

Transcendental Basenji Sermons & Enlightenment

**A submission for ANZAPA 216
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**December 39, 2003, Garry P Dalrymple
Postal Address:**

P.O. Box 2 Bexley North NSW 2207

Home phone (after 7 pm) 02 –9718- 5827

[gary-peter.Dalrymple@tafensw.edu.au](mailto:garry-peter.Dalrymple@tafensw.edu.au)

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Editorial

This Ish is bare bones rush job using only those bits
that are readily to hand to beat the December
mailing deadline. I hope there is enough stuff in it
to be satisfactory, but other priorities have
emerged.

Wishing you well in all things.

Garry P Dalrymple

I.e. No Mailing comments this issue.

Most Recent Reading, Sept. to
December 2003.

27 Aug. to 04 Sept., **World War - Tilting the
Balance** by H. Turtledove 482 pages, © 1995

04 to 13 Sept., **World War – Upsetting the
Balance** by Harry Turtledove, 468 pages, © 1996
(i.e. that is **1600 pages of Turtledove!**) ;

14 to 18 Sept., **The Silver Pigs**

by Lindsey Davis 258 pages © 1989 ;

19 to 24 Sept. **Science goes to War**

by Ernest Volkman 278 pages © 2002

10 Sept to 01 Oct. **Deep Time**

by Greg Benford, 999pages © 1666

02 to 09 Oct, **Miocene Arrow**

by Sean McMullen, 999pages © 1666

12 to 13 Oct, **Cloud Walker**

by Edmund Cooper, 223 pages © 1973

13 to 18 Oct, **Alien Embassy**

by Ian Watson, 204 pages © 1997

18 to 27 Oct, **We all died at Breakaway Station,**

by ///////////////, 999 pages © 1666

27 Oct to 05 Nov, **The Battle of Brisbane,**

by PA Thompson & R. Macklin, 242 pages © 2000

01 to 03 Nov, My search for the Yeti,

by Reinhold Meissner, 2?? pages © 19??

06 to 10 Nov, **The Anvil, Book III of the General,**

by S. M. Stirling and David Drake 303 pages,

© 1993 (**NB I have read this book before!**)

11 to 16 Nov, **Strangers** by Gardner Dozois,

191 pages, © 1978 – **Discontinued reading this**

17 to 19 Nov, **Alternate Generals,** An Anthology

of Alt military stories, 3?? pages © 2???

19 to 21 Nov, **Landfall** by Nevil (On the Beach)

Shute, 240 pages, © **1940** (yes during WWII!)

21 Nov to Dec 05 (est), **Distraction,**

by Bruce Sterling, 498 pages © 1998

Also Read

Ansible – Dave Langford;

Emerald City 98 & 99 – Cheryl Morgan

September & October Fortean Times

PAPA 119 – UK/Irish APA

The Irish SF Times – Padraig O’Mealoid

The Australian Skeptic summer edition

The Sydney Morning Herald

Garry's notes from the BAANSW Meeting of September 17, 2003

Guest Speaker – Dr Laszlo Kiss

(NB pronounced Larslaw Kish)

From the School of Physics at Sydney University

The night's guest speaker's topic: **A discussion of Red Giant Stars and their Oscillations**

Informal Branch committee meeting notes,

Present were:

Michael Chapman, Elizabeth Cocking, Garry P. Dalrymple, Monty Leventhal, and Janette West, with Dr Nick Lomb presiding in the absence of Branch President Elizabeth Budek.

- The committee for the next session is substantially unchanged from the current committee, most agreeing to stand again.
- First committee meeting in several months due to the effects of the Sydney IAU and the current and continuing 'Mars Madness'.
- Concern that outgoings exceed incomings at this time of year, with membership renewal cheques only slowly coming in.
- Move to preferentially use Email to send monthly meeting advice notices, expected to trim postage expenses and provide a service enhancement to email equipped members by allowing late meeting change advice etc.
- In future our Astronomers Bulletin (Newsletter) is likely to be made up in an E-compatible format prior to printing and mailing which will make it easier to put on the branch website for access by members and the interested public.
- Suggestion that we offer purchaser of substantial new telescopes a form of free, part year / trial branch membership in order to make new potential observers aware of the advantages of Branch membership, i.e. fellowship, help with practical Astronomy and familiarity with the resources of the London Branch
- A thank you card was received from NASA following the branch's expression of sympathy over the loss of the crew of the STS-107 on the Space Shuttle Colombia.

- The Basenji Bookmark of Astronomy and Sydney Astronomy meetings was discussed.

General Meeting:

- Thirteen Members and guests present.
- Monty Leventhal displayed and explained his sunspot observations since last meeting
- Alan Plummer displayed some brightness plots of Variable Stars he had observed, L Carina (a Delta Cepheid) and V386 Centauri (suspected to be variable), discussing the problems of observer interpretation of self plotted graphs.
- Shirley Rae, Cath De Luca, Garry Dalrymple, Dr Nick Lomb, Dr L Kiss and several other members discussed their Mars Madness sightings, unfortunately no reports heard of clearly seeing much surface detail.
- Dr L Kiss reported on his amateur Variable Star observations from the roof of the Sydney University Physics building.
- Quality 7x by 70mm objective Binoculars are reportedly on sale in Sydney for \$A300.
- Shirley Rae won this month's raffle prize, a bottle of 'moon mountain' wine.

A discussion of Red Giant Stars and their Oscillations

Measurement of variability of the brightness of Red Giant stars is a way of interpreting the inner structure of these soon to be Planetary Nebulae objects, as their change in brightness can be explained by surface inflation and deflation as well as changes to what is being burnt in their almost burnt out cores. The study of this is known as Astro-seismology.

- The stars that Dr Kiss discussed are bright Red stars from the far right of the HR diagram. They may have diameters out to Mars and average densities 0.0001 of air. Ejection of surface material is common.
- Red giant stars go through the giant star stage twice, at the exhaustion of hydrogen fuel and the later ignition of the Helium to Carbon burning stage.
- Long-term variable stars are observed by amateurs because they may have periods that are unknown or lasting for many years.

- Pulsating stars are fundamental tools of Astro-physics, as their periodicity and observable brightness may be used to infer stellar distances.
- The use of the terms common in the study of acoustics is useful in describing the dynamics of these stars. Consider a star to be a spherical organ pipe, although in practice what we can hear as computer simulations their 'sound' is complicated by the star being composed of shells of gas at differing densities and temperatures. What we see as points on a light curve can be the cumulative effects of several shells acting in and out of phase.
- Computer generated sound can be of help to illustrate these pulsations (seconds to decades). Individual stars can sound like a single horn or in the case of globular clusters like Messier object 3, a cluster with 100s of RR Lyra stars, a lot like a swarm of bees.
- Of late, automated sky surveys have found large numbers of distant variable stars as a by-product. OGLE II while hunting for Gravitational Micro-lensing events towards the Magellanic Clouds, has discovered 68 thousand variable stars, of which more than 28 thousand of them are red giants (Mira and semi-regular variables).
- The EROS and MACHO projects, while searching for non-luminous objects through their variations of the brightness of background stars have also turned up more of these variable stars.
- The availability of large sample numbers has allowed the determination that these stars do obey a set of Period-Luminosity rules and hence they may be relied on as Interstellar distance indicators at great distances.

Garry's notes, Sydney Futurian meeting of 19 Sept. 2003

Topic: Weapons of Mass Destruction in SF Stories.

Present were; David Bofinger, Garry Dalrymple, Diane Fox, John Fox (briefly) Simon Pipe and Brian Walls with apologies from Ted Scribner.

Generally: The meeting was over shadowed by Magic Casements Speculative Writers festival that took place six days prior. Ted Scribner, a regular participant in our meetings and an organiser of Magic Casements being off sick. Garry Dalrymple (four page report distributed) and Brian Walls had attended this event and gave comment. Diane Fox observed during the meeting to be struggling to meet her ANZAPA obligations. Simon Pipes appeared late but was very welcome, bringing gifts, SF books given to the Australian Newspaper for review purposes.

News: Ted Scribner unable to attend tonight's meeting due to a post Magic Casements stress related illness.

- A surrealist Art display is currently being displayed downstairs on level 4 of the NSW University of Technology.
- Early news of a 2004 repeat of Magic Casements, likely to be a two day event, same time of year and may include some sort of Art display.
- Dr. Who is back on ABC TV again!
- The topic for the October 3 meeting at the Infinitas SF bookshop meeting is 'Zombies'.
- There will be a Dr Who event on Sunday November 23, 2003 at the Ashfield Catholic club (472 bus and near the Ashfield railway station I think)
- Brian Walls introduced discussion of the release of a Movie 'League of Extraordinary Gentlemen' is looked forward to. The movie includes a grab bag of all the (copyright expired!) upright Victorian Super Heroes you could curl a moustache at.
- Brian Walls was thinking of attending meeting at a Gleebooks, about the battle against censorship.

Apparently a SF fanzine is heavily quoted in the book being launched (what SF Fanzine, When?).

- Events conducted by the 'Mu-Meson' group were discussed (Conspiracies, Fortean & Counter culture issues?).
- The mission of the Hubble Space Telescope is likely to be extended (this caused a long side discussion about the future of ground Vs space based Astronomy, Gemini and Square Kilometre Array telescopes were mentioned).
- David Bofinger described the highlights of a talk he had recently attended. The talk was about what NASA plans to do next, Mars Missions, Galileo to impact on Jupiter to avoid possible contamination by earth life forms, because the major Jovian moons are presumed to contain salty water and hence the possibility of life
- Diane Fox detailed her recent visit to the Mt. Annan Botanical gardens and the Seed Bank there where much genetic diversity is preserved, especially an example of a sexually precocious Wollemi Pine.
- Cultivars of the Wollemi Pine (the Dinosaur Pine) are to be on sale this year.
- Brief discussion of current SF movies, 'Cypher', 'Paycheck' and 'Total Recall', conclusion, all SF movies have been written by Phillip K. Dick (and Ray Bradbury).

Discussion of Topic

Not a very satisfactory outcome from the note taker's perspective as discussion was more frequently off topic than on topic. Much time was spent discussing references to Weapons in SF rather than WMD. I think in the end that we agreed that a weapon of Mass destruction had to have a very big effect, beyond individual targeting, i.e. bigger than a bunker buster and probably affecting all the people in a town rather than a single site or factory.

- A lot of time spent looking for earliest SF occurrences of recognisably technological Weapons of Mass Destruction. They do not seem to exist much before WWII.
- John W. Campbell when interviewed about 'leaks' about the Manhattan Project revealed that he had a drawer full of unpublished 'Nuclear Bomb' stories.

- War gaming is linked to SF via HG Wells who apparently described a 'dirty bomb' Nuclear weapon in 1906 and all manner of technological warfare (Tanks, Submarines and area Bombing) etc. in his pre WWI books. Also his stories include the 'walking disease' and the backdrop of 'The shape of things to come'.
- Buck Rogers 'Armageddon 2419, circa. 1928/1929 has Super bombers.
- EE Doc Smith has cataclysmic weapons such as clashing Galaxies and an escalation of destruction in subsequent stories.
- Ultimate Weapons in the manner of the 'Death Star' from Star Wars.
- Economic Destruction i.e. claims of the economic consequences of the Reagan era Space weapons race in helping to bankrupt the USSR
- Use of WMD for other purposes, in Poul Anderson's 'Orion Shall Rise' an atomic pellet exploding spacecraft takes reminent America back into space.

It was a pleasant enough evening, enough ideas and facts stumbled out to keep things interesting, but I feel the topic was not done justice. The following is my list of headings that I feel could have been discussed or examples in SF stories quotes.

I offer the following for your discussion:

- Weapons of Class or Ethnocide
- Weather/Climate disrupting Weapons
- Big Bombs Chemical and break throughs in physics (Atomic, Anti-matter and 'Unimaginably powerful' Death Rays etc.)
- Big Doomsday Guns, taking for see able Engineering to the maximum.
- Nanotech that gets loose, the intentional 'grey goo' threat (as feared by Prince Charles) or the unintentional 'Sorcerer's Apprentice' effect when an innovation gets completely out of hand.
- Biological/ Germ warfare (and viruses and other live and reproducing pathogens)
- Poison Gasses, antipersonnel and all manner of 'humanicide' weapons including planetary sterilization effects that can clear the battlefield/planet of human life.
- The Agricultural Knock out or agent that makes the continuation of human society impossible.

Well what do you think? Some of the above are not really Weapons in an intentionally destructive sense.

An opinion and some writer statistics on the first six issues of Andromeda Spaceways Inflight Magazine (Prepared during July 2003)

While preparing for the 2003 Sydney SF Weekend I received my final subscription copy of Andromeda Spaceways Inflight Magazine. Not having the time to read it all the way through, my first reaction was to flick through it to see if there were additional NSW or ACT writers that I could invite to the 2003 SSFW.

After this brief inspection I thought ‘Oh no, here we go again’, a repeat of the under representation of NSW writers thought I had seen in the earlier six issues of ASIM.

As ASIM is an Australian SF&F publication and as NSW residents comprise about one third of the Australian population, all things being equal and creativity being equally distributed across all States, then about a third of all ASIM writers should be from NSW. Right?

As I had already considered one hypothesised an explanation for the ‘drought’, that there would be a correlation between a state’s level of fan / convention activity and the ‘activation’ level of a state’s potential SF&F writers. An argument along these lines would explain why NSW writers would be under represented and Victorian and Western Australia writers would be found to be over represented in the ASIM publishing stakes.

Another explanation that came to mind was that the NSW organised AGOG and Austr Alien Absurdities might have drained the top of the local, NSW, available talent pooled I had observed in the earlier six issues of ASIM.

‘Activation’ level of a state’s potential SF&F writers. An argument along these lines would explain why NSW writers would be under represented.

The obligation that comes with having an opinion is to see if there are any facts that justify that opinion. With the 2003 SSFW out of the way I thought I would look into the matter. Opinions are an essential spark to light the fire for an argument, but a set of good irrefutable facts will keep you warm all winter. I decided to do another of my ‘psuedo-intellectual analysis’ like the fan-famous Basenji surveys of CSF con 2 and Convergence members to see.

If I could see what the actual situation was. I decided to compare the state of residence for the writers who had contributed SF&F stories to the first six issues of ASIM’s and to then compare this to a similar analysis of contributors to the first AGOG and the Austr Alien Absurdities anthologies, as these had been prepared before ASIM was up and running.

Table 1 – Source of contributors to first AGOG and Austr Alien Absurdities anthologies.

	AGOG		Austr Alien Abs.	
	No.	%	No.	%
NSW	11	40.7	10	35.7
VIC	8	29.6	3	10.7
QLD	3	11.1	3	10.7
S.A	0	0	0	0
WA	2	7.4	5	17.9
TAS	2	7.4	2	7.1
ACT	1	3.7	3	10.7
UK	0	0	1	3.6
USA	0	0	1	3.6
Total	27	100.0	28	100.0

In compiling the lists of contributors to the individual ASIM issues I was struck first by the frequency of Non-Aust. Writers compared to b to AGOG and AustrAlien Absurdities.

Table 2 – Comparing non-Aust participation in ASIM to AGOG and Austr Alien Absurdities.

AGOG and Austr Alien Absurdities. Table 2 – Comparing non-Aust participation in ASIM to AGOG and Austr Alien Absurdities 1

	Aust	NZ	USA*	Europe
Agog	27+	0	0	0
AustrAlien Abs.	26	0	1	1
Non-ASIM	53+	0	1	1
Non-ASIM %	96.2	0	1.9	1.9
ASIM (1-6)	31	3	23	5
ASIM %	50.0	4.8	37.1	8.1

In order to more closely compare like to like I decided to and to return to the original question of whether NSW non-poetry SF&F fiction writers were in fact under represented in ASIM 's first six issues, I produced Table 3.

Table 3 – comparing sources of writers, ASIM Vs AGOG and Austr Alien Absurdities.

State	ASIM No.	ASIM %	No. of ASIM writers	Non ASIM writers	%
All	72		47	56	
Aust	31	100	26	53	96.4
Non A	31		21	2	3.6
USA	22		13	1	1.8
N.K.	11		10	1	
NSW	7	22.6	7	21	38
W.A.	6	19.4	4	7	12.7
QLD	5	16.1	5	6	10.9
VIC	4	12.9	4	11	20
TAS	4	12.9	3	4	7.3
U.K.	4	12.9	4	1	1.8
N.Z.	3	9.7	2	0	0
ACT	3	9.7	3	4	7.3
N.T.	1	3.2	1	0	0
S.A.	1	3.2	0	0	0
CAN.	1				
Scand.	1				

From the above figures, the publishing record of the first year of ASIM seems to be very well balanced and generous treatment of SF&F writers from most Australian States and OS.

I think this is an endorsement of ASIM's policy of having a rota of editors responsible for a single issue. It does not look as though favourites are being played, as only a handful of writers have appeared twice or more in ASIM to date. The standout from this is John Borneman, who was published in issue two and then had four stories in issue five. A single story a year per writer seems to be the rule at ASIM.

As ASIM seems to have grown out of the Canberra Speculative Fiction Guild and their connections, I think the only writers who would be in a position to squeal 'unfair treatment' would be the ACT and CSFG writers.

Last year ASIM announced the receipt of their 1,000 th. Submission. I posted to Eastcoastsf pointing out that an implication of this was that with 1,000 stories on the slush pile and ASIM's annual publication rate of about 60 stories per year, getting published by ASIM within three years would be equal to getting an academic 'Distinction' (i.e. a mark greater than 85%) for your story.

Congratulations ASIM contributors, editors and slush pile readers one and all for a surprisingly even handed first year of publication.

Fiction* writers of the first six issues of ASIM *(NB excludes poetry contributions)

Repeat offenders

- John Borneman USA (**5ea** over 2 issues)
- Carl Frederick USA (2ea over 2 issues)
- Edwina Harvey NSW (2ea over 2 issues)
- Simon Haynes Aust? (**3ea** over 3 issues)
- Jim C Hines USA (2ea over 2 issues)
- Dave Luckett WA (2ea over 2 issues)
- Kevin Maclean NZ (2ea over 2 issues)
- Tansy Rayner Roberts TAS (2ea over 2 issues)

Garry's notes from a Democrat members meeting with Senators Ridgeway (NSW) and Cherry (QLD) on 30 September, 2003

As I left OTEN at or about 6.30 I arrived at Newtown well ahead of the advertised 7.30 pm start for the meeting. As Newtown is on the route of the 423 bus I frequently pass through King Street Newtown on the way home from evening meetings, but I rarely have opportunity for a footpath level perspective. By it's shopping precinct Newtown seems to be a curious place with the natives able to subsist exclusively on Thai food, second hand books and clothing and booze shops every few paces. On the way from the Railway Station to the library I unexpectedly found the second hand clothing shop (clothing sourced from the US I believe) that is run by the son of my immediate neighbour at Glebe Market.

The meeting itself was held in an impressively cavernous room with exposed beams and a high ceiling the back of the Newtown Public library (Brown Street, 100 metres off King Street). It was advertised as an opportunity for local Australian Democrat members to hear what their Senators were currently doing and for Senators to gauge members concerns. On this occasion two Senators were available, as Senator Cherry (QLD) was passing through Sydney on the way to country meeting inquiring into the consequences of the sale of Telstra. I was able to speak to Senator Cherry (QLD) about OTEN's role as a niche education materials provider and I was able to speak to Sennator Ridgeway (NSW) about OTEN's role as a provider of services to the indigenous community and the educationally disadvantaged. As OTEN caters to distance and remote education needs that cannot be addressed at fixed place TAFE colleges, we commission a great deal of learning material that refers to Indigenous Australians or covers topics of interest to Indigenous Australians. As we produce this material, it is 'around' to influence non-client classroom teaching on indigenous topics. I.e. OTEN generated material is out in School staffrooms and teaches may 'borrow' or supplement this material when considering how to meet the syllabus outline requirements for their own classroom presentations.

The Meeting was chaired by NSW Branch official Nina Burrage and it was part of a program of meetings for Senator-membership exchanges of views.

- Started with an acknowledgement of prior Eora occupation of the land.
- About 30 people present at 7.30 pm, 12 of them women, with a few more people turning up later.
- The Australian Democrat Reputation is being rebuilt, doubling from recent lows and well on track to eclipse the Greens political party.

Senator Cherry spoke on:

- An initiative for a govt funded matching payment superannuation for low-income earners likely to get up, Democrats trading support for a shift upwards of marginal tax rates at the higher end of the scale.
- Holding out against free choice in Super fund switching until govt agrees to extend equal rights to same sex payout entitlements, as the existing industry (Union linked) superannuation funds are so much more efficient that an if an advertising pushed free for all were allowed to erupt allowing an unregulated orgy of fee churning and higher overhead, smaller sized funds to dominate in a 'free market'
- Medicare inquiries suggest that co-payment option is on the government's agenda

For details of the two Senators phone, Fax and postal contact details see the Australian Democrats Web site – www.democrats.org.au

Senator Aden Ridgeway's Portfolios are:

Art & Sport – Consumer Affairs – Forestry – Trade & Overseas Development – Indigenous Affairs – Industry, Small Business and Tourism

Email – senator.ridgeway@democrats.org.au

Senator John Cherry's Portfolios are:

Agriculture – Communications – Regional Development & Services – Employment & Employment Services - Superannuation

Email – senator.cherry@democrats.org.au

In conversation after the meeting I learnt that local SF&F writer Kate Orman manages the NSW Democrats websites. The venue could be used for an expansive single room SF convention, as it can seat up to 200 and still have some room for dealers tables (steep stairs though! and 3 'one hole' WCs)

Garry's Notes of the Sydney Futurian meeting of 17 October. 2003

Topic: Apocalypses and Ends of the World in SF Stories.

Garry's News items

- Tickets for the preview of 'Cabin Fever' a contagion Zombie story are likely to be available, Hoyts Cinema, Monday October 20, 2003
- Apologies from Ian Woolf & Peter Eisler
- Comic and Zine convention this weekend at Newtown Community Hall, King Street.
- Email disorder, Blank emails, Repeats, Temporary disconnections from email groups, delayed transmissions
- Dr Who back in production in 2005, lots of interviews with past doctors and companions
- Post? Magazine features 'Nude Who Companions'
- Sort of made contact with Irish Finn con person
- Dr Who day November 23, Ashfield Catholic Club, a Ruby Anniversary celebration of 40 years of the show
- NSW Writers Centre October Harvest Festival (25/26 Oct?) will feature well known local Speculative Fiction writers on panels etc.
- MSFC and Continuum people combining for a November 29 Minicon (Freecon like?) SF event
- Solar Eclipse, only partial, Monday morning 24 November. A full in Eclipse will be visible in Antarctica.

About the Topic;

There are lots of Apocalypse/End of the world stories in SF, if you are prepared to allow a broad interpretation of the topic. Even more so for some sorts of Fantasy, as all those Ruins, Runes and Amulets of power etc. are in fact left overs from a time / civilisation now past.

I identify four categories of SF story that are germane to this discussion being

- A. Eyewitness accounts of the final days by the few survivors, downfall and destruction stories.

- B. Adventures in the time of the post apocalyptic society, usually these involve a search for the 'Truth' about the Apocalypse and have to be undertaken under the burden of the 'Single Idea' regime that has grown up as a result of the Apocalypse. Usually the story ends with some triumph that is in effect a liberation from the restrictions imposed by the Single Idea regime
- C. Incidental cautionary tales. The Universe it seems if full of the spectacular ruins and remains of past societies. Each of these fell for particular reasons which will be revealed by our intrepid adventurers.
- D. Treasure, Technology, Powers and Weapons, good old Alien stuff out there for the taking, never mind why they were hidden away or abandoned.

Three books that I have read recently which do touch on the topic are:

Miocene Arrow by Sean McMullen, where intelligent whales defrosted and cloned, initiate the call which influences all mammals over 10 kg to walk to the sea. This of course sets off WWII and leaves paranoid orbiting that are set to destroy electronics, and things that can move that are longer than 9 metres or faster than 200 km. ph. An interestingly medieval type world results.

Cloud Walker by Edmund Cooper, has a Luddite controlled England after two Technology associated Apocalypses (neatly avoiding any need for an explanation of the cause of the first and second 'Ends', Machines are bad, but a boy wants to fly like the birds and old time men did. Actions and opportunities lead to a revolution of sorts and man is free to climb up the ladder again.

Alien Embassy by Ian Watson, apparently the world has given up on materialism and technology for 'Tantric flying' as a means of getting in touch with alien planets. This is revealed as a cover, 'Tantric Flying' assisted by high tech is in fact the planet's sole defence against the Star Beast, an astronomically vast beastie that has been jamming human brainwave frequencies causing Mega deaths.

Notes of the Sydney Futurian meeting of Friday November 21

Topic 'Energy sources and propulsion systems in Science Fiction Stories

Present were; Garry P Dalrymple, Kevin Dillon, Diane Fox, John Fox, Ted Scribner and Brian Walls

News Items;

-Guards, Guards, Guards! – a theatrical treatment based on characters from Terry Pratchett's stories set on Disc World is currently playing at a theatre near NSW University. – DF

-The meeting was concerned to hear that both Chuck McKenzie and Edwina Harvey are facing operations to preserve their vision. Both are believed to be suffering from Diabetic complications. – TS

-While looking through the employment pages of a Sydney newspaper a story was spotted about Terry Dowling's writing course, entitled 'How to make Millions from SF' – BW

-The next Dr Who is to be 'Eddie Izzard', allegedly a UK comedian – BW

-A competition is currently being run, 'Pixel Perfect Pinups', cyber generated cheesecake? Brian noted that to achieve a more 'life-like' effect, facial defects are being programmed (paralleling some Japanese notions of beauty?) also a 'morals clause' is being required of all entries! At this point the meeting broke off into a discussion of the potential of such images for pornographic use and other digital mischief – BW

-There was a brief verbal report on the Bob Ellis talk at Gleebooks, 'Orwell's Australia', which was mostly about how George Orwell's writings on the inventive abuse of language by those in power to 'reform' public debate can be seen to refer to current Australian politics - BW and KD

-Graham Stone is inviting Lit SF fans to visit him at home on Sunday November 23 where he is selling off some more of his collection. - KD

-The Irish and UK APAzine 'PAPA' was passed around and discussed, it has fewer members and publishes more members' fiction than ANZAPA.

-There is a new bloke on the desk at 'Books Buy and Sell' who is enthusiastic about SF books.

-The Sydney Dr Who Club is conducting a 'Ruby Anniversary' event at the Ashfield Catholic club on Sunday November 23.

-The Parramatta SF and collectibles market day is apparently on the same day as well (NB Traditional Sydney SF planning, three events on one day!).

SF activities in Belfast (Northern Ireland, UK) were discussed following the discovery of a website for the 'Monica Bars' SF meeting. A fandom group whose level of membership and activity seem to match that of Sydney's Infinitas and Futurian meetings. They meet twice a month at 'Monico Bars' on Belfast's Lombard Street. Due to date lines and time zones (Sydney is Belfast time plus 10/11 hours i.e. Thursday afternoon in Belfast is Friday morning Sydney time) with a little flexibility on meeting times, it may be possible to hold a truly world spanning SF event by linking the Infinitas group (First Thursday night) and Sydney Futurian meetings to the Belfast meetings! – GPD

Discussion of the Topic 'Energy sources and propulsion systems in Science Fiction Stories

In spite of much discussion after the news items, the topic for the night was not 'SF enabled Sex', and we were eventually able to get on to discussing the previously decided topic.

We started fittingly enough with a comment from Kevin, who said that Graham Stone had written that at one time a rocket ship was an almost universal feature of all Science Fiction Stories.

The discussions of this night did not fully exhaust the topic, perhaps we will come back to the poorly treated areas next year?

Surely this was a meeting that called for a Cladistic diagram of the menagerie of energy sources and means of propulsion revealed in SF stories?

A story by Larry Niven, set in Drako's Tavern claims that much of the undetectable missing mass of the Universe is 'missing' due to it being used as the energy source for advanced aliens. We also learned from Ted 'Known Space' is different from the 'Known Universe', KS being only a 60 Light year bubble within the KU!

During H. G. Wells 'War of the Worlds', clouds of 'Green Gas' were seen as the Martian War machines rose on their way to conquer Earth.

In most early 'pulp' SF the use of an Inertia less / Mass less space drive was commonly assumed but rarely explained, as were breaches of most other laws of physics if they stood in the way of heroic action. The 'Hard Science' explanation of these being that 'shielding' matter from the consequences of Gravity and Inertia allowed for 'Reaction less' propulsion, where a little bit of push could allow an almost infinite velocity to result (pity about steering and stopping and bugs on the windshield though).

At one point conversation diverted towards the factual and the current. A Spacecraft is currently making its way to the Moon slowly by using a high efficiency but low impulse ion rocket motor (John August could have explained this better. Additionally, 'real soon now' a trial solar sail equipped space craft will be launched

The first mention of Wormholes through Space / Hyperspace were claimed to have been cited as 'Alderson Jumps'. Source of this is unknown.

Nearly free and unexplained energy sources are assumed in most TV Sci-Fi series, Star Trek, Babylon 5 etc, a rare remaining link with Space Opera Pulp SF epics?

Briefly mentioned was the contribution of the Late Douglass Adams, who listed several potential space drives and power sources in addition to the sequel powering 'Infinite Improbability Drive'.

Largely undiscussed were Transmat Gates, Portals, Plates or teleport booths and of course the Tsardis, also transport by transmigration of the soul (with

body attached) as used by Edgar Rice Burroughs and his imitators.

We also did not enter into the Fantasy aspects of the topic, i.e. charmed doors, wardrobes, mirrors, rings or amulets etc. where 'The Power of Magic' is the only way to go!

In Poul Anderson's 'Orion Rises', set in a Post Apocalypse world ruled by the Feudalistic Aerogens and other WW3 cliques, a remnant fraction of Russian occupied America still yearns for space and through a nuclear bomblet powered spacecraft manages to rise to orbit and destroy the stratospheric Dirigible that rules the northern Hemisphere.

Yes we did get round to talking about sex again, this time on topic, as I was able to recall that in Ian Watson's 'Alien Embassy', in a PC and Green Peace sort of a world where technology was a dirty word, Tantric sex and the 'Bardo plane' was a way to reach the inhabitants of other planets. Ultimately it all turned out to be a baby farming conspiracy!

The Sydney Futurians for 2003

As the unwritten mission statement of the Sydney Futurians (such as it is) is intended to be 'Inclusive SF Fandom' the following is to the best of my recollection a list of all who have attended one or more Sydney Futurian meetings (as ever in alphabetical order) during 2003.

John August
 Zara Baxter
 David Bofinger
 Garry P Dalrymple
 Kevin Dillon
 Emma Duncan-Woolf
 Diane Fox
 John Fox
 Fiona Lawson-Baker
 Ross Mitchell
 Alex Paige
 Simon Pipe
 Ted Scribner

Brian Walls

Richard Womack

Ian Woolf

But for the storm

Saturday October 17, 2003

After a cloudy morning it turned into a sunny day at Glebe Market. It was a good day for sales, possibly the start of the pre-christmas pick up that make up for the rest of the year's slow weekends. By about 3 pm cloud cover was increasing and the wind was started to be gusty. It looked like rain, so I started to pack up a bit earlier than usual. At the bus stop it was spitting with rain and fully raining as the 5.10 pm number 412 bus headed off down Parramatta Road. At times I could not place where I was, as the quality of the light, late afternoon sunlight reflecting off and refracting through storm clouds, made the view out the bus window during the trip home unfamiliar. On the bus home I was thinking about how I could get hold of enough foam rubber so that he be more comfortable when sitting up at hospital.

I was off the bus and home just before 6 pm with enough time to stow much of my market things in the shed before with the intention of being able to make myself a glass of tea, sit down and count the days takings and re-stock for next week.

Mother was watching the 6 pm news on one of the commercial stations, so she muted the volume and started to tell me what had been happening during the day. She had visited father in the morning at St George Public Hospital as she had been doing all October. Father was still in considerable pain, on Morphine and the diagnosis was that it would be some weeks before his Liver and Stomach abcess were better and he could expect to come home.

I sat back, expecting to be updated on the tales of woe about Mrs MacCartie (the 98 year old Theosophist from across the street), but we were interrupted by a phone call, the phone call.

While mum was on the phone receiving the bad news I was really hoping against hope that it could be about Mrs MacCartie, but it wasn't. The call was to say that my father was dead. If not for the storm, I would have still been on a later bus and my mother would have had to take the news alone.

On the night we were driven to the hospital by our next door neighbour, Bob Lynch and went to the nursing station where we were met by a (registrar?) doctor who explained that father had passed out and attempts at revival had been unsuccessful. Peter, a middle aged male nurse that mother had befriended when father was admitted three weeks before (30 September)

It was a mongrel of a way to go. For the three weeks that father was in hospital he was in pain that even morphine could not always stop, with Liver and Stomach abcesses that were consequent to his Liver cancer treatment. As his doctors could not say exactly what the problem was he was probed and scanned with such frequency that my mother estimates he only got to eat about every second day and he had gone into hospital after a round of vomiting ect. that meant that he hadn't kept anything down for three days

I still haven't thought everything through yet, but I must say that my relationship with my father was not all it might have been, for many and complicated reasons. My Father was a first and only child, and through much of my childhood I felt it was just too daunting to even try and break into the activities that my father and brother shared, as there would be just so much ground to cover before I could come close to their technical skills. For example my father and brother repaired their own cars, did their own household electrical work, built radios and father even made his own reel-to-reel tape recorder from parts when such things were prohibitively expensive. Although my older brother shared many of my father's interests, such as mechanical interests and competence, I can recall my mother saying that my father and I were too alike in some ways to ever agree on much.

Some years ago I was very surprised at how very upset I had been at the death of my first basenji

'ben' from cancer. A lot of the feeling were of anger and 'betrayal' as I had expected him to survive by several years his older (2 or 3 years) companion 'debbie'. Ben was a far more companionable dog than Debbie and I had real expectations of being able to enjoy several years with him as an age gentled and elegantly wasted old dog. If you have ever owned a dog into its old age you might know what I am talking about, the relaxed and quiet companionship of an old dog is just as special in it's own way as the volatility and fun of bringing up a pup.

I realize now that most of that anger that I was acting out was really displacement. At about this time my father was originally diagnosed with cancer that was expected to be terminal. I had been able to do a lot to help Ben and he had died too soon. There was nothing much I could do to help my father. I also feel that I had had some preparation for my father's death by the fannish coverage of John Foyster's death (like many others I had been in some degree of contact with him by email shortly before he died, more open communication than I had been able to achieve with my father.

Review of **PAPA 119**, October 2003 edition, 40 pages – the publication of an Irish/UK Amateur Press Association.

I received a copy of PAPA via Bobby MacLaughlin subsequent to seeing a notice in Paddy O'Mealoid's Irish SF times published in the infamous 'Magic Casements' tribute edition of the Irish SF Times.

PAPA is organised in a rather different manner to ANZAPA, it gives more space to original fiction and it is bound and printed (commercially?) at one address from single copy submissions rather than being collated from individual contributions as we do. Consequently the subscription rate is higher than for ANZAPA (20 Pounds or 30 Euros for UK/Irish subscribers, Australian / US / NZ rates are not unstated), but there seems to be less work for the Editor.

If you are interested in joining PAPA (they have vacancies as of October 2003), you might get in touch with Bobby MacLaughlin, 33 Wellington Lane, DUBLIN 4, Ireland – bobby@catalase.com
Alternatively I could post you my (single) copy of PAPA 119 if you are curious, or I could take it with me to Conflux?

Well what is in an edition of PAPA? By the index it reads; Pages 1 to 3 Contents and Disclaimer, Addresses Subscribers & Administratorial, Rules and Regulations.

P. 4-14 'Universal Wanderings' by David Clements
P.15 to 17 'Papagens by Sue Thomason
P. 18 to 21 'Meant to Be?' by Claudia Fisher
P. 22 to 27 'Which Craft' by Bobby MacLaughlin
P. 28 to 30 'Crooks's Glass' by James Crook
P. 31 to 40 'Saturday Afternoon by Sue Thomason

A brief review of '**Landfall**' by Nevil (On the Beach) Shute, 240 pages, originally published in 1940 by William Heinemann, this edition, 1962 by Pan.

The main thread of the story is about a young British Airman who sinks a submarine early in WWII (December 1939?) believing it to German, at the same time that a British Submarine is lost. At a naval inquiry it is initially resolved that he sank the British vessel in error as a result of having been given imprecise orders.

Many better post-war War stories have been told, but there is added interest in reading the story knowing that it was written and published in the earliest part of WWII which explains the 'non-alarmist' tone of the story as it gives in the guise of fiction what is in fact a contemporary eyewitness account of RAF Squadron life, Wartime Scientific Research and the mores of the post Edwardian English class system which were to be swept away by the War and the tide of American social influences that were to come with it.

The Pilot gets the girl, and exoneration due to the amateur sleuthing of the girlfriend, they marry and it is 'for the best' that they set sail for Canada, because he is an Officer and she is 'only' an upper working class barmaid.

If you care to look for it I think you can detect a certain amount of Autobiographical detail about

A Memorial of my father JTF Dalrymple 1922-2003

I would like to thank you all for coming today to celebrate the life of my father. My Mother, Brother and I deeply appreciate the kind consideration and concern that we have received from you all. As Father was the only son of an only son we are a small family but in a sense through my father's many interests and activities we are part of many families.

Princes and potentates leave impersonal Memorials of cold stone and forgotten names on maps, but my father's memorial are the people whose lives he has touched.

It is beyond me to explain to each of you in the minutes available, the whole of the story of who my father was. But I do not have to as so many of you here knew some part of his Eighty years of active life life better than I. What I will try to do is to briefly mention the many of the people, places and things that were a part of my father's life. You may see themes and coincidences in his life.

To start from the very beginning, the Dalrymple surname came about around 12 or 13 hundred AD and refers to a place in Scotland. Both sides of my father's family came from Ireland and My father's father came to Australia before 1910 with his cousin, served in WW1 and settled in Griffith after WW1 as part of the Soldier settlement movement. Travel seems then to be in Dalrymple genes.

My Father's father worked for the Water Authority in the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area and thus my father was born and

raised in Griffith, as was his second cousin and childhood companion Bill Dalrymple.

His Full name, John Thompson Frew Dalrymple commemorates two of his Irish Uncles.

The Family was able to enjoy annual holidays at Manly as his father reported to the Agricultural Department's Bridge Street Headquarters.

My father joined the AIF straight out of High School, colour blindness keeping him out of the Air force. His Comrades now call themselves the Darwin defenders, but in those dark days of the Pacific War they must have been mostly scared teenagers, standing as our only line of defence against immanent invasion. After being demobbed they settled in Sydney and father found employment at the National Cash Register Company as a technician, where he worked for thirty eight years.

While at NCR he was challenged on still being single. In response he explained what he was looking for in a wife and through mutual friends he was introduced to Lucy Betty Rhead who had also grown up in Griffith. From this introduction followed almost 50 years of married partnership.

But like Abraham, my father was put through labours before he could claim his bride; specifically he helped his father-in-law-to-be to build a ply wood caravan. This caravan came in handy, as in short order it was used for both Dalrymple and Rhead honeymoons.

This caravan is now a part of the Powerhouse Museum's collection and has been publicly exhibited.

After the War my father joined the Masons after his forefather's tradition partly to re-enjoy some of the camaraderie he had experienced in the AIF.

As newly marrieds, the intensity of the 1950s Social Whirl of Weekly Masonic Balls and other functions possibly helped my parents decide to start a family as a form of relief from his hectic activity.

My Brother and I were born while we were still living at 124 Bexley Road, in his Mother 'Daisy' Dalrymple's house and we moved to 1 Eulabah Avenue in 1965, to be closer to Clemton Park Primary School.

While he was still at work my father's interests included weekend rabbit shooting weekends and Lapidary, the working of gemstones into ornaments.

After Retirement in 1985, with both Robert and I fairly independent, he and mother were able to travel within Australia and overseas, which lead to an interest in CB Radio and a return to mobile caravan holidays.

The marriage of my brother Robert to Ruth Deasy probably had a lot to do with my parents more active church going of recent years.

For some years my parents were members and committee members of the Kombi Kamper club, a group that united to travel in convoys of campervans each month.

Challenged by Glaucoma and colour blindness my father took up drawing and landscape painting late in life. His dozen

or so oil paintings are treasured by friends, and several hang on our living room wall.

Some years into retirement father was diagnosed and treated for a form of Cancer that he may have had for over twenty years. We all hoped for the best but feared for the worst. Janene was born shortly afterwards and it was father's hope that he might live to see her go to school. I count it as a victory of sorts that Janene has been able to know her grandfather's love for some years and will shortly be going to High School.

Last year my father was very touched to receive an OBE Gift from Bob and Fay Lynch, that is an 'Over Eighty' of wall hanging of simulated native flowers made of cleverly cut paper.

Father's death on Saturday truly came as a shock to us all, as we had all been making our own plans for how to help in father's slow recovery and eventual return home.

If you require a short epitaph for my father's life then I offer you this, a combination of the thoughts of my mother and I on Saturday night, together with what has come to us all in humble reflection.

I offer you - 'A good life, but so much unsaid'

Before I go, there is one final thing. I have here a 1923 Penny, when my father was young this coin was new and bright. I would like everyone who has been touched by my father's life to hold this coin for a brief moment and think of him before you pass it on to the person beside you.

Passed hand from hand by those who knew him, it is to be a memento of her grand father for to Janene, my father's only grand child.

