



Brought To You By: K. D. Wentworth, Uncle Guido and Simon McCaffery

Special "Barefoot in the Park" Issue •  
November 1998

### \*\*\* HELLO OSFW \*\*\*

The November meeting will be held on Friday, Nov. 13th, 7:00 P.M. at the Wentworth/Kearns residence. Address: 6915 S. New Haven. Directions: Drive down 71st St. between Harvard and Yale, turn north at the light on Oswego, then left at the first street possible, and then left again. The house is gray stone and will be on your left. Phone: 523-9729.

### \*\*\* UNLOCAL NEWS \*\*\*

The Post Office will issue a Star Trek stamp in September, 1999.

Chris Doohan, son of James Doohan, is opening the first in a series of Sci-Fi Cafes in Seattle next March. Other announced sites are Los Angeles, Las Vegas, and New York City.

Next year's World Fantasy Con will be held in Providence.

New Line Cinema has plans to film a trilogy based on LORD OF THE RINGS. Filming is set to begin next May. The first of the three segments is scheduled to hit theaters by Christmas, 2000.

The 1999 Nebula weekend will be held April 30-May 2 in Pittsburgh, PA.

### \*\*\* LOCAL NEWS \*\*\*

K.D. Wentworth sold "Wings" (her tornado/angel/bail bond story) to an invitation-only humor sf market.

### \*\*\* THE ICE PICK \*\*\*

by Diana Carolyn Ice

GUIDE TO FICTION WRITING by Phyllis A. Whitney. Boston, THE WRITER. \$12.95.

We are always interested in how other writers "do it." What are their techniques and working methods? Can we learn their secrets and shortcuts? And adapt or copy them?

This clearly written and easily accessible book tells how best-selling mystery and romantic suspense author Phyllis Whitney plans and plots her novels, how she produces a desired emotional response in her readers, and how she uses the four key ingredients of "problem, purpose, conflict, and goal" to create tension and suspense, which she considers "vital to every kind of fiction writing."

In Part One, "Methods and Process," Whitney explains how she keeps her material organized, using looseleaf notebooks as the basis for all of her novels. If you've always just tossed scraps of paper with descriptions of your characters, bits of dialogue, ideas for scenes, newspaper clippings you can use in your story, sketched maps, pictures torn from magazine, plus typed chapters and old drafts into a folder or box, and then spent time trying to find what you wanted later or given up in despair, you might want to try her notebook idea. She uses a simple system that you can tailor for yourself. And in addition to organizing the material for the novel itself, she includes a "Calendar" section where she can keep track of when she started and how much progress she is making day by day, as well as a page for title ideas, and one to keep track of the lengths of chapters and what page they start on in the manuscript. If you are working on two or more projects, you can have as many notebooks as you need. And the notebooks are helpful in writing short stories, too.

In Part Two, "Technique," she explains things like how to begin writing, choose viewpoint, create believable characters, write flashbacks and transitions, and revise what we've written. She considers rewriting to be essential and lists fifteen weaknesses for us to check our

manuscripts against. For example, "Are the time and place of your action always clear? Not only in the opening scene, where it's very important to orient the reader, but all the way through. Especially at the beginning of a chapter or a new scene."

"The basics of story-telling . . . is one element in fiction writing that can be taught. No one can give you the drive to write. No one can give you the special talent you'll need. But talent can be developed . . . and helped to grow . . . [Rules] aren't set in concrete, but are only guidelines. Once you understand how to hold and interest a reader, how to build a sound plot, you can push out in any direction." The only rule Whitney gives that you should never break is: "Never give up."

**\*\*\* UPDATED MARKET REPORT \*\*\***

**CHANGES**

- Shelly Shapiro has been named Del Rey Editorial Director.
- The AVON ANTHOLOGY'S zipcode is 10019, rather than 10011, as listed in LOCUS.
- ABERRATIONS and PALACE CORBIE are folding.
- BENDING THE LANDSCAPE: HORROR says final selections will be made by the end of the month.
- ELDRITCH TALES is not answering its mail or returning manuscripts at the moment. They have not published an issue in the last five years. It would be a good idea not to submit work there for now.
- Seth Lindberg is now the editor of GOTHIC.NET WEBZINE.
- LORE now pays 2 cents/word for original fiction. Reprints earn 1/2 cent/word.
- The next SFF.Net anthology will be titled THE AGE OF REASON and will open sometime after the first of the year.

**NEW LISTINGS**

- EXODUS, 1959 N. Peace Haven Rd., #317, Winston-Salem, NC 27106-4850. Webzine. Sff/df/h/s&s. Length: up to 5,000 words. Do not include a bio or any credits. "No excessive obscenities, violence, gore, sexual/child abuse/ or eroticism. Does not like space opera, time travel, alien encounters, cyberpunk, or cliched s&s." e-mail subs: exoduszine@blindsides.net. Payment: 1-3 cents/word.
- HMS BEAGLE, lois@hmsbeagle.com. Editor: Lois Wingerson. Webzine for biological and medical researchers. Soliciting biology related fiction. Payment: \$300, \$350 if the author can provide endlinks (websites relevant to the topic under discussion). Include cover letter. Length: up to 5,000 words.
- NEW TALES FROM TEETH PARK, (Lebbon) 75 Meadow Bank, Goytre, Pontypool, Monmouthshire, NP4 0AY, United Kingdom and (Williams) 4 The Crescent, Darras Hall, Ponteland, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE20 9AL, United Kingdom. Editors: Tim Lebbon and Gavin Williams. Anthology buying df/h. "Generally speaking, the work should be fantastical, modern, perhaps a bit urban. A dark 'fairytale' vibe should be very welcome." No reprints. Send only one submission at a time. Length: up to 6,000 words. Payment: £15/1000 words. Deadline: Dec. 1, 1998.
- OUTSIDE: Speculative and Dark Fiction, 6549 Mission

Gorge Rd., Box 260, San Diego, CA 92120. Editor: Brian Callahan. Webzine. Sff/df. Length: up to 4,000 words. Read guidelines before submitting. Needs more sf. e-mail (queries only): outside@clocktowerfiction.com. Payment: 3 cents/word upon publication.

**CONTEST**

**THE BEST SOFT SF CONTEST**, The Soft SF Writers' Assn., 1277 Joan Drive, Merritt Island, FL 32952. Open to all writers. You may enter as many manuscripts as you like. Entries must have either been published or offered for sale within this year. If the story has been published, include this information so it can be listed with any announcement of winners. No entry fee. Length: up to 7,000 words. 1st: \$100. 2nd: \$50. 3rd: \$25. Deadline: Dec. 15th.

**\*\*\* MANY THANKS TO \*\*\***

Diana Carolyn Ice  
KDW & Uncle Guido

**\*\*\* SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION \*\*\***

A 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), prorated by quarter, to:

K.D. Wentworth, Treasurer  
6915 New Haven  
Tulsa, OK  
(Checks should be made out to K.D. Wentworth)  
*Please note: An "X" on your mailing label indicates OSFW has no record of either 1998 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 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@wcom.com](mailto:simon.mccaffery@wcom.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 Nov. issue: Nov. 28