



Brought To You By: K. D. Wentworth, Warren & Lana Brown and Simon McCaffery

Special Write Hard, Die Free Issue • July 1995

***** HELLO OSFW *****

The July meeting will take place at the Bloodgood residence at 5033 East Third (turn east of Yale) on Friday, July 14th, 7:00 P.M. The phone number is 832-7191.

***** UNLOCAL NEWS *****

Roger Zelazny, noted sf writer and a member of the "New Wave" movement in the genre, died in June of colon cancer. He authored the popular Amber fantasy series and had received both the Nebula and Hugo for his work.

Jonathan Lethem's *GUN. WITH OCCASIONAL MUSIC* won the 1994 William L. Crawford Memorial Award given by the International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts for a first novel in the fantasy field.

In the *WASHINGTON POST* of June 12, reviewer Jonathan Yardley begins his review of Newt Gingrich's and William Fortschen's novel *1945*: Given American culture's bottomless capacity for inanity it is entirely possible that the year now nearing midpoint will see the publication of a work of fiction more moronic than *1945*. . . Possible, but not likely. This is the testimony of one who spent the longest year of his life one day last week slogging through the — count 'em and weep — 382 pages of *1945*. . . it is torture from first to last, downright embarrassing in its clumsy prose and lurching plot and pervasive innocence. . . Me, I'd rather spend a year in solitary confinement with nothing to read except Danielle Steele than another nanosecond with the prose of Gingrich and Fortschen. But a second volume does seem to be in the works . . .

***** LOCAL NEWS *****

Ray Lafferty had several stories reviewed in the April *LOCUS* by Mark R. Kelly: "R.A. Lafferty's 'I Don't Care Who Keeps the Crows' (*CRANK*, Fall, 1994) is one of his better stories of recent years, one which shows glimmers of the special magic that characterized Lafferty's early work. It purports to tell 'how we became as amazingly smart as we are now,' and describes three tribes and their ways of increasing intelligence: the Scar-Tissue Clan, the Necklaces Clan, and the Little Red Wagon Clan. It's an appealing combination of tall tale and modern technomagic. . . . There's also a Lafferty story in the eighth, last issue of *STRANGE PLASMA*. 'The Man Who Lost His Magic' is Jacob Grim, who comes to Magic Meadows to track down the men who disappeared there, including his brother. Through odd hijinks and singsong ditties he's given to understand that his Commonwealth of Science and Technology is less substantial than he believed. Though its tone is light as ever, underlying the story is a strong moral theme, magic (or faith) vs. rationalism, of the sort that occurs regularly in Lafferty's work."

"I Don't Care About the Crows" was listed in Kelly's Recommended Stories for the month.

Members **Paul Batteiger** and **Amanda Gannon** were married on July 2nd. Paul recently won First Place in this year's *PENTHOUSE EROTIC FICTION CONTEST*. His prize is \$1,000 and publication.

Simon's *HITCHCOCK'S* story, "The Deep End," will be reprinted in a Berkley anthology, *THE HAUNTED HOUR*. He had good rejections from *GOTHIC GHOSTS* and *A DIFFERENT BEAT*.

Brad Sinor sold an article on Tim Russ (VOYAGER) to the LAWTON CONSTITUTION. He had articles published in BABY BOOMERS COLLECTIBLES and HORROR and received good rejections from TOMORROW and GOTHIC GHOSTS.

KDW will be signing MOONSPEAKER and HOUSE OF MOONS at Waldenbooks in Eastland Mall (Tulsa) on Saturday, July 22nd, 2-4 P.M., at the B.Dalton's at Eastland Mall (Tulsa) on August 12th, 2-4 P.M., and at the Waldenbooks at the Penn Square Mall in Oklahoma City on Saturday, August 19th, 2-4 P.M. She received an Honorable Mention in Dozois's YEAR'S BEST SF for her ABORIGINAL SF story "Shore Leave." Her upcoming story "Under the Weather" will be published electronically on CompuServe and America Online by HITCHCOCK'S as a Mystery of the Month.

Ben had good rejections from ZERO GRAVITY FREEFALL, ANALOG, ROMANTIC INTERLUDES, CRANK, and a Pournelle anthology.

Barbara Thrower had good rejections from WORLDS OF FANTASY AND HORROR, ASIMOV'S, and TOMORROW.

*** CONTINUUM ***

June 1995

or

*Diet Death, Interdimensional
Drive-Throughs and The Edge
of the World*

A dozen OSFWans made it to the June meeting, held at Kathy and Richard's home. The snack table was first-rate, and we heard a nice round of stories and chapters.

Brad read "Eleven to Seven," the story of Mark Carson, who visits his 79-year-old father in the hospital following an unexpected surgery only to come eye to silver eyes with Death in the form of a petite red-headed nurse named Kara. Fortunately this Death is a benevolent Reaper, and Mark's love for his father is powerful enough to keep his father earthbound. I liked the fact that

Death preferred Diet Caffeine-Free Pepsi. (Brad based this tale on his own father's recent hospital stay.)

Elsbeth read the introductory chapter, "Driving Through," from an as-yet-untitled novel. The narrator and a friend stop for lunch at a "Such-A-Burger" where it seems God — or someone — is trying to communicate through the drive-through speaker, shaped like a pink plastic pig (used to be a BBQ joint). "Gravy!" it bellows, among other things. While the narrator tries to sort things out (and order lunch), a man attempts to rob the restaurant, and in the ensuing melee a shot is fired. The bullet hits the pig/speaker and suddenly a young man in strange apparel appears from, presumably, another dimension.

Greg had Ben read an untitled chapter from an untitled novel-in-progress. We are introduced to 20-year-old Andrew Summerton, who's "been in trouble since the day he was born," and apparently is missing a large chunk of childhood memory due to some type of surgery. We are also introduced to the town of Blackmoor, Andrew's foster father, and his real sister, May, who works for the government and wants Andrew to connect her with drug dealers.

Steve read "Weasel," an inventive short story about a college professor who receives an unusual gift from an old high school friend. The strange black tube — one of Weasel's gadgets — replays episodes from their past. The scenes offer some interesting glimpses into the wondrous life of Weasel, who created an interdimensional crack in his parents' basement along with real X-ray glasses and a talking ouji board. The last setting on the tube is a "postcard" from Weasel, who has successfully escaped from mundane reality like a modern-day Peter Pan.

DEAR EDDY

Dear Eddy,

I am still bothered by that Saturday Night Live sketch involving William Shatner at the Star Trek convention where he tells them to get a life. In particular, the point where he asks the trekkie if he has ever kissed a girl and the trekkie hangs his head in shame. Now, normally this would be a big deal except that I have noticed a strong inverse

correlation between having children and writing science fiction. Most writers, it seems, stop having children once they start writing. Does science fiction make all but sexiest people sterile? Does that explain why there are no SF authors who are nymphomaniacs? (If there are any nymphomaniac SF authors, where do I find them?) I would like to have children someday and, if necessary, I'll give up writing.

I await your answer with abated breath.

Fearful

Dear Fearful

If you examine your statistics, you'll find that male writers don't have children at all. If you hadn't spent so much time at SF conventions, you might have figured that out before now. Since most SF is written and read by males, it stands to reason that there would be a "strong inverse correlation" between having children and writing science fiction.

Have YOU ever kissed a girl?

Yours for any sort of correlation at all,

Eddy

Professor Edwin "Duke" Parker

Respectfully,

Hope you can help me! Everything running backward instead. Shouldn't have let that ninny near my time machine. It could be the smell or some unexplained residual static charge from his "improved" dryers. The cursed sock is here, inside the chrono-chamber! Just as I was about to leave June 1st, 1996, for the year 456789 A.D., I notice he is missing one sock. R.R. stands there waving, grinning like an ape from behind the video camera. I get tired of his begging so I say, yes, just for a minute. He begged me to let him sit inside the chrono-chamber before my historic departure. If that's true, you're my last hope, Eddy. Heard you know everything. How do I reverse the arrow of time in this bubble universe I've accidentally created? Well I'm in a real pickle now.

Dear Eddy,

Dear "Duke"

You can solve your problem by writing down the real lyrics to "Loui, Loui," backwards on the inside surface of an industrial strength spin dryer, while spinning therein, in invisible ink, then waiting for someone with a mirror to read them and sing.

(This might not actually work, but it would give me a lot of satisfaction.)

Yours for static cling,

Eddy

*** SPECIAL CON REPORT ***

CONQUEST!

By Elspeth Bloodgood

Where else can you spend a scintillating weekend listening to an anthropological study of third world toilet facilities, attending a wedding at which the groom sports tie-dyed tails, and learning the gentle art of verbal self defense? Conquest, of course.

Conquest was held over the Memorial Day weekend in Kansas City, and a pot full of fun. The theme this year was Alternate Hollywoods, a special nod to toastmaster Mike Resnick. I'll admit, I missed Mike's opening remarks. However, he expressed pride (over and over) at doing 23 minutes on African toilet stories during opening ceremonies. No one else at the convention (and the Powers that Be placed that number at over 400) disputed the accuracy of his account, although Suzette Hayden Elgin wouldn't let him recap it at a panel both attended the next morning.

Guest of Honor was Octavia Butler, as gracious and well-spoken a pro as you could wish to meet. Chris Osland and I tried to snare her for dinner Saturday night, but she was spoken for. She sat on a panel on creating great aliens with Mike Resnick and Suzette that was on-topic all hour long (must be a first), and absolutely fascinating. Fun fact to know and tell—Octavia wanted to give her narrator a distinctive voice in *Parable of the Sower*, so she decided not to use any adjectives that ended in "ly." Sounds simple, huh?

One highlight for me was hanging out with other OSFW types—Chris (who has moved to Kansas City, home of Beef, I do have her address), Roger & Lisa and I braved Shoney's seafood buffet together. Then, we all helped throw together an instant costume that took first place. The theme of the costume was "Fannish Gump." The best line was the last, coined by Lisa: "Mama always said fandom is like a box of chocolates, a bunch of fruits and nuts in skimpy little wrappers." Perfect delivery set the audience at Saturday night's

Masquerade rolling in the aisles.

Sunday afternoon, Suzette dusted her PhD off and gave a condensed version of her \$500 course on the gentle art of verbal self defense. She says that her nonfiction is selling well, but that she's having difficulty marketing her latest novel concept. Seems that although her books are still in print, publishers she has submitted to say they don't have the numbers.

Sunday evening saw a fannish wedding (complete with baffled mundane family and guests) and a cookie orgy. Now a cookie orgy is a great idea. Looks of cookies, great big gallons of milk, and plenty of conversation up and down the con-suite floor. It lasted (for me) until 4 that morning, and included topics as diverse as hucksters, con artists, what defines a cult, and the council of Nicea. Now...who wouldn't have had a blast?

You might think joining in the fun next year. Bring a swimsuit, there's an indoor pool. For the kiddies—there will be children's programming Saturday and Sunday. The stroller set was well represented this time around. Jokes on fandom breeding abounded. The only low point was a desk clerk who moved as if through Jell-O. But that's all right. He'll be having nightmares about vampires (complete with fangs from the huckster's room) for the next 12 months.

As Arnie said...I'll be back.

*** PHEW CORNER ***

Herbert: Well, it's final. Amazing has folded. I'm informed I will receive a Buck Rogers coffee table book in lieu of the remainder of my subscription.

Sukie: R.I.P.

Herbert: Amen.

(Moment of silence)

Sukie: I'm luckier than you. I received a new novel in the mail a few weeks ago:

Gun With Occasional Music by Jonathan Lethem (TOR Paperback Books, March, 1995, \$10.95) 262 pages.

Herbert: I saw it. Did you read it?

Sukie: I certainly did. It was an easy-to-munch-on, first-published novel, full of futuristic fun with echoes of Raymond Chandler. Mr. Lethem remarked that he had such a good time writing it that someone had to help him prune

out a third of the jokes.

Herbert: What a pity!

Sukie: I know, it's terrible that one can't be as lighthearted as one would like and leave it all in. Especially since it doesn't necessarily follow that one is out of one's mind with happiness. In fact, I've heard that comics and clowns are often unhappy.

Herbert: Shades of Pagliacci! I personally write more when I'm miserable.

Sukie: That's because you are such a grouch when you're down. Remember the old poem: "Laugh and the World Laughs with You"?

Herbert: Yeah -- "Weep and you weep alone."

Sukie: There's a moral in all this somewhere, if only I could put my finger on it....

Herbert: So what's it all about?

Sukie: Who knows? Oh, you mean the novel. It's about a doomsday culture of drugs and genetic engineering where questions, even normal everyday ones, are considered socially unacceptable. Grossly rude, in fact, so if anyone wants to find out anything they have to go around making statements, hoping they'll get contradicted and find something out that way. Lovely!

Herbert: No questions at all?

Sukie: Only the police and private investigators have a license to ask questions. Conrad Metcalf is the P.I. and he has to determine who killed Maynard Stanhunt. Conrad's task is complicated by everyone's unwillingness to answer questions, and a genetically engineered kangaroo gangster, aptly named Joey.

Herbert: A genetically engineered kangaroo?

Sukie: Yes, at the beginning of the book we have a quote from Raymond Chandler: "...the subject was as easy to spot as a kangaroo in a dinner jacket." There's a picture of the kangaroo on the front cover. See?

Herbert: Very nice. Is it a good plot?

Sukie: The plot is not the focus in this book; it's less important than the trappings, which are what all self-respecting sf fiends are looking for.

Herbert: Such as?

Sukie: Cards with magnetic stripes that measure your karmic level, fines that impose karmic points, and murder penalties that are literal sojourns in the "freezer" (cryogenic imprisonment). Nor does it hurt when you trip over lines like "His eyes were unclouded by intelligence."

Herbert: Give Mr. Lethem an award!

Sukie: Thirty-five hard-boiled, genetically engineered, tasty deviled eggs.

Herbert: Why thirty-five?

Sukie: One for each chapter.

Herbert: Good show! How did you like the small press antho?

THE MAGIC WITHIN, an anthology. Edited by Emily Alward, Diane Holmes, and Alicia Rasley. WorldEdge Press, Inc, 2138 E. Broad Ripple Avenue, #143, Indianapolis, IN 46220-2312, 1994. Perfect bound, slick cover, 201 pages. \$9.95 plus postage \$1.75.

Sukie: It's attractive and contains 24 stories about women with magic and power. The first, "Coyote," by Sue Storm, is an affecting account of a long-suffering crippled girl and an injured coyote. The second, Laura D. Todd's "A Woman's Secret Weapon," celebrates the triumph of an earth-mother believer over narrow-minded zealots. I wish I could comment on all the stories, for all have special slants and focus on interesting aspects of women's intuition and inner strength, as well as women who sell charms, who wield swords, who overcome dragons, who rule societies. Myths and quest tales are retold with female heroes. Refreshingly, the authors do not have their women-with-magic waste their precious energies debasing others. The editors have chosen only one revenge story, "The Gingerbread Man," by D. M. Recktenwalt; however, Selina's vengeance on her cheating lover is so unusual and so aptly carried out that, as the editors put it, "Few women would condone...but most will understand!"

Herbert: Do you have a favorite?

Sukie: It's hard to choose, but I find "Shadow Lady" by Paula Blais Gorgas the most appealing. This is a looking-glass tale where two aspects of the same woman come together in a parallel world.

Herbert: Jolly good! Time for the awards.

Sukie: I award the antho twenty-four magic moments.

Herbert: Before signing off, I have to share a communication dated 6/12/95 from Mike Baker, Editor/Publisher of AFRAID, which went "on hiatus," was briefly resurrected, and now: "Effective immediately, AFRAID is a thing of the past; issue #33 will go down in the record books as the final issue...outstanding subscriptions will be refunded...it might take a while..."

Sukie: That doesn't bode well for SKULL, does it?

Herbert: No, it doesn't, but Mike doesn't mention it.

Sukie: Sigh. Good night, Herbert. Good night, folks.

*** MARKET UPDATE ***

By KDW

CHANGES

The current paper shortage/price increase is hurting a number of magazines. GALAXY is also now going to electronic publication. A hardback is planned to commemorate the first electronic edition. Editor David K. Hobough recently said in a rejection letter — "MANIFEST DESTINY SCIENCE FICTION MAGAZINE is ceasing publication. I am currently exploring other publishing and business options in the science fiction/small press areas. Please hold all submissions until January 1996."

FREE WORLDS is not reading for a year.

Tip — DRAGON wants stories with strong fantasy elements that move fairly quickly. The editor has no objections to female protagonists, but "can't use stories in which female sensibilities dominate."

Rumors on GENIE report that EXPANSE is dead.

PULP FICTION payment rate dropped to 1/2 cent/word.

SKULL is officially dead.

PULPHOUSE's ABRUPT EDGE: The Magazine of Horror and Dark Fantasy will debut at the World Horror Convention in May, 1996 and will be a quarterly.

PULPHOUSE's mystery magazine has been renamed FULL CLIP: A Magazine of Mystery and Suspense. It will debut in the fall of 1996 at the World Mystery Convention and will also be a quarterly.

CENTURY's return time seems to be running well over six months at the moment.

THIN ICE is folding.

DEAD OF NIGHT has sufficient material on hand for the next few issues so they will remain closed until January, 1996.

Return times at GOTHIC GHOSTS and CEMETERY DANCE are slow right now due to an illness in the editor's family, for the former, and serious illness of the editor in the latter.

OMNI has passed its subscriber list to DISCOVER and subscriptions are being finished out with issues of the latter. The print edition will still be available at the newsstand and an electronic edition will be available for downloading online.

Son of GPIC

IGUANA INFORMER will fold after the next issue.

The Starlance anthology DRAGONS has closed.

NEW LISTINGS

ANGELUS PRESS, 6 Stickney Avenue, #2, Somerville, MA 02145. Editor: Dawn Albright. Untitled anthology (spun-off from NEW ALTARS) dealing with sf/f/h stories about shamanism/Native American religions. Reprints welcome. Shorter stories preferred although there is no official length set. Payment: Reprints will receive 1 cent/word. Originals will receive 2-6 cents/word. Deadline is July 15th.

BENDING THE LANDSCAPE, White Wolf Publishing, 780 Park North Boulevard, Suite 100, Clarkson, GA 30021. Editors: Nicola Griffith and Stephen Pagel. An all-original short fiction anthology series "from writers of every background and perspective." The first three volumes will be fantasy, horror, and science fiction (not in that order). The first published will be a February 1997 hardcover. "For each story you submit, please indicate in your cover letter which anthology you would like it to be considered for. . . . There are only two rules. Contributions must (a) center around lesbian and/or gay characters and themes and (b) be set in a time/place/milieu that is outside our conventional reality." Payment: 8 cents/word upon acceptance against a pro-rata share of royalties. Length: prefer 2,000-8,000 words.

FANTASTIC WORLDS, 1644 South 11th West, Missoula, MT 59801. Guidelines direct you to address submissions to Attn: Fiction Editors. Editor: Scott Becker. New bimonthly publishing sf/f/h, set to debut in October or November 1995. Length: up to 15,000 words. "Not interested in smut." Payment: 1-5 cents/word upon publication. Premier issue: \$5. \$15/3 issues. \$30/6 issues. \$3 for a "Special 1/2 Size Sampler" due out in late July. Return time: 4 weeks.

SOLAR, Tales of Man's Expansion and Conquest of the Solar System, Starlance Publications, 50 Basin Dr., Basin City, WA 99343. Editor: James B. King. Anthology which will be published in early 1997. "We do not want to see excessive gore or explicitly sexual situations. Nor do we want to see much profanity. Such situations would very likely be edited." Payment: 1 cent/word for originals, 1/2 cent/word for reprints, paid upon publication. Length: 4,000-10,000 words. All stories will be illustrated.

TALEBONES, Fairwood Press, 12205 1st Avenue S., Seattle, WA 98168. Editor: Patrick J. Swenson. A new quarterly subtitled "Fiction on the Dark Edge," buying sf/f, "dark fantasy as opposed to horror . . . meaningful science fiction as opposed to hard science stories without heart. Psychological. Experimental. Black humor. Something with a punch that leaves me thinking, but keeps me entertained." Length: up to 5,000 words. Query for longer work. Vignettes and poetry also accepted. Payment: 1/2-1 cent/word. "Established writers receive the higher rate. Always include a cover letter." Tentative magazine price: \$4.5/single, \$16.00/yr.

*** MANY THANKS TO ***

Warren & Lana

KDW

Alma Garcia

Fearful

Professor Edwin "Duke" Parker

Elsbeth

*** 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:

K.D. Wentworth, Treasurer

10804 E. 27th Street

Tulsa, OK 74129

(Checks should be made out to K.D. Wentworth)

Please note: An "X" on your mailing label indicates OSFW has no record of either 1995 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 K.D. Wentworth, and may be sent to K.D. 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 on disk or sent via e-mail. Pseudonyms are OK. We accept files on either a 3-inch Mac or DOS 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:73172.2054@compuserve.com. (or 73172.2054 if you have a CompuServe account). 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 August issue: July 24
We look forward to seeing you all!