

Brought to you by: K.D. Wentworth, Uncle Guido and Simon McCaffery

**Special "That's Not My Bag, Baby"**  
**Issue • February 1999**

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

The February meeting will be held on Friday, Feb. 12th, 7:00 P.M., at the Bloodgood/Patillo residence, 3319 E. 8th St. Directions: If you're coming in on the expressway, take I-244 to the Harvard exit and turn south. Then turn east on 8th St. from Harvard. It will be the second house on the left. For further information and directions call 836-7402.

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

George Lucas says he will only make six STAR WARS movies, not nine, as previously reported. The next, THE PHANTOM MENACE, will debut May 21st.

NBC will air a 10-hour fantasy series next season entitled THE TENTH KINGDOM.

Schindler's List actress Embeth Davidtz has joined the cast of the upcoming Robin Williams SF flick Bicentennial Man, according to Variety. Davidtz, whose credits also include Fallen, The Gingerbread Man and Army of Darkness, will play two roles in the film, which is based on the Isaac Asimov story of the same name.

Tommy Lee Jones will star alongside Clint Eastwood in the outer-space action flick *Space Cowboys*, according to *Variety*. The

film is about four aging astronauts who are recruited by NASA to fix a malfunctioning satellite that was launched back in the 1960s.

Mission Impossible Director Brian De Palma may take the helm of Disney's upcoming SF thriller Mission to Mars, according to The Hollywood Reporter. If the deal goes through, De Palma would replace Gore Verbinski, who recently left the project due to creative and budgetary differences.

Wizards of the Coast so far seems determined to violate their contracts with writers and reproduce all the stories and columns from DRAGON on a CD, despite not owning the rights. SFWA is working to convince them otherwise and, as of this writing, production of the CD has at least been put off until Fall. It probably would not be a good idea to submit work to either AMAZING or DRAGON (both owned by WoTC) until this problem is worked out.

*The X-Files'* David Duchovny has been nominated for the Screen Actors Guild Award in the Best Actor in a Drama category, his co-star Gillian Anderson received a nomination for Best Actress in a Drama, and *3rd Rock from the Sun's* cast earned a nod for Best Ensemble in a Comedy.

EARTH: THE FINAL CONFLICT has been renewed for two more years.

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

Dues are due, guys. If you haven't done so already, please send a check to KDW (address at the end of the newsletter). The mailing list will be pared before the March issue is sent out.

Elections were held at the January meeting. Results were as follows:

President: Elspeth Bloodgood

Vice President: Amanda Gannon

Treasurer: K.D. Wentworth

Treasurer Consort: Uncle Guido

Chief Investigative Prosecutor: Warren Brown

Bailiff: Simon McCaffery

Archivist: Greg Lower

Court Musician: Rocky Frisco

Puppermaster: Randy Farran

In other news, GPIC columnist Diana Ice has sold her short story "The Sheriff's Wedding Day" to WOMEN'S WORLD. It will appear in the Feb. 23rd issue.

Brad Sinor sold his story "Central Park" to the anthology MERLIN and an article on A TUNA CHRISTMAS to the LAWTON CONSTITUTION.

Dana Patillo will have a poem reprinted in THUS SPAKE THE CORPSE, an EXQUISITE CORPSE anthology published by Black Sparrow Press to appear in Spring, 1999.

Scott Cupp's story "King of the Cows" will be reprinted as a chapbook in the TALES OF THE PETSHOPS series.

K.D. Wentworth sold "Hallah Iron-Thighs and the Five Unseemly Sorrows" to CHICKS AND CHAINED MALES and "What the Roses Said" to MARION ZIMMER BRADLEY'S FANTASY MAGAZINE. Her novel BLACK/ON/BLACK was published by Baen. She will be signing at the midtown Borders on 21st St. (between Harvard and Lewis) on Saturday, Feb. 13th, 2-4 P.M. and at the Goodwill Industries Bookstore, 416 S. Main, on Feb. 26th, 11:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

### \*\*\* GOOD REJECTIONS \*\*\*

Greg Lower: CICADA

### \*\*\* 1998 ACCOMPLISHMENTS \*\*\*

President Greg totaled up last year's publishing stats for the group:

### PUBLICATIONS

Ronda Cooper--Non-sf piece, GOOD OLD DAYS (Oct.)

Dana Patillo--Poems, MISSISSIPPI REVIEW, PRETTY MOTEL

Chris Oseland--"Pyramid Scheme," FIFTH DIMENSION (June), "Sand in Your Throat," HISTORICAL

Michael Keller--article, LINUX JOURNAL (March)

Brad Sinor--"Dreams and Nightmares," ON CRUSADES: MORE TALES OF THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR; "Keys," YARD DOG COMICS; "Back in the Real World," LORD OF THE FANTASTIC; six articles, one review, LAWTON CONSTITUTION; book review, TULSA WORLD; "Hunt," 365 SCARY STORIES

K.D. Wentworth--"Blade Runner," DID YOU SAY CHICKS?!, "Tall One," FASF (April), "Sand Dance," GALAXY ONLINE

### SALES

Simon McCaffery--"Connections," MONDO ZOMBIE anthology

K.D. Wentworth--"Wings," QUANTUM; BLACK/ON/BLACK, Baen Books; "The Embians," FASF; "River's Child," MARION ZIMMER BRADLEY'S FANTASY MAGAZINE; "Due Process," SF LAW JOURNAL; "The Grave," CEMETERY SONATA; "The Girl Who Loved Fire," REALMS OF FANTASY

### AWARDS/HONORS

R.A. Lafferty--"The Emperor's Shoestrings," Honorable Mention YEAR'S BEST SF

B.J. Thrower--"Noodle You, Noodle Me," Honorable Mention YEAR'S BEST SF, Preliminary Nebula Ballot

K.D. Wentworth--"Burning Bright," Final Nebula Ballot; "Colors" (retitled "The Embians"), 2nd in 1997 Best Soft SF Contest; "Another Country" and "In the Land of the Bears," Honorable Mention YEAR'S BEST SF; "Tall One," Preliminary Nebula Ballot

In the YOU CAN'T SELL THEM IF YOU DON'T MAIL THEM OUT Dept., we have the following totals in good rejections for the year:

Brad Sinor--10

Simon McCaffery--1

Greg Lower--13

Rob O'Bar--1

Chris Oseland--9

B.J. Thrower--7

K.D. Wentworth--19

### **\*\*\* CONTINUUM \*\*\***

January, 1999

by KDW

Eleven, give or take two, showed up for the January meeting. Folks kept arriving and leaving and arriving, and it was hard to keep count. We elected everyone in sight to everything, and a few who weren't in sight as well. Then, when we couldn't think of any more offices to fill, Madam Vice President called us to heel and we read some stories.

Rocky: Rocky brought a short story, "The Real Dope on Old Dan Puncher's Ass." The protagonist is doomed to live among humans with his companion, Xania, and tell the truth about the two of them every time he goes to town. Cleverly, he arranges matters so that no one will ever believe him and his secret is safe. The final line is both absurd and hilarious and had everyone present rolling on the floor.

Warren: Warren read a scene from the screenplay he and Lana adapted from his Fool-the-Eye novel. It was fascinating to see the novel transformed into another, very different form and still remain true to its spirit. When it sells, it will be really cool to get to see the glowing blue potatoes (my favorite part) on the screen!

Greg: Greg read "The Fundamentalist and the Centaur." In a world that is not exactly the

same as ours, the protagonist, a daughter of a Fundamentalist family, meets a centaur. Centaurs are not unknown in this world, but are discriminated against. The girl and the centaur develop a brief relationship that is doomed in the end. I especially liked the ending when he takes her for a wild, wonderful ride and then, as they feel their physical attraction for each other, the two painfully realize that they can be only friends.

Paul: Paul read "The Dream of the Black Swans," story of Prince Timor whose family was transformed into black swans during his father's fatal battle with a monster named Mother Kraken. They cannot be restored until each of Mother Kraken's children are killed. Unwittingly, Timor repeats the fatal pattern and sets the whole cycle in motion again. I liked the elegant language and the dreamy images of another place and time.

### \*\*\* MARKET UPDATE \*\*\*

#### CHANGES

ASIMOV'S has a new address: 475 Park Ave. South, 11th Flr., New York, NY 10016.

MAGIC REALISM is dead.

CRANK! is dead.

HARPERPRISM no longer looks at unsolicited manuscripts.

AGE OF REASON is closed.

ABSOLUTE MANITEE announced it is switching to a every-other-decade publishing schedule and expects to have their next issue out by spring 2008.

#### NEW LISTINGS

JEWISH THEME ANTHOLOGY, Pitsopany Press. Contact: Chaim Mazo. E-mail: [pop@netvision.net.il](mailto:pop@netvision.net.il). A collection of

original Jewish sf stories to be published in the Fall of 1999. Humor okay. Anyone is welcome to submit. E-mail subs, only. Payment: \$250. Length: up to 10,000 words. Deadline: April 15, 1999.

STARLIGHT 3, c/o Patrick Nielsen Hayden, Tor Books, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010. Write STARLIGHT on the envelope. Editor: Patrick Nielsen Hayden. Anthology. Send only one submission at a time, then wait for a response, before sending another. "I'm interested in all kinds of sf and fantasy, definitely including hard sf . . . open to novellas . . . can be very slow to respond." Length: no upper limit. Payment: 7 1/2 cents/word. Open until the end of 1999.

YEAR'S BEST SWORD & SORCERY, Double Star Press, P.O. 807, Xenia, OH 45385. Contact: Randy Dannenfelser. Double Star Press, publisher of ADVENTURES IN SWORD & SORCERY, will publish a collection of the year's best s&s in mid-1999. They will be reading material for this collection until Feb. 28th and welcome submissions of stories published in more obscure publications to ensure consideration.

#### SELECTED PRO MARKETS

ABORIGINAL SF MAGAZINE, P.O. Box 2449, Woburn, MA 01888-0849. Editor: Charles C. Ryan. Quarterly. Current needs: Short sf stories, 2,500-4,500 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.

ABSOLUTE MAGNITUDE (formerly Harsh Mistress), SF Adventure, DNA Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 2988, Radford,

VA 24143-2988P. 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, or about time travel, humor, law enforcement agencies, hard-boiled detectives, or in present tense. Looking for more space opera. Payment: 1-5 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 Dannenfeler. 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." Looking for fantasy set in other milieus than medieval Europe. 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**, 1270 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020. Editor: Cathleen Jordan. Well-plotted, plausible mystery, suspense, detection, and crime stories. Length: up 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.

**alphaDRIVE E-MAGAZINE**, Suite N-201, 306 W. El Norte Pkwy., Escondido, CA 92026. Editor: s.c. virtues. Quarterly electronic magazine. "Sf, cyberstuff, views of the future on earth or else-where. Some surreal works are okay, but no generic fantasy material. Bleak and dark works are anticipated, but they can't all be depressing! A sense of adventure, wonder, or discovery is key to the magazine overall. Esp. wanted: interactive tales and experimental designs." Length: 4,000 words. Query for longer. Payment: 2-6 cents/word on acceptance for one time rights. Works over 4,000 words and reprints will be paid toward the lower end of the scale. Note: All works will be heavily illustrated, with soundtracks and possible animations. We need people who expect their works to be visually adapted." Sample: \$13. Sub.: \$32/yr.

**ANALOG**, 1270 Avenue of the Americas, 10th Floor, New York, New York 10020. Editor: Stanley Schmidt. Currently reading all lengths. "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." 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.

**ASIMOV'S SF MAGAZINE**, 475 Park Ave. South, 11th Flr., New York, NY 10016. 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." "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." Payment: 6-8 cents/word to 7,500 words; \$450-600 to 12,500 words, 5 cents/word for longer stories. Reporting time: 4-6 weeks up to six months. Said to be overstocked at the moment and buying very selectively.

**AVON BOOKS ANTHOLOGY**, Avon Books, 1350 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019. Send to: Jennifer Brehl. Mark envelope "for original anthology series." The series will be edited by Lou Aronica, who edited *FULL SPECTRUM* for Bantam. "The only requirement is that the fiction be of the highest grade--the same specs as *FULL SPECTRUM*." Length: all lengths, including novellas. Payment: 10 cents/word.

**CEMETERY DANCE**, P.O. Box 190238, Burton, MI 48519. Editor: Richard T. Chizmar. Quarterly. Looking for powerful and emotional horror that chills and disturbs the reader, mystery/crime/suspense tales with horror element (psychological or supernatural, subtle or graphic). Length: 5,000 words. Query for longer. Payment: 3-5 cents/word upon publication (max \$150). Sample: \$4. \$15/yr.

**CICADA**, 315 Fifth St., P.O. Box 300, Peru, IL 61354-0300. Associate Editor: John Allen. A publication from the same group which produces *CRICKET*, meant for the 14-19 age group. Buying "realistic, gritty, dramatic fiction, sf/f, mystery, adventure, historical,

romance. Can be a little rebellious and a little hip, but not too hip. Protag may be teen or adult. Looking for things in the style of Bruce Coville and Phillip Pullman." Will run one story 10,000-15,000 words in each issue. Other stories should be 5,000-7,000 words. Payment: 25 cents/word for one-time rights.

**ELLERY QUEEN'S MYSTERY MAGAZINE**, 10th Floor, 1270 Avenue of the Americas, New York City, 10020. Editor: Janet Hutchins. "All genres of crime and mystery. All well written stories with crime, mystery, or suspense at their core." Length: up to 20,000 words. Payment: 3-8 cents/word on acceptance. Sends 3 copies. Return time: 1-2 months.

**FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION**, P.O. Box 249, New York City, NY 10159-1806. Editor: Gordon Van Gelder. Current needs: all lengths and types of fantasy/sf--especially sf under 10,000 words. Overstocked and buying very selectively at the moment. "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." Payment: 5-7 cents/word. Reporting time: 6-12 weeks.

**GOTHIC.NET Webzine**, 1368 Fulton, San Francisco, CA 94117. Send to: Publisher Darren MacKeeman. Fiction Editor: Seth Lindberg. E-mailed submissions: [submit@gothic.net](mailto:submit@gothic.net). "Top quality, imaginative, skillful stories of modern horror, disturbing, thought-provoking, even humorous in a variety of styles that evoke the horrific emotion. Visceral but not

gross. Not interested in vampires, rotting moss, heavy eyeliner, barbarian hordes, or sunglasses after dark." Intends to publish four stories per month. Buying first universal on-line rights, exclusive for 90 days after publication. Length: 1,500-3,500 words, 5,000 max. Payment: 3 cents/word for originals, 1 cent/word for reprints.

HMS BEAGLE, [lois@hmsbeagle.com](mailto:lois@hmsbeagle.com).

Editor: Lois Wingerson. Webzine for biological and medical researchers. Soliciting biology related fiction. Payment: \$300, \$350 if the author can provide endlinks (websites relevant to the topic under discussion). Include cover letter. Length: up to 5,000 words.

INTERZONE, 217 Preston Dr., Brighton BN1 6FL, U.K. Editor: David Pringle. Current needs: Innovative sf/f, 2-7,000 words. Hard sf welcome, but not s&s or standard genre horror. Writers outside UK must send 2 IRC's for airmail response. Disposable photocopied ms. welcome. Payment: \$30/1,000 words. Reporting time: 4-12 weeks. Sample: \$5. \$27/6 issues.

MARION ZIMMER BRADLEY'S FANTASY MAGAZINE, Box 249, Berkeley, CA 94701. Editor: Marion Zimmer Bradley. Current needs: well-plotted, action or adventure fantasy, 1,500-7,000 words, strongly prefers 3,000-4,000. \*\*Only buys work longer than 4,000 words from established writers to be used for the cover story. No dot matrix. Does not want more female bandits/thieves. Send SASE for guidelines before sending ms. Payment: 3-10 cents/word.

MARY HIGGINS CLARK MYSTERY MAGAZINE, Gruner plus Jahr USA Publishing, 110th Fifth Ave., NY, NY 10011. Editor: Kathryn V. Sagan. Currently biannual. Hoping to become quarterly. Buying crime/mystery fiction. Length: up to 5,000 words. Payment: \$2,000 for FNASR.

MEMBRANE, Erewhon Press, 393 W. 49th St., Ste. 7G, New York, NY 10019. Editor: Jacqueline Ching. New magazine buying hard sf. "We seek to publish stories that explore the relationship between scientific development/discovery and the human condition. Please submit stories with the following criteria: Stories with a strong foundation in the hard sciences, biology, chemistry, astrology, etc." Length: up to 10,000 words. Payment: 1-3 cents/word for new authors, depending on story length. Pay rates for pro authors unknown. Send copies only. \*Warning: Manuscripts not returned. Return time: 3-4 weeks.

PIRATE WRITINGS, P.O. Box 329, Brightwater, NY 11718-0329.

Editor: Ed McFadden. Quarterly with a full color cover that publishes f/mystery/sf. Length: up to 8,000 words, 3,000--5,000 words preferred. Payment: 1-5 cents/word for fiction, copies for poems. The editor says he hates both cats and stories with cats in them, vampires, and stories with southwestern slang. Looking for mysteries. Circulation: 3,000-4,000. Sample: \$4.99. \$15/yr. Full guidelines available for SASE.

THE PLASTIC SMILE, P.O. Box 4737, Davenport, IA 52808. Editor: Mark McLaughlin. Buying sf/f/df/h fiction about surrealistic bendable dolls, like plastic-jointed dolls, rag dolls, puppets, etc., but no robots, porn, gore, sex-dolls, statues, figurines, brand-name dolls (like Barbie or Cabbage Patch dolls). Length: 2,000-3,500 words. Payment: 3 cents/word. Query about reprints.

PLAYBOY, Playboy Entertainment Group, 680 North Lake Shore Dr., Chicago, IL 60611. Address Fiction Department. Fiction Editor: Alice K. Turner. Current needs: "We publish only 4 or 5 sf stories a year, usually but by no means always by well-known writers." No restrictions on subject matter; stories should appeal to a well-informed,

young male audience. Length: 7,500 words or less. Short-shorts are particularly welcome. Payment: \$2,000-5,000. Reporting time: up to 8 weeks.

**REALMS OF FANTASY**, P.O. Box 527, Rumson, NJ 07760. Editor: Shawna McCarthy. Full color and full-sized. Open to all types of fantasy, including dark fantasy up to 10,000 words (5,000-8,000 preferred). "I most like stories with some sort of point to them, beyond the plot twists, and I'm a sucker for a kicker ending. I really hate stories that just . . . stop. My tastes tend to be more serious than lighthearted, but if you can make me laugh, I'll buy it. I don't want the magazine to be totally unleavened despair. But, please, no puns. I have to be careful about sexually explicit material, since the magazine is/will be displayed prominently at 12-year-old eye level, but I am not publishing for 12-year-olds. I do want stories for grown-ups." The editor recently clarified what kind of fantasy she is looking for: "What I like is the unusual. It doesn't have to be a new idea--god knows there are few enough of them--but I do prefer that it be a new look at a familiar idea or setting. That's why I'm not too fond of 'standard' fantasy, since much of it seems to be the same stock characters with different names setting off on slightly different quests. I like to see new settings, exotic mythologies, new looks at familiar characters, places, and settings. I'm not into 'joke' stories, where puns are the main thrust of the action, and I'm not crazy about horror, though I do like a good ghost story now and again. But when I say I'm not crazy about horror, that doesn't mean I won't take any--it just has to be different from either your sexy, tortured vampire, your tormented werewolf, or your gibbering horrors from beyond the known world." Please do not send self-addressed postcards with submissions. Payment: 5-8 cents/word. Return time: 2-3 weeks up to 4 months.

**SCIENCE FICTION AGE**, 11305 Sunset

Hills Road, Reston, VA 20190.

Editor: Scott Edelman. Length: up to 22,000 words. SF only. No fantasy. Payment: 10 cents/word, but "I am looking for the best." Full color cover and thick glossy paper. Available on newsstands. Return time: 1-2 weeks.

**SUCH A PRETTY FACE: TALES OF POWER & ABUNDANCE**, Attn. Such a Pretty Face, c/o Rump Parliament, P.O. Box 865137, Plano, TX 75086-5137.

Editor: Ms. Lee Martindale. Anthology buying *sf/f/df/h*. "Size-positive stories that start with the premise that 'fat' is not a four-letter word, fat people in prominent, positive, and heroic roles, and well-crafted, non-stereotypical fat villains, not looking for stories about "miracle" or supernatural weight loss, deliberate weight gain, erotica, or fat-girl-loses-weight-and-gets-revenge stories, no promotion of diets or diet drugs (thinly-veiled or otherwise), of 'fat-gene' stories. Length: 5,000 words. Payment: 3-5 cents/word upon acceptance. Read guidelines before submitting and send cover letter with credits.

Deadline: July 31, 1999.

**TREACHERY AND TREASON**, Roc Books, 375 Hudson St., New York, NY

10014. Attn: Jennifer Heddle. Accepting submissions from SFWA members to fill a limited number of slots. Looking for tales of any kind of betrayal, disloyalty, or sneakiness--be it military, political, emotional, or financial--so long as it's done within a science fiction/fantasy/horror context. (The more devious, the better!) Deadline: April 1, 1999. Length: 5,000 words. Payment: 5 cents/word. E-mail submissions accepted at [JHeddle@penguin.com](mailto:JHeddle@penguin.com).

**WEBZINE TALES FROM THE INTERNET**, [webmaster@drcasey.com](mailto:webmaster@drcasey.com). Editor: Casey Hopkins. Length: 3,500 words. Payment: 3 cents/word for world-wide distribution rights and non-exclusive anthology reprint rights.

**WEIRD TALES** (formerly **WORLDS OF**

FANTASY AND HORROR), 123 Crooked Lane, King of Prussia, PA 19406-2570. Editor: Darrell Schweitzer. Quarterly. Needs f/h/ psychic/supernatural/occult. 20,000 words maximum. Pays 3-7 cents/word on acceptance for First NA Serial Rights. Provides 3 contributor's copies. Sample \$5. Fiction guidelines for #10 SASE. Reporting time: 1 month.

### \*\*\* THE ICE PICK \*\*\*

by Diana Carolyn Ice

#### THE WRITER'S ESSENTIAL DESK REFERENCE

2nd ed. Cincinnati, Ohio.  
Writer's Digest Books, 1996.  
ISBN 0-89879-759-4. \$24.99.

This is a book for serious writers. By serious, I mean those who either are, or want to become, professionals. These are people who don't write just for themselves, friends, and family, but who want to be published authors.

It includes information on "Living as a Writer": health insurance, contracts and literary rights, dealing with agents, setting up a free-lance business, bookkeeping, home office expenses, taxes, whether you should incorporate or not, and how to judge whether a publication is apt to stiff you for payment (as Pulphouse's THE REPORT did me when I was starting out--not a fun experience for a new writer).

Lists of professional associations, retreats, conferences, fellowships, university writing programs, and correspondence schools are provided, along with advice and caveats and the relative advantages and disadvantages of different programs. Information about evaluating writers' groups or creating your own is also included.

The rest of the book involves the actual

production of your writing from research through selling it.

The chapter on research explains interlibrary loan; online researching; getting permission to use others' copyrighted material; as well as obtaining U.S. government documents, scientific reports from the National Technical Information Service, and specific facts from the individual government agencies.

There is also a section on some of the special needs of researching for fiction.

Desktop and self-publishing, and working with artists, collaborators, grammar services, graphic designers, illustrators, indexers, printers, proofreaders, translators, and typesetters are covered in the chapter on producing and polishing your manuscript. I was a bit disappointed that they didn't give any information about traditional publishing, but the book is billed as a companion to WRITER'S MARKET, and they probably assumed that submitting to publishers is adequately covered there.

The chapter on selling your work includes in-depth analyses of free-lancing for newspapers, radio and television, advertising, and technical writing.

Also included is a section called "Promoting Yourself," which discusses the pros and cons of advertising and book reviews, public speaking, TV and radio publicity, and hiring a publicist, as well as dealing with bookstores.

The final chapter deals with writing for Canadian markets, researching Canadian subjects, and selling in Canada.

Throughout the book are lists of further sources and resources on all the topics discussed. And these are all nicely indexed. There is, in addition, an excellent subject index.

Most of the book is aimed at nonfiction writers, but there is plenty here for fiction writers as well. If you are a serious author, you should at least take a look at what this book offers.

### \*\*\* REWRITE CHECKLIST \*\*\*

by Brenda W. Clough

*(Reproduced here by permission)*

**Resolve inconsistencies.** Characters should have the same eye color from scene to scene, for instance. Places should look and be called the same. More deeply, people should stay in character, unless the change is driven by the story. A devout Baptist is not going to show up stoned in a bar without some explanation, and the populace would not turn around from lynching the town drunk and suddenly make him Mayor without reason.

**But, on the other hand, avoid repetitions, both word and scene.**

Don't describe things the same way. Vary your settings. Don't follow a battle with another battle -- insert a bar scene or a space flight or something in between.

**Pacing and emphasis should enhance both plot and theme.** In

other words, skip boring stuff. Key scenes should get a lot of pages, and unimportant things should be skimmed over.

**Does the story begin in the right place?**

You wrote it in a certain order, but that isn't necessarily the best way for it to be.

Remember that writers from Homer to Spielberg began works "in medias res," in the middle of the action, and for good reason.

**Can anything be dropped?** If it can, it probably should be. Should anything be added? Your essential writing style comes

into play here. Some writers write long, and need to trim, while others are too terse, and have to explain more.

**How does it sound?** All the characters should not talk alike. Read the entire piece aloud, either to yourself or to an audience. (Long car journeys with accommodating family members are ideal for this.)

**Consider sensory input.** Be sure there are smells, tastes, colors, textures. Remember that different people notice different things -- weavers notice color and fabric, while car mechanics can hear the sound of a rickety engine, and an experienced gardener can smell the fertility of the soil.

**Learn to compensate for your weaknesses.** (I have a blind spot for commas in the flush of composition, so I take care to make a special comma pass for every ms before it's done.)

**If you have serious trouble with structure, try and "storyboard" it.** Put the gist of each scene on a 3x5 card, and add the point of the scene -- what it accomplishes. Then you can move the cards around, or pick out some to omit.

*Brenda W. Clough's latest novel, HOW LIKE A GOD, was published by Tor Books in 1997. Her next book, DOORS OF DEATH AND LIFE, is due out in 2000.*

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

Warren

KDW & Guido

Diana Carolyn Ice

Brenda W. Clough

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

A subscription to *Son of GPIC*, the official newsletter of the Oklahoma Science Fiction Writers, may be obtained by mailing a check

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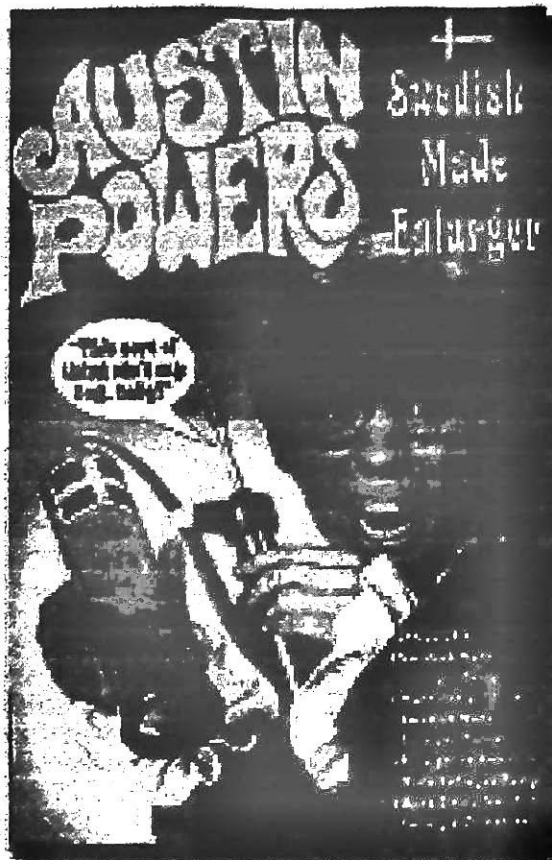
The OSFW meets at members' homes the second Friday of every month to read, critique, and promote in general SF, Fantasy, and Horror writing. All willing to contribute and (after a couple of trial meetings) pay their dues are welcome. **There is no age limit but parents should understand that material 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 \*\*\*

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[simon.mccaffery@wcom.com](mailto:simon.mccaffery@wcom.com).

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Pesky deadline for March issue: February 28.