



**Son  
Of:**



Official Journal of The

# FIVE

(Great Pagoda Insurance Company)



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

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

Special "A Jerry Bruckheimer Production"  
Issue • July 1998

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

The July meeting will be held Friday, July 10th, 7:00 P.M., at the home of Barbara Thrower's parents. Address: 8248 East 35th. Directions: Turn east off Memorial at 35th Street at the Vo-Tech stoplight.

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

Conestoga '98 was a resounding success, with an attendance of nearly five hundred, up from three hundred fifty in 1997. Next year's guests will include Harry Turtledove (GOH) and Gardner Dozois (TM), editor of ASIMOV'S.

The latest volume of YEAR'S BEST SF, edited by Gardner Dozois, is out. OSFWans who received Honorable Mentions were R.A. Lafferty ("The Emperor's Shoestrings," DESTINATION UNKNOWN), B.J. Thrower ("Noodle You, Noodle Me," ASIMOV'S, December, 1997), and K.D. Wentworth ("Another Country," DYING FOR IT, "In the Land of the Bears," REALMS OF FANTASY, December, 1997).

From a recent press release: "Minor Poet Celebrates On-Line Publication: The obscure vagabond poet Dana Pattillo whose surreal but somewhat pornographic tropes are well known to a small number of unfortunate poetasters and voyeurs in Denver, Tulsa, and other world capitals, recently managed to place a poem in the on-line edition of the MISSISSIPPI REVIEW (<http://sushi.st.usm.edu/mrw/>). The editorial turnaround was only ten months. This is Mr. Pattillo's first internet publication."

Chris Oseland's story "Pyramid Scheme" was published in THE FIFTH DIMENSION. She sold "Sand in Your Throat" to HISTORACLE.

K.D. Wentworth sold her short story "Colors" to FASF. The story will be retitled "The Embians."

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

Chris O.: FREEZER BURN, BARDIC RUNES, WORLDS OF FANTASY AND HORROR, WETBONES, ON SPEC, OVER MY DEAD BODY, JACKHAMMER

KDW: SWORD AND SORCERESS, AMAZING

### \*\*\* 10 THINGS YOU WILL NOT SEE IN "ARMAGEDDON" \*\*\*

By S.M.

*Armageddon*, the big-budget summer flick from Jerry Bruckheimer, takes the art of disaster movies to new heights with non-stop hyperkinetic action, killer special effects and noisy digital destruction. The entire film is edited like the trailer, and Bruckheimer lays it on thick with endless cloying images of patriotism, heroism, boy scouts, young undying love, most of the film *The Right Stuff* — all while death rains down from above! But if you were paying attention, you did NOT see the following while the human race grappled with near-extinction:

1. Mother breast-feeding newborn baby.
2. Nuns stringing rosary beads together.
3. Freckle-faced high school kids in gowns and mortar boards receiving their diplomas.
4. A Special Olympics athlete winning a track event.
5. A common foot soldier falling on a grenade to save his platoon.
6. The birth of a colt.
7. A sweating can of Pepsi.
8. A newborn infant held up by a shaman on a high cliff.
9. Chuck Norris in a Huey full of liberated Vietnam MIA's.
10. Cindy Crawford and Revlon makeup.

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

by KDW

June, 1998

We had twelve again this month. This time our blast from the past was Chris Oseland, newly arrived from Germany, recovered from jet lag, and on her way to Clarion. The cats were in fine form, we had lots of stories, and there was even a suggestion that we conduct a Nude Modeling Contest outside in the parking lot to determine the next in line to read. If you want to know more, attend the next meeting and we will tell all.

Chris Oseland: After far too long an absence, Chris brought us "All the Guts I'll Ever Need," the answer to every chitlins fan's fantasy. The characters were unique, from Nathan, the owner, who carries raw chitlins in his pocket to sort out the faint of heart, as well as to employ as a weapon, to the Korean-American narrator, one of the shop's regulars. Weirdos come in, lick the customers, complain about "tasteless people," and then the story gets really strange. It was satisfyingly crazy from beginning to end, and I loved it when the off-world visitor becomes the new health inspector.

Warren: Warren brought more of "Out Along the Wonder Road," though exactly what percentage it was of the finished product will be determined at a later date. We learn more about the child's father who disappeared on the amazing road, but left behind a statuette for his daughter. The nature of the road is hinted at and the narrator makes progress at solving the mystery. I liked the sense of wonder, all too often lacking in speculative fiction these days and the well rounded characters.

Paul: Paul read a fantasy short story, "The Fire God's Garden." "In the first days, the world was a world of fire"—Paul starts with these words and takes us on a lush, dizzying journey through another reality where a king acquires first a single golden feather taken from the nest of a dead phoenix, then a clockwork heart of gold, and commands his craftsman to shape a body to hold it. He takes the resulting being as his queen who then brings doom upon the kingdom, even though "there is no evil in her." I loved the rich use of language and image and the inevitable problems that occur, even though the king only followed his heart.

Rob: In Chapter 6 of the Jerkin Ripper novel, a new character is introduced, Allraic, the son of an Irish king who makes a pilgrimage with his family to St. Cuthberts, then begs to stay on. Popular with everyone, Allraic becomes attached to Robert, an act which divides the monastery between those similarly inclined and those who strongly disapprove. The story of Robert's terrible

early life is revealed in an attempt to condemn him and thereafter both Robert and Allraic suffer. I liked the continual interplay of character and history, which weaves a very rich tapestry indeed.

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

by Diana Carolyn Ice

DARE TO BE A GREAT WRITER: 329 KEYS TO POWERFUL FICTION by Leonard Bishop. Cincinnati, Ohio: Writer's Digest Books, 1988. ISBN 0-89879-312-2. \$15.95.

Do you know how "to enter into the mind of another character" when you are using first person viewpoint? When to stop foreshadowing? How to create a "double story"? When dialogue between different characters should be put in the same paragraph? How to pick up a dragging story with "flash incidents"? When to "show" and when to "tell"? How to handle a battle scene? What to do when you don't know what's going to happen next in your story? How introspective transitions can bridge time and space or be used to change viewpoints? How to create and use nested flashbacks? Or "describe the indescribable"?

There's so much terrific advice here. If you can find it.

You're not supposed to read this book straight through like a novel. It is divided into small sections, about a page long, and you are expected to dip in and out using the index and choose the areas you need advice on. To do that, a book either has to be well-organized or have a great index.

If there is any order at all in the way this book is set up, I couldn't find it. It looks as if someone tossed the sections down the stairs and cobbled them together as they lay. If, for example, you are interested in foreshadowing, the subject is split into nine sections scattered from page 27 to page 275. Flashbacks are in twenty-one different sections, similarly scattered.

And the topic index is woefully inadequate. I scribbled in an additional six sections to "Flashbacks" alone.

I read the book straight through because I wanted to review it, and I'm glad I did, since I found things I never would have otherwise and was able to add my notes to the index.

I suggest that you do read the book straight through. If

you even read one section a day, you'll have it done in less than a year and will have learned some super tips for all kinds of fiction writing. And you'll find answers to things you might not have known you had a problem with, or ways to improve your writing that you might never stumble across otherwise. Don't be afraid to annotate the existing index or even add your own topics. (I added fourteen, ranging from "Endings" to "Transitions.") This is one book that needs your personalization. It's not a book to check out of the library, anyway, but one to own and refer back to as your writing ability matures.

A book with as much for the advanced writer as for beginners (and maybe more), it really is wonderful and provocative for all its annoying lack of organization. Bishop challenges many (all?) of the "rules" and gives plenty of examples to show what he is getting at. His message is, that once we know and understand the rules, we too can move beyond amateur to professional and beyond professional to great—if we are willing to work and dare to break the rules. Well, if not great, at least better than we are!

### \*\*\* UPDATED MARKET REPORT \*\*\*

#### CHANGES

PRISONERS OF THE NIGHT, #11 will be reading 9/15/98-3/31/99.

PULP FICTION is out of business.

PURSUIT is folding.

Contrary to earlier reports, there are now no current plans to bring OMNI back to life.

WETBONES is officially defunct.

Address unsolicited submissions to ACE BOOKS to Anne Sowards. Otherwise, they will be returned unread.

WARNER ASPECT is not interested in ESP novels.

#### NEW LISTINGS

ALTERED PERCEPTIONS, P.O. Box 1026, Nash, TX 75569-1026. Buying sl/h. Length: up to 5,000 words. Payment: 1/4 cent/word.

BRUTARIAN, Box 25222, Arlington, VA 22202-9222. Editor: Dominick Salemi. Buying dl/h. Very heavily stocked. Payment: 10 cents/word.

CARPE NOCTEM, A Dark Culture Publication, 260 S. Woodruff Ave., Suite 105, Idaho Falls, ID 83401.

Editors: Catia Carnell. Buying "darkly romantic subject matter." No reprints. Length: 3,000 words max. Payment: 2 1/2 cents/word. \*\*\*Responds only if interested. Return time: 4 weeks.

EXCURSIONS, P.O. Box 25, Houghton, NY 14744. Editor: Tom Corrigan. True sl only. No h/l/etc. Length: up to 5,000 words. Payment: 1 cent/word.

GOTHIC.NET Webzine, 1368 Fulton, San Francisco, CA 94117. Send to: Publisher Darren MacKeeman. Fiction Editor: Paula Guran. E-mailed submissions: 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.

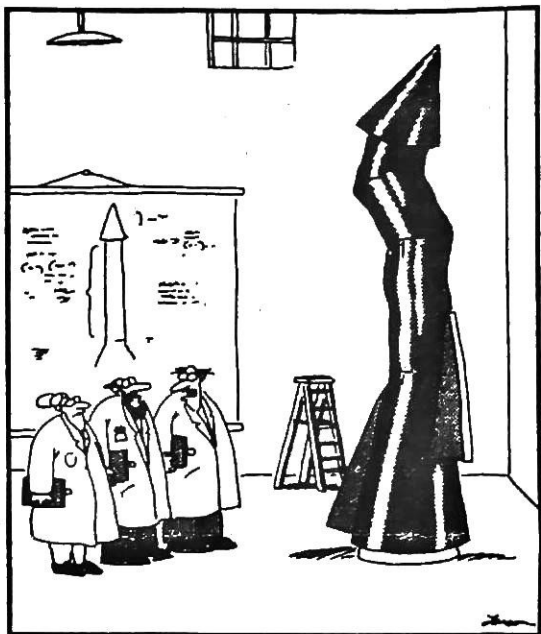
JACKHAMMER, 9220 Jill Lane, #2E, Schiller Park, IL 60176. Editor: Raechel Henderson. Buying sl/l/h. Length: up to 2,000 words. Payment: 1 cent/word. Address: [www.eggplant-productions.com](http://www.eggplant-productions.com)

MAGAZINE OF SPECULATIVE POETRY, Box 564, Beloit, WI 53512. Editor: Roger Dutcher. Pays 3 cents/word, minimum \$3/poem. SASE for guidelines. Sample: \$3.50.

#### CONTEST REPORT

POCKET BOOKS will be doing another Star Trek anthology/contest for new writers: STAR TREK: STRANGE NEW WORLDS II. Grand Prize is \$1,000 plus 10 cents/word for publication in the anthology. Rules and guidelines are too long to go into here. See [www.simonsays.com/startrek/features/strange.html](http://www.simonsays.com/startrek/features/strange.html) or send SASE to Strange New Worlds II, Star Trek Department, Pocket Books, 1230 6th Ave., New York, NY 10020. \*\*\*\*Open to non-pro writers only.

WRITERS OF THE FUTURE CONTEST, P.O. Box 1630, Los Angeles, CA 90078. Send an SASE for rules or find them in the back of one of the yearly anthologies. No entry fee required. You may enter sl/l/dl/ss. Prizes each quarter are \$1,000, \$750, and \$500, plus payment for publication. There is a yearly grand prize of \$5,000. Winners also receive a free trip to a week-long workshop and the awards ceremony. \*\*\*If you do not already have pro credits (3 published speculative fiction stories or one novel), you NEED to be entering this contest every quarter (!). You have nothing to lose but a bit of postage and the potential rewards are considerable.



"It's time we face reality, my friends. ...  
We're not exactly rocket scientists."



Rejected Movie Poster For "Armageddon"

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

Diana Carolyn Ice  
KDW  
Uncle Guido  
Warren  
Barbara Thrower's parents  
Jerry B.  
Planet-Killer Asteroids Everywhere!

\*\*\* 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 1998 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@wcom.com](mailto:simon.mccaffery@wcom.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 25

*We look forward to seeing you all.*

July 1998

## GPIC LITE

In a fit of dueling vacations, I am leaving town this week before Simon gets home from his, so we will not be able to produce the newsletter this weekend. I'm sending out the news portion so that interested members will be able to attend the coming meeting. We will return you to your regularly scheduled GPIC the week after the meeting.

--KDW

## MEETING

The August meeting will be held Friday, Aug. 14th, 7:00 P.M., at the K.D. Wentworth residence. Address: 6915 S. New Haven. Directions: Drive down 71st St. between Harvard and Yale. Turn north at the light (Oswego). Drive to 69th St. Turn left. Drive one block to New Haven and turn left again. The house is made of gray stone and will be on your left. Phone: 523-9729.

## UNLOCAL NEWS

Well known writer Robert A.W. "Doc" Lowndes died in July of complications from cancer. He had both written sf and held a number of positions in the field as editor. He was the author of five science fiction books and noted for his influence on science fiction.

Science fiction artist Paul Lehr also died in July.

## LOCAL NEWS

Sammie Twosocks Dog won the Conestoga Masquerade's Best-in-Show as Le Femme Akita.

Brad Sinor sold four articles to the LAWTON CONSTITUTION.

KDW's forthcoming Baen novel, BLACK/ON/BLACK, has been scheduled for February, 1999.

## GOOD REJECTIONS

Barbara Thrower: FASF

KDW: FASF, CICADA