



Son of Lafferty

Official Journal of The

LEN

(Great Pagoda Insurance Company)

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

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

Special "Women and Children First!" Issue
• January 1998

*** HELLO OSFW ***

The January meeting will be held Friday, Jan. 9th, 7:00 P.M., at the K.D. Wentworth residence. Address: 6915 S. New Haven. Phone: 523-9729. Directions: Drive down 71st St. between Harvard and Yale to Oswego (where there is a light). Turn north and drive to the first street (69th). Turn left, then drive one block to New Haven. Turn left again. The house will be on your left. It's made of gray stone.

*** UNLOCAL NEWS ***

In issue #15 of SF EYE (available at Borders), there is an article on R.A. Lafferty's work, entitled "Effective Arcanum" by Don Webb. The article includes a nine point list of tips on how to write like Lafferty. Number 3, cited as "the Great Law," is "Be funny."

Three prequels to Frank Herbert's DUNE, to be written by Kevin J. Anderson and Brian Herbert (Frank's son), recently sold to Bantam for three million dollars.

*** LOCAL NEWS ***

Ray Lafferty has moved to the Franciscan Villa Healthcare Center in Broken Arrow, according to Elizabeth "Betsy" Kennington. Ray's overall health is good, she reports. Send your notes and letters (he would greatly appreciate this) addressed to:

Ray Lafferty
c/o Franciscan Villa Healthcare Center
J-54
17110 East 51st Street South
Broken Arrow, OK 74012

Michael Keller had an article published in the LENOX JOURNAL.

OSFW welcomes back former member Henry LeFevre of Denver.

Member Rocky Frisco is running for City Councilman.

Conestoga '98 will be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Tulsa at 41st and Garnett, June 26-28th. GOH will be Connie Willis. Toastmaster will be William Mark Simmons. AGOH will be David Cherry. FGOHs will be Susan and Jim Satterfield. Memberships are \$20 until May 1st, \$25 thereafter. For more info, write to: Conestoga '98, P.O. Box 54037, Tulsa, OK 74155-4037. For reservations at the hotel (\$70/night), call 918-627-5000.

Inspired by Cameron's "Titanic," local laundromat tycoon R.R. Bodine recently offered various salvage teams exploring the famous wreck his services in case they discover any more charcoal sketches of beautiful young women, so he can dry them.

*** GOOD REJECTIONS ***

Barbara Thrower: ASIMOV'S

Brad Sinor: AFTERSHOCKS, DESIGN IMAGE GROUP, CEMETERY DANCE

KDW: FASF, OMNI ONLINE, ASIMOV'S

*** CONTINUUM ***

by President Greg

November, 1997

Nine hardy (foolhardy?) travelers braved the journey to the Lower domicile in November.

Rob brought the next chapter of his jerkin-ripper, tentatively titled The Jerkin Ripper. Father Ritter views the manuscripts and sees immediately that they are obvious fakes. But how could someone so cleverly make and conceal such perfect volumes of authentic

Son of GPIC

medieval books, then give the whole thing away with such impossibly anachronistic text? Rob promises this is just a preliminary to the main story, but he has introduced interesting characters that we may be sorry to see go.

Barbara read "The Shallow Boy," which proposes that psychopathic serial killers are born, not made. The concept in this disturbing tale is: If prenatal testing can determine a baby will become a murderer, what do we do next? Barbara's main character finds that question pushing him towards an equally abhorrent action.

Rocky brought the next chapter of Raccoon's Law. Once again, he has crafted together some intriguing concepts with imagery that would make Salvador Dali reach for his Prozac.

*** 1997 BIBLIOGRAPHY ***

by Greg Lower

Fool you once, shame on me. Fool you twice, shame on you. With that in mind, I've compiled a second annual list of OSFW's successes for the year.

Overall, our consumption of Little Debbies was down, but was offset by a trend towards increasing utilization of Dr. Pepper. In reviewing the paradigm of the previous four quarters (yada, yada, yada) . . . as this chart shows the consensus of the past year (blah, blah, blah . . . ZZZZZZZ).

Before anyone objects, this list is compiled from reports submitted to the GPIC, so I apologize in advance for any omissions.

Bill Allen—Publications: "The Book Burning," YARD DOG COMICS No. 8

Michael Keller—Publications: editorial in the TULSA WORLD, Aug. 17th, "12 Easy Steps to Fewer Rights"

R.A. Lafferty—Publications: "Goldfish," CRANK No. 7, "The Emperor's Shoestring," DESTINATION UNKNOWN. Awards: Honorable Mention YEAR'S BEST SF, 14th Collection

Chris Oseland—Publications: "Keeping the Peace," MILLENNIUM, July, 1997.

Tim Parker—Publications: ROLEMASTER; PULP ADVENTURES

Will Sanders—Publications: "The Undiscovered Country," ASIMOV'S, March, 1997, "Words and Music," ASIMOV'S, July, 1997. Sales with publication still pending: "Jennifer Just Before Midnight," FASF. Awards: "The Undiscovered Country" qualified for the Preliminary Nebula List.

Brad Sinor—Publications: interview with Poppy Z. Brite in BONES, article on Robert Beltran in LAWTON CONSTITUTION. Sales with publication still pending: "Dreams and Nightmares" to TALES OF THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR, articles on J. Michael Stryzinski, Roxanne Dawson, Robert Duncan McNeil, and a Broadway series to LAWTON CONSTITUTION.

B.J. Thrower—Publications: "Hometown Boy," BENDING THE LANDSCAPE, "Noodle You, Noodle Me," ASIMOV'S, December, 1997, "The Vulture-Watching Woman," NONSTOP NO. 3. Awards: "The Hometown Boy" and "Noodle You, Noodle Me" each received one recommendation for the Preliminary Nebula ballot.

K.D. Wentworth—Publications: "In the Land of the Bears," REALMS OF FANTASY, December, 1997, "Amethyst Nights," TOMORROW, August, 1997, "Tis the Season," FASF, Dec., 1997, "Another Country," DYING FOR IT, "The Tie That Binds," BRANDED MONKEY. Sales with publication still pending: "What the Roses Said" to DIMENSIONS OF MADNESS, "Blade Runner" to DID YOU SAY CHICKS?!. Awards: "Burning Bright" received an Honorable Mention in YEAR'S BEST SF, 14TH COLLECTION, qualified for the Preliminary Nebula Ballot, and was listed on the TANGENT 1996 Recommended Reading List.

Karen Williams—Publications: article on testicular cancer in TULSA TODAY.

Finally, the "If You Don't Mail 'Em, They Can't Buy 'Em" Award for most Good Rejections in the GPIC goes to B.J. Thrower with 17. K.D. W. and Brad Sinor tied with 15 each.

*** THE ICE PICK ***

by Diana Carolyn Ice

THE JOY OF WRITING SEX: A GUIDE FOR FICTION WRITERS by Elizabeth Benedict. Cincinnati, Ohio: Story Press, 1996. \$16.99.

This book "is not a primer for writing pornography" or "a collection of tips for writing hot sex scenes." Nor is there anything in it about rape, which is an act of violence, not sex. But if you want to write a romantic scene and leave the rest to your readers' imaginations, or follow your human or alien characters into the bedroom, this book will show you how to get the most out of the scenes you choreograph. Too many writers (not you, of course) throw in a sex scene simply to spice things up, wasting a valuable tool for plotting or characterization.

There should always be at least "two things happening at once [in] a sex scene . . . Sex needs a purpose in your story beyond the momentary frisson it brings to your characters. It needs to reveal something about them, act as a metaphor, a symbol, or an illustration of an aspect of your theme, your plot, and/or your characters' desires and dilemmas." Elizabeth helps us see the differences in female and male expectations and experiences and tells why you must know what your characters want from the encounter. She discusses the difficulties in writing sex scenes and explains how to keep them exciting and original. Yes, original. Your sex scenes "should hinge on the freshness of your characters, dialogue, mood, and plot, and not on the sexual mechanisms," lest they all sound alike.

As she says, "a good sex scene does not have to be about good sex," but "a well-written sex scene engages on many levels: erotic, aesthetic, psychological, metaphorical, even philosophical." And it should fit with the setting and tone of your overall story, not just be tacked on there to shock your mom or get people to read your stuff.

In separate chapters, Elizabeth discusses how to handle writing adulterous, first-time, illicit, married, recreational, and

Son of GPIC

solo sex, as well as the impact of AIDS. She quotes writers from different genres and analyzes the juicy parts of their works. (Warning: After reading this book, you may never read a sex scene in quite the same way again.)

"Sex scenes should be approached with the same attention to craft and to function in the larger work... [as] every other scene."

If you write romantic or sex scenes, you should read this book.

*** MARKET UPDATE ***

CHANGES

Themes for upcoming issues of *THE URBANITE* are: #10, *Wicked Love*, #11, *Strange Nourishment*, and #12, *The Zodiac*. Payment: 2-3 cents/word. Length: 3,000 words.

TALESBONES has a new address: 10531 SE 250th Pl., Kent, WA 98031.

The next *TALES OF THE UNANTICIPATED* reading period will probably be Sept. 1-Oct. 1, 1998.

Send no more than one story at a time to *FREEZER BURN*.

The latest word on *STARLIGHT 2* is that everyone should hear back on their submissions by the end of January.

If *MONSTERS FROM MEMPHIS* sells well, there will be a sequel, *MORE MONSTERS FROM MEMPHIS*.

The theme for *PULP ETERNITY* #1 will be "Time... a Retrospective," time travel with a twist. The protagonist or antagonist must be an historic figure." Payment: 3 cents/word. Length: 2,500 words. Deadline: March 1, 1998. The magazine will debut at DragonCon '98.

INTERESTING NOTES

Charles Ryan of *ABORIGINAL SF* recently said in an interview "The two hardest things to get are good Hard SF—because usually you'll get people who have good ideas, but really don't know what a plot is, or don't create very good characters—and good humor. Humor is probably one of the most difficult things to write."

Gardner Dozois of *ASIMOV'S* was quoted in a December *LOCUS* interview as saying "A good short story should say what it wants to say, then STOP. Ideally, every word, every sentence, should either establish character or drive the plot. You don't need 200 extra pages of filler."

NEW LISTINGS

THE BLACK LILY, 8444 Cypress Circle, Sarasota, FL 34243-2006. A fantasy/medieval magazine that buys f/h/m set in a pre-1600 milieu, including Medieval Europe, Africa, Native America, Asia, the Pacific Islands, the Bronze Age, and the Roman Empire. Length: up to 15,000 words.

Payment: \$5-10. Works up to 100,000 words serialized. Payment: \$50 max.

FLESH AND BLOOD, 121 Joseph St., Bayville, NJ 08721. Editor: Jack Fisher. New digest-sized magazine buying "extreme horror." No sexually explicit scenes. Length: 3,000 words. Query with a synopsis for longer works. Payment: 1/2 cent/word. No reprints.

TROLL, 15120 W. Mayflower Ct., New Berlin, WI 53151. Editor: James Lowder. Buying s&s/d/f/f. Monthly games-playing magazine which buys one or two stories an issue. "No excessive sex or gore." Guidelines available. Payment: 3-5 cents/word. Length: 3,000-5,000 words.

*** MANY THANKS TO ***

KDW
Uncle Guido
Greg Lower
Diana Carolyn Ice

*** 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 1997-8 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. 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:simon.mccaffery@wcom.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 February issue: Jan. 26

We look forward to seeing you all.