

Brought to you by: K.D. Wentworth, Uncle Guido, Warren Brown, Michael Keller and Leona Trotsky

**SPECIAL "IT'S ALIVE!" ISSUE
NOVEMBER 2003-AUGUST 2004**

***** HELLO, OSFW *****

July Meeting: See you at the OSFW session at Conestoga in lieu of the July meeting.

August meeting:

The August OSFW meeting will be held at the Brown house on August 13 commencing at 7:00 p.m. Turn north on Pittsburg Ave. from 61st (between Harvard and Yale) and veer left. It's (6012) the sixth house on the left.

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

CONESTOGA IS COMING!

July 16 - 18, 2004

Guest of Honor: Eric Flint

Toastmaster: Walter Jon Williams

Artist Guest of Honor:

Darrell K. Sweet

Fan Guests of Honor:

Curtis & Marilyn Berry



His Holiness the
Pope (Reverend and Dr.)
Omed will appear at
Conestoga!

For Info Go To:

<http://tapestry3.home.mindspring.com/tulsa.html>

*****MORE LOCAL NEWS*****

Richard Cox's first novel, *RIFT*, went on sale June 29. He'll be signing books at Borders on 21st Street on July 10th at 2 p.m., and at Steve's Sundry on August 14th.

*****CONTINUUM*****

**Three random months' worth!
by Amanda Gannon**

(Note from Amanda: Sorry for any errors, if they occur. Bring a stick to the next meeting and thwack me if I screwed something up.)

Feb. 2004

Sales: Kathy sold to *revolutionsf.com*; Brad sold to *Gateways* and to *All Hell's Breaking Loose* anthology, as well as reprint rights to two Lancelot stories.

Published: Tony's "Blue Falcon" saw publication.

Rejections: Melissa and Kathy were both rejected by the same *Hell* anthology mentioned above. Kathy also received a rejection from *Paradox*. Amanda received a rejection from the *Sci-fi Writers of Earth* (yeah, all of them).

Read: Highlight of the evening was definitely Kathy's story, "Born Again," in which a 'normal' family owns a Son of God clone. Unbelievably nervy and

blackly hilarious.

March 2004

Sales: Sue sold "What Comes Around" and "Christmas Shopping." Brad sold "Location Shoot," "Wind and Shadows," and reprint rights for "Places for Act II."

Published: Matt's story, "Oaken Memory," appeared in *PanGaia* magazine. Yay!

Read: Richard read Chapter 1 of *The Boys of Summer*, which chronicles the Wichita Falls tornado from various points of view. The description of the storm was chilling, but the narration was not overbearing. Humorous touches here and there ("I just promised not to throw any rocks!") underscored the terror, and made it seem more horribly real. In retrospect, the hail scene was exceptionally vivid.

New member Simone Chiodoni read Chapter 1 of *Seven Thousand Suns*, chronicling the exploits of a pair of fledgling assassins and a group of hunters in post-apocalyptic Michigan. There is obvious extensive backstory and history going on here, which lends a feeling of depth, but at no point were the readers (listeners) overwhelmed with infodump. It will be interesting to see how these plot threads tie together.

May 2004

Sales: Steven Scott gains a credit for a poem, Kathy sells Russian rights to *Course of Empire*.

Published: Brad's Story, "Places for Act II," appeared on *revolutionsf.com*.

Rejections: Amanda nets white slips from *Alchemy*, *F&SF*, and *Zoetrope*.

Rob read Chapter Two of *The Witch Queen of New Orleans*. Once more, his evocation of the setting was vivid. The dialogue and internal monologue effectively captured the awkwardness of youth, along with its charm.

Cisco stepped up to the plate and read a chapter entitled "The Landing" from a military fantasy novel. It effectively evoked the feel of a warship (reminding me why I don't like to sail), and preparations for battles to come.

Second new member Steven Scott read from his novel *Unfinished Business*, in which Jared tragically loses his brother, and thus learns of his unusual ability to channel the spirits of the dead. The application of his ability as a "last call" police officer will offer many opportunities for bizarre encounters.

Mike Winkle, returning after a long hiatus, read "The First," a charming and very short short story about the excavation of the original moon landing, and the discovery of a secret long buried on the moon's surface.

EDDY

Dear Eddy,

I've heard that everyone has a right to an opinion, so I would like to have one too. Obviously, they're in fashion. Do you know where I can buy one or at least rent one at a reasonable rate?

Signed, Uncertain

Dear Uncertain,

You are correct in assuming that everyone has a right to an opinion. It's in the Constitution, somewhere near the right to own a surplus Vulcan rotary

cannon from the tail section of the B-52 in your uncle's cow pasture. You can buy (or rent) an opinion from any politician if you have enough money, but it's probably a good idea to get the service warranty in case the opinion begins to malfunction. (While it's a good idea for stupid people to keep their opinions to themselves, their opinions are sometimes available at bargain prices.)

In the main, beware of anyone trying to sell or rent you what they represent as God's opinion. Chances are neither you nor God will be happy.

Yours for humane and intelligent opinions,

Eddy

*****Email from Matt*****
A Farsi Phrase Guide
with Commentary
Reprinted from the 3/04 OSFW
egroup, and well worth it.

"Asalaam malakom/Walakom asalaam" = Peace be with you/Also with you peace. This is a fairly standard greeting and response throughout the Islamic world. But for once in a pair of decades there does seem to be rudimentary peace in Afghanistan. Certainly there are still flare ups with Al Qaeda and Taliban along the border with Pakistan, outlaws attacking aid workers, and occasional rocket attacks on US bases, but for the most part, at least near Kabul, people have more security. Enough security to perhaps start looking toward building a future instead of just surviving through the present.

"Soba kayr" = Good morning. The second part of the greeting process.

"Chetor asti? Khub asti? Jur asti? Janan

jur ast?" = How are you? Are you good? Are you well? How is your health? Greetings seem to take up most of our interaction. This is the third part of the greeting process. The way the Tajiks and the Pashtoons greet each other involves far more bodily contact than an American male such as myself is used to. Many of my more homophobic comrades have worked a second arm into the whole handshake business to fend off the inevitable hug and dreaded cheek touching and the most feared kiss. Often times you see young men walking hand-in-hand. I prefer to think of it just as a hand shake that has gone on a little too long.

"Khub astom, tashakor" = I am good, thank you. Only one answer for any of the questions. The Afghans tend to put on a happy face even when everything sucks. The "kh" comes from the back of the throat and is difficult for anyone who hasn't grown up speaking Dari (or German).

"Shoma zan dared?" = Do you have a woman (wife)? I rarely use this phrase, however I do get asked it when I meet someone new. This is easy to reply to. Yes, I have a lovely wife named Beth and we've been married for eight years. The inevitable follow on question is about the number of children that we have. When I tell them I have none, I get strange reactions, mostly disbelief or more questions regarding my health. Funny how I find myself defending the American cultural differences. I finally explain that it is hard to have a family when you're not at home. Oh, and there is no pronoun difference for he and she, which makes me wonder about the proposed linguistic origin of sexism.

"Shyad sabow" = Perhaps tomorrow. This is an all purpose blanket statement when dealing with Afghans. I can

promise very little in my position, and often our ANA counter parts can't understand why it is so hard for us to get everything they want. So the answer is often "Perhaps tomorrow." Come to think of it, this could come in fairly handy back in the civilian world. But as far as I can tell, Dari has no future tense. This is also exhibited in their driving skills, most often demonstrated by an inability to predict the consequences of their own actions behind the wheel.

"Tarjamon kojaws?" = Where is the interpreter? We have two very bright young Afghans working for us -- Hameed and Rameen. Hameed has been an interpreter for as long as the US has been in Afghanistan and he's only 17 years old now. Rameen wants to go visit America so bad he's always saying that he will die if he doesn't get to travel. I've already offered them both a place to stay in Oklahoma. Those two young men make our whole mission possible. I hope that the Homeland Security Department won't make their dreams an impossibility.

"Sard/garm" = Cold/hot.. It's been cold and it promises to become hot. One thing that the Afghans definitely seem to dislike is being cold. But the ANA doesn't have much in the way of heat in their garrison, so field jackets are worn inside as well as outside. Already, though I wake up shivering, the tents get too hot during the day to be able to perform any type of work.

"Gorestna/tashna" = Hungry/thirsty. The legendary Afghan hospitality appears everywhere. If you are a guest in someone's office, you are offered chai. It's best not to be too critical of the state of cleanliness of the glasses in which the chai is served. And Iranian sweets or an Afghan trail mix (almonds,

white raisins, roasted chickpeas) are always placed out for the guest to nibble on. Sampling the food has been something that many of my comrades shy away from. I've had local na'an, a flat chewy bread common throughout south Asia, Kabuli pilau--long grain rice flavored with saffron with slivers of carrots and raisins, a chickpea soup with a meatball of some unknown origin, Bulani--a type of na'an fried in oil with potatoes and green onion, an oil fried na'an that tastes like North American fry bread, a couple types of kabob from spicy to bland, and Afghan funnel cake soaked in honey so sweet it makes your teeth hurt. I haven't gotten ill from any of the local food or from eating with the ANA soldiers in their dining facility.

"bale/nay" = Yes/no. Simple *must have* language tools, simple in pronunciation but so often difficult in execution. The Afghans I've been around have five or six ways to show agreement, with every form of yes tending to lean toward the "maybe" end of the spectrum of meaning, but only one way to say "no".

"Khana boro!" = Go home! This is not a very polite way to say this. Normally this is said to small children or animals. Afghanistan is not a very nice place to be either. I wish someone would tell me this and mean it.

"Pul nadarom." = I have no money. This phrase is very important because I have been acting as a class A pay agent. This means I carry around a wad of cash given to me by the US Army to spend on operational requirements. Since our operation centers around teaching, training and mentoring the ANA, we support their supply activities. Essentially we're like Santa Claus in desert camo. But the big sack is getting empty. Like all grand endeavors, eventually the people who started went

in with passion and enthusiasm. The people making decisions were the people on the ground. The success of the ANA is that it has grown to a size where a bureaucracy has sprung up around it and with the increased size, the coalition side has also increased. Now the accountants are making more of the decisions regarding what can and can't be done rather than the warfighters. This shift away from the deep pockets and immediate gratification to long waits for requisitions that may or may not be approved has caused a lot of friction and heartache on both the ANA and US sides. It is also handy at the bazaar. I also picked up another term, gushna, which means "greedy".

"Man nafamidom." = I don't know/understand. I say this far too often for my own liking.

"Hama chiz khub ast." = It's all good. If I repeat this enough times, perhaps I'll begin to believe it. But so far we've been doing well over here.

Hope this finds all of my OSFW friends in good health and high spirits.

I'll be back, but probably not in time for Conestoga.

UNLOCAL NEWS

Countdown to the Next Space Race

The successful flight of the first private space plane is only the first of many suborbital attempts we can expect this year.

By Erick Schonfeld, June 25, 2004

Last Monday, Burt Rutan put the first civilian astronaut into space. Rutan's SpaceShipOne was able to blast pilot Mike Melvill just north of the 100-kilometer mark in a suborbital flight,

beyond the limits of the atmosphere and back. As impressive a milestone as that was, it was not quite enough to win the \$10 million Ansari X Prize.

Modeled after the \$25,000 Orteig Prize that Charles Lindbergh won by crossing the Atlantic in 1927, the X Prize will go to whoever launches the first privately financed spaceship that takes three people on a suborbital flight 100 kilometers high, and then does it again within two weeks. Besides Rutan's team, about a dozen more contenders are actively vying for the prize, including ones from Argentina, Canada, England, and Romania. Close on Rutan's heels is Canada's da Vinci Project, an all-volunteer effort led by Brian Feeney.

"We are good to go in under 90 days," he declares. Other teams that might pull off launches this year include Feeney's compatriots at Canadian Arrow, Britain's Starchaser Industries, Texas contender Armadillo Aerospace (led by videogame programmer John Carmack of Doom and Quake fame), and even the Aeronautics and Cosmonautics Romanian Association.

(On an interesting side note, the X Prize Foundation, which is sponsoring the competition, doesn't actually have \$10 million on hand. It's raised an estimated \$6 million, but the contestants need not worry, because the foundation is funding the shortfall with what is known as a hole-in-one insurance policy. In essence, the foundation made a bet with a syndicate of insurance companies. If no one claims the prize, the foundation will be out \$2 million to \$5 million in insurance premiums. But if someone does claim it, the insurance companies will pay out the full \$10 million to the winner. There is one more catch. In order for someone to collect, the prize requirements have to be met by Jan. 1, 2005. Thus, there is growing urgency among the teams to fly their

volunteers who have contributed during the past eight years, based on how many hours they've put in.

But doing it on the cheap is the whole point of the X Prize. It helps overcome the psychological barrier that says space is off-limits to private citizens. "It parallels what Lindbergh did," Feeney says. "He had no windshield. But less than 10 years later, there were Pan Am Clippers gracing the skies of the Pacific with 40 passengers each." If someone wins the prize, investors might be motivated to build a real company to, say, manufacture hybrid rocket engines or even take tourists up for suborbital joy rides. Even if there are only 10,000 people in the world willing to pay, say, \$100,000 a pop, that's a \$1 billion market. Feeney is planning to roll out a prototype for a commercial vehicle that will seat eight passengers by next year. He figures that he can break even by flying just one trip a month with three paying passengers. And, he thinks, if he can raise about \$100 million, he'll be able to build and commercialize two such vehicles for space tourism. As the trips become more popular, the ticket price will quickly come down.

X Prize Foundation chairman Peter Diamandis, for his part, hopes to follow the X Prize with the X Prize Cup. Modeled after NASCAR, the event would feature teams competing to see whose ship can climb the fastest or carry the greatest number of passengers. Spectators could bring their kids to look at the ships up close and meet the pilots. "I hope the business world will see this as a real opportunity for advertising and promoting their brands," Diamandis says. Corporations could sponsor ships à la NASCAR or the America's Cup.

"It will take us 15 to 20 years to put a

dent in the suborbital market," Feeney estimates, "and by that time we will have started on the orbital market." His goal is to build an orbital demonstrator vehicle within eight years. Jim Benson of SpaceDev is already at work on a high-performance hybrid rocket engine that could take a ship into orbit. And, although a spokesperson denies it, Ratan may also have plans for orbiting the planet. In his press releases, SpaceShipOne is referred to as Tier One. Tier Two was supposedly a plan, now on hold, to fly SpaceShipOne every week for 26 weeks. "Tier Three," Feeney suggests, "is an orbital vehicle." And given that taking a ship into orbit is far more difficult than simply touching space, costs will run much higher. The question then becomes, will there be a market to match?

Stuff From the Internet by Greg Lower

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University has built the third-fastest supercomputer at a bargain-basement price from off-the-shelf components. Student volunteers unpacked and placed 1100 Macintosh dual-processor G5 Power PC computers on water-cooled shelves to assemble the supercomputer, which has a theoretic maximum of 17 trillion computations per second, called 17 teraflops. The students, who were paid in pizza and game coupons, nicknamed the supercomputer "Big Mac." The obvious question is -- You want fries with that? Big Mac has 2,200 processors and cost approximately \$5 million to build. By contrast, the Earth Simulator supercomputer in Japan has 5,000 processors running at 35.8 teraflops and cost \$350 million. Friday, IBM announced it had assembled 1,000 Power PC processors, the kind it is selling to Sony and Nintendo for its next

generation of video game consoles, to build a 2 teraflop supercomputer the size of a 30-inch television set. An IBM executive said producing the chips in volume for gaming will help offset the costs of building supercomputers. IBM's mini-supercomputer ranks 73rd in processing speed., and was a small-scale prototype of IBM's planned Blue Gene/L supercomputer, under construction for Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California. That computer will be 180 to 360 teraflops and will cost \$50 to \$100 million. The processors will be about one-fifth the previous cost. It also will cover 2,500 square feet, about one-tenth the size of the Earth Simulator. The ultimate goal, the Blue Gene, will have 65,000 processors and will run at one petaflop, or one thousand trillion calculations per second.

For those of you who are keeping score, astronomers have found 91 stars with at least one planet, 11 stars with at least two, two stars with at least three planets and 13 stars without planets since the first extra-solar planet was found in 1995. Epsilon Eridani, a K2 class star 10.6 light years from earth, is believed to have at least two planets. One planet is 86 percent the mass of Jupiter and orbits at about the distance of Sol's asteroid belt once in six years and ten months. The second planet, suspected from dust morphology, is 10 percent Jupiter's mass and orbits every 280 years at a distance of 40 A.U. Epsilon Eridani is 80 percent of the Sun's mass and was identified as Baleyworld in Isaac Asimov's "Foundation" stories, as Viking Station in the works of C.J. Cherryh and as Vulcan in "Star Trek" The Next Generation."

Don't Be a Carrier

Five misconceptions even you (yes,

*you) have been known to spread.
Courtesy of Popular Science*

False: Toilets and bathtubs drain counterclockwise in the Northern Hemisphere, clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere. The Coriolis effect, caused by the rotation of the Earth, can be seen in the spin direction of weather systems such as hurricanes and cyclones. But in the short-lived flush of a toilet, the force is far too weak to have an impact; the direction of the water's rotation depends on the toilet's design.

False: No two snowflakes are alike. Snowflakes are six-sided crystals composed of about 10¹⁸ water molecules, giving them unimaginable -- but not infinite -- potential for variation. In 1988, Nancy Knight, a meteorologist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research, discovered two identical snowflakes that had been collected from clouds above Wisconsin. The snowflakes apparently formed as conjoined twins.

False: Humans use just 10 percent of their brains. MRI and PET scans show that a much larger portion of the brain is engaged during complex thought processes. And biologists scoff at the idea that we would evolve such an oversize brain -- it eats up 19 percent of the fuel in our bloodstream -- only to use but a fraction of it.

False: A penny dropped from the Empire State Building would kill someone below. A few calculations tell us that a penny falling edge-on from the 1,050-foot-high observation deck on Floor 86 of the 102-story skyscraper would fall 500 feet before reaching maximum velocity: 57 miles an hour. This is about 1/10 the speed of a low-caliber handgun bullet -- fast enough to hurt but, except in freak circumstances,

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not to kill. It's a moot point anyway: Thanks to updrafts, coins tossed from the observation deck generally land on the setback roof of Floor 80.

False: The Moon appears larger when it's on the horizon because it's magnified by the atmosphere. This is an optical illusion. You can confirm that fact by taking photographs of the Moon as it tracks across the sky: It will appear the same size on the negatives, no matter where it is. The cause of the illusion is the subject of considerable debate, but the leading theory is that it's a classic Ponzo illusion: The brain mentally magnifies objects near the horizon because it interprets them as far away; thus the Moon appears larger to us when it is closer to the horizon.

Know the Major Milestones

The worldview-shaping experiments everyone should understand.

- **Flying clocks**

The most celebrated experimental backing for special relativity came in 1971, when four cesium atomic beam clocks were flown around the world. Einstein's theory predicted the clocks would lose 40 ± 23 nanoseconds compared with reference clocks on the ground when circling the globe eastward, and gain 275 ± 21 nanoseconds when traveling west. The results: a loss of 59 ± 10 nanoseconds eastbound and a westbound gain of 273 ± 7 nanoseconds -- evidence that time is not absolute but dependent on frame of reference.

- **Primordial Soup**

Could life have emerged from the conditions on early Earth without divine intervention? In 1953 chemists Stanley Miller and Harold Urey of the University of Chicago filled a glass bulb with hydrogen, methane, ammonia and

water to simulate the early atmosphere, then heated it with a Bunsen burner "sun" and battered it with electric "lightning bolts." After a few weeks, the bulb held a reddish-brown soup containing amino acids -- the key building blocks of life. Scientists now believe ammonia may not have been present in the Earth's early atmosphere, but updated studies conducted sans ammonia have yielded similar results.

- **The Double Slit**

In 1801, British physicist Thomas Young decided to test whether light is a wave or a stream of particles. He cut two slits in a screen, put a second screen behind it, then shone light through the slits. If light was a stream, it would appear as two dots on the second screen. But if it was a wave, it would spread out as it traversed the slits, creating an interference pattern -- a series of light and dark bands -- on the second screen. Young observed an interference pattern. More than a century later, researchers found that electrons also create an interference pattern, and concluded that particles can also act like waves.

Bugstunt

Here's a trick that's guaranteed to wow your camping buddies: Listen for a cricket, count the number of chirps the insect makes in 15 seconds, then add 40, and -- voilà! -- you've got the ambient temperature in degrees Fahrenheit.

Market Report

**By
KDW**

AMAZING STORIES

Notification

We try to notify writers of the status of their queries and mss within three months. We

appreciate your patience. Please don't phone or email us about your query or ms unless we have asked you to.

Fiction

We review original manuscripts for amazing stories of 2,000-5,000 words. An "amazing story" uses compelling language to tell a riveting narrative about a fantastical subject or in a fantastical setting. Our stories include-but are not limited to-those traditionally called speculative fiction, science fiction, fantasy, supernatural horror, magical realism, utopian/dystopian fiction, superhero, and futurism. Please mail us your finished ms with a cover letter and a list of published credits. If you wish to receive a response, include an SASE; if you wish to have your ms returned, send an appropriate envelope with adequate postage. We do not accept fiction submissions via email; emailed fiction will be ignored. We don't consider simultaneous submissions, previously published material, or any poems except villanelles.

Copyrights & Compensation

We buy first worldwide English-language publishing rights. Our standard rate for fiction and nonfiction is 10¢/word. Contributors also receive two copies of the issue in which their work appears.

Send manuscripts to:

Amazing Stories Submissions
Paizo Publishing
3245 146th Pl SE Ste 110
Bellevue WA 98007

Notification

We try to notify writers of the status of their queries and mss within three months. We appreciate your patience. Please don't phone or email us about your query or ms unless we have asked you to.

Borderlands 6

Edited by Elizabeth E. & Thomas F. Monteleone

Manuscripts (SASE required) to:

Borderlands Press
PO Box 1529
Graham NH 03753

or electronic submissions to:

Elizabeth@borderlandspress.com
(attached Microsoft word or RTF files
preferred...PC or MAC okay)

This a non-themed anthology which carries on the tradition and high standards established by

the first five volumes in this series. It is the intention of the editors to publish new, original, short fiction which pushes the limits of what is being done in darkly imaginative fiction. If you are published in *Borderlands*, you will be part of the expedition to open the gates to new literary territory, and you will help scorch a path through the jagged landscape of the imagination unbound ... and all those other neat metaphors.

You don't need to read a *Borderlands* story on a stormy dark night, with glowing embers banked in the fireplace, and a dark wind howling across the moors. The stories we want can be read under the clear light of day and pure reason, and they will still knock you around and put a new rhythm in your head. Which means: we are not looking for any of the traditional bug-bears and boogymen. No ghosts or vampires need apply. No zombies, no werewolves, no mummies, succubi, or Hitchcockian spouses with plans to do in their mates.

In other words we don't want stories employing any of the familiar symbols which have defined the genre for far too long.

Having said all that, we believe you'll have a far better chance of selling us your story if you have sampled previous volumes of this anthology series.

Open for submissions: May 1, 2004 - we will close when we have filled the book.

Please check our website
(www.borderlandspress.com) periodically for updates on the status of the anthology's progress.

Simultaneous submissions okay (if you sell it before we get to it, it's our loss . . .)

NO Reprints

Length: up to 5,000 words (unless by previous arrangement)

Payment: .05 to .07 cents per word

Turnaround: as long as it takes us

Target Pub Date: January 2005

Lenox Avenue

Debuting July 1st, 2004

Welcome to *Lenox Avenue*. This is a bi-monthly e-zine that pays 5 cents per word up to \$100. At this time, we are not considering re-prints. Stories should be between 100 and 6,000 words. Payment made on acceptance. No simultaneous or multiple subs, please. Our e-zine will debut

July 1st, 2004 with the authors and artist featured on our cover page.

The Perfect Story

The perfect Lenox Avenue story would be one in which the author explored a cultural myth or tradition, or sufficiently created one as rich in tradition, history, or controversy as those of the known world. This perfect story would have well-drawn characters engaged in an internal or external struggle that speaks to some truth of the human condition. The perfect story would not make gender nor sexual stereotypes, and might even challenge a few of them. Our primary goal in each issue is to showcase fiction written with a whole-world view in mind -- that we are not one idea, religion, or tradition, but many. Also, see "What We Want."

What We Don't Want:

(Please note, we have no intention of trivializing these forms of literature. We just don't find that they fit our desired content.)

- Poetry.
- Movie Reviews/Articles.
- High fantasy/sword and sorcery.
- Fairies, unicorns, elves, stock wizards and sorceresses.

What We Do Want:

- Stories that brush up against the known, and speculate on the unknown.
- Stories in which the speculative nature (magic, supernatural, etc.) is seamlessly intertwined with a sense of the everyday, even if your story is set in a different world.
- Whimsy with adult sensibility. Psychological horror with a supernatural edge.
- Oddness is always catchy, as long as it makes sense.
- We're not guideline fiends. If it's well-written, give us a try.

Violence, profanity, and sex must be deemed necessary to the plot and development of the story. As you can see by the disclaimer below, we're not shy, but don't go overboard.

How to Submit

1. Render your story in 12 point Courier.
2. Use SMF except where italics are intended -- put those words/phrases in italics.
3. Put your name, word count, mailing address, and email address in the document at the top.
4. PLEASE NOTE THIS IMPORTANT DETAIL: Save your document as an RTF file. We hate to be restrictive, but due to security concerns we must request RTF files ONLY. If you experience

difficulties with this, please email us and we will come up with an alternative

5. Email it to us at

submissions@lenoxavemag.com.

6. Type FICTION SUBMISSION: (Story Title) in the subject of the email.

7. We don't mind an introductory letter, but do not require biographical information until we've purchased the piece. Also, we don't feel short stories require a synopsis of any sort.

8. We will not open emails that are not saved as RTF files. We will send a request asking that you re-format and re-send. We do have an auto-response for your original submission.

Questions? Feel free to email us at

feedback@lenoxavemag.com

Please note: This publication is intended for mature audiences. Some works herein may contain references which may not be suitable for young readers.

Modern Magic

(Short Fantasy Fiction)

Overview

Magic did not die during the Enlightenment or the Industrial Revolution. Elves and goblins are living among us, holding jobs, riding the subway, driving our cabs, preparing our food—and our taxes, and collecting our rent. Fairies still flit; wizards perform wonders. And gremlins are adept at modifying computer code.

Guidelines

The anthology will contain twenty-five to thirty original dark short stories about magic existing now. Modern Magic will feature stories of magic and fantasy set in the 20th and early 21st centuries. Nothing earlier than World War II and nothing later than 2010. No Harry Potter clones, please.

Works that cross genres are okay, but the focus will be on dark fantasy. No pornography. No poetry. Stories may contain sex and violence, but it must be tasteful (that is subjective, I know) and integral to the story.

No multiple submissions. Inclusion of an electronic version of the story would be appreciated for faster editing and pre-press. No electronic-only submissions.

Deadline: January 1, 2005 or when filled
Response Time: 3-8 weeks; if you've not heard from us in 8 weeks, please send an e-mail.

Length: up to 10,000 words

Rights: first World Publication Rights in the English Language for a term of five years.
Pay: 2-4 cents per word upon acceptance of final draft, as an advance on pro rata (based on final page-count) share of 35% of the net price of the book.

Contact Information

If you have questions, please e-mail
mm@fantasistent.com. NOTE: E-mail
submissions are strictly prohibited and will be
deleted without being read.

Mail your story to
Fantasist Enterprises
Modern Magic Anthology
PO Box 9381
Wilmington, DE 19809
USA

Ray's Door

What thoughts capered up
And down those panels
Escaped from dreams
From stories never written?

What puzzle pieces
Gleamed in the code
Of Bob Hope stickers,
And clips of ancient
Men and animals?

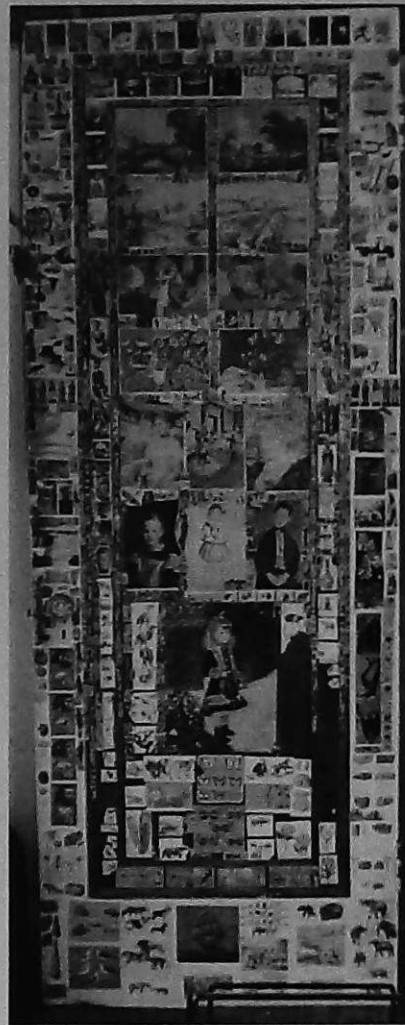
Of myth and Renaissance
Beauty pasted in the toolbox
Lid of a dream builder's
Dented chest

I dream sometimes
Of Ray's mosaiced door
Of tiny grandmothers
Alien and shrunken with time

I study it like a Rosetta
Of lost imagination
And glimpse at times

From the edge of sight
Someone moving
The pictures.

Warren Brown



*** MANY THANKS TO ***

KDW & Guido & Bear
Warren & Lana Brown
Charles Clark
Amanda Gannon
Michael Keller
Greg Lower
Guido
Chris Merle
M. T. Reiten
RAL

*** 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 [well, maybe] or PC disk. We like RTF files or MS Word files compatible with Word 97. Always include a separate ASCII file just in case. Send any email to Warren at underland@aol.com, with "For the GPIC" in the subject line.

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 Next issue: August 27.

Trouble?



Guido the Torch

Discreet
Effective
Compassionate

I know of no problem that can't be burnt away.

Ask Around. I'll Find You.
Made in New Jersey

"The Matrix
meets
Mission
Impossible."
—WILLIAM BERNHARDT

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