



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

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

Special "Hollywood Spectacular" Issue •  
July 1997

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

The July meeting will be held Friday, July 11th, at the home of Barbara Thrower's parents at 7:00 P.M. Address: 8248 E. 35th. Directions: Turn east off Memorial at 35th St. at the Vo-Tech stoplight.

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

Australian sf writer George Turner died on June 8th of a stroke. He was 81.

TNT purchased the rights to BABYLON 5. Beginning in January, a fifth season of B5 will be seen on that network, as well as daily reruns of the first four seasons. Tentative plans are to run the new episodes on Monday night with a Saturday rerun.

The first B5 television movie, a prequel titled "In the Beginning," is set to air on TNT in January 1998.

VOYAGER has been picked up for another season. SLIDERS has not.

Sovereign Media has acquired SCI-FI UNIVERSE, which will join its stable of genre magazines, including REALMS OF FANTASY, SF AGE, and SCI-FI ENTERTAINMENT.

The movie premiere of STARSHIP TROOPERS has been moved back to this coming November. SUPERMAN REBORN and a sequel to BABE are both scheduled for a Summer, 1998, release.

DUNE will become a miniseries on TV. TOTAL RECALL: THE SERIES and Gene Roddenberry's BATTLEGROUND EARTH will both have a fall debut.

The X-FILES movie is set to begin filming this month now that Gillian Anderson has finally signed a contract to reprise her role as Agent Scully. Anderson will reportedly receive \$4 million, the same as David

Duchovny. Anderson receives about half the salary earned by Duchovny in the television series. The film is slated for a summer 1998 release.

The new STARGATE series will be called STARGATE SG-1 and is supposed to debut this month on Showtime. 44 episodes are scheduled to be run in all.

Patrick Stewart has been offered \$12 million to appear in the next Star Trek movie. Stewart will also act as the film's associate co-producer and get a three-year, first-look deal with Paramount. He received \$5 million for First Contact. Jonathan Frakes will most likely direct the next installment, and Brent Spiner will receive \$5 million to slap on the gray makeup once again.

Arnold Schwarzenegger, reported to be in a remake of "Planet of the Apes," is talking with director Ridley Scott, who is casting for a new film version of Richard Matheson's "I Am Legend."

Ray Bradbury is reportedly at work on new screenplays of "The Martian Chronicles" and "Fahrenheit 451." Mel Gibson is rumored to star in the new "451."

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

Brad Sinor sold his story "Dreams and Nightmares" to TALES OF THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR. One of his photos from the Nebula Awards was published in LOCUS.

William Sanders' novelette "The Undiscovered Country" made the Preliminary Nebula ballot. His short story "Words and Music" was published in the July ASIMOVS.

K.D. Wentworth received checks last month from both ABORIGINAL SF and TOMORROW. Her short story "Burning Bright" received enough recommendations to also be listed on the Preliminary

Nebula ballot. "The Tie That Binds" was reprinted in  
BRANDED MONKEY.

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

Brad: FASF. ANALOG. IMPLOSION

President Greg: THE FRACTAL

KDW: FASF

\*\*\* CONTINUUM \*\*\*

by KDW

*July, 1997  
or Shooting Up, Chicks in  
Chainmail and Hurry Up  
With that Sword*

Nine showed up for a rousing evening of stories at Elspeth's apartment. The cats were in fine form, and it was a night of unprecedented wholesomeness, with only a single box of Little Debbie's (TM) anywhere to be seen on the goodies table. We had, not only lots of scrumcious homemade goodies, but lots of fun as well.

Elsbeth: Elspeth, at long last (okay, so it was only two months, it seemed like longer) finished "Shooting Up" and shared the results with us. As before, I loved the strong narrative voice and quirky relationship, but my overall favorite element was the use of scientific terms to describe emotional reactions and transformations, as in "as if it mapped the accelerating beat of his heart" and "Logan had been at steady state . . ." In the end, Ingrid can't give up her hallucination and Logan can't quit asking her to have the surgery, so we have a bittersweet parting.

Brad: Brad read "Well, Duh!" This is the story of Sean, a local actress who has the fortune/misfortune to be in just the right place to encounter a runaway princess, clad in chainmail, from another dimension. The characters were a lot of fun, as they work things out, and I enjoyed the ending, where the locals help her outwit her pursuers, and then send them back to where they came from, empty-handed.

Chris: Chris brought us a partial manuscript of "The Strategic Baby Reserves," a hilarious solution to our current dichotomy between the number of babies conceived and the number actually welcomed. I liked

the format, alternating Senate Hearing notes with a narrative that follows the exploits of one of the workers. The humor was very dark (my favorite kind), and I wasn't alone in wishing to hear the conclusion.

Rob: Rob read Chapter 6 of THE FIRST COMMUNION, in which Ian drives himself to fulfill his impossible vow, to finish a magnificent sword before sundown. His twin, Padric, senses his need and draws the power needed to complete this task from a magical source. I enjoyed the lyrical language ("the wheels of his being ignited one by one") and the image of Ian glowing, the hammer sparking, "the brilliant flickering of the flame." As always, it ended far too soon.

\*\*\* PRESIDENTIAL NOTES \*\*\*

By Greg Lower

As a newspaperman, it is my pleasure (?) to read prose from mundanes who feel they must fit their stereotype of the "artiste" writer.

One undertaker, who was as pompous as a dirigible, complained my writing was "written down."

What else am I supposed to do with it?

This guy's all-time record for flatulent prose was the sentence "The family requests that those who wish to remember Mrs. Archibald through memorial giving that they should choose the memorial of their choice to be given in her name."

In newspapers, writing must communicate understanding quickly and clearly. This is important in "whodunnit" and science fiction genres, where the reader must understand complex situations, or, when we hold something back, must believe he understands. The danger is when an author writes to impress someone, usually himself.

May 16, organizers of a Bad Writing contest for published academic writers gave their "top" prize to Frederic Jameson, professor at Duke University, whose book, Signatures of the Visible, opens: "The visual is essentially pornographic, which is to say that it has its end in rapt, mindless fascination; thinking about its attributes becomes an adjunct to that, if it is unwilling to betray its object; while the most austere films necessarily draw their energy from the attempt to repress their own excess (rather

than from the more thankless effort to discipline the viewer)."

Compare that to these four paragraphs by Richard Lederer, who said it all in one-syllable words:

"When you speak and write, no law says you have to use big words. Short words are as good as long ones, and short, old words like 'sun' and 'grass' and 'home' are best of all. A lot of small words, more than you might think, can meet your needs with a strength, grace, and charm that large words lack.

"Big words can make the way dark for those who hear what you say and read what you write. Small words, the ones we seem to have known from birth, are like the hearth fire that warms the home, and they cast a clear light on big things: night and day, love and hate, war and peace, life and death.

"Short words are bright, like sparks that glow in the night; sharp like a blade of a knife; hot like salt tears that scald the cheek; quick like moths that flit from flame to flame; and terse like the dart and sting of a bee.

"If a long word says just what you want, do not fear to use it. But know that our tongue is rich in crisp, brisk, swift, short words. Make them the spine and the heart of what you speak and write. Like fast friends, they will not let you down."

When asked to explain Britain's wartime policy to Parliament, Prime Minister Winston Churchill responded with these ringing monosyllables: "It is to wage war, by sea, land, and air, with all our might and with all the strength that God can give us." Robert Frost observed that "Home is the place where, when you have to go there, They have to take you in." William H. Johnsen uses 10 two letter words to disclose his secret of success: "If it is to be, it is up to me."

### **\*\*\* YOU MAY BE A REDNECK IF..."**

#### **\*\*\* BEN BOVINE \*\*\***

Rednecks are not limited to Earth. They exist all across the galaxy, in many different forms. One example is Luke Skywalker, who must have been a redneck because he fell in love with his sister, Leia. But surely he isn't the only Jedi Knight who happens to be a redneck. So if you suspect the

local Jedi of being a redneck, here's a few ways to tell.

You might be a redneck Jedi if...

Your Jedi robe is a camouflage color.

You have ever used your lightsaber to open a bottle of Jack Daniel's.

You think the best use of your lightsaber is picking your teeth.

At least one wing of your X-Wing is Bondo colored.

There is a blaster rack in the back of your landspeeder.

You have bantha horns on the front of your landspeeder.

You can easily describe the taste of an Ewok... without using the word "chicken".

You can find no grammatical errors in the way Yoda talks.

You think that Stormtroopers are just KKK members with really good sheets

A peaceful meditation session is one without gas.

You can levitate yourself using a force from within, but not THE force.

Your master ever said "My finger you will pull...hmmm?"

You have ever had an X-wing up on blocks in your yard.

You ever lost a hand during a light-saber fight because you had to spit.

The worst part of spending time on Dagobah is the dadgum skeeters

Wookies are offended by your B.O.

You have ever used the force to get yourself another beer so you didn't have to wait for a commercial.

You have ever used the force in conjunction with fishing or bowling.

You have ever used a lightsaber to clean fish or open a non-twist-off bottle of beer.

Your father has ever said to you, "Shoot, son come on over t' the dark side...it'll be a hoot."

You have ever had your R-2 unit use its self-defense electro-shock thingy to get the bar-b-q grill to light.

The moonshine still you built on Endor is hidden so well even the Ewoks can't find it.

You have a stuffed womp rat anywhere in your home.

You think the symbol for the Rebel Alliance should be the Confederate flag.

More than half the droids you own don't function.

The number of blasters you own exceeds your I.Q.

You wonder why Luke and Leia gave up on getting married.

You used a carbon-freezing chamber to mount the Wampa you shot while on vacation on Hoth.

Your moonshine is made on a real moon.

You don't like wearing a Jedi robe because it prevents access to the dip stored in your back pocket.

Sandpeople back down from your mama.

You've ever used Jedi mind control to talk your way out of a speeding ticket or DUI.

You've ever strangled someone with the force because they laughed at your accent.

You built an outhouse over the Sarlaac pit.

You've ever argued with a Jawa over scavenging rights to a broken droid.

A Wookie has ever told you that you need to

shave.

You have ever wrecked a landspeeder while trying to light a cigarette with your lightsaber.

You don't think the Ewoks are primitive.

You think an AT-AT looks like a giant cow.

You don't think Jabba's pig guards have a hygiene problem.

The Rancor monster refused to eat you.

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

By Diana Carolyn Ice

BEGINNINGS, MIDDLES, AND ENDS by Nancy Kress. Cincinnati, Ohio, Writer's Digest Books, 1993. ISBN 0-89879-550-8. \$13.95.

Science fiction and fantasy stories suffer from having to establish a whole world right up front. Having your hero flit his Nova-charged Wombat up a main street on Noramax 3 isn't like having him drive his Chevy Nova down Main Street, USA. And too often we try to pile all the necessary information into the first three pages.

Nancy Kress understands, because she writes our kind of stories. So when she talks about beginnings that work or don't, we can relate to that. I bought her book for help on beginnings, and really found it helpful. I wound up staying for the middles and the ends.

Unlike some how-to-write books, Nancy gives us practical advice we can really use. And she includes exercises for those who didn't get enough homework in school.

How many times have you started a story with a great idea and wonderful characters only to have it fizzle out in the middle somewhere? Nancy's section on Middles offers help for those short stories and for sagging novels that seem to bog down right about chapter nine or ten.

She attacks the problems on all levels: plot,

character, structure, ect., so that you are better able to find one or more solutions to your particular situation.

The section on Endings is filled with advice on how to write and revise your story's end for maximum punch. And what to do if you're the kind who polishes endlessly and never finishes anything. She covers the climactic scene, whether or not to add an epilogue, and how to handle series books' endings, as well as the analysis you should perform on your very last page, paragraph, and sentence.

And very importantly, the book has an index to help you find those things you vaguely remember reading and want to look at again.

I have found this book extremely helpful. It's the kind of reference you can read or skim through and always learn something new from.

**\*\*\* DEATH TO WESLEY! \*\*\***

**THE TOP TEN EPISODES GETTING RID OF WESLEY ON STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION:**

*Editor's note: Since ST:NG sails on in syndication, you'll still get a chuckle from this list, scavenged from the net.*

10: After slugging down six Shirley Temple's in 10-forward, Wes stumbles to the holodeck, which he commands to "take me to hell." His broken body is later found on the empty holodeck in a pool of vomit.

9: Wesley gets gang-raped by a group of female Klingons.

8: Riker gets carried away executing an order from Picard to "knock the little snot around a bit."

7: Data catches him tossing off. Uncomprehending, he requires a detailed explanation from Wesley, who dies of embarrassment.

6: Extensive lab analysis of a green slime

found on one of the control panels uncovers the fact that our favorite ensign has, once again, been picking his nose. He is summarily fired.

5: Wes gets gang-raped by a group of male Klingons.

4: On an earlier episode, Wes got to kiss a girl who turned into a Chewbacca-like creature. Here, she returns, and they once again get involved. (Un)fortunately, once she gets really heated, she mutates back into a wookiee and forces Wesley to be her cringing sex slave. She then tears him limb from limb and eats him.

3: In a rare episode involving characters from both ST and ST:TNG, Spock attempts a Vulcan mind-meld with Weasley. Spock barely survives, spending the next several days scratching himself and whining.

2: Worf notices a Romulan ship on the scanners, and sends Wesley down to clean out the photon tubes. Later, someone makes a comment about the needs of the many having outweighed the needs of the few.

1: Wes gets involved in a deviant sexual practice known as "tribble stuffing," not realizing that tribbles multiply anywhere. Even an emergency laser enema by Dr. Crusher fails to save him.

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

By KDW

CHANGES

SCORCHED PRODUCTIONS and THE FORTRESS are defunct.

STARLIGHT 2 is reading until the end of the summer, but don't send additional manuscripts while you already have one there.

VALKYRIE is closed and no longer ac-



cepts e-mail submissions.

ZONE 9 is still closed.

AFTERSHOCKS has a new address: 655 John Muir Dr., #417, San Francisco, CA 94132.

The P.O. box listed for INFINITE EDGE is closed.

ABSOLUTE MAGNITUDE is having financial woes and not paying writers on publication, as guidelines state they will. Two of the three partners recently quit, including Stephen Pagel, as well as the art director, leaving only Editor Warren Lapine at the helm.

Writers on Genie report that BLACK OCTOBER's P.O. box is closed.

#### NEW LISTINGS

ODYSSEY, 31 Shotsford, Wessex Gardens, London W2 5LG, United Kingdom. Editor: Liz Holliday. New magazine buying sf/f and set to debut at this fall's WFC in London. From the same publisher as VALKYRIE. Length: up to 12,000 words. Read guidelines before submitting (available by e-mailing [liz@gila.demon.co.uk](mailto:liz@gila.demon.co.uk)). Payment: about 6 cents/word. Send 2 IRC's and e-mail address along with SAE.

MYTHAGORAS, 16057 Tampa Palms Blvd. W., Box 232, Tampa, FL 33647. Editor: Mr. Watts Martin. Buying f/df. Looking for tales with a mythic resonance, slanted toward "animal legend," stories of Coyote and Aesop's Fables. Payment: 1 cent/word upon publication.

SHADOWFALL: The Magazine of Horror & Dark Fantasy, Box 809, Mt. Ommaney QLD 4074, Australia. Editor: Marc D. van Elderen. Buying "atmospheric and erotic horror, dark fantasy." Reprints okay. Length: up to 5,000 words. Payment: 1 cent/word, reprints 1/2 cent/word. All manuscripts considered disposable unless SASE enclosed. Guidelines available for SAE and two IRC's. Reporting time: within 4 weeks.

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

KDW  
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#### \*\*\* 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 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 (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:smccaffe@vyvx.com](mailto:internet:smccaffe@vyvx.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 August issue: July 26

*We look forward to seeing you all*