



Brought to you by: K.D. Wentworth, Uncle Guido, Warren Brown & Chris Merle

Special Black Hole Issue • June 2002

*** HELLO, OSFW ***

The June meeting will take place on June 15th, 7:00 P.M., at the Brad and Sue Sinor residence. Address: 1127 North Juniper, Broken Arrow. Directions: From Tulsa, take the Broken Arrow Expressway (Hwy 51) east to 145th E. Ave. Turn right (south) and then left (east) at 71st St./Kenosha. Pass the Git'N'Go and turn left (north) onto Juniper Pl. Go one block and turn right onto Lansing. Drive one block and turn left onto Juniper Ave. The telephone number is 918-258-0742. As always, attendees are invited to bring drinks and snacks.

*** UNLOCAL NEWS ***

Manuscript preparation tips are available online from Nebula winning author Vonda McIntyre at :

<http://www.sfwawriting.com/vonda/vonda.htm>

Conestoga 6 will be held July 19-21 in Tulsa at the Sheraton Tulsa. GOH will be Elizabeth Moon with Joe R. Lansdale as Special Guest and Lee Martindale as Toastmistress. The cost is \$30 for the entire event.

Armadillocon 24 will be August 16-18 at the Omni Southpark in Austin. GOH will be Martha Wells with Joe R. Lansdale as Toastmaster and Special Guest Robin Hobb.

The cost is \$30 until July 31st, then \$35 at the door.

Worldcon 2004 will be held in Boston. GOH will be Terry Pratchett.--KDW

LOCAL NEWS

In April 2002 OSFW member Charlie Clark of Lawton, OK was recognized as the No. 2 reviewer for all of Oklahoma, western Arkansas and north Texas by The Associated Press for the year 2001.

Competition included all of the reviewers of the Tulsa World, The Daily Oklahoman, Norman Transcript, also Fort Smith, Wichita Falls and others.

Charlie is the Styles editor, columnist (On the Scene), and arts & entertainment critic at The Lawton Constitution. He also does weekly film reviews for KSWO TV (ABC) in Lawton.

Charlie has twice in the past been named No. 1 reviewer ('92, '93) and several times received honorable mention for reviews and columns.

His past SF-related interviews have included Forry Ackerman, David Cherry, C.J. Cherryh, Brad Sinor, Tom Selleck, George Takei.

Belated congratulations to Charlie. --ED
[One of our GPIC mottos: "All the news that

eventually fits, prints.”]

Cache of Mummified Editors Found at KDW Residence

Archeologists and Police are still exploring the large cavern recently discovered beneath the K.D. Wentworth residence. The cavern appears to contain dozens of what scholars believe to be ancient book and magazine editors. Lead archeologist, Dr. Glen Sifter said, “This is an amazing find. These guys seem to be in a wonderful state of preservation, right down to their red pencils, and what appear to be slush piles.” When questioned about the possibility of criminal charges being brought, Sgt. Bob Bighat of the OSBI replied, “Well, these guys are pretty ancient, and, after all, they’re only editors. --Eddy



—Entrance to cache of editors.—

From the Conestoga 6 Programming Desk More on GoH Elizabeth Moon

Last month I gave you a bit of information about Elizabeth Moon’s background and then told you more than you probably wanted to know about her Paksennarion books. This month I’ll try and keep it shorter, even though I’m going to hit more books in this article. Let me start by introducing you to the series dubbed The Serrano Legacy, and I’ll wrap up with a

hodgepodge of miscellaneous items.

The Serrano Legacy is really two series of books set in the same universe, with somewhat overlapping characters. In this universe, humans have spread out and colonized a number of planets. Those planets have formed both a political and a military union, each of which contains a number of predominant families. The Serrano family is one of the military families, and although it plays an important role in the series, it is not the only central set of characters. This series is fairly classic space opera/adventure. The books, in chronological order of both writing and placement in the series, are *Hunting Party* (1993), *Sporting Chance* (1994), *Winning Colors* (1995), *Once a Hero* (1997), *Rules of Engagement* (1998), *Change of Command* (1999), and *Against the Odds* (2000).

The first three books focus on Heris Serrano, who has been kicked out of the military in disgrace and becomes a commercial ship captain. One subplot that runs throughout the entire series concerns the impact of rejuvenation technology, a medical treatment that allows people to essentially turn back the clock and regain their youth. Moon handles this in a very complex, intriguing fashion, exploring both the positive and negative impacts that such a technology can have. On the one hand, both the political and military systems can benefit from the wisdom and knowledge of experienced leaders. On the other hand, however, what happens to the younger generation? Their ability to grow and move up in society and the relevant power structures is all but frozen. Moon deftly weaves a story of power used and misused, which in the beginning all lands on Heris Serrano’s head. She must sort out the good guys from the bad and figure out how to put things back on track. The entire trilogy is full of wonderful characters and crackling

adventure. I highly recommend it.

The series really comes into its own, however, with *Once a Hero*, which switches focus to Esmay Suiza, a junior officer who played a pivotal role in the huge battle fought at the end of *Winning Colors*. I simply adore Esmay. She is smart and strong, but at the same time she is not a comic book character or a two-dimensional space opera hero. She has problems, both personal and family, and must struggle to overcome those in order to realize her full potential. Although characters from the initial trilogy play important roles in the last four books, Esmay has become the central character through which we continue to see the troubles and solutions of this universe. I discovered this universe through *Once a Hero*, which is certainly just as good a starting point as *Hunting Party*. I would advise starting with one or the other of those two, however, and reading from there.

Rules of Engagement, the follow-up to *Once a Hero*, is equally as strong in plot, action, and character development. The last two books in the series, however, are not quite up to the same level. They are certainly good books and worth reading, especially to see how Moon eventually brings all the problems full circle and sets the government onto a new path. I found the last two books a bit disappointing, however, in light of the strength of the first five. They just didn't have the same level of complexity and seemed a bit scattered at points. There is room for more books in this universe, but I hope Moon takes a bit of a breather from it and then comes back fresh in a couple of years.

As if the Paks and Serrano series weren't enough, Moon also has five other books out there. Two are co-written with Anne McCaffrey, *Sassinak* (1990) and *Generation Warriors* (1991). Both books are in something called the Planet Pirates series,

and between the two comes *Death of Sleep*, written by McCaffrey and Jody Lynn Nye. I read the two with Moon, but not the Nye one. I don't recommend these unless you are just a die-hard Moon fan (like me) and want to read her entire body of work. *Sassinak* was poorly paced, with way too much crammed into the first half and the last twenty percent very difficult to follow. In the first few chapters, *Sassinak* is captured as a child by pirates, raised a slave, escapes, gets rescued, gets adopted, and goes to the military academy, graduates and gets commissioned. Whew! *Generation Warriors* seems to pick up at the end of *Sassinak*, despite the fact that there is an intervening book. It made me suspicious that the reason I couldn't follow the end of *Sassinak* is that it overlaps with the Nye book, which provides the full explanation. I deeply resent books that don't stand on their own. There are unmistakable hallmarks of Moon's style in these books, with nice action sequences, but the poor pacing harms the character development and I just didn't bond with them the way I have the characters in her other books. These are not staying on my shelf for a second read.

Lunar Activity (1990) and *Phases* (1997) are both collections of short stories. I have not read *Lunar Activity*, but apparently many of its stories are reprinted in *Phases*. I thoroughly enjoyed the mix of stories in the latter collection and definitely recommend it.

The last of Moon's books is *Remnant Population* (1996), which appeared on the final Hugo ballot for best novel. Although I hold both Paks and Esmay dear, and re-read their stories more times than I care to admit, I think *Remnant Population* probably is Moon's best work, and a truly outstanding novel it is. The story takes the basic "oops, we put a colony on an already inhabited planet" theme and spins a fabulous story with a simply amazing main character. The Paks books are wonderful examples of fantasy,

and the Serrano Legacy is great space adventure, but *Remnant Population* transcends genre and is a fabulous book. If you read nothing else of Moon's, you must read this one.

Well, that's it for the pre-convention report. I hope to see you all at Conestoga 6 July 19-21. We have a great line-up of guests, and (at least in my opinion), some interesting panels. See you there! --Melissa Tatum

MARKET UPDATE

CHANGES

ETERNAL TWILIGHT has been reported dead.

MAELSTROM SF is dead and will be replaced by SFREADER.COM, which has the same guidelines. It takes work up to 8,000 words and pays \$20 (\$10 for reprints). Dave Felts is still the editor.

DARK REGIONS and TERRA INCOGNITA are both on hiatus.

FLESH AND BLOOD has raised its pay rate to 2-3 cents/word.

THE URBANITE is becoming an annual print anthology. Address: P.O. Box 4737, Davenport, IA 52808. Editor: Mark McLaughlin. They will buy dark fiction of the following types:
h/sf/f/humor/experimental/slipstream/surreal.
Payment: 3 cents/word. Length: 3,000 words, query for anything longer.

ABSOLUTE MAGNITUDE has raised its pay rates to 7-10 cents/word upon acceptance.

SCIFI.COM has a new address: Ellen Datlow, Fiction Editor, PMB 391, 511 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10011-8436.

The new editor of DRAGON MAGAZINE is Jesse Decker.

NEW LISTINGS

3SF, 31 Shottsford, Wessex Gardens, London W2 5LG, United Kingdom. Editor: Liz Holliday. Buying f/sf/df. Hard sf and high fantasy both okay. Length: up to 10,000 words. Payment: £30 per 1000 words (about 4.5 cents/word). Buying first English language serial print rights. For reply, either include email address or self-addressed envelope with 2 International Reply Coupons.

CITY SLAB, City Slab Publications, 1705 Summit Ave., Apt. #105, Seattle, WA 98122. Editor: Dave Lindschmidt. New full-sized magazine to be published quarterly. Will debut in October, 2002. "I want authors to show me their city (real or imagined); make me afraid to tempt her corners . . . will aim for mature audiences with horror and horror/crime mixes." Will accept a few reprints. Length: 5,000 words. Payment: Featured authors will receive 5 cents/word. The rest will receive 1-3 cents/word. Buying first serial rights. Response: up to 1 month. You may send manuscripts as hard copy or email (in body of letter only, no attachments) to Dave@CitySlab.com.

CRIMEWAVE, TTA Press, 5 Martins Lane, Witcham, ely, Cambs CB6 2 LB, United Kingdom. Bi-annual buying crime/mystery/thriller with h/df elements. Length: 15,000 words. Payment: £50 upon publication. Send disposable manuscript with email address for reply.

DESCANT, P.O. Box 314, Station P, Toronto, ON, Canada M5S 2S8. Editors: Peter Darbyshire and Brian Panhuyzen. Quarterly journal which is publishing a one-time speculative fiction issue. Buying f/h/sf.

*****Deadline: July 31, 2002.** Length: up to 6,000 words, 3,000 preferred. Payment: \$100 upon publication. Will respond via email, if you include address. Otherwise, include 2 International Reply Coupons.

EARTHBASE 3000, 686 Jakes Ct., McMinnville, OR 97128. Editor: David Rowell Workman. Buying sf/f/h. Length: 2,000-4,000 words. Payment: \$25 upon publication.

FUTURE SHOCKS

(www.futureshocks.com). Editor: Rob Young. Buying sf/f/h. Length: 10,000 words. Payment: 1-3 cents/word up to 5,000 words, 1/2 cent/word after. Send work to Rob@Granites.net with "Submission" in the subject line.

IDEOMANCER UNBOUND

(unbound@ideomancer.com). Editors: Chris Clarke and Mikal Trimm. Anthology buying sf/f/h/slipstream to be published online at Fictionwise late in 2002. *****Deadline: June 30th, 2002.** Attach stories as Rich Text Format (.rtf). Type "Unbound Submission" followed by title in subject line. Include which genre you believe this story to be on the manuscript, along with your name, address, email address, and word count. Payment: \$20 on acceptance, 4% of profits on sales over 600 copies. Buying first worldwide electronic rights.

MOTA 2003, Triple Tree Publishing, P.O. Box 5684, Eugene, OR 97405. Editor: Karen Joy Fowler. Annual anthology seeking fiction with the theme of courage. Length: 10,000 words, prefer under 8,000. Payment: \$100 upon publication. Mark submission envelope MOTA. *****Deadline: November 1, 2002.** No email submissions.

NOVA SF, 17983 Paseo Del Sol, Chino Hills, CA 91709-3947. Editor: Wesley Kawato. Buying sf and looking for "stories that portray Christianity in a positive manner

... not every story must have religious content." Send cover letter with list of previous credits. Length: 7,000 words. Payment: 1/2 cent/word upon publication. Email: NovaSF@

*****The Moon Pyramid*****

**A Tom Corbett ViewMaster Adventure
(continued from May Gpic)**

SCENE THREE - Inside the Polaris, strange forces were at work. An acceleration of 5 G's crushed them back in their seats. Just barely able to move their fingers, Tom and Captain Strong activated the button controls on their chair arms. Tom fired a series of steering rockets correcting their course. Captain Strong watched the needle of the velocity meter creep up to 9.7 miles per second, then switched off all rocket motors. They were in free flight, and would coast until caught by the gravitational field of the moon.

The engines dead, Astro rose from the power bank, and being weightless because the ship was in free fall, kept on rising.



"Astro has found it - the secret of anti-gravity!" Roger observed.

Floating over the control panel, Astro wailed, "How do I lose it?"

Using the free-fall straps that dotted the bulkheads, Roger pulled Astro down. Captain Strong then turned on the floor magnets enabling them to walk with their metal-soled shoes.

SCENE FOUR - In the vast emptiness of interplanetary space occasional swarms of meteors were encountered. Most of these were dust clouds that ground harmlessly against the ship's shining beryllium hull. The massive meteors were charted and could be detected by radar, but, once in a thousand times. . . . A meteor hit the Polaris!

A jagged nickel-iron rock pierced the ship, glowed instantly and punched its way out again. An ominous hissing told them that the precious air of the control room was escaping into space.

"Seal the control room," ordered Captain Strong, "and suit up. Get your damage control equipment. You can make a permanent repair outside."



SCENE FIVE - Climbing out of the emergency space lock, the Space Cadets anchored both magnetized shoes onto the ship's outer plates and lifting one foot at a time carefully proceeded to the meteor puncture. Astro beat down the jagged edges of the hole so that the patch would fit flush, then Tom ran an expert weld around the patch flowing the metal together.

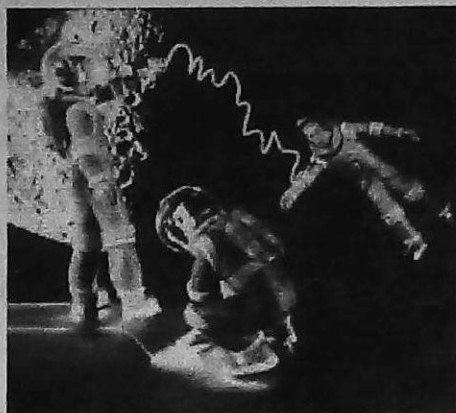
Roger smoothed the weld and followed the other two around to the other puncture, but lifted both feet for just an instant and floated off! *

"Help! Tom! Astro! I'm adrift!" he yelled frantically into his suit radio. Burdened with all the welding equipment, Tom quickly said, "Astro, throw him a line before he drifts out of reach!"

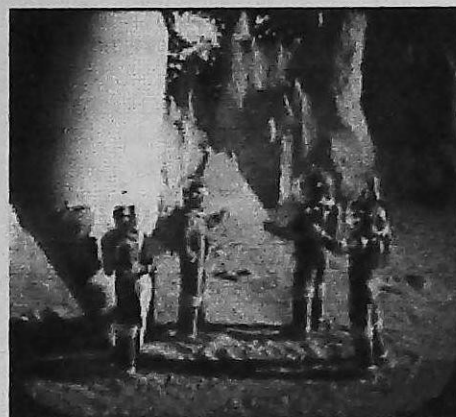
Astro unhooked the nylon rope from his belt and snaked it out to Roger who drew it in with a big sigh of relief.

"I've got a big one on the hook," Astro called out merrily.

"Well, reel him in," Tom advised. "By the size of that moon, we must be nearing the turnover point. Let's finish up and go Inside!"



SCENE SIX - The Polaris flew over the crater-pitted moonscape until Roger pinpointed the pyramid in a deep crater in the ground radarscope. Captain Strong leaned back saying, "You land her, Tom. I'll watch."



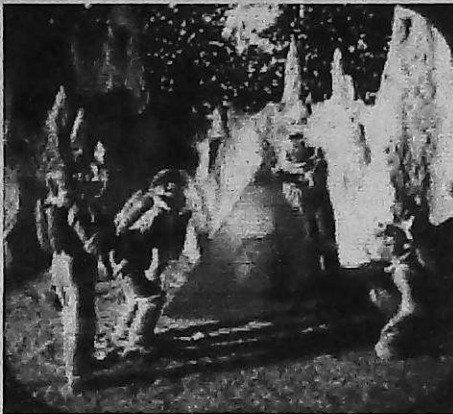
Landing a rocket ship is the final test of a space pilot's skill. Tom had practiced the maneuver a hundred times in Academy trainers but this was his first touch down! Just as the ship reached the rim of the crater, he punched the firing buttons that pulled the rocket's nose straight up and the

Polaris rose vertically for five miles before stalling.

But as it fell, tail first, Tom powered the great atomic rockets and juggled the sensitive gyros letting the ship settle down on a roaring jet flame until its tail vanes crunched lightly into the lunar dust - a perfect landing.

SCENE SEVEN - Because of the moon's lighter gravity, they weighed only about 40 pounds so they had to walk carefully to avoid bounding into the air.

Before the famous Moon Pyramid, they paused a moment wondering what ancient people had eroded this ageless work of art and for what purpose. Then Tom raised the small pyramid to the missing top of the Moon Pyramid and felt it tugged from his hand. It clicked into place - a perfect fit! Instantly, the whole pyramid, now tip and all, turned transparent!



"It's Mars!" cried Roger, gazing in awe at a globe inside the pyramid.

"That red dot near the crossing of those two canals is the only mark on it," commented Captain Strong, making careful notes of its location.

"This must be a signpost," said Tom. "All aboard. Next stop Mars!"

*** MANY THANKS TO ***

KDW & Guido & Bear

Amanda Gannon
Chris Merle
Warren & Lana Brown
Randy Farran
Eddy
Frozen Stem Cells From R.R. Bodine
Matt Reiten
RAL
Melissa Tatum

*** 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)

*** 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 Warren at underland@aol.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 July issue: June 30