



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

R Special "Scully's New Tattoo" Issue •
February 1997

*** HELLO OSFW ***

The February meeting will be held Friday, Feb. 14th, at the K.D. Wentworth residence at 7:00 P.M. Address: 6915 S. New Haven. Directions: New Haven is between Yale and Harvard and does not run through all the way to 61st. It's easiest to approach on 71st, then turn north on Oswego, then left on 69th, then left again on New Haven. The house is gray stone with blue-gray trim. Phone: 523-9729. Be there, or be square. Akita optional.

*** UNLOCAL NEWS ***

The preliminary Nebula ballot has been sent out. SFWA members need to get their completed ballots in, not just postmarked, by Feb. 20th.

*** LOCAL NEWS ***

Since OSFW President Simon McCaffery didn't attend the last meeting, we took the golden opportunity to elect him President again for the coming year (*thank you, Vyvx — S.M.*). The office of Treasurer remains at the Wentworth/Kearns/Sammie residence, although it was unclear exactly during the discussion surrounding this issue which member of the household will actually hold the office. Possibly Sammie Dog held the lead. Not enough folks were missing from the January meeting to provide sufficient candidates for Vice President, so those interested in the office should schedule their future nonattendance accordingly.

Chris Merle reports the new OSFW web page is up and running. Drop by, take a look at it, then e-mail him comments at merle@webzone.net. Address: <http://www.webzone.net/merle/osfw.html>

GPIC columnist and NY resident Diana Ice reports that she sold two stories to LIGHTHOUSE, "A Bird in Hand" and "A Red Bird Flying." Congratulations, Diana!

Barbara Thrower's sf story, "The People of the Wind and Sand," was published in DISTANT JOURNEYS, a softcover anthology by Starlance Publications.

*** GOOD REJECTIONS ***

Brad: STRANGE WONDERLAND, URBAN LEGENDS (anthology)

Barbara Thrower: FORTRESS, TALE BONES (2), TERRA INCOGNITA

KDW: FASF, ANALOG

*** CONTINUUM ***

by BJT

January, 1997
or
That's My Dumpster
My Brother, the Vampire and
My My, the Wicked Dark

We had 12 people at the January meeting at Terri's home, which wasn't hard to find at all. While basking in the heavenly smells of chili and hot cider by a warm fire, with Terri's parents making certain we weren't too crazed for their very nice daughter, we discussed subjects as diverse as Jackie Chan, Charlie Chan and Simon McCaffery Chan, who was elected President of OSFW for another year. We also had three stories.

Rocky stayed for the whole meeting, and had more excerpts from Raccoon's Law. Switching back and forth between Wywo and Mungwe—who are on a desolate prairie with Jesus and various other interesting folks doing interesting things—and Jason and Harold, who never seem to tire of the Famous Author reviling their manuscript of Wywo & Co., we learn that Wywo has the

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power to alter the universe. These segments were not as humorous as previous ones, proving that Rocky has a flare for the dramatic, and I very much liked the dumpster on which lumen-infested Nick had written, "This is Nick's dumpster, stay away!"

Brad read a short story entitled "Shadows and Wind." A windswept night on the Oklahoma plains, and two brothers rendezvous at their father's grave. McCale has brought the tools to assassinate his suave vampire brother Brandon, if Brandon had the effrontery to bring their father across (which he did not.) I liked the father's deathbed scene, who saw their dead mother waiting for him, and the hint that McCale was not yet done with his murderous plans. It was Col. Mustard McCale, with the pool cue, in the strip joint—where they agree to meet after the issue of their father's vampirism is resolved.

Barbara brought "In the New Dark," in which gay lovers Jones (a writer for a rock mag) and Adrian (rock's latest Hot Sh—) struggle with the dual secrets of Adrian's sexual preference, and Jones's immunity to the New Dark that kills virtually anyone who ventures outside after sunset—and the consequences these secrets (Jones's being far more deadly) have on their lives.

*** HINTS FROM...NO, NOT HER ***

HOME OFFICE HINTS

by Diana Carolyn Ice

These are a few goodies I've come up with that have made my life easier. I'd like to share them with you, and maybe they'll help you too.

1. If you spend money for writer's magazines, read them once, and then never look at them again, because it's too much work to find anything in them, try photocopying the annual indexes and keeping them in a folder. If you need to look something up, you won't have to look through the whole stack of magazines.

2. Spring-type, wooden clothespins can be used to hold papers together like giant paper clips. And you can label the clothespins with a marking pen: "COPY," "FILE," "MAIL," "PRINT," "REVISE," "TYPE," etc.

3. Keep a notebook of repairs, or service calls for your computer, printer, ect. Enter the date, describe the symptoms, and what the repairman found (and his name if possible). If you have more trouble, it usually helps the repairman to know the history of calls and repairs.

4. Cover shallow (one to two-inch) box lids with

pretty adhesive paper and use them as paper or catchall trays beside your typewriter or computer. You can also switch them easily as you switch projects and stack them out of the way.

5. Use a paper napkin holder beside your typewriter or computer as a quick place to hold disks, ribbons, letters, envelopes, notes, ect. Some even have compartment compartments perfect for rubber bands and paper clips, or pens and pencils.

6. Color-code your file folders and notebooks to match each other and your disks, ect., to make it faster and easier to retrieve projects.

7. If your file drawers lack supports to keep your folders from falling back, put empty cereal or shoe boxes behind your files. Empty boxes will also keep books from sliding so far back on a shelf you can't easily reach them.

8. If your typewriter or computer keyboard comes to the edge of your desk, you can make a narrow writing shelf by anchoring a piece of plywood, the stiff back of an old three-ring notebook, or a couple of sheets of corrugated cardboard under the front of the machine.

9. Make a wrist-rest for your computer or word processor by rolling up two or three old terry cloth hand towels. You can easily adjust them to the most comfortable height for your keyboard, and they are washable.

10. Ask your postmaster if you can have the old boxes in which sheets of new stamps are shipped to the post office. They are a perfect size (12 1/2"x11"x2 1/4") to hold manila folders, notes, books, and pages for projects you are working on. Even narrow three-ring notebooks will fit in them.

11. Mark up your market lists. Indicate for which markets you have guidelines, sample copies, ect., and the dates of those. Update the markets you are interested in whenever you find new information in a writer's magazine, newsletter, ect. by changing the pay scale, editor's name, address, and so forth. Note if they are overstocked and cross out any markets that are out of business, so you don't waste time submitting to them. If you find an article about an interesting market, write in where you found it so you can re-read the article before submitting to them.

Good luck and keep writing!

(Hint from R.R. Bodine: "Always save your softener sheets, and send one with your cover letter. Editors love that fresh, clean scent.")

***** MARKET UPDATE *****

By KDW

CHANGES

Kris Rusch left a very large inventory behind at FASF, and new editor Gordon Van Gelder says, because of that, he's buying very selectively, passing up all but the most irresistible stories at the moment. Turnaround there is currently running from five to fifteen days.

TWISTED is rumored to be going on hiatus.

ATOMIC WESTERNS has folded due to financial problems.

DARK REGIONS will be closed throughout most of 1997 due to distribution problems.

13th MOON is going on hiatus.

The editor of KEEN SF does not like stories in first person.

The editor of BLACK OCTOBER MAGAZINE is John DiDomenico.

DEATHREALM is folding after the next issue.

Writers have reported mail to SOUTHERN GOTHIC is being returned because of a closed post office box.

NEW WORLDS is full and closed.

Staley Krause has left White Wolf Publishing.

SENSE OF WONDER is again open to sf and fantasy, although they are still looking for more horror.

Pat LoBrutto has been hired by Bantam Spectra and Tom Dupree has gone to Avon.

CONTEST REPORT

SF author Arlan Andrews will sponsor a third annual Arlan Andrews SF writing contest at InConJunction. First prize: \$200. Second prize: \$100. Third prize: \$50. The contest is open to any writer who has not yet SOLD a story to a paying market. [Those who have published stories in nonpaying markets may enter.] The story must be

7500 words or less and **MUST** be science fiction. Try to send a story of the type that John Campbell would buy today if John Campbell were still alive and editing an sf magazine. There is no entry fee but we **DO** require an SASE. All entries must be in contest format (name on cover letter but not on manuscript). For guidelines, send an SASE to "SF Contest c/o Linda Dunn, 2436 Hill Drive, Greenfield, IN 46140. Guidelines will also (soon) be available online at <http://www.sff-net/people/ljdunn/contest.html>

STRANGE NEW WORLDS, Star Trek Department, Pocket Books, 1230 6th Avenue, New York, NY 10020. Contest and anthology of new Star Trek stories (based on any of the four series) written by writers who have not published more than two stories in a professional level publication or a novel. (Basically, if you're qualified for Active Membership in SFWA, you're not eligible.) Length: 7500. Payment: 10 cents/word as an advance against royalties. Grand Prize winner will receive a bonus \$1000. Second prize: \$600. Third prize: \$400. Up to 20 additional winners will receive a publishing contract but no cash bonus above the stated word rate. Winners will be notified by mail or phone and must sign the publishing contract in order to be awarded the prize. (Warning: Since this is Star Trek, it will be work-for-hire.) Write Pocket Books for guidelines.

NEW LISTINGS

DARK TERRORS 3, 194 Station Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7TE, United Kingdom. Editors: Stephen Jones and David Sutton. A non-themed horror anthology including work from some of the best authors on both sides of the Atlantic. Deadline: Feb. 28, 1997. Send only one story at a time.

THE EDGE, 1 Nichols Ct., Belle Vue, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 0BS, United Kingdom. Editor: Graham Evans. Wants sf/f/di/modern h/slipstream, or nongenre imaginative fiction. Length: 8,000 words. Payment: 2 cents/word on publication.

EPITAPH, P.O. Box 329, Brightwater, NY 11718-0329. Editor: Tom Piccirilli. This is a new horror digest being started by the folks from PIRATE WRITINGS. Payment: 1/4 cent/word at the moment, although they hope to raise rates later. Query for more details.

SOAPBOX

Most magazines are hurting for subscriptions at the moment, and I think we, as writers, sometimes forget to support the very markets we'd like so to support us. Marion Zimmer Bradley (of MARION ZIMMER BRADLEY'S FANTASY MAGAZINE) has been quoted as saying that if even half the writers who submit work to her magazine also subscribed, the extensive financial problems of the magazine would be solved. We cannot of course subscribe to all the markets we would like to write for, but as conscientious writers, we ought to pick one or two we really like and subscribe, so that the chances of the magazine still being around in the future improve. — KD

*** MOVIE REVIEW ***

By S.M.

"Star Wars - The Special Edition"
Twentieth Century Fox

Although one could argue that George Lucas' pivotal space opera has been in steady circulation since its second theatrical release ('79, I believe) and subsequent transference to video tape (in two versions to date), it was still a treat to see it again on the big screen last weekend. It's hard to believe it's really been 20 years (almost) since I saw it on its opening weekend as a teenager.

Sure, it's easy to pick out the digital creatures and enhancements strewn across the picture, but there are other subtle improvements. The color and clarity of the film has been noticeably enhanced. There's also the digital soundtrack, which is sometimes distracting. Lucas' team has layered on sound to every laserburst and explosion, sometimes to excess. When Leia fires across the Deathstar chasm at the Stormtroopers as Luke fumbles with his grappling hook, it sounds like she's armed with a double-barreled 12-gauge.

Two genuine improvements are the spaceport scenes and the final climatic battle; virtually every scene with the fighters has been digitally enhanced and recreated to terrific effect. Those big cosmic explosions (Alderaan and the Deathstar) are also brought up to date, technologically speaking.

There is also a snippet or two of footage not released in the original version — the Mos Eisley hangar scene with an all-digital Jabba, and a pre-battle scene with Luke's buddy, Biggs. In all, it's two hours of nostalgic fun with all the benefits of the latest cinemagic.

*** MANY THANKS TO ***

Diana Carolyn Ice
Barb Thrower
KDW
Uncle Guido
Warren & Lana
Greg Lower
Chris Merle

*** 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 March issue: Feb. 25

We look forward to seeing you all!