



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

Special "Gerry Anderson was a Pyro" Issue • March 2000

The March meeting will be Friday, March 10th, at 7:00 P.M., at the Cyber Cafe in the basement of McFarlin Library at the University of Tulsa. Since the library is closed at that time, we will keep the door open until 7:30 P.M., then go downstairs to the cafe. If you arrive after 7:30, use the buzzer to alert us to let you in. Randy Farran will be this month's host and will provide plates, cups, napkins, and ice. The rest of the goodies will be up to the membership and there will also be snacks and drinks available in vending machines.

Directions: Drive down Harvard to 5th Place and turn west. Park in the lot at the end of the street, even though it says it's limited to cars with campus permits. The library will be west, ahead of you on your left. Walk around to the south door and enter there. For further information or directions, call K.D. Wentworth at 523-9729.

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

SF writer and member of First Fandom Mark Schultzingier died in New Mexico in February. He was a long time attendee and program participant at OKon and Soonercon.

Both **BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER** and spin-off **ANGEL** have been renewed for next season.

Daniel Keyes has been named SFWA Author Emeritus and will speak at the Nebula Banquet. Brian Aldiss will receive the SFWA Grand Master Award.

British writer, editor, and critic Brian W. Aldiss, author of **HELLICONIA SPRING** (1982) and **BILLION YEAR SPREE** (1973), has been named a SFWA Grand Master. Aldiss's SF career spans nearly fifty years to date, beginning with a 1954

story in **SCIENCE FANTASY**.
The Final Nebula Ballot

NOVELS

A CLASH OF KINGS by George R.R. Martin
A DEEPNESS IN THE SKY by Vernor Vinge
MISSION CHILD by Maureen McHugh
MOCKINGBIRD by Sean Stewart
THE CASSINI DIVISION by Ken MacLeod

NOVELLAS

"Living Trust" by L. Timmel Duchamp (**ASIMOV'S**, Feb., 1999)
"Reality Check" by Michael Burstein (**ANALOG**, Nov., 1999)
"The Astronaut From Wyoming" by Adam-Troy Castro and Jerry Oltion (**ANALOG**, Aug., 1999)
"The Executioners' Guild" by Andy Duncan (**ASIMOV'S**, Aug., 1999)
"The Wedding Album" by David Marusek (**ASIMOV'S**, June, 1999)

NOVELETTES

"Five Days in April" by Brian A. Hopkins (**CHIAROSCURO WEBZINE**, July, 1999)
"Good Intentions" by Jack McDevitt and Stanley Schmidt (**F&SF**, June, 1998)
"How to Make Unicorn Pie" by Esther Friesner (**F&SF**, Jan., 1999)
"Mars is No Place for Children" by Mary Turzillo (**SF Age**, May, 1999)
"Taklamakan" by Bruce Sterling (**ASIMOV'S**, Oct./Nov., 1998)
"The Island in the Lake" by Phyllis Eisenstein (**F&SF**, Dec., 1998)

SHORT STORIES

"Ancient Engines" by Michael Swanwick (**ASIMOV'S**, Jan., 1999)

"Basil the Dog" by Francis Sherwood (ATLANTIC MONTHLY, Sept., 1999)

"Flower Kiss" by Constance Ash (REALMS OF FANTASY, Aug., 1998)

"Radiant Doors" by Michael Swanwick, (ASIMOV'S, Sept., 1998)

"The Cost of Doing Business" by Leslie What (AMAZING STORIES, Feb., 1999)

"The Dead Boy at Your Window" by Bruce Holland Rogers (NORTH AMERICA REVIEW, Dec., 1998)

SCRIPTS

THE IRON GIANT

THE MATRIX

THE SIXTH SENSE

THE DEVIL'S ARITHMETIC

THE URANUS EXPERIMENT

*** LOCAL NEWS ***

Noted sf writer Hal Clement will be attending Conestoga this summer.

Tulsa writer William Bernhardt is a finalist for the Oklahoma Book Awards.

Brad Sinor sold "A Small Matter" to YARDDOG MAGAZINE and "Fireflies" to SINGLE WHITE VAMPIRE SEEKS SAME.

K.D. Wentworth received galleys for "A Taste of Song" which will be published in SUCH A PRETTY FACE. She will sign BLACK/ON/BLACK and WRITERS OF THE FUTURE, XV at Barnes & Noble in OKC (13800 N. May), March 18th, 2-4, the Waldenbooks in Bartlesville, March 25th, 2-4, and the Waldenbooks in Penn Square Mall in OKC, April 1st, 2-4.

Lana Brown's story "Jimmy's Hair" has been selected for publication in OUTSIDE THE LINES 2000, the literary anthology of Tulsa Community College. The release date of the anthology is April 6.

*** GOOD REJECTIONS ***

Greg Lower: LORE, LEADING EDGE, SPACE & TIME

K.D. Wentworth: SKULL FULL OF SPURS

*** E-PUBLISHING NEWS ***

Chris Merle recommends this online article from Wired News:
<http://www.wired.com/news/print/0,1294,34499,00.html>

An excerpt:

Serial E-Authors Make a Killing

by M.J. Rose

Publishers are paying more than attention to promotion-savvy e-authors who are building readership one chapter at a time. They're paying sizable advances — especially to authors of fantastic tales.

"It was a tense weekend as the offers came in," said Doug Clegg, a New York City horror writer with nine titles in print and two more on the way. "I had no idea there would be so much interest in sponsoring a serialized novel on the Web."

When it was all over, Clegg had a five-figure advance from independent publisher Cemetery Dance and a print deal for Nightmare House at the end of its serial run. One of the most popular serializations since Dickens published his novels bit by bit in Harper's Weekly was Tom Wolfe's Bonfire of the Vanities, which appeared in weekly installments in Rolling Stone. Now, as all things seem to do, the trend goes "e." The Internet is proving to be the milieu of choice for authors to post their serialized fiction....

Other Web Sites of Interest:

(Thanks to Ronda Cooper for contributing these)

This month it's a selection of resources on agents, finding agents, and evaluating whether you found a real one or a scam artist.

Publishers Weekly
<http://www.publishersweekly.com/>

An article on agents:
<http://www.sandiego-online.com/entertainment/sdwm/sept99/nonfiction.st>

Here is the URL with information about agents:
<http://www.scican.net/~ptjones/writing2.html>

Scroll down until you see Business/Industry and then look for the Agent Research & Evaluation link. There are also other links that list and rate the book

publishers, etc.

I also found another site where there are tons of agents listed for many states. The URL is:
<http://www.iland.net/~nagel/reneessite.html>

*** THE ICE PICK ***

by Diana Carolyn Ice

CHARACTERS AND VIEWPOINT by Orson Scott Card. (The Elements of Fiction Writing series) Cincinnati, Writers Digest Books. ISBN 0-89879-307-6. \$13.95.

Well-known to science fiction readers and writers, Orson Scott Card shares with us in this book his award-winning techniques for inventing original and memorable characters.

Creating characters is not, and should not be, "a mechanical process." As Card says, you shouldn't expect that you can use a book like this as a blueprint for creating characters, but rather "bring the questions and ideas in each chapter to your own work, the stories you believe in and care about."

In addition to showing you how to make characters by using strangers and people you know, Card explains how to create them from within yourself and from within the story. Clearly and simply, he shows how you can influence readers to love or hate characters and how you can make characters seem like real people through their background, actions, motives, habits, talents, and hobbies, plus through using stereotypes and physical appearance.

He discusses how important it is to choose the correct names for your characters and to refer to each of them by the same name throughout your story or novel (although other characters may call them by nicknames or titles). He recommends keeping a notebook--which he calls a "bible"--for your characters, so that you won't forget whether your heroine is blonde or brunette or whether her father captained the Viceroy or the Victory.

Although traditionally science fiction and fantasy stories, and other stories in which the idea or the milieu of the story is paramount, have not required the strong characterization that other genres required, readers now increasingly "expect a deeper level of characterization. . . . This is the fashion of our time, and you can't disregard it." However, Card says, "it's a mistake to think that deep, detailed characterization is an absolute virtue in storytelling." You must, he says, understand the needs of your

story and know when deep characterization is necessary and when a stereotype will do as well.

The last part of the book is devoted to helping you choose the point of view needed for your story, the advantages and disadvantages of each kind, and how to change viewpoint characters in the middle of a story. Some stories require that you explore your characters' attitudes, emotions, and thoughts very deeply. Others do not. Card explains with great clarity the differing levels of mental penetration to help you decide which level is best for your particular story.

I found the index annoyingly uneven, error-prone, and replete with double-entries, like "point-of-view" and "viewpoint," but as a whole the book is excellent and well-worth your time to study.

*** CONTINUUM ***

February 2000

***TU SECURITY,
BUGS,
GOLDEN THREADS,
STOLEN PURSES,
AND A CAT***

By KDW

Fifteen attended the February meeting, including one new face. During the middle of Paul's reading, we were treated to an unexpected visit from TU Security, who seemed to think we'd jimmied open the door and then could think of nothing better to do than conducting a clandestine meeting, rather than loading up all the computer equipment and absconding. Well, it probably happens all the time to them.

Rob O'Bar: Rob brought the second half of Chapter Nine of the Jerkin Ripper. Robert continues to learn the art of purse stealing and falls into the not-so-gentle clutches of the law. He and Raymond are whipped for their crime, then cared for by a kind woman he previously had tried to rob. I liked the development of Robert's character as he learns what it is to take on adult responsibilities for his actions.

Tim Frayser: Tim read the third chapter in *THE LAST FLIGHT OF THE WICHITA*, in which the ship is diverted to find out what happened to the Summerfield. I especially liked the technical

touches such as the zero gravity assault team and the bubble drive. A bit of suspense and mystery was introduced with the detail that all the victims found are missing their hands.

Paul Batteiger: Paul brought a new short story, "The Glass Kingdom," the story of Endemyon, a misshapen boy long ago confined out of sight by his mother in a strange subterranean chamber. One day he climbs up to the place where the others, all beautiful, live. They drive him away and then he finds another mysterious woman above, living in a strange garden. I liked the wealth of sensual detail, especially the image of the beautiful people all tethered with golden, life-sustaining cords.

KDW: KDW read "Catcall."

*** MARKET UPDATE ***

CONTESTS

Amazon.com and PEN are jointly running a short story contest for new/unpublished authors! With a \$10,000 dollar first prize, no less. Details can be found by following the link from Amazon's homepage: <http://www.amazon.com>. There isn't an entry fee, so what do you have to lose? (Thanks to Ronda Cooper)

CHANGES

AGE OF WONDERS is closed.

SF AGE, although always profitable, wasn't enough so for its parent company Sovereign Media, and will be shut down after the May, 2000, issue. Do not send any submissions.

TALEBONES is now in perfect bound format. They are paying 2 cents/word for lead stories, 1 cent/word for the rest.

ON SPEC now pays up to \$180/story. This year's theme issue will be "World Beat." Deadline: 8/30/00. URL: www.icomm.ca/onspec

Ballantine Publishing Group, including Del Rey, has a new address: 1540 Broadway, 11th Flr., New York, NY 10036.

Roc Books (375 Hudson St., New York, NY 10014) will accept unsolicited book manuscripts. Editor Laura Anne Gilman says, "We're looking for a detailed proposal and the first three chapters . . . and

be aware that such manuscripts go directly into the slush pile, and remain there until someone has the time/energy to look at them."

NEW LISTINGS

THE COOPERATIVE, PMB 317, 1959 N. Peace Haven Rd., Winston-Salem, NC 27106-4850. Editor: Jon Hodges. H/mainstream. Buying FNASR and paying upon publication. Payment: 3 cents/word. Length: 4,000 words.

DEEP OUTSIDE, Clocktower Fiction, 6549 Mission Gorge Rd., Box 260, San Diego, CA 92120. Editor: Brian Callahan. New webzine. "Fiction that transcends the limitations and ventures outside." No S&S, porn, excessive violence, or gore. Payment: 3 cents/word. Length: 4,000 words. Buying FNASR.

GALAXY ONLINE has debuted at www.galaxyonline.com. The publisher is Ben Bova and the Exec. Ed. is Dave Gerrold. This publication has no connection to the print magazine GALAXY. No word yet on when or if they will be accepting unsolicited work.

SCI-FI.COM, 48 Eighth Ave., PMB 405, New York, NY 10014. Fiction Editor: Ellen Datlow. Webzine buying "literate, strongly plotted sf/f." Length: any length. Payment: 20 cents/word. Originals only. No S&S or space opera. Send only one story at a time and wait for response before sending another. Return time: 3-5 weeks.

*** MANY THANKS TO ***

KDW & Guido
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Warren & Lana Brown

*** SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION ***

A subscription to *Son of GPIC*, the official newsletter of the Oklahoma Science Fiction Writers, may be obtained online or by mail. E-mail subscription is \$7 per year. Snail-mail printed version is \$13. 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 2000 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 April issue: March 27.