




**Son
Of:**



Official Journal of The



(Great Pagoda Insurance Company)



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

Brought To You By: K. D. Wentworth, Warren & Lana Brown and Simon McCaffery

Special "Fire Bad, Words Good" Issue • March 1996

***** HELLO OSFW! *****

The March meeting will be held on Mar. 8th, at 7:00 P.M. at Susan Bischoff's residence, 7455 South Knoxville, Tulsa. The phone number is 496-3276. Directions: From 81st and Harvard, drive north (toward 71st) on Harvard until you reach 75th Place. Turn right into Denwood Estates and go to Indianapolis. Turn left and go 1 block to 75th Street. Turn right and follow 75th past Jamestown to end of cul de sac, where it joins South Knoxville at the bottom of a hill. Jim and Susan's house is at the top of the hill; watch for street number on mailbox by driveway entrance.

After the mailing of the March issue, the GPIC mailing list will be limited to only those members whose dues are paid for 1996. Our costs have risen this year because of printing charges, and although we would like to distribute the newsletter free, we just can't afford to do so.

Elsbeth brought a piece of spectacularly bad sf/mystery/time travel prose to the last meeting, thereby inspiring the First OSFW Read-off, which will take place at the March meeting. Bring the worst example you can find of a published paragraph in sf, fantasy, or horror and astound us all. A prize will be awarded.

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

February was a bad month for the science fiction community. SF writers Bob Shaw and Brian Daley died, as well as DAW publisher Elsie Wolheim and former GALAXY editor Horace L. Gold.

The final Nebula Ballot has been released:

Novels

MOTHER OF STORMS by John Barnes (Tor)
 BEGGARS AND CHOOSERS by Nancy Kress (Tor)
 CELESTIS by Paul Park (Tor)

THE TERMINAL EXPERIMENT by Robert Sawyer (HarperPrism)
 METROPOLITAN by Walter Jon Williams (HarperPrism)
 CALDE OF THE LONG SUN by Gene Wolfe (Tor)

Novellas

"Last Summer at Mars Hill" by Elizabeth Hand (FASF, Aug. 1994)
 "Bibi" by Mike Resnick and Susan Schwartz (ASIMOV'S, mid-Dec. 1995)
 "Mortimer Gray's History of Death" by Brian Stableford (ASIMOV'S, April 1995)
 "Soon Comes Night" by Gregory Benford (ASIMOV'S, Aug. 1994)
 "Yaguara" by Nicola Griffith (ASIMOV'S, March 1995)
 "The Perseids" by Robert Charles Wilson (REALMS OF FANTASY, Dec. 1995)

Novelettes

"The Resurrection Man's Legacy" by Dale Bailey (FASF, July 1995)
 "Tea and Hamsters" by Michael Coney (FASF, Jan. 1995)
 "Jesus at Bat" by Esther Friesner (FASF, July 1995)
 "Home for Christmas" by Nina Kiriki Hoffman (FASF, Jan. 1995)
 "Think Like a Dinosaur" by James Patrick Kelly (ASIMOV'S, June 1995)
 "Solitude" by Ursula K. Le Guin, (FASF, Dec. 1994)
 "When Old Gods Die" by Mike Resnick, (ASIMOV'S, Apr. 1995)

Short Stories

"Alien Jane" by Kelly Eskridge (CENTURY #1)
 "Death and the Librarian" by Esther Friesner

(ASIMOV'S, Dec. 1994)

"Grass Dancer" by Owl Goingback (EXCALIBUR, Warner Books)

"The Narcissus Plague" by Lisa Goldstein (ASIMOV'S, Jul. 1994)

"The Kingdom of Cats and Birds" by Gregory Landis (SF AGE, Sept. 1994)

"The Lincoln Train" by Maureen McHugh (FASF, Apr. 1995)

"Short Timer" by Dave Smeds (FASF, Dec. 1994)

*** LOCAL NEWS ***

KDW sold reprint rights on her short story "Dust" to FREEZER BURN.

An agent has asked to see the first fifty pages of Barbara Thrower's novel ALL THE WARRIORS IN PELL.

Simon received the proofs for his story "Wave Good-bye" from MINDSPARKS.

Brad Sinor's story in TIME OF THE VAMPIRES will be out in April.

*** GOOD REJECTIONS ***

Brad Sinor: DEATHREALM, BLOOD & MID-NIGHT

Greg Lower: DEATHREALM, THE LEADING EDGE

Jennifer Jones: STRANGER THAN FICTION

Barbara Thrower: SILVER WEB

*** CONTINUUM ***

February 1996

or...

*Running With Werewolves,
Suffering For Your Art,
and Why Jack Wishes He Drove
A Subaru Outback*

Holy crow! It was a scene straight from "Soylent Green" as thousands, hundreds (OK, it was fifteen but it SEEMED like thousands) of OSFWans squeezed into Richard and Kathy's home for the Feb. meeting. Luckily, there was an abundance of great snacks, so we didn't have to resort to cannibalism. We also had an abundance — a veritable cornucopia — of fiction to

listen to and enjoy.

Brad read a short-short, "Fireflies," in which we meet two Manhattan lovers with a problem: he's a member of a family of vampires, while she runs with a clan of furry werewolves, a la "The Wolfen." Differences aside, they're in love, but realize that their respective families will never sanction their special bond. Then we learn that Kyle has been cheating on Miranda, as she enacts a terrible revenge.

Greg read Chapter 14 1/2 of his YA novel, *The Olympia Project*. Drew, the priest and a boy named Pedro leave the island and fly home, getting Drew (who's a cyborg) through customs and a metal detector using a clever (and plausible) ruse. With the help of a Dr. Hornsby, who worked on the Olympia Project, Halicari plans to trick the governments into believing the experiment has ultimately failed by faking some sort of "brain trauma." At his school, Drew, still nearly blind, is attacked and battles a stranger. Drew pursues him out to the nearby stadium, where the stranger eventually falls to his death. In Chapter 15, Drew has his eyesight restored, and we learn that the dead stranger was a government agent. Drew goes on a walk, missing Christy, and notices a car following him. It turns out to be his sister, Mae. She tells him she knows where Christy is, and how to save Drew from further danger at the hands of government agencies.

Terri read a short fragment from an atmospheric story, "Rainfall." A young man and woman try to reach one another across the chasm dividing a narrow stone catwalk between a Gothic house and tower, in a storm. The catwalk collapses unexpectedly, sending the young man plummeting down...and hopefully we'll get to find out more about them and their story.

Warren read Chapter 6 of his novel-in-progress, *Underland*. In this fast-paced chapter, Jack gives chase to the woman in the blue Mazda, roaring through the woods with Ed and Julia in an old Jeep. As they race at breakneck speed through the woods, Jack is reminded of a haunting poem, "Underland," that Pam had written before her death. As the Jeep closes on the Mazda, a strange flock of bluejays swarms around the trio, allowing the woman in the Mazda to escape.

After a visit to Pam's grave and more discussion of the situation, Ed and Julia decide to do some shopping in town. There, they run right into the specter of Pam. Pam seems entirely real, and greets Ed and Julia, telling them simply that she's "come back." Her emotion-stricken parents drive her back to their cottage. Meanwhile, watching this heart-touching scene is the Mazda woman. She begins following the stationwagon, and fails to notice Jack passing in the other lane in his Nova. Jack executes a hasty U-turn and manages to run

the woman off the road. The chapter ends with Jack having trapped the mystery woman in her wrecked car...

Steve read "Adonis," a powerful short story about a gay writer who discovers the wondrous secret of a deceased gay artist named Gregor. Gregor had been commissioned to produce a number of illustrations for the narrator's book, but he must outwit Gregor's pompous, dramatic lover, Clive, to retrieve them. While searching through Clive's apartment, the "spirit" or presence of Gregor leads the narrator to the lost illustrations, and a wondrous, vibrant self-portrait of Gregor, which holds the secret to the artist's super-human talent and survival (in a fashion) after death.

Paul read the first chapter of a new fantasy epic, *One On High*, based on the universe created in his short story, "Gardens." A tribe's chieftan, Zhakorzha, more than 200 years old and nearing his death, seeks to pass on his power to his grandson, Arkander. Arkander is not yet a warrior, so he cannot enter his grandfather's death circle, but he is told that a great gift is to be passed to him nonetheless. The old man shows him a strange, bony mask, reportedly once the face of a "true god." After Arkander leaves, a storm breaks, seemingly brought on by the Gods, who have come for the chieftan. When Arkander arrives at the death house of his grandfather, he sees a vision of a godlike woman. After the storm ends, he discovers that his grandfather has disappeared — taken before he could pass on his "spear."

Simon read Chapter 4 of his novel-in-progress, *Counterpane*. Unsure whether he actually saw a portal of some kind appear in his clinic bathroom, Ethan prepares to tell all to his father and doctors. He confides in his friend, Pax, who appears in his room that night and escorts him through the same portal. Ethan finds himself transported to the same peaceful hillside — the source of his "imagined" botanical smells — and discovers that the instantaneous journey has somehow eradicated his cancer. But the "cure" is not a lasting one, as Pax sadly demonstrates.

*** A CANTICLE FOR EDDY ***

Dear Eddy,

Did you know mortal sin strikes one American every six seconds? Have you considered the consequences if you were to die an untimely death shortly after becoming the victim of mortal sin? We at CATHOLIC-CO think we have the answer—After-Life Insurance. Here's how it works. You purchase a policy, naming your soul as beneficiary, and pay a modest premium each year. This money is invested by CATHOLIC-CO

in Actuarial Monasteries who will pray continuously for your health, well-being, and your avoidance of untimely mortal sin. When you die, or are about to die, our representative rushes to your side with a Certificate of Papal Absolution. This document guarantees you will not spend eternity in Hell and mitigates the punishment of Purgatory. If you die unexpectedly, such as in an auto accident, we have a double indemnity clause which cuts your Purgatory time in half.

After-Life Insurance gives you peace of mind, and now is the time to buy, while you're still young. Rates go up as you age. Act now! Insure your soul as well as your body.

Contact our local agent for more information and the policy that suits your soul.

Yours in Christ,

Cardinal Vito Papasmeari,
President, CATHOLIC-CO

Dear Vito:

I'd love to have one of these policies. Unfortunately, my personal religious faith doesn't encompass the belief that spending money in this life can pay you dividends in the next. In this, I am in sync with, I hope, the majority of the religious world, which in the main comprises non-Christians. Without going into personal detail about what I believe, I can say that my system of faith doesn't include handing a buck to some guy who says it will do me good when I'm dead. I'd a lot rather be handed a buck when I'm alive.

Just to show what a good person I am, though, I'd be glad to drop a few drachma on a policy for Pat Buchanan—but on the other hand, where he's going it won't do him any good. The man has the soul of a Mentos commercial. (If we must have a well between the U.S. and Mexico, let's at least equip it with revolving doors. But wait, that wouldn't make any sense.)

Yours for reaping what you sow,
Eddy

*** LIFE'S A BEACH ***

By Eddy and Leona Trotsky

The growing popularity of Aaron Spelling's hit surf-theme shows has inspired UPN to schedule a special evening of surf SF. See your local listings for air times.

Baywatch 5 — Tonight on Baywatch 5, Zack discovers the station surfboards have been coated with Centauri wax, and the trail leads to the Surfcorps. Meanwhile, Ivanova goes undercover as a Shadowbabe and Garibaldi rekindles an old flame with Dr. Lipps, the developer of anti-grav beach wear. A little girl is rescued.

The Bay Files — Scully is skeptical when Mulder

blames a series of mysterious sun burns on alien sunscreen. Cancer man is discovered in the background of an old Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue photographed near Bikini Atoll. A little dog is rescued.

Deep Surf 9 — Sisco and Odo suspect conspiracy on an intergalactic scale when the Interstellar Hobie Convention is held on the station, and the wind multiplier is tampered with. A little boy is rescued.

Movie: "Baywatchworld" — The Mariner (Kevin Costner) hangs ten with Tulsan Jeannie Tripplehorn as they fight the evil Readers and search for the mythical Malibuland. Leakin'; Dennis Hopper. A tomato plant is rescued.

***** KANDO BITES KOHO! *****

FUTURE FANTASY WRITERS OF AMERICA are proud to present this year's winning story, written by our best young future fantasy mind. Enjoy!

A WASTE OF TIME

by

Pippi Wong*

Tarzan grabbed another vine as he swung slowly along. Suddenly he felt himself flying through the air! While day-dreaming, he had missed a vine! THUD! Tarzan sat dazed on a little mound of sand. A little mound of sand?? But it was too late! Kando, (ant) bit him hard!

"Yowllll!" Tarzan screamed. "Kando bites koho (hot)!"

He was up and running but before he got out of the clearing Tarzan saw Sheeta (panther)! Tarzan dropped at the sight of the great cat. But luckily Sheeta was on the trail of Horta (boar). A second later Tarzan was again swinging through the air. He had been dreaming about Jane Porter. Ah, she was beautiful! And as far as Tarzan could tell she could make a perfect por-kalan (wife).

Crash! He swooped into a giant tree! Dazed, he became aware of some pand (thunder)! As his brain cleared he became fully aware of the tree he had crashed into. It was moving! He looked down and there was Tantor (elephant), mad with fear because Pamba (rat) had scared him, and come crashing along just as Tarzan came sailing along! Just before Tarzan came swooping down Tantor had lifted the tree up and of course, Crash! About an hour later Tarzan came spinning along at top speed. He zoomed right over a

small lake!

"What's next?!" he wondered as he crashed tummy-first into the water! Down, down, down. As he came up he scared the Pisa (fish) family out of their wits! Scramble, push, wiggle, jiggle to get out of his way! When he got to the top, rather stunned, a log came drifting towards him. A log!!! It was Gimla (crocodile)! Tarzan sank, petrified with fear. The Pisa family had just gotten over their scare, when down he came again! Push, wiggle, jiggle and scramble, to get out of his way again!

Later, Tarzan came sailing through the air at top speed. Crash! He landed in some fur that was swinging through the air too! It was Bolgani (gorilla)! Crunch! Munch! Zoom over the tops of the trees Tarzan sailed (without a vine of course)! Crash! Tarzan lay stunned half a second, then sat up very much lost. Quite dazed. He lay there quietly and soon felt better. He got to his feet but he shouldn't have bothered because Gogo (buffalo) came pounding across the clearing! After he passed Tarzan's place, there was no Tarzan! Tarzan was now pounded flat into the ground!

"Snakes and panthers may break my bones, and buffalo are doing it right now," he murmured. A few minutes later he was speeding towards Jane's camp again. Just as he was going top top speed, Lano (mosquito) bit him! He let go to swat him and, well, Yowwww!!! Away he sailed, swish, crash! Tarzan went flying into a calm little pool! Splash! Down, down, down. He could tell that pisa (fish) never changed. Scramble, push, wiggle, jiggle to get out of his way again! As he surfaced a big rock seemed to just be there. About six yards away. He didn't see it when he sailed in. I wonder? Just then it began to swim!

"Swim?" Tarzan wondered. "A rock that can swim? It's," he paused, "Duro (hippo)!" He was three feet away! "Got to get out fast!" he thought. His conscience agreed! Tarzan was soon running on top of the water! Splash! Down, down. And so on to shore.

A few hours later Tarzan was walking in the dark of night. He had to find a cave to sleep in. He had walked about two miles until he found an empty one. But unknown to Tarzan this was a very special cave. Mrs. Numa (lion) was going to have cubs in that cave. Her name was Sabor (lioness), Mrs. Sabor Numa! Tarzan lay down and fell asleep. About two o'clock in the morning he woke up. "What awakened me?" he wondered.

Then he saw! Sabor had come in and laid down and did not see the sleeping Tarzan, for he was in the dark shadows. He was awakened by the squeaks of the new cubs! Still quite groggy from his slumber, he went over to pet them. As he came to Sabor he commented, "My, you are big!" Then he bent down to cuddle her. This was unnecessary, because he soon found himself being cuddled! Lion cuddled! Then with a gentle love pat she sent him out of the cave in a hurry! With a pain on his

seat to remember her by!

The next morning Tarzan found himself ten miles from Jane's camp. Her camp was across a five mile clearing. He got to the clearing and then had to walk. Her camp was just inside the jungle on the other side. About one-half mile across the clearing he climbed some high rocks to scout and rest. As he rested some Tongami's (baboons) saw him. It was their high rocks and they meant to keep it! The leader, an old bull tongani lead the attack on Tarzan's back! Scratch, bite, munch! Grrr! One dainty slap was all Tarzan could do.

After Tarzan looked after his wounds, he plodded on. He began to feel a little sleepy, so he found some shady bushes and had a snooze. An hour later he was again awakened by pand (thunder).

It couldn't be tantors!? He looked up because a herd of Pacco (zebras) came pounding along. After the whole herd had passed, all of the bushes were flat, and so was Tarzan's head!

About an hour later Tarzan reached the jungle on the other side. He grabbed a vine and soon reached a tree just above the ground. To his delight he saw Jane, but sitting with another man. When he got just above them, he heard the man say: "Jane, will you marry me?"

Jane looked at the trees, but didn't see Tarzan. Then she said, "Yes, I will."

Tarzan sat stunned but then sat tall and swung away. But as he swung away he muttered angrily, "All that danger and she doesn't wait! Za's (girls) are a waste of time!"

The End

*It's rumored that Future Fantasy Writers of American don't exist, that this story was actually written by a member of OSFW when she/he was in grade school, and that he/she got an A minus—but you never know.

*** MARKET UPDATE ***

(Many thanks to KDW for pulling this information together.)

CHANGES

OMNI has cancelled its print edition, although the online edition will continue to be published. Reportedly they have worked out a way to charge online readers.

PULPHOUSE has decided to fold all three magazines, PULPHOUSE, ABRUPT EDGE, and FULL CLIP. Kill fees will be paid on all stories currently under contract and unused portions of subscriptions refunded. (After 10 years, due to writing demands and

aspirations to qualify for the Seniors' Pro Golf Tour in another 5 years, Dean Wesley Smith is calling it quits).

WORLDS OF FANTASY AND HORROR is again reading. Address: 123 Crooked Lane, King of Prussia, PA 19406-2570. Editor: Darrell Schweitzer. Quarterly. Needs f/h/psychic/supernatural/occult. 20,000 words maximum. Payment: 3-7 cents/word on acceptance for FNASR. Provides 3 contributor's copies. Sample: \$5. Fiction guidelines for #10 SASE. Reporting time: 1 month.

PULP FICTION MAGAZINE is also reading again. New address: P.O. Box 548, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254-0548. Published bimonthly. Editor: Clancy O'Hara. "The shorter, the better . . . I like crime, horror, sf, and 'Lurid Tales of Adventure.'" Length: under 2,000 words. Payment: 1 cent/word. Sample copy: \$5. Sub.: \$20. Make checks payable to Clancy O'Hara.

THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF FANTASY did not receive expected funding and is closed.

The fantasy volume of **BENDING THE LANDSCAPE** is now closed, but they are still accepting submissions for the horror and sf volumes.

THE THIRTEENTH MOON has a new editor: Amy Sisson.

GASLIGHT has ceased publication for the moment, due to the death of its assistant editor. All manuscripts previously accepted but not yet published are released back to their authors who may feel free to seek publication elsewhere. Editor Melissa Gish hopes to resume publication sometime in 1996.

NEW LISTINGS

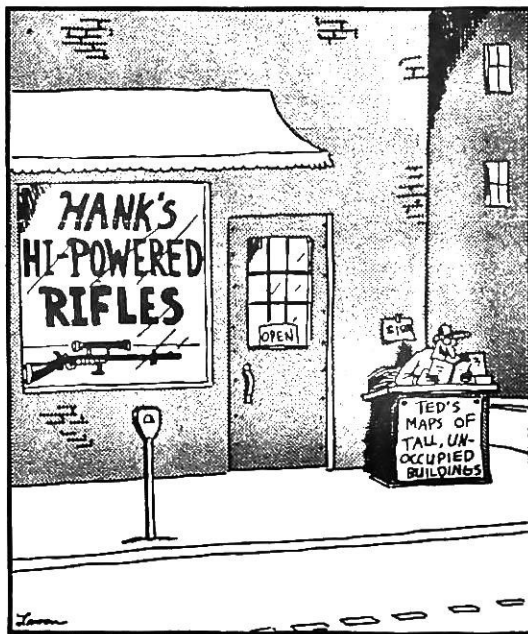
BLOOD AND MIDNIGHT, Preternatural Press, 8510 16th St., #101, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Editor: Meg Thompson. "Dark fiction/horror in all forms, from classical and romantic to as cutting edge as possible. Cross-genre stories must be horror more than anything else." Length: up to 10,000 words. Payment: a minimum of 1 cent/word for FNASR plus 1 copy. Prefers stamps to a SASE. No poetry.

BONES, P.O. Box 5410, Akron, OH 44334. Editor: none listed. "BONES, a new magazine of horror, will initially be marketed to distributors as a 'one shot,' but our intention is to make it into a quarterly publication . . . we will have an initial run of 10,000 copies and hope to be on the newsstands as early as August, but definitely by this fall." Buying: "Cutting edge stories that push the limits and take the reader over the top and

beyond taboo . . . will consider any type of fiction—horror, sf, fantasy, noir, cyber—that is based in deep shadows and the serious dark.” Length: up to 10,000 words, prefer shorter. Might take reprints, especially if not widely circulated. Want cover letter and disposable manuscript. Provide e-mail address, if you have one. Payment: 3 cents/word with a \$150 maximum upon acceptance.

A DIFFERENT BEAT, published by Angelus Press (VISIONS QUESTS and NEW ALTARS) is changing from a magazine to an anthology due to be published in September, 1996. Buying “tales of ordinary cops facing the unordinary . . . pieces that blend a good mystery with intriguing science fiction, fantasy, or horror. Tell me a story—about cops on Mars, cops in Hell, cops in Faerie. Or bring the exotic to them: cops dealing with werewolves, ghosts, ect.” Length: up to 5,000 words. Payment: 3 cents/word for FNA serial rights and antho rights. Reprints: 1 cent/word. ***Deadline: April 1st. Return: approximately 1 month. Address: 7 St. Luke’s Rd., Allston, MA 02134. Editor: Sandra Hutchinson.

DREAMS OF DECADENCE, the new vampire mag, pays only one contributor’s copy for both reprints and new stories up to 5000 words. Anyone who still wants submission guidelines after reading this can obtain a Xerox from Barbara at the March meeting. (In a subsequent interview, BJT commented: “This is just a big ol’, bloody disappointment!”)



*** MANY THANKS TO ***

Warren & Lana
KDW
Cardinal Vito Papasmeari
Eddy
Leona T.
Barbara
Pippi Wong

*** SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION ***

One year’s 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) to:

K.D. Wentworth, Treasurer
10804 E. 27th Street
Tulsa, OK 74129
(Checks should be made out to K.D. Wentworth)

Please note: An “X” on your mailing label indicates OSFW has no record of either 1996 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 DOS disk (720k or 1.4 meg. — no 2.8 meg). 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 internet:73172.2054@compuserve.com. (or 73172,2054 if you have a CompuServe account). 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 22

We look forward to seeing you all!