

# Y T T E R B I U M

April 1996

# 39

## ANZAPA Mailing 169

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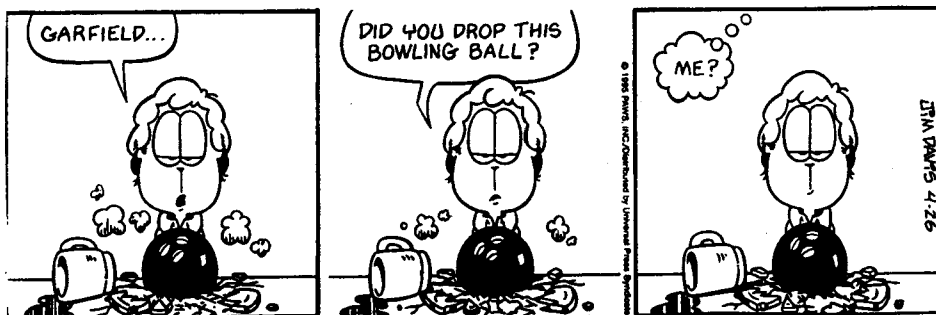
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### BROWNIAN NOISE

The Christian Union at Melbourne University has been chalking the paths with graffiti lately. "The ⊕ Files", "The Truth Is Out There" and "Trust Someone" being their recent favorites.

Fruitopia (a drink) ads seen on a tram recently: "Fruit happens", "It's fruit, Jim, but not as we know it".

### GARFIELD



[Gratuitous bowling cartoon for Leanne.]

## MORE LETTERS FROM NIGERIA

This accompanying article, on the right, appeared in the Wangaratta Chronicle on 29 December 1995.

It appears that the letters are still coming!

## JUNK MAIL

The postcard sized piece of junk mail below appeared in my letter box on 29 January. So far there has been no follow up.....

What does it all mean? (Apart from a failed ad campaign).

More successful was the series of 3 postcards from the cafe near Albert Park Lake.



## SF AND SCRABBLE

Can anyone name the fairly recent Australian SF collection which contains a story about Scrabble ?

It's From Sea to Shining Star by A Bertram Chandler. The story is called *The Word*, and although written in 1959, contains quite a few truths about Scrabble players which hold true today.

For instance there are still arguments about English versus American dictionaries....

At Easter I participated in the Australian Scrabble Championships. In the end I finished 27 (out of 62) and my rating points went from 1720 to 1749. This means I am now rated 62nd in Australia and 31st in Victoria.

## POLICE FILE

### Motorcycle rider hurt

A MAN was taken to Wangaratta District Base Hospital last night after a motorcycle accident at Eldorado.

It is believed the accident occurred at about 9.30pm and the man received injuries to his shoulder and one side of his body.

□ □ □

LETTERS from Nigeria, asking people to invest large amounts of money in the country, are once again being received by Wangaratta residents.

The letters, which police term as Nigerian advanced fee fraud letters, have been sent to Australians over the last four years and are the subject of ongoing federal police investigations.

An influx of letters has been reported in Wangaratta and Ballarat and people are being advised not to part with any amount of money.

More information is available from the federal police's Canberra headquarters on (06) 2757357.

□ □ □

In the two 'horror' games on day one, I never saw one tile valued more than 4 points, and my opponents got both the blanks. In my first 2 games on day two, I scored 4 out of 4 blanks, the first time this had happened in 9 games.

Two real low points of the tournament:

- on Sunday, I won my first 4 games in a row (beating opponents with ratings of 1857-2044), then in the 5th game I didn't look around for a good spot for the last 'S'. I could have scored 32 points and won the game, regardless of what my opponent scored when she went out with her last three tiles (P, U, N) and despite leaving 6 tiles on my rack. I then lost the next 5 games as well, dropping from 3rd place to 28th! If I'd won that 5th game, I would have been placed 2nd, been on a real roll, and who knows how well I might have done.

- later I was playing someone rated far below me (1422 points) and I played TEAL, keeping A, R, S on my rack. (I had the last 'S'). There were 7 tiles left in the bag and I drew I, L, O, U. As it turned out I left □, □, ? in the bag. All I needed was one of those blanks and I could have gone out with a 7 letter bonus word and won the game. My opponent played (T)OTAL, leaving himself with only 6 tiles, and opening the board up for a bonus word, but I couldn't make one with the letters I had drawn. Aaaaaaargh!

One highlight:

- my 4th game on Sunday was against the #1 ranked player in Australia, and eventual winner of the tournament. But I beat him, despite the fact that he scored the only bonus words, and had both blanks! Details of the scoring sheet are below, and in reconstructing the game I see that on my 4th move, where I played HE(L)P, I should have scored 15, not the 13 I recorded. My opponent also went overtime, and should have had 10 points deducted from his score. This means my overall margin for the tournament should have been 12 points higher, and I may have finished in a higher position, as well as playing different players after this match.

Alan Stewart

John Holgate

IVY	18	18	OUTLINED	60	60
JUT	26	44	GOUGE	24	84
GROUTER	16	60	KEPI	20	104
HELP	13	73	TOED	15	119
BOX	35	108	TE	8	127
HEWN	27	135	NEB	10	137
FEAR	29	164	AE	12	149
WON	19	183	IO	10	159
ZAG	33	216	JAR	10	169
MAR	11	227	LIT	10	179
SUQ	40	267	VAU	14	193
CAD	19	286	(S)TRANDS	74	267
MO	17	303	IO	13	280
KEN	16	319	FIRE	22	302
FEEDS	27	346	Q(U)INIC	17	319
SLY	14	360			

+ 2

A, I

- 2

362

317

Australia in '99!

A very strange game. For most of the game I only had 1 vowel on my rack, and John was blocking the board with 2-letter words, despite the fact that I was ahead. I should probably have played 'MAD' instead of 'CAD' on turn 12, as although I had an 'S' to make 'SCAD', the chances were that John also had an 'S', or a '□' and could make the same move. As he did with '(S)TRANDS. I should probably have gone out making 'KEPIS/SLY', which would have scored more, but I wasn't absolutely positive 'KEPIS' was okay, so I went for the safer 'KENS/SLY', and a definite win.

The board looked as follows at the end of the game.

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*      -      -      -      -      -      I      *      -      -      -      -      -      *
-      -      (S)  -      -      Z      O      -      G      -      -      -      -      -
-      -      T      -      -      A      -      -      O      -      K      E      N      S
F      I      R      E      -      G      R      O      U      T      E      R      -      L
E      -      A      -      -      -      -      U      G      -      P      -      -      Y
E      -      N      -      -      J      U      T      E      -      I      -      -      -
D      -      D      -      M      A      -      L      -      -      -      -      -      -
S      -      S      C      A      R      -      I      V      Y      -      -      -      *
-      -      -      A      R      -      -      N      -      -      -      -      -      -
-      -      -      D      -      -      H      E      L      P      -      -      -      -
-      -      -      T      O      E      D      -      H      E      W      N      -      A
-      -      -      B      O      X      -      -      -      -      F      E      A      R
-      -      T      E      -      -      -      -      -      -      I      T      -      B
-      W      O      N      -      V      A      U      -      -      -      -      -      -
M      O      -      I      O      -      -      Q      (U)  I      N      I      C      -      *

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My overall progress during the tournament is as follows (based on the Player Record sheet provided). I have added the 'Opponent's Rating' and 'Place' columns.

Alan Stewart - Before Tournament: 1720 rating points, 72nd Australia, 38th Victoria.

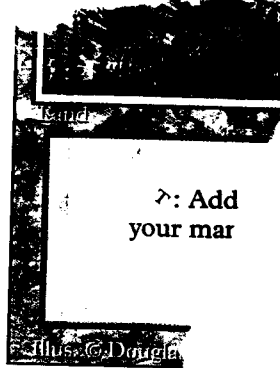
Game	Opponent	Opp's Rating	Opp's Score	My Score	Margin	Cum. Margin	Wins	Place
1	Fintan Conway	1372	400	470	+ 70	+ 70	1	14
2	Marie London	1706	359	380	+ 21	+ 91	2	11
3	Nicole Findlay	1696	295	301	+ 6	+ 97	3	7
4	Lois Binnie	1765	382	391	+ 9	+ 106	4	4
5	Shirley Apted	1625	385	275	- 110	- 4	4	11
6	Denis Galloway	1553	372	401	+ 29	+ 25	5	7
7	Bob Jackman	2014	514	290	- 224	- 199	5	14
8	Jean McGiffin	1857	296	438	+ 142	- 57	6	9
9	Steve Sunter	1962	291	427	+ 136	+ 79	7	6
10	Carmel Dodd	1970	379	307	+ 28	+ 107	8	3
11	John Holgate	2044	317	362	+ 45	+ 152	9	3
12	Gwen Chadwick	1794	390	385	- 5	+ 147	9	5
13	Alistair Kane	1956	376	366	- 10	+ 137	9	7
14	Jim Warmington	1827	405	349	- 56	+ 81	9	8

15	Brendan Scanlon	1896	417	328	- 89	- 8	9	16
16	John Barker	1802	377	371	- 6	- 14	9	23
17	Jerry John	1422	378	333	- 45	- 59	9	28
18	Liz Fowler	1371	318	339	+ 21	- 38	10	22
19	Angie Pearse	1674	376	404	+ 28	- 10	11	18
20	Nick Ivanovski	1999	367	343	- 24	- 34	11	24
21	Angie Pearse	1674	433	415	- 18	- 52	11	27

Alan Stewart - After Tournament: 1749 rating points, 62nd Australia, 31st Victoria.  
 (Expected to win 9.7, actually won 11.0 - based on ratings of my opponents)

## MAGIC CARDS

I found pieces of several *Magic: The Gathering* cards distributed on an area of lawn at the University recently. I have reconstructed some, but not all are complete. Perhaps Neil and Donna can comment on these particular cards. I suspect they are pretty common. Maybe they'll even do a whole article on the phenomenon which started the "Collectable Trading Card Game" craze.



## STAR TREK CONTINUES!

Someone suggested the guy at the back looked like Justin Ackroyd, just because he had red hair and a beard. Chris Ballis is second in the column, and Derek Screen is fifth. (It's a color photo! May have been page 3).

# Fans all set for birthday Trek

By WENDY BUSFIELD

HUNDREDS of *Star Trek* fans are beaming into Wangaratta for Australia's first "trekathon".

Busloads of "trekkies" will tonight converge on the town's humble drive-in theatre to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the first *Star Trek* show.

Fan club organiser Derek Screen has booked two buses for Melbourne trekkies, who plan to park them side-on and sit on the roof.

"Every closet trekkie will come out of the woodwork for this one," Mr Screen said yesterday. "There are three clubs in country Victoria as well as the Melbourne clubs, so it should be a big weekend."

Drive-in operators Alan and Grace Vogt organised the weekend to revitalise their outdoor theatre as a venue for special events.

Mr Vogt expects a field full of cars and buses for the four-day festival.

"*Star Trek* has created quite a following over the years," he said.

"Fans turned into a roaring hoard when the series was cancelled in 1969."

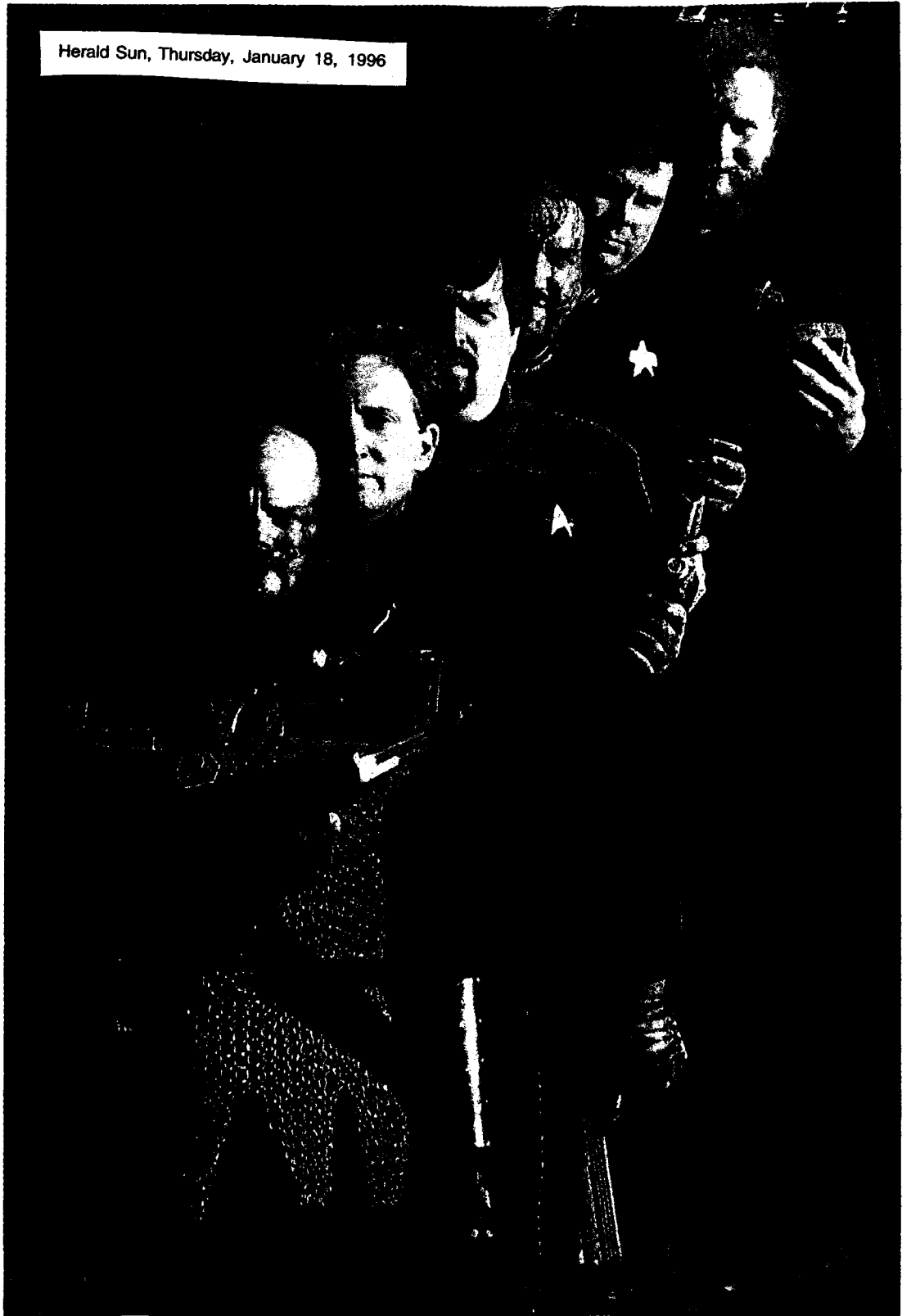
Mr Vogt believes Wangaratta, 234km north-east of Melbourne, could become the new hub for fans.

Seven feature-length movies will be screened, starting tonight with *Star Trek — The Motion Picture* and *Star Trek 2 — The Wrath of Khan*.

The third and fourth *Star Trek* movies will be screened tomorrow night, with the remaining films to run on Saturday and Sunday nights.

Nightly tickets — including popcorn — cost \$7.50 for adults and \$5 for children and concession card holders.

Herald Sun, Thursday, January 18, 1996



**Flying high:** members of the Star Trek Appreciation Society of Victoria. Picture: JOE MANN

As for the local press in Wangaratta, all they had was the following.....

THE CHRONICLE, Friday, January 19, 1996 - Page 3

# Star Trekathon a first

THE world's first four day 'Star Trekathon' to be held at a drive-in theatre materialised in Wangaratta last night.

Hundreds of Star Trek fans are expected to converge on the Wangaratta Drive-In over the next three days for a mega marathon of Star Trek movies which started with Star Trek - The Motion Picture and Star Trek 2 - The Wrath of Khan last night.

Drive-In operator Alan Vogt said more members of The Enterprise Star Trek Club in Melbourne were expected to arrive tonight following work commitments, as well as a group from

Albury and a group from Shepparton.

"Members of the Dr Who Fan Club in Melbourne are also making the trip to Wangaratta as well as members from other Star Trek clubs throughout the state and local fans," Mr Vogt said.

"Film distributors Paramount Pictures said they have no records showing that any other drive-in in Australia, and most likely the world, has staged a Trekathon like this before."

Mr Vogt's wife Grace suggested the Trekathon to him while they were planning their regular movie schedule and

*By Cassie Dalziel*

came across a spare week.

"I was a bit unsure about it at first and then when we discussed it with other people they sounded really enthusiastic and the whole thing has snowballed from there," Mr Vogt said.

Mr Vogt said at the moment the only Star Trek action will be the movie screenings, however, he is expecting one of the clubs from Melbourne to also provide some other form of Star Trek entertainment.

He said a fan from

Melbourne is bringing leaflets, pamphlets, photographs and other Star Trek goodies to put on display at the drive-in.

Tonight the 'Trekathon' will continue with Star Trek 3 - Search For Spock and Star Trek 4 - Voyage Home.

Tomorrow night there will be a triple feature with Star Trek 5 - Final Frontier, Star Trek 6 - Undiscovered Country and Star Trek 7 - Generations.

On Sunday night there will be a comparison night with the screening of Star Trek 7 - Generations and the Academy Award winning movie

from 1953, War Of The Worlds.

To make the Trekathon weekend an even bigger success, Mr Vogt encourages everyone to dress up either in Star Trek gear or science fiction get-up.

Admission each night is \$7.50 for adults and \$5 for children and concession holders.

With each ticket purchased, movie buffs will receive a bucket of popcorn.

The gates and canteen open at 7.30pm and Star Trek is set to screen at dusk which is usually about 9pm.

So beam yourself over there!

## DUFF BEER IS HERE!!!!!!!

Launched last December, and currently available in Melbourne, at least during March. There were rumors that twentieth Century Fox were going to sue, as this is the brand of beer Homer drinks in *The Simpsons*.

## Homer's Duff part of a beer new wave

DUFF seems a peculiar name for a beer — unless you're a keen watcher of *The Simpsons*.

Known by fans as the beer Homer drinks, Duff is also the name of a new "just for fun" lager-style beer from Tooheys.

Duff is a full-strength beer available only in cans out of the

Tooheys-owned Razorback Beverages division in Perth.

It has been launched in Western Australia and South Australia and was released to a limited number of up-market bars and pubs in Sydney last week.

It follows Vault as one of the

"new wave" Razorback beverages and is the latest in a host of new beers and alcoholic sodas launched over the past year and aimed at the brand-conscious X-generation consumer.

According to a spokeswoman from Tooheys, the name was not used because of *The Simpsons*

connection — it was chosen by consumers as part of research for the new product.

She described Duff as a "nonsense beer for those beer-lovers who don't take life too seriously".

A promotional campaign for Duff will be launched early in the New Year.

HERALD - SUN  
27 DECEMBER 1995

Now who should I send flattened empty cans to.....all past DUFF delegates?

## COMMENTS ON MAILING #168

**Alan** I've now bought a copy of The Australian Editing Handbook.

**David** ryc ephemeral history - I don't keep letters or have a diary (except for appointments). I won't be able to do a Harry Warner and reprint my letter files in 2 years, let alone 40. I don't even have hard copies of all my published poetry and writings.

**Eric** ryc me - City Link is a proposed tolled CBD by-pass road tying into existing freeways.

ryc me - I was using the Equation Editor in Word Perfect.

ryc Gerald - I still have a "Darwin Fish" for sale for DUFF. It's \$Aus 15 (includes postage) if anyone's interested. First in, first served. Otherwise it'll be auctioned sometime.

**Jan** Wow, a pretty thorough account of your family's time at the RMH. I presume all you went through is not typical of a first time labor. My sister gave birth on 1 March, but was only in labor for about 10 hours, and as far as I know didn't require any extra treatments. Everyone seems to be doing fine, and I have a niece, Tully. Her name was chosen because her parents liked it, no family background or anything, similar to your and Michael's reasons for choosing Annika.

**Janice** ryc on having 5 cats. Perhaps growing up on a farm desensitises you in some ways. I've never regarded pets as part of the family, so am probably like your father in some ways of thinking. Similarly I don't have much sympathy for animal rights groups and those of similar ilk.

**Jean** This seems to be turning into the dire medical stories Mailing....

ryc me - You've done pretty well at my recent SF list. I hope you enjoy 10 when you read it. Of the stories in the Le Guin collection Four Ways to Forgiveness, 3 had appeared in Asimov's SF (where I had already read them too) and 1 in Blue Motel which I know nothing about. Feersum Endjinn is worth reading. It's the story thread told in the "difficult" phonetic sections which you recall afterwards.

**Lyn** Thanks for sharing your stories with ANZAPA.

**LynC** ryc me - Wyeth's and Mead Johnson aren't names I recognise. Do they own Australian companies? From your list, Sustagen is the only product of their's I recognise, and I don't drink it anyway. As for the Nestles one, no Peters ice cream, fantales, kit-kats, pollywaffles, waaaaah. Does this mean we shouldn't use musk lifesavers, violet crumbles or minties at Australia in '99 bid parties?

### GARFIELD





**Marc** Given your penchant for musical references, will your platform see you playing with an OBO next mailing?

**Michael** rycet James - Just what birth year do you claim for the 'last generation to be born without television'? We didn't get electricity until I was 6, and a TV only when I was 10. I was born in 1962!

**Phil** Some good illos, quite a few I don't care for, and a few I might use in some Thyme.

**Roger** A few corrections for your Trip Report. On page 2, that should be Merv Binns; Healesville Sanctuary; coats (not coast). Page 3 should 'scents' be 'scenes'? I think rhylacon is a typo. On page 6 perhaps 'say' not 'sat'.

**REBOWS - Cath, Singular, Jeanne, Leanne, Linnette, Perry, Sally, family Hryckiewicz, Terry Frost.**

## RECENT READING

(1 February - 12 April 1996)

King of the Dead - R A MacAvoy	
The Belly of the Wolf - R A MacAvoy	
House of Tribes - Garry Kilworth	(Review)
Asimov's SF - January 1996	
Distress - Greg Egan	(Review)
Dinosaurs II - Jack Dann & Gardner Dozois (Editors)	(Review)
Genellan: Planetfall - Scott G Gier	(Review)
Forever After - Roger Zelazny (Creator)	(Review)
Mortal Remains - Christopher Evans	(Review)
The Face in the Frost - John Bellairs	
Forgotten Realms: Realms of Magic - Brian Thomsen & J Robert King (Editors)	(Review)
Worldwar: Upsetting the Balance - Harry Turtledove	
The Diamond Age - Neal Stephenson	
From Sea to Shining Star - A Bertram Chandler	
Brightness Reef - David Brin	(Review)
Asimov's SF - February 1996	

In this selection I really enjoyed the two by R A MacAvoy, but be warned they are parts 2 and 3 of a trilogy. Neal Stephenson's The Diamond Age is also highly recommended, I liked it more than his previous book, Snow Crash. Despite being the first in a trilogy, Brightness Reef is good Brin, continuing his exploration of his "Uplift" future history.

In fact all this lot would be rated average or above. Even the 'Forgotten Realms' anthology contained some good stories, and the shared world anthology edited by Roger Zelazny, Forever After, contained 4 stories which were all entertaining. Genellan: Planetfall was a very good first novel. A long saga of human marines shipwrecked on an inhabited alien planet which shares it's solar system with another inhabited world, home to a different alien species.

Worldwar: Upsetting the Balance continues Harry Turtledove's excellent alternate history series, and there's one more volume to go. The Chandler stories were interesting, and I felt ti was about time I got around to reading this volume. The proof reading could have been a bit better though.

## TV AND VIDEO

A Month in the Country	Babylon 5 - Matters of Honor
Runaway	- Convictions
Seven Wonders of the World (series)	- A Day in the Strife
Divine Magic (series)	- Infection
House Sitter	Star Trek: Voyager - Initiations
Star Trek: Voyager - Parallax	- Non Sequitur
- Time and Again	Major League
- State of Flux	Pride and Prejudice (series)
- Heroes and Demons	Naked (series)
Skallagrigg	Desideria e L'Anello del Draco
Eleven Men Against Eleven	(The Dragon Ring)
The Story of Qui Ju	
The Sum of Us	
Back to the Future III	

## FILMS

Ed Wood + Toy Story  
 To Die For  
 Johnny Mnemonic + Die Hard With A Vengeance  
 Twelve Monkeys  
 Broken Arrow

I really enjoyed *Ed Wood*. Johnny Depp revels in the role, and it's a great movie. I saw this at the Astor and most of the audience didn't know what they were in for and didn't like it. There were quite a few voiced protests around me at interval. *Toy Story* I felt was competent, but didn't strike the sense of wonder chord with me. I also saw *Johnny Mnemonic* at the Astor, and it was okay, but not great. Bruce Willis seemed determined to see just how much punishment a body can take and keep going in *Die Hard With A Vengeance*. He doesn't take quite as much damage in *Twelve Monkeys*, but he tries to. This film is also recommended. They get most of the time travel/loops right, but I have a couple of quibbles I won't detail here (just in case you haven't seen the movie). It just goes to show the past doesn't like getting fucked with. Don't bother with *To Die For* or *Broken Arrow*.

Nope, I still haven't seen a good *Star Trek: Voyager* episode. One of the above is an alternative timestream episode where everything goes back to normal at the end (surprise, surprise); one is a holodeck story; and two (broadcast after each other) both involve time travel, and they handle the paradoxes worse than in *Twelve Monkeys*, ie. they pretty much ignore them!

*Skallagrigg* was a pretty impressive, and depressing, film based on a novel by Robert Horwood. I must see if I can track down the book. *Babylon 5* series three starts off fairly flat. It had better pick up if it's meant to be as exciting as J Michael has hyped it to be. Mind you it looks as if he's written every episode of season 3, and I think is now the author with the longest episode credit list in the history of SF series.

*Pride and Prejudice* was enjoyable, and I suspected Elizabeth would end up with Mr Darcy, but wasn't sure how the details would fall out along the way. The series *Naked: Stories about Men* had one very good episode, the Chinese ghost one, but the others were disappointing, cliché ridden and wrong, particularly in the school reunion stereotyping they used.