



LUKAS EGGEN/Itemizer-Observer  
 Stewart Baker will be published in the annual anthology, "L. Ron Hubbard Presents Writers of Tomorrow," after being selected as a first-place winner in the Writers of the Future contest.

## WRITER OF THE FUTURE

Dallas author wins award for science fiction work

By Lukas Eggen  
 The Itemizer-Observer

DALLAS — From Susan Cooper to J.R.R. Tolkien to Anne McCaffrey, the world of science fiction and fantasy has inspired Dallas author Stewart Baker since he was a young child to ask one simple question.

"In general, my ideas come from asking, 'what if...?' questions and then coming up with people whose lives would be changed by them," Baker said.

Now, one "what if" has become reality.

Baker has been chosen as a quarterly winner from a group of eight finalists in the Writers of the Future Contest.

"To be honest, I was a little surprised," Baker said. "It was actually the last quarter I was eligible to enter and almost all my other entries to the contest were rejections. I found out I was a finalist when Joni Labaqui, the contest administrator,

gave me a phone call. My wife told me my phone was vibrating in the other room and I almost didn't bother answering it. Fortunately, she made me."

A few weeks later, Baker found out he had won first place.

"I'm honored that they chose my story, and thrilled," Baker said. "The way the judging works, only a few of the judges read stories each quarter, so I don't specifically know who read my entry, but to see names like Nnedi Okorafor and Nancy Kress and Larry Niven on there and know they might have chosen my story out of all the others is an amazing feeling."

His win earned him a cash prize, a trip to Hollywood for a week-long writing workshop, an awards ceremony and having his short story published in the annual anthology, "L. Ron Hubbard Presents Writers of Tomorrow."

The contest, now in its 32nd year, attracts entries

from around the world. Twelve quarterly winners are chosen, with first place entries earning \$1,000.

Of the four first-place winners, one will receive Author of the Year during the annual awards show, which comes with a \$5,000 prize.

Judges include several notable authors, including Orson Scott Card and Tim Powers.

The contest is open to any novice writer who has not professionally published more than three short stories or one novelette or novel.

Since his story is in contention for Author of the Year, Baker is unable to share the title or plot of his story, but he is already excited for what the future will hold and to see what his next "what if" will lead to.

"I'm working on a few short stories, including one that will be interactive (web-based, with elements the reader can change as they read), and I write haiku pretty regularly," Baker said.

## Perrydale auction set Saturday

By Lukas Eggen  
 The Itemizer-Observer

PERRYDALE — Perrydale will host its annual booster club auction and dinner Saturday evening at the Willows Events Center, 12455 Meyers Road in Dallas.

This year's auction includes a variety of items, from gift cards to art and everything in between.

The event begins at 4:30 p.m. for cocktails and a silent auction. Dinner, catered by Uncle Jack's BBQ from Amity, starts at 6, followed by a live auction.

Ticket sales were cut off on Tuesday, but booster club member Anna Scharf hopes the event will raise at least \$8,000.

"We do have a guided fishing trip, a beach house rental, a catered dinner for 10 to 12 people, wine tours, wine, and various gift certificates and gift baskets," Scharf said.

Raffle tickets for a trip to Hawaii will also be sold beginning the night of the auction until the final home varsity boys basketball game this winter. Tickets will cost \$20 each.

Money raised from the event will go toward the purchase of new uniforms and equipment for middle and high school athletics.

"The athletic director will guide us to where the need is the greatest this year," Scharf said. "I believe it is middle school girls basketball (right now)."

For more information: Anna Scharf, anna4perrydale@gmail.com.

Fall 2015

# Home Accent & Car Care

From pruning to antifreeze, this section is full of information to help your customers get geared up for winter.

**Publishes: October 21**  
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1/2 pg vert	4.917" x 10.292"	\$252	\$302
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