

BAD SCIENCE, GREAT PRESENTATION

Dr. Ben is an M.D. as well as a journalist. His presentation on *Bad Science* dealt with scientifically debunked non-sense. It was a very hilarious session, which had the audience asking for more.

Ben was scathing about medical scares generated by the media and subsequent fear mongering. He talked at length about the MRSA scare that the media has played up over the past decade. The alleged lethal bacteria cultures on doorknobs and flat, dry surfaces don't exist. Bacteria don't grow on these surfaces, no matter how much the media insists they do.

Misleading reports in the media leave us wondering if the media has anything real to report other than scar stories. Dr. Ben tries to expose fear-mongering by the media, professionals or the medical industry without libeling anyone. He to excels at an informative, witty presentation of his material. Sadly Ben's presentation ran out of time. We want more!

Ilana Grune

SFX EDITOR COMMENTS ON SF FANS

"I think notions of sci-fi being geeky are outdated. Sci-fi in general, and Doctor Who in particular, are part of the mainstream now ... There's a whole generation of people who aren't afraid to openly love sci-fi, and I think Doctor Who has been part of that." (Dave Bradley, Guardian 2nd April)

He better not come to Eastercon, his geekometer would go right of the scale!

STEAMPUNK

Yesterdays steampunk talk was very enjoyable. The argument about whether it should be called dieselpunk was an entertaining digression. The discussion on making modern day equipment equivalents could be made using the finest Victorian engineering was suitably diverting.

*Hackney Science Fiction & Fantasy Reading Group. 3rd Tuesday of each month, 6.30 - 7.30pm
CLR James Library, 24-30 Dalston Road, E8 3AZ
readsciencefiction@hackney.gov.uk*

THE PUN DOCTOR

Chris O'Shea to the Doctor Who audience: "Fran Dowd is on the front row, so *you are all Behind The Sofa.*"

THE DAMP AIR CONDITIONER

At 03:25 in the morning

Plop!

Plop!

Action is needed to be taken -

Ah! The waste bin'?

PLOP! It was worse! It resonates.

PLOP! PLOP! PLOP! PLOP!

In preparation for evacuation I remember that the hotel is FULL!

Then Reception is called.,

An oriental voice answers Yes?

The voice is informed that water is coming into the room.

In the END someone arrives at the room.

"Ah it is the air conditioner! This often happens."

Self: "Is this usual for guests to be woken at this time in the morning by the noise dripping water at this hotel?"

A towel is put in the waste bin to reduce the noise of DROP, DROP, DROP.

BUT, when enough drops have dropped, the noise resumes DROP, DROP, DROP.

Oriental visitor says that it will be looked at today.

This story may be continued in the next issue.

E.D.Buckley

A MAN FROM LOUISIANA

He arrived looking for Peter Redfarn wanting to donate books to the charity collection.

Later when Peter had been located, the Louisiana man was directed in right direction.

In his rush to see Peter he dropped a giant wallet which was kicked across the floor.

The wallet was reunited by your storyteller to its very grateful owner.

E.D.Buckley

WE MOURN THE PASSING OF ROSIE

The vast quantity of Rosie Scrumpy ordered for Odyssey has expired at the suppliers. The hotel will now offers One Pint bottles of Magner's cider at £3.50 as an alternative.

KIDS LAB

Lots of junior scientists came along and conducted experiments. The final catapult fire-off was won by Joseph Halse who sent a cotton wool ball the entire length of the Royal C+D. There is a small prize waiting for Joseph in Ops if the Ops team haven't already eaten it.

Elaine Coates

INSPIRING FAN

I came across Pat Lennon, aka K'Rotch of AKFT infamy, a long standing fan who was over the moon as he'd discovered a book dedication in a tome for sale in the dealer's room concerning his corrupting influence back in the day. So if you're curious, check out Zanders' little book of filks, featuring a cartoon of Zander loading in a musical score into a machine and getting a cacophony of notes spewing forth.



Pat Lennon with Filk Book

IMPRESSIONS ON THE ART ROOM

I had a quick wander round of the space and as normal was impressed with the quality of the offerings. For most of the art sales are either a fixed price or on the bidding system. The prices range from a few pounds to a few hundreds. The styles across the board from dragons and fantasy figures. an assortment of heroines, postcards and book marks. jewellery, masks and collages by way of time travelers ...

For who've not yet made it yet I'd recommend a visit as it's well worth a wander. Who knows you may be tempted to create something for next year. But please don't turn up with a drink in hand as no refreshments are allowed in, and no photography is allowed in the space.

FAN GUESTS OF HONOUR INTERVIEW

Fran 'The Sofa' Dowd to husband and fellow Fan GoH, John Dowd: (paraphrasing) "I hadn't realised how much the theme of our relationship has been uncontrolled vomiting."

Fran explained how she came to be the Chair of an all-female Eastercon bid committee before she had attended her first Eastercon. She was asked to join a committee of 'Big Scary Women' who worked on the 1995 Worldcon and thought organising an Eastercon would be "a piece of p**s". When the original chair had to step down due to work pressure, Fran was the only woman big enough and scary enough to take on the role. John Dowd, treasurer of several past conventions and the UK in 2014 bid, pointed out that Finance is one of the least visible yet most important of the committee roles. For the record, Odyssey has

a remarkably efficient and competent treasurer in Melanie Davis. If you see her around, why not buy her a drink? (Just remember to keep the receipt!)

Alex Holden

GEORGE HAY LECTURE

This year's George Hay lecture was on Geo-engineering. Oliver Morton, a British science writer and editor, brought us an illustrated lecture, centering on the Sublime. The Sublime of what, you may ask? The Sublime of everything, of course.

The growth of technology has given us many options to control our climate. Most of the concepts before the 1960s seem to have involved controlled nuclear explosions. In the 1950s for instance they were trying to get more water available. They thought nothing of triggering a Nuclear Winter in order to affect the climate change they wanted.

Recently, blocking out the sun has been considered, to limit the green-house effect, but doing it with a destructive explosion is just not the way to go anymore. Nukes are out, artificially triggered clouds are in. I don't pretend to know how it's done, but the result is a lot more clouds, which block out the sun, so the oceans don't warm up as much. If the oceans remain at a lower temperature, less energy will escape from the Earth's surface. The last option is to use sulfur oxides, like a volcano spitting plumes, which blocks out the Sun very well. Talk to the people of Pompeii about that. The modern 21st century way of dispersing the sulfur would be to throw planes up high at the edge of the atmosphere, to reduce the amount of sunlight. That's the concept I walked away from the lecture with. Where the sublime came into this, just didn't come across.

Ilana Grune

