

Novel Goal

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Kubicek got out of the publishing business in 1990. "I closed down the company for a couple of reasons," he explained. "One is that small-press publishing is not that profitable. Another is, I was spending all my time working on other people's stuff, and I wasn't able to write any of my own."

Kubicek has written several screenplays, two of them taking honors in America's Best screenplay contests. An entry in the contest's X-files category placed in the top fifty out of nearly 3,000 entries. His screenplay *In Human Form*, which described the adventures of a female android, placed in the top 25. He also wrote *Relics of Repentance*, built around the premise that Pontius Pilate became a Christian after Jesus' death, and an anthology screenplay based on his book *October Dreams*.

His screenplays have been read by several major production companies but have not been produced. "One thing I've found is that it's a lot easier to get a screenplay read than it is a novel. But it's probably a lot easier to get a novel published than get a screenplay produced, because of all the money that they have to commit to producing a film or movie."

The work he has done on screenplays has been beneficial to his other writing, according to Kubicek. One thing that was helpful was the three-act structure of his plays. "I think that's pretty cool and can be applied to novels. It helps a novel flow better and get it more focused. I also learned how to edit my dialogue, because in a screen-play the dialogue has to be very concise. The general rule I've been following is that you write some dialogue and then cut it in half. My dialogue has always been very spare, very quick moving, but writing screenplays has helped me focus even more."

Kubicek's future focus will be on writing novels. "I am concentrating on novels more, although I have a screenplay in the works. I've written some good screenplays, I have yet to write a really good novel, so that's my next goal." ■

local papers and a science-fiction magazine. Even then, writing was something done on the side, after he put in his hours working in the processing department of a local film shop.

"When [the film shop] closed in 1986, it forced me out on my own," recalled Kubicek. "That's when I started doing work for companies, designing brochures and writing copy."

At the same time, he was pulling stories together for an anthology, *The Pelican in the Desert and Other Stories of the Family Farm*. When a disagreement arose between Kubicek and the publisher regarding the book's marketing, the publisher told Kubicek he would release the manuscript to another publisher. As Kubicek discussed the situation with Jerry Kromberg of Media Productions and Marketing, Kromberg suggested that Kubicek publish the book himself.

Kubicek followed his suggestion and ended up publishing several books from 1988 to 1990 through his company Kubicek and Associates. Two of them contained his own works. In addition to contributing a piece to *The Pelican in the Desert*, Kubicek included one of his stories in *October Dreams*, an anthology of horror stories done in conjunction with his friend Jeff Mason.