

# ***THE NEOPRO WRITER'S BILL OF RIGHTS***



**You are allowed** not to be the greatest writer in the world.

**You are allowed** not to win the Hugo, the Nebula, the Campbell, or even the latest Codex contest.

**You are allowed** to have a day job - at which you spend more time than at writing, and that you may be unwilling or unable to give up.

**You are allowed** to have a family who need and deserve large quantities of your time.

**You are allowed** to write stories that are not as good as the best thing you ever wrote.

**You are allowed** to have dry spells. For as long as it takes.

**You are allowed** to sell stories to \$10 markets. As Leonard Cohen puts it:  
"I took my diamond to a pawnshop / But that don't make it junk."

**You are allowed** to have a lifestyle that won't let you get to Clarion, Odyssey, WorldCon, or even your two-bit local convention.

**You are allowed** not to qualify for SFWA. Or to choose not to join. Or both.

**You are allowed** to have stories that haven't sold at all yet—and may never sell.

**You are allowed** to not be [insert name here].

**And you will still be a writer.**

And that's good.

**Because otherwise there would be damned few of us left.**