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From **David Langford**, 94 London Road, Reading, Berks, RG1 5AU, UK. Website news.ansible.uk. ISSN 0265-9816 (print); 1740-942X (e). Logo: **Dan Steffan**. Cartoon: **Brad W. Foster**. Available for SAE or texts on Prehumous Morbid Bibliomancy.

Ebookery. Ansible Editions ebook releases in September included the much expanded 2016 version of Rob Hansen's *Then: Science Fiction Fandom in the UK: 1930-1980*, plus my own skiffy novel *The Space Eater*. Read all about it at ae.ansible.uk and ae.ansible.uk/ebooks.php.
• Hardback and trade paperback editions of *Then* should be available in the Novacon 46 dealers' room, with Rob himself there to sign them. Please email me if interested; I have no idea how many copies to bring.

The Moment of Thlabber

Margaret Atwood is to receive the PEN (Harold) Pinter Prize, given to authors who cast an 'unflinching, unswerving gaze upon the world', in a 13 October event at the British Library, London (www.bl.uk).

Neil Clarke allowed himself a little editorial goat in the October issue of *Clarkesworld*, now online at clarkesworldmagazine.com and marking this magazine's tenth anniversary. Congratulations!

Ed Fortune, books man at *Starburst*, insists he's flattered by this published reader's letter: 'Liking the book news, even if your book guy is really just a pound shop David Langford.' (Twitter, 16 September)

Nalo Hopkinson is the Honorary Graduant—for services to letters—at this month's Anglia Ruskin University graduation ceremony. [FM]

Cat Rambo, speaking as President of SFWA, updated the saga of that Hungarian sf magazine *Galaktika* and its habit of publishing translated English-language stories without permission or payment. The publisher, István Burger, has 'explained' that he had a verbal agreement with 'the leader of one of the most respected literary agencies' whereby he was allowed to make free with short stories as loss leaders for novels to be published in Hungarian and even paid for. Since the respected agency has yet to be named, and since the *Galaktika* depredations were not confined to any one agency's authors, this claim was greeted with hoots of incredulity and even sarcasm. Cat Rambo therefore summed up: 'SFWA formally recommends that authors, editors, translators, and other publishing professionals avoid working with *Galaktika* until the magazine has demonstrated that existing issues have been addressed and that there will be no recurrence.' (SFWA.org, 26 September)

Conturbation

5-16 Oct • **London Literature Festival**: 'Living in Future Times', Southbank Centre, London. See www.southbankcentre.co.uk.

6-9 Oct • **Grimmfest** (horror/cult films), Odeon, The Printworks, Manchester. Day passes £20 Thu; £25 Fri, Sat, Sun; see grimmfest.com.

7-9 Oct • **Destination Star Trek**, NEC, Birmingham. Day £29; 2 days £39; 3 days £49; VIP £145 to £2999! See destinationstartrek.com.

8 Oct • **Nor-Con 6** (tv/film/comics), Norfolk Showground Arena. 9:30am-6pm. Tickets £15 for 9:30 entry, £10 for £10:30 (under-15s £10 and £6) plus booking fees. See www.nor-con.co.uk.

14-16 Oct • **Lakes International Comic Art Festival**, Kendal, Cumbria. Some parts free. For tickets see www.comicartfestival.com.

14-16 Oct • **Octocon**, Camden Court Hotel, Dublin, Ireland. Now €35 reg, €25 concessions; under-13s free. See 2016.octocon.com.

23-25 Oct • **Celluloid Screams** (horror film festival), Showroom Cinema, Sheffield. See celluloidscreams.co.uk. 0114 275 7727.

26 Oct • **BSFA Open Meeting**, Artillery Arms, 102 Bunhill Row, London, EC1Y 8ND. 5/6pm for 7pm. With Jason Arnopp. Free to all.

27-30 Oct • **Bram Stoker International Film Festival**, Whitby. 4-day pass £125; various extras. See www.bramstokerfilmfestival.com.

28-30 Oct • **Festival of Fantastic Films**, Pendulum Hotel, Manchester. £75 reg; day £30 Fri or Sun, £40 Sat. Contact 95 Meadowgate Rd, Salford, Manchester, M6 8EN. See also fantastic-films.com.

29 Oct • **BristolCon**, Doubletree Hotel, Bristol city centre. £25 reg; £30 at the door. Cheques to 18 High Leaze Road, Patchway, Bristol BS34 5AF. See also www.bristolcon.org.

30 Oct • **Paperback & Pulp Fair**, Royal National Hotel, 38-51 Bedford Way, Russell Sq, London, WC1H 0DG. 9:30am-3pm. Admission £1.50. Contact 020 8249 8278; harry.np@virgin.net.

4-6 Nov • **Armadacon 28**, Future Inns, Plymouth. £35 reg; day

£20 Sat, £15 Sun (concessions £30, £15, £10). Contact Moor Cottage, Cardinham, Bodmin, Cornwall, PL30 4BR; or see www.armadacon.org.

SOLD OUT: 4-6 Nov • **BCon** (Eurocon), Barcelona, Spain. See www.eurocon2016.org for waiting list for cancelled memberships.

5-6 Nov • **Comic Con** (comics), Leeds. Part of Thought Bubble, the Leeds Comic Art Festival, running 1-6 November. Tickets £26 weekend or £16/day (plus booking fees) from thoughtbubblefestival.com.

11-13 Nov • **Novacon 46**, Park Inn, Nottingham. £46 reg; under-17s £12; under-13s free. Contact 379 Myrtle Road, Sheffield, S2 3HQ. PayPal registration now accepted at www.novacon.org.uk.

10-12 Feb 2017 • **Conrunner 4** (conrunning), Park Inn, Nottingham. £40 reg, rising to £45 on 1 November. Contact 56 Jackmans Place, Letchworth Garden City, Herts, SG6 1RH. See www.conrunner.co.uk.

11 Jun 2017 • **Blake** (*Blake's 7*), Steventon Village Hall, Oxon. 10am-5pm. Tickets £15 plus booking fee. See tinyurl.com/j99unhx.

Rumblings. *Worldcon 75* (Helsinki, 2017) is doing a trial run of the proposed Best Series Hugo category as its permitted special Hugo option, with a series defined as three or more linked volumes (at least one published in 2016) totalling 240,000 words or more. How long is a novel? The qualifying length for the Hugo category is 40,000 words, and 60,000 or 70,000 used to be regarded as decent novel lengths; but a whole trilogy of such puny little things doesn't now count as a series. I suspect that Asimov's original *Foundation* trio, given a one-off Hugo as All-Time Best Series in 1966, would now be reckoned too short.

Infinitely Improbable

As Others See Politicians. 'Like Wotan in Wagner's Ring, [David] Cameron clearly judges that, once the spear that symbolises his power has been broken, it is time to slip away quickly and without fuss.' (Martin Kettle, *Guardian*, 12 September; a *Private Eye* 'Pseud's Corner' selection) The Spear of State? • Conversely, Donald Trump 'is like the blond alien in the 1995 movie *Species*, who mutates from ova to adult in months, regenerating and reconfiguring at warp speed to escape the establishment, kill everyone in sight and eliminate the human race.' (Maureen Dowd, *New York Times*, 5 March) [MMW]

Awards. *British Fantasy*: ANTHOLOGY Ellen Datlow, ed., *The Doll Collection*. ARTIST Julie Dillon. COLLECTION Tananarive Due, *Ghost Summer*. GRAPHIC NOVEL Kelly Sue DeConnick, Valentine De Landro, Robert Wilson IV & Cris Peter, *Bitch Planet*. FANTASY NOVEL Naomi Novik, *Uprooted*. FILM/TV *Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell*. HORROR NOVEL Catriona Ward, *Rawblood*. INDEPENDENT PRESS Angry Robot. MAGAZINE *Beneath Ceaseless Skies*. NEWCOMER Zen Cho for *Sorcerer to the Crown*. NONFICTION Alexandra Pierce & Alisa Krasnostein, ed., *Letters to Tiptree*. NOVELLA Usman T. Malik, *The Pauper Prince and the Eucalyptus Jinn*. SHORT Priya Sharma, 'Fabulous Beasts'. SPECIAL FantasyCon red-shirts. • *Eugie Foster Memorial Award* (short): Catherynne M. Valente, 'The Long Goodnight of Violet Wild' (*Clarkesworld* 1-3/15). • *Forrest J Ackerman Award for Service to SF*: Gregory Benford. [GB] • *Gemmell Awards* (heroic fantasy): NOVEL Mark Lawrence, *The Liar's Key*. DEBUT Peter Newman, *The Vagrant*. COVER ART Jason Chan for *The Liar's Key*. • *SF Poetry Association*: DWARF STAR (short poem) Stacey Balkun, 'We Begin This Way'. ELGIN/BOOK Mary Soon Lee, *Crowned*. ELGIN/CHAPBOOK Shannon Connor Winward, *Undoing Winter*. [SFS]

As Others Rank Us. 'Say what you like about nurses, garbage collectors, or mechanics, it's obvious that were they to vanish in a puff of smoke, the results would be immediate and catastrophic. A world without teachers or dock-workers would soon be in trouble, and even one without science fiction writers or ska musicians would clearly be a lesser place.' (David Graeber, *Economics.com*, 27 September) [HF]

R.I.P. Alexis Arquette (1969-2016), US actress whose genre credits include *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* (1992 film), *Bride of Chucky* (1998), *Children of the Corn V* (1998) and *Xena: Warrior Princess* (2001 tv), died on 11 September aged 47. [MMW] • Terence Bayler (1930-2016), New Zealand-born actor seen in *Monty Python's Life of Brian* (1979), *Brazil* (1985), *She-Wolf of London* (1990-1991 tv) and *Harry Potter and*

the Sorcerer's Stone (2001), died on 2 August; he was 86. [PDF] • **Bernard Bergonzi** (1929-2016) UK literary academic whose many publications include *The Early H.G. Wells: A Study of The Scientific Romances* (1961) and *H.G. Wells—A Collection of Critical Essays* (1976, as editor), died on 20 September aged 87. [DP] • **Sören Cardfeldt**, long-time member of Club Cosmos, Sweden's oldest still-active sf club, and founding member of the country's Tolkien Society, died on 19 August; he was 68. [J-HH] • **Giuliano Carnimeo** (1932-2016), Italian spaghetti-western director and screenwriter whose sf films include *Exterminators of the Year 3000* (1983 as Jules Harrison), *Computron 22* (1988) and *Rat Man* (1988 as Anthony Ascot), died on 10 September aged 84. [SG] • **C. Martin Croker** (1962-2016), US comics artist, animator and voice actor who drew and played multiple parts in *Space Ghost Coast to Coast* (1994-2004 tv)—of which he was animation director—*Aqua Teen Hunger Force* (2000-2012) and others, died on 17 September aged 54. [PDF] • **Jorge De Abreu** (1963-2016), Venezuelan author of much short genre fiction who was president of the Venezuelan Association of Fantasy and SF and edited two of its online magazines, died on 28 September; he was 52. [SS] • **Doug Fratz** (1952-2016), US fan best known for his fanzine/semiprozine *Thrust* (1973-1993, renamed *Quantum* in 1990), which received five Hugo nominations, died on 27 September; he was 63. His many reviews appeared in various places from *The Washington Post* to *The New York Review of Science Fiction*. [AS/MF] I was grateful to Doug for publishing several Langford essays in *Thrust/Quantum*. • **Duane E. 'Doc' Graveline** (1931-2016, US doctor—briefly a NASA astronaut in 1965—and self-published sf author whose novels include *The Ark* (1997) and *Brothers of the Perseids* (1998), died on 5 September aged 85. [AIP] • **W.P. Kinsella** (1935-2016), Canadian author best known for baseball stories including the fantasies *Shoelless Joe* (1982, filmed 1989 as *Field of Dreams*), *The Iowa Baseball Confederacy* (1986) and *If Wishes Were Horses* (1996), died on 16 September; he was 81. [PB] • **Dave Kyle** (1919-2016), long-time (since 1933) fan, writer, illustrator and publisher who was a member of the Futurian group, co-founded Gnome Press in 1948, chaired the 1956 Worldcon, was fan guest of honour at the 1985 Worldcon and entered the First Fandom Hall of Fame in 1988, died on 18 September 2016; he was 97. [AIP] Professional publications include three novels set in E.E. 'Doc' Smith's Lensman universe and two lavishly illustrated coffee-table books about sf, the first being the BSFA award-winning *A Pictorial History of Science Fiction* (1976). • **Herschell Gordon Lewis** (1929-2016), 'Godfather of Gore', US splatter-movie director whose cult films include *Blood Feast* (1963), *Two Thousand Maniacs!* (1964), *Something Weird* (1967) and many more, died on 26 September aged 87. *Herschell Gordon Lewis' Bloodmania* is currently in post-production. [SG] • **D. Keith Mano** (1942-2016), US author whose novels of religious dilemmas include fantasies and the future-apocalyptic sf *The Bridge* (1973), died on 14 September aged 74. [PDF] • **Leslie Martinson** (1915-2016) US director of *Batman: The Movie* (1966), *The Bionic Woman* (1976) and *Small Wonder* (1985-1989) plus multiple episodes of *Batman* (1966), *The Immortal* (1969-1971), *The Six Million Dollar Man* (1974-1975), *Wonder Woman* (1978-1979) and *Fantasy Island* (1981-1983), died on September 3; he was 101. [SFS] • **Richard T. 'Sparky' Moore** (1925-2016), highly prolific though generally uncredited comics artist who drew for Western Publishing (often Disney characters), Dell Comics and such 1960s animations as *Marvel Super Heroes* and *Hanna-Barbera's Jonny Quest, Mightor* and *Space Ghost*, died on 7 September aged 91. He published an uncertain but substantial amount of ghosted work in others' styles. [ME/PDF] • **Hugh O'Brian** (1925-2016), US actor best known for Westerns but also seen in *Rocketship X-M* (1950), *Fantasy Island* (1977-1982) and *Doin' Time on Planet Earth* (1988), died on 5 September; he was 91. [PDF] • **Jon Polito** (1950-2016), US actor whose genre credits include *C.H.U.D.* (1984), *The Rocketeer* (1991), *Blankman* (1994), *Tale of the Mummy* (1998), *Stuart Little* (1999), *Black Mask 2* (2002), *Rock Monster* (2008), *Super Capers* (2009) and voice work for animated tv series, died on 1 September aged 65. [SG] • **Robert E 'Bob' Weinberg** (1946-2016), US author, bibliographer, book dealer, prolific anthologist, small-press publisher, sf/fantasy art connoisseur and expert on the pulp magazines whose heritage he did much to preserve, died on 25 September; he was 70. His first novel was *The Devil's Auction* (1988); he received a special committee award from the 2012 Worldcon for 'years of service and devotion given to advancing the field of science fiction, fantasy, and horror.' [SHS] • **Bill Woodrow** (1970-2016), Canberra fan—particularly of *Doctor Who*—died on 4 September. He was cremated (writes Chris Nelson) in an immaculate TARDIS coffin fashioned by a cousin. • **M.K. Wren** (Martha Kay Renfroe, 1938-2016),

US author of the 1981 Phoenix Legacy space-opera trilogy and the critically praised post-holocaust novel *A Gift Upon the Shore* (1990), died on 20 August; she was 78. [AIP]

Gollanczfest! During its London festival in September, Gollancz held a boozy party on the acoustically-challenged top floor of Foyles in Charing Cross Road, celebrating five glorious years of SF Gateway and of the online *SF Encyclopedia*—which had just reached the landmark of having added Two Million Words since the launch party in 2011. Gollancz digital supremo Darren Nash became over-excited by a 1970s photo of Malcolm Edwards in a proof copy of *Then*, and rushed around showing it to everyone while Malcolm watched with narrowed eyes.

Court Circular. The creators of the US tv series *Timeless*, whose innovative premise is the tracking of crime via time machine while avoiding any damage to history, are being sued by Onza Entertainment of Spain for allegedly stealing this unprecedented concept from Onza's proposed *El Ministerio del Tiempo*, whose startlingly original gimmick is ... (AVclub.com, 29 September) [AIP] Commenters on the AVclub.com post seem mysteriously fixated on Harlan Ellison, who is not involved.

As Others Avoid Us. 'I have never been drawn to science fiction or fantasy. In fact, I can say with some certainty that I have never read a fantasy novel.' (Daniel Silva, *NY Times Book Review*, 4 September) [JB]

Outraged Letters. *Avedon Carol* remembers Doug Fratz: 'he started the sf club at University of Maryland (College Park), and even managed to throw a little convention (where Fred Pohl and Tom Monteleone roped me into a bridge game and some other guy none of us knew so Tom just wrote "X" on the scorecard, which is how he was known for a while before we finally learned his name was Jack Heneghen). And he made a fanzine called *Thrust*, and seemed genuinely embarrassed when someone made a sexual joke about it—"I was just thinking of, y'know, a rocket thrust!" / I liked him. I'm glad I knew him. I'm really sad that he's already gone.' Amen to that.

The Dead Past. *20 Years Ago: 'Stan Nicholls*, reviewing Clive Parker's *Sci-Fi and the Internet for Time Out*, puked at "the dreadful word "sci-fi" (a derogatory term among aficionados)"; his column is unfortunately titled *Sci-Fi Books*.' (*Ansible* 111, October 1996) Penguin Books distinguished itself with a computer virus alert that propagated around the world—"Please be careful and forward this mail to anyone you care about ... Alert your friends and local system users."—and proved to be a deliberate hoax perpetrated as teaser for an interactive novel by good old Stephen Baxter (who was *not* consulted). A backpedalling non-apology followed: 'the release was sent in hard copy by post to named individuals [i.e. news journalists] to avoid any wider dissemination.', etc. (*Ibid*: more at news.ansible.uk/a111.html#17)

C.o.A. *Yvonne Rowse & Ian Sorensen* 'decided to doom their relationship by moving in together': 61 Flaxpiece Road, Clay Cross, S45 9HD.

We Are Everywhere. A newspaper correction of sf relevance: 'The house was the setting of the "Mork and Mindy" TV show, not the residence of the poet Allen Ginsberg.' (*New York Times*, 11 September) Further correction needed: it's *Mork & Mindy* with an ampersand.... [AC]

Fanfundery. GUFF nominations for the 2017 race from Australasia to the Helsinki Worldcon are now open until 17 November. Voting will follow, closing on 1 April 2017. Further details at rantalica.com/2026/.

Thog's Masterclass. *Self-Taut Dept.* 'I felt myself clench. Tight as a mollusk.' (S.J. Watson, *Before I Go to Sleep*, 2011) [PB] • *Dept of Losing Face.* 'Ruth Ann's face drifted off ...' (Christina George, *The Publicist*, 2012) [MR] • *Hypernasality Dept.* "'There are ways, there are ways!" declared Drecke, winking and laying his finger along the cucumber-sized lump of his nose.' (Jack Vance, 'The Man From Zodiac', August 1967 *Amazing*) [BA] • *Dept of Describing a Woman's Bottom.* '... two wrestlers full of muscles in a crush, each one in turn gaining an inch on their opponent who immediately takes it back, deadlocked so that they merely seem to heave from side by side.' (Alan Moore, *Jerusalem*, 2016) [MMW] • *If Badger Books Had Sex Scenes.* 'Color it purple and fill out your vision with pulsing, pistoning, driving, churning, sliding, surging, suctioning, gripping, kneading, undulating, writhing, twisting, rocking, swaying, bucking, heaving, jerking, convulsing, ecstatic movements of your own devising ...' (Clyde Ames [William H. Knoles], *Gorgonzola, Won't You Please Come Home?*, 1967) [BA]

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