening escaping from the sleet and snow inside Greg's bachelor's pad in Sapulpa. There were no sales, but plenty of gossip, discussion and even a few stories.

Elsbeth got the evening started with an untitled, short-but-creepy story of a narrator haunted by his murdered, stuttering brother, Edgar. As always, I enjoyed Elsbeth's wonderful, lyrical prose. Elsbeth, did you sell this one to *A Horror a Day*?

Brad also read a short horror tale, "Hunt," that leads the reader around some unexpected corners. A vampire stalks his prey in a flesh bar, but when he makes his move on his intended victim, *he* becomes the victim of vampire-killers. A stake is driven into his undead chest...and the VR simulation ends. I found the idea of modern vampires using VR to train an interesting twist.

Simon read the next two chapters in Greg's ongoing sf novel involving a teenage cyborg, Andrew. Still a captive on the mysterious island, Drew begins his test, obtaining weapons from an armed ammo dump, then destroying three dummy targets. Next he destroys a tank, but discovers to his horror that it contained a human crew.

Stricken with grief, he ends up confessing his crime to a strange old priest who seems to know about the Olympus Project.

***** BELATED ANNIVERSARY
ADDRESS TO THE TROOPS *****

By
KDW

Brethren, as we once again arrive at our anniversary and take stock, I propose this year that we strive to finally come into our own. It's time for us to acknowledge our maturity as a responsible full-blown writers' group and start facing the issues with the same fervid, hot-blooded determination of our fellow organizations, such as SF(F)WA, HWA, and Romance Writers of America.

But, you protest, you thought we were already doing that? I beg to differ. As Suzy McKee Charnas pointed out in a recent issue of *The Forum*, the principal reasons for organizations such as ours are to 1) decide on member qualifications, 2) quarrel about who meets those qualifications, and 3) award prizes to members. In all three of these areas, we have been disastrously slack. For example, when have we ever bothered to quibble about member qualification? Or that bugaboo, requalification, for those who flee the fold, for that matter? Have we ever stopped to consider exactly what level of writing should qualify one to enter our exalted ranks, or, even more stimulating, how much per word one has to be paid before she can call herself a real sf writer and sit enthroned among us? Have we raised our voices at official functions, in the manner of so many of the famous authors we admire, or even gotten as far as shaking our fists in one another's faces?

The answer is of course—no. To our shame, no one has ever been punched out at an OSFW meeting (in the tradition of the Great One himself, Harlan), or even had a bowl of French Onion Dip dumped on her head. True, there has been the occasional face-off over the last Little Debbies™ cakelet lying unattended on the goodies platter, but that could happen anywhere, even at a boringly mundane meeting of the (shudder) PTA. The computer printout is on the wall, folks—real writers fight about the issues, not enticing confections of empty calories.

As for giving ourselves awards, during those splendid years when we gave out the coveted Golden Pagodas, we actually declared ourselves ineligible for the honor. Truly committed writers would have known this was hopelessly juvenile. Writers-in-the-know nominate their friends for the Hugo and the Nebula in order to receive the return favor. They photocopy their own work and send it out to Active voting members along with nobly posed publicity stills, showing a bit of well developed pectoral muscle, or displaying a nicely female shape to add interest. They join computer networks and actively campaign for said awards. They brown-nose editors and flatter their way into anthologies. We are sadly behind the times in all these worthwhile endeavors.

Have we ever even bothered to snub media tie-in novels? Nay, I submit that some among us actually spend their own pocket money on such works, forgetting they are artists in the truest sense of the word and ought to be above such mind-candy frivolity. Clearly there is no hope for Oklahoma Science Fiction Writers unless we develop some backbone, some verve for the really important matters of the writing life. We must remedy the above faults so that we may sally forth and secure the blessings of best-sellerdom for ourselves and our posterity. Never let us forget we are real science fiction writers, the few, the proud, the—dare I say it—picky.

Go forth, my brethren, and err no more.

***** BETTER LATE THAN NEVER *****

Report on NASFIC/Dragoncon/ACE
Atlanta, GA July 13-16, 1995
By BJT

ATLANTA — Even on a weekday at 6:30pm, there were 12 lanes of bumper-to-bumper traffic, north and southbound toward downtown. The downtown area was clean and visually pleasing—everyone tried to take night pictures of a glowing blue dome (a restaurant? a potato?) nestled among tall buildings across from the Atlanta Hilton & Towers. Most of the service people were extremely nice, but: **Planet Hollywood** makes you stand outdoors for 45 minutes, then for another 2 hours in the bar with your minor children to get a table for dinner, and the "pisa pizza" isn't quite good enough to make up for that. Go at lunch! The Peachtree Centre food court was within easy walking distance, with reasonable food prices and much available shopping.

The Hotel: The Atlanta Hilton & Towers is mid-range nice for a luxury hotel, but had plenty of space to accommodate the huge convention, with a restaurant and deli by the lobby. Express elevators with glass sides made for dizzying rides, and typical elevator gridlock by Saturday night was so ferocious that they wouldn't operate. Posted guards ejected at least one Del Rey editor from an overcrowded elevator, and the Borg trapped with us on the 10th floor before the Masquerade at the nearby Civic Center paced himself to pieces waiting (he won a prize, anyway). The Mai Tai's were superb at the smoky, underground Trader Vic's, and recent movies could be ordered in your room for \$9.50. The other con hotels were quite a hike to AH&T. Then there was the big rooftop pool on the third floor that mysteriously attracted Karen and Sarah several times per day.

The Con: Panel locations were fairly convenient on several of the lower floors, but there were always scheduled panelists missing. The daily con 'zine—a good one—was usually available. The 50 copies of

GPIC on the freebies table were snatched up at a geometric rate. Registration on Wednesday night went quickly, but on later days I heard people complain. The Green Room had a steady supply of food and drink for guests. The Dealers Room was vast, and expanded from mostly comics at opening to an impressive variety by the weekend, especially the booths of affordable artwork with many artists present (though the art show was a cramped maze.) If you ventured to the film rooms by the weekend, there was nothing but Japanimation (blech), and none of the film rooms had correct schedules posted.

Guests: This con has a tradition of media tie-ins, so you could actually GAWK AT MOVIE STARS. Karen and I attended a 15 minute, American premiere preview of MORTAL KOMBAT, where afterwards Christopher Lambert—w/orange hair—was a congenial emcee. I also saw Anthony Daniels (the dapper, hilarious host of the small Masquerade) and David Prowse of STAR WARS® fame, plus Tony Todd (that Zombie/Worf's half-brother guy.) At my first SFWA meeting, presided over by Barbara Hambly, I sat behind Joe Haldeman and his wife; other attendees included Kevin J. Anderson and Dafydd ab Hugh (he's a kid!) At panels, I was entertained by our own KDW, Josepha Sherman and Joe Christ, the "Anti-Artist" married to Nancy Collins, a particularly interesting and irreverent dude. I was equally taken aback by writers J.L., B.L., and especially D.F., the Dumbest Author at Dragoncon. I and Texas writer Karen Bogen were stuck handling the "What is Dark Fantasy?" panel by ourselves with lots of audience participation, for which we were grateful. And, of course, there was HARLAN . . .

Quotable Quotes (OK, so it's Mostly Harlan): From "Meet Harlan Ellison," an hour-long, heavily attended program—The Hollywood Quote: "Most people in Hollywood don't do an honest day's labor."

The What I Do for Babylon 5 Quote: "I think up weird shit."

The Enemies of Harlan Ellison Quote: "Those SLIME-sucking, unprintable!"

The Itchy Rickets Quote: "I recommend Sting-free, a holistic medicine."

The Childish Quote: "You brought a CHILD to one of my presentations? That's child abuse!"

The Competitive Quote: "Anne Rice can't WRITE!"

The Good Sport Quote, Christopher Lambert (after a fan commented that Highlander Two was a bad movie): "I agwee wit you."

From the "History in Fantasy" Panel, C. J. Cherryh, The I'm Tired Quote: "Fantasy is so exhausting to write."

The Man (con staffer) Behind the Curtain Quote (when BJT was approached for an autograph by the loudly singing, crazed filker lady): "YOU HAVE NOW EXPERIENCED THE FREEBIES TABLE AT DRAGONCON." Hey, it was the only autograph I gave at the con!

Regrets: The Mystery Science Theater 3000 panels were jam-packed, so we didn't see any of them, nor any rock stars or bands; no balcony on which Karen could play her saxophone.

Helpful Hints: The change to eastern time doesn't occur until Chattanooga, TN. There are countless factory outlets between Chattanooga and Atlanta—if I'd known, I'd have taken more money.

Personals: Belated gee-thanks to O.G. and N.A.C. for not showing up for a certain panel, though I saw you everywhere else. To Nicola Griffith—if I'd known then what I know now, I'd have made it to your panels/reading/signing. To Brad and Roger—Nice chatting with you in the Dealers Room. Thanks to Sue for coming my panel, and to KDW for waiting. And thanks to Randy—attending your first big sf convention, you were bemused, good-natured and a great con companion. **thanks, OSFW!**

*** DEAR EDDY ***

(He's back, and he still knows more than you do.)

Dear Eddy,

I have a dilemma. VCRs are wonderful devices. You can record shows when you are out and watch them at a later time. Is it appropriate to record a show while you are attending a funeral? Does it depend on the show you are recording? Would it be okay to record a football game, a sitcom, or a Saturday morning cartoon show?

Trying Not To Be Callous

Dear TNTBC:

As with so many things, it depends on whose ox is being gored. Or to put it another way, it depends on whose funeral it is. If you were to attend, say, Mother Teresa's [editor, check spelling] funeral, it would be improper to tape anything other than a speech by the Pope.

On the other hand, if it were Newt Gingrich's funeral, it would be perfectly proper to tape, say, Bay Watch, or Return to Gilligan's Island, but not the Rikki Lake show. The Rikki Lake show could be taped, however, during Phil Graham's funeral.

In order to stay on the good side of callous, when it doubt, don't tape anything. If you must see the show, stay home and watch it.

Yours for respecting the dead [and the undead],
Eddy

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

CHANGES

Due to failing health, Christopher Schelling has left HarperPrism. John Douglas has now left Avon to take his place.

TOMORROW's inventory is once again very full. Your chances of selling here are not very good at the moment.

Mail sent to STRANGE DAYS is being returned, with a label marked "box closed—unable to forward."

Marion Zimmer Bradley's SWORD AND SORCER-ESS anthology will open again in April.

A writer on GENIE reports having talked recently with Charles Ryan of ABORIGINAL SF, who says the magazine has a new business manager and plans to resume publication in the spring.

NEW MARKETS

Dark Fiction — John Bradt, 4 Tonada Dr, Irvine, CA 92720. DF/H. To 7,500 words. Electronic magazine, also wants mystery and suspense, no YA fiction. E-mail complete story as attached file in RTF format to: DarkGenre@aol.com, include cover ltr, write or e-mail for guidelines before submitting. 3 cents/word.

Speculative Fiction & Beyond — John Bradt, 4 Tonada Dr, Irvine, CA 92720. SF/F/DF/H. To 7,500 words. Electronic magazine, No YA fiction. E-mail complete story as attached file in RTF format to: DarkGenre@aol.com, include cover ltr, write or e-mail for guidelines before submitting. 3 cents/word.

ANTHOLOGIES

Bending The Landscape — Mr. Stephen Pagel and Ms. Nicola Griffith. White Wolf Books, 780 Park North Blvd, Suite 100, Clarkson, GA 30021. SF/F/DF/H. 2k-8k words. Stories must center around lesbian and/or gay characters and themes, be set in a milieu outside our conventional reality, no cliches, avoid stories on AIDs, clones, vampires, revenge, rape, cute F, the gay gene. Include cover ltr specifying which of 3 anthos (SF, F, or H) submission is for. 8 cents/word.

***** OSFW DIRECTORY *****

(The complete directory appeared last issue. Please note the following corrections.)

Elspeth Bloodgood
0534 S. Harvard Pl., Apt. 41A
Tulsa, OK 74114
743-4606
INTERNET:c.bloodgood@genie.geis.com
(new address, phone)

Warren & Lana Brown
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Tulsa, OK 74104
INTERNET:Underland@aol.com
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Christopher Merle
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Stephen Wynn
207 N. Creek, Dewey, OK 74029
534-0753
INTERNET:Swynn51157@aol.com.
(corrected address, new e-mail)

***** PHEW CORNER *****

Herbert: What have you done with all the review mags?

Sukie: There aren't any.

Herbert: What?

Sukie: All I received this month were professional publications. No small press at all.

Herbert: I wonder why.

Sukie: Actually, I believe I haven't been ordering as many as usual. Been busy on other projects, you know. :) However, I received an interesting little note in the mail from our friend Donald Ayers in Kentucky. It seems he's been watching massive amounts of television since September:

"The new television season is here. A strange and artful, if too grim, program is AMERICAN GOTHIC. It has supernatural overtones. The lead character is a tow-headed southern boy who might have walked right out of TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD.

"SPACE: ABOVE AND BEYOND appears to

envision Earthlings embroiled in a space war. Gone seems to be last year's EARTH II.

"SEA QUEST, which last season had the sub transported off-world, begins with its vessel being returned to Earth in the desert. It gets a new captain. (How about a new navigator?) And Earth seems on the brink of various wars.

"X-FILES has returned with merely other-world and government paranoia. They had clearly gone over the edge last season with a cannibalistic carné. I thought that would doom them, yet here they are again.

"Something seems a bit extreme with all the envisioned conflict in these series. Too much grind, grit, and overhanging doom.

"The TREK series have gone bananas. The writers have VOYAGER'S female captain constantly standing around, looking square-jawed and issuing some of the most self-apparent orders imaginable. And, suddenly, DEEP SPACE NINE has its commander promoted to Captain and he flies off on a space ship. This begs the question of what has become of more interesting characters who were station-bound."

Herbert: Good for Donald! He's saved our bacon.

Sukie: Yes, and quite nicely, too. G'night, Herbert. G'night, Donald.



*** MANY THANKS TO ***

Warren & Lana
KDW
Alma Garcia
Barbara
Eddy
Chris Merle
Donald Ayers

*** 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 \$10.00 (\$15 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 1995 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 \$10.00 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, or to 1223 S. Evanston Ave, Tulsa OK 74104.

*** 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: 73172.2054@compuserve.com. (or 73172.2054 if you have a CompuServe account). 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 January issue: Dec. 17
We look forward to seeing you all!