

Interstellar Ramjet Scoop



ANZAPA MAILING # 249

JUNE 2009

PUBLISHED ORIGINALLY FOR ANZAPA

BY BILL WRIGHT

UNIT 4, 1 PARK STREET, ST. KILDA WEST, VICTORIA 3182

THE JOURNAL FOR INQUISITIVE READERS



GRAPHICS BY DITMAR

INTERSTELLAR RAMJET SCOOP (THE JOURNAL FOR INQUISITIVE READERS)
PUBLISHED BY BILL WRIGHT, 4/1 PARK STREET, ST. KILDA, VICTORIA 3182

first published in ANZAPA mailing #249 - June 2009

"Banking should not be exciting. If banking is exciting there is something wrong with it."

Clay Ewing, president of German American Bancorp, a community bank in Jasper, Indiana,
quoted in the New York Times of Wednesday, May 13th, 2009.

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Cover: Graphic by Ditmar

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This Issue's Cover

“Bless me, Dagon, for I must sin!”

Graphic and text by Dick Jenssen

The two most prominent features of any work of prose are likely to be perceived as **plot** and **character**, with, possibly, the majority of readers responding more to the former. Strangely enough – although those who know me might believe that ‘strange’ is normal for me – the best novel I have read, and my favourite, is Marcel Proust’s *Remembrance of Things Past*, which comprises six thick volumes of over 3000 pages, and which is, superficially, almost devoid of plot.

It was Samuel Beckett, I believe, who in his little monograph on Proust précised the plot as (and here I paraphrase wildly due to a failing memory bank): “..the story of a little boy who grows up to be an author, and begins to write the book we have just finished reading”.. an amazingly succinct, and accurate, description, which would have won Beckett the Monty Python “Summarise Proust in 15 Seconds” prize, had he been a contestant. The novel, clearly is much more than that, and deals with the growth of the author; the way in which people (including the narrator) and society change in time; with the contrasts of *falling* in love and *being* in love; with possessive, obsessional ‘love’; with memory, especially ‘inadvertent’ memory which is always with us and which is released by seemingly trivial events; with music, literature, painting, architecture; and...most triumphally, with the liberative power of Art in any and all forms, and its ability to transcend time itself. And all of this is, like a great dish of many ingredients held together by aspic, subsumed in a gallery of unforgettable characters who seem as real, perhaps more so, than those we know in life.



And so, in *In Search of Lost Time* (which is the current preferred titling of Proust’s great work) the **themes** are of supreme importance – but not at the expense of character. However, it is the **style** of the prose which is a barrier to many readers. Long, very long, sentences in which subordinate clauses branch off subordinate clauses, which branch off subordinate clauses...but which are (finally) brought together at the end of the sentence. It is a style which takes some effort to assimilate. Sadly, many readers do not understand that this style is itself a manifestation of a major theme of the novel – perhaps *the* major theme – that events and humans are immersed in a sea of connectivity, and that nothing exists in true isolation. And now, in my 74th year, I find that this is ever truer: almost any action, or sensation (reading, listening to music, watching a film...) is redolent, evocative, of “things past”.

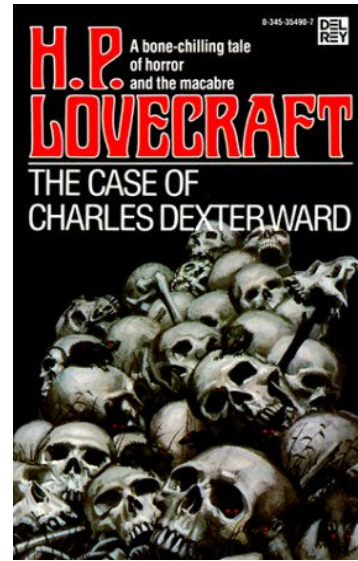
The second ‘best’ novel of my reading (but my fourth favourite) is *Moby Dick*, and here plot *and* character are melded, along with the additional gift of the **quality of prose**. On the other hand, my second and third favourite novels have plot as the most important element by far – Merritt’s *The Ship of Ishtar*, and Kuttner’s *Fury*. But then there are prose works in which plot and character are minimal, even non-existent, and what is of fundamental concern is **atmosphere** or sensation.

The best fantasy, of any length, which I have read is Lord Dunsany’s short story *Idle Days on the Yann*, in which the narrator, who has been exploring the ‘Lands of Dreams’, wants to return to ‘the fields we know’ and to quotidian reality. The tale tells of the leisurely journey in the *Bird of the River* down the Yann. That’s all. What is important are the feelings, interior and exterior, prompted by this journey, by the sights on the banks, by what is conjured up by scents, breezes, ruins... Another SF and fantasy author for whom, generally, plot is minimal, and characterization redundant or invisible, is Clark Ashton Smith. As with the Dunsany story it is things evoked which are of prime concern, and, most especially for Smith’s work, the quality of the prose, which at times can approach the poetic.

And then, to complete the lengthy digression above, and to return to the cover graphic, there is H. P. Lovecraft. His prose is of the Latin and not the Anglo-Saxon: a short, curt word is never, well, hardly ever, to be used if a multi-syllabic alternative is available, there is a preference for the sesquipedalian: ‘tintinnabulation’ rather than ‘ringing’; ‘effulgent coruscation’ instead of ‘flashing light’. There is an attempt to generate atmosphere by the use of fuzzy suggestiveness: ‘the room seemed filled with an invisible mephitic miasma of an almost palpable horridity’; ‘unspeakable, monstrous obscenities lurked in the interstices of the crypt, biding their emergence for the time when, perchance, vigilance was lowered’.

Some of his stories, and rather more than I'd have liked, are pervaded by a plethora of such passages, which, for me, and I suspect for many readers, is a fault of Lovecraft's prose. But, and I stress this 'but', when he reins in his love of such 'passages of dubiety' and uses them with discretion, his writing is rather fine, and produces memorable work. His novel *The Case of Charles Dexter Ward* is the best supernatural/horror work I have read. His novella *The Dream-Quest of Unknown Kadath* ranks amongst the best fantasies of my experience. What appeals most strongly to me is Lovecraft's preference for the long, rolling word over the brief, snappy one: the way in which the *rhythms* of his prose resonate in my mind when I read. Yes, that means that there is an internal voice in my head when I read, which 'sounds' the prose as I scan it. Perhaps this is a personal idiosyncrasy, an aberration of my mind, perhaps even a tendency toward synaesthesia, but when I come across a passage such as:

Off that vast hippocephalic abomination leaped the doomed and desperate dreamer, and down through endless voids of sentient blackness he fell. Aeons reeled, universes died and were born again, stars became nebulae...



I can hear the words, like the beat of an insubstantial music, echoing in my imagination, and that adds to the pleasure.

So, to *plot, character, themes, style, quality of prose, and atmosphere* we also have an internal *rhythm*. There are other elements, of course, but the paragraphs here are supposedly commenting on the cover image, and already, I fear, I have lost too many readers of *IRS*.

When I had completed the cover graphic – and I repeat my images are never pre-planned, but just seem self-generating – the 'Dagon' struck me as eminently Lovecraftian. But, of course, the worshipping robot is quite anachronistic and has no part in the Lovecraft universe. Mea culpa. Actually, the true story behind the cover is to be found in the *Technical notes* which follow.

Technical notes

Some weeks ago I received an email from Smith Micro (purveyors of *Poser*) telling me that as a legitimate user of that software I was entitled to a discount from *Groboto* (<http://www.groboto.com/>) for their software called (surprise!) *Groboto*. The full cost for the product was US\$79, and so the US\$20 discount was fairly substantial, so I downloaded the trial version. Which impressed me enough to buy. (I believe the discount still applies and to everyone!). The image of Dagon was generated with less than half-a-dozen mouse clicks. This was a jpeg image: I could have saved it as a true 3D model, but only at the cost of losing all the textures and shading – the model would look like a piece of plaster-of-paris, and there'd be the need for some work in *Vue Complete*, but I was too impatient. (Next issue's cover **will** have a 3D *Groboto* model as part of the graphic).

The *real* genesis of the current cover, therefore, was simply an exercise in the use of *Groboto*. The jpeg was added to a background field in PhotoShop, and that was imported into *Vue 7 Complete* along with a robot from *Poser* (given an adorative attitude in that software). Final tweaks were made with PhotoShop CS3.

Ditmar



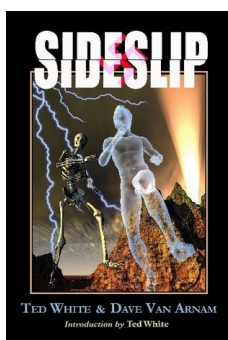
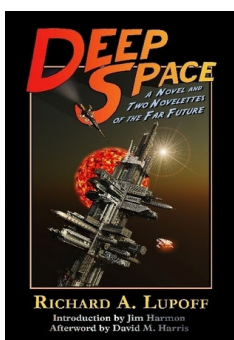
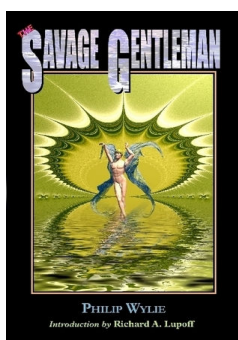
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Surinam Turtles

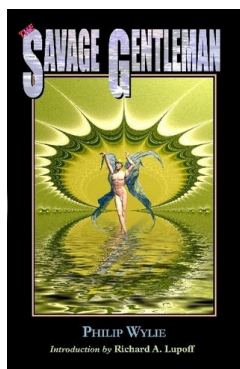


Leatherback turtles on famed Surinam Beach are the inspiration for trade paperback publisher *Surinam Turtle Press*, an imprint of Ramble House, itself a pretty small company.

Editorial director Richard Lupoff is a science fiction author, film scriptwriter, actor and a big name in SF fandom, being regularly featured in award-winning fanzines such as *Banana Wings* (Mark Plummer & Claire Brialey, UK) and *eI* (Earl Kemp's celebrated e-zine on eFanzines).

Richard had the good sense to commission Ditmar to do some of his cover graphics. If only the stories inside could match that quality, and - surprise, surprise - they do! Suss them out on <http://www.lulu.com/ramblehouse>

Savage gentleman



Philip Wylie (1902-1971) was one of the most daring writers of his generation. He was willing to try anything in his novels and short stories — romance, crime, science fiction, social satire, even fishing stories. Nor was he afraid to mix-and-match his genres, as *The Savage Gentleman* vividly demonstrates. This novel has been cited as the inspiration for Lester Dent's Doc Savage and for Edmond Hamilton's Captain Future.

The Savage Gentleman has been republished as a trade paperback by Dick Lupoff's 'Surinam Turtle Press' – see the article on the previous page – and can be ordered on the Internet by visiting <http://www.lulu.com/ramblehouse>. There you will find a treasure house of goodies – in what the editor feels constrained to point out is yet another instance of the intellectual and cultural rewards that await inquisitive readers of *Interstellar Ramjet Scoop*.

The girl on the landing

Reviews of Paul Torday's first two novels, *Salmon Fishing in the Yemen* and *The Irresistible Inheritance of Wilberforce*, appeared in IRS February 2008. This new novel consolidates his reputation for merciless exposition of the human condition in story form. As the cover blurb says, "You think you know someone – but you never really do."

Michael is wealthy, decent, boring and locked into the routine of working as secretary to his gentleman's club in Mayfair or stalking deer on his rural estate. His marriage is passionless and monotonous and the only adrenalin rush he experiences comes from playing bridge after dinner. Then, after a visit to friends in Ireland, his wife Elizabeth notices a change in Michael's behaviour. Suddenly, he's fun to be with.

Who, or what, is changing Michael? Who is the girl on the landing, and what does she want?

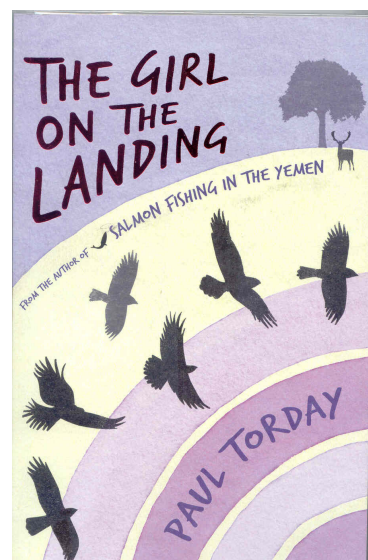
An engaging feature of Paul Torday's writing style is his economy of narrative description, as witness this passage that has more characters in play than you would find on a page by almost any other author..

"Peter's in the bath," said Mary, when I rang. Her voice sounded guarded, almost defensive. "Can I get him to ring you?"

"Michael isn't back," I explained. "I wonder if Peter might know where he is or when he will be home."

"It's best if Peter speaks to you himself," said Mary. I couldn't understand why she was being so cold.

Then she asked, "Has there been any news about Dr Grant?"



The Girl on the Landing is published by Orion Publishing Company (UK) and was released for sale in 2009. The author, Paul Torday, retains the copyright. ISBN 9780297851721

Rating ☆☆☆☆

Tian An Men Square Massacre – Twenty Years of Denial



It is ironic that President Barack Obama's rededication of the Lincoln Memorial on May 30th 2009 is only five days earlier than the twentieth anniversary of the Tian An Men Massacre. For it was Abraham Lincoln who said, "A government must be strong enough to sustain itself but not too strong for the liberties of its people."

On June 4th, 1989, hundreds of Chinese students, workers and bystanders who had massed for seven weeks in Beijing's Tian An Men Square to demand more inclusive and clean government were killed by bayonets and machine gun fire or smeared into the ground beneath tank tracks on the approaches to the square late in the evening of June 3rd, 1989, and in the streets of Beijing on the morning of June 4th and over the following days.

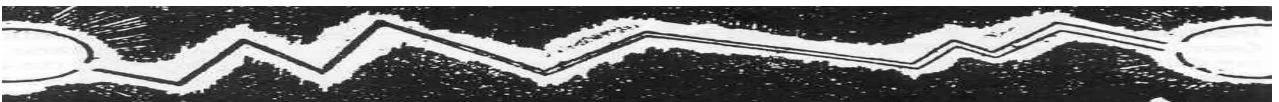
Peter Ellingsen, a reporter from Melbourne's Age newspaper, sent a dispatch reading, "Corpses littered Beijing's main boulevard, Chang An, with blood and torn limbs visible in several sections outside the Forbidden City. One student as he lay dying scrawled in blood, 'Li Peng, you will never live in peace.' "



But Premier Li Peng, although he was the public face of the government and a member of a faction within the top leadership group that approved and orchestrated the massacre, was not its prime mover. That dubious distinction belongs to Zhou En-lai's protégé Deng Tsao Ping who, at the time, was China's paramount leader. During the protest, Deng was busy arranging for unsophisticated military personnel from the provinces to be trucked into the Capital. Primed with lies about 'serious counterrevolutionary riots', they could be relied upon to visit the appropriate vengeance upon 'traitors', which they did with appallingly brutal ferocity.

Because of a ruthless cover-up at the time and rigid censorship and repression since, the outside world does not know how many people died in the Tian An Men massacre but, however little we know, it is immeasurably more than the Chinese people know now. We will remember for them.

Bill Wright



Letter

From **Lloyd Penney** (1706-24 Eva Rd, Etobicoke, Ontario, Canada M9C 2B2), May 8, 2009...

Dear Bill:

Many thanks for another Scoop, the April 2009 issue, and greetings to all ANZAPAns. I'm an inquisitive reader with a few questions and comments, such as...

Always like the Ditmars on the front cover. The texture is something that can only be done with a computer, and it adds so much. Keep them coming, Mr. Jenssen...

I've said it elsewhere, and I'll say it here, congratulations to Bruce Gillespie on winning the 2009 FAAn Award for being the Best Fan Writer. (I won't mention that I won the Harry Warner Jr. Memorial Award for being the Best Letterhack for that period...no, I won't mention it...)

Chris Garcia owns a Penny Black? Chris, I'd get that valued. If it's the kind of stamp I'm thinking of, it might be your retirement right there. I still think the Age of the Collector is going away, so as soon as the economy recovers, get it valued! Keep it in the family Bible, they'll never think of looking for it there...

OThe Australian Worldcon...I am lucky that this coming August, there will be a Worldcon we can drive to in Montréal, but even with that, it will be an expensive time, and I readily doubt that I'll have enough money to go to Australia. However, we may be going to Reno, Nevada for 2011.

Don't worry about not having read a particular SF book, John Purcell...are there any who can say they've read the whole of the SF oeuvre? Someone might have been able to say that in the 1940s, but certainly not today. Today's modern novels and novelists are out of my financial reach, so I am still able to indulge myself with a Poul Anderson or Cliff Simak novel from the local used book store. You're a Marvin fan? So are we. Isn't that lovely?

There's been some great computers in science fiction before some kid named Gates came along, not counting all the computers a certain starship captain has talked into shutting down or malfunctioning. If only our modern computers could do some of the things described in science fiction.

Our DUFF ballots are in the mail, and the winner will have some Canadian cash to use once they get to our fair shores. With the approval of the administrators, Yvonne and I voted with a C\$20 bill, which will be passed on to the winner. We nominated Alison Barton, and we wish her luck!

An article about eliminatory functions in science fiction...okay, now I've read it all. We used to joke about there not being any bathrooms on the USS Enterprise because we'd never seen any, and we linked that with a line from M*A*S*H..."Do officers go to the bathroom?" "No, we wait until we're 50, and then we explode."

The last page was a list of non-American Worldcons, I surmise? You forgot Winnipeg in 1994. With that in mind, I'm going to wind up the fine loc and fire it off to you. I have a voice work audition at a local university here, and hope that I can add it to my resume, and with luck continue on my way to becoming a professional voice actor. Wish me luck, take care, see you next issue.

Lloyd Penney.

Well, Lloyd, I nominated Western Australian luminary Emma Hawkes for DUFF and she won - see the article. You might not have voted for her, but give her a big welcome in Montreal in August. Fan fund laureates sometimes get overlooked at Natcons, and the bigger smoke at Worldcons can be intimidating. I must say that I am pleasantly surprised at contacts the Interaction committee has made with foreign fandoms. If that sensitivity is maintained at the con itself, this year's Worldcon might be remembered as one of the best.

Thanks for correcting my foreign Worldcon index. I'd overlooked ConAdian (1994) in Winnipeg. AND congratulations on winning the Harry Warner Jr FAAN Award at Corflu Zed for Best Letterhack.



Bill Wright

Clerihew corner

Amazing how things get tied together. The other day, I was in the local second hand bookstore and bought a copy of John Aubrey's *Brief Lives*, which contains potted biographies and scurrilous anecdotes about the usual 17th-century suspects. In writing a clerihew about Aubrey, who is also the discoverer of what are today known as the Aubrey holes in Stonehenge, the only half decent rhyme I can come up with is...

*Would the aged John Aubrey
Go a bright shade of strawberry
When told that **Brief Lives** is a toss-up
Between history and gossip?*



Alas, I was too late. Many years ago, Ogden Nash took note of Aubrey's book, and for his fascination for the "eies" of his subjects. (For example, Francis Bacon had an "eie of a viper", Walter Raleigh "a kind of pigge-eie", and Ben Jonson "one eie lower than t'other".) Nash wrote a poem about Aubrey and his eye-fixation (so to speak) called *Brief Lives in Not So Brief* (1962), which he finished thus:

*....I heard one tell who hard one tell
Who heard one tell of old John Aubrey
That when he emerged from the Blackmores Head
His eie was rather like a strawberry.*

I came across a reference to 'Gone for a Burton' in a quotation from a book by Robert King Merton called 'On the Shoulders of Giants' (aka *OTSOG*). Merton was the man who invented the terms "self-fulfilling prophecy" and "role model" Following is an obituary clerihew about Merton, who died in 2003...

*Before they brought down the curtain
On the late Robert K. Merton
They had to make certain
He'd really "gone for a Burton".*

'Gone for a Burton' is a very strange saying. It's a euphemism for "dying in action" (usually by crashing at sea) popularized by Allied pilots during WW2, but no one seems absolutely sure where it comes from. According to Michael Quinion, an authority on International English from a British standpoint, it MAY have derived from rhyming slang (Burton – Burton on Trent – went) combined with the idea of "ending up in the drink". Turns out Burton-on-Trent is the literal and spiritual (no pun intended) home of the British brewing industry that exported beer, at one time accounting for a quarter of UK beer production.

Hans Holzer, the man you can blame for the 'Amityville' movies, died aged 89 on April 26th, 2009.



He had written 144 books on ghosts, the afterlife, witchcraft, extraterrestrial beings and other phenomena associated with "the other side". His most famous investigation was with the medium Ethel Johnson-Meyers when they roamed the house in Amityville, Long Island, New York, in which a young man, Ronald DeFeo Jr, had murdered his parents and four siblings in 1974. The house's next owners claimed to have been tormented by a series of spine-chilling noises and eerie visitations. That was grist for the mill of Novelist Jay Ansen who wrote best-selling book "The Amityville Horror: A True Story?" (1977). Hence...

Amityville 144:
*Hans Holzer
Is stiff and cold, sir
And can now hunt ghosts
By the gross.*

For those of you who live exclusively in the metric age, a gross is 144.

Dennis Callegari

Emma Hawkes Wins DUFF!

Western Australian fan Emma Hawkes has won the 2009 DUFF race!



As the DUFF laureate, Emma will travel to Montreal, Canada, as Australian fandom's delegate to Interaction, the 67th World Science Fiction Convention to be held on August 6-10, 2009.

Since 1972 the Down Under Fan Fund, a fan-supported fellowship, has encouraged closer ties between science-fiction fans in Australasia and North America through an alternating annual exchange of representatives. DUFF is supported by voluntary contributions from fans all over the world. DUFF delegates attend the worldcon or a national convention in the host country and visit fans they might otherwise never meet in person. Delegates are responsible for raising funds and administering DUFF until a new delegate from their continent is elected and are expected to publish trip reports which can be sold to aid the fund.

Emma Hawkes is an organiser. She is very active on the Western Australian Science Fiction Foundation, having been on the committee for two Swancons (Western Australia's annual regional SF conventions) and reinvigorating the art show. She has previously been a National Australian Fan Fund delegate and is still active in NAFF fundraising. She was Fan Guest of Honour at Swancon 2004 and won the Marg Hughes Award for significant contribution to Western Australian fandom in 2005,

Currently, Emma is Western Australia's representative on the Australian Science Fiction Foundation working on projects with a national focus. Her interests include art, character-based science fiction and fantasy, medieval history, slash fiction and social justice.

Conventions on the horizon

Australian conventions:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Conjecture 2009 (48 th Natcon in Adelaide on 5-8 Jun-09) | http://conjecture2009.org/ |
| Continuum 5 (Melbourne on 14-16 Aug-09) | http://www.continuum.org.au/ |
| Conflux 6 (Canberra on 2-5 Oct-09) | http://www.conflux.org.au/ |
| Continuum 6 (Melbourne on 26-28 Feb-09) | <weblink not yet established> |

World conventions:

Anticipation (the 67th worldcon) – This will be held in Montréal, Quebec, at the Palais des congrès de Montréal from August 6-10, 2009. Website: <http://www.anticipationsf.ca/>. It will be attended by DUFF laureate Emma Hawkes (see above). Australians can join through Anticipation's agent Craig Macbride. E-mail: montreal@f8d.com or write to PO Box 274, World Trade Centre VIC 8005.

Aussiecon 4 (the 68th worldcon) – This will be held in Melbourne, Australia, on September 2-6, 2010. E-mail: info@aussiecon4.org.au Website: <http://www.aussiecon4.org.au>
Mailing address: GPO Box 1212, Melbourne 3001 AUSTRALIA

Poetic justice

John Milton was a 17th century English poet, prose polemicist and civil servant in Cromwell's Commonwealth of England. He is best known for his epic poem *Paradise Lost*, and for his treatise *Areopagitica* condemning censorship. This excerpt is from his poem *Lycidas*...

*Bid amaranthus all his beauty shed,
And daffodillies fill their cups with tears,
To strew the laureate to hearse when Lycid lies.*
- [John Milton](#), *Lycidas* (l. 149)

John Bangsund, illustrious founder-member of Anzapa whose fanzines *Philosophical Gas* and *Scythrop* enlivened mailings in the 1970s and who edited the first incarnation of the critical journal *Australian Science Fiction Review* (1966-68), is an admirer of Milton for his flowery allusion – so much so that he was not averse from appropriating Milton's lines when the occasion warranted. He did that in 1973 when he composed the following allusion to Poetic Justice in the criminal jurisdiction...

*Let daffodillies fill their cups with tears
For thou art in the jug for fifteen years.*

Thirty-six years later the art of jurisprudence is again in the public mind with high minded principles being bandied about by protagonists on either side of the debate on Judge Sonia Sotomeyer's fitness for promotion to the United States Supreme Court, she having been nominated by President Obama after the recent retirement of Justice David Souter.

Poetry is not something that one looks for on the senior bench. "*The contemporary Supreme Court is woefully lacking in eloquence,*" quoth one commentator, "*Justice Souter, despite being an intelligent jurist with a wry sense of humour, was as eloquence-challenged as the others, there being few memorable lines in his opinions.*"



Sonia Sotomeyer

This is borne out by the fact that even Justice Souter's resignation letter was punctilious and reserved. His predecessor in leaving the Court, Justice Sandra Day O'Connor in 2005, said in her resignation letter that she left "*with enormous respect for the integrity of the court and its role under our constitutional structure.*" That, at least, gave a nod to the significance of the occasion.

Justice Souter, on the other hand, invoked nothing that grand. Instead, he told Mr. Obama that was retiring "*under the provision of 28 U.S.C. Section 371(b) (1), having attained the age and met the service requirements of subsection (c) of that section.*" Not much poetry there!



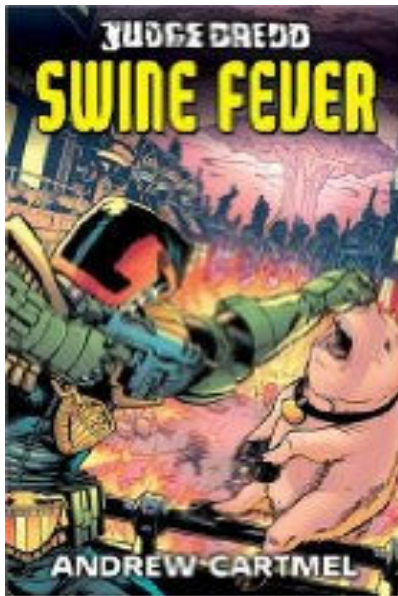
President Barack Obama, in his brief appearance on the World Stage to date, has employed flights of oratory comparable to those of the iconic President Abraham Lincoln at his finest. Perhaps that is why pundits are looking for the same qualities in his first nominee to the Supreme Court. Should Judge Sonia Sotomeyer survive the evaluation process and make it on to senior bench, only time will tell if she makes her mark in language that will ring down the ages for its eloquence and power to evoke mankind's highest aspirations.

It's enough to make one reflect on the ironic twists and turns of history; in that, but for the global financial crisis, Barack Obama's path to the White House might have been less direct than it has been. What a Chief Justice he would have made!

Looking ahead to the no doubt brilliant conclusion of President Obama's second term in office, what could be more fitting than he should step across, 'in rank' so to speak, from the highest political office to the highest judicial one? Seldom has any aspirant to either office had a more clearly delineated career path.

Bill Wright

Swine flu bested by Judge Dredd



Judge Dredd has been named the seventh greatest comic book character ever by the magazine *Empire*. Indeed, in the 32 years since his first appearance in 1977 as a strip in the British science fiction anthology *2000 AD*, he has become Britain's best known home-grown comic book hero with a reputation so great that that his name is routinely invoked on mundane issues relating to the police state, authoritarianism and the rule of law.



The world of Judge Dredd is centered on the megalopolis of Mega-City One on a time line that is 122 years in our future. Extensive automation (including the creation of a caste of intelligent robots) has rendered the majority of citizens jobless. Consequently, the general populace is prone to embracing any fashion that comes along, creating conditions that predispose the body politic to disorder.

Mega-City One's population lives in gigantic tower blocks, each holding some fifty thousand or so people who, it seems, can only be ruled by the application of the blackest of black letter law administered by clones of supposedly incorruptible Chief Justice Eustace Fargo who, like Judge Dredd, are mandated to act as judge, jury and executioner.

That the seeds of such a future are to be found in today's culture is indicative of truly prophetic insights by Judge Dredd's creators John Wagner, Carlos Ezquerra and Pat Mills; in token of which I present the above comic book cover and the adjacent image of swine flu proliferation as incontrovertible evidence.



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On the subject of swine flu proliferation, health authorities throughout the world seem to be moving out of the containment phase (where, in an effort to limit contagion, people with the symptoms are quarantined for treatment and testing) and into an unpredictable period where anyone who thinks they might have it is encouraged to see a doctor. The situation is potentially dangerous, not because H1N1 is now any more lethal than ordinary seasonal flu, but because it can mutate in various ways into more deadly varieties. We face increasing risk of a catastrophic global pandemic. The time is coming, surely, when anyone who sneezes into the air on public transport faces the risk of assault by fellow passengers fearful of picking up **THE PLAGUE**.

Do we all have to go around wearing a mask? What if it's just the common cold? That's bad enough anyway. Here is some information on the common cold:

- Every year Australian adults succumb to around two colds while children come down with a whopping six to ten.
- There are almost 200 viruses that cause the common cold.
- Nothing shortens the duration of a cold – treatments simply make us feel better while coughing and sneezing.
- Your body cures itself of a cold by producing antibodies, which destroy the virus, a process that takes about a week.
- Cold viruses can live on surfaces for anywhere between several hours to several days.
- Colds and flu are spread when virus-laden fluid droplets are released into the air by coughing and sneezing or transferred to surfaces by touch - as happens with H1N1, by the way.

So get out the chicken soup. Not only is it soothing and easy to digest, but chicken soup also contains cystine, an amino acid that helps thin the mucus, relieving congestion. Meanwhile, we can only hope and pray that researchers will create a vaccine soon for H1N1 that gives total protection against mutations.

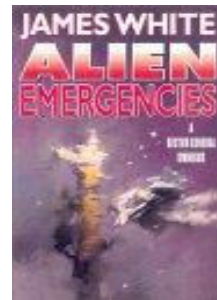
Bill Wright

The novels of James White (1928 – 1999, Ireland)

David Langford, peerless SF critic and unofficial G of H at Aussiecon Three (the 57th worldcon in Melbourne, 1999) includes the late James White among the greatest 20th century science fiction authors. He says of White's galactic hospital series, "*Sector General is one of the few places in SF that one would really, really like to exist.*" Those tales were anthologised by Orbit in three omnibus volumes titled, respectively, *Beginning Operations*, *Alien Emergencies* and *General Practice*.

Following is an annotated bibliography. Notes refer to Sector General stories anthologised by Orbit with front covers of the omnibus volumes pictured opposite. White's last four Sector General novels were published in the three years before his death. Hopefully Orbit will publish omnibus volumes of those.

- [1957](#) [The Secret Visitors](#) ([Amazon](#) - [Alibris](#))
[1962](#) [Hospital Station](#) a Sector General novel in 'Beginning Operations'
[1962](#) [Second Ending](#)
[1963](#) [Star Surgeon](#) a Sector General novel in 'Beginning Operations'
[1964](#) [The Aliens Among Us](#)—incl one Sector General short story, 'Countercharm'
[1964](#) [Deadly Litter](#)
[1964](#) [Escape Orbit, The](#)
[1964](#) [Open Prison \(Aka The Escape Orbit\)](#)
[1966](#) [Watch Below, The](#)
[1968](#) [All Judgement Fled](#)
[1971](#) [Major Operation](#) a Sector General novel in 'Beginning Operations'
[1971](#) [Tomorrow is Too Far](#)
[1972](#) [Dark Inferno](#)
[1974](#) [Dream Millennium, The](#)
[1977](#) [Futures Past](#)
[1977](#) [Monsters and Medics](#) - incl 'Second Ending', the best short story ever!
[1979](#) [Ambulance Ship](#) a Sector General novel in 'Alien Emergencies'
[1979](#) [Underkill](#)
[1983](#) [Sector General](#) a Sector General novel in 'Alien Emergencies'
[1984](#) [Star Healer](#) a Sector General novel in 'Alien Emergencies'
[1985](#) [Interpreters, The](#)
[1987](#) [Code Blue -- Emergency!](#) a Sector General novel in 'General Practice'
[1988](#) [Federation World](#)
[1991](#) [Silent Stars Go By, The](#)
[1992](#) [Genocidal Healer, The](#) a Sector General novel in 'General Practice'
[1996](#) [Galactic Gourmet, The](#) <not yet anthologised>
[1997](#) [Final Diagnosis](#) <not yet anthologised>
[1998](#) [Double Contact](#) <not yet anthologised>
[1998](#) [Mind Changer](#) <not yet anthologised>



Whilst I love all the Sector General novels and have read each of them several times, my favourite James White story is not part of that series at all, but the title story in the collection *Monsters and Medics* (Corgi Books, 1977). In the not too distant future, a loathsome plague wipes out the human race except for one lone Intern cared for by robots whose *raison d'être* is to keep him alive, for eons if need be. An unforgettable tale.

Reading James White in the 1960s marked my transition via E E Smith and A E Van Vogt to literacy. I am indebted to Langford for an insight into multiple level puns inherent in White's elegant four-letter classification system characterising intra-galactic species. At the outset this was designed to pay homage to 'Doc' Smith's human-centred vision from *Gray Lensman* and *Children of the Lens*, in which true Homo Sapiens is classed AAAAAA while the evil Ploorans in their horrid cyrogenic metamorphosis register as "*straight Z's to ten or twelve places.*" Perhaps the most obscure, and funniest, of White's classification puns concerns the unfortunate Gogleskan species from *Star Healer*, classification FOKT, who are almost unable to prevent themselves from forming mindlessly destructive mobs.

Visit Amazon-on-line or ask your local bookseller to order Orbit's James White omnibus stories for you now.

Bill Wright

Stefan Zone



A NEW LEVEL OF RELAXATION

As seen on an "A Current Affair" expose!

After a hard day's work, you feel you deserve a break. Why not relax and wind down at Stefan's '*Emporium di Lazy*' where our not-so-specially trained high school dropouts take care of your every need. Well, up to and including PG-rated needs, anyhow.

Why not treat your skin to our world-infamous mud bath? It may look like a pig sty, but this is our very own '*Le Sty Del Piggo*'. You can wallow in mud for up to an hour at a time before being washed down with a high-pressure fire hose. Your skin will thank you for cutting off its oxygen supply by turning bright red. We'll claim this is a rosy glow, the result of your skin being revitalised. (Note - Not available between 4 and 5pm as this is feeding time)

Is your summer sun-tan fading fast? Why not try our tanning salon for a minute or two? It looks suspiciously like a big magnifying glass under a skylight, but it is our very own '*La Roastare da Persona*'. You have a choice of two settings - medium-rare (whatever THAT is) and Roasted. (Note - Only available on sunny days).

Do you feel as if regular massages are just no longer working for you? Why not try a Power Massage? It's a big hit in some overseas countries. It involves you running from one side of the room to the other while people throw rocks at you. These rocks have the dual action of tenderising and terrorising your body until you feel a bit lightheaded. We then claim that this is a result of you feeling years younger.

We regret to announce that our acupuncturist, Mr Lei Lo, has left us in handcuffs after a brief visit by the police. As we stated in court, we didn't realise that he was combining his acupuncture practice with a needle-exchange program. We can however offer you the services of a punctuationist, who can help you punctuate sentences. (Shes' said I'am; too "far gone," to! help)

There are heaps more activities that we can't cover in this e-mail, on the off-chance that the ACCC is monitoring us again.

So why not pay us a visit today? We can't guarantee we'll be here tomorrow, especially if the landlord comes looking for the overdue rent.

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"If you can count your money you don't have a billion dollars." - J. Paul Getty

STEFAN NEWS AND SPORTS

A meeting today of sports people and government ministers attempted to tackle the out-of-control problem of sports violence. Two rugby players went head to head early on and had to retire with headaches.

The only recommendation to come out of the 7 hour meeting was for people to text the police if they get caught up in violence at sports grounds, assuming the attacker gives the person being attacked a chance to use their mobile. \$30 million has been set aside to retrain police on how to decipher text messages.

A catwalk display in Paris came to an abrupt end today when someone accidentally set an electric fan to level 2. Fifteen models got blown off their feet and out the door. Another four slipped through the cracks. Insurance experts put the cost of damaged egos at \$250 million.

An inner Melbourne nightclub has been the first to ban the sale of full strength water to clubbers. *'They're just not getting anywhere near as violent as they have been and that's a real concern for us'*, said the owner. *"Our investigations put this good behaviour down to the full strength water that people have been drinking. It's disgraceful. Where are the parents?"*

Bouncers have been given the go-ahead to search everyone's bag for contraband water, but they admit that they're fighting a losing battle as people still smuggle water inside themselves. "Unless we can squeeze every last drop of water out of people before they enter, we've lost the battle. Already we've caught pushers selling 'Water Hits' disguised as GBH hits." The reporter was then headbutted

and knocked unconscious before being tossed outside.

A charity concert to raise money for the hard-pressed KRudd government has drawn a large number of interested bands, many of which performed recently to raise money for the bushfire victims. Among the groups reportedly set to perform include:

- Hunters and Gatherers
- Shark Fin
- Midnight Owl
- Eskimo Pie
- Hothouse
- Voodoo Gurus
- Kings of Leotards
- Stefan (Featuring: Stefan)

Another AFL club in crisis. Collingwood looks certain to breach their salary cap for in-house lawyers after another bad start to the year. Just 4 weeks into the season the club has had to involve lawyers quite a number of times, including the infamous "Awww, the umpires are picking on us again." incident.

Club president, Eddy Tide (he goes away but keeps on coming back) was unavailable for comment today, which is just as well because we really didn't want to have to interview him. Apparently he was getting his hair and nails done before shooting his new TV series "Who wants to be a Bankrupt?"

Coming up after the break: Revelations that KRudd is a confirmed Twit with the release of some of his Twitter postings. A doctor from Victoria is trialling KRuddy's twits on insomniac patients with astounding results.

THE RECESSION WE DIDN'T WANT

Earlier this month, to take the media spotlight off other issues, KRuddy finally said the 'R' word. It was official - Australia was in the grip of a Sleep Recession. It was originally thought that Australia would escape most of the fallout from the world-wide sleep deprivation issues that arose last year. True, the ASX (Australian Sleep Exchange) hadn't fallen as much as the NYSE (New York Sleep Exchange), but sleep is now a world-wide commodity and even though we were selling record Sleep to the Chinese, when the US market caught a cold, everyone stayed awake.

For some time now, the warning signs were there - unkempt hair, bags under the eyes, bleary vision, snapping at air hosties - but it was initially covered up by the early morning Berocca's, bottomless coffees and fake smiles.

We all knew about the Sleep Deficit budget that was handed down recently, where the country as a whole was allowed to go into negative sleep mode. Even the introduction of co-ordinated Daylight Sleep Savings across most states last summer was declared an ill-conceived idea after it ended up losing more hours than it saved.

So what sparked this Sleep Recession? Some point to the easy access to credit as a major contributor. With more money to spend, people dined out more, stayed out late and purchased more video games and played them for hours. This led to less time available to sleep. Then, when the bills came in, stress led to even less sleep. Even those that were able to sleep had troubled dreams, or Toxic Sleep.

This Toxic Sleep has built up over the past year until it reached record proportions last month. Sleep Traders had tried to repackaged it as "bad dreams" or "nightmares" and on-sell it, but even those stories soon couldn't sell. Soon after, margin calls were being made to people with a backlog of Sleep and it wasn't long before people were being declared Sleep-Bankrupt.

Late last year, KRuddy announced a 20 million Sleep Hours stimulus package to parents of infants and pensioners to help them through their troubled times. The opposition attacked the plan when it was revealed that some of these Sleep Hours were spent overseas by people on holidays.

Dr Snooze, head of the Australian Reserve Sleep Bank, said drastic times called for drastic measures. *"To mark the start of the Sleep Recession, a National Day of Yawning has been*

declared for next Wednesday. " (Who didn't yawn when you read that sentence ?) Australians are urged to gather together and be lead in Yawning by the Prime Minister, who will regale us with stories of election promises he hasn't fulfilled yet. This will be followed by an hours' sleep. For that entire day, all Television Stations will broadcast non-stop from Parliament.

KRuddy has just gone one step further, announcing just a few minutes ago that the Federal Government will fund a 350 billion Sleep Hours plan to help Australia out of the Recession. The Great Sleep Bailout, as it is being called, will give individuals earning under \$100,000 (couples - \$150,000) an Inert Sleep Package of 900 minutes (15 hours) per person. The only stipulation is that it must be used - you can't save it up. Individuals and couples earning over the limits are deemed to be rich enough to afford to either buy sleep from a Sleep Trader or pay someone to sleep for them.

What the Government isn't keen on telling people is that the Sleep Bailouts will have to be paid for by future generations. Parents with teenagers, please note: They're not sleeping long hours because they want to - they're doing it for Australia.

StefanZZZZZZZZZZ

2009 FOOTY CARDS ARE OUT

Here's a special e-mail offer for all you dedicated WG readers. Start your collection of the 2009 Season Footy Cards right now by taking a copy of this e-mail to your local Stefan and receive the first 50 Footy Cards free.

You could receive some of the following cards showing amazing action shots of a footballer:

- * _____ jumping into a river while trying to flee a police booze bus.
- * _____ taking drugs
- * _____ caught drink driving
- * _____ coming out of a strip club
- * _____ in a fight outside a night club
- * _____ in a fight inside a night club
- * _____ bashing up his girlfriend
- * _____ king-hitting an opponent behind play
- * _____ going on a wild ride through city streets with his criminal friends

And they're just the action shots featuring the one player for one week! Each action shot is a Brownlow-winning performance.

Each card also has some vital statistics of the player on the back, including:

- * Number of Drink Driving Charges last Season
- * Number of Run-ins with the Police
- * Number of Failed Drug Tests covered up
- * Known Criminal Associates

There are even some blank spots left for you to fill out some stats yourself, such as:

- * % chance the footbrawler will make it through the season without being suspended for attempted murder of an opponent.
- * Number of times the overworked club lawyer will need to be involved in covering up an 'incident' involving the player
- * % of times the courts will let off the footbrawler without a penalty

Sorry, the last one will be prepopulated with 100%

The cards are state of the art. We listened to your complaints about last year's cards and how they looked like cut outs of scandal stories in daily newspapers. We ultimately dismissed the

complaints and put up the price of this year's cards.

The cards this year are top quality. They may look the same newspaper-style cards as last year, but we've now laminated them and changed the date.

It's not as if anything has changed. Lamination adds to their value as each card is uniquely mis-cut. Jagged edges double as Stanley knife blades.

So why not come and get your first 50 cards free ! (1,000 cards to collect. Normal cost \$120 for 5)

WHAT ECONOMIC CRISIS?

During the recent 2009 Federal Budget extravaganza, the treasurer let slip that the supposed Economic Crisis was only going to push Australia into debt to the tune of 300. KRudd confirmed the figure - just 300. Gosh, if only someone would give back just \$300 of their recently received stimulus package, Australia will break even. If a few more people give back some money, we'll be one of the few countries in the world to post a surplus.

Obviously the figure of \$300 would have been much smaller if KRuddy hadn't thought his government was the equivalent of a crazy used car salesman by throwing away cash like there was no tomorrow. I don't know if all the dead have spent their money yet, but most animal recipients have already chewed their way through their stimulus packages.

It seems this is another example of making a mountain out of a molehill. Following on from the likes of the 'Y2K' bug that turned into a fizzer, there seems to be a need to come up with a more extravagant crisis than the last. Just look at the

crisis Australia is in at the moment. We're all going to die from the Pig Flu but, before we do, we'll all lose our jobs because of the big-R Recession (the one the Government first said we weren't having, then said we were). At least this way, we won't have to worry about future generations having to pay off the \$300 debt.

Some economists were unsure whether the treasurer and KRudd were talking about dollars when they mentioned we were going to be in debt up to 300. Some thought the 300 was referring to bananas while others thought they were talking about people. I'm unsure about the bananas (unless the flood in Queensland was involved in sweeping them away) but the idea that people are involved could have legs. If we could find these 300 people responsible for the debt (I think a fair few would turn out to be politicians), then maybe we could deport them and put Australia back on track.

If you know of anyone you think is responsible for the debt, please let me know. I've started a list of names already:

1. Stefan (only because I didn't spend money when Chairman KRudd told me to).
- 2.

YET ANOTHER HEALTH ALERT

Health Officials have just issued an upgraded worldwide alert for people to be on the lookout for Stupidity after yet another outbreak last week left 4 people dead when they went parachute jumping but forgot their parachutes. So far this year, more than 1,500 people worldwide have died from Stupidity and authorities fear the death toll could top 4,000. Face masks are being issued to people suffering from Stupidity, but many fear that this isn't preventing Stupidity from spreading, but to make them look silly.

The government is looking at banning large crowds from gathering as they attempt to halt the spread of Stupidity. "Sports events are a rich breeding ground for Stupidity," says Professor

Gufaw, of the Stupidity Institute. "*Footbrawlers seem particularly vulnerable to being infected by Stupidity and maybe a lack of brain cells has something to do with it. Lately there have also been many nightclub patrons affected. It can't just be put down to drinking problems.*" Just listen to this nightclub weirdo: "*You might be standing next to a skinny person and a fat person outside a night club then the next minute 'Chk, chk, BOOM'. Stupidity everywhere.*" Hmm, sad. Another case.

From Monday, officials will be screening people at airports for signs of Stupidity. People showing signs (including placards) will be put back on the next plane out of the country, preferably with a pilot who also suffers from Stupidity.

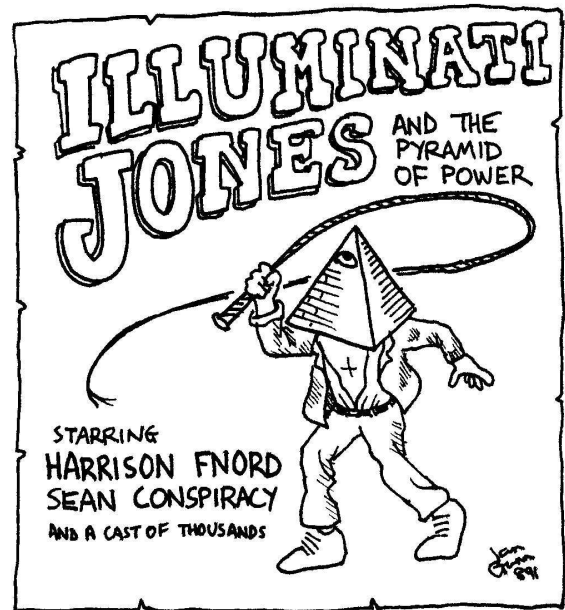
"There's no need to panic at this stage", said one official. "We're using planes that have been pre-programmed, so there's no chance the plane will return to Australia in error."

Officials blame parents and an ailing school system for the recent rapid rise in Stupidity. "Parents these days don't care about what their kids get up to and this can lead to Stupidity spreading very quickly amongst school age kids when they hang out together. We also have a school system that is powerless to act when faced with student Stupidity. Instead of quarantining them by keeping them back a year, the students suffering from Stupidity continue to move through the system. Then they are turned loose in our universities, our workforce and our political system. 315 Billion debt !!!!!"

In a worrying development, scientists have found that not only is Stupidity passed between peers and down to younger members of society (the so-called 'Dumb-Down' approach), it has also been found to spread up to older members (the 'Dumb-Up' approach). The Dumbing-Up of society can best be seen at work in our schools where teachers are being infected with Stupidity from their students via 'Dumb-Up', such as when the teachers allow their students to read Text messages instead of an English poem. They then pass this Stupidity on to other students via 'Dumb-Down', such as making reading Text Messages part of VCE. It's a vicious circle. Some schools have already been closed by the government in order to see if this stops the spread of Stupidity, but many fear it is too little, too late.

Unlike other health issues, Stupidity can affect anyone. We had always thought that as people became older, the more immune they were from Stupidity. Unfortunately this is not the case. Just

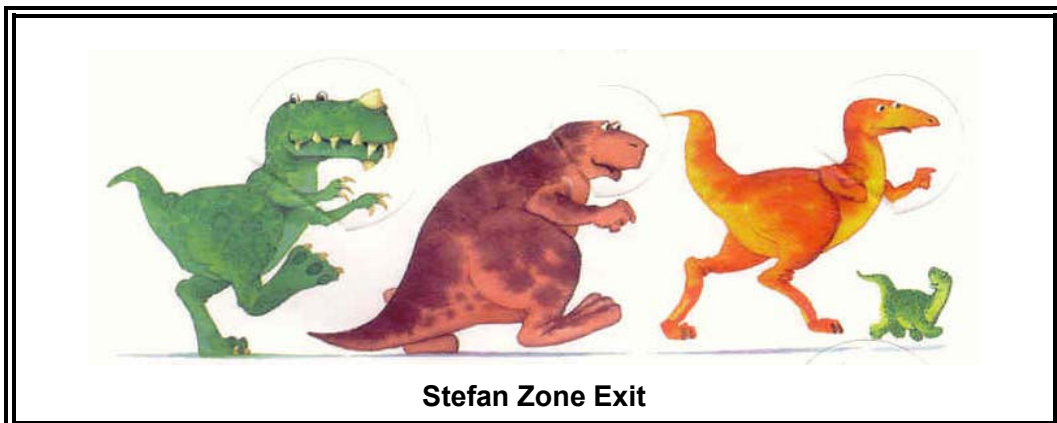
look at some of the ailing Hollywood stars and what they get up to...



The only known cure for Stupidity is a hefty dose of Experience. However, doctors have found that some Stupid people are becoming immune to Experience, especially those too lazy to get off their behinds and get some Experience. They've called on the government to release some of Australia's stockpile of Experience in order to reduce Stupidity. Sort of like an Experience Stimulus package. Unfortunately, it's just been learnt that there is no longer a stockpile of Experience available within Australia. Someone affected by Stupidity allowed it to migrate overseas.

Be afraid, be very afraid!

Stefan



Stefan Zone Exit

The Fires – Black Saturday, Feb 7th, 2009

Bushfires on February 7th, 2009, traumatised those closest to them and have affected nearly everyone else in Victoria in some way. They have been described as being equal in ferocity to 500 Hiroshima atomic bombs.

Rants against the bushfire season continue – for example, “... and I hate it most when homes are destroyed and 173 people die.” Too right, especially when there was no need for the inhabitants of Marysville to be at risk in the first place. The State Government’s Star Chamber enquiry into the recent bushfire season has revealed a shocking level of incompetence in management of the emergency telephone number 000.



As Victoria’s worst ever fire raced towards them on Black Saturday (7 Feb 09), triple zero callers were put on hold by Telstra and, in some cases, diverted to the dole office. Evidence to the Royal Commission tells that information received by ‘action’ levels in the emergency services bureaucracy was “*embarrassingly out of date*” and “*unfortunate and wrong*”. For example,

24 hours after 34 people were killed in Marysville, Victoria's peak emergency body (the Office of the Emergency Services Commissioner) issued situation reports at 8am and 5pm on February 8, saying, "We understand everyone in Marysville is safe."

The bushfires royal commission yesterday heard the situation report listed nearby Taggerty as a "concern", when the fire had ripped through the town the day before.

9,088 triple-zero calls and 970 State Emergency Service (SES) calls were received on Black Saturday (February 7th, 2009). When there’s a surge Telstra passes 000 calls on to the state's Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA). If ESTA is busy, Telstra activates a recorded voice announcement resulting in callers effectively being put on hold. ESTA itself doesn’t activate a voice recorded announcement but, instead, re-routes callers to second, third and fourth responders. It says it has no evidence of that happening on Black Saturday. Doesn’t it keep records?

In April 2008, when a violent wind storm hit Victoria, Telstra passed 000 emergency calls direct to Country Fire Authority volunteers in their homes at the height of the storm. Some CFA volunteers responded by telling the caller to wait while they themselves tried to call 000. The Government did not approve a national phone alert system until 16 days *after* Black Saturday, but there was a pre-arrangement with the Department of Social Security when the bushfire information line, which was supposed to relieve the load on 000, was itself overloaded. That resulted in some calls being diverted to Centrelink which handles, among a lot of other things, the dole office. Even now, the earliest we can hope for a national phone alert system is October 2009.

Nor was a radio and television emergency break-in signal activated on Black Saturday. The Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS) is used routinely in cyclone-prone areas but has never been discussed in bushfire planning meetings between emergency services.

We’ve a right to be angry. Emergency services have been under-resourced for too long.

Visit <http://media.watoday.com.au/national/national-news/marysville-inferno-streets-ablaze-539938.html> to see a video of the Marysville inferno taken by a survivor who took refuge in the lake.

Bill Wright

Navigating totems in tables of equivalents

Like us, the Ancients used totems to reduce into order that part of the universal chaos as is perceivable via the senses and what goes on in the mind. The difference is that our totems are cerebral, eg. Planck’s Constant, $e=em\ cee\ squared$, etc., whereas theirs had more than a whiff of hagiography and the anthropomorphic.

But we can’t all be scientists or mathematicians and theology comes with too much political baggage by way of social control. So we take comfort in distractions such as intuiting patterns from what we know and what we permit ourselves to read about. Hence the following intuition based on the Signs of the Evangelists:

Element:	Earth	Air	Fire	Water
Sign:	Man	Eagle	Lion	Ox
Evangelist:	Mathew	John	Mark	Luke

The technique is useful in many disciplines. For example, ethicist Dr Michael Rion, in an address to the American Society of Actuaries in the 1990s on *The Theory and Practice of Business Ethics*, constructed his famous *Table of Ethical Responsibilities* on a whiteboard situated beside the podium:

Corrective	Proactive	Responsive	Voluntary
Did I hurt someone?	How can I respect others? What principles are involved? - Promise keeping - Fairness - Honesty - Avoiding harm to others - Legal compliance	Should I help? What if I don’t help? - Need - Proximity - Capability - Last resort	Are there good deeds I could do? Do I have an opportunity to make a difference? - Volunteer - Pro bono work - Corporate philanthropy
OBLIGATIONS ←----- determinants of action, if any, and to what extent -----→ CHOICES			

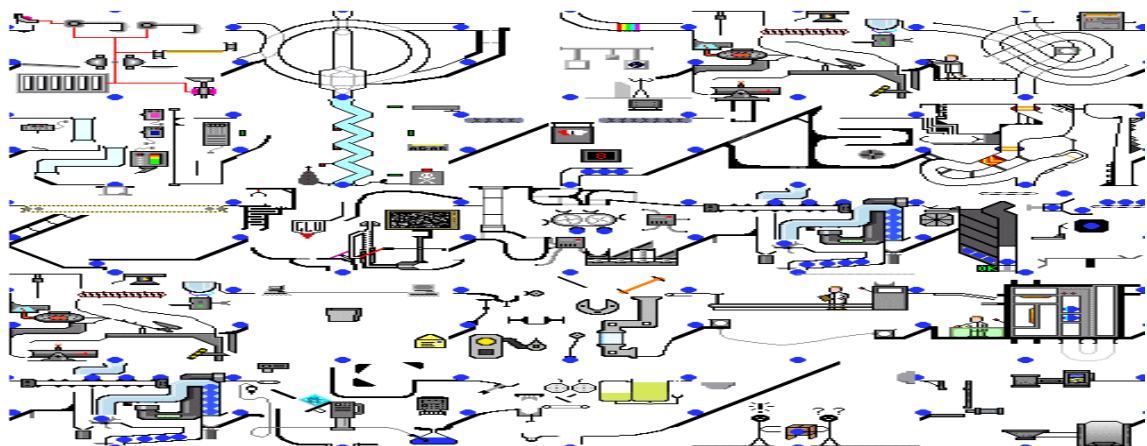
Dr Rion’s table brought into focus ideas and concepts that might otherwise have escaped even the high level minds of his listeners who were, in effect, high priests of capitalism whose certificates say are “*skilled in the theory of compound interest and the doctrine of probabilities.*”; although it can be argued that his seeds of wisdom fell on stony ground, given the failure of capitalist governance in the decade or so since his homily.

Contrariwise, our troubles may be due to the usurpation of actuarial authority by MBAs. It’s a moot point.

For an in-depth analysis of the theory and practice of business ethics, you can work your way through Dr Rion’s well-written albeit densely abstract magnum opus *The Responsible Manager* (Harper & Rowe 1990 © 1994)

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Here is an artist’s visualization of the schematic, the totality of which is inaccessible to human understanding:



Meditate while gazing at the schematic for two minutes. Then go to the next page to gain magical insights.

Fantasy authors use tables of totems as templates for the exploration of magical themes, eg. the supposed magical properties of minerals and precious stones. The Ancients divided precious stones into male and female, the darker being males and the lighter females (eg. male sapphires tend to indigo, female to sky-blue).

This approach can inspire writers to employ colourful imagery by using tables of equivalents, as follows:

Each month is under the influence of a stone

January	Garnet	Constancy
February	Amethyst	Sincerity
March	Bloodstone	Courage
April	Diamond	Innocence
May	Emerald	Success in love
June	Agate	Health & long life
July	Cornelian	Content
August	Sardonyx	Conjugal felicity
September	Chrysolite	Antidote to madness
October	Opal	Hope
November	Topaz	Felicity
December	Turquoise	Prosperity

Gems in relation to the signs of the zodiac

Aries	Ruby
Taurus	Topaz
Gemini	Carbuncle
Cancer	Emerald
Leo	Sapphire
Virgo	Diamond
Libra	Jacinth
Scorpio	Agate
Sagittarius	Amethyst
Capricorn	Beryl
Aquarius	Onyx
Pisces	Jasper

Gems and Minerals in relation to the planets

Saturn	Turquoise	Lead
Jupiter	Cornelian	Tin
Mars	Emerald	Iron
Sun	Diamond	Gold
Venus	Amethyst	Copper
Moon	Crystal	Silver
Mercury	Loadstone	Quicksilver

Gems, Colours and the Solar System in Heraldry

Topaz	or	(gold)	Sol, the Sun
Pearl or Crystal	argent	(silver)	Luna, the Moon
Ruby	gules	(red)	Mars
Sapphire	azure	(blue)	Jupiter
Diamond	sable	(black)	Saturn
Emerald	vert	(green)	Venus
Amethyst	purpure	(purple)	Mercury

Special properties

Loadstone	Prevents quarrels between brothers
Jasper	Worn by the ploughman ensures fertility of the field
Turquoise	Protects the wearer from injury on falling
Jade	Most pure and divine material to the Chinese. Properties include stimulating the flow of milk in nursing mothers when Jade is powdered and mixed with milk and honey


Best results come from writers and illustrators collaborating from the outset; but both should remember that deep colours are Male and light colours are Female.

The mnemonic ‘**table of equivalents**’ is code for this universe of relationships and ideas that some refer to as ‘pattern logic’. It is fully understood only by those whose education and experience were formed by employing its techniques, a circular process that improves the performances of its aficionados with use. The above examples show how it’s done. The sooner you start the better. Remember the mnemonic!

Bill Wright

Marvellous Melbourne

Melbourne has a reputation for being the multicultural capital of the developed world. From this *Arts Victoria* promotion for a multicultural music festival on June 24th, 2009, it's not hard to see why.



A MULTICULTURAL ARTS VICTORIA & MUSIC DELI PRODUCTION

UNDER AN EASTERN MOON

ABC MUSIC DELI FREE CONCERT
WEDNESDAY JUNE 24TH 09 6.30PM FOR A 7.00PM START
@ IWAKI AUDITORIUM, ABC SOUTHBANK CENTRE CNR
SOUTHBANK BLVD & STURT ST, SOUTHBANK
NO BOOKINGS - ARRIVE EARLY TO ENSURE YOUR SEAT!

MULTICULTURAL ARTS VICTORIA

UNDER AN EASTERN MOON

Hosted by ABC Music Deli's Paul Petran, a beautiful concert of exquisite music for voices and strings from Turkey, Afghanistan, Japan and India, made in Australia.

KHALIL GUDAZ
Ustad (Maestro) Khalil Gudaz is one of the most outstanding practitioners of Afghani and Hindustani music in Australia today.

HUZZAM
Entrancing classical Turkish music by internationally renowned sisters Gul, Melike, Menekse and Gamze Sevin.

DYA SINGH
Dya Singh performs Sikh (spiritual), Punjabi and North Indian music with influences of music from all parts of the globe.

NORIKO TADANO & GEORGE KAMIKAWA
Traditional and contemporary Japanese music meet as Noriko Tadano plays on the Tsugaru Shamisen (Japanese Banjo) with George Kamikawa an exemplary country blues artist.

Illustration by TWOONE
Photography by Damian Vincenzi

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The Awaki Auditorium is the rehearsal studio for the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, as well as a recital centre for chamber music groups spawned by that orchestra. It is named after Hiroyuki Iwaki, a Japanese conductor and percussionist who was Chief Conductor of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra for a record term of twenty-three years from 1974 to 1997, during which time he took the orchestra on two tours of Japan. From 1990 until his retirement in 1997 he was Conductor Laureate and retained that title until he died on 13th June 2006. He is remembered with affection. R.I.P.

"There's nothing remarkable about it. All one has to do is hit the right keys at the right time and the instrument plays itself."
- Johann Sebastian Bach

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IN THE KNOWN FAN WORLD
WITHOUT A ROTSLER
DRAWING.



That's a
well-known
rule of tentacle!