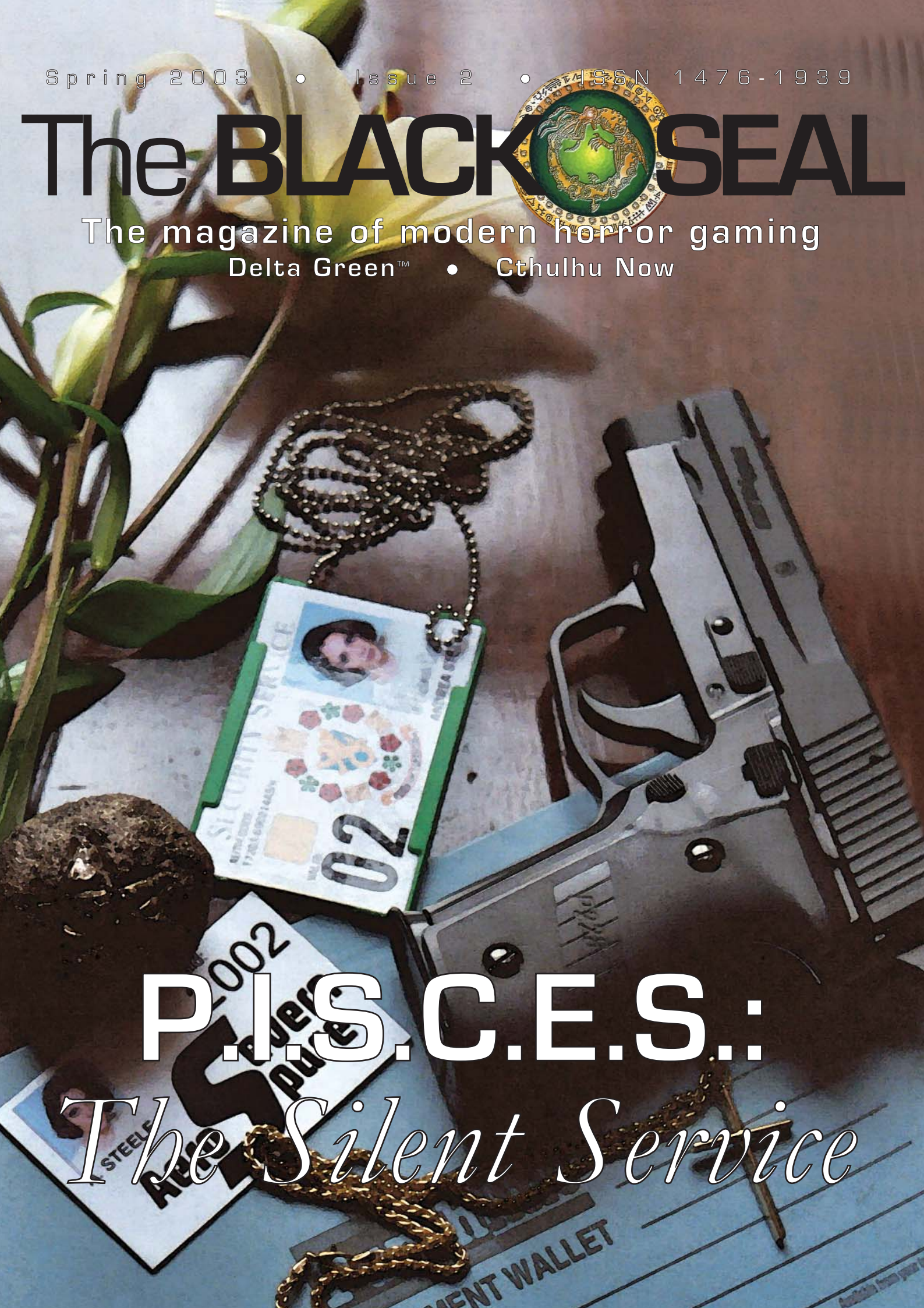


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The BLACK ROSEAL

The magazine of modern horror gaming
Delta Green™ • Cthulhu Now



P.I.S.C.E.S.:

The Silent Service



'On Her Majesty's Occult Service' by Adam Crossingham © 2003

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Welcome to the second issue of The Black Seal. It's been just over a year since the first issue – which is longer than I intended. I hope to get issue #3 of The Black Seal out a lot sooner next time.

The response to The Black Seal #1 was incredible. Thanks to all of you who let me know what you thought of the magazine. Issue #1's success proves, to me at least, that there is a market for modern-period *Call of Cthulhu* material. I hope publishers are watching and more releases may be on their way.

The release of *d20 Call of Cthulhu* has been the biggest news item in the last year, and it is interesting that Wizards of the Coast seems to have chosen to make the modern day the preferred playing period. The Black Seal has embraced the new era of *d20 Cthulhu* as well. Chaosium have requested us not to publish *d20 Cthulhu* stats for the time being, but in the meantime, *d20* stats for issues 1 and 2 can be downloaded from <http://www.theblackseal.org/d20>. We will publish *d20* stats as soon as we have approval from Chaosium.

This issue's theme is PISCES. This doomed organisation is the United Kingdom's sole defence against the Cthulhu Mythos, and is thus a very suitable topic for a British *Call of Cthulhu* fanzine. We've taken the opportunity to expand on what Pagan Publishing first presented in *Delta Green: Countdown*. Pagan did an excellent job creating opportunities for excellent role-playing with this organisation – I hope we've added extra flavour. PISCES in its original presentation is a very dark, malevolent entity if approached in the wrong way.

PISCES is a Second World War relic, armed with emergency powers that have never been rescinded. It's above the law, does not officially exist, reports

only to the Prime Minister's Office, and chooses which Prime Minister it wants to know of its existence.

When looked at like this, PISCES is a civil liberties nightmare. PISCES under its current leadership is a monster, almost out of control, and its tentacles stretch very far indeed. I hope you will find some of this issue's articles reflect this particularly David Conyers' "*Missing Persons...*" and Graeme Price's "*Perfidious Albion*", articles which detail just how far PISCES will go to get what it wants.

The Black Seal editorial team has also been meeting the readers and contributors, drinking too much alcohol and attempting to sell the fanzine over the last year. You may have seen us at CthulhuCon, Convulsion and Dragonmeet. I hope we said "Hi!"

Thanks to my wife Lorraine, Andrew Buckley, David Lamb and the mysterious Mr. X for this issue.



The Black Seal Team meets John Tynes at Convulsion. L to R: Nick, JT, John and Adam



The Vicar and the Rev exchange words and beer

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