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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 any first edition by the learned Hafén Slawkenbergius.

The Shadow Nose

Don Blyly has a new home for his burnt-out Minneapolis bookshops Uncle Hugo's and Uncle Edgar's, and hopes to reopen them in June. [PL]

Alex Davis, Literature Officer at the Derby QUAD events centre, has announced his February departure: 'I'm afraid this will mean we've seen the last of Edge-Lit and the Ghost Story Festival.' (Facebook, 20 January)

Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki reported an Amazon bureaucracy nightmare, beginning with the shutdown of his Kindle Direct Publishing account and removal of all books from sale just as payment (for distribution to the authors) was due for the first *Year's Best African Speculative Fiction* anthology. Why? The story varied: he had multiple accounts (news to him), not allowed; no, his account was mysteriously 'related' to a terminated one; or, eventually, after considerable Twitter outrage, he'd made a mistake entering his bank details (why this should be cause for cancellation rather than 'please correct' is unclear). Jason Sanford organized a GoFundMe fundraiser, not an option for authors in Nigeria, and fandom rallied round; Ekpeki vowed to have nothing more to do with Amazon and has made the anthology freely downloadable. (Twitter, all January)

M. John Harrison is one of this year's Booker Prize judges. [MJE]

Alejandro Jodorowsky, the Chilean film-maker whose failed 1970s hopes of filming *Dune* are enshrined in a rare proposal book of notes, concepts and artwork, was in the news again after a team of NFT-besotted 'Cryptobros' bought a copy for some \$3m – about 100 times the going rate – in the happy but deluded belief that they were acquiring copyright and could 'Produce an original animated limited series inspired by the book and sell it to a streaming service'. Other grandiose plans include selling NFTs of the book, burning it as a marketing stunt, selling NFTs of a video of the burning, and no doubt selling NFTs of many cease-and-desist letters from the *Dune* rights holders. (Indy100 via Msn.com, 17 January) [SH]

Alan Moore, at a How To Academy event on 17 January, said he should 'take a certain amount of blame' for superhero stories that he fears have 'infantilized' culture and fuelled QAnon-style conspiracy theories. 'Imagination is the source of all magic of wonder, but it's also really dangerous, because if the imagination is not trained, then that's when it becomes potentially quicksand.' (*Evening Standard*, 18 January) [SF°C]

J.K. Rowling is more innovative than we realized: 'Rowling's real importance lies in the fact that she was the first writer to present a world in which class and wealth mattered, some characters were poor, some were rich, and being poor was a hardship, not just a cheery sentimental thing in the scenery.' (Jeffrey Smith, Twitter, 7 January) [JDN]

Confucianism

Until 24 April • **Dredd @45** (Judge Dredd exhibition marking his 45th anniversary). Cartoon Museum, London. 10:30am-5pm. £8.50; £5 concessions. See www.cartoonmuseum.org/whatson/judge-dredd-45.

POSTPONED TO 2023. 11-13 Feb • **Sci-Fi Ball** (media), Southampton. 2022 bookings to be transferred; 'a new hotel'. See scifiball.com.

11-13 Feb • **Scotiacon** (furry), Crowne Plaza Hotel, Glasgow. £90 reg. *Registration now closed*. See www.scotiacon.org.uk.

POSTPONED TO 2023. 18-20 Feb • **Redemption** (multimedia), Sheffield. *New dates 24-26 February 2023*. See redemptioncon.org.uk.

ONLINE. 28 Feb • **Dungeons & Dragons at 50**, Inaugural Professorial Lecture by Esther MacCallum-Stewart. See tinyurl.com/bdsvdhu.

HYBRID. 5 Mar • **Angela Carter: A Radical Presence?** (symposium), University of Chichester. 8:45am-5:40pm. £40; £30 online only; £20 students/staff. See www.sussexfolktalecentre.org/events/.

POSTPONED AGAIN. 10-13 Mar • **ChillerCon UK** (horror), Grand and Royal Hotels, Scarborough. £130 reg; HWA members £120. See 'Coronavirus Statement' at chillercon-uk.com, whose home page is misleading.

10-12 Mar • **Frightfest** (film), Glasgow Film Theatre. Weekend passes £75, linked from www.frightfest.co.uk/filmsandevents.html.

FULL UP. 11-13 Mar • **MinamiCon** (anime), Novotel Hotel, Southampton. £60 reg. See www.minamicon.org.uk. *Registration is now full.*

1 Apr - 28 Aug • **Superheroes, Orphans & Origins** (exhibition), Foundling Museum, London. £10.50 admission; £8.25 concessions. See

foundlingmuseum.org.uk/events/superheroes-orphans-origins/.

7-8 May • **Portsmouth Comic Con**, Guildhall, Portsmouth. £25 adult weekend ticket; various other rates at portsmouthcomiccon.com.

1-5 Sep • **Chicon 8** (80th Worldcon), Chicago, IL, USA. \$210 reg; first Worldcon \$110; under-25s \$90; under-18s \$70; under 14s \$50; accompanied under-10s free; \$50 supporting. *Rates valid to 30 April. Hugo nominations are open and will close on 15 March*. See chicon.org.

10 Sep • **International Comic Expo**, Edgbaston Stadium, Birmingham. 10am-5pm. Tickets from £8 (students £5); VIP passes £50; under-6s free. See internationalcomicexpo.wordpress.com.

6-9 Oct • **Grimmfest** (film), Odeon Great Northern, Manchester. 'Early bird' tickets (50 only) £99 plus fee. See grimmfest.com/.

27-31 Oct • **Edinburgh Horror Festival**: Banshee Labyrinth, Edinburgh Dungeon, etc. See edinburghhorrorfestival.co.uk/

11-14 Nov • **Camp SFW**, Vauxhall Holiday Park, Great Yarmouth. Tickets £120. See www.scifiweekender.com.

Rumblings. *Picocon* (Imperial College, London) may happen, in person or online, on 5 March. Details awaited at www.union.ic.ac.uk/scc/icsf/picocon/. • *The Festival of Fantastic Films* (Manchester) plans an October 2022 event, exact dates TBA: see fantastic-films.com/festival/.

Infinitely Improbable

Ghosting. The 'Creative Book Writers' ghostwriting service and various related websites claimed responsibility for works by established genre writers including Ursula Vernon (as T. Kingfisher) – who reported this fraud – Ken Follett, Lee Goldberg and J.D. Robb, while stock photos of the 'world-renowned yet experienced authors' who allegedly do the actual writing included a young Neil Gaiman. It was also implied that their ghostwriters gave the world *Robinson Crusoe* and *Gulliver's Travels*. Anyone enquiring via live chat about these claims is swiftly blocked, but book cover images started to vanish or to be subtly edited: 'Book Title: New York Times Bestselling Author AUTHORNAME.' (Twitter, 18 January)

Awards. *Anisfield-Wolf* (anti-racism) life achievement: Samuel R. Delany. [TM] • *Golden Globes* animated film: *Encanto*. • *Newbery Medal* (children's book): *The Last Cuentista* by Donna Barba Higuera. [KF] • *Philip K. Dick* shortlist: *Defekt* by Nino Cipri; *Plague Birds* by Jason Sanford; *Bug* by Giacomo Sartori trans Frederika Randall; *Far from the Light of Heaven* by Tade Thompson; *The Escapement* by Lavie Tidhar; *Dead Space* by Kali Wallace. [L] • *Robert A. Heinlein Award*: David Gerrold. • *Speculative Literature Foundation Illustration of the Year*: Michelle Feng.

As Others ... 'Detroit: Become Human' from Quantic Dream is a game about an android with self-aware thought processes and emotions. She feels curiosity, joy, and fear. It takes place in a near-future Detroit, where the robotics industry is (apparently) booming. Despite these futuristic elements, creative director David Cage says his game is *not sci-fi*. (Gamesradar.com, 2015) No talking squid in outer space, you see. [SB]

R.I.P. *Louie Anderson* (1953-2022), US actor/comedian whose genre credits include *Pop Star Puppy* (2014), died on 21 January aged 68. [LP] • *Ann Arensberg* (1937-2022), US author whose novels include the supernatural *Incubus* (1999), died on 14 January aged 84. [AIP] • *Igor and Grichka Bogdanoff* (born 1949), French twin-brother authors and tv presenters whose books include *Clefs pour la science-fiction* (1976) and whose show *Temps X* introduced *Doctor Who*, *Star Trek* and others to France, died aged 72 on 28 December and 3 January respectively. [JM] • *Peter Bogdanovich* (1939-2022), US director and narrator of *Voyage to the Planet of Prehistoric Women* (1968), died on 6 January aged 82. [LP] • *Dee Booher* (1948-2022), US wrestler (as Matilda the Hun and Queen Kong) and actress in *Spaceballs* (1987), *Deathstalker II* (1987) and *Theodore Rex* (1995), died on 7 January aged 73. [LP] • *Ray Boyle* (1923-2022), US actor in the Republic serial *Zombies of the Stratosphere* (1952), died on 6 January aged 98. • *Bruce Burn* (1939-2021), well-known New Zealand fanzine fan, died on 17 December aged 82. Nigel Rowe writes: 'Active in local NZ, London fandom and OMPA in the 1950s and 1960s and "rediscovered" in 1979 to continue through the 2000s. The last surviving and a founding member of the Wellington SF Circle. Upon arrival in the UK in 1960 by ship, he was memorably greeted dockside by

UK fans carrying signs declaring “Ban the Burn”. • **Mayya Buzinova** (1929-2022), Russian animator with credits for *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen* (1967) and various fairytale shorts, died on 30 January aged 92. [PDF] • **J. Brian Clarke** (1928-2022), UK-born Canadian author whose stories in *Analog* since 1969 became the novels *The Expediter* (1990) and *Alphanauts* (1996), died on 17 January aged 93. [RJS] • **Rick Cook** (1944-2022), US author active in the SCA, best known for the Wizard fantasy sequence opening with *Wizard's Bane* (1989), died on 13 January. [F770] • **Joan Copeland** (1922-2022), US actress with genre credits for *The Laser Man* (1988) and *Brother Bear* (2003), died on 4 January aged 99. • **Frank Denton** (1939-2022), US fan active in several APAs, whose fanzines included *Ash-Wing* (1968-1978) and *The Rogue Raven* (1975-1997; 2004-2012 as blog), died on 5 January. [GM/F770] • **Frank Dodd** (1935-2022), New Zealand fan active in the 1950s who with Mike Hinge co-founded the Auckland SF Club in 1952, died on 3 January aged 86. [NFR] • **Nicholas Donnelly** (1938-2022), UK actor in *Lifeorce* (1985), died on 10 January aged 84. [AIP] • **Mark Forest** (Lou Degni, 1933-2022), US bodybuilder and actor in *Goliath and the Dragon* (1960), *Mole Men Against the Son of Hercules* (1961) and other 1960s sword-and-sandal epics, died on 7 January aged 89. • **Ron Goulart** (1933-2022), US author of much entertaining sf/fantasy since the 1950s – his first novel being *The Sword Swallower* (1968), set in the comic-space-opera ‘Barnum System’ to which he often returned – died on 14 January aged 89. He ghosted the TekWar novels for William Shatner and published useful nonfiction about pulps and comics. [PDF] • **Vladimir Gubarev** (1938-2022), Byelorussian member of the Russian authors’ collective that published sf as by Pavel Bagryak, died on 25 January aged 83. [PDF] • **Jane Hawkins** (1951-2022), Seattle-based author of *Quantum Gate* (1995) and fan involved with many conventions (Corflu, Noreason 3, Norwescon, Potlatch, WisCon), used Washington State’s assisted-dying option to end the pains of terminal cancer on 7 January; she was 70. [LZS] • **Howard Hesseman** (1940-2022), US actor in *Americathon* (1979) and *Flight of the Navigator* (1986), died on 29 January aged 81. [LP] • **Trevor Hughes**, UK fan and comics mart organizer who published *Hawkfrenz*, *Hawkwind Assault and Battery* and other Hawkwind fanzines, died just before Christmas. [AS] • **Jo Kendall** (1938-2022), UK actress whose radio credits include *I’m Sorry, I’ll Read That Again* (1964-1973, with various sf parodies) and the first episode of *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy* (1978), died in late January aged 83. • **Barbara Krafftówna** (1928-2022), Polish actress in *The Saragossa Manuscript* (1965), died on 23 January aged 93. • **Stephen Lawrence** (1939-2021), composer and music arranger for *Sesame Street* (1989-2007) and such children’s films as *The Frog Prince* (1986), died on 30 December aged 82. [MMW] • **Chris A. Masters**, Australian horror author – first novel *Take Two* (2018) – who edited *Shoggoth* and other little magazines, died on 5 January aged 61. [SJ] • **Meat Loaf** (1947-2022), US singer and actor with genre credits from *The Rocky Horror Show* (Broadway and film) via *Fight Club* (1999) to *Ghost Wars* (2017-2018), died on 20 January aged 74. [LP] • **Jean-Claude Mézières** (1938-2022), French comics artist best known for the sf *Valerian/Laureline* adventures that inspired the film *Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets* (2017), died on the night of 22/23 January aged 83. [F770] • **Elizabeth Miller** (1939-2022), Canadian academic and *Dracula* scholar whose books include *Reflections on Dracula: Ten Essays* (1997), died on 2 January aged 82. She received the *Dracula Society’s* Life Achievement Award and other related honours. [SJ] • **John Joseph Miller** (1954-2022), US author of ties to various genre franchises – most famously *Wild Cards*, including the solo novel *Death Draws Five* (2006) – died on 5 January. [LB] • **Yvette Mimieux** (1942-2022), US actress in *The Time Machine* (1960, as Weena), *The Neptune Factor* (1973) and *The Black Hole* (1979), died on 18 January aged 80. [SS] • **Mace Neufeld** (1928-2022), US producer whose credits include *The Omen* (1976), *Quark* (1977-1978), *Transylvania 6-5000* (1985) and *Lost in Space* (1998), died on 21 January aged 93. [AIP] • **Sidney Poitier** (1927-2022) noted Oscar-winning US actor who also directed *Ghost Dad* (1990) and wrote the metaphysical fantasy novel *Montaro Caine* (2013), died on 6 January aged 94. • **Silas Potts** (1970-2021), UK fan, ZZ9 member and London First Thursday regular, died unexpectedly over Christmas. [F/AS] • **Alex Rebar** (1940-2021), US actor who starred in *The Incredible Melting Man* (1977), died on 19 November aged 81. [SS] • **Peter Robbins** (1956-2022), former US child actor who voiced Charlie Brown in *Peanuts*-based tv films and shorts 1965-1969, committed suicide on 18 January; he was 65. [MMW] • **George Rossi** (1961-2022), Scots actor in *Max Headroom* (1985), died on 5 January aged 60. • **Lee Server**, US writer on cinema and the pulps whose books include *Encyclopedia of Pulp Fiction Writers* (2002), died on 28 December aged 68. [SH] • **Roger Sims** (1930-2022), long-time US fan and con-runner who co-chaired the 1959 Worldcon – and other events including

Corflu, Ditto and FanHistoriCon – died on 23 January aged 91. He was the 1995 Down Under Fan Fund winner (with his wife Pat) and entered the First Fandom Hall of Fame in 2020. [JZ] • **Willie Siros**, US fan and book dealer who chaired the Texas conventions Solarcon (1975, 1976), Armadillocon (1979, 1980, 1981) and LoneStarCon (1985), died on 5 January aged 69. [LP] • **Carol Speed** (1945-2022), US actress in the *Exorcist*-inspired *Abby* (1974), died on 14 January aged 76. [SJ] • **Gaspard Ulliel** (1984-2022), French actor in *Brotherhood of the Wolf* (2001) and the coming Marvel tv adaptation *Moon Knight*, died on 19 January aged 37. [MMW] • **Jay Wolpert** (1942-2022), US tv game show creator who co-wrote the storyline for *Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl* (2003) – creating characters used in sequels – died on 3 January aged 79. [AIP] • **Dave Wolverton** (1957-2022), US author of much sf and (as David Farland) of the popular *Runelords* fantasy sequence opening with *The Sum of All Men* (1998 aka *The Runelords*), died on 14 January aged 64. He had for many years edited the annual *Writers of the Future* anthologies. [PDF] • **Bill Wright** (1937-2022), Australian fan active since the late 1950s, a founding member of ANZAPA and the Nova Mob, died on 16 January a day before his 85th birthday. He was the 2013 Down Under Fan Fund winner. [BG]

Court Circular. Pete Young reports: ‘Following the news on Dame Joanna Lumley and Dame Vanessa Redgrave, we supposedly already have a Dame among us: searching for Gwyneth Jones on Apple Books this weekend I see that all her titles are actually credited to “Dame Gwyneth Jones”, the Welsh operatic soprano.’ (Email, 4 January)

The Dead Past. 80 Years Ago, Walter H. Gillings reported that ‘*Tales of Wonder* has had a very narrow squeak indeed. “In the midst of preparing the issue,” says Wally, “I heard from World’s Work that it was quite possible it would never appear; it appears they wanted to transfer the paper they’re allowed for it, and that for their other two quarterlies, over to the monthly *Short Stories*, but they first had to get the consent of the Paper Centre – and this was not, fortunately for us, forthcoming.”’ (*Futurian War Digest* 17, February 1942) • 50 Years Ago, ‘Malcolm & Christine Edwards were married on February 12th and Graham & Pat Charnock on February 29th.’ (*Checkpoint* 15, March 1972) • 40 Years Ago, Kingsley Amis issued another definitive pronouncement that sf was dead. (*Radio Times*, 6 February 1982) • 20 Years Ago: ‘Ken Follett’s much publicized Discworld appearance (at a cost of £2,200 for charity) is as the sinisterly scheming Doctor Follett, head of the Assassins’ Guild in Terry Pratchett’s just-completed *Night Watch*.’ ... ‘Stephen King says he’s retiring after five more books. A collection and a novel this year, three more Dark Tower novels in 2003, and then: “That’s it. I’m done. Done writing books. [...] I don’t want to finish up like Harold Robbins. That’s my nightmare.”’ (*LA Times*, 27 January 2002) (*Ansible* 175, February 2002)

Fanfundery. Another free ebook at the TAFF site: *The Incomplete Burbee* from 1958, collecting much politically incorrect fanzine writing by old-time LA fan Charles Burbee. See taff.org.uk/ebooks.php?x=Burb. • Coming soon: the indefatigable Rob Hansen has assembled the parodic 1957-1975 fanzine adventures of Sir William Makepeace Harrison, stalwart defender of the British Empire, as *The Harrison Saga* chronicled by ‘Harry Hurstmonceaux O.B.E. and Cyril Faversham M.M.’

C.o.A. Mike Scott, Bryn Sirol, Ysceifog, Holywell, CH8 8NJ, UK.

Editorial. My publication score for 2021, besides the usual dozen *Ansibles*, was one issue of *Cloud Chamber*, eight ebooks for the TAFF website’s Little Free Library (some with Rob Hansen, who bemusedly reports that *Bixelstrasse* is now turning up on pirate sites), one *Ansible* Editions paperback of my own stuff, and a revamped online *SF Encyclopedia* which – touch wood – has yet to crash horribly. Keep watching the skies!

Random Fandom. *Fanzine Activity Achievement Awards* voting will close on 25 February. See efanzines.com/TIR/Incomplete2021.pdf.

Thog’s Masterclass. *Waggish Dept.* ‘Bending, her breasts wagging forward, she rummaged in the pocket of her blouse ...’ (Philip K. Dick, *Ubik*, 1969) [NW] • *Dept of How’s That Again?* ‘The man’s glance brushed a stroke from the computer across Kevin’s conservative denim suit to meet his eyes.’ (Ronnie Seagren, ‘Of Wood and Stone’ in *Once Upon a Galaxy* ed. Martin H. Greenberg and others, 2002) [TS] • *Figures of Speech.* ‘The moon hung like an undescended testicle in the sky.’ (Brian Aldiss, *The Male Response*, 1961) [DD] ‘The cameras followed them, silent as hepatitis.’ (Brian Aldiss, *The Eighty-Minute Hour*, 1974)

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