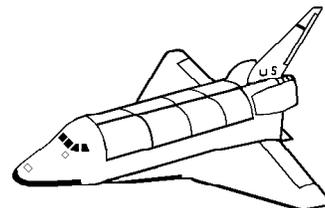


The



# SHUTTLE August 2001

*The Next NASFA Meeting is 18 August 2001  
at the Regular Time and Location*

*Con+Stellation ConCom Meeting 16 August 2001  
at Mike Kennedy's House*

## 🔔 Oyez, Oyez 🔔

The next **NASFA meeting** will be **18 August 2001** at the **regular time** (6P) and the **regular location**. Call BookMark at 256-881-3910 if you need directions. The **August program** is not set at press time, but may be the DUFF report delayed from last month.

Contrary to earlier plans, the **August After-The-Meeting Meeting** will be at Mike Kennedy's house. (Russell McNutt is recovering from cataract surgery.) Call Mike at 256-883-5922 if you need directions.

We hear from Samanda Jeude that she has a Philadelphia Worldcon membership for sale for \$175. You can contact her at <SamJeude1@aol.com>.

Due to the length and time-sensitive nature of some of the submissions we received, this issue does not have an episode of *No Need for a Dragon*. We will resume *NNFAD* in the September or October issue (depending on the length of our Worldcon coverage next month.)

The September meeting will be subsumed by the annual NASFA cookout, which will take place starting at 1:00P at Robin Ray's house. Stay tuned for more details.

## Con+Stellation ConCom

The next Con+Stellation XX con committee meeting will be on Thursday 16 August 2001 at Mike Kennedy's house — 7907 Charlotte Drive in Huntsville. Call him at 256-883-5922 if you need directions.

This is an eating meeting, with the food theme being "horny food." Eating starts at 6:30P with the meeting proper afterwards.

## Movie News

The name of the next Star Wars movie, has been announced: it will be known as *Star Wars: Episode II — Attack of the Clones*. Meanwhile, the original Star Wars trilogy has found a new life on stage. With George Lucas' blessing, students from the University of Southern California School of Theater are presenting a condensed, tongue-in-cheek version of the entire trilogy. It is currently being staged at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and has previously seen runs in Paris and Los Angeles. Props include trash cans, milk cartons, and upturned chairs, while Luke Skywalker is armed with a plastic light saber.

The news for Steven Spielberg's *A.I.* is not so cheerful. Censors in Sweden have applied the highest available rating, barring anyone under 15 from seeing the picture. They cited a scene in which the young robot-boy is abandoned by his mother in a forest and expressed concern that it could upset children. An executive of the film distributor disagreed and announced that they would appeal. Spielberg and the Swedish board of censors have a history of conflicts going back to *E.T.* which was given an 11-rating because the censors thought some scenes were scary and presented the adult world in a hostile way. The distributor then also fought for a lower rating, but lost.

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**Deadline for the September 2001 issue of *The NASFA Shuttle* is Friday, 31 August 2001.**



## The Passing of a Legend

Science fiction legend Poul Anderson died at his home in Orinda CA near midnight, Tuesday 31 July 2001. He had come home that day to receive hospice care after kidney failure brought on by prostate cancer. Report are that his last day was spent with family and friends. A memorial gathering and wake were planned for Saturday 4 August. Mr. Anderson was 74 at the time of his death and is survived by his wife and writing partner Karen, his daughter Astrid, brother John, grandchildren Erik and Alexandra, nieces Janet and Cathy, and son-in-law Greg Bear.

In his career Anderson won almost every award imaginable — including three Nebula Awards, seven Hugo Awards, SFWA's Grandmaster Award, induction into the Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame, and most recently the John W. Campbell Memorial Award for the best science fiction novel of 2000 (for *Genesis*). He was also a former President of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America and was Guest of Honor at the World Science Fiction Convention in 1959.

Anderson published around 50 novels and about that same number of collections of short fiction, as well as numerous essays and several poems. His career spanned from 1947's *Tomorrow's Children* series to the novel *Mother of Kings* due to be published in September 2001. In a 1997 interview in *Locus*, he said the works that he would like to be remembered for are *Tau Zero*, *Midsummer Tempest*, *The Boat of a Million Years*, *Three Hearts and Three Lions*, *The Enemy Stars*, and *Brain Wave*.

The family has requested that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the SFWA Emergency Medical Fund c/o Chuck Rothman, SFWA Treasurer, 1436 Altamont Avenue, PMB 292, Schenectady PA 12303-2977.

quet during Mythcon XXXII in Berkeley CA, on August 6. The winners are:

**Fantasy Award, Adult Literature** .....*The Innamorati*, Midori Snyder (Tor)

**Fantasy Award, Children's Literature** .....*Aria of the Sea*, Dia Calhoun (Winslow Press)

**Scholarship Award in Inklings Studies** .....*J.R.R. Tolkien: Author of the Century*, Tom Shippey (HarperCollins UK)

**Scholarship Award in Myth and Fantasy Studies** .....*King Arthur in America*, Alan Lupack and

Barbara Tapa Lupack (Boydell and Brewer 1999)

The complete list of finalists plus acceptance speeches by the winners, are on the Society's website <<http://www.mythsoc.org/awards.html>>.

### LISTEN UP

The Mark Time and Ogle Awards (for best SF and fantasy audio productions) were presented in July 2001 at CONvergence in Bloomington MN. The winners are:

**Mark Time Gold Award** .....*Tread Softly Bill Lizard*, written and produced by Roger Gregg (Crazy Dog Audio Theatre)

**Mark Time Silver Award** (tie) .....*Patch and Click*, written and produced by Ed Lehmann (WMNF, Tampa, FL) and *Flash Gordon*, Episode 1: "The

New Planet," produced by The One Act Players  
**Ogle Gold Award** .....*The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, adapted and directed by David Ossman, produced by Otherworld Media for the Children's Museum of Los Angeles  
**Ogle Silver Award** .....*The Soul Patrol*, Episode 6: "Bridge of Indecision," produced by David Koenigsberg  
 Additional links and past winners are available on the awards' website <<http://www.greatnorthernaudio.com/MarkTime/MTwinners.html>>.

### CANADIAN AWARD NEWS

The shortlist for the first annual Sunburst Award, for best novel-length Canadian literature of the fantastic, has been released. Jurors for the award are John Clute, Candace Jane Dorsey, Phyllis Gotlieb, Monica Hughes, and Leon Rooke. The award, which consists of a cash prize of \$1000 and a bronze medallion of the "Sunburst," crafted by Linda Carson (from a design by Marcel Gagné), is tentatively scheduled to be presented on 28 September 2001 at the Winnipeg International Writers Festival. The nominees are:

*Before Wings*, Beth Goobie (Orca Book Publishers)

*The Black Chalice*, Marie Jakober (Edge Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing)

*Galveston*, Sean Stewart (Ace)

*Lord of Emperors*, Guy Gavriel Kay (Penguin Books Canada)

*Midnight Robber*, Nalo Hopkinson (Warner Aspect)

*Monkey Beach*, Eden Robinson (Alfred A. Knopf Canada)

### COMPUSERVE HOMER AWARDS

Winners of the HOMer Awards, voted by member of CompuServe's Science Fiction and Fantasy Forums, have been announced. The winners are:

**Novel** .....*Calculating God*, Robert Sawyer (Tor)

**Novella** .....*"A Roll of the Dice,"* Catherine Asaro (*Analog* July/August 2000)

**Novellette** .....*"The Tarant Stone,"* Ron Collins (*Analog* October 2000)

**Short Story** .....*"The Elephants on Neptune,"* Mike Resnick (*Asimov's* May 2000)

**Dramatic Presentation** ..*Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*  
**SAY IT WITH POETRY**

Winners of this year's Rhysling Awards for best sf poems published in 2000 have been announced by the Science Fiction Poetry Association. The winners (and runners-up) are:

**Long Poem Winner** .....*"January Fires,"* Joe Haldeman (*Asimov's* January 2001)

2nd place (tie) .....*"Maya,"* James Dorr and  
*"Valley of Years,"* David C. Kopaska-Merkel

3rd place (tie) .....*"Event Horizons,"* Gene Van Troyer and  
*"The Lesions of Genetic Sin,"*

Bruce Boston (Miniature Sun Press)

**Short Poem Winner** .....*"My Wife Returns As She Would Have It,"* Bruce Boston (*Asimov's* March 2000)

2nd place (tie) *"Of Dance Steps and Distances,"* G. O. Clark  
 and *"Reflections In A Fading Mir,"* Ann K. Schwader

3rd place .*"Persephone Wakening,"* Tracina Jackson-Adams

## World Fantasy Nominations

The final ballot for the 2001 World Fantasy Awards (for publications in the year 2000) has been released. Winners will be announced at the World Fantasy Convention in Montreal, 1-4 November 2001. Judges for this year's awards are Steven Erikson, Paula Guran, Diana Wynne Jones, Graham Joyce, and Jonathan Strahan. The nominees are:

## NOVEL

- Declare*, Tim Powers (Subterranean Press; Morrow 2001)  
*Galveston*, Sean Stewart (Ace Books)  
*The Grand Ellipse*, Paula Volsky (Bantam Spectra)  
*His Dark Materials 3: The Amber Spyglass*, Philip Pullman (Knopf; Scholastic UK)  
*Lord of Emperors*, Guy Gavriel Kay (Viking Canada; Harper-Prism; Earthlight)  
*Perdido Street Station*, China Miéville (Macmillan; Del Rey 2001)

## NOVELLA

- “Blue Kansas Sky,” Michael Bishop (*Blue Kansas Sky*)  
“Chip Crockett’s Christmas Carol,” Elizabeth Hand (*Sci Fiction*, serialized 6–27 December 2000)  
*The Man on the Ceiling*, Steve Rasnic Tem and Melanie Tem (American Fantasy)  
“Mr. Dark’s Carnival,” Glen Hirshberg (*Shadows and Silence*)  
“Mr. Simonelli or the Fairy Widower,” Susanna Clarke (*Black Heart, Ivory Bones*)  
“Pelican Cay,” David Case (*Dark Terrors 5*)  
“Seventy-Two Letters,” Ted Chiang (*Vanishing Acts*)

## SHORT FICTION

- “Down Here in the Garden,” Tia V. Travis (*Horror Garage* #1, May 2000)  
“Is There Anybody There?,” Kim Newman (*The New English Library Book of Internet Stories*)  
“Lincoln in Frogmore,” Andy Duncan (*Belulahatchie and Other Stories*)  
“The Pottawatomie Giant,” Andy Duncan (*Sci Fiction*, 1 November 2000)  
“The Raggle Taggle Gypsy-O,” Michael Swanwick (*Tales of Old Earth*)  
“The Saltimbanques,” Terry Dowling (*Blackwater Days, Eidolon* 29/30)  
“Shoe and Marriage,” Kelly Link (*4 Stories*)

## ANTHOLOGY

- Dark Matter: A Century of Speculative Fiction from the African Diaspora*, Sheree R. Thomas, ed. (Warner Aspect)  
*Dark Terrors 5: The Gollancz Book of Horror*, Stephen Jones

and David Sutton, eds. (Gollancz)

- Shadows and Silence*, Barbara Roden and Christopher Roden, eds. (Ash-Tree Press)  
*Vanishing Acts*, Ellen Datlow, ed. (Tor)  
*whispers from the cotton tree root: caribbean fabulist fiction*, Nalo Hopkinson, ed. (Invisible Cities Press)  
*The Year’s Best Fantasy and Horror: Thirteenth Annual Collection*, Ellen Datlow and Terri Windling, eds. (St. Martin’s)

## COLLECTION

- Belulahatchie and Other Stories*, Andy Duncan (Golden Gryphon)  
*Blackwater Days*, Terry Dowling (Eidolon Books)  
*Magic Terror: Seven Tales*, Peter Straub (Random House)  
*Perpetuity Blues and Other Stories*, Neal Barrett, Jr. (Golden Gryphon)  
*The Perseids and Other Stories*, Robert Charles Wilson (Tor)  
*Travel Arrangements: Short Stories*, M. John Harrison (Gollancz)

## ARTIST

- Jim Burns**                      **Kinuko Y. Craft**                      **Les Edwards**  
**Daniel Merriam**              **John Jude Palencar**                      **Shaun Tan**  
**SPECIAL AWARD, PROFESSIONAL**

- Ellen Datlow** (for editing *Sci Fiction* and anthologies)  
**Cathy Fenner** and **Arnie Fenner** (for *Spectrum 7: The Best in Contemporary Fantastic Art*)

- William K. Schafer** (for Subterranean Press)  
**Tom Shippey** (for *J.R.R. Tolkien: Author of the Century* (HarperCollins UK; Houghton Mifflin 2001))

- Gary Turner** and **Marty Halpern** (for Golden Gryphon Press)

## SPECIAL AWARD, NON-PROFESSIONAL

- Benjamin Cossel**, **Jeremy Lassen**, and **Jason Williams** (for *Nightshade Press*)

- Peter Crowther** (for PS Publishing)

- Philip J. Rahman** and **Dennis E. Weiler** (for Fedogan and Bremer)

- Barbara Roden** and **Christopher Roden** (for Ash-Tree Press)

- Raymond Russell** and **Rosalie Parker** (for Tartarus Press)

- Bill Sheehan** (for *At The Foot Of The Story Tree: An Inquiry into the Fiction of Peter Straub* (Subterranean Press))

# Two Sides of a Coin

A Review of Tim Burton’s *Planet of the Apes*

by Pat Brooks

*Planet of the Apes*; directed by Tim Burton; produced by Ross Fanger (associate producer), Ralph Winter (executive producer), and Richard D. Zanuck (producer); novel written by Pierre Boulle; screenplay written by William Broyles Jr., Lawrence Konner, and Mark Rosenthal; starring Mark Wahlberg, Tim Roth, Helena Bonham Carter, and Michael Clarke Duncan. PG-13.

[Warning, spoilers galore. -Pat]

As the time grew near for *Planet of the Apes* to be released, the talk shows were full of guest actors appearing almost every night. The more I saw the clips and heard about the “ape” school everyone attended, the more hesitant I was to go see it. I did go with friends to a matinee today, the Monday after the release, and this evening feel compelled to write a review.

Mark Wahlberg portrays the human astronaut Leo Davidson stationed on a *homo sapien*-run space station. Here, humans use chimpanzees like guinea pigs to pilot small space

probes (which look very cool) out into space and back again. Suddenly, an unknown gigantic magnetic storm arrives and they send a chimp piloted ship out. (I read too much —

suddenly in the vast reaches of space a magnetic storm creeps up unawares?) Chimp and ship promptly disappear. Leo steals a probe ship and departs the station against orders to “save the chimp.” “Uh oh,” this reader of SF thinks, “who does he think he is?” Why, just a means to achieve an end, of course. Naturally, Leo also disappears. The audience knows where this will end — crashed



on an ape-run planet and no bananas to hand out.

Leo gets captured rather quickly as you might imagine. “Well, here is where the interesting part starts,” I think. So far the costuming is great, the make-up fantastic (every ape is highly individualized), the acting good, and atmosphere interesting, and here comes the ape society — only it never arrives. Apes dress like humans, have a government which mimics humans, get their hair cut and styled as humans, adopt human utensils and furniture in their homes, and even ride horses (although no base was laid for their appearance).

Where oh where is C. J. Cherryh when you need her? What she could have done with their society! Instead, I found hairy cookie-cut humans. The only thing going for them seems to be their hatred?, fear?, taboo? of technology.

There are three main ape characters: Ari (Helena Bonham Carter), a female ape (human-lover from childhood), power hungry General Thade (Tim Roth), and his first in command, Captain Attar (Michael Clarke Duncan), a religious silverback gorilla. These are well acted three-dimensional characters, unlike the human, Leo, who only wants to (a) look out for number one and (b) go home.

Speaking of which, I can only hope a very rich and powerful someone on Earth black-balled Leo to the space station. How could someone with so little empathy (disrespect to animals), so much ego (I’ll save the chimp), and such small-mindedness (I don’t care that slavery is common, I just want to get home) get assigned to a space station? Could it be that someone who pilots a space probe has never watched or read SF? Shouldn’t he have known that when the chronometer races forward (shades of *Star Trek!*) you are not going to end up where you began? Shouldn’t he know that time travel is tricky and you can’t go home?

Mark Wahlberg played the role of Leo flat and I must say it suited the character perfectly. Leo has a noticeable lack of humor and no sense of adventure. He never changed, never grew, never intentionally touched or allowed himself to be touched by anyone or anything. He is much better suited to the role of a fictional SF villain. And maybe this is what Tim Burton had in mind all the time. Is *Planet of the Apes* really a film ahead of its time? Will high school teachers of the future have classes of students pull the film apart piece by piece with critical, analytical eyes? Does Leo represent our society of “me, me, me”? Is the moral really “Thinking of others is good; thinking of oneself is bad”? After all, it didn’t help Leo did it? (If you’ve not seen the movie — no it didn’t.)

Needless to say, I was left feeling annoyed and angry. I felt set up and betrayed to discover that our human hero was as unsympathetic a character as I’ve ever come across. When looked at from a distance, he has no heroic social redeeming qualities at all. He’s just a man, stuck out of his time, trying to go home — everyone else be damned. And that last bit is what does the film in.

Ari, the female ape, is the true hero of the film. Not only is she empathetic (humans are not just animals), she also has a healthy ego, seeks to better herself as well as others (don’t kill him or you’ll put yourself on his level), and possesses a keen mind (she wishes to know the truth however horrible that might be). Was this Burton’s intent all along?

A sense of subtlety was never developed in Tim Burton’s *Planet of the Apes* as was in *Edward Scissorhands*. Both achieved atmosphere, *Planet of the Apes* never achieved *feeling*. I felt especially cheated by the tacked on “just one more surprise” ending. Instead of adding depth, it cheapened the movie. If you want action, go see the new version. But if you want something to *feel* about, go buy or rent the original.

## NASFA Receivables

by Randy B. Cleary

Here are the latest items received by NASFA.

**ConNotations**, Volume 11, Issue 3, June/July 2001, Stephanie L. Bannon, Central Arizona Speculative Fiction Society, P. O. Box 62613, Phoenix AZ 85082; <Editors@casfs.org> — This newszine had 24 newsprint pages of SF media news, reviews, and convention listings with a special obituary feature on Douglas Adams.

**De Profundis** 341, May and 342, June 2001, Marty Cantor, c/o The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, 11513 Burbank Boulevard, North Hollywood CA 91601; <http://www.lasfs.org> — This club zine (May) had 10 blue pages. June had 10 blue pages plus the LASFS Fandom Directory.

**Derogatory Reference** 97, Arthur D. Hlavaty, 206 Valentine Street, Yonkers NY 10704-1814; 914-965-4861; <hlavaty@panix.com> — This personal zine had six white pages with a report on the International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts.

**DNA Publications**, P. O. Box 2988, Radford VA 24143-2988 — They sent subscription flyers for *SF Chronicle* and all of their other publications.

**FOSFAX** 203, June 2001, Timothy Lane and Elizabeth Garrott, The Falls of the Ohio Science Fiction and Fantasy Association, P. O. Box 37281, Louisville KY 40233-7281 — This club-sponsored serious general zine had 74 pages of essays, articles, reports, reviews, and letters of comment.

**Memphen** 272, June, and 273, July 2001, Greg Bridges, The Memphis Science Fiction Association, P. O. Box 820534, Memphis TN 38182-0534; 901-664-6730; <MemphisSF@cs.com> — This June club zine had seven pages. July had likewise. Both had neat Tom Foster covers.

**OASFiS Event Horizon** 167, June and 168, July 2001, Leslie R. Hammes, The Orlando Area Science-Fiction Society, P. O. Box 940992, Maitland FL 32792-0992; 407-263-5822 — This June club zine had four pages. July arrived as one very mangled page.

**Rolling Plunder Review**, July 2001, Lord Ambassador K’Jarg, Diplomat Emeritus (Lewis Murphy), 4237 Rocky Ledge Way, Snellville GA 30039; <lmurp02@mindspring.com> — This first issue was a 2 page personal zine with film and book reviews.

**SFSFS Shuttle** 144, April/May 2001, South Florida Science Fiction Society, P. O. Box 70143, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33307-0143; <http://sfsfs.org/> — This club zine had 12 pages.

**Southern Fandom Confederation Bulletin**, April 2001, Julie Wall, 470 Ridge Road, Birmingham, AL 35206; <jlwall@usit.net>; 205-833-8635 — This organizational general zine had 22 pages of fannish information, such as a list of Southern SF authors.

## Pandora’s Box, Revisited

by Jim Woosley

Well, the year 2000 has come and gone, and to the best of my knowledge nobody has gone back to review Heinlein’s infamous prediction of things to come, “Where To?” Originally published in 1950 with the alternate title “Pandora’s Box,” and updated for *The Worlds of Robert A. Heinlein* in 1965 and *Expanded Universe* in 1980, this essay describes the

Grand Master's attempt to actually predict the way of the future, as it would occur in real life, not in SF.

In the version printed in *Expanded Universe* (New Heinlein Opus Number G.085b, "Where To?" updated version for *Expanded Universe*, 1980 — entries from the New Heinlein Opus List ©2000 James Gifford, used with permission), Heinlein claimed a 66% success rate for his predictions. I thought it would be worthwhile, and I hope amusing, to review his predictions twenty years later and see how things still stack up.

The referenced version is of course copyrighted, and further contains considerable detail, particularly in the later descriptions. I have elected to print paraphrases/summaries (italicized) of each item rather than copy them in detail. The interested reader is directed to the original publication for Heinlein's original words.

— O — O — O — O —

1. ***Lunar and interplanetary travel will be commonplace, if not yet so routine as to be inexpensive.*** In 1980, Mr. Heinlein was evidently distressed that this prediction had not come to pass.

2. ***Medical advances related to contraception and control of disease would radically change the relationship between the sexes.*** In 1980, Mr. Heinlein considered this *fait accompli*. Clearly, he did not anticipate HIV; not surprising, since the first connection to be drawn between a particular rare form of skin cancer and male homosexuality was in the future. Though most readers may not realize — or remember — that it was only a couple of years in the future at that point. Still, at least within Western societies, AIDS remains a disease primarily of the gay community. Meanwhile, statistics quoted widely at PTA meetings I've attended in the past few years suggest that the age of first intercourse for females has shifted, on average, down to around 15 and that teenagers in general retain a casual disregard for the risks of even the routine STD's — much less AIDS. And let's not forget Ms Lewinsky and the man she once professed to love; most significantly, for the polls surrounding their activities which showed that "Generation X'ers" do not consider oral sex to be an activity of infidelity. And let's not forget the rise of cybersex; or, unfortunately, the ease of availability of child pornography, both on-line and off-line (both developments which are clear confirmation of Mr. Heinlein's speculation about the role of the computer in the development of gender relations in 1980).

However, Mr. Heinlein has apparently missed on his specific suggestion of the development of extended families tied by legally enforceable contracts emphasizing the care of children, except to the extent that prenuptial agreements are becoming more commonplace and do often specify child-care provisions. And to the extent that homosexual "marriage" is becoming more common and acceptable.

Come to think of it, maybe he hasn't missed at all. Who knows where the present cultural current will draw us.

3. ***Militarily, the "high ground" of outer space is of paramount importance.*** Anyone who believes that the Soviet Union folded in part (large part?) due to the U.S. development of Reagan's SDI has to agree that Mr. Heinlein was correct. Stay tuned for further details.

4. ***The U.S. will not start a preemptive war, but will respond when the country's interest or allies are threatened.*** By 1980, Mr. Heinlein was no longer confident of the latter. The hole left by the Soviet Union has, in my opinion, left Mr. Heinlein somewhat high and dry on this one. The ongoing war of attrition against Iraq is at least a borderline preemptive war. Military interventions in the form of "police actions" in Somalia and Bosnia are arguably preemptive in the sense implied by

Mr. Heinlein; the timing of some of President Clinton's actions against Iraq and Bosnia suggest that the only interest served was his personal political interest. However, none of these cases can be argued to be a clear change in the U.S. strategy against "first strike." It will be necessary to watch future developments, not just in this administration but in future opposition administrations to see if these trends develop into a strategic policy of preemptive warfare.

5. ***Breakthroughs in technology will make housing much safer and more affordable.*** By 1980, Mr. Heinlein noted that the technology was available, but that building codes and other political and economic interventions were blocking the technologies from widespread use. The situation has not substantially changed.

6. ***Food shortages should be anticipated.*** By 1980, Mr. Heinlein noted that oil (or, more specifically, energy, fertilizer, and pesticides) was a more significant factor than population, and that the U. S. should not experience any significant food shortages by 2000. Over the past few years, agricultural/veterinary medicine has become more of a controlling factor, with the onslaught of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, and more recently the outbreak of foot-in-mouth disease. Combined with recent increases in petroleum costs, the economics of food production may be changing again. At least, our grocery bill seems to be creeping up faster than the acknowledged "consumer price index."

7. ***"Modern" art, or "the cult of the phony in art," as defined in 1950, was expected to disappear.*** However, by 1980, Mr. Heinlein concluded that the "Crazy Years" were in fact occurring and that art would continue getting worse, rather than better. Mapelthorpe. "Piss Christ." Jesus as a nude black woman. The Virgin Mary painted in elephant dung. 'Nuff said?

Actually, no. I've always thought the Mapelthorpe's \$40,000 National Endowment for the Arts grant for homoautoerotic photography was a sign of laziness on his part; there are vast commercial markets for that sort of thing, and he could have made much more money targeting those markets. As for the other items listed, in addition to being "phony" in the definition of the times, they are also structured to be intentionally offensive to select religious/cultural groups — which makes things worse, rather than better.

8. ***Freud will be classified as a prescientific pioneer, and rigorous science based on developments in the knowledge of brain structure will create a more rigorous science of psychiatry, and a more rigorous therapy.*** This is happening more slowly than Mr. Heinlein anticipated in 1980, but it is clearly happening.

9. ***Medical science will cure many of the common illnesses, including the common cold, tooth decay, and cancer. Medical research will be focused on regeneration of lost limbs and individual organs.*** Curative therapies are lagging Mr. Heinlein's predictions, as he noted in 1980; new concerns (e.g., the ebola virus, necrolyzing bacterial infections, hantavirus, etc. Prion-based infections, of which the most famous — but not only — example is the so-called "mad cow" disease) as well as the evolution-in-action of "superviruses" are making infectious disease a greater problem than anyone would have believed fifty years ago. Regenerative therapies — usually gene based — are inhibited in their development because of widespread public fears of the larger consequences of gene-based therapeutic technologies; more specifically, human cloning. IMHO, these therapies will become available over the next thirty years — people want all the advantages medicine can give them, and even if public funding is inhibited by the fears of the naysayers, private funding will give us human

cloning and gene-based therapies — because the rich will want the conveniences of cloning and gene therapy, and will then want to profit from their inventions.

As Mr. Heinlein notes, the problems are not unrelated. However, I suspect that infectious disease will be a continuing area of research for decades to come, because the idea of one — or even a few — general cures currently seems to me to be out of reach. I'd love to be proven wrong on this one.

Also note the rise of theories that even systemic problems — cancer, heart disease, ulcers, etc. — may have their basis in part in infectious agents.

**10. *Wide-spread solar system exploration; the first probe to another star will be under construction.*** In 1950, Heinlein clearly meant manned exploration; by 1980, he had hedged his bet and accepted robotic exploration, and by that measure, he was certainly correct, with probes to every planet except Pluto, probes at the edge of the heliopause (the boundary at which the solar wind vanishes into the background of the galaxy), and probes to observe the solar system from far above the ecliptic. So what has happened has been exciting — but far short of Heinlein's specific projections. (This is the section which, in *Expanded Universe*, includes the famous discussion of constant-boost orbital transfer).

The dominant factor in not being there is, IMHO, the launch cost factor. Once launch costs are reduced by a factor of 10, the rest will follow within 50–75 years; if launch costs are reduced by a factor of 50 or more, the rest will follow within 20–30 years. However, reductions of this scale will require new technologies — and nuclear boost, which forty years ago was considered the most viable option for low-cost propulsion, is not politically possible within this country and will likely not be considered seriously until other countries pave the way (which they undoubtedly will, unless the U.S. — or some other country — discovers a non-nuclear propulsion technology with equivalent performance).

**11. *Cell telephones and Internet telephony.*** 'Nuff said?

**12. *The discovery of intelligent life on Mars.*** In 1980, Heinlein admitted that it no longer appeared likely — and more recent developments (discounting the “face on Mars” crowd) have not proven him wrong. Except possibly about intelligent life in Tokyo (he was dead accurate about the state of intelligent life in Washington DC).

**13. *Routine, inexpensive supersonic transit, 1000 mph at less than \$10.00/hour/person (in 1950 dollars), including supersonic subterranean transport systems.*** While speed has not kept up with the projection, and the subterranean railroads have never come to pass, routine transit at about 400 mph takes place at a normal cost of about \$50–100/hour for coach, well within the cost prediction.

I personally believe that this has fallen flat through regulatory pressures and the simply huge investment in infrastructure represented by modern highway, rail, shipboard, and air transport. The costs and time of building new infrastructure (e.g., R&D of safe supersonic aircraft, regulatory pressures for noise suppression, longer runways to accommodate supersonic transport, tracks and guideways for high-speed light rail or Maglev, etc.) is prohibitive compared to the costs of simply maintaining the infrastructure we have.

Cracking the transportation “nut” will require completely new paradigms. The mostly likely thing on the books is the development of computer-controlled and stabilized personal helicopters, with costs of ownership within a factor of two or three of automobiles and with streamlined shapes incorporating ducted rotors. I recall an article from 1985 or so in *Discover* which claimed such systems within the decade (clearly wrong)

capable of reaching 400 mph on 15 mpg. (See, e.g., the air taxis in *Stranger in a Strange Land*.) Such a technology is advantageous because it minimizes the requirements for new infrastructure. Hybrid technologies which use current highways for local transport but which permit individuals to drive their personal autos, e.g., onto light rail cars which can then “ferry” the autos long distances at two to three times highway speeds for not much more than twice the cost of automobile gas also represent a solution to the conundrum, but at the cost of an extensive duplicate infrastructure. So do automated controls for autos which would permit safe driving at higher speeds on ordinary highways. However, we have about reached the limits of expanding conventional highways outward; at some point, tiered expressways will be required to meet the volume and speed of traffic required.

**14. *Physicists will be working to control gravity.*** This is coming true, in a number of experiments in a number of different *fora* (check the Internet, including our friends at UAH). Note however that we're not there yet, and that most of the positive results are controversial.

Although I've not been active in gravitation since my graduate school course, nor much in particle physics since my dissertation, I believe that a number of the current paradigms are inadequate at best. Most specifically, both general relativity and quantum field theory spend tremendous effort to find computational techniques which justify the assumptions that calculations can be carried out from a geometrical point (of zero radius, leading to problems with division by zero), when, e.g., the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle limits the minimum “radius” of the problem to some density function of width  $h/\Delta p$ , where  $h$  is Planck's constant and  $\Delta p$  is a function of the momentum. While this greatly oversimplifies the problem (although most readers probably don't see this as an sort of simplification), I hope it does show that a paradigm shift is required. This shift is taking place in part, with the work on so-called “superstring” and “supermembrane” theories being lead by Ed Witten, but my readings in that area so far suggest that the models are being constrained to recreate the old paradigm, and that the basic assumptions do not yet fully reject the problems which limit further rigorous development of the theory.

There are other points where my personal opinions (based on intuition and not honed by rigorous analysis) differ from conventional theory. I would be delighted to be proven wrong...

**15. *There will be no World State, and Communism will disappear.*** In 1980, Heinlein “hedged” that there was no state calling itself communist that bears any resemblance to the “utopias” of Marx, although went on to say that he was very dissatisfied with developments between 1950 and that point.

The last twenty years have seen the collapse of the Warsaw Pact, the balkanization of the Soviet Union (albeit with many of the same faces at the top of the various independent states which formerly formed the USSR), the genesis of the “Russian Mafia” and similar organizations within the former Soviet states, and ultimately (in Russia, at least) a return to a fairly authoritarian regime to offset the lawlessness associated with the “Russian Mafia.” China, of course, remains the ideal “communist worker's paradise,” except that their economy is fueled by the sale of commercial products to the West and they maintain a strongly repressive, ostensibly Communist, leadership.

In other words, I doubt Heinlein's opinion would have ultimately changed much if he were looking into events now.

**16. *Societal mobility will disenfranchise a large proportion of the population, and federal growth will all but eradi-***

*cate the powers of the state.* In 1980, Heinlein said that this prediction was wrong in detail (see his precise wording) but that it appeared to be happening differently than he predicted. That trend has solidified since 1980 — and while formal, legal disenfranchisement has not occurred, voter apathy created at least in part by the other changes has created a nation where less than 50% of the population of registered voters (which is itself only a fraction of the population of eligible voters) routinely goes to the polls.

Which, if you read the detailed discussion in *To Sail Beyond the Sunset* (no, not the “incest” scenes, the other part) of the chain of events which discriminate the different timelines of Heinlein’s “Multiverse,” means we are moving in range of a “Nehemiah Scudder/First Prophet” coming to the presidency.

17. *Centralized national air traffic control using computers.* Although Heinlein had given up on this prediction in 1980, I would say that the state of air traffic control day is beginning to reach that objective. We’re not quite there, yet — but the declining cost of computers has finally brought it into realization in an evolutionary fashion, rather than the revolutionary fashion Heinlein hoped for and expected.

18. *Our diets will be modified by population pressure, with fish and yeast becoming the main sources of protein, and beef effectively disappearing.* By 1980, it was becoming clear that the population was moderating, and that the US population today would be about half of that Heinlein anticipated in 1950. That has certainly come largely true. However, our diets have become vulnerable in ways Heinlein never expected — the fisheries are becoming depleted through, in some cases, poor management techniques and, some people believe, through pollution. Beef does remain available and relatively inexpensive (although the costs have grown more in the past year than the previous five, probably because of the abrupt increase in gas prices last summer). However, beef prices are set by the large western herds who graze on subsidized government-owned grasslands; the small beef farmer is being priced out of the market. Other meats have not disappeared as projected, either, but there has been no large scale replacement. And yeast culture — long presumed within SF to be an essential element of nutrition in a world of explosive population growth — has not come close to matching projections, although soy is becoming accepted, particularly among vegetarians and vegans, as a primary source of protein. I can’t say where this trend is going here — except that, as Heinlein suggests, a major war — or a takeover of the U. S. — could cause a very abrupt change in U. S. dietary habits. The same is also true of various ecodisaster scenarios being discussed seriously by scientists and SF writers.

19. *No matter what happens, mankind will survive.* On that optimistic — and true — note, Heinlein closed his list of principle predictions. He’s right so far — and I think we all believe he’ll be right for a long time.

— O — O — O — O —

And, of course, there is Heinlein’s list of items that “we won’t get soon, if ever.”

*Travel through time.* I don’t believe that any serious physicist disputes this.

*Faster-than-light travel.* On this point, Mr. Heinlein would probably find himself pleasantly surprised. Recent developments such as the “Alcuberry Warp Drive,” a solution to the Einstein Field Equations (to a physicist, Einstein’s equation is not “ $E = mc^2$ ,” instead, it is written as:

$$R^{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} \Omega g^{\mu\nu} R = -(8\pi G/c^2)T^{\mu\nu}$$

where  $g^{\mu\nu}$  is the so-called metric tensor<sup>1</sup>, which describes how

space is compressed by the presence of matter;  $R^{\mu\nu}$  is the Ricci curvature tensor, and  $R$  a corresponding scalar, which describes how this compression of space affects the pathways of particles moving through space<sup>2</sup>,  $T^{\mu\nu}$  describes the mass which is causing the gravitational field,  $G$  is the gravitational constant, and  $c$  is of course the speed of light). The Alcuberry solution shows that for certain unusual (and not natural but perhaps not impossible) distributions of matter, it is possible to create a solution of the Einstein equation which acts like a water wave and can be “surfed” by a spaceship to move faster than light. There are other hints that this barrier may not be impenetrable; researchers have broadcast Beatles music across admittedly short distances in the laboratory at speeds from 3 to 11 times the speed of light — and listened to the product at the end.<sup>3</sup>

While none of this is any guarantee that we are about to penetrate the speed-of-light barrier any time soon, the hints that it may be possible are tantalizing.

*Transporters.* At the time *The Cage* and *Where No Man Has Gone Before* were being filmed by an up-and-coming director and featuring a well-known young actor with ear prostheses, Heinlein’s prediction that transmission of matter would perhaps never come was over fifteen years old, and had been repeated in his review of the essay in 1965 for *The Worlds of Robert A. Heinlein*. Even the Josephson Junction, the device which depends on quantum tunneling of an electron through a wall, was unknown until 1962. And when Krauss wrote *The Physics of Star Trek* in 1995, he was perhaps the most critical of the transporter of any of the advanced technologies therein.

However, there have been tantalizing hints — mostly in advertisements (the famous “Let me telephone you a bowl of soup” ad in the late ’90s), but with a few papers to back them up — that IBM laboratories may have made some breakthroughs in this area. I won’t say yeah, I won’t say nay... I’ll say, let’s keep an eye on Big Blue.

*Androids, or artificial constructs almost indistinguishable from humans.* Heinlein was careful to distinguish “manlike” robots from the array of automated machinery which currently performs an increasing proportion of our industrial processes. And despite the popularity of Spielberg’s recent movie *A.I.*, or the lesser regarded Robin Williams take on the good Doctor’s novel *The Bicentennial Man*, true androids appear to be a long way off.

*Creation of life in the laboratory.* In this case, Heinlein

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1 For the sake of argument, a “tensor” is a quantity which measures effects in more than one dimension. For example, if you squeeze a rubber ball, the ball gets smaller around in the middle and longer at the ends because of the rubber that is pushed away from the center of the ball. A tensor is required to describe this type of action, because the push (around the middle of the ball) causes an effect in a different direction (the movement of rubber to the ends of the ball away from the push). The basic tenant of general relativity is that gravity “stretches” space and time together in a similar fashion.

2 If the metric determines how the overall shape of the ball changes as is squeezed, the Ricci tensor describes, for example, how the paths that would be followed by a person walking around on the surface of the ball would be changed as the ball is squeezed.

3 I don’t have all these references in front of me. Much of this information is summarized in the articles that Dr. John G. Cramer has published in *Analogue* over the past fifteen or so years. These articles have been reproduced at Dr. Cramer’s web site at the University of Washington (state) and can be looked up there amid a myriad of other fascinating facts, and provide literature references to these and other findings.

didn't mean manipulation of material taken from living beings, as in cloning or separation of stem cells for Parkinson's patients, but the actual process of moving from inorganic components (water, ammonia, carbonate, methane, a few other compounds) to self-replicating assemblies capable of further evolution. This one is hard to classify; certainly the way Heinlein intended it in 1950, I think we're a long way away from this. However, many features of nanotechnology may, once successfully developed over the next few years and decades, meet any definition of life that Mr. Heinlein may have wished to apply. I'd have to say that the jury is out on this one, and in this case the decision may be a hair splitter, not cut and dry.

**Understanding of "thought" and how it is related to matter.** How do those lumps of gelatin known as human beings manage to get up out of bed, move around, talk, love, think abstract thoughts, and create things? Is it an accident of electrochemistry? Or is there something else — a soul, whether it be an electromagnetic construct which is built on the electrochemical matrix of the brain, or something perhaps indescribable forever to the mankind it shapes and defines which entered the First Man in a breath from his Father? There is no more fundamental question, no matter how much we chose to ignore such mysteries, or accept the advice of ancient sages that the question has no answer or perhaps should never even be asked. After all, if mankind were not here to frame that question, the whole rest of it would be moot anyway. However, nobody seems to be giving this question any fundamental scientific study (or, if they are, it's bypassed me — which isn't difficult these days). So don't look to me for answers, only more questions.

**Scientific evidence of personal survival after death.** These questions are obviously related. I can only note that, to the best of my knowledge, the issue has only been addressed three times. Once in an essay, "The Physics of Ghosts," in *Analog* in the late '70s or early '80s; once in a Spider Robinson story reprinted in *Time Travelers Strictly Cash* and perhaps elsewhere. Both of these offered suggestions for the consequences of personal survival of a spirit, and included suggestions (e.g., the precision weighing of the person during the instant of death, based on the essay's assertion that, for spirits to have the properties popularly ascribed to ghosts, the spirit should weigh 10 grams, more or less) for verifying both personal survival and reincarnation.

The third item is a book by physicist Frank Tipler of Tulane University of a few years ago, *The Physics of Immortality*, which I have not read (and have not been able to find in the bookstores recently), which supposedly proved that there is an immortal soul. I remember that the reviewers at that time were skeptical of his proofs, but have not yet reviewed it for myself.

In summary, the jury must remain out on this one as well, until someone actually describes experiments which verify the existence of some fundamental feature which survives death, something that cannot be dismissed as wishful (hopeful) thinking, or the effects of a positive (or negative) mental outlook on life.

**There will be no permanent end of war.** Unfortunately, enough said.

In conclusion, Heinlein's remaining discussions remain interesting, and it is astonishing that one from among us could so accurately have his fingers on the pulse of the world fifty years ago. I can only hope that some of his other predictions (e.g., religious dictatorship, the smothering of earth through overpopulation, etc.) fail to come through. However, as the

person who invented "The Crazy Years," I have to say that his negative predictions have the same force of his positive predictions.

But ultimately of course, no matter how things go, mankind will survive. And thrive. After all, "the last thing to come fluttering out of Pandora's Box was Hope."

## Letters of Comment

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Sheryl Birkhead  
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21 July 2001

Ah, ah upcoming DUFF report!

How about a run "down" on what made "up" the *tall* food?!

David Robinson is kinder to *A.I.* than I would be — the last  $\frac{1}{3}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$  should either *not* have been shot, or been totally rewritten. It reminded me of many novels which start out doing an okay-good job then suddenly seem to realize they are already novel length and had better get busy. For a movie I don't think that should happen — you have too many critics before it gets that far... or should.

Because there is *no* way I can access artwork I did last year (zines *still* in a couple of piles of boxes) I am trying to figure out how to save whatever I do using the new computer and the scanner. I'm still in shock from seeing the size of files — on the old LC they were about  $\frac{1}{10}$  of what I have now. Since I never had a scanner I had no idea the size of those files — and all of this really stunned me. So — since I am afraid of simply storing everything on the hard drive, I am negotiating for a Zip drive. I *will* figure it out.

Randy's dragon looks ready to wink — then take a chunk out of some poor unsuspecting prey. Let me know if you want fillos — but the *Shuttle* always appears full and thought out. You don't tell me, I don't know.

Anyone seen *Jurassic Park III* yet? The spots I've seen make it appear a *lot* more violent than the first two. On TV today there was a "dinosaur specialist" who said the film was true to the appearance but *not* the behavior... in fact, the guy said if Hollywood *had* made them behave realistically, the film would have been 15 minutes at most since all the characters would have been killed off *fast*. In fact, he likened the Hollywood mold to that of wolves — and they tried to force the dinos into that niche. I'll see it eventually.

[Unfortunately the DUFF report didn't happen — Patrick had to be out of town on a family matter so it was delayed. I saw *Jurassic Park III* last weekend. I have no idea if the expert you quote is right, but the movie was an enjoyable action-adventure tale (that did cop out a little at the end). I never saw the second movie and the first movie is too far in the past for me to compare the level of violence. Would any of our readers care to comment? As for illustrations — now that I have a scanner I hope to use them a little more than in the past. I have a long way to go, though, to find optimal ways of doing that. -ED]

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24 July 2001



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The temperature in this room is 89° as I type and it's at least a half-dozen degrees hotter upstairs. So I'll have to sleep on the sofa tonight, if I live through the expenditure of energy that this loc will require.

So the July *Shuttle* gave me new information on the Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame honorees for this year. I couldn't quarrel with the choices of Bester, Leiber, Vance, and Le Guin, except for the fact that a couple of them should have received this honor several years earlier.

The skeletonized release of a new Doctor Who adventure from the BBC seems odd. I wonder, does this mean that the adventure exists only in the form of stills plus audio and the film version may never come into being? I speculated recently in an apa that if the United States television industry created a new Doctor, it would be female, black, and homosexual, to go along with current efforts to be different at all costs.

Of course, I'm glad you enjoyed the baseball jaunt and were able to see the Famous Chicken. I think the Phillie Phanatic puts on a better show nowadays, but he doesn't seem to travel outside Philadelphia.

I'm too pooped from the heat to write more. I must get out of this run I'm in, always writing locs to you when the heat is the worst.

[I hope you survived the recent heat wave with sanity and health intact, Harry. I don't think there are any plans to further develop the new Doctor Who project mentioned in the last issue. I have a vague memory that a US television version of Doctor Who was in development (and fell through) but I may be getting that confused with the persistent rumors of a feature film version. Rumors on the film side have cropped up as recently as this summer. -ED]