



Brought to you by: K.D. Wentworth, Uncle Guido, Simon McCaffery & Chris Merle

**Special "I Wasn't Surprised By the Planet
of the Apes Surprise Ending" Issue •
July/August 2001**

***** Hello, OSFW! *****

***** NEWS *****

The August meeting will be held on Friday, August 10th, 7:00 P.M., at the Melissa Tatum residence. Address: 5317 S. Delaware Ave. Directions: From Harvard, turn west on 51st St. Go through the traffic light for the I-44 off-ramp, then turn left at the second turn that's actually a street (Columbia Pl.) and not a parking lot. Go down to the stop sign to 53rd. Turn left (east). The next street on your right will be Delaware Ave. The house will be the third one on the left, yellow brick with maroon shutters. Members are invited to bring snacks and beverages.

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

The Supreme Court ruled in favor of authors' rights in the case of The New York Times Company Vs. Tasini. Publishers must now compensate authors for using their work in electronic databases. Unfortunately, the battle is not yet over. The response from publishers so far has not been to compensate free-lancers, but to remove their work from the databases and change all new contracts so that electronic rights are signed away with no additional compensation.

Poul Anderson, beloved science fiction writer and Grand Master, died July 31st from prostate cancer. He had won many Hugo Awards and

Nebulas and had been inducted into the Science Fiction Hall of Fame. His well known works include BRAIN WAVE, TAU ZERO, and THE HIGH CRUSADE. In lieu of flowers, donations are requested to the SFWA Emergency Medical Fund.

A new INDIANA JONES movie, starring Harrison Ford, is definitely in the works.

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

Brad Sinor's chapbook of stories titled DARK AND STORMY NIGHT was published by Yard Dog Press and "Doing the Drive-in" appeared in BUBBAS OF THE APOCALYPSE. He also had an essay published in the CD anthology PERSONAL DEMONS. He sold "And the Wind Sang" to KNIGHT FANTASTIC and "Hunt" and "Small Matter" to ETERNAL NIGHT.

Amanda Gannon's first chapter of WHEN WINTER FALLS was posted as Editor's Choice on the Del Rey Internet Workshop site in the fantasy novel category.

K.D. Wentworth sold reprint rights on her REALMS OF FANTASY story "The Girl Who Loved Fire" to ETERNAL NIGHT. It's currently available at <http://www.eternalnight.co.uk/fiction/thegirlwholovedfire.html>. She also sold "The Leafsmith" to on-line magazine SPECULON and it should appear there in August. The first few pages of STARS/OVER/STARS are now available free as an audio-book file at <http://www.baen.com/audio.htm>.

Warren and Lana Brown's story "Sifting Out the

Hearts of Men" has been accepted by the anthology BOOK OF ALL FLESH.

*** GOOD REJECTIONS ***

V.E. Royce: received a good rejection from an agent

Matt Reiten: ANALOG, WRITERS OF THE FUTURE

*** CONTINUUM ***

June 2001

By M T Reiten

This is my first contribution to the newsletter. I have no idea how many folks actually showed up at the Bloodgood/Patillo residence for the monthly meeting. Rather I should say that I could have counted them if I had been paying proper attention. In the tradition of the sciences, there were more than five and less than fifty.

Sean Johnston read his fantasy short story "Vengeance." The story followed the quest put upon Eric, a lowborn man whose wife Rebecca had been murdered and raped by a local lord. Eric receives a summons from the king and finds out the spirit of his wife has taken the spirit of the king's daughter hostage and vengeance is the price to return the princess to her former self. The king elevates Eric with a temporary title and sets him off to deliver the death warrant to the offending lord. Eric discovers the injustice of his wife's vengeance and finds that he is unwilling to serve as executioner, though somewhat after the fact. The wealth of ideas that the story evoked prompted a lively discussion. I personally found the description of Eric's listlessness in the wake of the loss of his wife and the development of his character interesting.

Paul Batteiger performed his humorous fantasy short story "The Oldest Profession." Apparently this story had been presented to a gathering of OSFW approximately six years ago in an unfinished form. It isn't surprising to me that a

piece like this one had become legendary and earned an alternate title of "The Bathroom of the Gods." Starting out innocently enough, the main character, Christine, has her cat rescued from a tree in a suburban Minnesota town by none other than the Norse god of thunder himself, Thor. Did I mention that breasts feature prominently in this story? Following the truest traditions of the pre-Christian pantheons, the randy god and a somewhat awe struck and tongue tied heroine hit it off (nudge-nudge wink-wink.) Word gets around and soon Christine is visited by amorous deities taking junkets to the mortal realm. Feeling overwhelmed after a while she expands her operation, enlisting her sister and various friends. Paul displayed a wonderful application of monosyllabic expressions and descriptions of various events, hilarious without ever breaking the PG-13 rating barrier.

Amanda Gannon presented the next installment in her fantasy novel When the Winter Falls. Martin and his staunch friend track the big wounded wolf back to its lair, an old cave system. That this was "not a holy place" is soon revealed. There they discover the baron--thought dead but the body was never found--quite alive and fit. Something is strange about the baron, though they have little time to wonder as the great wolf makes an appearance. With knives, hatchets, muskets, and fiery oil they fight free, if not unscathed, of the beast. At the end of the chapter, the wolf lies motionless in the middle of the cave amongst rubble after a fall. A fast paced section, Martin shines as his knowledge and experience as a scout keeps them alive and allows them to rescue the baron.

*** DEAR EDDY ***

Dear Eddy:

I understand that the latest successful Star Wars, Missile Defense Shield, test was aided by a beacon on the target. Is this fair. I mean, can we count on Russia, China, North Korea, and/or miscellaneous "rogue" nations to put beacons on their warheads if the, God forbid, fire them at us?

Yours,

Wondering in Washataw

Dear Wondering:

As they say: "All's fair in love and war." The initial plan was actually to smear "bacon" on the target vehicle, then have the anti-nuke be piloted by starving beagle hounds. But then someone in the Whitehouse pointed out that they thought beagles couldn't actually track a scent in space. This was quickly researched by the brain trust prepared to pour your tax dollars into the anti-missile plan, and it was determined that a "beacon" was the targeting aid of choice.

Don't worry though, the out-of-work beagles were promised supervisory positions on the drilling crews targeting Alaskan wildlife preserves.

Yours for better bacon, er, beacons,

Eddy

<< Officials Say Beacon Aids Anti-Missile Test
By Charles Aldinger WASHINGTON (Reuters) - A U.S. anti-missile weapon was able to destroy a test warhead in space on July 14 partly because a beacon on the target signaled its location during much of the flight, defense officials said on Friday. The officials confirmed a report by Defense Week that the "hit-to-kill" weapon was guided to the vicinity of the speeding warhead high over the Pacific Ocean by signals from the electronic beacon in a successful, highly publicized test. But they stressed in interviews with Reuters that the weapon, fired at the oncoming warhead from Kwajalein Atoll, used its own on-board seekers and navigation system to home in on and shatter the target in the final phase of the test. Critics have charged that such tests to date have been unrealistic, including this month's second successful U.S. military interception of a warhead in four tries. The test gave impetus to President Bush's controversial plan to build a defense against missile attack. "The only thing that it (the beacon) does is help get the booster in the right direction," said Air Force Lt. Col. Rick Lehner, a spokesman for the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization. "The weapon

finds the target and hits it." "We have made no secret of this. We have been very open," Navy Rear Adm. Craig Quigley, a Pentagon spokesman, said. He and others conceded that real warheads in an attack would not carry such helpful beacons, but that the beacons would be required in a number of future tests.

COMPENSATING FOR RADARS

In a report to be published on Monday, Defense Week said the electronic beacon was used to help the weapon compensate for deficiencies in the current U.S. ground radar-tracking setup and get into the general area of the dummy warhead. Lehner said money was being sought from Congress for a powerful and sophisticated "X-Band" radar near Hawaii, or perhaps on a floating platform in the Pacific, to provide better real-time tracking of the target in midflight. Defense officials said U.S. military radars currently located at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California and Kwajalein were too close to launches of the target warhead and kill vehicle to give a clear picture of the target's midcourse flight. In this month's half-hour test, a sensor on a space satellite detected the launch of the missile containing the target from Vandenberg on its 4,000-mile (6,600 km) flight to the targeting area. The rocket also carried a Mylar balloon as a decoy to see if the hit-to-kill weapon would be fooled into deviating from the warhead and hitting the balloon. It was not. "The beacon (on the warhead) tells it (the hit-to-kill weapon) roughly where in space to start looking," Quigley said. "We will get to the point where we develop real final systems. But you can't go any faster now." The next test of the anti-missile system is now tentatively set for October, and Quigley said the test and others for the foreseeable future would use such beacons until a more sophisticated radar array was in place. NOT THE "FINAL VERSION" "You can find all kinds of elements of the current tests that are not part of the final version" of a missile defense, he told Reuters. Keith Englander, technical director of the ballistic missile program, acknowledged in an interview with Defense Week that the target transponder gave the hit-to-kill projectile a box in space at which to aim. But thereafter, he said, the Kwajalein radar gave the interceptor three

"in-flight target updates" on the warhead's flight trajectory that refined the box to half the original size. The kill vehicle did the rest, firing its positioning thrusters 28 times to collide directly with the warhead at more than 14,000 mph. Phillip Coyle, who until last year oversaw testing of the missile-shield system and other military programs, told Defense Week the Pentagon deserved credit for hitting the target. But he said the active electronic beacon was a big help. The beacon was "like a pinger saying, 'Here I am,'" Coyle said.>>

***** Movie Reviews: LAURA CROFT:
TOMB RAIDER and ATLANTIS *****

By Randy Farran

Okay kids, what important history lesson did we learn from this weekend's new movies?

That's right -- the ancients were really, really smart but chock full o' hubris.

First, there's LAURA CROFT: TOMB RAIDER, the much-hyped big screen Treatment of the video game. You'd think that the somewhat dubious success of such movies as SUPER MARIO BROS., MORTAL COMBAT, WING COMMANDER, and even last year's DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS would make Hollywood want to steer clear of This sort of thing, but apparently not.

In TOMB RAIDER, we get Angelina Jolie as Laura Croft, a sort of female Indiana Jones who leaves more ruined archeological sights in her wake than he did. She discovers (by way of a dream) that her late father, Lord Croft (Jon Voight) left her a mysterious clock which is soon stolen by a rival temple-destroying archeologist. After the clock is stolen, she finds a note from her father telling her that this clock is vital to finding the two halves of an ancient artifact which was created by the Illuminati thousands of years ago, and that if the two halves are put together during a major alignment of the planets (which just happens to be a couple of days away), the one with the artifact will get control over time, god-like powers, etc. The note

explains that it is vital for her to use the clock to find the two halves and destroy them, so that they will not fall into the wrong hands (i.e. the current members of the Illuminati).

Why he doesn't tell her to just destroy the clock in the first place, or why -HE- didn't destroy it himself (saving his beloved daughter a lot of danger) isn't really explained, but then, if he had, Laura wouldn't have an excuse to pack up a lot of weaponry (and her breasts) and go running around the world fighting CGI demons and destroying archeological sights. Now that Hollywood has shown that it can create just about anything imaginable with CGI, it will be interesting to see how long it will be before they write stories to go along with them (if ever), for there isn't much in the way of writing here, and Laura doesn't have a fraction of Indy's charm. But I gather I'm not the audience that this movie is aiming for (for which I am thankful).

That's about it, except I would like to point out that Chris Barrie (Rimmer from RED DWARF) shows up as Laura's plucky butler (and provided the few chuckles that I got from the film. Also, is it just me, or do Angelina Jolie's lips make her look like some kind of mutant?

Next is ATLANTIS, the latest animated Disney feature, which starts out millennia ago with the denizens of Atlantis achieving an incredible technological culture but in an attempt to use that technology for the art of war, create a weapon so powerful that they have to protect their city by sinking it beneath the sea (what -WAS- it with these ancients, anyway?).

We then jump forward to 1914 and a young archeologist named Milo Thatch (Michael J. Fox) heading up an expedition to seek out the fabled sunken City in a submarine that looks more than a little like the Nautilus from Disney's 20,000 LEAGUE UNDER THE SEA.

While not perfect, this is the far better of the two films, in that it has, well, a story. A simple story, admittedly, but writing is so far superior, with lots of banter going on between the characters (interesting how these animated characters are more fully developed than those found in the live-

action TOMB RAIDER). There's a big vocal cast in the film including James Garner, John Mahoney, Don "Father Guido Sarducci" Norvello, Jim Varney, Claudia Christian, and Leonard Nimoy (since he's gotten older, he has one of the coolest voices!). Oh, and probably most important, while it is a Disney feature, there isn't one cutesy animal or song in the whole thing! I hope that this film does well enough for Disney to realize that they can do an animated film without having to produce a soundtrack album to go with it.

***** MOVIE REVIEW:
Planet of the Apes *****

"Visually stunning....emotionally inert."

***** MARKET UPDATE *****

by KDW

CHANGES

FEARSMAG.COM is dead.

TERRA INCOGNITA has a new address: 52 Windermere Ave., #3, Landsdowne, PA 19050-1812.

WOULD THAT IT WERE is open again.

ANALOG is overstocked on long stories and now looking for work under 7,500 words.

DARK FLUIDITY is closed.

SPECULON is closed until September 1st.

PLANET RELISH is now published bi-monthly.

GOTHIC.NET is closed until further notice.

ETERNAL TWILIGHT is closed until the end of 2001.

TAPESTRY (formerly SOUTHERN GOTHIC MAGAZINE) and BONETREE are dead.

***** NEW LISTINGS *****

DARK TERRORS 6: The Gollancz Book of Horror, 194 Station Rd., Kings Heath, Birmingham, B147TE, England. Editor: David Sutton. Annual anthology seeking "contemporary cutting-edge supernatural and psychological horror and dark fantasy." No word limit. No electronic submissions. Include cover letter with e-mail address and SAE plus two IRC's. Send only disposable manuscripts. *****Deadline: October 31, 2001.**

FUTURE ORBITS, Vander Neut Publications LLC, P.O. Box 239, Hatboro, PA 19040. Editor: Tom Vander Neut. New bimonthly science fiction magazine to be launched this fall, published in electronic book format, and distributed via e-mail. No h/f/df. You can register at <http://www.futureorbits.com> for a free copy of the premiere issue. No reprints. Payment: 6-10 cents/word. Length: 5,000 words preferred, but will look at up to 7,500 words. Return time: 1 month.

HAPPY, 240 E. 35th St., Suite 11A, New York, NY 10016. Editor: (?) Bayard (no first name listed). Quarterly publishing all genres. Buys "the best damn writing in any genre that speaks the truth and advances our human condition." Dislikes "work that reeks of bad television reruns and Hollywood claptrap cacadoodie . . . racist/sexist pandering . . . bourgeois boredom." No e-mail subs. Reprints from noncompeting markets okay. Include cover letter with brief bio. Length: 5,000 words. Payment: 1/2-50 cents/word upon publication. Return time: 1-4 weeks.

HORROR GARAGE, 8738 W. 86th Ave., Arvada, CO 80005. Asst. Editor: Michele Patterson. Print magazine published twice yearly buying "the best in original dark fiction." Enclose an SASE. Even if you do not wish your manuscript returned, enclose a letter-size SASE for their response. No length mentioned. Payment: \$100-\$200. Sample: \$6.66 (Horror Garage, POB 53, Nesconset, NY 11767—make check to Under the Volcano, Inc.). Website: www.darkecho.com/horrorgarage/gls.html

CONTEST REPORT

STAR TREK: STRANGE NEW WORLDS V

No entry fee. Open to nonprofessional writers over 18 who are legal residents of the United States and Canada. Entrants must not have published more than two stories on a professional basis. Length: up to 7500 words. Story must not have been published previously. Author's name, story title, and page number should appear on every page. Stories must be set in one of the STAR TREK time frames and center around STAR TREK characters. Send to STRANGE NEW WORLDS V, Star Trek Department, Pocket Books, 1230 Sixth Avenue, New York, NY 10020. ***Deadline: Manuscripts must be received by October 1st, 2001. Prizes: \$1000, \$600, and \$400 as bonus advances above the anthology rate of 10 cents/word. Up to 20 Honorable Mentions will also be selected and paid 10 cents/word for publication in the anthology.

*** MANY THANKS TO ***

KDW & Guido & Bear
Randy Farran
Chris Merle
Warren & Lana Brown
M. T. Reiten

*** SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION ***

A subscription to Son of GPIC, the official newsletter of the Oklahoma Science Fiction Writers, may be obtained online or by mail. \$13 for the hard copy of the newsletter, \$15 for a family membership, \$7 for the electronic-only version of the newsletter. Mail a check or money order in the correct amount, prorated by quarter, to:

K.D. Wentworth, Treasurer
6915 New Haven
Tulsa, OK 74136-2844
(Checks should be made out to K.D. Wentworth)

Please note: An "X" on your mailing label indicates OSFW has no record of either 2001 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.**

*** 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.

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 September issue Sept. 30.