



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

## Special "Millennium Squirrel" Issue •

### January 2000

#### \*\*\* HELLO, OSFW! \*\*\*

The January meeting will be Friday, January 14th, 7:00 P.M., at the Cyber Cafe in the basement of McFarlin Library at the University of Tulsa. Since the library is closed at that time, we will keep the door open until 7:30 P.M., then go downstairs to the cafe. If you arrive after 7:30, use the buzzer to alert us to let you in. K.D. Wentworth and Richard Keams will be this month's hosts and will provide plates, cups, napkins, and ice. The rest of the goodies will be up to the membership and there will also be snacks and drinks available in vending machines.

Directions: Drive down Harvard to 5th Place and turn west. Park in the lot at the end of the street, even though it says it's limited to cars with campus permits. The library will be west, ahead of you on your left. Walk around to the south door and enter there. For further information or directions, call K.D. Wentworth at 523-9729.

**\*\*Please attend this month, if at all possible. We would like to further discuss and perhaps make plans for offering a lower priced OSFW membership with an email version of GPIC, rather than a hard copy.**

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

Two sequels are now planned for THE MATRIX, both starring Keanu Reeves.

Patrick Stewart is set to play Professor X in the X-MEN movie.

Ian McKellen will play Gandalf, Christopher Lee will play Saruman, and Ian Holmes will play Bilbo in THE LORD OF THE RINGS.

Disney is readying sequels to TARZAN and GEORGE OF THE JUNGLE, both of which will probably go directly to video.

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

Sailing into its second century of publication, SON OF GPIC has been certified Y2K compliant. It may be moving to a web-based version as well! It remains, however, the "most obscure" and "least futuristic" newsletter available. Long live the Jetpack Clam! Readers predict he will have switched to Teleportation or Antigravity by 2100!

Harold Chester sold "Losing Time" to FANTASY, FOLKLORE, AND FAIRYTALES.

Norman writer Devin Cary (Cary G. Osborne) will sign THE WINTER QUEEN on Friday, Jan. 14th, 7-8:30 P.M. at the Borders in Norman, Saturday, January 22, 4-6 P.M. at Hastings Book Store in Norman, and Sunday, January 23, 2-3, at the Barnes & Noble in Norman.

Brad Sinor sold "Echoes in the Sand" to MINDMARES MAGAZINE, "Final Score" to WARRIOR FANTASTIC, and "But For a Little While" to Forrest Ackerman's lesbian anthology. He had an article on James Darren published in the LAWTON CONSTITUTION.

Dana Patillo has been asked to contribute a poem to Andre Codrescu's first issue of THE EXQUISITE CORPSE in the New Millennium.

K.D. Wentworth will sign BLACK/ON/BLACK and WRITERS OF THE FUTURE XV at Waldenbooks in Woodland Hills Mall on Saturday, Jan. 22, 2-4, Waldenbooks at 31st and Garnett on Saturday, Jan. 29th, 2-4, and Barnes & Noble on 71st St., Saturday, February 19th, 2-4.

E. C. Apperson sold a story to ALTERNATE REALITIES e-zine.

Simon received yet another royalty check from Martin Greenberg from a 100 WICKED WITCHES story. What a guy.

R.R. Bodine, alas, was not Y2K compliant. Neither were his washers and dryers. He will be missed.

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

Brad Sinor: MARION ZIMMER BRADLEY'S FANTASY MAGAZINE

K.D. Wentworth: AMAZING

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

by Diana Carolyn Ice

THEME AND STRATEGY by Ronald Tobias.  
(The Elements of Fiction Writing Series)  
Cincinnati, Ohio : Writers Digest Books, 1989.  
ISBN 0-89879-392-0. \$13.95.

"You have the freedom to create any world you want, but you must also make sure that the internal and external organization of that world is consistent. That fearsome task is accomplished by use of strategy."

Unlike most how-to-write books which concentrate on individual techniques like dialogue, plot, or character, this book helps you put it all together. Basically for beginners, it explains how to develop your own strategy for writing a unified story and how to use that strategy to create patterns in your work that will shape your story and help you stay aware of and control the overall structure, direction, and results.

The basic overall strategy begins with picking a beginning, that is, your sense of where the story should start, not necessarily the first page. And choose an ending, which at this point may just be your feeling about how the story might end. Set short-term objectives, which are nothing more than scenes or mini-stories within your overall story—the things you want to have happen or that you imagine might happen.

From that simple beginning, Tobias goes on to discuss patterns in structure, style, place, character, plot, and action. Within each chapter, Tobias discusses the patterns that have developed in our literature over time and how you can use those to strengthen your stories and make them more satisfying for your readers. For example, he explains the tradition of "three" in our culture, how readers have come to expect it, and how you can use it in the beginning-middle-end pyramid of scenes, chapters, and stories; three-sided structures; three questions or

challenges; three magic keys; and triangles of characters (like Kirk-McCoy-Spock).

Tobias also explains in each chapter things you should keep in mind when developing characters, choosing a setting, planning action scenes, etc. And he gives good advice and many hints and suggestions.

If you've always wanted to write a novel, but were afraid to start because you didn't know how to go about it, or you started one but got stalled out halfway through, this book may be the one which you need to get you started or restarted on the right path.

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

by KDW

#### CHANGES

ADVENTURES IN SWORD & SORCERY has a new address: P.O. Box 807, Xenia, OH 45385.

STARLIGHT 3 will be open until at least early spring, due to the editor having moved.

#### CONTEST ALERT

The Tulsa City-County Annual Adult Creative Writing Contest deadlines on Jan. 31, 1991, and as OSFW members are known to be inordinately fond of a challenge, I am hoping that all of you will take time to enter this year. There is a rumor running around town that the judges of this contest don't care much for SF and fantasy, so I believe it is our duty to irritate, I mean, enlighten them as to the special charms inherent in our chosen genre.

There are categories for both published and unpublished authors, and First Prize carries an award of \$100, as well as widespread recognition within the community. The entry fee is \$5.00 and goes to support our libraries, but you can only enter one story, so make it your best. Published authors must enter work that hasn't been sold yet. You must be eighteen and a resident of Tulsa County, or a holder of non-resident TCCL library card. Maximum word limit is 5,000 words. Rules, regulations, and entry forms can be obtained at any community library.

#### NEW MARKET

THE DOOM OF CAMELOT, Green Knight Publishing, 15120 West Mayflower Court, New Berlin, WI 53151. Executive Editor: James Lowder. An anthology of short fiction to be published by Green Knight Publishing in August, 2000. The story should answer the question "What caused the downfall of Arthur's kingdom?" "The

answer can be as simple or as complex as you'd like, anything from a person (Mordred) to a relationship (Lancelot and Guinevere) to a larger, more pervasive sin (pride). The question can also be answered by some stories through the presentation of characters that escape the final doom—Pelleas being secreted away during the last days by Nimue, for example; the justification for his salvation could be used to highlight the kingdom's failings . . . The Arthurian setting for your work can range from the historical to the fantastic. Stories should be set after the end of the Grail Quest, in the standard chronology of the Arthurian cycle. We may also use stories set a decade or two after the fall of Camelot, but aren't likely to use things set centuries later . . .

Reprints will be considered only if they have not appeared in high-profile markets." Length: 3,000-7,000 words. Deadline: April 21, 2000. Payment: 3-5 cents/word, less for reprints. Buying 1st world rights in English. Paid within 30 days of acceptance. URL: <http://www.greenknight.com>.

ELECTRIC WINE, PMB #182, Suite 202, 2500 Dallas Hwy, Marietta, GA 30064. Co-editors: Diana Sharples, James E.M. Rasmussen. Bimonthly ezine buying sf/f/h. Actively looking for more fantasy. Length: 2,000-5,000 words, although one story per issue will be up to 15,000 words. Payment: 1 cent/word. Accepts reprints, as long as not currently posted on the Internet. Email: [electricwine@fcmail.com](mailto:electricwine@fcmail.com). URL: [www.electricwine.com](http://www.electricwine.com).

ETERNAL TWILIGHT MAGAZINE, Eternal Twilight Publications, P.O. Box 337, Rodeo, CA 94572-0337. Editor: Alfred W. Abrao. Wants "weird, horrific, and darkly mysterious" fiction. "No excessive gore or sex." Length: 5,000 words. Query for longer works. Payment: 2-3

cents/word on publication for FNSR. Include a cover letter with a brief bio, estimated word count, publication credits, and an email address. No reprints or email subs.

**FANTASY, FOLKLORE, & FAIRYTALES,**  
Fantasy Today c/o Chaosmanor Enterprises, PO Box 753, Sioux City, IA 51102. Editor: Kathleen A. Hill. Wants fiction with "a fantasy, folklore, and/or fairytales background." Stories must follow the theme of the issue. March's theme is "The Sea Could Not Hold Them," deadline Jan. 20. Length: 1,500-7,500 words. Payment: \$10-15 on acceptance. Email subs (subsfiff@willinet.net) should be pasted into the body of the email. URL: <http://www.Fantasytoday.com>.

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

KDW & Guido  
Diana Carolyn Ice  
Warren & Lana Brown  
WWII Squirrels

**\*\*\* 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 2000 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: [simon.mccaffery@wilcom.com](mailto:simon.mccaffery@wilcom.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: January 28.