



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

**Special Put simply, simply put! Issue •
November 1995**

***** HELLO OSFW *****

The November meeting will be held at Greg Lower's residence in Sapulpa, home phone 224-2525, work phone 224-5185.

How to get there: Take U.S. Highway 75 South from Tulsa (75 runs through the downtown area; you can reach it by way of the BA, I-44, 244, etc.) to 117 West Exit (1 mile south of Creek Turnpike). Go to 3rd stoplight (about 5 miles to 1st stoplight, then 2 more miles; if you reach the Wal-Mart you've gone too far). Turn left on Hickory, go 1 mile south to stop sign. Head straight through stop sign and take the first right onto Galaxy Road into Southern Hills Apartments. Greg's building is #403, on the northeast side in back. It's Apartment F, to the right at the top of the stairs.

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

TOWING JEHOVAH by James Morrow won the World Fantasy Award for Best Novel.

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

Greg Lower made his first fiction sale to UNICORNS AND SPACE STATIONS. The story is titled "The Guide to Insight." Congratulations, Greg!

Greg also had good rejections from HOBSON'S CHOICE, WORLDS OF FANTASY & HORROR, and ABSOLUTE MAGNITUDE.

Susan Bischoff was invited to submit her children's book to an agent.

Paul Batteiger's prize winning story, "The Secret Dominion," was published in PENTHOUSE LETTERS.

Simon's story, "Blood Mary," was published in the anthology 100 WICKED LITTLE WITCH STORIES.

Barbara Thrower had good rejections from DEATHREALM, ST. MARTIN'S, DONALD MAAS LITERARY AGENCY, and a rewrite request from BENDING THE LANDSCAPE. She also received her contract for DISTANT JOURNEYS. Barb passes along this market tip from BENDING THE LANDSCAPE: The editors recommend that authors "stay away from the following story lines: AIDS, revenge, rape, vampires, clones and very cute lite fantasies."

After satisfactorily answering several questions regarding rights and word count, DISTANT JOURNEYS reissued Barb new contracts for her story. Barb described the editor's conduct in the matter as "polite and professional and prompt."

KDW had good rejections from ASIMOV'S and CENTURY.

***** CONTINUUM *****

October 1995

or...

*How Did Grimalkin Know
the Fairy Was Green?*

Ten (that number again) folks enjoyed a frightfully fun evening basking in the warm hospitality of Jim and Susan Bischoff at their lovely hilltop home. Highlights were passing around Paul's contributor's copy of *Penthouse* (I only read the articles), the wonderful witch's-hand candle and the bountiful snack table. Oh,

and we also listened to some great fiction...

Paul got the evening started with "Grimalkin Loved a Green Fairy," a dark fantasy tale that pays homage to Mary Shelley's immortal classic. Far from being a too-similar treatment of *Frankenstein*, Paul's story blends and borrows from alchemy and mysticism to good effect. I liked Grimalkin, the color-blind, dwarf-sized reanimated creature who is keenly intelligent and longs for the ability to see the world in Technicolor. When his master admits he cannot correct this physical flaw, Grimalkin resorts to drink and dangerous hallucinogens. As usual, Paul delivers a powerful, haunting ending.

Paul read the next two chapters in Greg's ongoing sf novel involving a teenage cyborg, Andrew, designed to be the next-generation combat soldier. With his memory mainly restored, Andrew is kidnapped (along with his love interest, Christy) and flown to an island filled with James Bondish bad guys. There, it becomes apparent that Andrew's cyborg skills will be put to an involuntary military test of some sort...and he is powerless to stop it. Or is he?

Simon read "Dark Doors." Lost inside the world's largest haunted house — the Gothic Havelock House — a man searches for his brother, an amateur occult researcher obsessed with locating a supernatural portal that might reunite them with their long-vanished mother.

***** THINK FLOATING! THINK DIRIGIBLES! *****

(Note from the president: The following text on a revolutionary mind-over-fluid method of human aquatic propulsion was submitted to an Oklahoma state game and fish official, who made its contents available to a colleague of mine. It is being reprinted here in its entirety, with two caveats: First, *this is an actual letter*. Second, *Son of GPIC* does not endorse the author's theories. In other words, kids, don't try this at home...or at the local swimmin' hole.)

Dear Sirs,

I am writing you because I know something that could be of use to the men and women under your command.

Simply put, it is a very easy to understand method of traveling long distances on top of the water or staying afloat for many hours. It is something I thought out and developed in the early seventies. It is not German Sculling or Dog Paddling, but is a derivative (sic) of Water Ballet and Scuba Diving movement.

Men and women in the armed services never know just when or if ever they will be tested by conditions adverse to the normally-informed human being. My system of travel in either warm or cool water meets the needs of the survival-inclined individual in or around military establishments.

One warning this is not Dogpaddling.

LOOK AT THE CUPPED HAND, VALUED BY SO MANY SWIMMERS. DEEPEN THE CUPPED HAND. MOVE IT BACK AND FORTH IN SHALLOW WATERS. NOW MOVE IT IN A FIGURE-EIGHT WAY. DO YOU FEEL THE PROPULSION AND LIFT. THINK FLOATING! THINK FLOATING ON YOUR STOMACH. THINK FLOATING WITH YOUR LUNGS FULL OF AIR. BUOYANCY RIGHT! THINK DIRIGIBLES IN THE AIR. HUMANS CAN MOVE THROUGH WATER LIKE DIRIGIBLES DO THROUGH AIR. THINK KICKING, POSSIBLY ONLY ONE KICK. THINK FLUTTER KICK! THINK HYDROPLANING!

The secret to long distance swimming is never tiring out the same set of muscles!! Put simply, simply put! The same goes for staying afloat for long period (sic) of times, (at least on the surface of water).

Again, think buoyancy. Think lungs full of air. Think lungs in between inhales. Less buoyancy right? Think floating on the stomach with hands moving and lungs full of fresh lake, river, creek, or sea air. Think hands moving in a figure-eight fashion, cupped, with feet and legs helping push and lift. Think fish. Think of fins moving and feet kicking. Think palms propelling, pushing and/or propulsion.

NOW YOU CAN SWIM. HURRAH! LAUDS FOR EVERYONE. THIS IS THE BEST THAT I CAN DO! GOOD LUCK IN THE FUTURE!

(name withheld)

*** PHEW CORNER ***

Herbert: Where have you been?

Sukie: Nowhere.

Herbert: I haven't seen you for hours. You've been somewhere.

Sukie: I've been here all the time, working at the computer.

Herbert: Working?

Sukie: Actually, I downloaded some software from GEnie to help me communicate. It's quite easy to learn and there are lots of nice people to talk to.

Herbert: I guess this is the end of our relationship, then. I can't compete with lots of nice people.

Sukie: Oh, Herbert. Stop pouting and start the reviews.

Herbert: (Sighing.) All right. We have three interesting publications to discuss today. Well, perhaps I should say two and a preview. The first is:

THE TALE SPINNER, A Quarterly Collection of Short Stories. Joe Glasgow, Editor, P.O. Box 336, Bedford, IN 47421. Premiere issue. All genres. 800-4000 words, 1/2 to 3 cents per word on publication. Sample \$5.00 One-year subscription \$14.00, two-year \$25.00

A digest size, plain-covered, saddle-stapled mag, containing 48 pages. Its format is similar to that of another small press publication JUST A MOMENT that we haven't had news of in some time. The presentation is unpretentious, but the content is worth more than a just casual glance. It does, however, suffer from the contretemps of having lost Page 47 and two poems at the printer's. Mr. Glasgow has picked six stories and one short-short, several of which are genre, or bordering on genre. But, as is usually the case when submitting to small-press mags, many are sent forth but few are chosen.

Sukie: Are you misquoting Scripture?

Herbert: I think I am, but no disrespect is intended; it's simply that space is usually quite limited in these publications.

Sukie: So which story did you particularly like?

Herbert: A translation of a most odd Polish tale about a deserter during the Polish-Cossack wars of the 17th century. It was written by Walerian Sobota, and translated by Miroslaw Lipinski. To avoid hanging, the deserter comes up with a long and involved yarn about being kidnapped by witches and escaping on a broomstick. To no

avail, however, they hang him anyway.

Sukie: I liked "Pilot's Course" by Joy V. Smith. A symbiote uses a young girl to further his own aims. "Pilot's Course" won second place in the 1995 Andre Norton Competition.

Herbert: John B. Rosenman's "Good Food Good Folks" draws you steadily on from its deceptively everyday beginning to its startling conclusion. Could anything be worse than losing two wives, a son, and a bankrupt company? Peter Graff finds out, though he isn't all that surprised, given his pessimistic view of the world.

Sukie: All the rest of the spun tales were easy to munch on and so was the poetry, but we must move on as I want to comment on another small press offering.

Herbert: Give TTS an award then.

Sukie: With pleasure. A great big computer banner for a fine first effort. And now for a mag that has managed to stay afloat for four years during difficult times:

GASLIGHT, Tales of the Unsane. Vol. 4 No 1. Melissa Gish, Editor/Publisher, P.O. Box 21, Cleveland, MN 56017. Fiction under 2000 words, token payment (?). Biannual. Sample \$4.25 Two-issue sub. \$8.00

Melissa reports that GASLIGHT has "slipped into the deepest recesses of H." Maybe so, but this "Big Top" issue is the best yet. The writing, editing, layout, printing, and general appearance is a testament to four years of experience. The authors: Ellen Keen, Daniel Bonasky, Michael Mardis, Terry Campbell, and Kenneth Goldman have produced a remarkable array of carnival-related fiction, and the poets are right up there with them. Edward St. Boniface's "Fleshmetal" feels more like an essay than fiction, but it is certainly vivid. GASLIGHT is worth a try.

Herbert: Did you renew your sub?

Sukie: I don't think it's expired yet. Hope not. At any rate, let's award it six, sizzling megabytes of praise.

Herbert: All right, one more new one:

TALEBONES, Fiction on the Dark Edge. Patrick J. Swenson, Editor, 12205 1st Avenue S, Seattle, WA 98168 Quarterly. Fiction to 5000 words. 1/2 - 1 cent/word. Sample \$4.50, 1 year (4 issues) \$14.00

A preview issue of a new magazine in the spirit

of the old FIGMENT. The Editor's "Remarks" say it all - "Look at this lineup for Issue #1: Barb Hendee, Nina Kiriki Hoffman, James C. Glass, E.Jay O'Connell, Barbara Rosen, Tippi Blevins, Bruce Boston, John Benson, Wendy Rathbone, Marge B. Simon, J.C. Hendee, and more!" Plus, an interview with Howard Waldrop. Yes. Twelve tantalizing, well-presented pages of something to look forward to. Can we give them an award?

Sukie: Based on future content, and an all-around professional approach, an award of a gaggle of gigabytes would not be out of place.

Herbert: Good show! G'night Sukie. Go back to what you were doing at your computer!

Sukie: G'night Herb. I will. Goodnight folks.

*** MARKET UPDATE ***

(Many thanks to KDW for bringing us the latest news.)

It now looks like MINDSPARKS will cease publication after one final issue. Editor Catherine Asaro's fiction career is taking more and more of her time. *(And they're holding one of my stories...sniff! — S.M.)*

SCIENCE FICTION AGE has increased its payment to 10 cents/word.

FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION has a new address: P.O. Box 420, Lincoln City, OR 97367.

PULPHOUSE also has a new address: P.O. Box 419, Lincoln City, OR 97367.

TERRA INCOGNITA, P.O. Box 30759, Philadelphia, PA 19104-0759. Editors: Jan Berrien Berends and Tasha Dandelion Kelly. A full-sized sf quarterly. "What will the earth be like in five years? Five hundred? Five billion? What sorts of technologies are likely to arise, and what might be their personal, social, and ecological impacts—both positive and negative? Will we humans march nobly into the future, or do we face apocalypse at every turn? And how will our social systems evolve and change?" Length: up to 15,000 words. Payment: one-year sub, two copies, and 1-2 cents/word. Buys FNASR. Sample: \$5. 4/\$15. Complete guidelines available at

TerrIncog@aol.com.

ABSOLUTE MAGNITUDE has raised its pay rate from 3 cents/word to 3-5 cents/word.

GOTHIC GHOSTS is closed.

RANDOM REALITIES has folded.

HOT MARKETING TIPS

Gardner Dozois recently said on GENIE that he wants "tight" stories in which every scene, ideally every word, serves to either drive the plot or establish character or setting in some essential way, or perhaps both. He wants to see more hard science and also more good offworld, alien planet, spaceship, or good literate space opera fiction—"something with some color and sweep and action and exoticism."

Editor Warren Lapine of ABSOLUTE MAGNITUDE says he does not want sf with "religious overtones."

*** THE TRUTH IS OUT THERE ***

The X-Files

Agent Moldy: Have you looked at this file Skinner gave us? Pretty intriguing, wouldn't you say?

Agent Scuttle: A small writer's group in northeast Oklahoma claims that some of their members are missing. It doesn't sound like an X-File to me.

Agent Moldy: I didn't think so at first, but something's not right. After several years of heavily-attended meetings, only ten members have showed up at the last ten meetings. It's always ten, and the number crops up in other odd ways: Ten issues of their obscure newsletter are delivered late, even though they're mailed to local addresses. One member sends out nine stories and receives ten rejections. Also, there are always ten "Little Debbie Snacks" on the table.

Agent Scuttle: What's weird about that?

Agent Moldy: Don't you eat junk food? They come in boxes of 12.

Agent Scuttle: Maybe the other members ate too many Little Debbies. My research on science fiction writers indicates they have very bad diets. Just because they've missed a few meetings doesn't mean they've been abducted by extraterrestrials, or mutated into giant flukes, or have been loaded in a boxcar and buried in the desert by government agents bent on Nazi-inspired, cross-genetic experiments —

Agent Moldy: Or imprisoned in big jars in someone's basement. You forgot that one.

(To Be Continued??)

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(Note: Please forward any inaccuracies to Simon so he can publish corrections in the next issue. He's also missing many phone numbers.)

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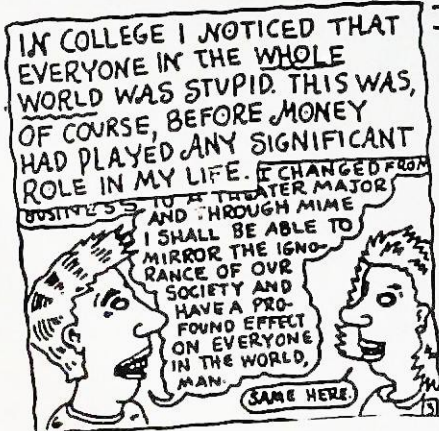
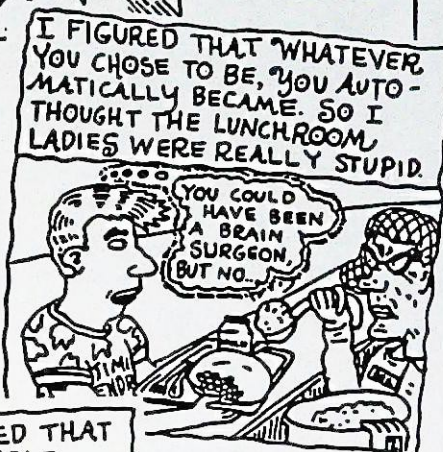
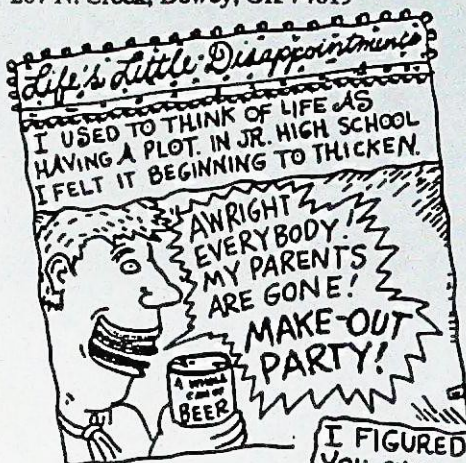
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*** MANY THANKS TO ***

Warren
Lana
KDW
Alma Garcia
Barbara
Stressman

*** 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 \$10.00 (\$15 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 1995 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 \$10.00 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, or to 1223 S. Evanston Ave, Tulsa OK 74104.

*** 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 December issue: Nov.24
We look forward to seeing you all!