

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, Uncle Guido and Simon McCaffery

Special "If This Limo's Rockin', Don't Come a Knockin'" Issue • August 1998

*** UNLOCAL NEWS ***

Hugo Results are as follows:

Best Short Story: "The 43 Antarean Dynasties" by Mike Resnick (ASIMOV'S)

Best Novelette: "We Will Drink a Fish Together" by Bill Johnson (ASIMOV'S)

Best Novella: "Where Angels Fear to Tread" by Allen Steele (ASIMOV'S)

Best Novel: FOREVER PEACE by Joe Haldeman

Best Editor: Gardner Dozois

Well known writer Robert A.W. "Doc" Lowndes died in July of complications from cancer. He had both written sf and held a number of positions as editor. He was the author of five science fiction books and noted for his influence on the field.

Science fiction artist Paul Lehr also died in July.

The 1999 Nebula Awards Banquet will be held in Pittsburgh, April 29-May 2.

EARTH: THE FINAL CONFLICT ended its first season as the number one new syndicated drama.

The BABYLON 5 spinoff series, CRUSADE, will debut Jan. 6th.

UPN will feature two new sf shows, MERCY POINT and SEVEN DAYS.

The Sci-Fi Channel will carry the original STAR TREK episodes, beginning this fall, all remastered and restored in a 90 minute format.

*** LOCAL NEWS ***

Sammie Twosocks Dog won the Conestoga Masquerade's Best-in-Show as Le Femme Akita.

Ronda Cooper sold a non-sf piece to GOOD OLD DAYS. It will appear in the October issue.

Brad Sinor sold four articles to the LAWTON CONSTITUTION.

KDW's forthcoming Baen novel, BLACK/ON/BLACK, has been scheduled for February, 1999.

*** GOOD REJECTIONS ***

Barbara Thrower: FASF

KDW: FASF, CICADA

*** THE ICE PICK ***

by Diana Carolyn Ice

WRITING FOR CHILDREN & TEENAGERS by Lee Wyndham. Rev. by Arnold Madison. 3rd ed. Cincinnati, Ohio: Writer's Digest Books, 1989. ISBN 0-89879-347-5. \$12.95.

Although aimed at those who write for children and young adults, this book has practical instruction and information for all writers. It covers the basics of characterization, description, dialogue, mood, plot, revision, viewpoint, etc., plus the business end of writing (marketing; manuscript format; record keeping; modern trends) in a very clear and easily understood manner. In addition, the seven main divisions that publishers separate juvenile books into—picture books (ages 1-6), picture stories (ages 7-10), easy-to-reads (grades 1-3), readers (ages 8-12), teens (ages 10-15), teenage romances, and hi/los (high interest/low reading level for children with reading problems) are described

with their respective word-lengths, etc. Picture books, easy-to-reads, and hi/lo books are further discussed in individual chapters, with details on how those manuscripts should be prepared. Plays and nonfiction are also included, as well as a chapter on writing mysteries.

Lee Wyndham died in 1978, but Arnold Madison has continued her efforts to offer good, solid information, giving an honest, up-front assessment of editorial and publishing realities for us.

For example, you may have seen the "no fantasy" signs posted in writer's guidelines, and asked why those same markets are still publishing fantasy. Well, "the editors," says Wyndham, "admit that what they really mean is that they don't want to see rehashed old classics." Okay. This book gives an updated list of fantasy and sf books that should be read by anyone writing for children in these genres, so we'll know what it is they do want.

Also included is a twelve-point recipe for plotting, tips on how to plan your novel or get it started, hints on revisions, guidelines on creating characters for different age levels, techniques for naming characters, and explanations of the kinds of characters that appeal to kids today—c.g. heroes and heroines that look before they leap or who are over helpful or overactive. The discussion on basic human needs and emotions rings true in writing for any age level, as do the techniques for organizing ideas and research.

Pay rates for magazines in general have not gone up since 1970 according to the National Writers Association. The exception is children's magazines. If you've ever thought about writing for children or teens, take a look at this classic book, now in its third edition. And even if you're sure you'd never write for kids, you still might want to take a peek at it in the library. It is one of the best how-to-write books, not just for children, but for any age group.

*** TEN REASONS WHY YOUR LAST STORY WAS REJECTED ***

By
Mark Kreighbaum

1. The Objectivist Reason: Your work is autotelic and therefore need not be published. Nice adjectives, by the way.

2. The Lacanian Reason: You are in the arena of

desire. Congratulations. Do keep in touch.

3. The Phenomenological: While very nice, we have a surfeit of laundry lists at this time. Enclosed, however, is a contract for your very interesting envelope. We were stunned by the upside down stamp.

4. The Dialogism Reason: We have heard the Bactine joke, thank you. Nice adjectives, by the way.

5. The Marxist Reason: A specter is not haunting ANALOG and furthermore your adjectives betray an insufficient grasp of the class struggle as it applies to orbital mechanics.

6. The Feminist Reason: We liked the foreplay between the semiotic and the symbolic, but thought the story lacked a sense of jouissance. We are suspicious of your initials.

7. The Formalist Reason: We attempted to enter into possession of the enclosed poem, however it was lacking in concreteness.

8. The Structuralist Reason: The horizontal was very nice, however the vertical lacked langue (or is it parole? We always mix those two up).

9. The Poststructuralist Reason: The signifiers were very nice, however the signified lacked parole. Your use of aporia was gratuitous.

10. The Real Reason: Connie Willis has the negatives.

*** MARKET UPDATE ***

CHANGES

WHISPERING WILLOW MYSTERY MAGAZINE is merging with SLEUTHHOUND.

NEW LISTING

SUDDENLY PRESS, P.O. Box 120318, Boston, MA 02112-0318. Editor: Brian Youmans. Anthology planning to publish 1998's best short stories and poems which originally appeared "in the small press, overseas, on the Web, and in other spots where most American sf/f fans may not have already seen them." Length: 10,000 words max. Payment: 3 cents/word with a \$50 min. for non-exclusive rights.

SELECTED LISTINGS

ABORIGINAL SF MAGAZINE, P.O. Box 2449.

Woburn, MA 01888-0849. Editor: Charles C. Ryan. Quarterly. Current needs: Short sf stories, 2,500-4,500 words. Wants strong science content, lively, unique characters, and well designed plots. Poetry, 1-2 pages; 1-panel original cartoons on science or sf; jokes, 25-100 words (must be original). Would like to see more hard sf. Send SASE for writer's or artist's guidelines. Payment rates: stories, \$200; poetry \$20, cartoons \$20; jokes \$5; all on publication. Reporting time: 8-12 weeks.

ABSOLUTE MAGNITUDE (formerly Harsh Mistress), SF Adventure, P.O. Box 13, Greenfield, MA 01302. Editor: Warren Lapine. Looking for action/adventure based sf, no humor, h, f, or cyberpunk. He wants to see "tightly plotted stories with memorable characters." Encourages disposable submissions with a stamped #10 envelope for a reply. Length: up to 25,000 words. "Longer stories will probably have a better chance. Thus far we haven't purchased anything under 5,000 words." The editor recently said he does not want sf with religious overtones, or about time travel, humor, law enforcement agencies, hard-boiled detectives, or in present tense. Looking for more space opera. Payment: 1-5 cents/word plus 1 contributor's copy for FNASR upon publication. Reprints: 1 cent/word. Sample: \$5. 1 year: \$14. Reporting time: 3-4 weeks.

ADVENTURES OF SWORD & SORCERY, P.O. Box 285, Xenia, OH 45385. Submissions Editor: Randy Dannenfelser. Quarterly buying sword & sorcery, high fantasy, and heroic fantasy. "We want fiction with an emphasis on action and adventure, but still cognizant of the struggles within as they play against the struggles without. As examples, think of the fiction of J.R.R. Tolkien, Fritz Leiber, and Katherine Kurtz." Looking for fantasy set in other milieus than medieval Europe. Length: 1,000-7,500 words. Payment: 3-6 cents/word upon acceptance. Prefers to have a cover letter. Sample: \$4.50. 1 yr.\$14.50.

ALFRED HITCHCOCK'S MYSTERY MAGAZINE, 1270 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020. Editor: Cathleen Jordan. Well-plotted, plausible mystery, suspense, detection, and crime stories. Length: up to 14,000 words. "Ghost stories, humor, futuristic, or atmospheric tales are all possible, as long as they contain a crime or the suggestion of one." Payment: 7 cents/word, on acceptance. Guidelines with SASE. Sample: \$3.

AMAZING STORIES, P.O. Box 707, Renton, WA 98057-0707. Editor: Mr. Kim Mohan. This is the old **AMAZING** being resurrected by WoTC. after acquiring TSR. Buying sf/f/df, but mostly sf. Length: up to

10,000 words. Prefers sf rather than s&s or "rehashes of myth and legend. No gratuitous vulgarity or excessive gore." Payment: 6-8 cents/word on acceptance.

ANALOG, 1270 Avenue of the Americas, 10th Floor, New York, New York 10020. Editor: Stanley Schmidt. Currently reading all lengths. "A great many stories go home not because there is something wrong with them, but simply because I don't see anything special enough to make them stand out from the competition. I only buy between one and two percent of what I get . . . one of the commonest problems is not having an imagination-catching idea." Payment: 6-8 cents/word up to 7,500 words; \$430-520 for 7,500-12,500 words; 5-6 cents per word for longer material. Wants sf with strong characters in believable future or alien setting. Reporting time: 1 month, often less.

ASIMOV'S SF MAGAZINE, 1270 Avenue of the Americas, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10020. Editor: Gardner Dozois. Buying sf and fantasy up to 20,000 words (very few longer). 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." "What we're looking for in **ASIMOV'S** is something with prose narrative, with plot, with storylines that grip you. Beginnings and ends, and middles. All that sort of passe stuff which they're not looking for in the literary markets . . . my criterion test for a really good story is that if I'm reading the manuscript and I forget that I'm supposed to be evaluating it. I just become absorbed in the story and a half an hour later I say wow! That's the kind of story I want to buy." Payment: 6-8 cents/word to 7,500 words; \$450-600 to 12,500 words, 5 cents/word for longer stories. Reporting time: 4-6 weeks up to six months. Said to be overstocked at the moment and buying very selectively.

CEMETERY DANCE, P.O. Box 190238, Burton, MI 48519. Editor: Richard T. Chizmar. Quarterly. Looking for powerful and emotional horror that chills and disturbs the reader, mystery/crime/suspense tales with horror element (psychological or supernatural, subtle or graphic). Length: 5,000 words. Query for longer. Payment: 3-5 cents/word upon publication (max \$150). Sample: \$4. \$15/yr.

CICADA, 315 Fifth St., P.O. Box 300, Peru, IL 61354-0300. Associate Editor: John Allen. A publica-

tion from the same group which produces CRICKET, meant for the 14-19 age group. Buying "realistic, gritty, dramatic fiction, sf/f, mystery, adventure, historical, romance. Can be a little rebellious and a little hip, but not too hip. Protag may be teen or adult. Looking for things in the style of Bruce Coville and Phillip Pullman." Will run one story 10,000-15,000 words in each issue. Other stories should be 5,000-7,000 words. Payment: 25 cents/word for one-time rights.

DRAGON MAGAZINE, 1801 Lind Avenue SW, Renton, WA 98055. Editor: Dave Gross. Length: 1,500-8,000 words. Pays 5-8 cents/word on acceptance for First Worldwide Serial Rights in English. 2 contributor's copies. Wants fantasy with interesting characters and strong plots. Would prefer not to receive stories dealing with D&D monsters and characters. "There is an entire genre of fantasy to explore beyond sword and sorcery." Wants stories with strong fantasy elements that move fairly quickly. The editor has no objections to female protagonists, but "can't use stories in which female sensibilities dominate." Wants stories with strong fantasy elements that move fairly quickly. Only publishing solicited game-related fiction for the rest of the year. Reporting time: 4-6 weeks. Sample: \$4. Guidelines available.

ELLERY QUEEN'S MYSTERY MAGAZINE, 10th Floor, 1270 Avenue of the Americas, New York City, 10020. Editor: Janet Hutchins. "All genres of crime and mystery. All well written stories with crime, mystery, or suspense at their core." Length: up to 20,000 words. Payment: 3-8 cents/word on acceptance. Sends 3 copies. Return time: 1-2 months.

FANTASY & SCIENCE FICTION, P.O. Box 249, New York City, NY 10159-1806. Editor: Gordon Van Gelder. Current needs: all lengths and types of fantasy/sf—especially sf under 10,000 words. Overstocked and buying very selectively at the moment. "I don't think I have a strong preference for any one kind of fantasy. I like to see writers taking chances and I'll usually follow them whether they go into the slipstream or rethinking a classic theme . . . I read a lot of 'New Wave' writers like Ballard and Delany when I was younger and they influenced me a lot, but I also like a good ol' skiffy story just as much when it's done well. . . I'm always open to a story that will spin my head around, whatever genre it's in . . . I guess what I hate to see more than anything is a story that's boring." Payment: 5-7 cents/word. Reporting time: 6-12 weeks.

INTERZONE, 217 Preston Dr., Brighton BN1 6FL, U.K. Editor: David Pringle. Current needs: Innovative sf/f, 2-7,000 words. Hard sf welcome, but not s&s or standard genre horror. Writers outside UK must send 2

IRC's for airmail response. Disposable photocopied ms. welcome. Payment: \$30/1,000 words. Reporting time: 4-12 weeks. Sample: \$5. \$27/6 issues.

MARION ZIMMER BRADLEY'S FANTASY MAGAZINE, Box 249, Berkeley, CA 94701. Editor: Marion Zimmer Bradley. Current needs: well-plotted, action or adventure fantasy, 1,500-7,000 words, strongly prefers 3,000-4,000. **Only buys work longer than 4,000 words from established writers to be used for the cover story. No dot matrix. Does not want more female bandits/thieves. Send SASE for guidelines before sending ms. Payment: 3-10 cents/word.

MARY HIGGINS CLARK MYSTERY MAGAZINE, Gruner plus Jahr USA Publishing, 110th Fifth Ave., NY, NY 10011. Editor: Kathyrne V. Sagan. Currently biannual. Hoping to become quarterly. Buying crime/mystery fiction. Length: up to 5,000 words. Payment: \$2000 for FNASR.

MEMBRANE, Erewhon Press, 393 W. 49th St., Ste. 7G, New York, NY 10019. Editor: Jacqueline Ching. New magazine buying hard sf. "We seek to publish stories that explore the relationship between scientific development/discovery and the human condition. Please submit stories with the following criteria: Stories with a strong foundation in the hard sciences, biology, chemistry, astrology, etc." Length: up to 10,000 words. Payment: 1-3 cents/word for new authors, depending on story length. Pay rates for pro authors unknown. Send copies only. *Warning: Manuscripts not returned. Return time: 3-4 weeks.

PIRATE WRITINGS, P.O. Box 329, Brightwater, NY 11718-0329. Editor: Ed McFadden. Quarterly with a full color cover that publishes f/mystery/sf. Length: up to 8,000 words, 3,000—5,000 words preferred. Payment: 1-5 cents/word for fiction, copies for poems. The editor says he hates both cats and stories with cats in them, vampires, and stories with southwestern slang. Looking for mysteries. Circulation: 3,000-4,000. Sample: \$4.99. \$15/yr. Full guidelines available for SASE.

PLAYBOY, Playboy Entertainment Group, 680 North Lake Shore Dr., Chicago, IL 60611. Address Fiction Department. Fiction Editor: Alice K. Turner. Current needs: "We publish only 4 or 5 sf stories a year, usually but by no means always by well-known writers." No restrictions on subject matter: stories should appeal to a well-informed, young male audience. Length: 7,500 words or less. Short-shorts are particularly welcome. Payment: \$2,000-5,000. Reporting time: up to 8 weeks.

POCKET BOOKS will be doing another Star Trek anthology/contest for new writers: **STAR TREK: STRANGE NEW WORLDS II**. Grand Prize is \$1,000 plus 10 cents/word for publication in the anthology. Rules and guidelines are too long to go into here. See www.simonsays.com/startrek/features/strange.html or send SASE to Strange New Worlds II, Star Trek Department, Pocket Books, 1230 6th Ave., New York, NY 10020. ****Open to non-pro writers only.

REALMS OF FANTASY, P.O. Box 527, Rumson, NJ 07760. Editor: Shawna McCarthy. Full color and full-sized. Open to all types of fantasy, including dark fantasy up to 10,000 words (5,000-8,000 preferred). "I most like stories with some sort of point to them, beyond the plot twists, and I'm a sucker for a kicker ending. I really hate stories that just . . . stop. I have to be careful about sexually explicit material, since the magazine is/will be displayed prominently at 12-year-old eye level, but I am not publishing for 12-year-olds. I do want stories for grown-ups." The editor recently clarified what kind of fantasy she is looking for: "What I like is the unusual. It doesn't have to be a new idea—god knows there are few enough of them—but I do prefer that it be a new look at a familiar idea or setting. That's why I'm not too fond of 'standard' fantasy, since much of it seems to be the same stock characters with different names setting off on slightly different quests. I like to see new settings, exotic mythologies, new looks at familiar characters, places, and settings. I'm not into 'joke' stories, where puns are the main thrust of the action, and I'm not crazy about horror, though I do like a good ghost story now and again. But when I say I'm not crazy about horror, that doesn't mean I won't take any—it just has to be different from either your sexy, tortured vampire, your tormented werewolf, or your gibbering horrors from beyond the known world." Please do not send self-addressed postcards with submissions. Payment: 5-8 cents/word. Return time: 2-3 weeks up to 4 months.

SCIENCE FICTION AGE, 11305 Sunset Hills Road, Reston, VA 20190. Editor: Scott Edelman. Length: up to 22,000 words. SF only. No fantasy. Payment: 10 cents/word, but "I am looking for the best." Full color cover and thick glossy paper. Available on newsstands. Return time: 1-2 weeks.

WEIRD TALES (formerly **WORLDS OF FANTASY AND HORROR**), 123 Crooked Lane, King of Prussia, PA 19406-2570. Editor: Darrell Schweitzer. Quarterly. Needs f/h/ psychic/supernatural/occult. 20,000 words maximum. Pays 3-7 cents/word on acceptance for First NA Serial Rights. Provides 3 contributor's copies. Sample \$5. Fiction guidelines for #10 SASE. Reporting time: 1 month.

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

Diana Carolyn Ice
KDW
Uncle Guido
Le Femme Akita
Mark Kreighbaum
A Girl Named Mary

***** 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 Sept. issue: August 27

We look forward to seeing you all.