

# PNNewt 3

Special Rather Wet February Edition with Not Much Going On



## 2002 TAFF Nominations Open

Sue Mason, European TAFF administrator, has asked for nominations for prospective European candidates to attend ConJosé. Written nominations (from 3 European and 2 North American fans) along with a £10 bond and a platform of not more than 100 words should reach Sue by 28 February.



Tobes for TAFF – and this time he's serious

## BSFA Shortlist Announced

It's that time of year again. The shortlist for the 2002 BSFA Awards is as follows:

### Best Novel:

*American Gods*—Neil Gaiman (Feature)

*Pashazade*—by Jon Courtenay Grimwood (Earthlight)

*Bold as Love*—Gwyneth Jones (Gollancz)

*The Secret of Life*—Paul McAuley

(Voyager)

*Chasm City*—Alastair Reynolds (Gollancz)

*Lust*—Geoff Ryman (Flamingo)

### Best Short Story:

'Under the Saffron Tree'—Cherith Baldry (*Interzone* 166)

'First to the Moon'—Stephen Baxter & Simon Bradshaw (*Spectrum SF* 6, July 2001)

'The Children of Winter'—Eric Brown (*Interzone* 163)

'Myxomatosis'—Simon Ings (*Interzone* 165)

'Wind Angels'—Leigh Kennedy (*Interzone* 171)

'Isabel of the Fall'—Ian R. McLeod (*Interzone* 169)

### Best Non-Fiction:

*Omegatropic*—Stephen Baxter

*Terry Pratchett*—Andrew M Butler (Pocket Essentials)

*Tim Burton*—Colin Odell and Mitch LeBlanc (Pocket Essentials)

*Storming the Bastille*—Justina Robson (The Alien Online)

'The Best Introduction to the Mountains'—Gene Wolfe (*Interzone* 174)

### Best Artwork:

Cover of *Pashazade* by Jon Courtenay Grimwood—The Whole Hog

'Roach Hotel'—Dominic Harman (cover of *Interzone* 166)

Cover of *Omegatropic* by Stephen Baxter—Colin Odell

Cover of *Gridlinked* by Neal Asher—Steve Rawlings

*Heart of Empire, the CD-Rom*—Bryan Talbot

## Concourse—A Splitter Site than Usual

A 2004 Eastercon bid has emerged, with the unusual idea of asking voters to choose between two sites. Would you like the Eastercon to be in the recently refurbished Wintergardens in Blackpool, with many local restaurants, and cheap hotel space distributed about the town, or at the Radisson Edwardian at Heathrow, the con hotel for Evolution, sited on a dusty bit of A4, but with lovely, comfy, beds right there onsite? The committee consists of Marcus Streets, Chris "The Magician" O'Shea (for TAFF), and Jonathan "Jonjo" Jones.

## Clarke Shortlist Announced

The shortlist for the Arthur C Clarke Award is: *Pashazade* by Jon Courtenay Grimwood (Earthlight), *Fallen Dragon* by Peter F. Hamilton (Macmillan), *Bold as Love* by Gwyneth Jones (Gollancz), *The Secret of Life* by Paul McAuley (Voyager), *Mappa Mundi* by Justina Robson (Macmillan), and *Passage* by Connie Willis (Voyager). The judges are: Paul Billinger and Tony Cullen of the British Science Fiction Association, Doug Millard of the Science Museum, and Liz Sourbut and Lisa Tuttle of the Science Fiction Foundation. The administrator is Paul Kincaid.

## His Dark Materials—Now a Major Motion Picture!

Well, not yet, in fact. But Reuters reports that New Line Cinema (they of *Lord of the Rings*) have acquired the rights to Philip Pullman's terrific trilogy, *His Dark Materials*. The third part of the trilogy, *The Amber*

*Spyglass*, won the 2001 Whitbread Award, unleashing a flurry of comment about the 'new wave of children's literature' from previously stagnant journalists.

## Don't Forget those Hugo Nominations

If you're a member of ConJosé or The Millennium Philcon, you can nominate in the Hugos. Online at the ConJosé website even (<http://www.conjose.org>). You'll need your Hugo Nominating PIN (not to be confused with your Hugo Nominee Pin), and ballots must be received by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

## Vote in the Faan Awards

But be quick—they'll be awarded at Corflu Valentine next weekend. Victor is collecting votes; e-mail him at [vmgonzalez@hotmail.com](mailto:vmgonzalez@hotmail.com) with your top three picks, in order, for each of the categories Best Fanzine, Best Fanwriter, Best Fan Artist, Best Letterhack, and Best New Fanzine Fan.

## Fanzines not your thing?

### Nominate for the Pegasus Awards

The Pegasus Awards for filk will be awarded at OVFF in October. Nominate up to five songs/people in the categories of Best Filk Song, Best Writer/Composer, Best Performer, Best Chilling/Spine-Tingling, and Best Song that Tells a Story. Nominations to [OVFF@juno.com](mailto:OVFF@juno.com) by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Go Read Plokta Online

We've put two new issues (20 and 21) of our fanzine *Plokta* online at <http://www.plokta.com/plokta>. *Plokta* has won the Nova and been nominated several times for the Hugo, and is about, well, stuff.

**HARRY  
PLOKTA**  
*and the Blue Screen of Death*



J.R. HARTLEY  
WALTHAMSTON

The cover of *Plokta* 20

## Any Old words, Any Old Words

Mike Christie is spear-heading a project to collect cites for sfnal and fannish words under the auspices of the US wing of the Oxford English Dictionary.

It's a pilot project, and they're looking for high-quality cites of a wide range of words from sf, fandom, and sf criticism. As well as words used in science fiction, there are separate lists of sfnal criticism terms, and fannish terms. They also want suggestions for other words that ought to be on the list.

So, you too can haul out your obsolete video games searching for the word 'avatar' in the sense of a 'VR representation of a person' ante Neal Stephenson's *Snow Crash* in 1992. Or 'skyhook' (not Sky Hook or sky-hook) prior to Kim Stanley Robinson's *Red Mars*. Fun for all the family.

Cites from really well-known sources are better, of course, (for some reason, Heinlein juveniles seem to be particularly popular) but there are plenty of terms where any evidence will do. You would think, for example, that the many issues of Ian Sorensen's *Conrunner* would be pretty solid evidence for conrunning terms such as "conrunner". And *Ansible 45* is an earlier cite for the fannish sense of 'condom' than their listing from the 1989 Worldcon programme book. I love this game.

## Where Are They Now?

Lucy Huntzinger livened up our pre-Christmas gloom by posting a couple of dozen photos of UK fans from the mid-eighties in her web journal. Here, for example, is Don West in a Hawaiian shirt:



Meanwhile, Alun Harries hasn't changed a bit

## News from the 2005 Worldcon

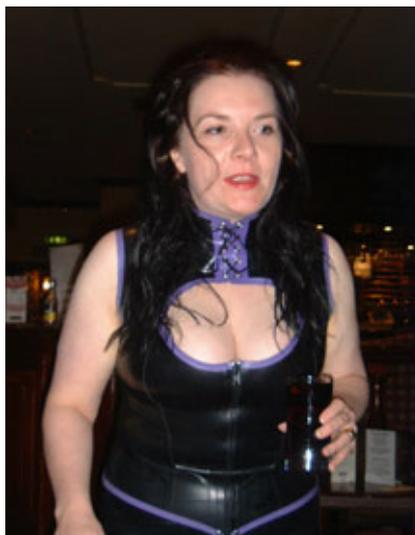
Vince Docherty has been appointed Operational Chair of the Glasgow Worldcon (if, as expected, they win the vote.) It can be hard to decode runes like this, but I reckon that's Chief Executive.

If you're interested in your views being taken into account when considering the guests for the 2005 Worldcon in Glasgow, e-mail Mark Plummer and Claire Brialey on [smoflet@fishlifter.demon.co.uk](mailto:smoflet@fishlifter.demon.co.uk).

If you're considering volunteering to help out with Worldcon, we recommend you seek immediate medical treatment.

## Entirely Gratuitous Picture of Alison Freebairn in Rubber Gear

Taken very very late at night at Novacon.



Gosh, you're beautiful when you're angry

## Date for your Diary

Remember that Picocon is on Saturday, at the Imperial College Union on Prince Consort Road, London. Guests are Anne Gay, Stan Nicholls and China Miéville.

## Fanzines Received

There's been a few, in fact. But I specifically wanted to mention a couple. *Science Fiction Five Yearly 11*, edited by Lee Hoffman, Geri Sullivan, Jeff Schalles and Terry Hughes, came out bang on time as usual, in glorious fluffy Fibertone. Fifty years after the original publication, it's still going strong. Much newer is *zoo nation 1*, which arrived out of the blue from neofan Pete Young. The strapline for this tiny perzine is "Steam Engine Time it Ain't", and that's fair. Lots of design, photos, a tiny Novacon report, a couple of rants, "why I am pubbing my ish". "what I've been reading lately", and loads of design. Oh, and small ads and a special issue one letter column. All very promising but could do with some articles in between all the nifty bits. Also in a tiny package, but pretty much just text, is David Levine and Kate Yule's *Bento*. The high quality of the writing is always the main event here, with the tiny format encouraging careful prose. David outlines the snowball effect of his writing career – perhaps we'll be buying his novels soon. Much bigger is the latest *Challenger*, with more great photos, this time of Guy's wedding. *Challenger's* well worth reading, and I enjoy large chunks of it, especially Guy's fascinating courtroom dramas. But Guy's relentless pounding after a Hugo gets tiresome after a while. If they dished out the fan Hugos to the people who want them the most, I'd have thought he was a shoo-in.

## Slow Glass Invented

According to *Nature*, researchers in the US and Korea have invented a crystal that sounds suspiciously like Bob Shaw's most famous creation, slow glass, as described in the stories collected in *Other Days, Other Eyes*. Except that they go one better by being able to stop light completely, and then emit it when they want to. Though meanwhile we've acquired much of the social change effected by slow glass through the simpler matter of slathering our public places in video cameras.

## RIP

**Andromeda** bookshop, SF and fantasy specialist, closing its doors after 30 years in the trade. Rog can still fill orders from books in stock, and we urge you all to buy books from him while you can.

**Jack "Jay" Haldeman** (1941-2002), SF author and fan, died following an illness; he wrote novels, stories, non-fiction and poetry, and was chair of Discon II, the 1974 Worldcon.

**Cele Goldsmith**, managing editor of *Fantastic* and *Amazing Stories* from 1961-1965, died aged 68; she was responsible for buying the first published stories from Zelazny, Disch, LeGuin and many others.

## Memestream

Concourse: <http://www.eastercon.com/concourse>, Beyond Cyberdrome: <http://www.beyondcyberdrome.org.uk>, Weird British Buffy parody: <http://www.fluffytheslayer.com/>, The Lord of the Rings considered as a downhill academic race: [http://danny.oz.au/danny/humour/phd\\_lotr.html](http://danny.oz.au/danny/humour/phd_lotr.html), Just exactly how geeky are you? <http://www.brunching.com/features/geekhierarchy.html>, cute iMac animation: <http://www.mab3d.com/images/quicktimepop02.html>, Skin diseases in The Lord of the Rings: <http://itsb.ucsf.edu/~vcr/Spot17LOTR.html>, Secret Slash Journals of the Fellowship: <http://www.livejournal.com/users/cassieclaire/>, Janice Gelb's Smofcon 2001 Report: [http://www.geocities.com/j\\_gelb/snofcon01.htm](http://www.geocities.com/j_gelb/snofcon01.htm), Harvey the Mouse Must Die: <http://www.stupidinternet.org/mouse.html>, All Your Newbie Usenet Posts Preserved For Eternity: <http://groups.google.com>, Dating SF words: [http://www.jessesword.com/SF/sf\\_citations.shtml](http://www.jessesword.com/SF/sf_citations.shtml)

The *Plokta News Newt* is the analog edition of the Plokta News Network, oversampled (rather quickly this time) by Alison Scott. *PNN* includes regularly updated news for SF fans, along with links to great fanwriting online and other interesting stuff, and you can read it online at <http://www.plokta.com/pnn> or sign up for emails. Newt by Sue Mason. Send news, LoCs and feedback to Alison Scott, 24 St Mary Road, Walthamstow, London E17 9RG or to [locs@plokta.com](mailto:locs@plokta.com). Issue 3, February Nurse, 2002.