
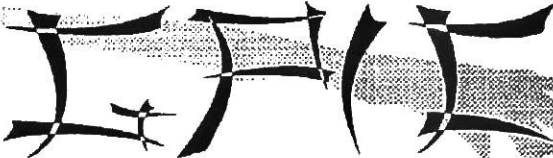



**Son
Of:**



Official Journal of The



(Great Pagoda Insurance Company)



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

Brought To You By: K. D. Wentworth, Roger Allen and Simon McCaffery

Special Farewell To Summer Issue • September 1994

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

The September meeting will take place at the Shobe residence, 7719 E. 15th Ct. on Friday, September 9th, 7:00 P.M. Suzanne's work number is 494-2730, if you need directions.

***** NEWS *****

WORLD FANTASY AWARD NOMINATIONS

NOVEL

Peter S. Beagle, *THE INNKEEPER'S SONG*
 Poppy Z. Brite, *DRAWING BLOOD*
 Kathe Koja, *SKIN*
 Lewis Shiner, *GLIMPSES*
 Peter Straub, *THE THROAT*
 Michael Swanwick, *THE IRON DRAGON'S DAUGHTER*
 Judith Tarr, *LORD OF THE TWO LANDS*

NOVELLA

Jack Cady, "The Night We Buried Road Dog"
 (FASF, 1/93)
 Harlan Ellison, "Mefisto in Onyx" (OMNI, 10/93)
 Elizabeth Hand, "The Erl-king" (FULL SPEC TRUM 4)
 Terry Lamsley, "Under the Crust" (UNDER THE CRUST)
 Walter Jon Williams, "Wall, Stone, Craft" (FASF, 10-11/93)

SHORT FICTION

Terry Bisson, "England Underway" (OMNI, 7/93)
 Fred Chappell, "The Lodger" (NECRONOMICON)
 Les Daniels, "The Little Green Ones" (AFTER THE DARKNESS)

Neil Gaiman, "Troll Bridge" (SNOW WHITE, BLOOD RED)

Terry Lamsley, "Something Worse" (UNDER THE CRUST)

Ian McDonald, "Some Strange Desire" (OMNI BEST SF 3)

Dan Simmons, "Death in Bangkok" (PLAY-BOY, 6/93)

Brad Sinor sold a history of *WEIRD TALES* to *BABY BOOMERS MAGAZINE*.

Paul B. spoke to Harlan Ellison on the telephone. (!)

Chris Oseland had good rejections from *BRUTARIAN QUARTERLY*, *NUCLEAR FICTION*, *DEATHREALM*, and *YEAR 2000*.

Elsbeth had a good rejection from *ROMANTIC INTERLUDES*.

Ben Stallings had a good rejection from *THE MAGAZINE OF SPECULATIVE POETRY*.

Alma Garcia's story "My Son the Martian Doctor" was published in the August edition of *THE THIRTEENTH MOON*. She sold "The Chronophobe" to *ZERO GRAVITY FREEFALL* and had good rejections from *HARSH MISTRESS*, *SIRIUS VISIONS*, and George Scithers.

Barbara had a rewrite request from *ASIMOV'S*. She also had good rejections from *HARSH MISTRESS*, *FASF*, *SILVER WEB*, *YEAR 2000*, *SIRIUS VISIONS*, and *THERE WILL BE WAR*.

KDW's story "Sand Dance" was published in *GLIMPSES*. She sold her novel *THE HOUSE OF MOONS* (a sequel to *MOONSPEAKER*) to

Del Rey. It will be published in May '95. She had good rejections from DARK VOICES 7, CENTURY, FASF, and HITCHCOCK'S.

R. R. Bodine reports that publication of the premier issue of BRIDGET, the unofficial newsletter for Bridget Fonda fans, has been pushed back to October. OSFW fans will have to contain their disappointment. R.R. also had good rejects from Mike Resnick's ALTERNATE ZAGNUTS and NOT YOU TOO.

*** CONTINUUM ***

By S.M.

*August 1994
featuring...
Stormy Weather,
Moon Pier and
The Dead Dog Blues*

It was standing-room (or sprawling room?) only at the August meeting, with 26+ OSFWans crammed into the friendly Allen/Berry residence. I liked the warm, open layout of the house, the nearly complete library of ELO CDs, the numerous cats lounging about...but wait, I'm getting ahead of myself. There were more stories than we had time for, but we did get to hear a diverse mix of fantasy, humor, hard SF and more.

KDW read "Wings," a humorous tale that mixed interesting urban fantasy with Forest Gumpian humor. Ed is a simple soul who enjoys watching tornadoes and other bad weather roll through town so he can converse with angels — and we're not talking about the Sam Butcher tear-drop eyed variety, folks. After receiving some cryptic instructions on gaining entrance into a pleasurable afterlife from a storm angel, Ed embarks on a half-witted quest to "free the captives."

I liked the unique, almost elemental angels (Kris Rusch should have kept reading), and Ed's bumbling good intentions.

Sue Sinor read "Christmas Shopping," the story of Larry, a hairstylist to upper crust women by day and a cat burglar on Christmas Eve. Larry likes to do his shopping at a few carefully selected homes

belonging to his loose-lipped clients, but his career as a thief comes to an abrupt end when he is cornered by his former employee, old Kris Kringle. In the end, Santa allows Larry — former North Pole elf — to continue on as a human hairdresser, but only if he pays back those he has stolen from.

Warren read "The Motion of the Lake," the grim, subtle and strangely lovely first chapter of his new novel, *Underland*. A literature teacher and would-be novelist has returned to a familiar run-down beach house on Lake Erie to exorcise bittersweet memories of time spent there with his late wife, Pam. But Jack's brooding thoughts of his relationship with his wife and the ephemeral nature of life are cut short by a strange phone call from his father-in-law. While Moon Pier haunts Jack with reminders of Pam and summers spent on its beaches, his dead wife has been spotted hundreds of miles away by her parents. Unsettled but determined to resolve this mystery, Jack prepares to depart from Moon Pier. But first, he encounters a strange woman at a nearby pub...

I enjoyed — as always — Warren's skill as a storyteller and his careful attention to characters.

In a farewell performance (?) **Chris O.** read "Cruising," a bizarre tale of two hapless DEA agents posing as women aboard a cruise ship. Things wouldn't be too bad, except their drug-sniffing dog has died and been unceremoniously dumped in the cabin bathtub, where it is to remain for the duration of the voyage by captain's orders. Things don't improve when their drug-sniffing rabbit jumps overboard and the captain orders the pair confined to their quarters.

I enjoyed the relentless, perverse attention to details — listening to this story was like being trapped in a Beavis and Butthead segment.

In his last reading before shipping off to college, **Ben** read "Field Safety Inspection." Forty years after a mentally-transmitted plague devastates a human/Beta Centauri colony that served as a galactic space/time crossroads, a safety inspector is dispatched from Earth to learn whether it is safe to return. Joey Randolph -- who spent his childhood on Beta Centauri -- discovers a lone survivor. The two discuss their differing perspectives/memories of the pre-disaster colony and the fundamental differences between humans and Beta

Centaureans. The female alien records this meeting, but decides — a la *The Martian Chronicles* — to sacrifice Joey if it means keeping humans away for a few more decades.

Leslie read Chapter 3 of her fantasy novel. Barely clinging to life following her battle with the wraith in the cavern, Serenia makes her way to the home of her former voice master and instructor, Mistress Mara. Serenia collapses and Mara gradually nurses her back to health. One day a messenger arrives, and failing to recognize Serenia, recounts her bravery in saving the village from the wraith. Impressed by Serenia's generous exploits, Mara offers to train her as a healer.

*** CONTEST REPORT ***

By KDW

The Nan A. Talese/Doubleday ALISON LURIE WRITE AN ORIGINAL GHOST STORY CONTEST. Address: Doubleday Marketing, Attention: WRITE AN ORIGINAL GHOST STORY CONTEST, 1540 Broadway, 18th floor, New York, New York 10036.

To celebrate the coming publication of *WOMEN AND GHOSTS*, a collection by Pulitzer Prize winning author Alison Lurie, a \$500 prize is being offered for the best unpublished/unsold ghost story submitted. The winning story will be considered for publication in *ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S MYSTERY MAGAZINE* and *ASIMOV'S SCIENCE FICTION*. "In support of your local bookstores, please indicate on your cover sheet the name of your favorite bookstore. The winner's name will be forwarded to his or her chosen store and the local press."

RULES: Length: no longer than 6,000 words. You must be 18 years of age or older on the date of entry. Put name, address, and phone number on first page of the manuscript. Follow professional manuscript preparation (adequate margins, double-spacing, etc.). Only one entry per person. Stories will not be returned so send a disposable copy without an SASE. Entries must be received by October 31, 1994. The winner will be notified by December 1st by mail.

*** THE SOCKS MY
DESTINATION ****

*** DEAR EDDY ***

Dear Eddy,
Have you ever wondered where lost

athletic socks go? I have a theory that the electrostatic charge built up while the socks spin in certain industrial dryers may form an as yet undiscovered charge that localizes tachyons and actually squirts the sock right out of our existence like a watermelon seed. Makes sense, doesn't it?

Oh yeah, and do you think it's really true that American sensibility and pride is subverted by short-sighted greed? That we'd willingly sell our own major corporations, monuments and landmarks — such as the Empire State Building, Times Square and the former Sears Tower in Chicago — to the first foreign conglomerate or upstart company that waves a few billion under someone's nose? Hmmmm.

Well, I'd love to chew the fat on this one, but I have to go meet a nice Korean family who have taken an interest in my laundry.

Count your socks and don't cross the streams,
R.R. Bodine

Dear R.R.,

I believe your theory is essentially correct. However, the socks do not actually squirt out of our existence, but are instead teleported in the key thought centers of the brains of televangelists and

Advertisement

ALTERNATE ZAGNUTS

Edited By
Mike Resnick



WHAT IF...

John Kennedy had leaned forward to get his Zagnut from the map pocket in his presidential limo at the critical moment in Dallas?

WHAT IF...

Yoko hadn't talked John Lennon out of stopping to buy a Zagnut on the way home to their apartment that fateful night in 1980?

WHAT IF...

the Donner Party had taken along a covered wagon filled with Zagnut bars?

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insurance executives.

The next time you listen to one and wonder why his thinking seems so fuzzy, remember that he's just a victim of the fluff cycle. And while no insurance executive or televangelist would ever sell our own monuments and landmarks because he was subverted by shortsighted greed, he would most certainly sell us out as individuals.

These people believe in our monuments and landmarks. It's people they find of little use.

Yours for cleaning up,
Eddy

Dear Eddy,

I was unable to attend the memorial service after the demise of your disk drive; however, I am in mourning. Had I been there, I would have duly eulogized it.

With regard to my "funkily formatted" floppies, I am throwing out the UNformatted low density disks and have purchased factory-formatted double density and high density. If these don't work, I shall sink into oblivion, not to mention into a stupor. In any case, I would like to publicly thank you for all your assistance.

Love from Sukie

Dear Sukie:

Thanks for your kind words. Unfortunately I'm unable to contact Guido at this time since he's out on a mission that I can't discuss. If you see him before I do . . . Well, let's not dwell on that.

At any rate, here's to preformatted disks. If only we could get preformatted politicians, guaranteed from the factory to be error free and perform up to expectations.

It's a shame I can't reach Guido—turns out the disk is working OK now after some parts replacement. But, that's the way it goes.

Rest in . . . er Best,
Eddy

Dear Eddy,

I have come across a most remarkable piece of news. Where I read it, I do not recall, but I made the following notation: "Scientists of the U.S. Geological Survey have discovered that cockroaches may be useful in predicting earthquakes. The bugs were kept in three earthquake-prone areas of California. As recorded by sensors in the containers, these insects were found to increase their activity several hours before each of four minor quakes. However, the job has been limited to male cockroaches, as 'females in the batch caused hyperactivity that was unrelated to

any forthcoming tremors,' reports the Detroit Free Press."

Now, Eddy, although I am not a fanatical feminist, I do feel that this is a seriously discriminatory statement against female cockroaches in the work place on the part of the USGS. True, if the female cockroaches had wished to participate in the scientific discoveries, they would no doubt have been subject to sexual harassment, but why were **THEY** not permitted to stay and carry out the experiments and the males excluded?

Sign me,
Una Cucaracha Indignada

Dear Una:

Let's face it. The truth of the matter is that females of any species have to get things done **all the time**, while males only perform in the most extreme circumstances. Putting all those female roaches in the jar wouldn't have made any difference, since they would have scurried around being productive, earthquake or no.

But this does bring up some interesting experimental possibilities concerning the U.S. Congress, glass jars, and earthquakes. Given the appropriate tremors, they might even do something good about health care.

Of course, there would have to be some statistical adjustment made considering the differences in integrity between congressmen and cockroaches. As a politico in Ohio said recently, "All those people who'd been without hope for twenty years came out and voted and really hurt us. Now [that we've stopped anything from happening] they'll just disappear for the next twenty years."

Yours for looking at roaches with new eyes,
Eddy

***** MARKET UPDATE *****

(As always, our sincere thanks to Ken Wentworth.)

Although the original closing date for **SPLATTERFAIRIES** was July 31st, Dean Wesley Smith says it "will be open for some time to come." You must send for guidelines with an SASE before submitting anything to this anthology on the dark side of fairy myths. Address: **SPLATTERFAIRIES**, Box 1227, Eugene, OR 97440. It pays professional rates for work up to 7,000 words. No reprints.

MYSTIC FICTION has delayed their reopening date to August 1995.

Publication of BEST OF THE MIDWEST'S SF, FANTASY, AND HORROR, Volume 3 has been delayed. Also, due to a lack of "sufficient submissions," all stories submitted for volume 4 have been returned, including those preselected. BOTM will start reading again April 15, 1995 and apologizes for the delay.

TOMORROW: SPECULATIVE FICTION now says it is closed until March 1995.

HARSH MISTRESS has now officially changed its name to ABSOLUTE MAGNITUDE.

Although SF AGE buys one fantasy story per issue, Editor Scott Edelman does not want to see any contemporary fantasy.

DARK VOICES 8 will be open from January 1995, through June.

URBANUS/RAIZIRR is closed until December 1995.

Both GALAXY and OFFWORLD are swamped with submissions and say their response time may be as much as 6 months or longer right now.

Due to an illness in the editor's family, response time may be very slow at the moment at ABORIGINAL SF.

NEW LISTINGS

BETWEEN DIMENSIONS, P.O. Box 1043, Bellaire, MI 49615. Editor: Greg Reeves. Buys sf/f fiction and non-fiction. Length: up to 2,000 words (non-fiction: 4,000 words). Payment: 1 cent/word. Sample: \$1.50. Subscription: \$18/year.

BLOODSONGS, Bambada Press, P.O. Box 7530, St. Kilda Rd., Melbourne, VIC 3004, Australia. Editors: Chris A. Masters and Steven Proposch. Quarterly horror magazine. Buys "stories with strong elements of horror. Crossgenre pieces okay as long as they contain strong horror elements." Length: up to 10,000 words. Payment: 2 cents/word (Australian) for first Australian serial rights. Reprints okay. Send cover letter. Send a disposable manuscript with a #10 envelope and 2 IRC's. Sample: \$10 (US). Reporting time: up to 8 weeks.

CROSSROADS, Synergy Studio, 18760 E. Amar Rd., Suite 146, Walnut, CA 91789. Editor: Mark Miller. New publication looking for "great stories written by published and unpublished authors. We are currently accepting subs for the following genres: sf/f/h, mystery/suspense, lucid-fiction, cyber-fiction, and any strange tale that keeps the reader turning the pages." Also accepts poetry and comic stories/strips. Payment: 3 cents/word up to \$150 maximum. No simultaneous submissions. "A letter of introduction is strongly encouraged." Length: 1,500-10,000 words. Buys first NA serial rights. Reporting time: 3-10 weeks.

FURY MAGAZINE, Suite 740, 15445 Ventura Blvd., Sherman Oaks, CA 91403. Editor: Alex Duffy. Short-short magazine which also buys reprints, as long as you own the rights. Be sure to indicate names, addresses, and issues of the publications where the story first and last appeared. "If you have a publication's phone #, please list it." Length: up to 2,000 words. Pays 1-2 cents/word for first NA serial rights. "We do not send back manuscripts unless specifically requested." Include an SASE if you want a reply. Sample: \$4. Subscription: \$12/year.

GATEWAYS, Fantek Publications, P.O. Box 15972, Philadelphia, PA 19103-0972. Editor: None listed. Quarterly publication which buys sf/f/h. "Targeted toward character based stories with a sense of the unexpected . . . explicit sexual descriptions discouraged." Length: None listed. Payment: "small flat fee." Subscription: \$15/year.

GOTTA WRITE NETWORK LIT-MAG, Maren Publications, 612 Cobblestone Cr., Glenview, IL 60025. Editor: Denise Fleischer. Biannual. "Currently seeking fiction that possesses a "Twilight Zone" quality and ghost stories . . . work with a clear-cut message or a twist at the very end. All genres accepted with the exception of excessive violence, sexual overtones, or obscenity. Interested in seeing more offbeat stories, including abstract." Length: to 10 pages. Payment: \$10. Sample: \$5. Subscription: \$12.75/year. Reporting time: 1-8 weeks.

REDCAT MAGAZINE, 6309 Wiley St., Hollywood, FL 33023. Editor: Jim Pettit. Quarterly. Buys "easy-reading, fright-provoking tales of h/df. Funny is fine, so is dark and gloomy."

Son of GPIC

Length: 1,500-5,000 words. Pays: \$5-10 on publication. "We prefer subs on disk . . . can accept 3 1/2" or 5 1/4" IBM disks. Plain ASCII is best. If you submit via disk, no hard-copy printout is necessary." Sample: \$4. Subscription: \$12/year.

SKULL, P.O. Box 1235, Burbank, CA 90517.
Editor: Mike Baker. A bi-monthly horror magazine debuting in October. "Looking for dark fiction: horror, dark suspense, dark fantasy, Dickian sf, ect. If it's cliched or upbeat, happy and life affirming, chances are it won't be bought."
Payment: 1-3 cents/word, depending upon length. Pro and novice writers will be paid the same rates. Query before sending manuscripts over 5,000 words. No non-fiction or poetry. No manuscripts sent registered or certified mail. Buys first NA serial rights. Simultaneous submissions all right if you notify them. Sample: (available in October) \$5. Make checks payable to AFRAID. (*Caution: an incorrect box number was listed for this publication in SCAVENGER'S NEWSLETTER. This is the correct box number.)

SOLAR, Starlance Publications, 50 Basin Dr., Mesa, WA 99343. Editor: James B. King. Anthology containing "tales of man's expansion and conquest of the solar system." Length: 5,000-10,000 words. Payment: 1 cent/word. Reprints okay. Reporting time: 2 months.

THUNDER'S SHADOW, P.O. Box 387, Winfield, IL 60190. Editor: Erik Secker. Biannual, half fiction, half collector's catalog for h/suspense novels and collections, looking for horror stories. Payment: 3 cents/word. \$300 maximum.

*** FLEA MARKET ***

PC Parts For Sale	Price
8088 Motherboard-8 Mhz-640K	\$25.00
STB VGA Card 512K	\$35.00
Taxan Green Composite Monitor	\$30.00
RAMPage Memory Card - 2 Meg	\$45.00
Intel Above Board Mem Card- 2Meg	\$45.00
Hayes 2400 Baud Int. Modem	\$25.00
External 1200baud modem	\$10.00
Multi I/O Card-Par.Ser.Clk	\$15.00
IDE, floppy, Multi I/O card-ser.par.gme	\$25.00
WD 8-Bit MFM HD controller	\$25.00
84-KEY XT KEYBOARD	\$12.00
8088 CPU	\$10.00
GRE Tutorial Software-DOS	\$25.00
PC JR Tech. Manual	\$15.00

Contact Warren Brown at: Warren_Brown@wiltel.com (or
>INTERNET:Warren_Brown@wiltel.com for you CIS folk).

*** MANY THANKS TO ***

Warren
KDW
Roger
Victor
Sukie
Eddy

Una Cucaracha Indignada
R.R. Bodine

*** 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:

VICTOR WREN, Treasurer, P.O. BOX 1347,
Claremore, OK 74018
(Checks should be made out to Victor Wren)

Please note: An "X" on your mailing label indicates OSFW has no record of either 1993-94 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 Victor Wren, and may be sent to Victor 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 typed or printed. They definitely have to be in writing (we don't take dictation). Pseudonyms are OK. We prefer text formatted in RichText (RTF Interchange) files on a 3-inch Mac or DOS disc (720k or 1.4 meg. — no 2.8 meg). We can also use ASCII files. Otherwise, arrange to send them by modem. 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. 22*

We look forward to seeing you all!