



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

**Special "Dot-Com" Issue •
February 2000**

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

The February meeting will be Friday, February 11th, at 7:00 P.M., at the Cyber Cafe in the basement of McFarlin Library at the University of Tulsa. Since the library is closed at that time, we will keep the door open until 7:30 P.M., then go downstairs to the cafe. If you arrive after 7:30, use the buzzer to alert us to let you in. Rob O'Bar will be this month's host and will provide plates, cups, napkins, and ice. The rest of the goodies will be up to the membership and there will also be snacks and drinks available in vending machines.

Directions: Drive down Harvard to 5th Place and turn west. Park in the lot at the end of the street, even though it says it's limited to cars with campus permits. The library will be west, ahead of you on your left. Walk around to the south door and enter there. For further information or directions, call K.D. Wentworth at 523-9729.

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

A.E. Van Vogt died in January. He was noted for his many novels, including THE WEAPON SHOPS OF ISHER, THE WORLD OF NULL A, and SLAN. He was eighty-eight.

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

The membership decided at the last meeting to offer two forms of GPIC, either an electronic form via e-mail (\$7/year), hard copy only (\$13/year), or both (\$13 year). All members who have the access to e-mail accounts are urged to take advantage of the electronic form of the newsletter. Checks need to be

made out to K.D. Wentworth and sent to 6915 S. New Haven, Tulsa, OK 74136-2844. If you are requesting the e-mail newsletter, please include your e-mail address. The GPIC mailing list will be purged of nonmembers after this issue.

Brad Sinor sold "Places for Act 2" to DRACULA'S LONDON. He had two stories republished in the audio booktape version of 365 SCARY STORIES.

Harold Chester sold a piece to KILLER FROGS OF CALVEROS COUNTY and also had a story published in FANTASY & FOLKLORE MAGAZINE at <http://fff.fantasytoday.com>

K.D. Wentworth's story "Bad Company" is being held for possible publication at MARION ZIMMER BRADLEY'S FANTASY MAGAZINE. She will sign BLACK/ON/BLACK and WRITERS OF THE FUTURE XV at Barnes & Noble on 71st Street on Saturday, Feb. 19, 2-4.

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

Brad Sinor: ZOETROPE

Greg Lower: SKULL FULL OF SPURS, ABSOLUTE MAGNITUDE, F&SF

Harold Chester: WRITERS OF THE FUTURE

K.D. Wentworth: ANALOG

***** CONTINUUM *****

January, 2000

**COPULATING HYENAS,
HALF-SKINNED COWS,
SANTA'S CAT, AND OGRES**

by KDW

Nineteen, more or less (they milled around so much, it was a bit like counting cats), turned out for the first meeting of the (sort of) Millennium at the McFarlin Cybercafe. We were treated to a wide variety of stories, both in genre and out, lots of gossip, and best of all, highjinks on the Internet.

Harold Chester: Harold brought us "Magic Bound," the tale of a half-ogre, Friegal, who tracks his stolen wife to a Lizoid city. I liked the fact that the wife had left with her Lizoid lover willingly, an interesting turn on the usual sort of theme, and his magic sword, which breaks into a battle song before the actual fight.

Rob O'Bar: In Chapter Nine of *The Jerkin Ripper*, Raymond instructs young Robert in the gentle art of thieving so they can generate a living. Robert achieves physical maturity and thereby becomes less attractive to his mentor. They experience one perfect day, and then the relationship deteriorates. I liked the sense of impending disaster as disappointment and despair loom on the horizon.

Tim Fravser: Tim read a short-short about "Santa's Cat," Growler, who is thoroughly disagreeable to everyone at the North Pole and suffers thereby from a lack of popularity. Santa is lenient, the jolly old elf of legend, until the end when Growler demonstrates that cats are equal opportunity miscreants.

KDW: KDW read "The Half-Skinned Cows of Concho County."

*** THE ICE PICK ***

by Diana Carolyn Ice

WRITING TO SELL by Scott Meredith. 4th ed. Cincinnati, Ohio : Writers Digest Books, 1995. ISBN 0-89879-750-0. \$17.99.

Along with advice on plotting, viewpoint, characterization, plausibility, and setting, this very comprehensive book includes a great deal of information about the business end of writing.

In the first and last parts of the book, Meredith discusses the "business facts," such as writing in different genres, the advantages of paperback versus hardback, types of material most in demand, manuscript length, whether you should write what

you like or for the market, and whether you should submit a "portion and outline" or a complete manuscript. He explains what goes on in agents' and editors' offices, how often to submit a manuscript before giving up, how to tell when an editor's comment is an invitation for revision, the ins and outs of contracts, etc., as well as things like how to avoid writing slumps.

You may not agree with Meredith's dislike of objective viewpoint, flashbacks, and the use of dialogue to begin a story, but the man knew what sold to editors and to the public. At least his arguments should provoke you into questioning what you are doing and whether that is the best way to present your story.

If you have difficulty getting your characters in and out of scenes, bridging time gaps, or changing point of view, Meredith's chapter on transitions is excellent, showing how to accomplish these things smooth and economically.

His explanations of various kinds of endings and their advantages and disadvantages is also excellent, and well worth study. You may even discover a kind of ending you hadn't thought of before. And as they say, your book's ending is often what sells the next book.

Some of what Meredith says runs counter to the "prevailing wisdom." For example, he disagrees with the generally held view that you should set aside your manuscript for a "cooling off period," believing it difficult to get back "inside" the story, and that it is better to get the thing finished and done with so you can go on with another project. If you have found this to be true for yourself, you want to try his way the next time.

*** UPDATED MARKET REPORT ***

CHANGES

DRAGONSCROLL, BONETREE, and DARKNESS WITHIN are closed.

THE FRACTAL has ceased publication.

TALES OF THE UNANTICIPATED's next reading period will probably be May 15th-June 15th, 2000.

NEW LISTINGS

ALSIRAT. gazissax@best.com. No editor listed. E-zine buying horror. "No gratuitous violence . . . avoid vampires and stories where the monsters only eat evil people." E-subs only. Length: 2,000-5,000 words. Payment: \$25.

CHIAROSCURO: Treatments of Light and Shade in Words. klune@gothic.net. E-mail subs only. No street address or editor listed. E-zine buying h/df. "No taboos." Length: 5,000 words. Payment: 1 cent/word.

THE DEAD INN. 7 EMS B33 Lane. Warsaw. IN 46582-6618. Editor: Shane Ryan Staley. Buying horror. "Graphic sex and gore okay if integral to the story." Length: 2,000-5,000 words. Payment: 1/2 cent/word. E-mail subs okay: delirium-books@hotmail.com

DNA PUBLICATIONS, Inc., P.O. Box 2988, Radford, VA 24143-2988. Editors: Warren Lapine and Angela Kessler. "Starting March, 2000, DNA Publications will begin providing free content on its web page. The content will consist of both previously unpublished material and reprints from DNA's five magazines, which include WEIRD TALES, ABSOLUTE MAGNITUDE, DREAMS OF DECADENCE, PIRATE WRITINGS, and ABORIGINAL SF." Buying sf/f/h. Payment: 3-5 cents/word on acceptance for original fiction. No E-MAIL submissions.

FLESH AND BLOOD, Quiet Tales of Dark Fantasy and Horror. 121 Joseph St., Bayville, NJ 07721. Editor: Jack Fisher. Triannual buying h/df. "No cliches . . . 99% of what I publish has some sort of powerful supernatural element in it . . . No spatterpunk, gothic, blood-and-guts." Length: 4,000 words. Payment: 1/2-1 cent/word. Sample: \$4. As he points out in his summary, no matter how hard we work, some of the ingredients in our stories may not be as good as they might be, but few editors judge a book by its individual components. "It's the total effect, the total reaction, given by a book that usually determines its acceptance or rejection . . . Exact perfection is for machines."

SELECTED PRO MARKETS

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. SF Adventure. DNA Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 2988, Radford, VA 24143-2988P. 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." No religious overtones, time travel, humor, law enforcement agencies, hard-boiled detectives, or 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 807, 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.

THE AGE OF WONDERS. SFF Net, 3300 Big Horn Trail, Plano, TX 75075. Editor: Jeffry Dwight. Anthology buying fiction about the "interface between human and machine, examining how computers, artificial intelligence, medical advances, and 'smart' devices will change the way we live and think in the next two thousand years or so. Be brave, be daring; be inventive—think of the impact the light bulb, the car, and television have had on society, and how hard it would have been to predict, in 1600, the devices, the infrastructure necessary to produce and maintain them, or the societal changes that can be traced directly to them . . . then write a story about the devices yet to be invented, and what they will mean to the people who use them." "Focus on the people rather than the technology." Do not submit stories before Jan. 1, 2000, but submit early as Dwight warns the anthology will likely fill before the closing date, March 1, 2000. Length: 5000 words. Payment: 8 cents/word (\$400 max) upon acceptance

for First World Serial Rights. No reprints. E-mail submissions (plain ASCII or MS Word only): darkfire@sff.net.

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." Closed to novice writers, due to an overwhelming slushpile, but any writer "with substantial credits" is still welcome to submit work. Payment: 6-8 cents/word on acceptance.

ANALOG, 475 Park Avenue South, 11th Floor, New York, New York 10016. 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. . . . 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. ARTEMIS MAGAZINE, 1380 E. 17th St., STE 201, Brooklyn, NY 11230. Editor: Ian Randal Strock. Buying near-future sf concerning lunar development or life on the moon. Length: up to 20,000 words. Payment: 5-8 cents/word upon acceptance.

ASIMOV'S SF MAGAZINE, 475 Park Ave. South, 11th Flr., New York, NY 10016. Editor: Gardner Dozois. Buying sf and fantasy up to 20,000 words (very few longer). 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." 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.

AVON BOOKS ANTHOLOGY, Avon Books, 1350 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019. 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.

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.

CENTURY, P.O. Box 150510, Brooklyn, NY 11215-0510. Editor: Robert K.J. Killheffer. Buying literate, intelligent, speculative fiction. "not too heavily steeped in the genre perspective." crossover feel. Length: 1,000-20,000 words. Payment: 4-6 cents/word upon acceptance. Very heavily stocked.

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

THE DOOM OF CAMELOT, Green Knight Publishing, 15120 West Mayflower Court, New Berlin, WI 53151. Executive Editor: James Lowder. An anthology of short fiction to be published by Green Knight Publishing in August, 2000. The story should answer the question "What caused the downfall of Arthur's kingdom?" "The answer can be as simple or as complex as you'd like, anything from a person (Mordred) to a relationship (Lancelot and Guinevere) to a larger, more pervasive sin (pride). The question can also be answered by some stories through the presentation of characters that escape the final doom--Pelleas being secreted away during the last days by Nimue, for example; the justification for his salvation could be used to highlight the kingdom's failings . . . The Arthurian setting for your work can range from the historical to the fantastic. Stories should be set after the end of the Grail Quest, in the standard chronology of the Arthurian cycle. We may also use stories set a decade or two after the fall of Camelot, but aren't likely to use things set centuries later . . . Reprints

will be considered only if they have not appeared in high-profile markets." Length: 3,000-7,000 words. Deadline: April 21, 2000. Payment: 3-5 cents/word, less for reprints. Buying 1st world rights in English. Paid within 30 days of acceptance. URL: <http://www.greenknight.com>.

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." Reporting time: 4-6 weeks. Sample: \$4. Guidelines available.

ELLERY QUEEN'S MYSTERY MAGAZINE, 475 Park Avenue South, 11th Floor, New York City, NY 10016. 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. Payment: 5-7 cents/word. Reporting time: 6-12 weeks.

HITCHCOCK'S MYSTERY MAGAZINE, 475 Park Avenue South, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10016. 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.

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.

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: Kathryn V. Sagan. Currently biannual. Hoping to become quarterly. Buying crime/mystery fiction. Will look at simultaneous submissions, if they are marked as such. Though the guidelines say they take fiction up to 6,000 words, "the shorter, the better". Payment: \$2000 for FNASR.

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.

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 like to see new settings, exotic mythologies, new looks at familiar characters, places, and settings." 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.

STARLIGHT 3, c/o Patrick Nielsen Hayden, Tor Books, 175 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10010. Write STARLIGHT on the envelope. Editor: Patrick Nielsen Hayden. Anthology. Send only one submission at a time, then wait for a response, before sending another. "I'm interested in all kinds of sf and fantasy, definitely including hard sf . . . open to novellas . . . can be very slow to respond." Length: no upper limit. Payment: 7 1/2 cents/word.

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.

ZOETROPE ALL-STORY, 260 5th Ave., Suite 1200, New York, NY 10001. Adrienne Brodeur. Needs story with a mainstream emphasis. "Story should have traditional elements, i.e. characters we care about, narrative arc, etc." Length: 7000 words. Payment: \$1200. Website: <http://www.zoetrope-stories.com>.

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

KDW & Guido
Diana Carolyn Ice
Warren & Lana Brown

***** SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION *****

A subscription to *Son of GPIC*, the official newsletter of the Oklahoma Science Fiction Writers, may be obtained online or by mail. E-mail subscription is \$7 per year. Snail-mail printed version is \$13. 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 2000 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@wilcom.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 February issue: February 25.