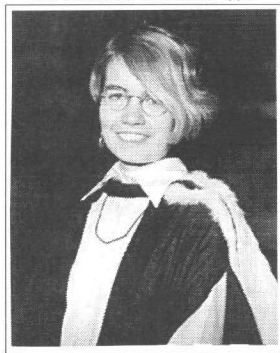


•MATRIX•

£1.75 • THE NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION • 133

• SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 1998 •



Candlelight

Candlelight, the magic light the mystery light,
the witches' light.

Thick candles, tiny flame on blackened wick in a sea of soft hot
wax.

Tall thin candles, the wax dripping down in globules,
to lie in flat hard rounded plates of opaque white.

Shadows distorted by candlelight, reading by candlelight.
Walking along, carrying your own small islet of light.

Candles in bottles, candles in saucers, candles in candelabra,
candles in chandeliers, the flickering flame-light
caught by a thousand glass prisms.

Red wax, white wax dripping flame, moving flame.

Looking into a flame, the blue heart of a flame.

Candlelight.

Alison Spedding, 1972, aged 10

MATRIX

THE NEWS MAGAZINE OF THE BRITISH SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION

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ISSUE 133 SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 1998

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and photography
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Lee Montgomerie
Julie Rigby

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BSFA Logo • **Ian Brooks**

Cover • **Alison Spedding** at her graduation,
and a poem written by her when she
was ten; see page 3 for more
information. Both courtesy of Alison's
mother, **Maureen Raybould**

Photography • **Mike Ford** (p5), **Chris Terran** (pp6,
10), **Julie Rigby** (p7)

Design / Production • **Chris Terran**
Set in Palatino 9k 7, Garamond, Helvetica.

Next Deadline • **Wednesday 14 October 1998**

ISSN • 0307 3335

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Printed by • **PDC Copyprint**, 11 Jeffries Passage,
Guildford, GU1 4AP

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My apologies for the non-appearance of *Matrix* in the
last mailing, due to the loss of the masters in the post
and my tardiness in supplying replacements. This issue
is also smaller than normal, to keep postage costs down.
Normal service will be resumed next issue.
– **Chris Terran**

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OF READING

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British Science Fiction Association Ltd
Registered in England. Limited by Guarantee. Company No. 921500.
Registered Address: 60 Bournemouth Road, Folkestone, Kent, CT19 5AZ
Founded 1958

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news

SUPPORT FOR SPEDDING GROWS

Alison Spedding, the 36-year-old fantasy writer and anthropologist imprisoned in Bolivia on drugs allegations, has received substantial support from the UK broadsheet press, her editor Jane Johnson (Voyager's Publishing Director and a writer herself), and the academic community. Alison lectures in Social Anthropology at the University San Andres in La Paz, and was arrested on 30 March, the day before she was due to fly to the UK for a conference at Lampeter University and to deliver the English manuscript of her latest novel. Her mother Maureen Raybould has been highly active in campaigning for her daughter, and an appeal fund has been set up.

However, the initial report that the writer had been accused of possessing a single joint seems to be incorrect, and it now appears that up to 2kg of cannabis was found in her flat, a sufficient quantity to enable the Bolivian authorities to charge her with trafficking, a much more serious offence. Though she admits possession, and is pro-legalisation of cannabis, she vehemently denies that she was dealing, and insists it was for personal use. An initial hearing should take place before Christmas, with a trial perhaps a year later; she could get 25 years, though her lawyer says her best hope is a four or five-year sentence which might be halved by parole.

POLITICAL ASPECTS

She has also been accused of 'criminal association' and 'inducement to corruption', charges possibly relating to her work among the Aymara indigenes and her support for the *coaleros*, coca farmers being forced to destroy their traditional crops by the Bolivian government, under pressure from the US. Her research was in this area, and she has been living with them in the tiny village of Aapapa for the last six years. She is committed to the Aymara, paying for one young woman to attend university and buying many others books and school equipment.

There are other possible political motives for her arrest. As part of a Distant Learning programme she was teaching sociology at the maximum security Chonchorcho jail, where most of the inmates are political prisoners, including members of the MRTA group which seized the Japanese ambassador's house in Lima a few years ago. She was questioned repeatedly about this by the political police following her arrest, and thinks it is why all her notebooks and computer discs (containing valuable research) were confiscated. Her house was searched for 'subversive' materials, such as the UN-published *Oppressed But Not Defeated* by Sylvia Rivera.

PRESS SUPPORT

As well as much coverage in the local press, the national broadsheets have taken up the writer's case, with feature articles in *The Guardian* (in particular a substantial piece by Duncan Campbell and Fiona Adams on 4 July), *The Times*, *The Independent* and *The Sunday Times*. Fiona Adams is a journalist in Bolivia, and in *The Sunday Times* of 28 June she reported visiting a 'pale and thin' Alison in prison. 'She described her treatment in the anti-narcotics squad headquarters as 'little short of abominable'. She was interrogated there for 18 days, shortly after being released from hospital after an ectopic pregnancy. [...] She was diagnosed as suffering from 55 different parasites and possible typhoid before her arrest.'

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Spedding holds Masters degrees in anthropology from Cambridge and a doctorate from the LSE, and has been working at the University of San Andres since 1991. Dr Olivia Harris, now at Goldsmith's College in London, taught Alison at Cambridge, and is co-ordinating the appeal fund. She ridiculed the idea that Alison could be a drug trafficker, and described her as 'a fine researcher, who had very much taken the Aymara cause upon herself'. Other support has come from academics in Japan, North Carolina, Liverpool, Essex, the LSE, King's College Cambridge, Edinburgh, Leeds and elsewhere.

Alison also inspires great loyalty in her students. At their insistence she is continuing to teach them while in prison, and marks essays and sets assignments. One student said 'Everyone wanted Alison as their tutor. She was a little strange - sometimes she came to classes in indigenous dress - but the students admired her for her academic abilities'. Another admitted that it was known she smoked marijuana, 'But lots of people at the university smoke marijuana - it's no big deal'.

Candlelight

Alison's poem on the front cover, written when she was ten, came to light in an unusual way. A journalist on a local paper rang up her primary school headmaster, now retired, on the offchance, not expecting that he'd remember one small girl twenty-six years before. 'Oh, I remember Alison! A most exceptional child,' and going to a filing cabinet pulled out the poem, which he used many times at educational conferences to demonstrate just what a child of ten is capable of. He had even quoted it in his own retirement speech.

The amount of money she had, though small by Western standards (and especially by drugs-trafficking standards), aroused suspicion in itself, although she could account for it all with payrolls and royalty statements. Her mother told *Matrix*: 'She'd withdrawn \$2,500 from the bank for her four-week trip [to the UK] and had \$17,500 in her account in La Paz. She showed the police her account, to show them that she'd withdrawn these dollars from that account. They said, 'Oh, the money in there must be illegal earnings.' She said, 'No, I've five or six years of university payrolls, this is where the money comes from.' 'Oh, we'll take those away.' Anyway, they said university lecturers don't earn a lot in Bolivia, you can't possibly have that sort of money. She said, 'But I don't spend anything. You can see how I live, poor shabby flat, no furniture, no clothes, no make-up, no jewellery. I'm not interested in money!' She has few possessions: her computer was given to her by the Bolivian government to assist with a project on urban migration for them, and her bank account is now frozen pending the court case.

WORK CONTINUES

Currently being held in the Women's Prison in Miraflores, Alison continues to teach. Voyager is currently reissuing Spedding's 'Walk in the Dark' trilogy, comprising *The Road and the Hills*, *A Cloud Over Water* and *The Streets of the City*, and editor Jane Johnson has her new novel *Money Like Water*, published in Spanish in South America as *Manuel y Fortunata*. Her mother Maureen Raybould campaigns among MPs and the academic community, and says 'Anyone wishing to write to Alison herself is urged to do so; she is, as you might imagine, extremely depressed and letters are gratefully received.' Letters to the prison do get through, but alternatively you can address them c/o the British Embassy.

• CONTACT ADDRESSES:

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Fax: 00 591 243 1073

LEGAL FUND: Dr Olivia Harris, 56 Pyrland Road, London, N5 2JD.
Tel: 0171 354 0032

BOLIVIAN EMBASSY (letters of protest): The Ambassador, Bolivian Embassy, 106 Eaton Square, London, SW1W 9AD. Fax: 0171 235 1286

≡ 1998 Hugo Awards ≡

John Clute, John Grant and Dave Langford were the British winners in this year's Hugo Awards, presented in a ceremony at Bucerius, this year's Worldcon in Baltimore, on 7 August 1998. The ballots were counted by Hugo Administrators John Lorentz & Ruth Sachter, with the help of software written by Jeffrey L. Copeland.

BEST NOVEL
JOE HALDEMAN
Forever Peace
(Ace)

BEST SHORT STORY
MIKE RESNICK
'The 43 Antarean Dynasties'
(Asimov's Dec '97)

BEST PROFESSIONAL
EDITOR
Gardner Dozois
(Asimov's)

BEST FANZINE
Mimosa
(eds Nicki & Richard Lynch)

BEST NOVELLA
ALLEN STEELE
'... Where Angels Fear To Tread'
(Asimov's Oct/Nov '97)

BEST RELATED BOOK
John Clute & John Grant (eds)
The Encyclopedia of Fantasy
(Orbit; St Martin's Press)

BEST PROFESSIONAL
ARTIST
Bob Eggleton

BEST FAN WRITER
David Langford

BEST FAN ARTIST
Joe Mayhew

BEST NOVELLETTE
BILL JOHNSON
'We Will Drink a Fish Together ...'
(Asimov's May '97)

BEST DRAMATIC
PRESENTATION
Contact

BEST SEMIPROZINE
Locust
(ed Charles N. Brown)

JOHN W. CAMPBELL AWARD
FOR BEST NEW WRITER
(Sponsored by Dell Magazines)
Mary Doria Russell

snippings... news... gleanings... rumours... cuttings...

SHUFFIN GOES WEST... is the title of **Maureen Kincald Speller's** TAFF trip report (see photo overleaf), the first instalment of which was written on 31 July, just before she hopped over the pond for points west. You can get it free by sending an SAE to **Shuffin Goes West**, 14 Northway Road, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 6JE. Also available is **TAFFin's Bum**, her TAFF newsletter.

Matrh received a joyful postcard of New York's Flatiron Building, home of **Tor Books**. Apart from visiting many fans she's been doing the tourist thing: "I'm enjoying the weirdness of America, the startling abundance of choice, the good bookshops, the street life, the people, though the pace in New York can be hard."

TUDOR PERIOD over **Martin Tudor** announced on 21 July that he was stepping down as editor of the Birmingham SF Group's **Bum Group News**, a post he has held since 1991, due to "ever-increasing personal pressures". The BSGF is looking for a replacement.

The Birmingham SF Group will host **Pat Cadigan** on 11 September, talking about her new novel **Sea From an Empty Cup**. Starts about 7.45pm in the **Lichfield Lounge**, 2nd Floor, **Britannia Hotel on New Street**. On 9 October **Peter F. Hamilton** will be their guest.

Alan Woodford, 81 Harold Road, Rowley Regis, Warley, West Midlands, B65 0RL.

*bsfsgbortas.demon.co.uk

DIANA WYNN JONES had another difficult spinal operation on 2 July, and returned home on 8 July to recover. It's hoped that no more surgery will be necessary.

CLARION 1999 writers' workshop in Michigan is inviting applicants: the tutors are not known yet, but the 1998 class had **James Patrick Kelly**, **John Kessel**, **Nancy Kress**, **Jonathan Lethem**, **Maureen F. McHugh** and **Pat Murphy**. Running from 13 June - 24 July 1999, the deadline for applications is 1 April 1999. You can get further details by sending an unstamped self-addressed envelope to:

Clarion 1999, c/o Mary Sheridan, Lyman Briggs School, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI 48825-1107, USA

*http://www.msu.edu/~lcs/clarion/

SINNING BOOKS **Peter F. Hamilton** and **Jeff Noon** will be at London's Forbidden Planet (near Tottenham Court Road tube) on 10 October.

FAPA is the Fantasy Amateur Press Association, 61 years old in July and still going strong and on the lookout for new members. Founded by **Don Wolheim**, each of the 60-odd members sends in a monthly contribution which is then collated and mailed out to each of them; the roster currently includes **Krest Silberberg** and **Gordon Eklund**. Membership costs simply cover postage and administration, and it's open to anyone who's either edited a fanzine or had material published in two separate fanzines (I suspect **Matrh** would count).

*Ken Forman, 7215 Nordic Lights Drive, Las Vegas, NV89119-0335, USA

*kforman@vizard.com

ELECTRONICS US at publishing house **Tor Books** will make books such as **Robert Jordan's** *Wheel of Time* series available to owners of the 3Com palmtop computer, via electronic publisher **Peanut Press**. Tor boss **Patrick Nielsen Hayden** said, "As a PalmPilot owner myself, I know firsthand that people use them to read books, and it's turned out to be surprisingly useful for that purpose." **Mimosa**, the five-time Hugo winning fanzine which concentrates on fan history, has a web site: <http://www.smithway.org/mimosa>

PUBLISHING **Bris Calver Books** has confirmed that **Odyssey** magazine will continue after a successful initial year. "The US Borders bookshop chain is invading the UK, with 'superstores' planned in London (now open), Leeds (November), York, Glasgow and Brighton - all locations with an active fan population, curiously. The Leeds store has successfully applied for a drinks licence. ... Leeds booksellers **Austicks** has closed, and will be reopening as a branch of **Blackwells**. ... Booktrack figures show an enormous increase in summer sales over last year, with hardbacks up 32% and paperbacks up 27%. I blame global warming. ... **Orion** sold 70% of its equity to French publisher **Hachette** in August, and will start publishing in the US. Boss **Anthony Cheetham** will stay in place, and the US move is the start of his expansion plans.

Deaths **Robert 'Bob' W. Lowndes** died on 14 July, aged 81. An active fan and editor, he edited titles such as **Future Fiction** and **SF Quarterly** in the 1940s, was sf editor at **Avon Books** from 1955-1967, wrote five novels including collaborations with **James Blish** and **Donald Wolheim**, and was a member of New York's Futurians group of fans in the 1930s along with **Isaac Asimov**. 'St artist **Paul Lehr** died on 27 July aged 68. ... **John Baladonidis** died on 19 July; he was a member of First Fandom and a founder member of the Philadelphia SF Society and **FAPA** (see above). ... Fan artist, customer and filker **Alan Layman** Chancellor (a.k.a. **Chance**) died on 11 July in Minneapolis.

NEWS FROM WORLDCON

•SIDESIDE AWARDS Winners of the 1998 Sideside Awards for alternative history tales are: Long Form **Harry Turtledove** *How Few Remain* (NEL, Del Rey); Short Form **William Sanders** 'The Undiscovered' (Asimov's Mar 97: 'Year's Best SF 15); Special Achievement **Robert Sobel** 'For Want of a Nail ...' (Burgoyne Had Won at Saratoga' (Macmillan 1972, Greenhill 1997).

•JMS NO SHOW Worldcon guest **J. Michael Straczynski**, creator of **Babylon 5**, had to pull out of attending **Buconner** due to 'walking pneumonia'. Prognosis for a full recovery is good, but he was told that any stress - such as attending a Worldcon - was extremely inadvisable. **JMS** was very apologetic, and told the attendees in a message: "I hate this more than I can say. All my life, the idea of being a guest of honour at a Worldcon has been one of those dreams, like winning a Hugo ... something you hope may happen, but probably never will. So this has probably been the high point of my career to date. [...] I'm past the worst of it, but I'm as weak as a kitten, and ripe for the rapist if I put any stress on my system. [My doctor] felt strongly that if I went to this convention, under the current conditions, I would have a 90% chance of going from walking pneumonia to full-fledged acute pneumonia, which would almost certainly result in a hospital stay. [...] I hate this more than words can convey. I was looking forward to this more any other convention I've ever been involved with. But I can't go. [...] I cannot apologise for this enough; I wish I could say I could make it, but at this point it would seriously endanger my health, and I can't do that." However, **JMS** did manage to briefly attend via the phone for a panel session, and all the videotapes he'd been intending to show were sent along.

•2001: A PHILADELPHIA STORY Philadelphia, in the shape of 'The Millennium Philcon' (groan) won the bidding to host the 2001 Worldcon, against competition from Boston / Disneyworld. Taking place from 30 August to 3 September at the Pennsylvania Convention Center and the Philadelphia Marriott Hotel, the guests will be **Greg Bear**, **Stephen Yule**, **Gardner Dozois**, **George Sorithers** and **Toastmaster Esther Friesner** - see Events for more details. The first Philadelphia Worldcon was in 1947 and the second in 1953, which inaugurated the Hugo Awards; the original set of trophies was machined by **Jack McKnight**, the father of **Buconner's** Chairman **Peggy Rae Pavlat**.

•MORIE AWARDS The Big Heart Award was won by **Jonie Knappensberger**.

•Newly inducted into First Fandom were **Jack Agnew** (founding member of the Philadelphia SF Society), **Milton A. Rothman**, and **John Baladonidis**, who sadly died two weeks before Worldcon.

•The Chesley Awards for sf art were presented by the Association of SF and Fantasy Artists on 6 August: Cover Illustration (Hardback) **Bob Eggleton** for *The Howling Stones* (by Alan Dean Foster, Del Ray); Cover Illustration (Paperback) **Michael Dashow** for *The Rhinoceros* (Quoted Nietzsche (by Peter S. Beagle, Tachyon); Cover Illustration (Magazine) **Todd Lockwood** for *Dragon* (Aug 97); Interior Illustration **Alan Lee** for *The Hobbit* (by J. R. R. Tolkien, HarperCollins); Three-Dimensional Art, **Clayburn Moore** for 'Witchblade'; Art Director **Jamie Warren** Yvill (Bantam); Artistic Achievement **Vincent Di Fate**; Contribution to ASFA **Jenny Wurts**.

•The Art Show Awards went to: Professional (Popular Choice) **Don Maitz** 'Forty Thieves'; Amateur (Popular Choice) **Cathy Faye Rudolph** 'Skipping Stones - Morning, Noon and Evening'; Best in Show 2D (Judges Award) **Marc Fishman** 'La Belle Dame Sans Merci'; Best in Show 3D (Judges Award) **Volodymyr Ivanov** 'Body of Work'.

•LANGFORD SAITH As is traditional, **Dave Langford's** Hugo acceptance speech was delivered by **Martin Hoare**. "Some people have complained that after all these years I know Dave's Hugo acceptance speech back to front. So I'd just like to briefly ...

"Award Hugo this for much very all you thanks Langford Dave. Surprise complete as a came it A.M. four at the telephone to going is Hoare bastards that suppose I now. Maybe, year next anagrams!"

•CHARITIES The combined charity auction raised a total of \$2,061, split as follows: **TAFI** \$681; **DUFF** \$358.50; **SFWA** medical fund \$1,162; **Interfix** \$137; **ASFA** (Association of SF Artists) \$262.50.

•DRESSING UP The Masquerade gave out so many prizes that surely everyone won something (including prizes for 'Excellence in Layered Leatherwork and Corsetry' and 'Excellence in Sculpture and Hot Glue Work'), but the main winners were **Brian Healy** & **Jeannette Healy**, 'The Huntress'.

•BODY COUNT As of Saturday night, there were 5,306 attendees at **Buconner**, the 56th Worldcon, held in Baltimore, Maryland, August 1998.

*Special thanks to **Julie Rigby**.

SHOTS

SCREEN

MORE MONSTERS **Steven Spielberg** will produce (but not direct) and **Michael Crichton** write the next 'Jurassic Park' film for Universal. It should be released in summer 2000.

LUE BAILEY MINISERIES The So-Fi Channel has commissioned New Amsterdam Entertainment to produce a two-part, four-hour miniseries from **Isaac Asimov's** robot detective novels *The Caves of Steel* and *The Naked Sun*. New Amsterdam previously produced the ABC miniseries of **Stephen King's** *The Stand* and *The Langoliers* and are also working on the So-Fi Channel production of *Dune*.

TREKKED Paramount has bought **Trek**ies, a documentary about wacky Star Trek fans directed by **Roger Nygard**; 'Not condescending' at all, apparently. Shame. ... The soundtrack to the first Star Trek movie will be rereleased in November, along with unreleased material and a bonus CD of **Gene Roddenberry** interviewing the actors.

SNIPNETS *Fantastic Planet* was a strange 1973 animated film by **Rene Laloux**, and it's being rereleased in the US in October: try to catch it if it turns up here. ... Filming has started on **Stephen King's** *The Green Mile*, with **Tom Hanks** - **Guillermo del Toro** (*Mimic*) will direct the movie version of the *Halbway* comic. He's also working on a new

media news . . tv . . film

adaptation of **Dumas's** *The Count of Monte Christo*, on which **Bester's** *Tiger Tiger* was based. ... *The Trivial Pursuit Star Wars Classic Trilogy Collector's Edition* is just what it sounds - 2,400 Star Wars-related questions on topics like **Droids**, **Creatures** and **Aliens**, **Weapons** and **Vehicles**. ... *The I Am Legend* saga continues. After the shewing of **Ridley Scott's** version with **Arnold Schwarzenegger** for cost overruns, the project is now being looked at by **Rob Bowman**, director of *The X-Files: Fight the Future*. ... **Highlander**: *The Search for Connor* is the fourth in the series, and will be directed by **Gregory Widon**, currently working on an adaptation of **Harlan Ellison's** 'Mefisto in Cryic'. ... Following his murder, actor **Phil Hartman** was going to be removed from already-filmed episodes of *3rd Rock From the Sun*, but the decision was reversed as a tribute. Tastelessly, the only change will now be the inclusion of a line referring to a death threat to Hartman's character. ... **Paul Verhoeven** (*Starship Troopers*, *Total Recall*) is to direct **Andrew Marlowe's** technothriller *The Hollow Man*, about a man who is turned invisible. ... **New Line Cinema** has bought the film rights to **Christopher Buckley's** satirical novel *Little Green Men*; out next year, the novel is an X-Files sort of UFOs and government conspiracies. ... The makers of *Dumb and Dumber* are being let loose on the sf comedy *The Space Man*. ... *The X-Files* leads the field in the **Emmy Awards**, with 16 nominations. **Merlin** got 15 and *3rd Rock From the Sun* managed 8. ☐



SPELLER'S TRAVELS

Maureen Kincald Speller set off on her TAFF trip to the Baltimore Worldcon and sundry fun parts on 2 August, and here she is in the Fan Lounge. From left: **Shelia Lightsey**, Maureen, her husband **Paul Kincald**, who's in front of **Terry Frost**, winner of the DUFF trip to represent Australian fandom in the US.

She'll be representing the BSFA as well as all of UK fandom in her three month trip. Her planned itinerary is: 2 Aug, Washington and Manassas with Marilee Layman; 5-9 Aug, Baltimore Worldcon; 10-19 Aug, Gettysburg and New York (Patrick and Teresa Nielsen Hayden of Tor Books); 22 Aug, Chicago (Nigel Rowe); 26 Aug, Madison (Jeanne Gomoll); 2 Sep, Minneapolis (Geri Sullivan); 10 Sep, Seattle (Kate Schaeffer); 18 Sep, Portland; 20 Sep, Eugene; 24 Sep, San Francisco (Allyn Cadogan and others); 12 Oct, Los Angeles (Ulrika O'Brien); 19 Oct, Las Vegas (Arnie Katz and the Vegants); 25 Oct New York, (Moshe Feder). • Photograph by **Mike Ford**.

Scribble Scribble Scribble...

Stephen Baxter strikes out in a new direction with *Grey Hair*, out in January from Orion. The first in a series called "Mammoth," it's anthropological sf (for ages "8 to 80") which will "tell the sweeping story of the mammoths. It is a tale rich in myth, tradition, bravery, cruelty and adventure. The mammoths have an arcane society and memories that encompass the age of the earth. They have seen man arrive, they have escaped him for now but their destiny is tied to him. It is a story that starts on a remote Siberian island, with *Grey Hair*, last child of an ancient herd of mammoths."

Mary Gentle's sequel to *Ash: A Secret History* is *Ash 2: The Wild Machines*, due next January from Gollancz. It's complete the diptych. In 1999 Pierce Rattliff, editor of the *Ash* Chronicles, witnesses an archeological discovery and gets caught up in all-too-contemporary violence. And in 1476 the legendary female mercenary *Ash* flees from Africa and the "Wild Machines" – source of the "voices" which guide her in battle – to a European Dark Age and a war against the invading Visigoths, with their exotic technology and golems....

Eric Brown reports that he has three books out in Spring 1999: *Penumbra*, an sf novel from Orion; *Parallax View*, a collection of stories co-written with **Keith Brooke**, from Tanjen Press; and *Waikabato*, a "Web" young-adult sf book from Orion (Eric wrote about the Web series and his first contribution to it, *Untouchable*, in *Matrix* 127).

He also adapted **Stephen Baxter's** story "George and the Comet" (in

Traces) for the Seeing Ear Theatre in New York, the audio production side of the So-Fi Channel's Dominion web site. It was retitled "George and the Red Giant", featured Babylon 5 actors Peter Juraski and Andreas Katsulas, and was posted to the site in two parts, on 20 July and 3 August.

Lisa Tuttle has a new anthology out in November from Indigo. Called *Crossing the Border*, it's themed on transgressive and ambiguous sexuality and has stories from Angela Carter, Neil Gaiman, Graham Joyce, Cecelia Tan, Fay Weldon and others. Net-sex, virtual reality pornography, gender-bending, androgyny....

Windsor Chilton's mainstream sf novel *Cold Fusion* is out next January from Orion. "In 2018 the world is in the grip of a cosmic winter triggered by a meteor strike a decade earlier, and the hunt is on to find new places in the galaxy capable of supporting life."

Diana Wynne Jones's *The Dark Lord of Derkholm* is a comic fantasy due from Gollancz in November. Mr Chesney has been organising Pilgrim Parties to fantasyland for forty years, with the help of an extremely powerful demon. But this year's Dark Lord, the wizard Derk, has special talents, and things will never be the same again....

Darren O'Shaughnessy is a new 23-year-old writer, compared to Clive Barker and Ian Banks. *Ayuaracua*, out next January from Orion, is a dark fantasy set in an alternative world in which the Cardinal rules the life of the young man Capac Raimi.

The ideas of geneticist **Richard Dawkins** have entered sf – memes, for instance, from *The Blind Watchmaker*, and his influential *The Selfish Gene* – and he has a new book out in November, *Unweaving the Rainbow*, from Allen Lane. It's about "science, delusion and the appetite for wonder." "My title is from Keats," he says, "who believed that Newton had destroyed all the poetry of the rainbow by reducing it to the prismatic colours. Keats could hardly have been more wrong, and my aim is to guide all who are tempted by a similar view towards the opposite conclusion. Science is, or ought to be, the inspiration for great poetry."

Also from Allen Lane is **Richard Feynman's** introductory lectures *Six Not-So-Easy Pieces*.

Merlin (HarperCollins, Sep) publicity is gathering pace – see *Voyager in Recent & Forthcoming Books* for more info. Tied in to the puzzle book will be a music CD "inspired by" it, from the band Alkaemy. There's also a web site (www.merlinmystery.com), and the opening of the unrelated film *Merlin* in January to which HC also have the tie-in rights.

Christmas loans, and Dorling Kindersley have some ideas: *Star Wars: The Visual Dictionary* is "the ultimate guide to *Star Wars* characters and creatures", and *Star Wars Incredible Cutouts* is a book of plans, cross-sections and exploded views of spacecraft and vehicles. Both are due in October.

Available now is a range of fold-out short stories from Travelman, like a map, being sold on the London Underground and train stations to encourage reading. The first of title is H. G. Wells's "Country of the Blind".

Out in November from Pocket is **James L. Halperin's** *The Truth Machine*, about a reliable lie detector and its implications for society.

BSFA Meetings

Guests at forthcoming BSFA London Meetings are: 23 September **Paul J. McAuley**; 28 October **Mary Gentle** (to be confirmed). All welcome, members or not, and admission is free. The meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month, starting at about 7.00pm, upstairs in the Jubilee Tavern on York Road, London SE1, between Waterloo and Westminster Bridges. Nearest stations Waterloo (mainline or Underground) or Westminster (Underground). © **Paul Hood** on 0181 333 6670.

GUFF Stuff

GUFF is the Going Under Fan Fund (or the Get-Under Fan Fund when it runs south-to-north), which exists to link British / European and Australian fandoms by sending elected representatives to each other's conventions and tell outrageous stories about them afterwards and represent their home country's fan community. Nominations are now open for candidates to attend Auscon III, the 1999 Worldcon in Australia. Potential candidates are asked to provide the names of five nominees (three from Britain / Europe and two from Australia), post a bond of £10 as a token of their goodwill, swear an almighty oath that barring unforeseen circumstances they will travel to the Worldcon if elected, and supply a 100-word platform extolling their virtues and interests.

Who may be considered a potential candidate? Anyone reading this, of course – and if for some reason you don't consider yourself eligible (too new, too old, too whatever), then what about someone else you know? Nominations close on 30 September 1998.

Further details (SAE please) from the UK GUFF agent **Joseph Nicholas**, 15 Jansons Road, South Tottenham, London N15 4JU.

The UK GUFF fund currently stands at £1,092.07, which includes donations of £50 from Evolution, the 1996 Eastercon; £30.98 from an auction at the Attitude conference; £50 from the United Fan Funds auction at the 1997 Eastercon; and £50 from an auction at the 1997 Novacon. [Joseph Nicholas]

Stamp Out SF

A panel at **Duconner** decided to submit the names of five sf authors, editors and artists to the US Postal Service for commemoration on a set of postage stamps. Those so honoured have to have been dead for ten years, and a vote at the session recorded the following names:

Robert Heinlein (26 votes)
John W. Campbell (16)
H. P. Lovecraft (16)
Edgar Rice Burroughs (12)
Theodore Sturgeon (11)

Also in the running were **C. L. Moore** (10); **Philip K. Dick**, **Hugo Gernsback**, **Robert E. Howard**, **Rod Serling**, **Cordwainer Smith** (all 9); **E. E. Smith** (8); **L. Frank Baum** (7); **A. Merritt**, **Edgar Allan Poe**, **Clark Ashton Smith** (6); **Thomas Burnett Swan** (5); **Alfred Bester**, **August Derleth**, **Virgil Finlay**, **James Tiptree Jr** (all 4); **Chesley Bonestell**, **Zenna Henderson**, **Murray Leinster**, **Bea Pinner**, **Clifford D. Simak**, **Manly Wade Elman** (all 3).

Isaac Asimov and **Gene Roddenberry** are ineligible at the moment; the panel decided to submit their names when it was possible.

The first moon landing has equal status with *Star Trek* when it comes to stamps. The US "Celebrate the Century" commemorative set, out in September 1999, includes both after opinion polls.
• Meanwhile in the UK, the presentation pack of the recent "Children's Fantasy" commemorative stamps (*The Hobbit* (on the 20p stamp), *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (26p), *The Phoenix and the Carpet* (37p), *The Borrowers* (43p), and *Through the Looking Glass* (63p)) has an essay by **Terry Pratchett**.

MACLEOD WINS SECOND PROMETHEUS

THIS YEAR'S Prometheus Award was announced at Bucerone on 6 August, and was won by Ken MacLeod's second novel *The Stone Canal* (Legend 1997). His debut novel *The Star Fraction* won in 1996. The Libertarian Futurist Society sponsors the prize, which consists of a half-ounce gold coin – "representing free trade and free minds" – mounted on an engraved plaque. The LFS also gives a Hall of Fame Award (a one-eighth ounce gold coin), which this year went to Robert A. Heinlein's 1973 novel *Time Enough for Love*.

• See Ken MacLeod's article in *Matrix* 127.

PROMETHEUS AWARDS

Founded in 1979 by sf writer L. Neil Smith, the Prometheus Award was created to honour libertarian fiction. The first winner was F. Paul Wilson's *Wheels Within Wheels*, but due to the cost of the prize – a gold coin then worth \$2,500 – and the lack of any formal organisation, the award was discontinued. But in 1982 the Libertarian Futurist Society was formed in America, and as part of its remit "to provide encouragement to science fiction writers whose books examine the nature of freedom" it decided to reinstitute the prize, introducing the Hall of Fame Award in 1983 to honour works published prior to the prize's founding.

Here is a full list of the winners:

—Prometheus Award—

- 1979 – F. Paul Wilson *Wheels Within Wheels*
- 1982 – L. Neil Smith *The Probability Broach*
- 1983 – James P. Hogan *Voyage From Yesterday*
- 1984 – J. Neil Schulman *The Rainbow Cadenza*
- 1985 – (No award)
- 1986 – Victor Milan *Cybernetic Samurai*
- 1987 – Vernor Vinge *Marooned in Realtime*
- 1988 – Victor Koman *The Jehovah Contract*
- 1989 – Brad Linaweaver *Moon of Ice*
- 1990 – Victor Koman *Solomon's Knife*
- 1991 – Michael Flynn *In the Country of the Blind*
- 1992 – Larry Niven, Jerry Pournelle & Michael Flynn *Alphas Angels*
- 1993 – James P. Hogan *The Multiplex Man*
- 1994 – L. Neil Smith *Pallas*
- 1995 – Poul Anderson *The Stars Are Also Fire*
- 1996 – Ken MacLeod *The Star Fraction*
- 1997 – Victor Koman *Kings of the High Frontier*
- 1998 – Ken MacLeod *The Stone Canal*



Ken MacLeod at this year's Eastercon in Liverpool. (Photo: Chris Terran.)

—Hall of Fame—

- 1983 – Robert A. Heinlein *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress*; Ayn Rand *Atlas Shrugged*
- 1984 – George Orwell *Nineteen Eighty-four*; Ray Bradbury *Fahrenheit 451*
- 1985 – Poul Anderson *Trader to the Stars*; Eric Frank Russell *The Great Explosion*
- 1986 – Cyril M. Kornbluth *The Syndic*; Robert Anton Wilson & Robert Shea *Illuminatus!*
- 1987 – Robert A. Heinlein *Stranger in a Strange Land*; Ayn Rand *Anthem*
- 1988 – Alfred Bester *The Stars My Destination* (vt *Tiger! Tiger!*)
- 1989 – J. Neil Schulman *Alongside Night*
- 1990 – F. Paul Wilson *The Healer*
- 1991 – F. Paul Wilson *An Enemy of the State*
- 1992 – Ira Levin *This Perfect Day*
- 1993 – Ursula K. Le Guin *The Dispossessed*
- 1994 – Yevgeny Zamyatin *We*
- 1995 – Poul Anderson *The Star Fox*
- 1996 – Robert A. Heinlein *Red Planet*
- 1997 – Robert A. Heinlein *Methuselah's Children*
- 1998 – Robert A. Heinlein *Time Enough for Love*

Gongs Galore

- Adding to its Hugo, Joe Haldeman's *Forever Peace* won the 1998 John W. Campbell Memorial Award.
- The Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award for short fiction was won by Michael F. Flynn for "House of Dreams".
- The Rhysling Awards for sf poetry, given by the SF Poetry Association and named after the blind poet in Robert A. Heinlein's story "The Green Hills of Earth", have got a bit behind. Results for the last two years are: 1997 Long Form Terry Garey "Spotting UFOs While Canning Tomatoes"; 1997 Short Form W. Gregory Stewart "Day Omega"; 1998 Long Form Laurel Winter "why goldfish shouldn't use power tools"; 1998 Short Form John Grey "Explaining Frankenstein to His Mother".
- The 1998 Mythopoeic Awards went to: ADULT LITERATURE A. S. Byatt *The Djinn in the Nightingale's Eye*; CHILDREN'S LITERATURE Jane Yolen *Young Merlin trilogy*
- SCHOLARSHIP (linkings) Verlyn Flieger *A Question of Time*; J. R. R. Tolkien's Road to Faerie

SCHOLARSHIP (General) John Clute & John Grant (eds) *The Encyclopedia of Fantasy*

- The Golden Duck Awards for children's sf were announced at Bucerone. The young adult' category is named after Hal Clement, who taught high-school science as his day job.
- PICTURE BOOK Michael Rex *Floating Home* (Henry Holt)
- MIDDLE GRADE Bill Crider *Mike Gonzo and the UFO Terror* (Minsirel)
- YOUNG ADULT (Hal Clement Award) Neal Shusterman *The Dark Side of Nowhere* (Little, Brown)
- The annual Locus Awards, given by the American sf news magazine, went to: SF NOVEL Dan Simmons *The Rise of Endymion*; FANTASY NOVEL Tim Powers *Earthquake Weather*; FIRST NOVEL Ian R. MacLeod *The Great Wheel*; NOVELLA Allen Steele "... Where Angels Fear to Tread"; NOVELLETTE Connie Willis "Newsletter"; SHORT STORY James Patrick Kelly "Itsy Bitsy Spider"; NON-FICTION John Clute & John Grant (eds) *The Encyclopedia of Fantasy*; ART BOOK Vincent Di Fate *Infinito*; COLLECTION Harlan Ellison *Slippage*; ANTHOLOGY Gardner Dozois (ed) *The Year's Best SF: Fourteenth Annual Dozois*; ARTIST Michael Whelan; EDITOR Gardner Dozois; MAGAZINE *Asimov's*; PUBLISHER TOR

WATERSTONE'S CHARTS

Sales are for the two months up to 21 August 1998, and are kindly supplied by Waterstone's branches at:

- 93-97 Albion Street, Leeds. Tel: 0113 244 4588
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SF & FANTASY

- 1 - David Eddings *Poigara the Sorceress* (Voyager: £7.99 pb)
- 2 - Raymond E. Feist *Rage of a Demon King* (Voyager: £6.99 pb)
- 3 - Raymond E. Feist *Shards of a Broken Crown* (Voyager: £17.99 hb)
- 4 - Terry Pratchett *The Last Continent* (Doubleday: £16.99 hb)
- 5 - 16 Robert Rankin *The Brentford Chainstore Massacre* (Corgi: £5.99 pb)
- 6 - Kurt Vonnegut *Timequake* (Vintage: £5.99 pb)
- 7 - Iain M. Banks *Inversions* (Orbit: £16.99 hb)
- 8 - David Brin *Infinity's Shore* (Orbit: £6.99 pb)
- 9 - Stephen King *Wizard and Glass* (NEL: £6.99 pb)
- 10 - Katherine Kerr *Red Wyvern* (Voyager: £6.99 pb)
- 11 - Terry Goodkind *Temple of the Winds* (Orion: £11.99 pb)
- 12 - L. E. Modeitt, Jr *Chaos Balance* (Orbit: £6.99 pb)
- 13 - Simon R. Green *Deathstalker Honour* (Vista: £5.99 pb)
- 14 - Harry Turtledove *How Few Remain* (NEL: £5.99 pb)
- 14-11 Terry Pratchett *Mort* (Corgi: £5.99 pb)
- 14-7 Larry Niven *Destiny's Road* (Orbit: £5.99 pb)
- 14-28 Iain M. Banks *Excession* (Orbit: £6.99 pb)
- 14- - Tad Williams *River of Blue Fire* (Orbit: £16.99 hb)
- 19-20 J. R. R. Tolkien *The Hobbit* (HarperCollins: £5.99 pb)
- 20-2 Iain M. Banks *Consider Phlebas* (Orbit: £5.99 pb)
- 20- - Anne McCaffrey *Master Harper of Pern* (Doubleday: £9.99 tp)
- 20- - Mercedes Lackey *Oathblood* (Foc: £5.99 pb)
- 23- - Mary Doria Russell *The Sparrow* (Black Swan: £6.99 pb)
- 23- - Raymond E. Feist *Shadow of a Dark Queen* (Voyager: £6.99 pb)
- 24-2 Terry Pratchett *Eric* (Gollancz: £3.99 pb)
- 25-2 Iain M. Banks *Use of Weapons* (Orbit: £6.99 pb)
- 25- - Terry Pratchett *Pyramids* (Corgi: £5.99 pb)
- 25- - Greg Bear *Slant* (Orbit: £5.99 pb)
- 29-6 J. R. R. Tolkien *The Lord of the Rings* (HarperCollins: £12.99 pb)
- 29- - Terry Brooks *Running With the Demons* (Orion: £5.99 pb)
- 29- - Terry Pratchett *Tourist Guide to Lanore* (Corgi: £5.99 pb)
- 32-9 Peter F. Hamilton *The Neutronium Alchemist* (Macmillan: £9.99 pb)
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- 32- - L. E. Modeitt, Jr *The Paravault War* (Orion: £6.99 pb)
- 35- - Terry Pratchett *Reaper Man* (Corgi: £5.99 pb)
- 35- - Terry Pratchett & Neil Gaiman *Good Omens* (Corgi: £5.99 pb)
- 35- - Terry Pratchett *The Light Fantastic* (Corgi: £5.99 pb)
- 35-11 Terry Pratchett *Hogfather* (Corgi: £5.99 pb)
- 39-3 Paul Wake, Steve Andrews & Ariel (ed) *Waterstone's Guide to SF: Fantasy & Horror* (Waterstone's: £3.99 tp)
- 39- - Terry Pratchett *Sourcery* (Corgi: £5.99 pb)
- 39- - Greg Benford *Foundation's Fear* (Orion: £6.99 pb)
- 39- - Raymond E. Feist *Rise of a Merchant Prince* (Voyager: £6.99 pb)
- 39- - Stephen R. Lawhead *Gail* (Lion: £5.99 pb)
- 39-14 Tad Williams *Otherland* (Orbit: £6.99 pb)
- 39- Iain M. Banks *The Player of Games* (Orbit: £6.99 pb)
- 39-33 Harry Harrison *Stars and Stripes Trilogy* (Hodder: £5.99 pb)
- 49- - Anne McCaffrey *Freedom's Challenge* (Doubleday: £15.99 hb)
- 49-20 Tom Holt *Open Sesame* (Orbit: £5.99 pb)
- 49- - Michael Marshall Smith *Only Forward* (HarperCollins: £6.99 pb)
- 49- - K. J. Parker *Colours in the Steel* (Orion: £9.99 tp)
- 49-22 Dan Simmons *The Rise of Endymion* (NEL: £6.99 pb)
- 49- - Terry Pratchett *Lords and Ladies* (Corgi: £5.99 pb)
- 49-19 Terry Pratchett *The Colour of Magic* (Corgi: £5.99 pb)
- 49-19 Stephen Baxter *Titan* (Voyager: £6.99 pb)

SPINOFFERY

- 1 - K. W. Jeter *Star Wars: Bounty Hunter Wars 1* (Bantam: £5.99 pb)
- 2 - Aaron Allston *Star Wars: X-Wing 6: Iron Fist* (Bantam: £5.99 pb)
- 3 - Barbara Hambly *Star Wars: Planet of Twilight* (Bantam: £5.99 pb)
- 4 - A. C. Crispin *Star Wars: Han Solo 3* (Bantam: £5.99 pb)
- 5 - Greg Cox *Star Wars: TNG 48* (S&S: £4.99 pb)
- 6 - Jeri Taylor *Star Wars: Voyager: Pathways* (S&S: £9.99 hb)
- 7 - Douglas Adams *Starship Titanic* (Macmillan: £5.99 pb)
- 8 - Mike Friedman *Star Trek: Captain's Tale #2* (S&S: £4.99 pb)

GREEN AND PLENTY LAND



Jim Burns and Colin Greenland in front of Jim's cover painting for *Mother of Plenty*. All photographs by Julie Rigby.

Julie Rigby at the launch of Colin Greenland's *Mother of Plenty*

TABITHA JUTE couldn't attend, but her biographer **Colin Greenland** and portraitist **Jim Burns** made acceptable substitutes at the launch of Colin's latest book detailing the tampon-wielding space heroine's exploits, *Mother of Plenty* (Voyager). Held on 8 July at the London home of **Maggie Noach**, Colin's literary agent, the celebrants were plied with drink by Maggie's children and fed with green food ("Colin's idea," said Maggie; "Maggie's idea," said Colin) as they looked at Jim Burns's original cover painting.

Other attendees included Colin's partner **Susanna Clarke**, Voyager editor **Jim Richards**, **Geoff Ryman**, bookseller **Sean Flinn** ("The saviour of British fantasy," according to Colin), **Pat Cadigan**, **Judith Clute** (artist and partner of John), **Charles Palliser**, **Jon Courtenay Grimwood**, astronomer and author **Ian Ridpath**, **Stephen Baxter**, *Interzone's* **David Pringle** and **Paul Brazier**, **Anthony Brown** from *SFX*, and **Joyce Day**, Secretary of the Science Fiction Foundation when it was based in London and hosted Colin as Writer-in-Residence. "I volunteered to help run the SF Foundation for eight weeks and ended up doing it for fifteen years," she said.

Debbie Moggach was there, whose daughter Lottie had interviewed Colin for a piece in *The Times* on 4 July in their 'How I Write' series: "Even though

I've plotted out very carefully what I'm going to write," he told her, "a actually writing it is difficult and nerve-wracking. I sometimes drink whisky, which is a great aid to fluency, but afterwards I have to go back and cut out the sloppy stuff." He also touched on his next project, which "is going to be far more contemporary and autobiographical. It's about a man's thoughts when he's driving down that motorway. But I do have a sneaking suspicion that one of the characters won't be quite human."

Colin closed the party with a little speech: "I'm immensely grateful to Maggie Noach and Jennifer Cohen for all their hard work and to Jim Burns for bringing his gorgeous painting all the way from Stratford-upon-Avon. And I hope that plenty of fun was had by all!" □ — Julie Rigby & Chris Terran



Former SF Foundation Secretary **Joyce Day** with Colin.



Geoff Ryman and balloon.

Burning Building Movies

In *May's Good Book Guide*, **Kim Newman** selected the films he would save from a burning building. "I make no pretence of a balanced, representative selection of great works of cinema and have just plumped for the movies I can watch over and over again with the most pleasure. As it happens, I'd be prepared to put up a stout critical defence of any of them."

- What he chose
- *Bucket of Blood* (Roger Corman, 1959)
- "... a streak of genuine pathos"
- *Citizen Kane* (Orson Welles, 1941)
- "... an endlessly enjoyable, high-class soap-cum-tragedy"
- *The Red Shoes* (Powell & Pressburger, 1948)
- "... a sinister edge that perfectly catches the ambiguity of traditional as opposed to Disney fairy tales"
- *Kiss Me Deadly* (Robert Aldrich, 1954)
- "Meeker's amazingly nasty hero punches his way through a cast of perverts and sluts, then goes up in a mushroom cloud of a finish that takes the film out of the realm of the thriller and into science fiction or horror."
- *Dr Strangelove* (Stanley Kubrick, 1963)
- "Every time I watch this, I'm caught up in the building suspense and hope it'll turn out differently. One of the wildest, nastiest scripts in the cinema."
- *La Dolce Vita* (Fellini, 1960)
- "An epic about triviality"
- *King Kong: The Eighth Wonder of the World* (Cooper & Schoedsack, 1933)
- "Adventure, romance, mystery, action and poetry mingle in perhaps the cinema's first great original"
- *The Searchers* (John Ford, 1956)
- "The greatest Western ever made"
- *Psycho* (Hitchcock, 1960)
- "Anthony Perkins's Norman Bates is one of the movies' greatest madmen, all the more horrifying because he is the only person in the film who seems morally irreproachable"
- *To Have and Have Not* (Howard Hawks, 1945)
- "My favourite film."

Writers Ahoy

Write Out Loud is a course in creative radio for published writers only. Run by the BBC, the Arts Council and the regional Arts Boards, successful applicants will get free tuition and accommodation for a week-long course at the Arvon Foundation premises in Lumb Bank, West Yorkshire, plus an award of £250 and travelling expenses. Deadline for applications is 30 September 1998. Write for details to your regional Arts Board (see Yellow Pages or the phone book) or to **Clairissa Luard**, Literature Officer, Arts Council of England, 14 Great Peter Street, London, SW1P 3NQ. Tel: 0171 973 6440

- **The trAce Online Writing Community**, run by *tr* writer **Sue Thomas**, is running a second series of free Internet training workshops for East Midlands residents. They take place at the Clifton Campus of Nottingham Trent University, and you can get further details from **Carolyn Bamborough** on 0115 9486360, or email trac@ntu.ac.uk
- **'Writers and the Internet'** is the first *tr*ace writers' conference on 16 October at the Broadway Media Centre, Nottingham. Guest speakers include **Keith Brooke**, *st* writer and creator of the *Infinity Plus* web site, **Mark Amerika**, and **Dale Spender**, author of *Man Made Language* £12.95 unwaged. *tr*ace web site: <http://trac.ntl.ac.uk>
- **Scavenger's Newsletter** is the US equivalent of the essential *Zine*, with monthly updates on small-press markets. Available for £24.00 from BBR, PO Box 625, Sheffield, S1 3GY

Many thanks to

Elizabeth & Paul Billinger, Eric Brown, Andrew M. Butler, Pat Cadigan, Cardinal Cox, Tony Cullen, Mike Ford, Roy Gray, Colin Greenland, Chris Hill, Paul Hood, Steve Jeffery, Jane Johnson, Dave Langford, Lee Montgomery, Joseph Nicholas, Peace O'Cake, John Ollis, Mark Plummer, Maureen Raybould, Chris Reed, Julie Rigby, Yvonne Rowse, Andy Sawyer, *SF Weekly*, Maureen Kincaid Speller, Tony Sutton, Sue Thomas, and Martin Tudor.

—recent & forthcoming books—

Orion



Including Millennium, Phoenix, Weidenfeld, Dent, Everyman, Dolphin

Richard Preston *The Cobra Event* (Jul; £16.99 hb, c416pp) — Biotechnothriller. In 1969 the US secretly tested a 100%-fatally genetically engineered virus; the results were so frightening the research was stopped. Thirty years later it's surfaced again...

- ★ **J. M. H. Lovegrove** *The Krilov Continuum* (5 Jul; £5.99 pb, 342pp) — New impenetrably pseudoscientific novel from the author of the Clarke-nominated *Delta*.
- ★ **Tricia Sullivan** *Dreaming in Smoke* (6 Jul; £16.99 hb, £9.99 pb, 286pp) — St. follow-up to the splendid *Someone to Watch Over Me*, delayed from April. Induced dreaming is an integral part of life in First, the AI-controlled protective environment where human colonists live and work. When a dreamer goes berserk the AI will start to go haywire and suspicions arise that a virus has entered the machine via a dreaming port. But is it inorganic or an alien lifeform? Mind-zapping st. and highly recommended.
- ★ **Alan Baker** *True Life Encounters: Ghosts and Spirits* (20 Jul; £9.99 pb, 296pp)
- ★ **John & Anne Spencer** *True Life Encounters: Alien Contact* (Aug; £5.99 pb, 312pp)
- ★ **John & Anne Spencer** *True Life Encounters: UFO Sightings* (3 Aug; £5.99 pb, 297pp)
- ★ **John & Anne Spencer** *True Life Encounters: Powers of the Mind* (Aug; £9.99 pb, c320pp)
- ★ **John & Anne Spencer** *True Life Encounters: Mysteries and Magic* (Aug; £9.99 pb, c320pp)
- More So-Fi Channel tie-in books on "true-life tales of the unexplained".
- ★ **George Perry** *Steven Spielberg: Close Up* (Aug; £9.99 pb, c140pp ii.) — Anecdotal biography, with all the Variety reviews of his films.
- ★ **David Colvin** *Aubrey Beardsley: A Slave to Beauty* (Aug; £17.99 hb, c114pp ii.) — A celebration of the artist's life and works marking the centenary of his death.
- ★ **Alison Sinclair** *Blueprints* (Aug; £5.99 pb) — Jul 85, Aug 96
- ★ **Alison Sinclair** *Bluehaze* (Aug; £5.99 pb) — Reissues of two fine and thoughtful sf novels.
- Mar 97
- ★ **H. G. Wells** *The Complete Short Stories* (Dent; Aug; £25.00 hb, c704pp) — Edited by John Hammond.
- ★ **Stephen Baxter** *Webcrash* (Aug; £3.50 pb, c112pp) — First of the second series of 'Web' YA sf books, based on a worldwide virtual reality network, and SB's second; it continues the adventures of Metaphor from *Guliverzone*.
- ★ **Ken MacLeod** *Cydonia* (Aug; £3.50 pb, c112pp) — MacLeod's first contribution to the 'Web' YA sf series. 'Links and Weaver are game zone rivals, but when the police start showing an interest in the Cydonia conspiracy site' — that's the 'Face on Mars' thing. I think — they have to join forces. Realworld conspiracies are no fun.
- ★ **Tom Standage** *The Victorian Internet* (Weidenfeld; Aug; £12.99 hb, c160pp) — Non-fiction, the story of the telegraph and 'the 19th century's online pioneers'.
- ★ **John Gribbin** *Almost Everyone's Guide to Science* (Weidenfeld; Aug; £18.99 hb, c320pp)
- Everything we need to know about science in one accessible volume: oh, yeah?
- ★ **Greg Egan** *Luminous* (Sep; £16.99 hb, £9.99 pb, c320pp) — Second coll. from Interzone's pride and joy. Recommended unseen.
- ★ **Roger Protz** *The Taste of Beer* (Weidenfeld; Sep; £16.99 hb, c256pp ii.) — Detailed look at — and celebration of — brewing, brews and beer.
- ★ **Mercedes Lackey & Larry Dixon** *Outlight* (Sep; £16.99 hb, £9.99 pb, c352pp) — New fantasy in the 'Valdemar' sequence.
- ★ **Humphrey Lyttelton, Tim Brooks-Taylor, Graeme Garden, Barry Cryer, Willie Rushton, Samantha & Sven** *The I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue Silver Jubilee Book of Limericks* (Oct; £5.99 hb, c112pp ii.) — Alternative-venue fantasy.
- ★ **Ellette Abecassis** *The Qumran Mystery* (Sep; £16.99 hb, £9.99 pb, c288pp) — Much delayed thriller about the death of Christ and the disappearance of a Dead Sea scroll.
- ★ **Stan Nicholls** *Bodyguard of Lightning* (Oct; £9.99 hb, c288pp) — Fantasy, the first volume of the 'Orcs' series which tells the story of fantasy's traditional enemy for the first time. For Strype and his fellow Orcs the arrival of man has seen the end of their world. But now it is time for Strype and his warband to take control of their destiny and fight for a future for them and all Orcs.
- ★ **John Maynard Smith** *Evolution and the Embryo: The Genetics Revolution* (Weidenfeld; Sep; £3.99 pb, 64pp)
- ★ **Kingsley Browne** *Women at Work: An Evolutionary View* (Weidenfeld; Sep; £3.99 pb, 64pp)
- ★ **Colin Tudge** *Neanderthals, Bandits and Farmers: How Agriculture Really Began* (Weidenfeld; Sep; £3.99 pb, 64pp)
- ★ **Martin Daly & Margot Wilson** *The Truth About Cinderella: An Evolutionary View of Child Abuse* (Weidenfeld; Sep; £3.99 pb, 64pp) — Four 'Darwinism Today' files, examining the impact of evolutionary thinking and genetics on social issues.
- ★ **Peter James** *The Thinking* (Sep; £5.99 pb)

Key

pb = paperback, hb = hardback, tp = trade (large format) paperback, pp = extent
 ii = illustrated, ed = edited, R (x) = reissue / reprint (first publication date)
 > = review in *Vector* / < = date: GN = Graphic Novel, ab = Audiobook, YA = Young Adult
 coll = story collection (same author), anth. = anthology (different authors)
 ★ = Highlight ✱ = Editor's choice 1 = First UK edition
 Treat future dates with caution. All unquoted references by Chris Terran.
 Quoted comments are from publishers' material — caveat emptor
 — Thanks to Michael J. Cross for his input: <http://www.ajckeb.demon.co.uk/topsfba.htm> —

- ★ **Peter James** *Alchemist* (Sep (R 1996); £5.99 pb)
- ★ **Peter James** *Prophecy* (Sep (R); £5.99 pb) — Three PJ reissues, classy mixes of thriller, horror, sf and fantasy.
- ★ **Sarah Ash** *The Lost Child* (Sep; £5.99 pb)
- ★ **Michael Moorcock** *Court Brass* (Sep; £5.99 pb)
- ★ **Gillian Rubinstein** *Under the Cat's Eye* (Sep; £4.50 pb, c160pp) — YA fantasy, "a gripping story of shape-shifting and parallel worlds set in an old-fashioned boarding school where the headmaster wields a curious power, where a cat is more than a cat, and the newly arrived Jai realises that everyone looks to him for salvation."
- ★ **Brian Pendreigh** *Ewan McGregor* (Sep; £16.99 hb, c256pp) — Associational biography of the actor who is playing the young Obi-Wan Kenobi in the new *Star Wars* film next year.
- ★ **Alison Sinclair** *Cavalcade* (Oct; £16.99 hb, c320pp) — SF from the author of *Negatives*, much delayed. "Having taken up an invitation to travel to a better world, the assembled humans find themselves in an enormous cathedral-like edifice. No one meets them, and it seems that the ship itself is the alien. Only one woman is wise enough or mad enough to believe that communication is possible, or desirable."
- ★ **Rita Carter** *Mapping the Mind* (Weidenfeld; Oct; £25.00 hb, c224pp ii.) — Non-fiction. What brain scans reveal about our minds, social behaviour and sexual differences.
- ★ **David Hilman** *Century Makers* (Weidenfeld; Oct; £16.99 hb, c216pp ii.) — "100 cleverest humans we ask for granted which have changed our lives over the last 100 years."
- ★ **John Gribbin** (ed.) *A Brief History of Science* (Weidenfeld; Oct; £20.00 hb, c224pp ii.) — Lavishly illustrated popular history of six areas of science.
- ★ **Philip Kerr** *The Second Angel* (Oct; £16.99 hb, c576pp) — Mainstream sf. "2069: Four-fifths of mankind have a terminal virus, the only cure being a complete blood transfusion. Blood, therefore, equals life, and is guarded as such — on the moon (oh dear — it seemed OK up until that) in the First National Reserve Bank, protected by an impenetrable array of security devices. But now the same man who designed those systems need blood for his daughter. And so begins the impossible blood hunt. If it succeeds, mankind has a future."
- ★ **Gunther Sachs** *The Astrology File* (Oct; £16.99 hb, c304pp ii.) — Nut book claiming scientific proof of the link between zodiac signs and predictions and human behaviour.
- ★ **Paul Sammon** *Ridley Scott: Close Up* (Oct; £9.99 pb, c140pp ii.) — Anecdotal biography, with all the Variety reviews of his films.
- ★ **Chris Salewicz** *George Lucas: Close Up* (Oct; £9.99 pb, c140pp ii.) — Anecdotal biography, with all the Variety reviews of his films.
- ★ **James Buxton** *Pity* (Oct; £5.99 pb) — Dark fantasy.
- ★ **Jeremy Goodkind** *Temple of the Winds* (Oct; £5.99 pb) — Fantasy.
- ★ **Torelli Gardner** *Sophie's World: The Board Game* (Oct; £24.95+VAT) — "Speed through the ages, picking up history and philosophy on the way." Good grief. Graphics / design by Sarah Perkins.
- ★ **Edward Luttwak** *Turbo Capitalism: Winners and Losers in the Global Economy* (Oct; £20.00 hb, c220pp) — Non-fiction speculation from a US defence consultant. Increasing globalisation and advanced technology will enrich the few and impoverish the many. "political anger, fear, repression and xenophobia will grow, family life will disintegrate, and societies will face social and economic disruption on a horrific scale."
- ★ **John Gribbin** *Civilisation* (Weidenfeld; Oct; £30.00 hb, c952pp ii.) — Non-fiction exploring the rôle of cities in the development of civilisation, from Athens to Palo Alto.
- ★ **Steve Aylett** *Slaughteromatic* (Phoenix; Oct; £9.99 pb, c182pp) — Literary sf from the author of *The Crime Studio*. "Slaughteromatic takes you to the future, to Beirright. Where to kill a man is less a murder than a managem. Where crime is the new and only artform. It's a world in which the only culture is gun culture and where Dante Cubit and the Entropy Kid will seek everything for a thing of dark beauty: the last book by Eddie Gamage."
- ★ **Don Cupitt** *After God: The Future of Religion* (Phoenix; Oct; £5.99 pb)
- ★ **Peter James** *Daniel* (Oct; £16.99 hb, £9.99 pb, c576pp) — Medical thriller. What happens when psychiatry goes wrong?
- ★ **John Sutherland** *Where Was Rebecca Short?* (Weidenfeld; Oct; £12.99 hb, c224pp) — Puzzles, conundrums and curiosities in modern fiction, from Henry James to Don DeLillo. "From high literature to pulp fiction, JS draws the reader into the magical ways in which fiction works."
- ★ **Stephen King** *The Green Mile* (Nov; £12.99 pb, c472pp) — Single-volume reissue of SK's horror novel, first published last year in monthly instalments.
- ★ **Harry Harrison** *The Stainless Steel Rat Goes to the Circus* (Nov; £16.99 hb, c256pp) — New Rat novel.
- ★ **Jonathan Margolis** *Un Geller: The Truth* (Nov; £18.99 hb, c320pp ii.) — Biography, authorised so probably not worth reading.
- ★ **Various** *The Future Now* (Weidenfeld; Nov; £20.00 hb, c416pp) — One-volume edition of the monograph series about future developments; "an excellent and provocative series," said J. G. Ballard. Contributors include John Gribbin, Robert Winston.
- ★ **James Lovegrove** *Computopia* (Nov; £3.50 pb, c112pp) — JL's first 'Web' YA sf book. "Jerry's father is setting up a rival Web system. But Jerry is worried he has been hoodwinked by his business partner into a venture which holds danger for everyone."
- ★ **Maggie Furey** *Spindrift* (Nov; £3.50 pb, c112pp) — ... and MF's second. "With the disappearance of the Sorcerers, Cat left all her troubles were over, but with aliens in the Web there is a world of trouble on the way for everyone."
- ★ **Philippe Delerm** *The Small Pleasure of Life* (Phoenix; Nov; £5.99 hb, c112pp) — French essays about nice things. Included 'cos of the blurb: "Proust meets The Little Book of Calvin."
- ★ **Steve Perry** *Aliens: Female War* (Nov; £4.99 pb)
- ★ **David Bischoff** *Aliens: Genocide* (Nov; £4.99 pb)
- ★ **Steve Perry** *Aliens Omnibus* (Nov; £4.99 pb)
- ★ **Keith Tuit** *Unexplained Natural Phenomena* (Nov; £5.99 pb)

Avon



Carol Heller *The Sands of Kalaven* (10 Jun; \$5.99 pb, 276pp) — Fantasy, book two of *The Shunlar Chronicles* from the author of *The Gates of Vensunor*. CH is a psychotherapist and is skilled in "movement psychology," whatever that is, guess where she lives? "Shunlar" — part dragon, part woman, all warrior — and her companions have successfully defeated Creedath, the evil sorcerer. She and her lover Ranth have discovered their true origins and heritage and decide to journey to their respective homelands; Ranth undergoes a painful initiation, and Shunlar, haunted by the memories of the magical battle with Creedath, discovers she is pregnant." (PS, California.)

Gregory Benford *Artifact* (10 Jun (R 1985); \$6.99 pb, 407pp + 5pp afterword) — Contemporary hard sf. A female American archaeologist discovers a strange object in a Mycenaean tomb and smuggles it back home. As in GB's recent *Cosm*, it turns out to be a weird manifestation of particle physics; both books concern the attempt to understand — the scientific process — mixed slightly uneasily with thriller elements. > Jun 87

★ **Jacqueline Harpman** *I Who Have Never Known Men* (10 Jun; \$3.99 pb, 206pp) — Literary sf from a Belgian writer, translated by the Briton Ross Schwartz.

Joel Rosenberg *The Silver Stone* (10 Jun; \$5.99 pb, 323pp + 17pp trailer) — Fantasy, book two of *Keepers of the Hidden Ways*. Set in a bastard cultural realm of Irish and



Ben Bova

Norse mythology — original, eh? — this continues the adventures of Ian Silverstein (presumably Jewish) and friends who discovered portals into Tir Na Nog in *The Fire Duke*. Ian has to save the life of an ailing god, but war threatens and he's been chosen by Odin as a peacemaker. The trailer is an extract from the forthcoming *The Crimson Sky*.

Lisa Mason *Cyberweb* (10 Jun; \$12.00 pb, 262pp) — Cyberpunk sf.

Parke Godwin *Lord of Sunset* (10 Jun; \$13.00 pb, 466pp) — Associational historical fiction, the story of King Harold.

Martha Wells *The Death of the Necromancer* (10 Jun; \$23.00 hb, 359pp) — Fantasy.

Gregory Benford *Jupiter Project* (8 Jul (R 1980); \$5.99 pb, 195pp) — YA sf, revised and expanded from its first novel appearance in 1975. Itself expanded from a novella (Amazing 1972).

Ben Bova *Twice Seven* (8 Jul; \$6.50 pb, 288pp) — SF coll. with, er, fourteen stories, all reprints from various magazines between 1992 and 97.

Jeffrey Ford *The Physiology* (8 Jul; \$3.99 pb, 244pp) — SF.

Roger Zelazny & Jane Lindskold *Donnerjack* (8 Jul; \$6.99 pb, 579pp) — SF. > 196

Chet Williamson *The Searchers Book One: City of Iron* (8 Jul; \$5.99 pb, 340pp) — Pulpy psi-fantasy, an X-Files rip-off.

"Three CIA agents are given a mission to uncover psychic frauds who pose a threat to national security and the nation's psyche. But the trio discover that there is much more to their mission than they've been led to believe..."

★ **J.R. Dunn** *Full Tide of Night* (8 Jul; \$14.00 hb, 312pp) — Follow-up to the superb *Days of Cain*. It's a far-future retelling of *The Duchess of Malfi*; Julia Amali and an immature AI escaped a holocaust that ravaged mankind. She plotted a starship to a distant planet and restarted humanity...

SFVIEWING THE ENCYCLOPEDIA

Andrew M. Butler reviews Dave Langford's improved software for the Encyclopedia of SF CD-ROM

SFView 1.11 (Anable Information; requires Windows 95/98NT, 10mb disc space. £11.75 (ownership of *Grolier* or *Focus Science Fiction*™). The *Multimedia Encyclopedia of Science Fiction* (CD-ROM presumed) or £23.50 including the *Focus CD-ROM*).

When *Cute* and *Nichols's* online encyclopedia was transformed into a format where cross-references could be followed to the cited article, there was a sense that an opportunity had been missed, a job botched. For example, Chris Terran recently wanted a list of novels about SHOPPING MALLS, which lacks a specific entry in the *SFE*. Once you've found the search facilities (the magnifying glass in the Archives area) you are offered STRASSER, TODD, FLIGHT OF THE NAVIGATOR, WRIGHT, STEPHEN, DAWN OF THE DEAD, PEARSONS MAGAZINE, SATIRE, JANE, FRED T., WELLS, HUBBERT (G)GEORGE and STEVENSON, ROBERT LOUIS (BALFOUR). (Or rather, given the size of the results window, STEVENSON, ROBERT LOUI.) Clicking on this latter, and then following the cross-reference to HORROR, I lose the original search listing and it's necessary to repeat the search.

Using the *Global Find Index* of Dave Langford's *SFView* software, such things are trivial. Admittedly, the WRIGHT entry won't be located (it uses the word 'malls' rather than 'mall', even with 'exact word' turned off), but the results are alphabetised. Compare a search for 'Dick':

SFE: DICK, PHILIP (KENDRED), HUGO, GODS AND DEMONS; SFVIEW: ACE BOOKS, AKIRA, ALDISSE BRIAN WILSON) ...

The results windows can be resized to allow simultaneous viewing of the index and the

entry, and a little practice at using the options and find facilities will even highlight or drop you at the sought-for word.

What are lost are the videos and oral testimony, the 'interactive' aspects (you can play! You can pause! You can play again!) of the CD-ROM, which seemed rather ill-conceived in the first place. But this should be set against the addenda and updates to the *Encyclopedia* being made available, as well as entries inexplicably missing from the CD-ROM (which were in the paper version) being restored, and an increased rapidity of finding things once the graphics have been eliminated.

One word of warning: the instructions that come with the disc merely warn you that the *Global Find Index* "is fast quicker to download from" Langford's website (although you need to read the *Readme.doc* file to find the necessary URL), than using the software to generate a copy. From my experience, "lots" was an understatement, although future versions may reduce the time so that "overnight" is not an understatement.

If you're serious about using the CD-ROM, you have to use this software. And if you have the original *Encyclopedia*, with the software, will bring you much more up-to-date.

— © Andrew M. Butler 1998

[Dave Langford has since put some work into optimising the index generation, and reports that an 8-hour run has been trimmed to 2 hours 40 minutes, on a Pentium 166 with 32Mb RAM. — Chris]

SFView is available from Dave Langford, 94 London Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 5AU (cheques / POs payable to Dave Langford). □

Corgi



Including Bantam, Doubleday

★ **Dave Gemmell** *Sword in the Storm* (Bantam: 10 Sep; £15.99 hb) — New epic fantasy, based on Celtic myth and earth magic.

Dave Gemmell *Echoes of the Great Song* (10 Sep; £5.99 pb, 446pp) — Epic fantasy. London-born DG was expelled from school for organising a betting shop, doubtless a source of some pride. After spells as a labourer on a building site and a farm, lorry driver's assistant and Soho doorman he trained as a journalist, working on East Sussex local papers for 22 years before becoming a full-time writer.

Dave Duncan *Future Indefinite* (10 Sep; £5.99 pb, 523pp) — Fantasy, Round Three of the *Great Game*. > 199

Timothy Zahn *Star Wars: Specter of the Past* (Bantam: 10 Sep; £5.99 pb, 386pp+19pp trailers) — Zahn once won a Hugo, for his novella "Cascade Point". Not much chance of another one, I fear ...

★ **Paul Stewart & Chris Riddell** *Beyond the Deepwoods* (Doubleday: 1 Oct; £10.99 hb, 282pp ill.) — YA fantasy collaboration, first in "The Edge Chronicles" trilogy, from a pair of pub-craw-

lers by the sound of it. "Having known each other for a couple of years, the idea was generated after an evening in a pub in Brighton together and much of the initial work was done in the same and other pubs in the town." Paul is a children's writer, Chris otherwise known for satirical cartoons in the *Observer*, *Guardian* and *New Statesman* (having put William Hague in short trousers, the original is reputedly hanging in the Tory leader's loo), but rather than Paul writing the text and Chris simply illustrating what he had written, Chris would frequently sketch a character for Paul and suggest they incorporate it into the story. In this way *Beyond the Deepwoods* is a true collaboration of artists from conception to finish. The illustrations (B&W pencil / ink) are indeed splendid, and it all looks a very interesting debut.

K.W. Jeter *Star Wars: Shadows of the Empire* (Bantam: 8 Oct; £4.99 pb) — "Bounty Hunter" volume 2.

★ **Jeff Noon** *Pirex* (Doubleday: 8 Oct; £15.99 hb) — Coll. of "cyber-short stories".

★ **Jeff Noon** *Nymphomaniac* (8 Oct; £5.99 pb) — Manchester, dreams, the lottery, dogs, cab drivers, dodgy maths ...

Terry Pratchett *Jingo* (12 Nov; £5.99 pb) — Ankh-Morpork goes to war. > 198

★ **Terry Pratchett** *Carnegie Jugulum* (Doubleday: 12 Nov; £15.99 hb; £8.50 ab) — New

Discworld novel: vampires and witches.

Rand & Robyn Miller *Myth II: The Book of DVI* (12 Nov; £5.99 pb) — Game tie-in.

Kevin J. Anderson *Star Wars: Chronology* (Bantam: 12 Nov; £5.99 pb)

Voyager

Including HarperCollins (HC), Flamingo, Fontana, Thorsons.



J. R. R. Tolkien *Tales From the Perilous Realm* (HC; Aug. £5.99 pb, c193pp) — Coll. of Farmer Giles of Ham, *The Adventures of Tom Bombadil*, Leaf by Niggle and Smith of Wootton Major.

J. R. R. Tolkien *The Silmarillion* (HC; Aug. £9.99 hb, 2xmc) — Part 4 of the unabridged reading by Martin Shaw.

Ben Marcus *The Age of Wire and String* (Flamingo; Aug. £5.99 pb, c160pp) — Weird and unclassifiable book, creating something of a stir.

Alex Kershaw *Jack London: A Life* (Flamingo; Aug. £8.99 pb, c386pp) — Biography.

★Stephen Baxter *Mooneed* (● 3 Aug. £16.99 hb, 536pp) — Near-future hard sci-fi. In our world Apollo 18 never got to the moon, but in a gentle change to history Baxter posits it did, and brought back some strange moonrock which languished in storage. Thirty years later an embittered American researcher brings it to Edinburgh, and a few grains end up on the top of Arthur's Seat. Meanwhile the international space station limps along, the world is ready for millennial changes, and Venus has exploded. Is Earth set to go the same way? 'Mooneed' is the source of the bane, a vaguely-drawn mix of string theory and nanotech which 'mooned' on certain types of mineral. A lunar expedition is mounted in double-quick time, while the home planet is progressively devastated.

While having various cavils about parts of the book — I wasn't quite persuaded by the explanation of why Mooneed hasn't destroyed everything in the solar system long ago, for instance — the disaster novel and its book works splendidly, partly because SB never loses sight of small-scale sufferings, and part because the work for the little people of the world — and his respect for their everyday and unheroic heroism — never fails. Recommended.

★Stephen Baxter *Titan* (3 Aug. £5.99 pb, 580pp+1p note) — Astonishingly powerful and grim tale of a manned expedition to Titan, following the discovery by the Cassini probe of possible signs of life. Very highly recommended despite the unfortunate 50-page coda, which most readers seem to feel is misjudged.

Poppy Z. Brite *The Crow: The Lazarus Heart* (● 3 Aug. £5.99 pb, 213pp) — Tie-in to the comic, film and forthcoming TV series. 'Five, four, three, two... Jared Fox counts the days on Louisiana's Death Row. The controversial SSM photographer has been condemned to die for killing his lover. He doesn't know who did it. Only that he didn't. Can he clear his name and find the real killer in time?'

★Philip K. Dick *Libik* (3 Aug. 1969). £5.99 pb — Reissue of one of his finest (and funniest — look at the chapter headings) reality-bending novels. Shamefully, never reviewed by Vector but nevertheless very highly recommended.

Jody Duncan *The Making of The X-Files: Fight the Future* (● 3 Aug. £5.99 pb, 128pp ill.) — Copiously illustrated account of the filming of the X-Files movie; there's also loads of text.

★Chris Carter, adapted by **Elizabeth Hand** *The X-Files: Fight the Future* (● 10 Aug. £4.99 pb, 153pp+80p colour stills) — Young adult novelisation of the spinoff movie.

Everett Owens *Howlers* (● 17 Aug. £3.99 pb) — X-Files tie-in #11.

★Samuel R. Delany *They Fly at Ciron* (● 17 Aug. £5.99 pb, 222pp) — First UK publication for SRO's fantasy.

★Barbara Hambly *Dragonsbane* (17 Aug. 1986). £5.99 pb — A 'REVISIONIST FANTASY,' says the *Fantasy Encyclopedia*, a reissue of 'at once her funniest book and her saddest'.

Julian May *Perseus Spur* (17 Aug. £3.99 pb, 310pp) — ST 399

★Greg Bear *Dinosaur Summer* (● 1 Sep. £5.99 pb) — Sequel to Conan Doyle's *The Lost World*, with cameos from Ray Harryhausen, John Ford and Merian C. Cooper, maker of *King Kong*.



Photo: Chris Terran

Pat Cadigan at this year's Arthur C. Clarke Award ceremony. Pat will be touring UK bookshops to promote her new novel *Tea From an Empty Cup*, and dates so far arranged include (note that these are provisional, so check first):

- 5 Sep, 1-2pm: Forbidden Planet, Oxford Street, London (may take place in the nearby Conservatory pub)
- 9 Sep, early evening: Cyberia Café, Whitfield Street, London W1
- 10 Sep, evening: Waterstone's, Camden
- 11 Sep, afternoon: Birmingham (midday?) and Birmingham SF Group (evening)
- 14 Sep: Reading at Fitzly McNasty's 'Vox n' Rol', London. May be a joint event with Val McDermid
- 25 Sep, evening: Waterstone's, Manchester
- October: Pat will be touring the US.
- Late Oct: Talk at the SF Foundation in Liverpool
- Dates are also being arranged in York, Bristol, Brighton, Oxford, Nottingham, Glasgow and Leeds.

★Pat Cadigan *Tea From an Empty Cup* (● 7 Sep. £5.99 pb, 218pp) — PC's first novel for six years, after her Clarke Award-winning *Fools and Synners*. Fast-paced and exciting, it's a witty written cyberpunk thriller largely set in virtual reality, where there seems to be a killer at large. Pat is not above poking fun at CP conventions: Japan has been sunk in an earthquake, and a large sub-plot concerns efforts to recreate it in VR; and she has much fun with Western conventions of the Japanese. But whether you treat it as a satire or simply as a thriller, it's that rare animal, 'a good read'. Recommended.

★Kim Stanley Robinson *Marathon* (● 7 Sep. £16.99 hb?) — 'The essential companion' to

the 'Mars' trilogy, containing stories, novellas, essays, Martian mythology, character notes and more. At press time the format is unclear; it may be a paperback.

★Kim Stanley Robinson *Antarctica* (7 Sep. £6.99 pb) — Eco-thriller.

★Jonathan Gunnson & Marel Coombe *The Merlin Mystery* (7 Sep. £12.99 pb, ill.) — Masquerade fantasy puzzle book, with 'the biggest prize in publishing history!' The puzzle involves a gold wand, is validated by MESA and the book is published simultaneously worldwide. It does not appear to be directly related to the Merlin tv series (see below).

★Philip K. Dick *The Three Stigmata of Palmer Eldritch* (7 Sep. 1977). £5.99 pb — Reissue of one of PKD's trippiest novels, famously given to John Lennon by Paul Williams. Recommended.

Sara Douglass *Battleaxe* (● 7 Sep. £5.99 pb, 659pp+14pp glossary) — Epic fantasy. Book 1 of the Axis Trilogy. SD is Australian, and this novel is in 1995, was described by Martin Livings in *Eidolon* as 'the best Australian fantasy novel I've experienced to date'.

Stephen Lawhead *The Iron Lance* (● 21 Sep. £16.99 hb, 499pp) — Fantasy, book 1 of 'The Celtic Crusades' trilogy.

Matthew Thomas *Before & After* (● 21 Sep. £5.99 pb) — 'A novel about an exploding sheep, Nostradamus and the end of the world.' Debut novel from a 27-year-old British flight simulator graphics designer. Yes, it's another comic fantasy, whose cover features a sheep rather similar to that one in Wallace and Gromit and with the publicity lines '... not with a bang but a BAAAAAOOOOM!' and 'Douglas Adams' Terry Pratchett with funnier jokes'.

J. R. R. Tolkien *Tolkien Diary 1999* (HC; £9.99 pb, c144pp) — Illustrated by Alan Lee with material from the anniversary edition of *The Hobbit*.

J. R. R. Tolkien *The Silmarillion* (HC; £24.99 hb, c386pp) — New reprint with 20 pages by Ted Nasmith, celebrating the 21st anniversary.

Ted Nasmith *The Silmarillion Poster Collection* (HC; £12.99 pb, 6pp ill.) — Huge format (450x293mm) poster book.

J. R. R. Tolkien *The Silmarillion* (HC; Sep. £8.99 ab, 2xmc) — Fifth and final part of the unabridged reading by Martin Shaw.

Chris Mortimer & Ceri Louise Thomas *The Mystery of the Crystal Skulls* (Thorsons: ● Sep. £7.99 pb, c352pp) — New Age babbles.

Muriel Gray *Furnace* (HC; ● Sep. £5.99 pb) — Horror novel from the broadcaster and author of the pleasingly readable *The Trickster*.

★Brian Moore *The Magician's Wife* (Flamingo; Sep. £6.99 pb, c224pp) — Literary fantasy. It is 1855, and the most famous magician in Europe is sent to war-torn Algeria by Napoleon III to demonstrate to the natives that a Christian Frenchman can perform even more astonishing miracles than their own holy men.

Stuart Cohen *Invisible World* (HC; ● Sep. £15.99 hb, c320pp) — Literary fantasy. 'Fabulous thriller, spiritual quest, exotic travelogue: this first novel is all of these as it takes a reluctant traveller from the Midwest to Mongolia in search of the fabled ancient map of the Invisible World. Is it real? Or is it a mystical symbol?'

Victor Korman *Millennium #3: Weeds* (● Sep. £5.99 pb, c288pp) — Spinoff.

★Stephen R. Donaldson *Reave the Just and Other Tales* (● Oct. £17.99 hb) — New coll. of fantasy stories.

Stephen R. Donaldson *Daughter of Regals* (Oct. 1984). £5.99 pb — Reissue of Donaldson's first story collection.

J. R. R. Tolkien *Roverandom* (HC; Oct. £5.99 pb, c128pp; £8.99 ab, 2xmc) — Reader Derek Jackson.

J. R. R. Tolkien *The Silmarillion* (HC; Oct. £35.00 hb, 10xmc) — Complete unabridged reading by Martin Shaw in a gift pack.

Christopher Tolkien *The History of The Rings* (HC; Oct. £29.99 pb, c1,696pp) — Four-book set of three volumes of *The History of Middle Earth* plus an exclusive fourth volume containing early drafts and unpublished passages. Oh, goody.

J. R. R. Tolkien *Letters From Father Christmas* (HC; Oct. £4.99 pb, c96pp ill.) — Miniature edition.

Joseph Pearce *Tolkien: Man & Myth* (HC; Oct. £20 hb, c320pp) — Examination of JRR Tolkien concentrating on his religious and moral beliefs.

★John Clute *The Book of End Times* (HC; ● Oct. £17.99 pb, c288pp ill.) — 'Combining evocative selections from the literature and art of the apocalypse — its violence and its redemption — and drawing on the tv series *Millennium*, JC muses upon the deep cultural maelstrom that the millennium will bring.'

★C. S. Lewis *The Complete Chronicles of Narnia* (HC; Oct. £30 hb, c528pp; £150 leatherbound) — It's centenary time, and here's a new edition in one volume of Lewis's wonderful children's fantasy series, with newly hand-coloured illustrations by Pauline Baynes and an introduction by Brian Sibley.

C. S. Lewis *The Complete Chronicles of Narnia* (HC; Oct. £25 hb, c786pp) — As above, with limited B&W illus.

C. S. Lewis *The Complete Chronicles of Narnia* (HC; Oct. £6.99 pb each, c192pp ill.; £50 complete in slipcase) — All six volumes in pb with colour illus.

C. S. Lewis *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* *Children's Deluxe Edition* (HC; Oct. £20 hb, c716pp ill.)

C. S. Lewis *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* *Picture Book* (HC; Oct. £9.99 hb, c489pp ill.) — Illustrations by Christian (alt, eh?) Birmingham; note the text is abridged.

C. S. Lewis *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* *Activity Book* (HC; Oct. £3.99 pb, c249pp ill.) — Join-the-dots, colouring, word puzzles, mazes. For 4-7 year-olds. Ills by Christian Birmingham.

C. S. Lewis *The Magical Land of Narnia* *Puzzle Book* (HC; Oct. £3.99 pb, c249pp ill.) — And one for 7-11 year-olds, this with Pauline Baynes' illus.

Tom Baker *Who on Earth is Tom Baker?* (HC; Oct. £5.99 pb, c288pp) — Scouriously entertaining autobiography.

Julian Cope *The Modern Antiquarian* (Thorsons: Oct. £25.00 hb, c432pp ill.) — Tour of Britain's prehistoric sites from the eccentric musician.

Voyager continued...

Mark Vidler *The Star Mirror* (Thorsons: Oct. £15.99 hb, c224pp ill.) — New Age drivel claiming a consistent match between stellar positions and the placing of mountains. Did I just write that? Yup, that's what the blurb says.

Terry Donaldson *The Lord of the Rings Arc* (Thorsons: Oct. £19.99 hb, c46pp ill.) — Oh God. For your twenty quid you get a map of Middle Earth, "twenty runic rings" and a book. Aren't you tempted?

Robin Jarvis *The Fatal Strand* (HC: Oct. £9.99 ab, 24mc) — YA AB of the final volume in the "Tales from the Wyrd Museum" trilogy.

Patrick Dixon *Futurewise* (HC: Oct. £9.99 hb, c320pp) — Futurological non-fiction, emphasizing religious and ethical issues and with a distressingly management-speak approach: "PD considers six faces of the future as if they are the faces of a cube. The world will be Fast, Urban, Tribal, Universal, Radical and Ethical" — clever, eh? Shame he didn't use an isosahedron; perhaps he could have made something of PHLOOTOPAROTESISM (roasting over a slow fire those who have incurred the displeasure of the church).

James Mallory *Merlin: The Old Magic* (5 Oct. £5.99 pb) — Tie-in to the tv mini-series being shown on Channel Four; see also the unrelated *Merlin Mystery* above.

Robert Silverberg (ed) *Legends* (5 Oct. £16.99 hb) — Anth. of all-new stories from 11 leading fantasists set in their characteristic worlds: King Pratchett, Goodkind, Card, Williams, Le Guin, Silverberg, Martin, McCaffrey, Feist, and Jordan.

Terry Pratchett, **Raymond E. Feist** *Legend Sampler* (Jul. £not for sale) to 68pp) — Worth listing separately for Pratchett collectors and completists, this sampler contains complete stories from TP — "The Sea and Little Fishes", a witchy morality tale in which Granny Weatherwax demonstrates her superiority by being nice, of all things — and REF — "The Wood Boy", an episode from his "Riftwar Saga".

Nick Nielsen *ELV II: Time's Square* (5 Oct. £5.99 pb) — Comic fantasy from "the

pseudonym of a well-known writer". This one's about mice rather than sheep.

John Pritchard *Dark Ages* (5 Oct. £9.99 pb) — Fourth novel from an NHS employee, a dark fantasy wherein two contemporary people inadvertently summon the Ravenstread, a 9th century set pledged to haunt the land and protect it from invasion. JP's first 3 novels were well-received, a trilogy comprising *Night Sisters*, *Angels of Mourning* and *The Witching Hour*.

Ellen Steiber *Grotesque* (19 Oct. £3.99 pb, c144pp) — X-Files tie-in #12.

Philip K. Dick *The Zap Gun* (19 Oct. R 1965) (£5.99 pb)

Jack McDewitt *Montreal* (1 Oct. £16.99 hb) — Disaster of in which a cometary collision threatens to break up the moon.

Daniel Eastern *K* (HC: Oct. £5.99 pb) — Alternative history from a thriller writer, about a nightmare world where public lynchings are condoned, where concentration camps are "a", and where Jews, blacks and communists are branded with the letter K for kike, and for the Ku Klux Klan.

Christie Dickson *Quicksilver* (HC: 1 Nov. £16.99 hb, c320pp) — Delayed historical fantasy about a 17th century werewolf.

R. A. Salvatore *Luthien's Gamble* (Nov. £5.99 pb, c304pp) — Fantasy, book 2 of *The Crimson Shadow*.

Douglas Coulman *Giffriand in a Coma* (Fleming: Nov. £7.99 pb, c256pp)

Sheri S. Tepper *Six Mooned* (Nov. £11.99 pb, c384pp) — St. "A damaged interstellar being has lived on one of the 6 moons of Newholme for millennia, but only the Questioner, the judge from the Council of Worlds, knows that. The inhabitants of Newholme have another secret entirely."

Sheri S. Tepper *Family Tree* (Nov. £5.99 pb) — Pb of her previous, Clarke-nominated novel.

— 138

Barbara Hambly *Isafalcon's Quest* (1 Nov. £5.99 pb, c352pp) — Fantasy.



Including Little, Brown, Warner, Legend



Terry Brooks *A Knight of the Word* (1 Aug. £16.99 hb) — Second in his new fantasy series. **David Brin** *Infinity's Edge* (Aug. £5.99 pb, 658pp+12pp glossaries) — Second volume of the second 'Uplift' trilogy. The final part is:

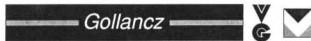
David Brin *Heaven's Reach* (1 Aug. £17.99 hb, 562pp+8pp glossaries) — Concluding volume in the second 'Uplift' trilogy.

David Brin *Glory Season* (Aug. £5.99 pb) — Oct 93

David Brin *Otherness* (Aug. £5.99 pb) — Re-issues in new covers.

Brian Stableford *Chimera's Grudge* (6 Aug. £5.99 pb, 507pp + 1p note) — The third and final 'Book of Genesys', sf disguised as fantasy. Recommended. — 195

Haydn Middleton *The Knight's Vengeance* (13 Aug. £5.99 pb, 281pp) — Concluding part of the dark and erotic retelling of the Arthurian story, this was SF magazine's Best Original Novel of 1997. HM was born in Reading and studied history at Oxford, where he now lives. **John** *Johnson* *Nations of the Night* (13 Aug. £5.99 pb, 493pp) — Second volume in the 'Lightbringer' fantasy trilogy.



Tim Earnshaw *Helium* (Indigo: Jul. £5.99 pb) — "A cross between Frank Zappa and Franz Kafka", says Simon Nye, writer of *Men Behaving Badly*.

Antony & Araminta *Hippisley Cose Book of Sausages* (Jul. £12.99 pb, c256pp ill.) — If you're going to write a book about sausages, you've got to have a name like Araminta Hippisley Cose.

Rebecca Bradley *Lady Pain* (1 Aug. £16.99 hb, c336pp) — Fantasy, third book relating the adventures of Tig started in *Lady in Gil and Scion's Lady*. Bradley is Canadian, born in Vancouver and now resident in Calgary.

Rebecca Bradley *Scion's Lady* (Vista: Aug. £5.99 pb)

Arthur C. Clarke *The Deep Range* (Vista: Aug. R 1954, exp. 1957) (£5.99 pb) — Undersea sf.

Ian Watson *Oracle* (Vista: Aug. £5.99 pb) — Technothriller st. A Roman legionnaire is assassin of Tig started in time by a secret time viewer set up by the British government. IW wrote about this book in *Matrix* 127. — 197

Terry Pratchett *Witches Abroad* (Aug. R 1991) (£15.99 hb, c256pp)

Terry Pratchett *Small Gods* (Aug. R 1992) (£15.99 hb, c272pp)

Terry Pratchett *Lords and Ladies* (Aug. R 1992) (£15.99 hb, c288pp)

Terry Pratchett *Men at Arms* (Aug. R 1993) (£15.99 hb, c288pp) — Aug. 94, Sep. 95

Following TP's move to Doubleday, Gollancz kick off their efforts to exploit his back catalogue with these 'uniform collectors' editions' releases.

Denise Danks *Phreak* (1 Sep. £9.99 pb, c240pp) — Urban (London's East End) technothriller in which computer journalist Georgina Powers gets involved in phone phreaking, hacker networks, drugs and murder.

Paul J. McAuley *Ancient of Days* (Oct. Sep. £16.99 hb, c320pp) — "The Second Book of Confluence", sequel to *Child of the River*. It continues the story of Yama's search for his bloodline, the Builders, on the artificial world of Confluence.

Paul J. McAuley *Child of the River* (Vista: Sep. £5.99 pb)

Jeremy Rifkin *The Biotech Century* (1 Sep. £17.99 hb, c288pp) — Non-fiction about "the coming age of genetic commerce... information and life sciences are fusing into a powerful technological and economic force that holds great promise. But at what cost?"

Andrew Harman *It Came From on High* (1 Sep. £5.99 pb) — New comic fantasy. Also the following releases, in new covers:

Andrew Harman *101 Damns* (Sep. £5.99 pb) — Sep. 95

Andrew Harman *The Frogs of War* (Sep. £5.99 pb) — Aug. 94

Andrew Harman *The Sorcerer's Appendix* (Sep. £5.99 pb) — Aug. 93

Andrew Harman *The Tome Tunnel* (Sep. £5.99 pb) — Nov. 94

Greg Keyes *The Blackbird* (1 Sep. £5.99 pb) — Fantasy, sequel to *The Waterborn*.

J. V. Jones *The Barbed Coil* (Oct. £5.99 pb) — Fantasy.

Chaz Brenchley *Tower of the King's Daughter* (1 Oct. £5.99 pb) — Fantasy, first in a series.

David Gemmell *Legend* (Oct. £5.99 pb) — A wedge of DG releases in new covers:

David Gemmell *Quest for Lost Heroes* (Oct. £5.99 pb)

David Gemmell *The First Chronicles of Druss the Legend* (Oct. £5.99 pb)

David Gemmell *The King Beyond the Gate* (Oct. £5.99 pb)

David Gemmell *Waylander* (Oct. £5.99 pb)

David Gemmell *Waylander II* (Oct. £5.99 pb)

Star Jordan *The Path of Daggers* (1 Nov. £16.99 hb) — Eighth in the 'Wheel of Time' series.

Elizabeth Moon *Oath of Gold* (Nov. £5.99 pb) — Final volume of her heroic fantasy series.

Michael Scott Robin *The Castle of the Winds* (1 Nov. £5.99 pb) — New novel in the 'Winter of the World' series. Also releases of the first three volumes.

Joe R. Lansdale *Rumble, Tumble* (1 Sep. £9.99 pb, c256pp) — New Hap Collins crime / horror novel.

Joe R. Lansdale *Bad Chili* (Indigo: Sep. £5.99 pb) — ... and the previous one.

Terry Pratchett & Stephen Briggs *Discworld's Ankh Morpork City Watch 1999* (1 Sep. £8.50 "VAT" hb, c128pp ill.) — So VAT has to be paid on diaries, eh?

Tom Hutchinson *Red Stepper: Memoirs of a Friendship* (Sep. £17.99 hb, c240pp ill.) — Biography of the actor most recently seen in *Mars Attacks!* with a foreword by Ray Bradbury; one of Steiger's most memorable roles was in *The Illustrated Man* (1968).

Julian Rathbone *Trajectories* (1 Sep. £16.99 hb, c288pp) — St from a mainstream writer, twice shortlisted for the Booker Prize. It's set in 2035, when an ex-rock musician, rich and bored, comes across a disc containing his father's unpublished writings about the beginnings of humanity in Africa. "Trajectories contrasts the idyl that was the origin of our species with its final decades in a polluted, doomed environment, the pampered secure lives of the haves with the squalor and civil strife of the majority, and adds up to an apocalyptic vision which is both prophecy and warning."

Sylvia Brownrigg *The Metaphysical Touch* (1 Oct. £16.99 hb, c448pp) — Philosophical love story, with much musing on the Internet.

Terry Pratchett *Death Trilogy* (Oct. £15.99 hb, c788pp) — Omnibus containing *Mort* (1987) — Feb. 88, *Reaper Man* (1991) — Aug. 91 and *Soul Music* (1994) — Aug. 94, Sum. 95. A fine place to start if you've never read TP before.

Jeremy Narby *The Cosmic Serpent* (1 Oct. £15.99 hb, c272pp ill.) — Loony sounding 'non-fiction'. Narby claims to have evidence that Peruvian Indians have direct access to and knowledge of DNA, gained through psychotropic drugs. Sounds almost like a Holdstock plot device.

Tom Arden *The King and Queen of Swords* (1 Oct. £16.99 hb, c528pp) — Fantasy, "Second Book of The Orkion" and sequel to:

Tom Arden *The Harlequin's Dance* (Vista: Oct. £5.99 pb) — 200

Stephen Jones & David Sutton (eds) *Dark Terrors 4* (1 Oct. £16.99 hb, c384pp) — The fourth Gollancz book of horror, with original stories from Brite, Campbell, Etchison, Fowler, Gaiman, Matheson, Schow, Michael Marshall Smith, Tuttle, and others.

Stephen Jones & David Sutton (eds) *Dark Terrors 3* (Vista: Oct. £5.99 pb)

Nicholas Whittaker *Sweet Talk* (1 Nov. £16.99 hb, c256pp ill.) — "The secret history of confectionery... a celebration, chronology and pop-cultural history of 20th century sweets and chocolate" with a distinct UK bias.

The Rest



Jonathan Cape
Paper Tiger
Bantam
Vintage

- Neal L. Asher** *The Engineer* (Tanjun) ● Mar: £6.99 pb; ISBN 1-901530-08-6) — St from the author of *The Parasite*.
- Derek M. Fox** *Demon* (Tanjun) ● Jul: £6.99 pb; ISBN 1-901530-01-9) — Horror. A Lancaster bomber drops out of the sky and shoots up a small seaside town, an event seemingly connected with a game of small boys played on a local airfield back in 1954. The devil answered them....
- Ceri Jordan** *The Disaffected* (Tanjun) ● Aug: £6.99 pb; ISBN 1-901530-09-4) — Dark fantasy.
- Simon Clark** *Vampyrhic* (Hodder & Stoughton) ● Aug: £16.99 hb, 441pp) — Vampire horror novel set in Leppington, near Whitley.
- Steve Saville** (ed.) *Scaremonsters 2* (Redbrick Eden (Tanjun) ● Aug: £6.99 pb; ISBN 1-901530-14-0) — Horror / dark fantasy anth. from nearly every UK writer in the field, with all royalties going to Shelter. Contributors include Ramsey Campbell, Kim Newman, Mark Morris, Mark Chaddow, Stephen Laws, Simon Clark, Nicholas Royle, Christopher Fowler, Pete Crowther, Steve Harris and others.
- Gary Couzens, Trevor Denyer, Sarah Ellender, Trevor Mendham & Martin Owsen** (eds.) *Gravely's Angels* (The T-Party Writers' Group) ● Aug: £4.95 pb, 100pp) — Small press anth. of fantasy, sf and horror: three of the stories received Year's Best/Honourable Mentions. Available from BBR, PO Box 625, Sheffield, S1 3GY.
- ★ **Roger Robinson** *The Tall Adventurer* (Becon Publications) ● Aug: £12 pb, 200pp) — Detailed bibliography of E. C. Tubb, covering all known printings, translations etc. Available from Becon Publications, 75 Rosslyn Ave., Harold Wood, Essex, RM3 0RG.
- Christopher Bullis** *Doctor Who: Vandevendek's Children* (BBC) ● Aug: £4.99 pb, 281pp) — The eighth Doctor and Sam get sucked into a vortex and find a derelict alien spacecraft.
- Justin Richards** *Doctor Who: Dreams of Empire* (BBC) ● 3 Aug: £4.99 pb, 282pp) — The second Doctor, Jamie and Victoria land in what appears to be a medieval castle in which life-and-death chess games are played by a man in a mask.
- Mark Morris** *Separate Skins* (Tanjun) ● Sep: £5.99 pb) — Horror coll. from the author of *Toady and Stitch*.
- Maxim Jakubowski** (ed.) *The Mammoth Book of Historical Erotica* (Robinson) ● Sep: £6.99 pb, c512pp) — Contributors include Poppy Z. Brite.
- Bob Eggleton & Nigel Suckling** *The Book of Sea Monsters* (Paper Tiger) ● 17 Sep: £14.99 pb, ill.) — Art book portraying sea monsters through the ages, with descriptive text by Suckling.
- ★ **Ron Miller & Pamela Sargent** *Firebrands* (Paper Tiger) ● 17 Sep: £14.99 pb, ill.) — Art book illustrating the heroines of sf: Weena, Dejah Thoris and Nadara, Sharane, Nohalla of

- the Lightnings, Red Peri Madane, Susan Calvin, Clarissa May MacDougall. Text by Sargent.
- Reg Gadeny** *Mother, Son and Holy Ghost* (Faber) ● Oct: £9.99 pb, c304pp) — Near-future UK-set thriller about millennial cults; the finale is set in Trafalgar Square on New Year's Eve, 1999.
- Tim Burton** *The Melancholy Death of the Oyster Boy* (Faber) ● Oct: £9.99 pb, c130pp ill.) — 23 gothic tales written and illustrated by the baroque film-maker.
- Robert Youngson** *Scientific Blunders* (Robinson) ● Oct: £6.99 pb, c320pp) — Non-fiction.
- Gordon Burn** *Happy Like Murderers* (Faber) ● Oct: £17.99 hb, c342pp) — The story of Fred and Rosemary West, with an extremely striking cover by Damien Hirst. Fantasy, a soft, I suppose... and just wait for the screams when this one's published.
- ★ **Gardner Dozois** (ed.) *The Mammoth Book of Best New SF 11* (Robinson) ● Oct: £9.99 pb, c608pp) — Dozois's essential annual summation. Baxter, Benford, Egan, Kessel, Kress, McAuley, Stabford, Silverberg, and many more. Highly recommended.
- Humphrey Carpenter** *Dennis Potter: The Authorised Biography* (Faber) ● Oct: £20.00 hb, c544pp ill.) — The playwright's last work was st, and most of his output could be classed as fantasy.
- Hilary Evans** *From Other Worlds* (Carlton) ● 1 Oct: £14.99 hb, ill.) — Subtitled 'The Truth Behind Aliens, Abductions, UFOs and the Paranormal', the author claims this is 'the accessible, alternative point of view from a sympathetic sceptic'. The PR states: 'His personal involvement with people who have met otherworldly beings has led him to believe and document their experiences as psychological events involving a convergence of their individual situation with conditioning from their cultural surroundings', which sounds a little like the premise of Ian Watson's *Miracle Visitors*. May be a work to look.
- Jenny Randies** *True Web: Real Life Cases of the Paranormal* (Collins & Brown) ● 15 Oct: £10.99 pb, ill.) — Twelve 'genuine' cases of strange and apparently inexplicable events, from spontaneous combustion and alien abduction to time wars and poltergeists.
- Boris Vailly** *Hindsight* (Paper Tiger) ● 15 Oct: £20.00 hb, ill.) — Collection of photographs by fantasy artist Vailly, concentrating on 'the most private sections of the human body, captured with sensitivity and sensuality'. And all in the best possible taste.
- Brian Ford** *Good Faeries / Bad Faeries* (Pavilion) ● 22 Oct: £16.99 hb, ill.) — Edited by Tim Winding, this is a collection of fairy illustrations by the creator of the Hugo-winning *Lady Cottingham's Pressed Fairy Book*. BF designed the films *The Dark Crystal* and *Labyrinth*; his paintings also served to inspire *Windign's first fantasy novel The Wood Wife*.
- ★ **Gabriel King** *The Golden Card* (Arrow) ● 15 Nov: £16.99 hb) — Second fantasy novel from King (who is M. John Harrison and former partner Jane Johnson), sequel to *The Wild Road*.
- Stephen Jones** (ed.) *The Mammoth Book of Best New Horror* (Robinson) ● Nov: £6.99 pb, c512pp) — The annual anth.

Imports

- S. A. Swiniarski** *The Flesh, the Blood, and the Fire* (DAW: Jul: \$5.99 pb) — Vampire thriller set in 1930s Cleveland.
- Alice Borchardt** *The Silver Wolf* (Del Rey: Jul: \$7 hb) — Werewolf fantasy.
- Tad Williams** *River of Blue Fire* (DAW: Jul: \$24.95 hb) — St, the second 'Otherland' novel.
- ★ **Robert Silverberg** (ed.) *Legends* (Tor: Aug: \$27.95 hb) — Anth. of all-new stories from 11 leading fantasists set in their characteristic worlds: King, Pratt, Goodkind, Card, Williams, Le Guin, Silverberg, Martin, McCarthy, Feist, and Jordan. See also *Voyager*.
- ★ **Patrik Nielsen Hayden** (ed.) *Starlight 2* (Tor: Aug: \$24.95 hb) — Follow-up to the extremely successful *Starlight 1* anth., with contributors including Lethem, Langford, Susanna Clarke, Friesner, and the Argentinian fantasist Angelica Gorodischer, translated by Ursula Le Guin.
- Sean Russell** *The Compass of the Soul* (DAW: Aug: \$24.95 hb) — Second in *The River Into Darkness* series.
- Sean Russell** *Beneath the Vaulted Hills* (DAW: Aug: \$6.99 pb) — ... and the first.
- Camille Bacon-Smith** *The Eyes of the Empress* (DAW: Aug: \$5.99 pb) — Fantasy / thriller hybrid, wherein two PIs have to deal with Chinese crystal balls and demons.
- ★ **Bryan Chollin** (ed.) *The Best of Crank!* (DAW: Sep: \$23.95 hb) — Literary sf anth.; contributors include Le Guin, Wolfe, Bishop, Lethem, Lafferty, Aldiss, Jones, Tuttle, Fowler, and Scholtz.
- Orson Scott Card** (ed.) *Future on Ice* (Tor: Aug: \$24.95 hb) — Companion anth. to *OSC's Future on Fire*, featuring early stories by Kress, Benford, Butler, Shiner, Fowler, Bear, Zindell, and Crowley.
- Pat Cadigan** *Ten from an Empty Cup* (Tor: Aug: \$22.95 hb) — Her first sf novel for six years. See also *Voyager*.
- Joan Slonczewski** *The Children Star* (Tor: Aug: \$23.95 hb) — New hard-sf novel from the feminist author.
- ★ **Paul Anderson** *Starfarers* (Tor: Aug: \$25.95 hb) — New sf novel, the story of an expedition to the far reaches of the galaxy.
- Fred Saberhagen** *Shiva in Steel* (Tor: Aug: \$23.95 hb) — Military sf, a new 'Berserker' novel.
- ★ **Avram Davidson** (eds. Robert Silverberg & Griaia Davis) *The Avram Davidson Treasury* (Tor: Aug: \$26.95 hb) — Definitive coll. of AD's short fiction, with introductions from Disch, Le Guin, Gibson, Anderson, Wolfe, Beagle, Benford and others. Afterwords from Bradbury and Ellison.
- Anon** (ed.) *Pieces of Six* (Buccuener: Aug: \$25 hb, \$10 tp) — Anth. published in honour of the guests at this year's Worldcon, with contributions from Michael A. Burstein & Stanley

Del Rey Tor DAW Baen

- Schmidt, Charles Sheffield, Milton A. Rothman, Stanley Schmidt, C. J. Cherryh, and Michael Wehlin. Enquiries to Buccuener, PO Box 314, Annapolis Junction, MD 20710, USA.
- Piers Anthony** *Zombie Lover* (Tor: Sep: \$23.95 hb) — Fantasy, the new 'Xanth' novel.
- Gordon R. Dickson** *The Dragon in Lynesse* (Tor: Sep: \$23.95 hb) — New fantasy set in the world of the *Dragon Knight*.
- Walt McCarthy** *Bloom* (Del Rey: Sep: \$7 hb) — Technothriller: 'It's insidious, it's indestructible, it's infinite and it's man-made'.
- Steven Brust** *Dragon Tor* (Sep: \$22.95 hb) — Fantasy, a new 'Tallos' novel.
- ★ **Jane Yolen** *The One-Armed Queen* (Tor: Sep: \$23.95 hb) — Fantasy, continuing the story of White Jenna.
- L. E. Modeest Jr** *The Ghost of the Revelator* (Tor: Sep: \$23.95 hb) — St, set in the world of *Of Tangled Ghosts* 'where the physics of the lingering dead is an international problem'.
- C. S. Friedman** *This Alien Shore* (DAW: Sep: \$23.95 hb)
- Chelsea Quinn Yarbro** *Blood Roses* (Tor: Sep: \$24.95 hb) — New Saint Germain vampire novel.
- ★ **Brian Stabford** *Inherit the Earth* (Tor: Sep: \$23.95 hb) — St thriller, set in the 22nd century when biomedical nanotech has given everyone a perfect life. Or has it...?
- Michelle West** *The Unworn King* (Baen: Sep: \$6.99 pb) — Fantasy, second in 'The Sun Sword' series.
- David B. Coe** *The Outlanders* (Tor: Sep: \$26.95 hb) — Fantasy, book 2 of 'The Lon Tobyn Chronicles'.
- Laura J. Mixon** *Proxies* (Tor: Sep: \$24.95 hb) — Near-future sf thriller, in which the first steps to the stars are taken from a globally-warmed US Southwest.
- Kate Wilhelm** *Where Late the Sweet Birds Sang* (Tor: Sep (R 1974): \$13.95 tp) — Reissue of KW's Hugo-winning (but distinctly over-rated, in my view) sf novel. ➤ Aug 76
- ★ **James White** *Mid Changer* (Tor: Sep: \$22.95 hb) — Medical sf, a new 'Sector General' novel.
- David Weber** *Echoes of Honour* (Baen: Oct: \$7 hb) — New Honor Harrington novel.
- David Weber** *In Enemy Hands* (Baen: Oct: \$7 hb) — ... and the previous one in pb.
- ★ **David Weber** *On Basilisk Station* (Baen: Oct: \$1.99 pb, 432pp) — Bargain-priced limited edition reissue of the first Honor Harrington novel.
- Mercedes Lackey & Larry Dixon** *Odyssey* (DAW: Oct: \$24.95 hb) — Fantasy.
- Mercedes Lackey & Larry Dixon** *Odyssey* (DAW: Oct: \$6.99 pb) — Fantasy.
- Julia E. Czerneda** *Beholder's Eye* (DAW: Oct: \$5.99 pb) — Alien contact sf.
- ★ **Robert Jordan** *The Path of Daggers* (Tor: Nov: \$27.95 hb) — New 'Wheel of Time' fantasy.
- Kristen Britain** *Green Rider* (DAW: Nov: \$23.95 hb) — Fantasy.

LETTERS TO MATRIX

THE KING MAGAZINE OF THE MATRIX MOVIE 1999-2000 ANNUAL

Send letters to **Matrix**

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Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS4 2HS, UK

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Or fax 01327 361661

(marking emails and taxes clearly 'For Matrix')

Letters may be edited. If you don't want your full address printed please indicate this clearly.

Anonymous letters will be printed at the editor's discretion.

BEST LETTER WINS A BSFA T-SHIRT

• As there was no *Matrix* in the last mailing there haven't been many letters, but here's the rest of **Terry Hunt's**, as promised last time. Terry comments on Gary Kilworth's 'Let's Go To Trevor!' in *Matrix* 131:

Terry Hunt

269 Desborough Road, Eastleigh,
Hants., SO50 5NG

It's sorry to shoot down Gary Kilworth's flight of fancy, but people do not 'often name stars after themselves', nor are they 'entitled to do the same with planets'. The naming of extraterrestrial bodies and features is very strictly regulated by the International Astronomical Union, the only organisation officially recognised as having that authority. While the IAU often accepts a discoverer's suggestion, it isn't obliged to, and almost certainly wouldn't accept his/her own name, nor would any reputable astronomer propose it. The major exception is the case of comets, which are traditionally named for their (up to three co-) discoverers (including astronomical satellites, as with Comet IRAS-Araki-Alcock of 1983), or sometimes the calculator of their orbits (such as Comet Halley).

Historically the picture is more complicated. Some items have been named by posterity and the general astronomical

community after the discoverer of either the thing itself (e.g. the Cassini and Encke Divisions in the rings of Saturn) or something significant about it (such as the high proper motion of Barnard's Star). For a time the planet Uranus was called variously Herschel (not William) for its discoverer, or The Georgian Planet for his patron, King George III. Craters on the moon are traditionally named for (usually dead) astronomers and other scientists. The recently discovered rings of Neptune have been named for mathematicians and astronomers associated with the planet's 1846 discovery. [All features on Venus are named after prominent women. — Ed]

Many stars, galaxies etc carry numbers in various catalogues compiled on a particular criteria and sometimes named for the compiler, hence such designations as Groombridge 2616 (Vega) or Messier 31 (the Great Andromeda Galaxy), but this is hardly the same thing. A single object may, of course, carry many different designations of this kind.

In recent times, discoverers have named a few objects for family, friends or even pets: asteroids are so numerous (3,500+ and counting, probably 35,000 to go) that no one much cares about their dignity, and Asteroid 878 Mildred, for

example, was named by the discoverers Seth Nicholson and Harlow Shapley after Shapley's younger daughter. Most notoriously, the moon of Pluto discovered in 1978 by James Christy was named Charon. Eminently classical and appropriate, one might think, but Christy's wife happens to be called Sharyn.

Sorry to rant, but the astronomical community has been sensitised in this area by the various firms offering to 'Name a Star' for a hefty sum of money. Since no one else recognises their authority to do so, and the several competing firms must anyway be using the same stars, this is a complete scam, which in the US at any rate may soon be made illegal.

I might also suggest that by the time we can actually travel to the planets of other stars, names like 'Kevin' and 'Trevor' may seem as archaic or classical as 'Kentigern' or 'Theophilus'. ☹

• Here's Roy Gray. I make no comment on this:

Roy Gray

roygray@ncmail.com

THIS PERSONAL background may help readers to judge whether my concern is valid, or old-fashioned, fuddy-duddy nonsense. I'm 53, married, two offspring over 30, thirty-year-plus BSFA member, sf – as opposed to fantasy / horror – reader, *Interzone* and *Analog* subscriber, northerner

I don't agree with the proposed new age of consent laws, for whatever sex, simply because they will legitimise physical relationships between the over-40-year-olds and 16-year-olds. If older teenagers want relations with other teenagers I'd not worry, but from 16 to 21 – say – I'd argue that there should be no more than a five-year age gap between consenting partners. Agreed, this could lead to some unfortunate situations for a 23-year-1-day old and his/her 17-year,

364 day old partner, but I'm sure a judge would be very lenient as compared to an 18 / 50 liaison.

Last week I was in Books Etc, a large bookshop opposite Foyle's on Charing Cross Road. I prefer to browse their sf section although there is less choice than the nearby Forbidden Planet. One reason is that they don't play continuous loud rock music that makes it impossible to concentrate on the books.

At one end of the Books Etc sf / genre section are the tv tie-ins, like *Star Trek* and *X-Files* novels and books. Am I right in thinking a large fraction of their audience is teenagers and youngsters of a suggestible age? Close to these tv tie-ins is a large, explicit looking, gay and lesbian book section. Its presence nextdoor to the sci-fi, in the same bay, makes a curious, and surely deliberate, juxtaposition. It's a big shop: there are plenty of alternative bays in its relatively remote reaches.

So is this a deliberate attempt to influence youngsters towards homosexuality? Or do other branches of Books Etc have the same layout? Is there an influential group of older people desperate to get their hands on youngsters and corrupt (loaded word – hence the description of my background) them to provide more partners, more legitimacy and more political influence in the future?

One explanation is that sf readers are an important and lucrative audience for explicit homosexual publications, but my own feeling is that there is a darker agenda based on youngsters' natural curiosity about sex and the fact that advertising does work. Is there a link with recent campaigns to reduce the age of consent?

Am I right or am I too right? ☹

• Over to you! **We Also Heard From Lesley Milner and Theo Ross.**

GODZILLA

WHEN I saw the publicity pictures of the *Independence Day*'s team's *Godzilla*, I thought I'd be in for a disappointing film. With all the hype and anti-hype, I was prepared for a two-hour special effects promo. Preconceived ideas often ruin films, but are hard to avoid. In the case of *Godzilla*, it did spoil the film for me.

Matthew Broderick plays 'the worm guy', or cookie scientist to you and me. He out-Goldblums Jeff Goldblum's many wacky on-screen scientists. He plays the rôle well, and is not as cringe-worthy as you may think, but the (human) star of the show is Jean Reno, who plays a member of the French Secret Service – and who actually apologises for the recent French nuclear tests, which goes some way to explain the origins of this *Godzilla*. Reno takes apart America in several hilarious scenes, with a few words or simply an expression.

What of the monster? Well, it wasn't *Godzilla*! It didn't look like the famous beast, or act like it, or show any of its intelligence. The creature looks great and the special effects are outstanding; but the problem is that we're becoming used to great effects. Effects in their own are no longer enough. The film looks great despite being permanently in rain, but that was all it was trying to be. There seemed little *raison d'être* for both *Godzilla* the monster and *Godzilla* the film – the on-screen explanations were inadequate, and the so-called King of Monsters came across as a little dumb.

film reviewed by ian simpson

There were some great action sequences, although the set-pieces were very *Jurassic Park*, especially when the monster was chasing a cab through the streets of Manhattan. There were some memorable digs at the Americans, shown by the ineptitude of their army (causing more damage than the monster). There was also a nice moment when Maria Piltlo, as Broderick's ex and would-be reporter, explains that the creature is *Gojira* and not *Godzilla*, which was the original Anglicised error. Another homage is the opening sequence featuring a Japanese trawler meeting ultimate doom. However, *Godzilla*'s radioactive breath has been replaced by a remarkably under-used jet of flame.

Devlin and Emmerich have some good ideas, but are not writers. They should have ignored *Godzilla* altogether. Without all the history and the name, this would have been a great monster-trashing-Manhattan film, with good action, funny moments and a more than adequate cast; however, I simply kept thinking "Godzilla doesn't look like that, he's not that dumb, what is going on?" He's just a big, stupid dinosaur.

Preconceptions are sometimes right. I wasn't as disappointed as I'd feared I would be, but I was still disappointed. Shame.

— © Ian Simpson 1998

events

read me first

- Please enclose an SAE when contacting conventions.
- Efforts are made to ensure the accuracy of all the information here, but always check first.
- If you run, or know of, any unlisted conventions or events please let me know at the editorial address.
- Please mention Matrix when enquiring.
- Guests at media conventions appear 'subject to work commitments'.
- Special thanks to: **Dave Langford**, **Chris O'Shea**, **Bridget Wilkinson**; errors are mine.

1998

3-6 Sep: DragonCon '98

Premiere con of the Southern USA, at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta. The huge guest list includes **Harlan Ellison**, **C. J. Cherryh**, **Ray Harryhausen**, **Larry Niven**, **Brian Lumley**, **James P. Hogan**, **Jerry Pournelle**, **Storm Daniels**, **Roger Dean**, **Anthony Daniels**. Reg. \$50.
 @ DragonCon '98, PO Box 47696, Atlanta, GA 30362-0696, USA
 * <http://www.dragoncon.org>

4-6 Sep: Festival of Fantastic Films

At Sacha's Hotel in Manchester. Guests **Gerry Anderson**, **Stephen Weeks**, and from Hammer Films **Hazel Court**, **Aida Young** and **Eddie Powell**.
 @ Soc. of Fantastic Films, c/o 95 Meadowgate Road, Salford, Manchester, M6 8EN
 @ 0161 707 3747 (evenings only); fax 0161 792 0991
 * hoad@globalnet.co.uk
 * <http://savvy.com/~festival>

4-7 Sep: Cult TV

Media con focusing on kitsch tv. Venue Telford Motel House in Shropshire. Guests include **Johnnie Ball** (Zoe's dad, among other

claims to fame). Reg. £49; children 9-15 half price, under 9s free.
 @ Cult TV, PO Box 1701, Peterborough, PE7 1ER
 * culttvuk@econnect.com
 * <http://culttv.base.org>

10-13 Sep: Polcon '98

The Polish national convention in Bialystok, Poland. Guest **Terry Pratchett**.
 @ Polcon '98, Podlasie Towarzystwo Miłośników Fantastyki, ul. Piastowska 11a, 15-207, Bialystok, Poland
 * polcon@rsi.com.pl
 * <http://www.polcon.rsi.com.pl>

11-13 Sep: Fantasycon '98

British Fantasy Society con. Venue Albany Hotel, Birmingham, guests **Freda Warrington**, **Jane Yolen**, **MC Ramsey Campbell**. Reg. £55 (£45 BPS members).
 @ Fantasycon, 46 Oxford Road, Acocks Green, Birmingham, B27 6DT
 * <http://www.djb.u-net.net>

11-13 Sep: AKFT '98

Star Trek con at the Warwick Arms Hotel, Warwick. Reg. £30.
 @ AKFT '98, 7 Belgrave Close, St Mary Cray, Orpington, BR5 3TJ

18-21 Sep: Discworld Convention II

The second convention devoted to all things Pratchettian takes place at the Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool, with guests including **one-guests**, **Stephen Briggs** and **Dave Langford**. Reg. £40, £30 unwaged; only a few memberships left, and there are no on-the-door admissions. @ PO Box 410, Hornchurch, Essex, RM11 2GZ

19-27 Sep: Edge of Empire

Portugal's annual of festival in Cascais – see Brian Stableford's article in *Matrix* 128.
 @ Associação Portuguesa de Ficção Científica e Fantástico, Bloco UV, 2 Piso, Porta 11, Outeiro da Vela, 2750 Cascais, Portugal
 * simetria@esoterica.pt
 @ (land fax) +351-1-484-1782

25-28 Sep: Albacon '98

Central Hotel, Glasgow. Reg. £30 alt., £35 on the door. Guests **Ray Harryhausen**, **Kim Newman**, and astronomer **Prof. John Sallhouse**. Note that **Diana Wynne Jones** has had to pull out due to ill health.

@ Albacon '98, F1/2, 10 Atlas Road, Glasgow, G21 4TE
 @ 0141 558 2862
 * albacon@dial.pipex.com
 * <http://dspace.dial.pipex.com/bizarre imagery/albacon/>

26-27 Sep: Multicon '98

Commercial media con at the Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool. Reg. £30.
 @ Dave Prowse Promotions Ltd., c/o 12 Marshalsea Road, London, SE1 1HL

2-4 Oct: Masque '98

The sixth British costume convention at the Albany Hotel, Eastbourne. Reg. £20, pre-GCSE children half price.
 @ Masque 6, 43 Millbrook Gardens, Cheltenham, GL50 3RQ
 * <http://www.zn92.demon.co.uk/nasque.htm>

9-11 Oct: Hispacon '98

Burjassot, Spain.
 @ Hispacon '98, Casa Municipal de Cultura, c/Mariana Pineda, 93-95, 46100 Burjassot, Valencia, Spain
 @ (6) 3642206 Fax: (6) 3901359
 * gandiva@apdo.com
 * <http://www.burjassot.com>

9-11 Oct: Voyage in Person '98

Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea convention at the Novotel, Sheffield. Guests **Terry Becker**, **Alan Hunt**, **Del Monroe**. Reg. £45, Sat. £22.50, Sun. £16.50.
 @ VIP, 26 Milner Road, Horfield, Bristol, BS7 9PO
 * 106530.322@compuserve.com
 * <http://www.vip.conference.com/homepages/vfwn/vip.htm>

10 Oct: Octocon Live

Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire, n Dublin.
 @ **Gus White**. Reg. £10, £12 on the door.
 @ 43 Eglington Road, Donnybrook, Dublin 4, Ireland
 UK agent:
 @ Dave Lally, 64 Richborne Terrace, London, SW8 1AX
 @ 0171 735 3819

16-18 Oct: En Batre Konfekt '98

Local fanish con in Uppsala, Sweden.
 * johan.angelack@bathhof.se

Cardiff

Colchester SF / Horror / Fantasy Group meets on the third Saturday of each month at 12:30pm in The Playhouse pub in St. John's Street.
 @ **Des Lewis** on 01255 812119

Hull SF

Group meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, 8pm to 10:30pm at Ye Olde Blue Bell, Market Place, Hull. The Hull Group marks its tenth anniversary in October, with special events.
 @ **Ian & Julie** on 01482 447953 or **Dave & Estelle** on 01482 444291.

Leicester SF

Group meets on the first Friday of the month, venue varies.
 @ **Tim Groom** on 0116 279 2280
 * bean@l201.net, uk

Manchester

Font meets in Wetherpoons's pub (on the corner of Piccadilly Gardens, near the BR station) on the second and fourth Thursdays in the month, 8pm onwards.
 @ **Mike Don** on 0161 226 2990

Peterborough SF

Club meets on the

29 Oct - 2 Nov: HanseCon

Luebeck, Germany.
 @ Eckhard D. Marwitz, Postfach 1524, 22905 Ahrensburg, Germany
 * pcholewa@scutxto.cto.us.edu.pl

31 Oct: Nervous?

A one-day convention at Cardiff University. For everyone interested in horror writing. Theme is the horror small press and horror writing in general; with stalls, discussions, panels. Guests **Ramsey Campbell**, **Simon Clark**. Reg. £10, payable to "Razorblade Press".
 @ 186 Railway Street, Splott, Cardiff, CF2 2NH
 * darren.floyd@virgin.net

13-15 Nov: Novacon '98

Venue Britannia Hotel, Birmingham, guest **Paul J. McAuley**. Reg. £32 to 1 Nov, £35 on the door.
 @ Novacon 28, 14 Park Street, Lye, Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY9 8SS
 * <http://www.cooky.demon.co.uk/n28/n28.html>

20-22 Nov: Armadacon X

SF / cult tv con at the Caphome Hotel in Plymouth. Guests include **Jim Burns**, **Dougal Dixon**. £25 alt., £19 unwaged.
 @ Armadacon X, PO Box 38, Plymouth, Devon
 @ 01752 257635/257873
 * eurollib1.co.uk/buttons/armadacon

20-22 Nov: BOZCON

Sf con at the Golden Tulip Hotel, Bergen op Zoom, Netherlands. Guests **TBA**. Reg. NLG €65 (above €22).
 @ Annemarie van Eyck, Obrechtstraat 4, 2517 VT Den Haag, Netherlands
 * vanten@few.eur.nl
 * <http://www.simplenx.nl/~wduptte/ncsf>

3-6 Dec: Nordcon

Gdansk, Poland.
 @ Gdansk Klub Fantastyki, PO Box 76, 80-325 Gdansk 37, Poland
 @ +48-58-531073

5-8 Dec: Estelcon '98

Spanish Tolkien Society conference in Barcelona.
 @ Ms Estela Guierrez, C/San Cugat, 68-70, No 3-2a, 08201, Stadel, Barcelona, Spain
 * benadhin@iname.com

regulars

BSFA London Meetings

The BSFA's London meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of every month (except December), in the upstairs room of the Jubilee Tavern on York Road, London SE1, between Waterloo and Westminster Bridges. Nearest stations Waterloo (mainline or Underground) or Westminster (Underground). Things start at about 7:00pm; if you get there early and the upstairs room is closed we'll be in the main bar and, if in doubt, ask the landlord. Meetings are open to all.
 @ **Paul Hood** on 0181 333 6670 for further information.
Upcoming meetings:
 23 Sep '98 – guest **Paul J. McAuley**
 28 Oct '98 – guest **Mary Gentle** (bbc)
 25 Nov '98
 • No December meeting

London Circle Meetings

Also at the Jubilee Tavern (see above). 'London Circle' meetings are on the first Thursday of the month and usually start about 8pm. No special events but very popular and crowded.
 @ Just turn up!
 • 3 Sep '98; 1 Oct '98; 5 Nov '98; 3 Dec '98.

Birmingham

The Brum SF Group meets on the second Friday of the month on the second floor of the Britannia Hotel on New Street, venue of this year's Novacon. Membership is £15 per year, which includes a monthly newsletter.
 @ **Martin Tudor**, 24 Ravensbourne Grove, off Clarks Lane, Willenhall, West Midlands, WV13 1HX
 * bsf@bortas.demon.co.uk

Cambridge

SF Group meets on the second Monday of the month in The Westiers, New Market Road, Cambridge.

Cardiff SF

Group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm in Wellington's Café Bar, 42 The Hayes.

first Wednesday of the month at the Bluebell Inn, Dogsthorpe, and on the third Wednesday of the month in the bar of the Great Northern Hotel, opposite the BR station.
 @ SAE to 58 Pennington, Orton Goldhay, Peterborough, PE2 5RB
 @ **Pete** on 01733 370542.

Portsmouth

The South Hants SF Group meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at The Magpie, Fratton Road, Portsmouth.

Reading

SF Group meets weekly on Mondays at 9:00pm; for a trial period they have moved to the Hope Tap, Friar Street, Reading.

Surbiton

Survey SF Group meets in the Coronation Hall, Surbiton, a Wetherspoons pub 100 yds from the station, on the second and fourth Thursdays in the month, from 8pm.

ALWAYS ENCLOSE AN SAE

1999

26-28 Feb 1999: *Redemption*

Babylon 5 and Blake's Seven at the International Hotel in Ashford, Kent. Guests: Gareth Thomas, Jane Killick, Sheelagh Wells, Joe Nazzaro. Reg. now £40.
 * Redemption, 28 Dorset Road, Corfe Mullen, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 3QY
 * judith@lakes-7.demon.co.uk

4-7 Mar 1999: *World Horror Convention*

In Atlanta, Georgia. Guests include John Shirley, Neil Gaiman, Lisa Snellings. Reg. \$65 to 15 Oct 98, \$75 to 15 Feb 99, \$100 on the door.
 * World Horror Convention 99, PO Box 148, Clarkston, Georgia 30021-0148, USA
 * HorrorCon@aol.com

2-5 Apr 1999: *Reconvene*

The 50th UK National SF Convention and the last of the twentieth century; venue is the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool and the guests are Jeff Noon, Peter S. Beagle, John Clute, Ron Tiner and Tom Holt. Newsletter from con@con.org. It's themed around 'Time was, Time is, Time shall be'. Reg. until 1 Dec 98 £30; over 60s, 5-14s and supp. £15, under 5s free.
 * 3 West Shrubbery, Redland, Bristol, BS6 6SZ
 * mychelle@firedrake.demon.co.uk

21-24 May 1999: *Trinity (Eurocon)*

Dortmund, Germany. Multilingual (including English). Guests include Sam J. Lundwall, Brian Aldiss, Harry Harrison, Terry Pratchett. Reg. £31 to 3 Dec 98, then £34.
 * Science Fiction Tage e.V., Am Kattenbuck 28, D-44287 Dortmund, Germany
 * TRINITIT@cbg.de
 * <http://www.cbg.de/sf-tage-nrv>
 * UK Agent: Mike Cheater, 42 Elm Grove, Southsea, Hants, PO5 1JG
 * 01705 361350
 * mike@crasers.demon.co.uk

Jul 1999: *Baroqueon*

The annual UK role-playing con, in Cambridge. Guest: Mary Gentle
 * 8 Saddler's Close, Baldock, Herts., SG7 6EP

24-25 Jul 1999: *Telefantastique 2*

'Multi-media' con at the Radisson Edwardian Hotel, Heathrow. Reg. £45.
 * 38 Rochford Avenue, Loughton, Essex, IG10 2BS

11 Aug 1999: *Total Eclipse of the Sun*

Totally passes through Cornwall, Northern France, Romania and bits of Italy.

13-15 Aug 1999: *Wincon V*

The 1999 Unicon at King Alfred's College, Winchester. Guests include Diana Wynne Jones, John Barnes, Warren Ellis. Reg. £25 at, £15 supp.
 * Wincon V, 53 Havant Road, North End, Portsmouth, Hants, PO2 7HH
 * vincon@pompey.demon.co.uk
 * <http://www.pompey.demon.co.uk/wincon.htm>

14-15 Aug 1999: *Finncon*

Turku, Finland. Guest: Connie Willis.
 * <http://www.utu.fi/utufs/finncon>

26-29 Aug 1999: *Concupia*

Venue Anaheim Marriott hotel, Anaheim, California. Guests: Jerry Pournelle, Nicki & Richard Lynch, Ellen Datlow.
 * info@99.nasfic.org
 * www.99.nasfic.org
 * UK Agent: John Harold, 8 Warren Close, Langley, Slough, Berkshire, SL3 7UA

2-6 Sep 1999: *Aussiecon 3*

The Worldcon goes down under to Melbourne. Guests: Greg Benford, Bruce Gillespie; the deceased George Turner will still be honoured. Reg. £90 (with complicated variations - ask 'em').
 * julian@aussiecon3.worldcon.org
 * <http://www.aussiecon3.worldcon.org>
 * UK Agent: Martin Hoare, 45 Tilehurst Road, Reading, RG1 7TT
 * martinhoare@eicx.co.uk

25-26 Sep 1999: *Hypotheticon: 1999*

'Scotland's other national convention' at the Central Hotel, Glasgow. Reg. £15, under 15s £10, under 5s free, supp. £5.
 * Hypotheticon: 1999, Flat Q/2, 11 Cleghorn

Street, Glasgow, G22 5RN

8-11 Oct 1999: *Gaylaxicon: 1999*

The tenth Gaylaxicon, 'a science fiction, fantasy and horror convention for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered people and friends', in Washington D. C. Guests: Diane Duane, artist Nancy Janda.
 * Gaylaxicon 1999, PO Box 656, Washington D. C. 20044
 * gcon1999@aol.com
 * <http://www.gaylaxicons.org/GNetwork/index.html>

27 Dec 1999-2 Jan 2000: *Millennium*

See in the new millennium (a year early if you're a pedant) at this con, to be held somewhere in northern Europe, probably the UK or a Benelux country. £400 per year, to be deducted from the eventual membership cost.
 * Millennium, c/o Malcolm Reid, 186 Casewick Rd., West Norwood, London, SE27 0SZ
 * vdp@tseimplex.nl

2000

21-24 Apr 2000: *2Kon (Eastercon)*

Glasgow.
 * 2Kon, 15 Kersland Street, Glasgow, G12 8BW
 * 2kon@dcsc.st-and.ac.uk
 * <http://www.theory.cs.st-and.ac.uk/2Kon>

26-29 May 2000: *CostumeCon 18*

Costuming con at Hartford, Connecticut. Reg. \$50 to 9 Aug 98.
 * CostumeCon 18, 11 Winter Street, Amesbury, MA 01913-1515, USA
 * info@cc2000.org
 * www.cc2000.org

2-6 Aug 2000: *Eurocon 2000*

Gdynia, Poland. Reg. £10.
 * Gdansk Klub Fantastyki, PO Box 76, 80-325 Gdansk, Poland
 * 48-58-531073

31 Aug-4 Sep 2000: *Chicon 2000*

The 58th and millennial worldcon, guests Ben Bova, Bob Eggleton, Jim Baen, Bob & Anne Passovoy, and Harry Turtledove (toastmaster).
 * UK Agent: Martin Hoare, 45 Tilehurst Road, Reading, RG1 7TT

* martinhoare@eicx.co.uk
 * PO Box 642057, Chicago, Illinois 60665, USA
 * chi2000@chicon.org
 * <http://www.chicon.org/>

29 Dec 2000-1 Jan 2001: *Hogmanaycon*

Celebrate the real millennium at the Central Hotel, Glasgow. Guests: Spider & Jeanne Robinson, Sydney Jordan, Vince Docherty, Prof. Oscar Schwilghofer. Reg. £25 at, £5 supp.
 * 26 Avonbank Road, Rutherglen, Glasgow, G73 2PA
 * john@egelsaba.demon.co.uk
 * 0141 569 1934

2001

30 Aug-3 Sep 2001: *The Millennium Philcon*

The 2001 Worldcon, at the Pennsylvania Convention Center and the Philadelphia Marriott Hotel. Guests: Greg Bear, Stephen Youll, Gardner Dozois, George Scithers and Toastmaster Esther Friesner.
 * Suite 2001, 402 Huntington Pike, Rockledge, PA 19046, USA
 * phil2001@netatx.com
 * <http://www.netatx.com/~phil2001>

BIDS BIDS BIDS BIDS BIDS

2002: *Worldcon Seattle*

* seattle2002@isomedia.com
 * San Francisco
 * info@sf2002.sfsc.com
 * <http://www.sfsc.org/worldcon/>

2003: *Worldcon Toronto*

Toronto Presupposing £9.
 * UK Agent Dave Langford, 94 London Road, Reading, RG1 5AU
 * ansible@eicx.co.uk
 * hancock@infocamp.net
 * <http://www.worldhouse.com/worldcon-2003>
 * Cancun, Mexico Presupposing £5.87.
 * KIM Campbell, 69 Lincoln St., Leeman Rd., York, YO2 4YP
 * or PO Box 905, Eufess, TX 26039-0905, USA
 * artemis@cybercamp.net

BSFA AWARDS

Chris Hill
 The Bungalow, 27 Lower Evingar Road
 Whitlurch, Hants, RG29 7EY
 Tel: 01256 893253
 Email: chphil@enterprise.net

Best Novel

Sarah Ash *The Lost Child*
 (Orion: £9.99 pb, £5.99 pb (Sep))

Robert Holdstock *Gate of Ivory*
 (Voyager: £16.99 hb)

John Kessel *Corrupting Dr Nice*
 (Gollancz: £16.99 hb)

Jack Chick *Everlasting Eternity Road*
 (Voyager: £5.99 pb)

Ken MacLeod *The Cassini Division*
 (Orbit: £15.99 hb)

John Meany *To Hold Infinity*
 (Bantam: £5.99 pb)

Michael Marshall Smith *One of Us*
 (HarperCollins: £7.99 hb)

NOT MUCH to report this time round. Possibly due to the mysterious Affair of the Missing *Matrix* there have been very few nominations since my last column. The full list so far is reproduced on the right.

As you can see there are still no nominations for Short Fiction or Artwork. I know that traditionally these are slow-moving areas, but I had hoped for a couple of nominations by now. Still it is fairly early in the 'nominating year' yet!

Reminder: The works in each category with the most number of nominations will appear on the final ballot. Just because a work has already appeared on the list of nominations, that does not mean you cannot nominate it again!

— Chris Hill 1998

Members' Noticeboard

Advertisements and announcements are FREE to BSFA members. Send your ad to the editorial address, or phone (0113) 217 1403.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GET IN AT THE START! Needs, a new sf magazine, invites sf, fantasy and horror submissions up to 6,000 words. No blood 'n' gore horror, experimental or poetry please. Guidelines available by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to: Lesley Milner, 61 Pengarth Rise, Farnham, Surrey, TW11 3PR

AVAILABLE NOW! Books for the Reader and Collector from Brian Avergreen. Many of you already know me from convention dealers' rooms, auctions and BSFA articles. In April I produced my first ever Science Fiction / Fantasy / Horror catalogue which has hundreds of interesting items for sale at modest prices. Let me have your name and address (postal or email) and I will make sure you receive a copy, or drop me your 'Wants List' now to get ahead of the game.

Wish End, 37 Coventry Road, Hford, Essex. Email: bj@coventryseve.com

FOR SALE

CHIEF ENOUGH TO READ! Collection of 2,500 sf and fantasy paperbacks for sale. Extremely readable copies. £2.50 price-range. Full list available. Call 01472 351637 and ask John Ashbrook for details.

WANTED

WANTED A) SF & F Videos. B) Popular Science Books. C) Books concerned with 'Computer Applications in Natural Sciences and Engineering' including some older ones as far back as the 70s. Send SAE for wants list, please say which. Send your own list with offers on item C. Contact: Manfred Dadd, 62 Kaiser-Wilhelm St, D-47059 Ludwigshafen, Germany.

BOOKS NEEDED FOR A LOVING HOME: John Crowley's *Eyeless* Gardner Dozois ed. *The Year's Best SF: Eighth Annual Collection* in the US edition also known as *Best New SF* Five in Britain, either edition will do. These are for reading, so cheapness is appreciated (condition is not a condition). Contact: Syd Foster on 01792 206729. Thanks gary!

John Ollis's

Time Wasters

COMPETITION 133: "WASTE DISPOSAL"

Terry Pratchett has said that he keeps a photo of W. H. Smith's giant shredder on his writing-desk to remind himself that he's only as good as his last book. If you had control of the shredder, which six **snafu things or people would you most like to drop into it?** Suggestions, please, by 14 October to me at the address below; the usual reward to the compiler of my favourite list.

— John Ollis

As you will only just be seeing *Matrix 132*, please note that the deadlines for that issue's competition and crossword have been extended to 14 October.

Send entries as usual to

John Ollis

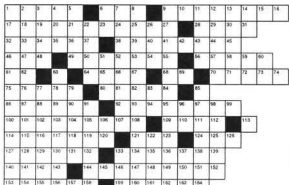
at the address in the box below.

Matrix Acrostic 1

by Peace O'Cake

METHOD: Solve the clues, fill in the grid on the left, and transfer the letters to the corresponding squares in the other grid to obtain a quotation from an sf novel or short story. The initial letters of the solutions to the first grid spell out the title and author of said piece.

1. Girl goes back into explosive to get Emma. (7)
2. Love a crowd; win an award. (4)
3. Geo. one who brings muddled grief to crazy len. (8)
4. Water, gear, or water gear in reverse. (3)
5. Robot hero travelled by haystack. (8)
6. Jane is lonely, confused, having mislaid a pound. (5)
7. Seafood that is a shilling a pound. (5)
8. Attractiveness of good man mixed up with evil nasties. (9)
9. Hello... A terrible crime in the motoring organisation. (7)
10. R. A., the typically screwed up far-lefty. (8)
11. Wed her, or Walter, pointlessly – disaster, maybe the ultimate disaster! (5,3,5)
12. Socialist author, could be a gold mine. (6)
13. Most left-wing engineer-doctor is French... (7)
- 14.... the European parliamentarian: a shining light. (4)
15. Excitement of Arthur's 500th rendezvous. (5)
16. Saint John sex on shock – 'e went in and produced Jane Saint! (9,6)
17. William gets big nose smashed up, losing the point. (6)
18. Second-rate component which caused Challenger disaster: how dull. (6)
19. King'sley's conversion to alien art. (10)
20. Initial lunar explorer in module made for the Pole. (3)
21. Doris, star of the mixed signals. (7)
22. Gain admittance to current church saints. (6)
23. Right before stroke went wrong, he brought out *The Inner Wheel*. (7)
24. Tom is hell before church. (5)



Please send all competition, crossword and acrostic entries, together with any related correspondence, to:

John Ollis
49 Leighton Road
Corby
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NN18 0SD

by
Wednesday 14 October 1998

Big Butt

drops the news

• COMING SOON... MAYBE

LOST IN POST

The Summer Doorstep Blockbuster!

In order to make the world safe for democracy and science fiction, **Chris Tarrant** must deliver *Matrix* to Guildford, but it all goes horribly wrong... Can child genius **Will Robinson** (Steve Jeffery) save them with his invention of 'recorded delivery' – or will it just leave *Victor* stranded?

Featuring **Paul Kincade** as Kim Stanley Robinson (reported *Lost in Antaresia America*), **Snufkin** the Cat as Spider Robinson, **Andrew M. Butler** as Man with Pointless Beard, **Gary Gliden** Dalkin as the evil Dr Billinger, and **Mitch Le Blanc** as Joey from *Friends*.

"Definitely more than an annual event" – *Kerrang* magazine.

• **Poor Kid One Judy Walker** has named her daughter 'Luke Sky'. Guess what film she likes....

• **Barefoot In The Mud** when **Julie Burchill's** Guardian column of 8 August identified a new sexual perversion of 'doing it with mud', she didn't realise that – as usual – skiffy was there first. A letter to the newspaper on 11 August from **Peter Mellor** (no relation, we hope) fingered cuddly **Brian Aldis** (sic), sf writer and famous lamp inventor, as the originator of this tempting pastime, as recorded in his *musky* book sensitively written autobiographical war memoir *A Soldier Erect* (1971). We also recall a similarly tasteless scene in **Keith Roberts's** *Kluge* (1985), not to mention **J. Neil Schulman's** *The Rainbow Cadenza* (1983) and **Samuel R. Delany's** *The Mud Maid* (1994), which both dispense with all this coy symbolism. And as for **Robert Holdstock**....

Mellor suggests 'aldisism' as a more dignified name for mudlarking, though **Alph** quite likes 'brialeysim'.

• **Another Dirty Story** Meanwhile at the Baltimore Worldcon, called 'Buconeer' for no very good reason other than to indulge the committee's liking for bad puns ("The Pirates of Fenzance" indeed), the tenth edition of the convention newsletter *The Fanzine Armada* (oh dear) found it necessary to give its readers a:

Public Service Announcement

"If you have not bathed since the beginning of the convention, it is now time."

Bath (n). Washing one's entire body with soap and water. An act generally performed at least once per day in polite society.

Alph is somehow glad he wasn't there.

• **WHAT CAN I MEAN** Headline spotted in the *Radio Times*, 27 July: "Critical acclaim for Victor".

• **POLLOCKS** When it comes to pols the Yanks know how to do things. Their list of the best novels of the century was compiled by a large number of white, male, ageing and forgotten academics, and to much astonishment featured a large number of novels by white, male, ageing and forgotten writers. The readers' poll instituted in response, however, was at one point led by **Frank Herbert's** *Dune* and included three **Philip Dick** titles. Which do you prefer?

• **SUEZ O'NAMES** Following the publication of a novel by **J. M. H. Lovegrove**, "pseudonym of a Clarke Award nominated author", news reaches Cantor House of a novel by **White Doris Russell**. I say Door-rear, you say D-w-y-e-r, let's call the whole thing off. On, forget it.

• **VICTOR VICTORIOUS** According to *Private Eye*, the head of the BBC's internet services department was dismissed recently for managing to spend about four times as much as anyone thought possible on the corporation's web site – surely nothing whatsoever to do with the outrageous fee allegedly paid to the writer of the BBC science fiction site (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/bookcase/>). Contacted at his new home in the Seychelles, a spokesbutler was unavailable for comment. ☐

— N.C. <?N,

BIG BUTTERS: (Names withheld on legal and medical advice.)

• **Alph** welcomes scandal, rumour, clippings, cuttings, droppings, small pieces of cheese, and bribes (via editorial address).

the viciously trimmed **matrix** is cheaply styled on an **acorn s5000**, randomly permuted by various bits of software (notably **zap**, the head and shoulders of text editors), put in pigtails by an **hp laserjet 5l**, convincingly dyed by **pdc copyprint**, closely shaved by **bramley mailing services**, fetchingly curled by the **royal mail**, and combed through by you

–matrix 133– soundtrack by mozar, zinduku, mooby, henry purcell (–music on the death of queen mary–), various salsa sounds, moon, garbage, rhythms of the city, two guys on guitar and sax at a party, and the gurgling of black sheep