

# TABOO OPINIONS #44

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## 3-30-05 BOLD SCI-FI

Today I suggested to a publisher of science fiction and fantasy magazines that he start a new title, BOLD SCI-FI, which would unabashedly feature bawdy, action-filled sf-fantasy and horror stories.

He's charging \$6 now for a copy of his magazines, and for the life of me I can't see that they're worth that much.

I'm more or less advocating a 'return' to 1930's pulp fiction, only with more action realism and a bit of provocative sex. Grab the readers with a hook opening and keep the line taut till the end.

But nowadays sf and fantasy text fiction, after decades and decades of struggling for respectability and 'literary' quality, would rather die the slow death of declining sales than admit they are in direct competition with a six-pack of beer or a pizza in the minds of casual readers. Dedicated readers of short story science fiction and fantasy are a dying breed. Let's get at least some science fiction back in the gutter where it belongs.

I'm thinking of appealing to the average guy here, the working stiff. BOLD SCI-FI isn't likely to be bought and read by young women.

Let's publish DANGEROUS ROMANCE TALES for them, with covers showing Earth women in willing embrace with a hunky alien 'man'. In the background we can show a spaceship with a single lighted window.

Huh? Whaddyasay?

END TABOO OPINIONS #44