



Brought to you by: K.D. Wentworth, Uncle Guido, Simon McCaffery & Chris Merle

**Special "I Forgot How Cheesy
SPACE:1999 Was" Issue • September
2001**

***** Hello, OSFW! *****

***** NEWS *****

The September meeting hit the road for Stillwater, OK, for a change of scenery. It was held on Friday, September 14th, 7:00 P.M., at the Matt and Beth Reiten residence. Address: 3801 N. Ramsey St.

Directions: Coming in from the Cimarron Turnpike from Tulsa, take the Stillwater Y at exit number 27. Continue in towards town—do not take the Perkins Road exit—going south on Highway 177 which becomes Washington. Before you hit the first set of traffic lights at the Airport Road/Washington intersection, turn left (east) onto Arapaho. Take the next immediate left (north) onto N. Ramsey. The brick house on the corner with the gas lamp and the yellow and primer colored VW Karmann Ghia is Matt and Beth's residence.

The telephone number is (405) 377-0732 and please call if you need further directions. Sorry, Matt can't help with moral guidance, though he can recommend several fine dining establishments. Eskimo Joe's is not one of them.

As always, attendees are invited to bring drinks and snacks.

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

The Hugo results are as follows:

Best Novel: HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE by J.K. Rowling

Best Novella: "The Ultimate Earth" by Jack Williamson

Best Novelette: "Millennium Babies" by Kristine Katherine Rusch

Best Short Story: "Different Kinds of Darkness" by David Langford

Best Professional Artist: Bob Eggleton

Best Editor: Gardner Dozois

Best Dramatic Presentation: CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON

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

Conestoga's Guest of Honor for 2002 will be Elizabeth Moon. Toastmistress will be Lee Martindale and Fan GOHs will be Lori Wolf and A.T. Campbell III. More announcements are pending.

Archon 25 will take place Oct. 5-7 in St. Louis. Their GOH is Robert Jordan. More information is available at <http://wwwwww.stif.org/archon/>

UncommonCon will take place November 23-25 in Dallas. You can find out more information at www.uncommoncon.com.

Amanda Gannon had three illustrations published in L. RON HUBBARD'S WRITERS OF THE

FUTURE XVII. She traveled to Los Angeles in August to participate in the Illustrators of the Future Workshop and receive her award.

K.D. Wentworth's story "The Leafsmith" was published on SPECULON.COM and may be read at <http://www.speculon.com/aug01/leafsmithg.html>. She has accepted the position of First Reader for the Writers of the Future Contest.

*** CONTINUUM ***

August 2001

By M. T. Reiten

This is my second contribution and it's already a month late. Is this normal? I'm thinking so. Starting with July:

Melissa Tatum read the beginning section from her short story -- aimed at the Star Trek Planetary contest. The piece started off with an intriguing first line. Picard feels he's responsible for Ensign Roe turning to the Maqui and suffers under the lash of his most unforgiving critic, himself. While many of the listeners wondered where the action was, Melissa deliberately focused on the internal conflict matching what she's seen in the stories that had been consistent winners in the contest.

Matt Reiten again risked permanent eye damage by reading the first part of his military SF short story "Hunker Down" from his PDA. The narrative followed the initial insertion of a fresh lieutenant in charge of a group of surprisingly willful AIs inhabiting power armor. The action is set in an unidentified African country where the whole conflict is sparked by blood diamonds. The lieutenant and his fighting machines set up an ambush for a separatist armored column. The story elicited several varied responses from the group, most notably that the human character was rather flat and the AIs seemed more human. Though this was intentional, the execution did not come across as deliberate. And since this is my column, I need to extend a heartfelt thank you. The highest praise (aside from someone giving me money for a story) is when someone

offers thoughts, critiques, or advise on a story weeks after it is presented. I apologize to Brad Sinor for not recognizing his offered opinion as the great compliment it was.

Jumping into August: Everyone seemed rather shy about reading this month. Perhaps it was the strange location at Melissa's house or the incredible turnout.

Rob Obar brought a story, but thwarted popular requests and aggressively did not read it at us.

Matt Reiten shrugged off the itchy cloak of humility and leapt forward fearlessly to squint at the tiny little LCD screen. He read the second part and conclusion of "Hunker Down." The lieutenant and his platoon manage to destroy an enemy armored column only to get dressed down for taking the initiative while out of contact with his commander. At the end he's won the loyalty of his AI platoon. The primary comments were regarding an intrusive info dump regarding blood diamonds that should have been positioned elsewhere. Though the group seemed satisfied with the ending, the strength in the story lay with the interspersed humor amid the carnage. (At least that's what they said...)

Audra Cates followed with her currently untitled novel. Her heroine, a psychically gifted woman, is hiding in a cargo hangar at an airport after being pursued by government agents. It's revealed that she has been selected to mate with an alien in order to blend races. She doesn't take it as a great honor, having no desire to become a baby factory, and is willing to settle their differences of opinion the old fashioned way. With a bullet. However the alien is just too dang good-looking and he uses pheromones to disarm her. This felt like the beginning of a rollicking adventure with a generous flavoring of romance. The horrible words came out immediately after she finished reading. "Where's the rest of the story?"

Paul Batieger read the first installment of his haunting "Bring Me a Kiss from the Queen of the Vine." He created an evocative world seen through the eyes of a scavenging rat of a man who follows a pillaging horde desecrating bodies

for whatever meager spoils he might find. Everything changes when he discovers a woman's beautiful yet severed head in a hedge. Later he finds a knight who hung himself in a chapel. Taking the dead knight's armor, he rides off to join the pillaging horde, to step up from rat to a hyena. This uncomfortable journey is written exquisitely with wonderful disturbing images and an uncanny ability to capture the murdering bishop's madness.

***** DEAR EDDY *****

**Eddy does not usually send along chain letters.
But this one cries out to be
heard.
Go ahead and send any donations to Eddy, c/o
Eddy.**

My name is Billy Evans. I am a very sick little boy. My mother is typing this for me, because I can't. She is crying. The reason she is so sad is because I'm so sick.

I was born without a body. It doesn't hurt, except when I try to breathe. The doctors gave me an artificial body. It is a burlap bag filled with leaves. The doctors said that was the best they could do on account of us having no money or insurance.

I would like to have a body transplant, but we need more money. Mommy doesn't work because she said nobody hires crying people. I said, "Don't cry, Mommy," and she hugged my burlap bag. Mommy always gives me hugs, even though she's allergic to burlap and it makes her sneeze and chafes her real bad.

I hope you will help me. You can help me if you forward this email to everyone you know. Forward it to people you don't know, too. Dr. Johansen said that for every person you forward this email to, Bill Gates will team up with AOL and send a nickel to NASA. With that funding, NASA will collect prayers from school children all over America and have the astronauts take them up into space so that the angels can hear them better. Then they will come

back to earth and go to the Pope, and he will take up a collection in church and send all the money to the doctors. The doctors could help me get better then.

Maybe one day I will be able to play baseball. Right now I can only be third base. Every time you forward this letter, the astronauts can take more prayers to the angels and my dream will be closer to coming true. Please help me. Mommy is so sad, and I want a body. I don't want my leaves to rot before I turn 10.

If you don't forward this email, that's okay. Mommy says you're a mean and heartless bastard who doesn't care about a poor little boy with only a head. She says that if you don't stew in the raw pit of your own guilt-ridden stomach, she hopes you die a long slow, horrible death and then burn forever in hell. What kind of cruel person are you that you can't take five freakin' minutes to forward this to all your friends so that they can feel guilt and shame about ignoring a poor, bodiless nine-year-old boy?

Please help me. I try to be happy, but it's hard. I wish I had a kitty. I wish I could hold a kitty. I wish I could hold a kitty that wouldn't chew on me and try to bury its turds in the leaves of my burlap body.

I wish that very much.

Thank You, Billy "Smiles" Evans

P.S. You can send money to the person who sent you this because that person is very trustworthy.

Dear Eddy,

Thanks for sending along the chain letter about the poor little boy who has no body. I've thought this over and the only right thing to do is for you to donate your body to him. I mean, think about it. You're not really making full use of it anymore, and he could step right into the big leagues, instead of having to piddle around in Little League baseball. That will make up for him having such a bum start.

While you're waiting for an operating room to become available, you should get into training, just to give young Billy the best start possible. Remember to eat those fruits and veggies and get lots of sleep (of course alcohol of any sort is out of the question) and we'll see you on the Other Side.

Yours in charity,

Big Momma O'Hanlon

*** UPDATED MARKET REPORT ***

CHANGES

ABORIGINAL SF is dead. ABSOLUTE MAGNITUDE will publish stories slated for the next two issues.

AUREALIS will be reading Feb. 2-November 30 next year.

SPECULON is again open.

DARKLING PLAIN is on hiatus.

SPECTRUM SF is presently open to all submissions, though that may change at any time. Check the website (<http://www.spectrumsf.co.uk>) to be sure, if you're thinking of submitting. All submissions must be through the mail: Paul Fraser, Editor, 53 Waverly Park, Kirintilloch, Glasgow, United Kingdom. They buy only sf. No reprints. Payment: 4.8 cents/word.

The form for submitting stories to DREXEL ONLINE JOURNAL can be found at their website (<http://www.drexel.edu/doj/>). Snail submissions go to Albert DiBartolomeo, Room #5061 MacAlister Hall, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA 19104. They're buying sf/f/mainstream/other. Length: up to 6,000 words. Payment: \$250-\$400.

INDIGENOUS FICTION is closed.

TWILIGHT SHOWCASE will be reading Feb. 1-28. Do not submit work before that date.

NEW LISTINGS

ANDROMEDA SPACEWAYS INFLIGHT MAGAZINE, P.O. Box 98, Latham ACT 1615, Australia. New print magazine to be published bimonthly. Buying sf/f/h with "a preference for 'fun' rather than grim and gritty. The first issue will launch at Conversion in June, 2002.

***They will open Oct. 1. Do not submit work before that date. Length: up to 10,000 words. Payment: up to 3 cents/word Australian. Can also submit as email to submissions@andromedaspaceways.com as attached RTF.

IDEOMANCER.COM, mekkare@home.com. Editor: Chris Clarke. Buying sf/f/h/slipstream/flash fiction. Attach as RTF or DOC file. Put "Submissions" in the subject line of the email. Include cover letter with story. Length: 500-5,000 words. Payment: \$20.

LEVIATHAN, 4905 Ascot Lane #3, Madison, WI 53711. Editor: Forrest Aguirre. Anthology. Wants "any fantastical literature . . . magical realism, surrealism, slipstream." No traditional tropes such as werewolves, zombies, faeries. Length: 3,000-10,000 words. Payment: \$100 plus royalties. No multiple submissions. Can submit as email to chromatic30@hotmail.com as RTF or Word.doc. Sample: \$10.

OCTOBERLAND, Flesh and Blood Press, 121 Joseph St., Bayville, NJ 08721. Editor: Jack Fisher. Trade paperback to be published in 2002. Buying stories that take place in October and on or around Halloween. "Avoid overdone ideas and cliches . . . rely heavily on description and atmosphere." Length: 1,000-6,000 words. Payment: "a fair cut of the royalties."

SHADOWLANDS PRESS, P.O. Box 2366, Centreville, VA 20122-2366. Editor: Vincent M. Harper. Buying h/f. Wants "dark, moody, magical." Length: 2,000-5,000 words. Payment: 3-8 cents/word.

CONTEST NEWS

BEST OF SOFT SF CONTEST, c/o L.E. Buis,
1277 Joan Dr., Merritt Island, FL 32952.

*****Submit after Oct. 1 and before Dec. 15.**

Short stories up to 7,000 words either offered for sale or published in 2000 are eligible. No entry fee. First prize is \$100, second \$50, third \$25.

Send disposable manuscript. Published stories should include information on publication.

"Story must have elements of sf and concentrate on characters."

SCIENCE FICTION WRITERS OF THE EARTH. Judged by Ed Bryant and open only to unpublished writers. Length: 2,000–7500 words. Manuscripts will not be returned. Entry fee is \$5 and includes a one year membership in the Science Fiction Writers of the Earth.

Additional entries are \$2 apiece. Title page should show author's name, address, phone number, story title, length, and email address (if possible). *****Entries should be postmarked by October 30th.** Send to: SFWoE, P.O. Box 121293, Fort Worth, Texas 76121.

ZOETROPE: ALL-STORY SHORT FICTION CONTEST. Length: up to 5,000 words. Entry fee: \$10 check made payable to AZX Publications. No entries will be returned, but you may enter as many stories as you wish. All entries must include a cover letter with your name, address, telephone number, and the title of your story and must be postmarked by Oct. 1st. Your name may appear ONLY on the FIRST page of your story. Mark the story "Short Fiction Contest." Send submissions to: Short Fiction Contest, Zoetrope: All-Story, 1350 Avenue of the Americas, 24th Floor, New York, NY 10019. Prizes are: 1st—\$1000, 2nd—\$500, 3rd—\$250, and ten honorable mentions.

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

KDW & Guido & Bear
Chris Merle

Billy "Smiles" Evans
Warren & Lana Brown
Eddy
M. T. Reiten

***** 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)

Please note: An "X" on your mailing label indicates OSFW has no record of either 2001 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.**

***** 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@wgc.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 October issue Sept. 30.