

Special Cough It Up Issue • January 1994

*** HELLO OSFW ***

The January meeting will take place at the Banks residence at 3715 E. 55th St. (turn east on 55th from Harvard) on Friday, Jan. 14th, 7:00 P.M. Phone number is 747-2354. 1994 Dues are due!

*** NEWS ***

World Fantasy Awards are as follows:

Life Achievement Award: Harlan Ellison

Best Novel: *Last Call* by Tim Powers

Best Novella: "The Ghost Village" by Peter Straub

Best Short Story: (tie) "Graves" by Joe Haldeman and "This Year's Class Picture" by Dan Simmons

Best Collection: *The Sons of Noah* by Jack Cady

Best Anthology: *Metahorror* by Dennis Etchison, ed.

Special Award/Professional: Jeanne Cavellos, Dell Abyss

Special Award/Non-professional: Doug & Tomi Lewis, Roadkill Press

According to Pocket Books/Star Trek editor John Ordover, the new Star Trek series, tentatively called "Star Trek Voyager" and set to debut next fall, will feature an Enterprise-type ship which is thrown thousands of light-years away from Federation space and must survive on its own. It will take about ten years traveling at high warp power to return home. Contracts are already being given for books in the new series.

Simon sold "Strawberry Moon" to ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S MYSTERY MAGAZINE and had good rejections from ALTERNATE HILARITIES and OFFWORLD. GALAXY is seriously

considering his story "Stargazing."

Chris Oseland had good rejections from SNOW WHITE, BLOOD RED 2, ALTERNATE HILARITIES, and WEIRD TALES.

Barbara Thrower had good rejections from PULPHOUSE, TOMORROW, FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION, TALES OF THE UNANTICIPATED, FIGMENT, and TALES OF THE GREAT TURTLE.

Chris Merle had another rewrite request from THE FUTURE OF FREEDOM and a good rejection from OFFWORLD.

Greg Lower had a good rejection from the STARLANCE PUBLICATIONS anthology.

Alma Garcia sold "If They Are Invited, They Will Come" to DARK SUN RISING. One of her stories made it all the way to the final 19 out 264 submissions recently for TALES OF THE UNANTICIPATED before being rejected.

KDW sold first serial rights on "Joe's Place" to OFFWORLD, and first anthology rights on the same story to BEST OF THE MIDWEST'S SF, FANTASY, AND HORROR. She also sold "The Court of Sorrows" and a rewrite of "Brother Billy's Good News" to GALAXY and "The Sport of Kings" to MINDSPARKS. Her novel, *The Imperium Game*, should start appearing on the shelves toward the end of January and she is scheduled to do a signing at the B. Dalton's bookstore in Woodland Hills Mall on Saturday, Feb. 5th, 2:00-4:00 P.M.

Ray Lafferty's novel *Okla Hannali* is available from Broken Mirrors Press (P.O. Box

380473, Cambridge, MA 02238) in a trade paperback for \$10 plus \$1 postage.

***** DEAR EDDY, OR
THE WINDS OF CHEESECAKE *****

Dear Eddy,

Now that NAFTA is a reality, the time would be ripe for you and I to pursue another patriotic dream of mine. We can place it before any committee that you might have influence with. Should they turn us down, we can enlist the aid of Mr. Perot who cannot fail to be impressed with the truly practical aspect of my proposal: Neat Ideas For Trading Yummies. NIFTY.

Briefly, every family should copy their favorite dessert recipe on a small sheet of paper (making sure to enclose their address) and roll it into a tube. This tube should be inserted in a helium balloon, provided by the committee or Mr. Perot, and let go on a suitably windy day.

Replies replete with recipes will be received, as it were, by return mail. The resulting clamor for new and unusual culinary ingredients in all countries will, of course, stimulate global economy by encouraging foreign trade. I am confident the U.S. will be besieged by orders for low-cholesterol, low-sugar, fat-free, sugar-free, non-dairy, reduced-calorie, dietetic products.

Eddy, your country needs you!

Paula Revere

Dear Paula:

I presume you mean the time would be right for you and "me" to pursue your patriotic dream. Your confidence in the interest other countries might have in obtaining log-body-damage food products from the U.S. is greater than my confidence. After all, it's not as if the U.S. has the healthiest populace in the world, or even the fifth or sixth healthiest. "Do as I do and not as I say," and all that.

I must say, doing something with Ross Perot has its possibilities. Perhaps inserting the tubes into Ross and filling him with lighter-than-air gas has possibilities. We

probably wouldn't even need the gas.

In the meanwhile, practice your cooking and your grammar.

Yours for healthy eating through linguistics,
Eddy, ESQ.

***** AROUND THE WORLD
WITH
BIG MAMA O'HANLON *****

This month, we travel on to Switzerland, an up-and-down (*or is it blonde and bumpy?* — S.M.) country with considerably more up to it than down. Real serious-type mountains are everywhere you look, the kind with rugged gray peaks and snow in the middle of the summer (*and really large tracts of land* — S.M.). Mountain streams rush along into the valleys, green-white with dissolved lime from granite and ski jumps are absolutely all over the place. They light them up at night in the warm season so you can see what you're missing.

The rooms in the hotels are positively cramped. There's not even enough room to put your suitcase at the end of your bed. They were the smallest rooms we saw on the whole European tour. (What that means about the national character, I haven't the faintest clue.) The Swiss are polite, but reserved, although they do know how to get down and party when no tourists are around (see below). They're glad to see you if an entrepreneurial moment is presenting itself, otherwise you can forget it (see below).

You know, for some reason, none of the non-English-speaking countries in Europe spell the names of their cities right, and so call Lucern "Luzern" and Rome "Roma." Even the British have trouble with little words, substituting "colour" for "color," and "labour" for "labor," ect. Do you suppose somebody should straighten them out?

TIPS ON TRAVELING IN SWITZERLAND

1. Don't take souvenir pictures of border

guards when the bus stops for clearance at the border, or the guards will think you're international spies trying to compromise their national security. It can seriously hamper a tour schedule if you have to wait for them to search the luggage of forty-two people.

2. A Coke Light costs 5.5 Swiss Francs, which is a lot in American. Once again, don't even think about ice.

3. Don't try to go into a Swiss store five minutes before closing, because the clever Swiss know Americans can't make up their minds in so little time and will throw you out.

4. Don't stay in a hotel room above a bar on a Saturday night. These guys have great lungs and need almost no sleep.

5. Bathmats and washcloths are for zeros and wimps. Be stout-hearted and don't complain about their absence.

6. When you ride a cable car gondola to the top of an Alp, stay in your seat and don't try

to make it rock on purpose. Some people have delicate stomachs.

7. Don't feed the greedy ravens at the restaurant at the top of the Alp. They're quick to sense weakness and at the slightest show of soft-heartedness, will literally eat your lunch.

*** PHEW CORNER ***

SMALL PRESS REVIEWS

Sukie: Can you guess what I got in the mail today?

Herbert: A fire-breathing dragon from the Antipodes.

Sukie: Don't be silly.

Herbert: Sorry, but you know what they say about asking silly questions.

Sukie: Grouch! Anyway, I bet they don't have dragons in the Antipodes.

Herbert: I wouldn't know. Is there any way to discourage you from telling me what you received in the mail?

Sukie: No, none.



Herbert: I didn't really think so.

PIRATE WRITINGS, VOL. 2, #1 (See Dec. GPIC)

Attractive, new, colored cover by Cathy Shanks.

New subtitle: "The Best Of It All." 44 pages, \$4.00

This issue contains nine stories and twelve short poems. It keeps getting better, but that's all I'm going to say. If anyone wishes to see what it's like, they'd better order a subscription.

Herbert: Yes, I'll make a note to do so before it gets so good I can't afford it. Now I'd better get on with this month's review:

Some West Coast litmags are not just quirky, they wallow in "investigative." They are the Geraldos of the Small Press, and contain the quintessential sexually oriented stories of random relationships (all numbers and genders), while portraying the aimlessness and anguish of the individual.

Sukie: Though these mags are praiseworthy, if we read for entertainment, are we likely to be entertained by having horror, sickness, and death brought to our attention? Maybe there are some of us who don't know what goes on in the world, but if that's the case, we are hardly likely to be the sort that reads the fiction and poetry of little publications.

Herbert: So what are they guilty of, sending a message along with the prose?

Sukie: You received the mag. You be the judge.

Herbert:

URBANUS RAIZIRR NO.4

Editor/Publisher Peter Drizhal, P.O. Box 192561, San Francisco, CA 94119-2561

Twice yearly. Perfect Bound; smooth, shiny, black and white cover. Single copy \$5, two issues \$8, four issues \$15.

No SF&F or genre horror herein; just darkness and brooding. As Peter Drizhal expresses it: "... it is a magazine that fractures the often depressive aspects of our lives, and gives a uniformity of understanding and compassion for those not quite at the edge of killing their closest friends and loved ones; yet also not naive enough to believe that the circumstances of life will always right themselves ... it's a wonder the writing

contained in these pages isn't more pessimistic."

Sukie: What exactly does he mean?

Herbert: I'm not sure, but the stories speak for themselves. Poe Ballantine's "House of Spiders," (approx. 4000 words) described on the cover as Necro/Love, deals with chemical pollution and its sometimes devastating effect upon entire towns. Those who can afford to do so, relocate; those who can't, or who are already too sick, stay behind as living corpses.

"The Swedish Psychologist" (approx. 1200 words) by Justin Chen, is a sad look at exploitative gay love.

This appears to be the only fiction. The third long piece (approx. 3200 words) is an essay: "When Even Being Bi Doesn't Help" by Nina Silver. It is indeed a sad state of affairs (no pun intended) when Ms. Silver with 100% of the population to choose from cannot find a companion.

The remainder of the 58 pages includes 12 poems and 20 illustrations, graphics and cartoons. It is all meticulously done and the photographs and reproductions are a delight.

The poem, "The Eye of God," by Robert Brown, relates how the death of a "bullet-ridden boy ... in an elevator" (doesn't he mean "bullet-riddled?") isn't reported for hours because the population has become hardened to crime.

Charles Bukowski's offering, "me against the world," looks at the possible background of a criminal.

Unfortunately, the chances of acceptance in this mag are small, which doesn't mean writers shouldn't submit, but they should be aware of the type and limited number of fiction stories being published.

Before I go, I wanted to mention we need a rating system.

Sukie: What do you suggest? The stars and thumbs and scales of one-to-ten have all been taken.

Herbert: True, but we could still use toes. I've never heard of anyone using toes.

Sukie: And just how do you propose to use toes?

Herbert: Toe-sucking is in right now.

Sukie: Herbert! What have you been reading?

Herbert: The November 22 issue of Newsweek. Just kidding about the toe-sucking. How about toes up or toes down?

Sukie: I don't know, Herbert; it's lacking something — maybe luster.

Herbert: Gee, you want lust?

Sukie: No, no. LUSTER, as in lackluster.

Herbert: I knowww—toes turned up is a sign of death.

Sukie: Let me think about it. Good night, everyone.

Herbert: G'night all.

*** WORDSTYLES OF THE RICH
AND FAMOUS ***
by KDW

How do you describe the characters in your fiction and make it fresh and new? In many ways, humans are all fundamentally the same, so what qualities should we focus upon to give our work life? Examine the following selections from a trio of talented writers to see how they accomplish this difficult task.

A. Mary Rosenblum

B. Jennifer Roberson
C. Joan D. Vinge

1. _Danaquil Lu was a Winter; he had not been bred to the hard life of a Summer, and his body rebelled against it.

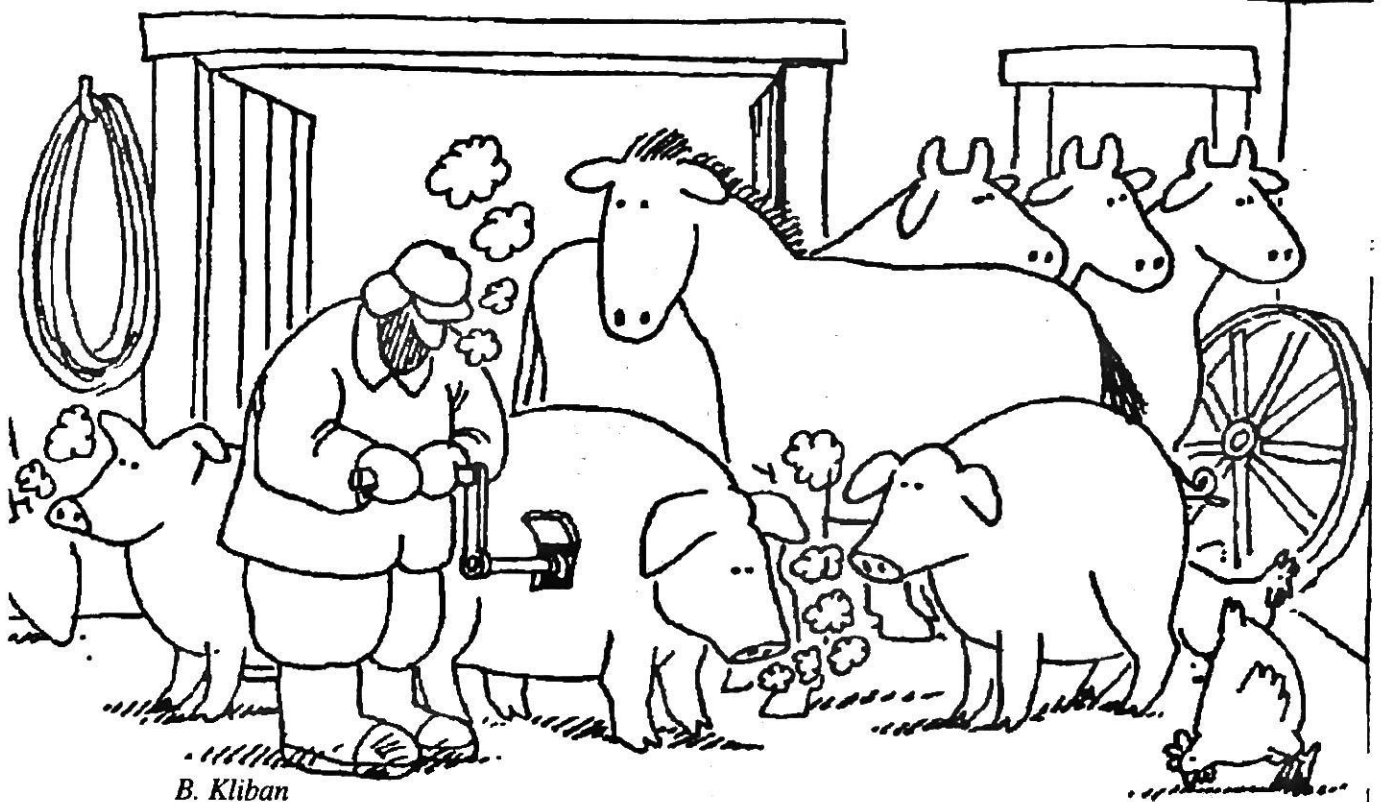
2. _"She would be young, and very fair—her hair was almost white. Her eyes were a strange, shifting color like fog-agates . . ."

3. _This wasn't Linda, this woman with the distant eyes and the gushing monotone, like shallow water over stones.

4. _She knew what he saw: tangled black hair harboring bits of dungeon straw; a soiled, disheveled kirtle smelling of horse and sweat and smoke; gritty blue eyes red-rimmed from tension and lack of sleep.

5. _Light overlay his face, dividing it precisely in half. One side was made flat, stark, without character, leached of humanity; the other was cast into shadows that licked at eyes and nose, caressing his smiling mouth. Divided face. Divided soul.

On Cold Mornings it was Carl's Job to Start the Animals



B. Kliban

6. _Jewel had watched him one night when she couldn't sleep; his skin had looked white and translucent in the moonlight, like the shell of some cave-dwelling insect.

7. _He followed her glance, looking across the snowfield carpet; remembering Arienrhod's courtiers scattered across it like living jewels in their brilliant, rainbow-colored clothing.

8. _She drank wine, gave the empty goblet to a servant, and eventually reached the dais where she looked fully into the face that was devoid of all expression, into pale hazel eyes masked to all of those before him. Indeed, the fires were banked. There was little left save an ember.

9. _Her face had a Mediterranean flavor to it, with maybe a few Mayan genes from Guatemala to give her that nose, all mixed and toned down with a solid dose of Caucasian blood.

10. _Gisbourne was an intense, dark, compact man, short of limb, and, she thought, imagination to judge by his conversation.

11. _She wasn't young anymore, but she could still haunt a man's dreams like the wind. Her body made music with every slightest movement, from the necklaces, bracelets, anklets she wore, heavy with the traditional clattering bangles and silver bells.

12. _For a moment, the youth's eyes met hers, glittering and remote, like someone peering through a plastic mask.

13. _His father stood on the threshold; hands clasped in front of him, face folded into a thousand wrinkles, as classically southern as the face from an antique Guangdong scroll, and as expressionless.

14. _But there was something about her, an intensity of belief, the urgent grace of a drawn bow, that showed even in her movement as she crossed the room; that compelled him to watch her every move, listen to her every word.

Works excerpted:

Chimera by Mary Rosenblum (Del Rey, 1993)

Lady of the Forest by Jennifer Roberson (Zebra 1992)

Summer Queen by Joan D. Vinge (Questar 1991)

Score:

14 or above: Personable

10-13: Perceptive

7-9: Persevering

5-6: Perky

3-4: Perplexed

1-2: Perfidious

0: Paleocene

*** MARKET UPDATE ***

(Once again, many thanks to KDI!)

CHANGES

Kathleen Dalton-Woodbury has joined MINDSPARKS as Fiction Editor. Manuscripts should now be sent to: 1193 South 1900 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84108-1855. Length has been revised to 8,000 words.

WEIRD TALES now says it is closed until Summer 1994.

ABERATIONS has been sold and no longer has any connection with MIDNIGHT ZOO or Jon Herron. The magazine has changed its name to ABERRATIONS, which is the standard spelling. New address: P.O. Box 460430, San Francisco, CA 94146-0430. Managing Editor: Richard Blair. Senior Fiction Editor: Michael Andre-Driussi. Looking for "stunningly brilliant fiction in the genres of horror, sf, and fantasy . . . If you could see it on Donahue, America's Most Wanted, or tomorrow's newscast, we don't want to see it." Payment: 1/4 cent/word. Length: to 8,000 words. No poetry.

INIQUITIES is mutating into a quarterly and shedding its slick pro magazine look. The new title will be PHANTASM and the payment will be 1 cent/word 1 month prior to publication. All contributors with work previously accepted will be contacted soon to see if the new arrangement is agreeable.

AFTER HOURS will cease publication with issue #25, which is scheduled for January 1995. They will be open until they have bought enough stories to fill the final issue. Remember, all stories must take place after dark, no exceptions.

MIDNIGHT GRAFFITI has confirmed that James Van Hise is no longer an editor with the magazine, leaving Jessica Horsting as the sole editor.

FIGMENT is ceasing publication with the current issue.

NEW LISTINGS

DANGEROUS WOMEN, an anthology edited by Ellen Datlow and Pat Cadigan has been sold and is now open. Label submissions "Dangerous Women" and send them to Ellen Datlow at the OMNI address (1965 Broadway, New York, NY 10023-5965). "What is a dangerous woman? She's dangerous to your perceptions . . . dangerous to your complacency . . . and dangerous to anything that is dangerous to her. She isn't any kind of stereotype. She could be anybody. She may go about her business unnoticed or be one of those people everybody notices. Feminism is a foregone conclusion. To her ears, feminist is as quaint a word as suffragette. The only requirement for the stories is that they feature at least one woman who is Dangerous. She may be Dangerous because she is the villain or because she is the heroine or because she's a complication or for any other reason. No victims. No stereotypes from pre- or post-feminism, please. She must be a fully-realized human being with all the strengths and weakness that mortals are heir to. No horror."

S.F. TRAILS, Stray Dog Press, P.O. Box 11378, Prescott, AZ 86304-1378. Editor: David B. Riley. An anthology of "sf stories set in the American Old West. Stories must take place somewhere between the Pacific Ocean and the Rocky Mountains (This may include the Yukon, Alaska, and northern Mexico) and set in the time period from the Civil War to 1900 A.D. . . . Stories must have both recognizable sf elements AND a genuine flavor of the Old West. We are reluctant to buy time travel . . . Send in standard ms format, including word count, with a brief cover letter and SASE." Length: 2,000-10,000 words. Payment: royalties. Advise on disk availability. 1 submission at a time. No reprints. Deadline: April 1st.

*** ALL THE ANSWERS ***

Key:

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. C | 8. B |
| 2. C | 9. A |
| 3. A | 10. B |
| 4. B | 11. C |
| 5. B | 12. A |
| 6. A | 13. A |
| 7. C | 14. C |

*** MANY THANKS TO ***

Warren
KDW
Roger
Big Mama O'Hanlon
Alma Garcia
Paula Revere
Eddy

B. Kliban, wherever you are...

*** 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:

VICTOR WREN, Treasurer, P.O. BOX 1347,
Claremore, OK 74018
(Checks should be made out to Victor Wren)

Please note: An "X" on your mailing label indicates OSFW has no record of either 1993-94 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 Victor Wren, and may be sent to Victor 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 typed or printed. They definitely have to be in writing (we don't take dictation). Pseudonyms are OK. We prefer text formatted in RichText (RTF Interchange) files on a 3-inch MAC disc (720k or 1.4 meg. — no 2.8 meg). We can also use ASCII files. Otherwise, arrange to send them by modem. 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. 25*

We look forward to seeing you all!

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