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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, collapsium or a piece of the congohelium.

Me Again with more musty old stuff. *Crosstalk: Interviews Conducted by David Langford* is a collection of (surprise!) interviews with genre writers, first published from 1976 to 2001. Trade paperback and ebook versions available. Read all about it at ansible.uk/books/crosstalk.html.

The Oracle of the Dog

Susan Allison, Berkley Publishing Group vice-president and editorial director, retires on 1 July after more than 40 years in publishing and more than 33 years with Penguin. (*Publishers Lunch*) [AIP]

Michael Bond, creator of Paddington Bear, received the CBE in the 2015 Queen's Birthday Honours. Other genre-related honours included an OBE for Steven Moffat, believed to have something to do with *Doctor Who*, and a CBE for the ubiquitous Benedict Cumberbatch. • Down Under, ultra-prolific romance writer Valerie Parv—whose sf venture is *Birchright* (2012)—became a member of the Order of Australia. [PV]

Godzilla, alias Gojira, has been made an official resident of Shinjuku Ward, Tokyo, for 'Promoting the entertainment of and watching over the Kabuki-cho neighborhood and drawing visitors from around the globe in the form of the Godzilla head built atop the Shinjuku Toho Building.' (Rocketnews24.com, 30 May) [MPJ] Also, presumably, for services to urban renewal by stepping on local eyesores.

Rhianna Pratchett made it clear: 'To reiterate—No I don't intend on writing more Discworld novels, or giving anyone else permission to do so. They are sacred to dad.' (Twitter, 5 June)

J.R.R. Tolkien was in the news again when a 1937 first edition of *The Hobbit* auctioned at Sotheby's on 4 June fetched a record £137,000. (BBC, 4 June) Part of the attraction was Tolkien's calligraphic verse inscription, described in the Sotheby's catalogue as Elvish but very soon identified as Old English. Oops. (*The Globe and Mail*, 5 June) [MPJ]

Contentenent

2 Jul • **London First Thursday** pub meeting, from 6pm or earlier, now back at the old pub after refurbishment—name changed from The Melton Mowbray to The Inn of Court. 18 Holborn, London, EC1N 2LE.

4 Jul • **Tolkien Society Seminar**, Hilton Hotel, Leeds, LS1 4BX. See www.tolkiensociety.org/events/tolkien-society-seminar-2015/.

7-8 Jul • **Locating Fantastika** (academic conference), Lancaster University. Free. See fantastikaconference.wordpress.com.

11 Jul • **Edge-Lit 4**, Cinema One, QUAD Centre, Derby. Tickets £30. Book online at www.derbyquad.co.uk/special-event/edge-lit-4.

17-19 Jul • **SF Foundation Masterclass in SF Criticism**, Royal Observatory, Greenwich. £200 (postgrads £150). For fuller details see www.sf-foundation.org/masterclass2015.

22 Jul • **BSFA Open Meeting**, Artillery Arms, 102 Bunhill Row, London, EC1Y 8ND. 5/6pm for 7pm. With Rebecca Levene. Free.

7-9 Aug • **Nine Worlds Geekfest** (multimedia), Heathrow. £95; child £47.50. Advance booking online only at ninenworlds.co.uk.

19-23 Aug • **Sasquan** (Worldcon), Spokane Convention Center, Spokane, WA, USA. \$210 reg; \$105 YA/military; \$90 child; \$40 supp. Advance registration closes 2 August. \$240 at the door. See sasquan.org. 28-31 Aug • **The Asylum** (steampunk), Lincoln. Tickets £35 (day £13), under-17s £18 (£6.50), plus fees. See steampunk.synthasite.com.

23-25 Oct • **Fantasycon**, Orchard Hotel, Nottingham. £65 reg; couples £110; under-16s £30; under-5s free. Rates to rise 1 July, but no price update at fantasycon2015.org when *Ansible* went to press.

12-15 Nov • **Gatecon** (*Stargate/Farscape*), Holiday Inn, Brentford Lock, London. 'Early bird' tickets £100; £45 per day Friday, Saturday or Sunday; banquet £30 extra. See www.gatecon.com.

4-5 Jul 2016 • **Global Fantastika** (academic conference), Lancaster University. See fantastikaconference.wordpress.com as above.

Rumblings. Final Alert: the 2015 Hugo voting deadline is 31 July. See sasquan.org/hugo-awards/voting/... Worldcon membership number and PIN required. For the WSFS Business Meeting agenda and proposed Hugo rules changes, go to sasquan.org/business-meeting/agenda/. More proposals may be yet added, up to the 6 August cutoff date.

Infinitely Improbable

Dept of Prophetic Speech: 'I am Groot.' (Michael Moorcock, *The War Hound and the World's Pain*, 1981) [TMeD]

Awards. John W. Campbell Memorial: Claire North, *The First Fifteen Lives of Harry August*. • Lambda Award SF/F/H category, Chaz Brenchley, *Bitter Waters*. • Nebulas: NOVEL Jeff VanderMeer, *Annihilation*. NOVELLA Nancy Kress, *Yesterday's Kin*. NOVELETTE Alaya Dawn Johnson, 'A Guide to the Fruits of Hawaii' (7-8/14 F&SF). SHORT Ursula Vernon, 'Jackalope Wives' (1/7/14 Apex). DRAMATIC *Guardians of the Galaxy*. YA Alaya Dawn Johnson, *Love Is the Drug*. • Science Fiction Hall of Fame: James E. Gunn, Georges Méliès, John Schoenher and Kurt Vonnegut. [L] • Seiun (Japan) for translated work: LONG Andrew Weir trans Kazuko Onoda, *The Martian*. SHORT Pat Cadigan trans Yooichi Shimada, 'The Girl-Thing Who Went Out for Sushi'. [SFS] • Sturgeon Award (short): Cory Doctorow, 'The Man Who Sold the Moon' (*Hieroglyph: Stories and Visions for a Better Future*). [F770]

Happy Juxtaposition. Discovered in a listing of books for sale: 'A student of archeology in a magical world comes across a sentient book that used to be a sorcerer. No remainder marks, not price-clipped, does not appear to have been read. Minor bumping to one edge, slight edge wear to jacket ...' [BA] Pointy hat slightly foxed.

R.I.P. Phil Austin (1941-2015) of the radio/recorded comedy group The Firesign Theatre—whose albums *Don't Crush That Dwarf*, *Hand Me the Pliers* (1970) and *I Think We're All Bozos on This Bus* (1971) were Dramatic Presentation Hugo finalists—died on 18 June aged 74. • Paul Bacon (1923-2015), US graphic artist whose more than 6,500 book covers include over 100 for sf novels, died on 8 June; he was 91. [PDF] • Katherine Chappell (1985-2015), US film visual effects editor whose credits include *Game of Thrones*, *Captain America: The Winter Soldier* (2014) and *Godzilla* (2014), was killed by a lioness in Lion Park, Johannesburg, on 1 June; she was 29. [PDF] • Robert Chartoff (1933-2015), Oscar-winning US producer whose best-known genre film was *Enders Game* (2013), died on 10 June aged 81. [MPJ] • Callisto Cosulich (1922-2015), Italian actor/writer who scripted the original *Planet of the Vampires* (1965), died on 6 June aged 92. [PDF] • Rick Ducommun (1952-2015), Canadian actor/comedian whose genre films include *Spaceballs* (1987), *Grem'lins 2* (1990) and *Groundhog Day* (1993), died on 12 June aged 62. [PDF] • Chris Gilmore (1947-2013), *Interzone* reviewer in the David Pringle era, freelance copyeditor who worked on *Spectrum SF*, and author of a few short stories, died on 6 May 2013 aged 66. [JP] • Julie Harris (1921-2015), Oscar-winning UK costume designer who worked on three James Bond films plus *The Land That Time Forgot* (1975), *Rollerball* (1975) and *The Great Muppet Caper* (1981), died on 30 May; she was 94. [MPJ] • James Horner (1953-2015), Oscar-winning US composer of film scores whose genre credits include *Star Trek II* (1982), *Star Trek III* (1984), *Cocoon* (1985), *Aliens* (1986), *Field of Dreams* (1989), *The Rocketeer* (1991), *Deep Impact* (1998), *Bicentennial Man* (1999), *Avatar* (2009) and many more, died in a small-plane crash on 22 June; he was 61. [MH] • Wolfgang Jeschke (1936-2015), Czech-born German sf author, fan, editor and publisher (the long-time sf specialist at Heyne) whose first novel was *Der letzte Tag der Schöpfung* (1981; trans as *The Last Day of Creation* 1982), died on 10 June; he was 78. [DP] • Richard Johnson (1927-2015), UK actor whose credits include *The Haunting* (1963), *Zombie* (1979) and *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider* (2001), died on 6 June aged 87. [PDF] • Hiroshi Koizumi (1926-2015), Japanese actor seen in *Godzilla Raids Again* (1955) and many more films starring Godzilla/Gojira or other monsters, died on 31 May; he was 88. [MPJ] • Sir Christopher Lee (1922-2015), UK actor most famed for his many Hammer Films portrayals of Dracula and perhaps most loved as the Laird in *The Wicker Man* (1973)—with further memorable appearances in the Fu-Manchu, James Bond, *Lord of the Rings*, *Star Wars* and *Hobbit* franchises—died on 7 June aged 93. Early monstrous rôles for Hammer included *The Curse of Frankenstein* (1957) and *The Mummy* (1959). His autobiography is *Tall, Dark and*

Gruesome (1977; exp 1997). He was knighted in 2009. ● **Graham Lord** (1943-2015), Rhodesia-born UK author whose ventures were *God and All His Angels* (1976) and *A Party to Die For* (1997), died on 13 June aged 72. [PDF] ● **Patrick Macnee** (1922-2015), UK actor forever identified with *The Avengers* at its 1961-1969 classical best—which featured many weird and science-fictional tropes—died on 25 June aged 93. Other genre credits include *Battlestar Galactica* (1978-1979: several roles), *The Howling* (1981) and *Lobster Man from Mars* (1989). [AW] ● **Ron Moody** (1924-2015), UK actor whose genre credits included *The Mouse on the Moon* (1963), *Unidentified Flying Oddball* (1979) and *Into the Labyrinth* (tv 1981-1982), died on June 11; he was 91. [SFS] ● **Earl Norem** (1924-2015), US artist who painted for *Masters of the Universe* and other pop-culture franchises, died on 19 June; though 91 he was still working, on a *Mars Attacks* trading card project. [PDF] ● **Jack Rollins** (1915-2015), executive producer (usually jointly; not always credited) of Woody Allen's films, including *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex ...* (1972), *Sleeper* (1973) and *The Purple Rose of Cairo* (1985), died on 18 June; he was 100. [MMW] ● **Charles W. Runyon** (1928-2015), US author of thrillers and some sf—including *Pig World* (1971) and three other novels—died on 8 June; he was 87. ● **Kazuya Tatekabe** (1934-2015), Japanese voice actor best known for the anime series *Doraemon* (1979-2005 tv, plus specials and films), died on 18 June aged 80. [PDF] ● **Mary Ellen Trainor** (1952-2015), US actress whose credits include *Back to the Future II* (1989), *Death Becomes Her* (1992) and *Freaky Friday* (2003), died on 20 May aged 62. [PDF] ● **Dick Van Patten** (1928-2015), US actor whose films include *Westworld* (1973), *Freaky Friday* (1976), *Spaceballs* (1987) and *Robin Hood: Men in Tights* (1993), died on 23 June; he was 86.

The Weakest Link. *Bradley Walsh*: 'In the works of Tolkien the Shire was originally made up of four sub-divisions known as what? A. Farthings. B. Pennies. C. Shillings. You've put—Pennies.' *Contestant* (who had revealed earlier that his favourite book is *The Hobbit*): 'That was another guess I'm afraid.' (ITV, *The Chase*, 1 June) [MPJ]

Locus Awards SF Ann Leckie, *Ancillary Sword*. FANTASY Katherine Addison, *The Goblin Emperor*. DEBUT Mary Rickett, *The Memory Garden*. YA Joe Abercrombie, *Half a King*. NOVELLA Nancy Kress, *Yesterday's Kin*. NOVELLETTE Joe Abercrombie, 'Tough Times All Over' (*Rogues*). SHORT Amal El-Mohtar, 'The Truth About Owls' (*Kaleidoscope*). ANTHOLOGY *Rogues* ed. George R.R. Martin & Gardner Dozois. COLLECTION Jay Lake, *Last Plane to Heaven*. NONFICTION Jo Walton, *What Makes This Book So Great*. ART BOOK *Spectrum 21* ed. John Fleskes. ARTIST John Picacio. EDITOR Ellen Datlow. MAGAZINE Tor.com (first online winner of a category won by *Asimov's* or *F&SF* every year 1987-2014). PUBLISHER Tor.

As Others See Some Of Us. Under the irresistible headline 'Secret files reveal police feared that Trekkies could turn on society', the *Telegraph* explained: 'For years Star Trek fans—known as Trekkies—have been the butt of jokes about their penchant for wearing pointy ears and attending science fiction conventions. / But the police feared British fans of the cult American show might boldly go a little too far one day. / It has emerged that Scotland Yard kept a secret dossier on *Star Trek*, *The X-Files*, and other US sci fi shows amid fears that British fans would go mad and kill themselves, turn against society or start a weird cult. / The American TV shows *Roswell* and *Dark Skies* and the film *The Lawnmower Man* were also monitored to protect the country from rioting and cyber attacks. / Special Branch was concerned that people hooked on such material could go into a frenzy triggered by the millennium leading to anarchy.' (17 May) [MC] One feels so protected.

Outraged Letters. *Barry N. Malzberg* heroically resists the urge to comment on the revealed cutting edge of literary workshoping: 'Claudia Ballard: I ran into Rob Spillman, the editor of *Tin House* recently and he was telling me that he's teaching a class at his MFA program this semester that's all first paragraphs ... All you can bring in is a first paragraph and those paragraphs are all you workshop the entire semester. I think that is so brilliant.' (Literary agents' panel in *Poets & Writers*, July 2015) ● **Mike Moorcock** on Simon Pegg's qualms (see A335): 'Pegg raises a valid point. I reached a crossroads in my life at 21 when I had to decide was I going to watch fantasy films and read comics for the rest of my life or was I going to watch only films about real life issues. A question millions face daily.' (1 June)

Random Fandom. *Best Saga*. The proposed new Hugo category for novel series caused some stir, both in its own right (series novels are regular contenders for Best Novel) and because it came coupled with a proposal to abolish the long-established Best Novellette—leading N.K. Jemisin to post the noble sentence, 'Do you mean to throw a level playing field under the bus, to give more affirmative action to successful

white men?' That unpopular clause has since been dropped; Best Saga still needs to be passed by the 2015 and 2016 WSFS business meetings.

Court Circular. Resolving a stupendously boring trademark dispute, Canadian disc jockey Joel 'Deadmau5' Zimmerman has reached an unspecified agreement with Disney about the vaguely Mickey-like mouse head (with 'dead' X-ed out eyes) that he wears on stage and insanely attempted to trademark in the USA last year. (BBC) [MPJ]

Mythopoeic Awards shortlist. ADULT Sarah Avery, *Tales from Rugosa Coven*; Stephanie Feldman, *The Angel of Losses*; Theodora Goss, *Songs for Ophelia*; Joanne M. Harris, *The Gospel of Loki*; Joe Hill and Gabriel Rodriguez, *Locke & Key* series (6 volumes). ● CHILDREN'S Jonathan Auxier, *The Night Gardener*; Merrie Haskell, *The Castle Behind Thorns*; Diana Wynne Jones and Ursula Jones, *The Islands of Chaldea*; Robin LaFavers, *His Fair Assassin* series (3 volumes); Natalie Lloyd, *A Snicker of Magic*. ● SCHOLARSHIP: INKLINGS Robert Boenig, *C.S. Lewis and the Middle Ages*; Monika B. Hilder, C.S. Lewis and Gender series (3 volumes); John Wm. Houghton, Janet Brennan Croft, Nancy Martisch, John D. Rateliff, and Robin Anne Reid, eds., *Tolkien in the New Century: Essays in Honor of Tom Shippey*; John Garth, Tolkien at Exeter College: *How an Undergraduate Created Middle-earth*; J.R.R. Tolkien ed. Christopher Tolkien, *Beowulf: A Translation and Commentary, Together with Sellic Spell*. ● SCHOLARSHIP: OTHER Brian Attebery, *Stories About Stories: Fantasy and the Remaking of Myth*; Daniel Gabelman, *George MacDonald: Divine Carelessness and Fairytale Levy*; Sara Maitland, *From the Forest: The Hidden Roots of our Fairy Tales*; Michael Saler, *As If: Modern Enchantment and the Literary Prehistory of Virtual Reality*; Kristen Stirling, *Peter Pan's Shadows in the Modern Literary Imagination*.

The Dead Past. 40 Years Ago, hubris was clobbered by nemesis: 'How about a new definition of science fiction? It's about things going wrong.' (Brian Aldiss, *Vector* 69, Summer 1975.) ● 20 Years Ago, a note on the joy of freelancing: 'After nearly four years of heroic accountability, I. Clark, Liquidator of Newsfield Ltd (remember *Fear? GM!*?), has scraped together some £200,000 of assets, awarded himself a meagre £30,000 fee, and paid off creditors at 8.87p in the pound. I am having my generous £17.72 cheque framed...' (*Ansible* 96, July 1995) ● 10 Years Ago, the 7/7 London bombs did not prevent the First Thursday of pub meeting—held with a turnout of just six fans in *The Printer's Devil*, since the usual pub had closed its doors. (*Ansible* 217, August 2005) ● 2 Years Ago, Science Fiction Awards Watch urged us to cast our Hugo votes by 31 July 2013. That's still the latest post at sfawardswatch.com.

C.o.A. *Richard Curtis Associates Inc.*, 200 East 72nd Street, Suite 2BJ, New York, NY 10021, USA. *Guy & Rosy Lillian*, 1390 Holly Avenue, Merritt Island, FL 32952, USA.

Fanfundery. *DUFF*: Lucy Huntzinger has launched the long-awaited official website for this fund, at downunderfanfund.wordpress.com. ● *GUFF 2016* 'will feature the suave and sophisticated Jukka Halme running against the ever-prestigious and somewhat mysterious Hold Over Funds.' [GP] Online voting and downloadable ballots coming soon at www.rantalica.com. The winner will attend the 2016 Brisbane NatCon.

Thog's Masterclass. *Dept of the Cruel and Unusual*. 'If they were captured wearing the enemy's uniform, they would probably be tortured to death before being shot.' (Giuseppe Pilotto, 'Red Space', 2014) [AK] ● **Occupational Hazard Dept.** 'His eyes are blue but red rimmed. They bulge from all his time spent reading.' (Benjamin Percy, *The Dead Lands*, 2015) [ED] ● **Dept of Does My Mind Look Big In This?** 'And she being who she was, the back of her mind was a substantial thing.' (Ann Leckie, *Ancillary Justice*, 2013) ● **Literally Dept.** 'This was literally navigating by the seat of his pants ...' (Roger Zelazny & Thomas T. Thomas, *Flare*, 1992) [BA] ● **Neat Tricks.** 'The six-year gap was conspicuous by its absence.' (Larry Correia, *Monster Hunter International*, 2007) [F770] ● **Lesser Evil Dept.** 'The Mayor and the cops have tried really hard to keep it out of the papers. Or worse, the media.' (Christopher Golden, *The Shell Collector*, 2006) [PB] ● **True Romance.** 'The penis passed from one mouth to the other, the tongues crossing like flights of swallows, lightly troubled, in the summer sky ... when they are ready to leave Europe for their winter pilgrimage.' (Michel Houellebecq, *Submission*, trans Adam Gopnik 2015) [MMW] ● **Wrath of Ouroboros Dept.** 'He felt once again the desire to bite his own backside in fury.' (Andrzej Sapkowski, *Blood of Elves*, 1994 trans 2008) [SS]

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