



Special 40 percent more Issue • June 1995

LOCATION CHANGE ALERT!!!!

The June meeting will be held Friday, June 9th, at 7 p.m. at the Wentworth residence, 10804 East 27th Street. Phone number is (918) 665-6259. Please bring your dues if you haven't paid yet.

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

Mike McQuay, one of the founding members of Oklahoma Science Fiction Writers, and a well known author in the field, died Saturday, May 27th, of a heart attack. One of his most popular books in recent years, *MEMORIES*, was also a finalist for the Philip K. Dick Award. He will be missed. (OSFW made a donation to the American Film Institute in Mike's name, according to his family's wishes.)

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

Leslie Miller sold a story to *SWORD AND SORCERESS XIII*.

Alma Garcia's story "The Chronoprobe" was published in *ZERO GRAVITY FREEFALL #1*.

OSFW's man in Denver, **Henry LeFevre**, can be reached on-line at internet:henry.lefevre@csst.com

Barbara Thrower had good rejections from *ZERO GRAVITY FREEFALL*, *ADVENTURES OF SWORD & SORCERY*, *TOMORROW*, *PIRATE WRITINGS*, *SWORD & SORCERESS*, and *SPACE & TIME*.

Dr. Elinor Verville (Barb Thrower's mom) has had a mainstream, non-fiction hardcover published by Humana Press, *The Parents' Preschooler Dictionary — Commonsense Solutions to Early*

Child-hood Behavior Problems. She had a signing at the ABA Convention in Chicago on June 3.

Warren received a personal rejection from the Big Man at ASIMOV's.

Simon succeeded in confusing Algis Budrys with a submission to *TOMORROW*.

KDW's signing of *MOONSPEAKER* and *HOUSE OF MOONS* at Waldenbooks in Woodland Hills Mall is being rescheduled for sometime in July. No details yet on when.

R.R. Bodine set a new altitude record (16,500 feet) for a manned balloon/washing machine (see related story on page 3).

***** CONTINUUM *****

May 1995

or

*Girls who smell fear,
Bats fly too near,
Pass a leg and an ear*

By S.M.

The May meeting was held at the McCaffery home, and despite a few inevitable interruptions from their rambunctious offspring, it was an enjoyable meeting. There was some speculation that the lower attendance at recent meetings might be due to members who, having read at the prior meeting, skip the next meeting thinking

their chances of reading will be slim to none. Whatever the true reason, the result is that a number of die-hard members get to read at virtually every meeting.

Ronda read Chapters 3 and 4 of her sf novel, *Chimera*. In an effectively-written flashback to 1997, we are introduced to 4-year-old Susie, who can smell emotions and obviously has had her genes tampered with. Susie is visited by her aunt, Sarah Nicholson, who takes an exceptional interest in the girl.

Next we leap forward to 2019. Geneticist Rob Chrysler has been summoned to D.C. to meet with members of the Committee. The powerful Committee is comprised of former members of various world intelligence agencies, all of which have been officially disbanded. Rob is being offered \$1 million to help with some research related to inter-species gene swapping and the human "chimeras." While in D.C. he meets Ann Olson and persuades her to have dinner with him.

Barbara read the Chapter 7 of her dark fantasy novel *All The Warriors of Pell*. We are introduced to a number of interesting characters, including 70-year-old Sean Neill, a retired poet and Rick Denny's aunt. We learn more about Denny's family history and his mother as Denny travels to Sean's dairy farm, where he was reared. I liked the details about how Denny ended up a policeman, the eerie plague of bats that descend on the Neill farm, and the prophetic poem that warns of the coming of the Black Dog and the plague of bats. I also liked the descriptions of the bats, with their "arrowhead noses," "gristly ears" and "vampire smiles."

Susan Bischoff read "The Urgent Hunger," the gruesome tale of Jason, a teenager who escapes from a cage in his basement to do battle with a family of ghouls. After dispatching his brother, Brad, who was snacking on the remains of Mom, Jason runs from the house. Pursued by his undead father, he makes his way to the family tomb at the local cemetery. But Dad manages to break in and wounds Jason with an ax.

As Jason huddles nearby, Dad recounts his ill-fated business trip to Haiti, where he was infected and forced to eat human flesh until he became a ghoul. Worse, Dad assures Jason that he, too, has been intentionally infected. Jason manages to kill him with a claw hammer, then resolves to take his

own life rather than remain a ghoul. He stands in the middle of the road, but the car he hopes will end his sad existence swerves and smashes into a tree. Filled with remorse, Jason rushes over, and smells the blood, and his stomach starts rumbling, and oh heck, you know.

*** ASK DR. INTERNET ***

1. How big is the Internet? When did it start? How did it grow?

The Internet is actually much smaller than most people think. It is primarily composed of fiber optic cables no thicker than a human hair, which can be conveniently rolled up and stored in a foot locker. Janitors at the National Science Foundation do this on the third Tuesday of every month when they wax the floors.

Since fiber optics are the size of human hairs, they also make attractive wigs. The next time you watch a Sprint commercial, you'll see that Candice Bergen's alleged hair is really the T4 backbone.

The earliest origins of the Internet can be traced to Ancient Greece, where a loosely connected set of networks was used to discuss exploration in the Black Sea. The Argonets, as they were then called, were entirely subsidized by the government, and won one of William Proxmire's first Golden Fleece awards.

The Internet grows hyperbolically, but is usually described elliptically.

2. Who owns the Internet?

There is no one person or agency that owns the Internet. Instead, parts of it are owned by the Illuminati and parts are owned by Free Masons.

3. What do the Internet addresses mean?

Precise meanings are often hard to determine. The address baker.lib.washington.edu—which is sometimes written baker@lib.washington.edu—seems to refer to a computer either owned by a baker or by someone named Baker. This can be deceiving however; names like this actually refer to where a computer is located. This one is on top of Mt. Baker.

In addition to names, computers on the Internet also have numbers. This is part of the whole right brain/left brain thing.

4. Tell me how to get on and off various lists and discussion groups.

Getting off of various lists is currently the subject of pending legislation.

5. What is "Netiquette?"

"Netiquette" is one of many cutesy neologisms created by combining two other words. In this case, "network" and "tourniquette" combine to describe a program that shuts down a computer if it starts transmitting information too fast.

6. What is "Flaming?"

Along with an improvisational approach to floating point arithmetic, early Pentium chips were noted for generating heat. While some hackers speak fondly of roasting marshmallows over their first P60s, others found themselves badly singed as the chips caught fire. This "flaming" sometimes occurred while the user was composing e-mail, resulting in poorly chosen or excessively vitriolic verbiage.

7. What is "Bandwidth?"

As capacity on the Internet has increased, people have begun to transmit material other than simple text. One notable example is audio recordings of rock concerts. These audio files are much larger than even very long books, so they have become a standard unit of network usage. One Rolling Stone song equals one "band" width, and so on.

8. Why can't I FTP to some places?

There are two main reasons for this. The first is that the site you want to ftp files from is exercising a certain degree of control over its network resources; in network parlance, this is called "fascism."

The second reason is that the remote site may be dabbling with such network fads as gopher or the World Wide Web. This is called "keeping up with the times."

9. What is the World Wide Web, Gopherspace, etc?

The World Wide Web, or WWW, is an experiment in generating acronyms that are much more difficult to pronounce than the words they replace.

Gopherspace is an older network term. In response to the Soviet space program's early use of dogs in space, NASA mounted a program to orbit a number of different rodents. The programmers involved in this project adopted the motto "Gophers in space!" which has since been short-

ened. The only actual gopher to go into orbit had been digging up the carrots in Werner Von Braun's garden, and was named Veronica after his daughter.

10. Why can't I get some WWW stuff via FTP?

It can be hard to say this, but some users of the Internet are unable to do things because they are stupid. The comparatively trivial task of getting an ftp client to do every single thing a WWW browser can do is beneath this column's attention.

— *From: pem4958@is.NYU.EDU, via Warren.*

***** ...AND TOUCHED THE FACE OF GOD *****

(UPI) LONG BEACH, Calif. — Look, up in the sky. Is it a bird, a plane, the space shuttle? No. It's Larry Walters at 16,000 feet in his lawn chair.

Walters, 33, a truck driver, spent nearly two hours in the air Friday in an aluminum lawn chair suspended from a 50-foot cable attached to 45 helium-filled weather balloons. Among other things, he threw a scare into a couple of airline pilots who happened across the path of his weird flying contraption.

"I know it sounds strange but it's true," said a Long Beach police officer. "The guy just filled up some balloons with helium, strapped on a parachute, grabbed a BB gun and took off."

But everything didn't go as planned and Walters had a few dicey moments as he started getting numb in the cold atmosphere at 16,000 feet and decided to descend — which he accomplished by popping some of the balloons with the BB gun. As he neared the ground he saw power lines.

"That's when I got scared," he said. "Those things can fry you."

He didn't get fried, the balloons draped themselves across the wires, leaving Walters dangling in his chair a few feet off the ground and he dropped to earth. The landing knocked out power in the neighborhood for 20 minutes.

"I have fulfilled my 20-year dream," said Walters, a truck driver for a company that makes TV commercials. "I'm staying on the ground. I proved to myself that the thing works."

In addition to the BB gun and the parachute, Walter carried several one-gallon water jugs for ballast, a life vest and a CB radio.

"But the best piece of equipment was the lawn

chair," Walters said. "It was a Sears. It was extremely comfortable."

Walters told authorities he was trying to drift to the Mojave Desert, site of Sunday's scheduled space shuttle Columbia landing, but the winds didn't cooperate.

"I wasn't trying to upstage the space shuttle," Walters said. "I would have landed well away from there. I just wanted to lay back and enjoy it all, but I had to do something when my toes started getting numb."

Police said they probably would not file charges against Walters. But the Federal Aviation Administration was investigating, mainly because of the scare Walters gave the airline pilots who came across him at 16,000 feet in his flying lawn chair.

— Thanks to Warren for sharing this item. Those interested in obtaining blueprints for a lighter-than-air balloon using helium-filled trash bags and a gutted Kenmore washing machine can contact R.R. Bodine care of Son of GPIC.

*** STILL MORE IDEAS FOR SCIENCE FICTION STORIES ***

Strange Bedfellows

by
Ben Bovine

One of the long standing and lowly revered areas of science fiction, especially those Japanese science fiction art films, is the pairing of well-known but normally unassociated fictional or historical characters. Some examples that immediately come to mind are "Wolfman meets Dr. Frankenfurter," "Godzilla meets Perry Mason," Jack the Ripper and H.G. Wells meeting in "Time after Time after Time," and Sherlock Holmes and Sigmund Freud in "The 7% Answer."

Here the sf writer can simply randomly combine individuals until you get one where the chemistry appeals to you. It does help if the individuals, at least minimally, occupy the same space time continuum but that should be a minor irritation for a truly dedicated writer. Obviously, this is a field where the possibilities are limitless. However, to get you started...

1) **Indiana Jones and the Mummy...** Just what happens when one of the tombs that Indy visits is already occupied? Or possibly, against all logic and probability, the two team up against some even less reputable archeologist.

2) **Newt Gingrich and the Brain...** Are you pondering what I'm pondering, Newtie? I think so. Brain, but this time you wear the rubber pants, or (if you have different politics) Bill Clinton and the Brain... What do you want to do tonight, Brain? Same thing we do every night, Billy. Try to take over the world!

3) **Lord Greystroke and Jane Goddall...** The cultural misfit English Lord, better known as Tarzan, and the future chimpanzee specialist meet in New York during one of his brief fits of civilization. Goddall abandons a promising career as a Mary Jane Cosmetics dealer due to her sudden intense interest in apes. Where did you think, "Me, Tarzan. You, Jane," came from?

4) **Adolf Hitler and Pablo Picasso...** Little is known of this meeting in the 1920's after which Hitler abandoned his aspirations of an art career and Picasso's paintings ceased to be recognizable.

5) **Fox Mulder and Dana Sculley and Barney...** Does the government actually know what Barney is, but is keeping it from us for some dark hidden reason? Will Mulder and Sculley discover the truth but for the umpteenth time end up without any physical evidence? Is there any relationship between Barney and Mulder's long lost sister?

*** WHERE I WENT ON MY SUMMER VACATION ***

Great vacation ideas #127, from the AAA Calif. book:

Winchester Mystery House, 525 S. Winchester Blvd. between I-280 and Stevens Creek blvd., was designed to baffle the evil spirits that haunted Sarah Winchester, eccentric heiress to the Winchester Arms fortune and mistress of the house. With 160 rooms, 2,000 doors, 13 bathrooms, 10,000 windows, 47 fireplaces, blind closets, secret passageways and 40 staircases, the house is so complex that even the owner and servants needed maps to find their way.

Guided tours of the mansion last about 65 minutes. Maps for self-guiding tours of the gardens and grounds, with tapes narrating the points of interest along the route, are available. Also on the estate are the Winchester Historic Firearms Museum and the Winchester Products Museum, which features sporting equipment, knives, tools and other items. Allow 2 hours minimum.

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

CHANGES

ALTERNATE HILARITIES is closed to submissions now and will go on hiatus after issue #8.

ARGONAUT is closed to unsolicited submissions for the next 12 months.

NONSTOP is overstocked.

DARK VOICES 8 is closed.

No more XANADU anthologies are currently planned.

STRANGE DAYS is closed to submissions.

AMAZING has ceased publication and is being offered for sale.

FURY has folded.

Steve Saffel has replaced Deborah Hogan at Del Rey.

INDUSTRIAL GOTHIC has been cancelled.

BETWEEN DIMENSIONS has ceased publication.

DISTANT JOURNEYS is being converted from a magazine to an anthology and will probably be a Spring, 1996 release. Pay rates will remain 1/4 cent/word.

SPACE AND TIME has a new editor: Tom Piccirilli. The address remains the same.

OFFWORLD is closed to new submissions.

PIRATE WRITINGS is changing to quarterly publication. Subscriptions will be \$15/year. Length requirements are now up to 8,000 words, although 3,000-5,000 words is the preferred length.

OMNI has a new address: 277 Park Avenue, 4th floor, New York, NY 10172-0003. They are cutting back to a quarterly publishing schedule, boosting their online presence, and phasing out subs. Fiction Editor Ellen Datlow says she still expects to buy quite a bit of fiction.

NEW AND NOTABLE PRO MAGAZINE MARKETS

(**indicates a new listing)

ABSOLUTE MAGNITUDE (formerly Harsh Mistress), SF Adventure, P.O. Box 13, Greenfield, MA 01302. Editor: Warren Lapine. Looking for action/adventure based sf, no humor, h, f, or cyberpunk. He wants to see "tightly plotted stories with memorable characters." Encourages disposable submissions with a stamped #10 envelope for a reply. Looking for stories up to 25,000 words. "Longer stories will probably have a better chance.

Thus far we haven't purchased anything under 5,000 words." Will consider previously published stories and simultaneous submissions as long as they are notified of such. Payment: 3 cents/word plus 1 contributor's copy for FNASR upon publication. Reprints: 1 cent/word. Sample: \$5. 1 year: \$14. Reporting time: 3-4 weeks.

ADVENTURES OF SWORD & SORCERY, P.O. Box 285, Xenia, OH 45385. Submissions Editor: Randy Dannenfelser. Quarterly buying sword & sorcery, high fantasy, and heroic fantasy. "We want fiction with an emphasis on action and adventure, but still cognizant of the struggles within as they play against the struggles without. As examples, think of the fiction of J.R.R. Tolkien, Fritz Leiber, and Katherine Kurtz." Length: 1,000-7,500 words. Payment: 3-6 cents/word upon acceptance. Prefers to have a cover letter. Sample: \$4.50. 1 yr. \$14.50.

ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S MYSTERY MAGAZINE, 1540 Broadway, 15th Fl., New York, NY 10036. Editor: Cathleen Jordan. Well-plotted, plausible mystery, suspense, detection, and crime stories to 14,000 words. "Ghost stories, humor, futuristic, or atmospheric tales are all possible, as long as they contain a crime or the suggestion of one." Payment: 7 cents/word, on acceptance. Guidelines with SASE. Sample: \$3.

**ARTEMIS MAGAZINE, 1380 E. 17th St., STE 201, Brooklyn, NY 11230. Editor: Ian Randal. Buying near-future sf concerning lunar development or life on the moon. Length: up to 20,000 words. Payment: 5-8 cents/word.

ASIMOV'S SF MAGAZINE, 1540 Broadway, 15th Fl., New York, NY 10036. Editor: Gardner Dozois. Buying sf and fantasy up to 20,000 words (very few longer). Payment: 6-8 cents/word to 7,500 words; \$450-600 to 12,500 words, 5 cents/word for longer stories. Reporting time: 4-6 weeks.

BOY'S LIFE, Box 152079, Irving, TX 75015-2079. Regular Features Editor: Kathleen DaGroome. Buys humor, mysteries, sf, and adventure fiction up to 1,200 words. Payment: \$500-750 on acceptance for 1-time rights. Sends 6 contributor's copies. Replies in 1-2 months. Guidelines available.

CENTURY, P.O. Box 150510, Brooklyn, NY 11215-0510. Editor: Robert K.J. Killheffer. Perfect-bound bimonthly. Buying stories with some sort of speculative element, including sf/f/df/h. Length: 1,000-20,000 words. Payment: 4-6 cents/word upon acceptance for First World English Language and non-exclusive reprint rights. Sample: \$5.95 (Publisher's address: CENTURY, P.O. Box 9270, Madison, WI 53715-0270). Subscription: \$27.

DEAD OF NIGHT, 916 Shaker Road, Ste. 228, Longmeadow, MA 01106-2416. Editor: (Ms.) Lin Stein. Subtitled "Horror, Fantasy, and SF in a different vein." Needs h/f/sf/mystery relating to the theme of vampirism. Length: up to 2,000 words, but prefers 1,800-2,000. No reprints or simultaneous submissions. Closed June through

August. Payment: 4-7 cents/word on publication for 1-time rights. Publishes 6-12 months after acceptance. Encourages cover letter and disposable manuscripts. Sample: \$6.95. \$13/year (2 issues). Make checks payable to Dead of Night Publications.

****EDGE DETECTOR**, P.O. Box 355, Stn. H., Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3G 2L1. Editor: Glenn Grant. Buying sf/f. Prefers recyclable manuscripts. (Don't forget to send an IRC if submitting from the U.S.) Length: up to 8,000 words. Payment: 5-8 cents/word.

EXPANSE Magazine, 7982 Honeygo Blvd., Ste. 49, Baltimore, MD 21236. Editor: Steven E. Fick. Full-sized sf quarterly. Pays 5-8 cents/word for First NA Serial Rights and non-exclusive World English-language Serial Rights upon publication. Prefers 2,000-5,000 words, but short-shorts are acceptable. "Copies must be clean and legible." Reporting time: 3-6 weeks.

FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION, Editor: Kristine K. Rusch, P.O. Box 11526, Eugene, OR 97440. Current needs: all lengths and types of fantasy/sf—especially sf under 10,000 words. Payment: 5-7 cents/word. Reporting time: 6 weeks.

****FUTURE SEX**, P.O. Box 31129, San Francisco, CA 94131. Editor: None listed. Quarterly. Buys 2-3 pieces of fiction for each issue. "Any sexual/erotic content is up for consideration." Length: up to 2,000 words. Payment: 5 cents/word. Reporting time: 6 weeks.

REALMS OF FANTASY, P.O. Box 527, Rumson, NJ 07760. Editor: Shawna McCarthy. Full color and full-sized. Open to all types of fantasy, including dark fantasy up to 10,000 words (5,000-8,000 preferred). "I most like stories with some sort of point to them, beyond the plot twists, and I'm a sucker for a kicker ending. I really hate stories that just . . . stop. My tastes tend to be more serious than lighthearted, but if you can make me laugh, I'll buy it. I don't want the magazine to be totally unleavened despair. But, please, no puns. I have to be careful about sexually explicit material, since the magazine is/will be displayed prominently at 12-year-old eye level, but I am not publishing for 12-year-olds. I do want stories for grown-ups." Please do not send self-addressed postcards with submissions. Payment: 5-8 cents/word. Reporting time: 2-3 three weeks.

TOMORROW Speculative Fiction, Box 6038, Evanston, IL 60204. Editor: Algis Budrys. Looking for sf/f/dark f/h of any length. Payment: 3-7 cents/word upon publication. Reporting time: about 2 weeks.

NEW ANTHOLOGY LISTINGS

DARKSIDE. HORROR FOR THE NEXT MILLENNIUM, Darkside Press, 4128 Woodland Park Ave. N., Seattle, WA 98103. Editor: John Pelan. A non-themed anthology looking for "stories that explore either the dark side of the human psyche or the dark side of present society." Length: none listed. Payment: 3 cents/word on

publication as an advance.

DRAGONS, 50 Basin Dr., Mesa, WA 99343. Buying f/df/s&s stories centered around dragons. "Avoid sexual situations and profanity." No additional guidelines available. Reprints okay. Length: 5,000-15,000 words. Payment: 1 cent/word upon publication.

GOTHIC GHOSTS, 5201 Antelope Lane, Stone Mountain, GA 30087. Editors: Charles Grant and Wendy Webb. Send submissions to Wendy Webb at the above address. This is an anthology of original ghost stories, looking for "old-fashioned, dripping with atmosphere, character-driven ghost stories. Think of Du Maurier (esp. Rebecca), M.R. James, Saki, Shirley Jackson's The Haunting of Hill House, ect. While our admitted bias is for contemporary settings, we'll be more than pleased to consider historical backgrounds as well, and they need not be confined to the continental U.S. Humor, too, is fine, and so is a strong romance (or romantic) thread. If you're working with a 'psychological' ghost though, be sure the end is ambiguous enough so that it can go either way." No reprints. Length: 3,000-7,500 words. Payment: 10 cents/word. Deadline: Sept. 15, 1995, but may close before then.

LANKHMAR: NEW ADVENTURES OF FAFHRD AND THE GRAY MOUSER, 1017 Mansfield Ct., Norcross, GA 30093. Editor: Edward E. Kramer. A hard-cover anthology buying both original fiction and poetry concerning any "of the characters in Fritz Leiber's Nehwon mythos, although each story will feature Lankhmar as a base setting along with Fafhrd and the Gray Mouser. Your story may be used in combination with characters, places, and events created in your previous works, although we are not specifically seeking crossover stories." Length: no limit, but query if you plan to go over 10,000 words. Payment: 10 cents/word. Deadline: Sept. 15th, 1995.

THE MAGIC WITHIN II, WorldEdge Press, 2138 E. Broad Ripple Ave., #143, Indianapolis, IN 46220-2312. Editor: None listed. A sequel to **THE MAGIC WITHIN**, seeking "stories about women with magic and power . . . traditional stories with a twist, exploration of female archetypes, women as mentors, the community of women . . ."

Payment: standard royalties. Deadline: Sept. 1, 1995. Editors will not be answering submissions until September, so simultaneous submissions okay.

NEW ALTARS. A new anthology of speculative stories about religion. "No deal with the Devil stories or Cthulu stories." Length: under 15,000 words. Payment: 3 cents/word upon acceptance. Send Christian and Jewish stories to: Sandra Hutchinson, 7 St. Luke's Road, Allston, MA 02134. Send pagan and other real religion stories to: Dawn Albright, 6 Stickney Ave., MA 02145. Stories about fictional religions can be sent to either address. Deadline: Aug. 15, 1995.

NIGHTMARE'S DOZEN, Harcourt Brace & Company, Children's Book Division, 1250 Sixth Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101. Editor: Michael Stearns. Send submis-

sions to the above address c/o Michael Stearns. This is a young adult horror/df companion anthology to WIZARD'S DOZEN and STARFARER'S DOZEN. Currently open. Length: up to 5,000 words. They prefer stories that deal with adolescents, but do not consider it absolutely necessary. Want "terror over horror, suggestion to grue." Payment: 6 cents/word and authors will share a 5% royalty. No reprints, simultaneous or multiple submissions. Return time: 4-8 weeks. The deadline is September 30, 1995, but if you have something suitable, send it now. They could fill and close at any time.

STRANGLEHOLD: PROWRESTLING HORROR STORIES, Darkside Press, 4128 Woodland Park Ave. N., Seattle, WA 98103. Editor: John Pelan. Anthology dealing with pro wrestling horror stories. Length: 2,500-10,000 words.

Payment: \$50 upon publication as an advance toward a pro-rata share of royalties.

NEW SMALL PRESS LISTINGS

CADENCE, P.O. Box 8128, Janesville, WI 53547-8128. Editor: Mr. John J. Liptow. F/df/"nongenre fantasy." Length: up to 2,800 words. Payment: 1 cent/word. Include cover letter. No multiple submissions.

THE FRACTAL, 4400 University Drive, MS 2D6, Fairfax, VA 22030. Marketing Director: Scott Abruzzo. Magazine published by George Mason University which is seeking sf/f. Original stories only. Payment: \$25. Length: none listed.

PULP FICTION MAGAZINE, 2023 Hermosa Ave., Hermosa Beach, CA 90254. Editor: Clancy O'Hara. "Looking for genre fiction with a spin. Work that transcends its humble origins. Crime, horror, fantasy, and science fiction." No poetry or non-fiction. Payment: 1 cent/word plus 2 copies for FNASR. Reporting time: 6 weeks.

SOUTHERN GOTHIC, P.O. Box 13427, Atlanta, GA 30324. Editors: Candace Wiggins and Lewis Murphy. New quarterly which will appear in Autumn, 1995. Buying df/f/h. "Seeking well-crafted, thought provoking tales set in the American South or about Southerners . . . No gratuitous sex or violence . . . Not interested in stereotypes (i.e. no Daisy Mae meets Wolfman)." Length: 1,000-5,000 words. 8,000 max. Payment: 2 cents/words. Reprints accepted at half rates. No poetry. No simultaneous submissions. Reporting time: 4-6 weeks.

***** PHEW CORNER *****

Herbert: Hey, will you turn off the TV — you know it's the death of reading. Especially Star Trek.

Sukie: I like Voyager — it reminds me of that old series where the Moon shoots off into outer space after an explosion.

Herbert: Bah!

Sukie: I don't know why you're so down on it.

It's like having William Shatner back, only with better technology. Captain Kirk Janeway is lovely, and the hologram doctor is a charm.

Herbert: Mr. Spock Tuvak needs better dialogue.

Sukie: Mmm, well it's tough following in the footsteps of the gent with the eyebrows, but I really don't want to argue with you. Why don't you start the reviews and I'll be with you shortly.

Herbert: How come we've got more horror?

Sukie: It was an accident. I submitted a cheerful piece and ordered a sub before I found out. In any case, they accept sf/f/m as long as it's theme related.

Herbert: Won't you ever learn? Order a sample **FIRST**.

Sukie: I can't help it. The minute I address an editor, a manuscript insinuates itself into the envelope.

Herbert: Never mind; it could have been a lot worse:

NOT ONE OF US Issue #11 (Nov 93)

John Benson, Editor/Publisher

44 Shady Lane, Storrs, CT 06268

Half Size. Saddle-stapled. 62 pages.

\$10.50 three-issue sub. Single copy \$3.50 plus one dollar postage.

Fiction with a theme of "otherness" or alienation. from 2000 to 5000 wds. Pays "cent/word plus one 'trib copy.

For all fans of the truly well-written offbeat, this is a great issue. Every story fits the theme, and the writing is small press at its best. "Fathers's Workshop" by Jeffrey Osier is a "basement" story about a slobbering monster thing that appears in a mysterious cellar room. It would have been quite satisfactorily creepy without any overtones of mental decline and a failing marriage; however, the combination is perfect. "Penance" by Morgan Fields is "otherness" personified. Again, we have mental instability brought on or exacerbated by lost love. In this case, a priest is the lover who is transferred to another parish after his illicit love affair is discovered. The mentally distraught woman left behind is not nice (she kicks her dog!), but she is fascinatingly unhinged. A.J. Cox brings us "The Unnatural Blend of Colors," a touching tale of separated Siamese twins who paint very special pictures. "Pal Pot" is another offering from the prolific Mr. D.F. Lewis. It grows from a chance encounter at the grocery store —

Sukie: I'm a great believer in supermarket encounters.

Herbert: Oh, there you are. Well, they are believers across the Atlantic too. Just wish I knew what "pot noddles" are though....

Sukie: "The Cycle of Life" by Cliff Burns contains six paragraphs, each without commas or periods, detailing warped aspects of life. And yet, are they really all that warped? Shuddering, we suspect

they are not.

Herbert: "The Last Poetry Night at the Saturnalia Coffee House" is one of Mark McLaughlin's oddest (that I've read). Mark, as you know, is the editor of another small-press mag, *The Urbanite*. His story is about "otherness" in the extreme, aliens and humans all mixed up together in a wild tale of surreal love. Hard to tell which of his characters is more "otherly," the aliens or the earthmen.

Sukie: Shelley Moore's "Stigmata" is powerful enough for the most ardent horror fan, but is logical and reasonable enough in its premise to appeal to readers outside the genre. Pete wants to experience death, over and over, without actually dying. He is unable to stop his self-hypnosis experiments.

Herbert: Yes, it's all the more disturbing because it is realistic. My personal favorite is Mark Rich's "The Pain Killer," in which Charlie unknowingly possesses an alien power to inflict pain by causing those near and dear to him to remember agonies from their past.

Sukie: The final story, "Heartthrob," by David Logan is slightly different from the rest, but is intriguing in its sinister use of harmless and innocent fruit. Remind me to give the local strawberry festivals a miss next time.

Herbert: I take it you like this type of horror.

Sukie: It comes very close to what I like, because it mixes sf with plausible horror and sets out to intrigue rather than shock. I'm impressed with the writing and presentation. The editors made good choices in this issue.

Herbert: It has poetry, too.

Sukie: Yes, I noticed. "Spore Son" by John Rosenman is a fine conclusion to this issue.

Herbert: Do we have time to do Issue #13?

Sukie: Yes, if we don't go into too much detail. This is the latest — from February 1995. It has fewer pages and, although I didn't find it so absorbing overall as #11, the opening story, "Passing Through" by Tom Piccirilli, gets top marks for out-and-out strangeness. In a town cut off from the rest of the world, mechanical objects, animals, PEOPLE, literally pass through other human flesh. It has its finer moments, but gets messy in the end as guts are cut open and ripped apart and blood is all over the place. Ugh! Tom, go easy on us chickens, will yer?

Herbert: Lorin Emery's "A Plan" contains two very dissimilar aliens in a symbiotic union. Kurt Newton's "Birthday Ritual" is a poignant rite-of-passage story in which seven-year-old Danny's most important gift is a growing-up mask. The stories by Mark McLaughlin, Stephen Crawford, and Katherine Harbour work well together, encompassing magical powers, serial killers, and suicides. Holly Day's "Charades" makes us doubt our work mates, and Dane Patton gives us a mother driven to madness by the accidental death of her child. Time for the awards now, Sukie.

Sukie: Number 11 is awarded nine delicious toadstools and Number 13 gets 8 gleaming vampire's teeth. Good night, Herbert.

Herbert: G'night Sukie. G'night folks.

*** MANY THANKS TO ***

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