

Gulf Coast Writers Association at www.gulfwriters.org

Get Off The Rocks!

by *Carmen Leal*

I have come to the conclusion that there are three types of writers. Those of the first type realize early on that writing well and getting published do not always go hand in hand. They discover that writing for publication is not rocket science, but there are rules, and those who follow the rules are more likely to get published than those who don't. They are self-starters, and once they get pointed in the right direction, there's no stopping them.

Those of the second type are willing to work hard, they just don't have a clue. They need an extra shove in the right direction. But they are willing to work once they understand what needs to be done.

I recently read a quote by Orison Swett Marden, editor of *Success* magazine. Lest you think his thoughts are new, let me explain that Mr. Marden died in 1924. Marden said, "A lobster, when left high and dry among the rocks, has not instinct or energy enough to work his way back to the sea, but waits for the sea to come to him. If it does not come, he remains where he is and dies, although the slightest effort would enable him to reach the waves, which are perhaps within a yard of him. The world is full of human lobsters, men stranded on the rocks of indecision and procrastination, who, instead of putting forth their own energies, are waiting for some grand billow of good fortune to set them afloat."

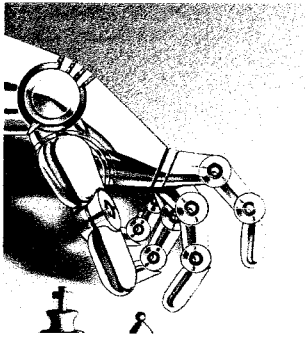
And there we have our third type of writers. I've watched them wait around for that "grand billow of good fortune" to set their writing career afloat, and it doesn't happen. Sometimes these indecisive, procrastinating, or ever lazy dreamers are excellent writers. In fact, they are often better than those who do get published. But no matter how good they are, they have yet to learn there are rules in this industry just as there are in any other. They wait for luck while they whine about unfairness, commercialism, bad editors, and any number of things.

What sort of writer are you? What are you waiting for? Get off those "rocks of indecision and procrastination." Come on in, the water's fine!

www.carmenleal.com



What's a Bot? *by Harold Hunt*



A Bot is short for bottle and it's not a dot. The word is derived from 'robot,' and refers to a computer program that gathers information or performs a service, usually on some regular, predetermined schedule. A Bot (sometimes called an agent) typically searches the Internet, gathers information relevant to your query or interest, and presents it on a scheduled basis, hourly, daily, weekly, etc., and reports back to you via e-mail or some more complicated form of web communication. By using a Bot, one is kept abreast of changes on the Gulf Coast Writers' website, paying jobs on the net, and news relative to publishing and writing. The spot for bots is: www.botspot.com

How a Literary Agent Can Help You

by Literary Agent Ted Weinstein

Q: What advantages do agented writers have?

A: Finding a reputable agent to represent you is almost always worth the effort. Following are some of the ways a good agent can help a client:

- Impartial feedback
- Market knowledge
- Contacts and access
- Contract negotiations
- Accounting and paperwork
- Career guidance and continuity

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Q: Let's say you have a client whose book proposal you love.

You send it out to several houses, but it keeps getting rejected. When, if ever, do you give up?

A: I try to select clients who look at their writing as a career, so temporary setbacks on one work doesn't stop progress. If we receive rejections from many different editors offering similar reasons, my client and I will discuss these comments in great detail and decide whether revisions to the work or the proposal are needed, or if we need to continue to search for the right editor.

Gulf Coast Writers meets at 10:00 a.m. on the last Saturday of each month at Beacon Executive Suites, 8359 Beacon Blvd., Fort Myers. Your first visit is free!