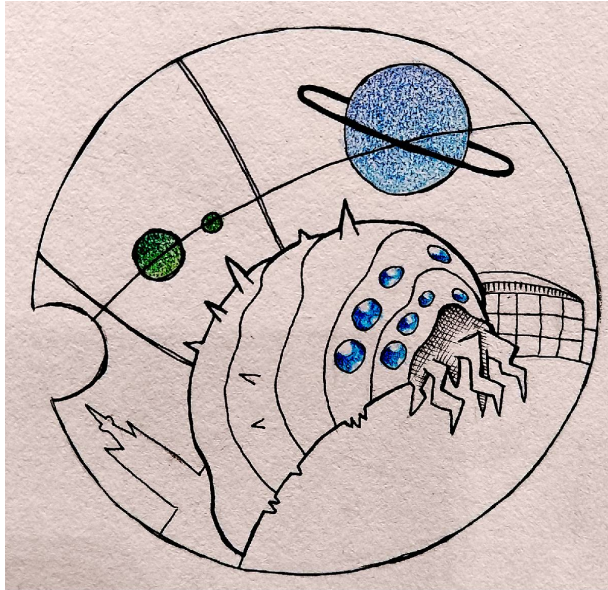


Glasgow 2024 Instant Fanzine



– Sophie van Setten

Initial observations on the Glasgow specimen of *Linobractea Gigantis Caledonis*, also known as the "Armadillo" or "Pillbug"

By S. van Setten and S. Raine

As our readers are aware, there has been much recent speculation and discussion about the Armadillo. As such, we the authors have endeavoured to lay out the known facts about this fascinating and (almost) singular creature.

The Armadillo made its first appearance in 1995 and seemed to settle in its current position around 1997. This is some time after the appearance of the creature described by Utzon et al. in

Sydney, the *L. Gigantis Australis*, or "Sydney Opera House", which seems to be visually related to the Glasgow specimen. Since 1997, it has not moved much, though seismographic recordings have shown evidence of slight shifts.

As of writing, we do not know where the creature has come from or what it is, exactly. It is tempting to conclude that the Armadillo is a giant extraterrestrial creature, but as we are dealing with facts, we will not make such speculations.

What we do know is that it is a filter feeder, positioning itself into the strong Glaswegian winds to filter its nutrients. It has a large aperture at what is colloquially known as its head, where wind and humans are able to enter.

It has been observed that humans inside the Armadillo have naturally, almost instinctively taken on a mutualistic relationship. Humans circulate the air inside the creature, enabling it to feed more effectively, and cleaning up detritus that might injure the creature, and the humans can safely make use of its vast inner chambers for sheltering and carrying events.

Thus far, attempts at communication with the Armadillo have been unsuccessful. However, leading theories

agree that its nocturnal bioluminescence functions as means of communication, perhaps with the nearby Ovo Hydro, as it too exhibits similar nocturnal bioluminescence.

As the Armadillo has been stationary for some years, it's unlikely to suddenly increase its activities and cause a dangerous situation in Glasgow. That said, if the Sydney specimen is of the same species, we may soon have a growth spurt on our hands. It will do us well to prepare the surroundings, as we do not want to be caught unawares by its inevitable shedding, pupating or molting.

Vis a vis the *L. Gigantis Australis*, it has been speculated that the difference in size between the Australian specimen and the one found in Glasgow might be based on the creature's sex. Other theories include that the *Linobractae Gigantis*, like the clownfish, starts its lifecycle as one sex, and transitions to another as it ages and grows. However, as the *L. Gigantis Australis* and *L. Gigantis Caledonis* are the only observed specimens of this species, only time and rigorous research will be able to tell what exactly causes the difference in size.

We hope to update our known facts about the *Linobractea Gigantis* shortly, following an in-depth spelunking mission to its internal cavity known as "Forth".



You guys are in a crisis. I'm on my way
(To make it worse)

Soph W

– Soph Williams

"If We Ran The Zoo Con"

This game has been going on in the Worldcon discord (organised by John Coxon). During this game a divisive character called Fran (a social media volunteer) emerged to prominence as she quickly became embroiled in the center of a social media storm about Moon Pies.

Some considered her a Fran Favorite. In others, she stirred up feelings of Franimosity. Regardless, it was incredibly fun to get invested in the drama of it all. (With mercifully no horrifying real world consequences!)

– Soph Williams

A worldcon first-timer's guide to ribbon collecting

This year was my first worldcon, and in fact my first convention of this format. Now, I've been to other conventions, faires and get-togethers so I wasn't completely unprepared for what I'd find. I know about panels, and autographs, and dealer halls! I was delighted to find so many kind people, but not too surprised as nerds are generally a kind sort wherever you go.

But the ribbons. You see, in the Netherlands we don't do ribbons. We don't even do badges. We do wristbands and there's a very active wristband collecting scene. But that didn't prepare me for the ribbons, and the covid-like greed they awoke in me. I simply had to acquire as many as I could. But how? Here are my findings.

Ribbon collecting DO's:

- If you find a pile of ribbons lying on a table, they are often free to take, but do ask to be sure. Sometimes they're a "get one with a purchase" thing.
- If you see someone walking around with an amazing ribbon that catches your gremlinesque avarice, ask where they got it! This does involve Talking to People, but trust me, it's worth it.
- Even if you don't necessarily want to acquire a ribbon, compliment people on their collection! It's a great ice breaker.

- If someone shares the location of an amazing ribbon with you, try to follow up ASAP. They might run out!
- You can remove and restick ribbons, but be careful as this might cause the glue to unstick or the fabric to fray.
- If you need to reinforce your increasingly unwieldy ribbon-scarf, painter's tape or a bit of needle and thread will work wonders.
- Periodically check the freebie tables, people will occasionally leave some ribbon-y goodness there.
- Keep an eye on the discord for tips on where to find ribbons, who has them, and to stew in envy over the beautiful bounty you have not been able to get your grubby hands on.

Ribbon collecting DON'T's:

- Don't take more than a fair share. Taking an extra ribbon for a friend is usually okay, but you might want to ask with the person handing out the ribbons.
- Don't succumb to the urge to shovel an entire table's worth of ribbons into your bag and skitter away sideways, like a possessed crab.
- Don't be pushy. If they're out, they're out!
- Don't latch on to someone's ribbons, engaging in a violent tug of war to the death for your desired loot.
- Don't challenge someone with a ribbon that opposes one of your own to a duel. Or do, but try to schedule it in the secrecy of nighttime and outside of convention grounds so as not to draw the ire of con security.

- Don't stress if you miss a coveted ribbon. You might find it tomorrow. You might find an even better one tomorrow!
- Most importantly, don't forget to have fun!

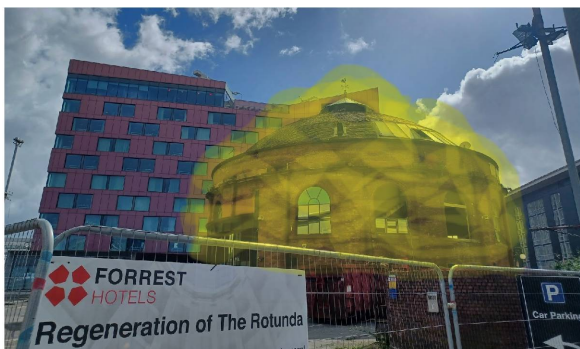
So far, my favourite ribbon is a toss-up between a rainbow gradient with the words "be kind, be curious, be the darkness" and a very fetching bat given to me by the kind folks at the German fanclub fan table and a sparkly holographic number that says "OOK! SQUEAK! CRIVENS!" located by the freebies.

If (when!) I visit another worldcon, perhaps I'll bring my own stack, if only so I can trade for more... So, what ribbons are you craving?

— Sophie van Setten

—

Spotted Near the SEC: "Regeneration of the Rotunda"



— submitted by Radeachar

Noticeboard

Dragon trainer seeks an escaped dragon. Dragon not dangerous, but don't push it. Dragon is about the size of a largish cat or a smallish toy griffin, is green and listens to the name "Pookie".

Android looking to trade for additional modular ram. Will take both the digital and biological type. Curly-horned preferred.

Additional reminder not to ingest any potions found lying around. Please return them to the info desk for the lost and found bin. After last night's petrification incident, any reckless potion-drinkers are on their own.

Tlla tl if aol Vynhupzhapvu mvv
Ayhuzmvythapcl Dvyrz mhu ahisl ha
alu.

Have you heard the good word of Cthulhu? Find a free flyer at the freebie table and join us now! Tomorrow might be too late!!! IA IA PHTAGN!

Serenity crew members, please use the washrooms on the ship. Male and female Operatives may be working in the washrooms at the SEC.

Obligatory daily subversive thoughts scan at the convention entrance.

You will be assimilated.

EXTERMINATE!

Vibrant Food Culture: the Pizza Crunch Supper



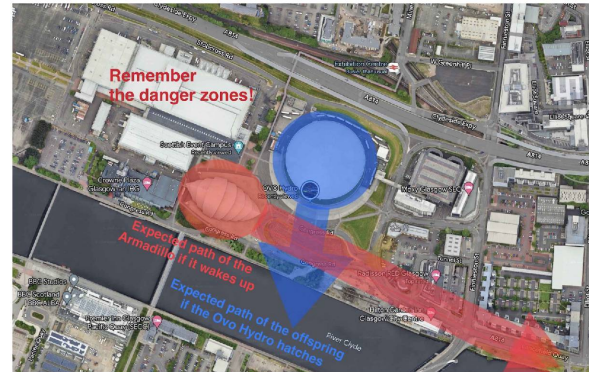
– Clarrie Maguire

Organ music concert roundup:

Attendees at the Roger Sayer events were treated to a version of the score for the film 'Interstellar' adapted for one organ, in one case performed by Roger on the 123-year-old organ at the Kelvingrove Museum. The actual movie score features six organ tracks performed by Roger and recorded separately, then combined digitally. The recorded performance is available through glasgow2024.org. Reports that Roger performed 'Intergalactic' by the Beastie Boys as an encore but that it was not recorded due to rights issues could not be confirmed at press time.

– Pat Hall

SEC Danger Zones



– Pat Hall



Dungeons & Dragons and Album Covers

I saw the "From Glasgow to Avernus" oneshot last night. There was mention of a hastily sketched album cover and I had a vision. Everyone involved was great and I wish I had brought more art supplies with me.

– Soph W

**The Culture precursor – the story
Better Living Through Algorithms by
Naomi Kritzer (a spoilerless review
with hints).**

Better Living... appeared in mid-2023 at Clarkesworld Magazine and received uniformly high appreciation in the form of multiple nominations, including Nebula, Hugo and WSFA Small Press awards. Not many works receive so many signs of appreciation from the professional community and the fandom.

Reading is talking to others, except the interlocutors may be separated by thousands of miles and hundreds of years. I listened to the audio-version on my usual biking ride to work. Biking, much like running, is a favorite occupation of loners, but if you are not exactly the textbook-type loner, some company in the form of short stories is welcomed and *Better Living...* proved to be an excellent companion, because this story is an exception from the fashionable grim trend “the worst is the best” that has taken over a large fraction of the modern world.

Kritzer meets us with loners: scattered in the urban landscape, every one of them imprisoned inside four walls by their own volition. They are torn between conflicting desires – to keep things the way they are or to change their lives, and the very perspective of change freezes them in horror, so

encompassing they can't even take notice of it.

Enter the Application. The capitalization here is not a typo, despite my non-native English. The Application is wonderful – it reads our unspoken desires before we have formulated them for ourselves, but unlike the online retailers, it doesn't use this info to try selling us yet another beauty product, garden appliance or weight loss product (that we wouldn't have needed, if we hadn't bought earlier all those double or triple decker sandwiches, following a suggestion by the same retailer). This Application is different. It genuinely does good. It helps the users to embrace the changes in their lives that they have thought of and they have long needed, some – desperately. The process is almost intangible, one small step after another and it goes to the credit of the author that the long and slow change is packed into a story of a few thousands words.

To take a break from analyzing the story line – this is a piece based on an idea, but the literary side of the storytelling is not overlooked and characters are fully fledged – as much as it is possible within the limitations of a short story – and it is impressive how well the minimalist tools in the writer's arsenal work: a dialog line here, a short action there, and we already feel like having read hundreds of pages about the character. Of course, the cast is limited in number – as it is usual for a short story.

Back to the idea which I shan't reveal in this review, because reading the surprising ending is a big part of the pleasure this story gifts. At the same time the ending brings a lot of annoying questions that everybody asks, but prefers to forget them quickly. For example: are we, as a collective human kind, so hopelessly entrenched in our own delusions and captured by our own faults, to need external help for overtaking loneliness? Here comes the connection with the Culture, featured prominently in the speculative fiction novels of Iain M. Banks. The Culture is pan-galactic humanistic human society, to great extent run by benevolent Minds, and people are free to do pretty much whatever they want, as long as it doesn't do any harm.

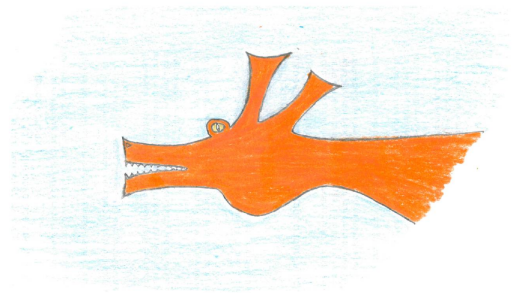
What I liked most in *Better Living...* was that it claimed we could overcome loneliness. What I liked the least is that we would need help. This is the darkest element in the story – we can't do it alone, by ourselves. Some nudge in the right direction is needed, but still, on a long run we or at least most of us – could sustain the positive trend.

I highly recommend *Better Living...* It will be an excellent companion to all lonely souls who fill in their time with running, biking... or reading.

– **Valentin D. Ivanov**,
8-10.8.2024, London-Glasgow



– **Silvia Ivanova-Tsaneva**



My favorite dragon – Valentin D. Ivanov



Sleeper ship – Valentin D. Ivanov

Dune! The Musical: The review!

Dune! The Musical is a one man comedy show by Dan Collins. It roughly retells the story of the first book in the format of Gurney Halleck getting the audience up to speed.

Now that we've got the dry and dusty details out of the way, what was it

actually like? We can't show you what it's like or have you, the reader, listen to the music or Dan Collins' wonderfully varied vocals, so all that's left for us is to paint you a word picture.

First: picture Paul Atreides. The Timothee Chalamet version is fine. Now make him a muppet: give him a voice like a dog toy being stepped on. Finally, make him sing about the girl of his dreams. His bloody, war-drenched, conquering dreams. Yes, perfect. I applaud your imagination.

But don't clap along! NO RHYTHM!

Now that you understand the general vibe of the show, try to project this many-voiced, joke-filled format onto a story that takes itself as seriously as Dune. It may surprise you, but I swear it works quite well. The room was roaring at Baron Harkonnen's death scene: "goodness, that child's got a knife".

The character of the Baron is not my favourite (to phrase it lightly), but that's the fault of the source material rather than Collins. Thankfully, with the Baron out of the way, the musical continues to its dramatic conclusion. Which is hard to take seriously when Paul still sounds somewhat like a muppet, even when he's setting off to rule the universe. (Good! I didn't want to take the giant worms seriously today anyway.)

All in all, some excellent vocal skills and an enjoyable hour of timing and comedy. Dune! The Musical is off to

Edinburgh next, in case you missed it here. Failing that, you can find the [original cast recording](#) (Dan Collins) on bandcamp.

—
– **Sam Raine & Sophie van Setten**

Instant fanzines are fun, what next?

If you particularly like the instant nature of it, then volunteer to help with convention newsletters. Short articles and con-inspired art are the sort of thing they love. They're also an endangered species, so get involved now!

For traditional fanzines, the best place to look at what's being done right now is Bill Burns' <https://efanzines.com>. There are thousands of fanzines to download. Many have a letter column – tell people what you think of their fanzines! And there are tens of thousands of historic fanzines preserved at <https://fanac.org>. Fanac.org has a table in the fan tables area and they love to chat to people about fanzines.

– **Alison Scott, 11.08.2024, Glasgow**

<p>The Glasgow 2024 Instant Fanzine. Conceived by Alison Scott and Valentin D Ivanov, produced at con by Alison, Valentin, Soph Williams, Sophie van Setten, Sam Raine and Pat Hall. A contribution to WOOF 2024. See you in Seattle!</p>
