

IN CASE OF RAIN
PICNIC WILL BE AT HELD AT
WENTWORTH/KEARNS
RESIDENCE
6915 S. NEW HAVEN AVE.

cial Journal of The

(Great Pagoda Insurance Company)

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

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

**Special "Eschew Your Surplusage!" Issue •
October 1998**

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

The October meeting, AKA the OSFW Occasional Picnic and Semiannual Mud Wrestling, will be held on Saturday, Oct. 10th, at 5:00 P.M. in the picnic shelter in Heller Park. Directions: Heller Park is between 51st and 61st, and Lewis and Utica. The closest highway is I-44. If arriving by that route, exit at Lewis and turn south. Then turn west on 54th St. Park on the west side of the pavilion on Utica.

OSFW will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers, buns, condiments, paper plates and cups, cutlery, and ice. Members should bring potluck dishes and a beverage to share. Please call K.D. Wentworth at 523-9729, or e-mail her at K.Wentworth@genie.com with the number of people who will be attending in your party so we will know how much food to buy.

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

Suzette Haden Elgin will appear on the TODAY SHOW in New York on October 17th. She is currently on a national book tour for THE GRANDMOTHER PRINCIPAL.

Roddy McDowall, 70, succumbed to cancer. Mainly remembered for his "Planet of the Apes" films and TV series, McDowell enjoyed considerable success as a child actor, adult film star, Broadway actor, and accomplished photographer.

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

S.E. Hinton was recently inducted into the Oklahoma Writers Hall of Fame.

The Tulsa Sherlockian club, the Afghanistan Perceivers, will have their annual High Tea With the Hound at McFarlin Library at 7:00 P.M. on Oct. 21st. Dr. Joseph Kestner will speak about THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES. The menu includes, among other items, carved beef tenderloin with horseradish sauce, chicken salad pinwheels, lemon curd cream puffs,

and assorted gourmet teas. Tickets are \$12.00 per person. To make reservations, call Richard Kearns at 523-9729.

KDW received official cover flats from Baen for BLACK/ON/BLACK.

Simon received new contracts from John Skipp and Obsidian Books for "Connections" in the long-delayed (heck, they're all dead anyway) anthology MONDO ZOMBIE.

***** GOOD REJECTIONS *****

Greg: MEMBRANE

Brad: PULP ETERNITY

KDW: FASF, new pro humor magazine

***** CONTINUUM *****

September, 1998

by KDW

We had twelve at the first meeting in Elspeth's and Dana's new digs, a very respectable number. The new kitten gave us all quite a show, many members took the offered nosebleed tour to the upper regions of the house, and a cracking good time was had by all.

Paul: Paul read "Underworld," a short story which takes place in an unspecified future replete with intriguing mixtures of barbarism and highly advanced technology. It is the tale of two brothers, Coriander and Miklos, as well as their father, leaders of the city, and actions taken in the past which must now be accounted for. I found the most interesting character to be Persephone, a previously unnamed servant whose secret turns out to be the salvation of them all. As always, I loved Paul's lyrical language which brought us phrases like "an age of joy painted by a master and set into motion."

Greg: Greg read "Summ-ah Folk," a time travel tale which holds out its real surprise until the very end. It chronicles the story of two people from the future who have traveled back in time to investigate the infamous American witch trials. What they don't know is that they have irrevocably altered the past by coming and now cannot go back to a future that no longer exists. This story had an interesting premise and a surprising ending, along with a nice, light touch.

*** THE ICE PICK ***

by Diana Carolyn Ice

THE FICTION DICTIONARY by Laurie Henty.
Cincinnati, Ohio. Story Press. ISBN 1-884910-05-X.
\$18.99.

If you've ever wondered what an editor meant in telling you a piece was over- or underwritten, been confused when someone in your writer's group suggested you use a ficelle to help reveal information about your protagonist, or been lost trying to explain the distinctions of tone, atmosphere, and mood, you're not alone.

Not only does this book define terms like magic realism and surrealism—that you might see in market lists—but it also provides fairly lengthy examples from classic and contemporary works to show what is meant, and cites other works that we may read to see more of the particular narrative technique in action.

In the definitions of terms like tension, flashforward, diegesis, understatement, or vignette, we can find ideas on how to handle a story problem or a character; as well as pitfalls to avoid in writing, whether classic beginners' mistakes or outmoded techniques—such as the metafiction of the 1970's or the minimalism of the 1980's—that many of us learned in writing or English classes. And the dictionary fully explains new terms, like voice, that have come into vogue in the 1990's.

The index is excellent, and the text itself is full of cross-references to related terms.

*** WAS THAT 'ESCHEW SURPLUSAGE' OR
'CASHEW SURPLUS'? ***

WORLD OF FANTASY & HORROR, now re-retitled WEIRD TALES, lists on their rejection slip the following rules from Mark Twain's famous essay, "FENIMORE COOPER'S LITERARY OFFENSES." They are well worth a second look.

RULES
by
MARK TWAIN

1. "A tale shall accomplish something and arrive somewhere."
2. "The episodes of a tale shall be necessary parts of the tale and shall help to develop it."
3. "The personages in a tale shall be alive, except in the case of corpses, and always the reader shall be able to tell the corpses from the others."
4. "The personages in a tale, both dead and alive, shall exhibit a sufficient excuse for being there."

5. "When the personages in a tale deal in conversation, the talk shall sound like human talk, and be talk such as human beings would be likely to talk in the given circumstances, and have a discoverable meaning, also a discoverable purpose, and a show of relevancy, and remain in the neighborhood of the subject in hand, and be interesting to the reader, and help out the tale, and stop when the people cannot think of anything more to say."

6. "When the author describes the character of a personage in his tale, the conduct and conversation of that personage shall justify said description."

7. "When a personage talks like an illustrated, gilt-edged, tree-calf, hand-tooled, seven-dollar Friendship's Offering in the beginning of a paragraph, he shall not talk like a Negro minstrel in the end of it."

8. "Crass stupidities shall not be played upon the reader by either the author or the people in the tale."

9. "The personages of a tale shall confine themselves to possibilities and let miracles alone; or, if they venture a miracle, the author must so plausibly set it forth as to make it look possible and reasonable."

10. "The author shall make the reader feel a deep interest in the personages of his tale and in their fate; and shall make the reader love the good people in the tale and hate the bad ones."

11. "The characters in a tale shall be so clearly defined that the reader can tell beforehand what each will do in a given emergency."

12. "The author shall say what he is proposing to say, not merely come near it."

13. "He shall use the right word, not its second cousin."

14. "He shall eschew surplusage."

15. "He shall not omit necessary details."

16. "He shall avoid slovenliness of form."

17. "He shall use good grammar."

18. "He shall employ a simple, straightforward style."

*** MARKET UPDATE ***

CHANGES

CRANK! now accepts e-mail subs at
cranked@earthlink.net. "Send an attachment in ASCII/

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plain text format, or include text in body of message. Don't send word processor documents. Put the word 'Submission' and the title of the story in the subject header."

Address change: Submissions to DREAMS OF DECADENCE and ABSOLUTE MAGNITUDE should now go to DNA Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 2988, Radford, VA 24143-2988.

Kim Mohan, Editor of AMAZING, says it's even more heavily slanted toward sf than it used to and only very few of a certain (not specified) type fantasy will be printed.

DREAMS OF DECADENCE pays 1 cent/word, not 1-5, as originally reported.

THE EDGE has also a new address: 65 Guinness Buildings, Fulham Palace Road, London W6 8BD, United Kingdom.

Allison Stein is now editor of E-SCAPE.

MEMBRANE does not respond to e-mail queries on the status of subs.

Payment for feature articles in the SFWA BULLETIN is now 10 cents per word.

SPECULATIVE FICTION & BEYOND has folded.

TOMORROW SF is no longer a market for fiction.

NEW LISTINGS

AVON BOOKS ANTHOLOGY, Avon Books, 1350 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10011. Send to: Jennifer Brehl. Mark envelope "for original anthology series." The series will be edited by Lou Aronica, who edited FULL SPECTRUM for Bantam. "The only requirement is that the fiction be of the highest grade—the same specs as FULL SPECTRUM." Length: all lengths, including novellas. Payment: 10 cents/word.

CHALLENGING DESTINY, Crystal Sphere Publishing, R.R. #6, St. Marys, Ontario N4X 1C8, Canada. Editor: Dave Switzer. Buying new sf/f. Length: 2,000-10,000 words. Payment: 1 cent/word. Sample: \$7 (\$5.50 US). Sub: \$24 (\$18 US).

THE GOBLIN MARKET, goblinmarket@eggplant-productions.com. Editor: Raechel Henderson. Buying "fantasy, fantasy, and more fantasy. I want to see high f, df, s&s, and any combination thereof. No modern f, please." Length: 5,000 words. **Open from 10/1/98 until it fills or 12/25/98, whichever comes first. Payment: 3 cents/word for First Worldwide Electronic Rights. No reprints.

MYRTH, Myrthy Publications, P.O. Box 55053, Houston, TX 77255. Editors: Nathan Pflueger, Rachel Kanzer, and Liz Nettles. Buying short stories in all genres, providing the primary emphasis is on humor. Length:

3,500 max. Payment: 1 cent/word plus 1 contributor's copy.

WEBZINE TALES FROM THE INTERNET, webmaster@drasey.com. Editor: Casey Hopkins. Length: 3,500 words. Payment: 3 cents/word for world-wide distribution rights and non-exclusive antho reprint rights.

*** MANY THANKS TO ***

Diana Carolyn Ice

KDW

Uncle Guido

Mark Twain

Twig-snapping Indians everywhere

*** 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.

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: Oct. 26