



# THE NAVEL

STARS IN MY POCKET LIKE GRAINS OF FLUFF

## COLOPHON

This issue is being put together after the yummy cabal dinner at La Taverna. Any typos or irreconcilable errors should be put down to the unique nature of this handcrafted wine-fuelled product. La Taverna is jolly nice, if perhaps a little pricey (£40/head) and Giulia got completely squiffy and has gone to bed. Lightweight. If you're still here on Tuesday evening they do a staggeringly cheap Tuesday-only deal: two courses plus a bottle of house wine per head for £15.

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## Navel Manoeuvres

The SCA event on Monday morning at 10:00 is cancelled.

## Announcements

Don't forget to bid in the art show. It opens on Sunday at 9am (dealers) or 10am (others).

## BSFA Awards

**Best Artwork:** Angelbot, Fangorn (Cover of *Time Pieces*, ed. Ian Whates)

**Best Short Fiction:** "The Djinn's Wife", Ian McDonald (Asimov's Science Fiction, June)

**Best Novel:** *End of the World Blues*, Jon Courtenay Grimwood (Gollancz)

The awards were presented in under eight minutes—it's been known to take longer than that to draw a single ticket in the Novacon raffle.

Did we already mention that you should vote for Steve for GUFF?

## FanFundery

At the League of Fan Funds table in the Dealers' Room you can:

- vote to send one of many lovely candidates to Japan
- vote to send ~~one of four~~ lovely candidates **Steve Davies** to Australia
- buy cheap books and T-shirts
- get free fanzines including the GUFF fanzine *Maguffin*
- support the fan funds

Following a £10 bid to keep him hairy, ½r granted a temporary stay of execution to his whiskers.

Shaving will resume later unless people pay more not to. Contact ½r or the LFF to protect or prevent hairiness. [Claire Brialey]

There are other Easter conventions

## Minicon News

There's still free-flowing bheer and cider in the Minicon consuite. Free as in beer. Free condoms, too. Minicon's very own Dr. Whoopie (Neil Rest) reminds all near and far to "play safe."

GoH Charles de Lint [*who really ought to be an honorary Navel GoH—Ed.*] and his wife Mary Ann Harris arrived a bit late due to dramatic US weather. At Opening Ceremonies, Charles told of United "rebooting the plane" Thursday. Too bad the jet's equivalent of Control-Alt-Delete didn't work. [Get a Mac—Ed.]

Saturday morning, GoH Charles Vess is showing the *Stardust* movie trailer along with stills and tales from the set.

## THINGS YOU NEVER KNEW ABOUT NAVELS NUMBER 3

Another navel divination method, "omphalomancy", gave only one specific item of information. It predicted how many children a woman would give birth to, by counting the number of knots (bumps in the fleshy plaiting) in her umbilical cord when she was born.

Thanks to David and Shannon Perry's Most Excellent Music Party, I was around for the Krahn-Gahlon 4am pulse check Friday night. Gahlon might not have been able to stay up for the count himself—when I last saw Laurel Krahn shortly after 4, she hadn't yet found him.

Alastair Reynolds will be Pro GoH at Minicon 43 in 2008; other guests are still TBA. [*Geri Sullivan*]

Bribe us with flapjack and we'll advertise *your* con too

### Convention Plugs

**Satellite 1**—Campanile Hotel, Glasgow, Saturday October 6th 2007. GoH Ken Macleod [*Yay! Ken!—Ed.*]

**Confounding Tales**—Normandy Hotel, Glasgow, 25th-27th May 2007.

**Discworld Convention 2008**—Hilton Metropole Hotel, Birmingham, 22nd to 25th August 2008. Guest of Honour: Terry Pratchett. Discount rates available from con registration or Chris O'Shea.

### Panel Reviews

**Climate Change: Fans and Carbon Footprints:** Socially responsible panel in which fans told each other to switch off computer screens, shop locally, insulate their houses and not to fly to far off corners of the world just to ~~guzzle beer~~ attend cons, punctuated by complaints that some right bastard had switched off the air conditioning in the room.

**What Makes a Good Book Review?:** Serious panel in which lots of serious things were said, held in the half of the Kings which gets all the air conditioning, aka, The Freezer.

**Hay Lecture:** Held in the conjoined Kings I and II rooms, and therefore with ideal temperature, highly entertaining lecture with tricks and visual illusions and a bonsai kitten to start it off.

**These Are Not the Tits You're Looking For:** This ended on the sober note that the con committee has a moral and legal responsibility to see to it that fans are not killed and eaten by other fans. Con committee looked a little worried at the prospect. [*Anna Feruglio Dal Dan*]

**Victorian Super Science:** Ranged from Copernick to Edwardian, tried to define super science first (anything that seemed like magic, or maybe a gadget that only one person understands) and talked about what Victorians thought about it themselves (mostly nothing to be taken seriously). They went on to discuss exciting stories, not so much social science fiction as Darwinism, types of aliens for these readers, and lots more.

Did Victorian super science influence modern SF? Dave mentioned *Doctor Who* that refers back to it, Marcus thought it largely forgotten, maybe because many people rebelled against it, and SMS seemed to agree, mentioning it made a difference that Victorians could get their hands into their science, while nowadays we cannot (try to repair a phonograph versus an MP3 player).

**Braintrix** (George Hay Lecture): Wonderfully interesting lecture by Dr Guillaume Thierry on how the brain tricks us into believing there is a world out there that we control. E.g.: language starts by creating sounds in our throat, these reach the brain via the ear,

and then somehow we make sense of it. We just create meaning; what we're living is just an illusion.

This was amply illustrated by left/right eye anaglyphs, the perception of sound aided by vision in the McGurk effect, the influence of attention and wonderful light & shade tricks (Google "akiyoshi" for more). [*Jan van't Ent*]

### Fat Fangirls Alert

Evans has a sale on. [*Sue Mason, whose credit card is lighter now.*]

### Restaurant Review

Shanghai is quite a long walk (about a mile—after you get to Hoole Road it takes a long time to get to number 4), but a very good Chinese. Lots of seafood and sizzling dishes, and vegetarians may like the Swede in Honey and Lemon. I did, and I'm a meateater. [*Michael Abbott*]

### Random Bits of Fluff

Argument rages in the bar on the subject of which animal Tobes has killed and stuck to his upper lip. Teledu? Wombat? Human? Eric S Raymond?

### Overheard in the Bar

"The reason I go to BSFA meetings is because it's the only place you can get a ginger beer shandy these days... Not only that but they have two types of ginger beer."

"I'm not Dutch, I don't put mayonnaise on anything"

"Oh my God. I'd forgotten all these places I can put my hands."

"Being sci-fi fans we have two squamouses and an eldritch."

### Karaoke Disco Review

*Aaaargh!* My ears, my ears!