

SPARE

JRP

R.I.P. The Spung....long live the

DEAD DOG

THE O.U.S.F.G. NEWSLETTER - 1ST WEEK, TRINITY 1988

FOR THE NEXT DEGENERATION - A SUITABLE MANIFESTO...

"Oh, beware of books! ... And doubly beware intelligent books! The more eloquent, the more clever a tome, the more likely the evil one himself is behind it! Never read books that make you think! For the warlock can hide a drop of evil amidst a lake of truth! Stick to mindless trash, I implore you!" - Pat Mills.

"A New Pleasure! A New Pleasure!"

And on the conveyor belt for this term we have.....

DISCUSSION MEETINGS

These are still to be found in that nice man Mark Davies' room, Trinity 11:8, on Wednesdays at 8:15pm for whenever the speaker feels like starting -

1ST WEEK - will have been and gone by the time you get this - but I'm sure it was wonderful anyway.

2ND WEEK - Adrian Cox - "Why I want to **** Ronald Reagan" - the work of J.G. Ballard.

3RD WEEK - John Bedford - Skiffy in Bondage - was Kath the role model for this talk? (whimper...)

4TH WEEK - The Chronicles of Robert Sadler the Unbelievable : A Beginner's Guide to Donaldson.

5TH WEEK - Martin Pickles - "I married a Doctor Who fan from Outer Space"

6TH WEEK - Paul Marrow, just sitting watching those crazy mushrooms grow (eh? - ed.)

More details as we have them (like, later this term) - if you would like to do a talk next (Michaelmas) term, talk to Mo.

VIDEO MEETINGS - these will be taking place in St. Hilda's College, 8:15pm on Mondays of even weeks. No, I don't know what room yet - check Daily Info, or come to the Sunday or Wednesday meetings. 2nd week's films will hopefully be "Dark Star" and "Star Trek - The Next Generation" - again, more details at meetings.

PUNT PARTY - Hopefully not cancelled due to bad weather, this should take place on Saturday of 4th week (21st May to the outside world) starting from Cherwell Boathouse at 2:00 pm. If it's raining, go to the library instead....P.B.O.B. (not sure quite what Paul means here - typist). BOOK THOSE PUNTS EARLY!! The party will include the cast recording of "The Ring Of The Nealebung" complete with special effects. Plans to set fire to Paul Marrow and set him adrift, burning, on the Cherwell, were abandoned on the insistence of Ivan and Neal, on the grounds of possible risk to other river traffic. Contact John Bray or Penny Heal for more details.

SPEAKER MEETING - Health permitting, the wonderful Alan Garner should be finally visiting OUSFG on Thursday of 2nd week, the 5th May....so read that copy of "Red Shift" that you never quite got round to. If you would like to dine with Alan beforehand (at Go Dutch) contact Mo. The actual talk will be in New College Undercroft at 8:15pm.

LIBRARY - The library meetings, despite rumours to the contrary, continue to be held in Room 2, 60 Woodstock Road, St. Anne's College, with Paul Cray as librarian, from 8:15 to 8:45pm on Sundays. Then down to New College Undercroft (where the Dave Langford talk was held, for those of you who weren't there last week) for radical deconstruction of each other's choice of beverages and bar snacks, along with the table football tournament, followed by a return trip to the library for the inevitable, interminable backbiting over who gets the plastic beakers and the second plain chocolate Hobnob.

Could all library books taken out last term (or before!) be returned at or before the 2nd week meeting....the library may well be congealing in Adrian Cox's room in St. John's next year, although this has yet to be finalised (Yes, Virginia, you may yet be drafted as librarian....)

VISIT TO CUSFS - A possible visit to the "Other Place" may be on the cards for the weekend between 3rd & 4th weeks, 13th-15th May. Contact John Bray for more details.

SFINX - needs you! Sfinx 5 needs authors and artists. Stories up to 5000 words needed URGENTLY. There will be a contributors' meeting in Mark Davies' room, Trinity 11:8, at 2:30 pm, Sunday. Bring a story. Further details from Paul Cray.

POSSIBLY 4TH WEEK

RAG WEEK - "The Multicoloured Jello Wants Your Money!!" We're planning an evening of fun for Rag Week, which will hopefully be held on Tuesday 3rd week (10th May), sort of 7:30ish. Not too sure where yet, nor indeed what will be going on, but it may well include multi-coloured pancakes, amongst other things. Ideas for silly games to Jane McCarthy ASAP - she will have more details nearer the time.

COMMITTEE - the new committee for this Trinity term is.....(fanfare!)

Mohan Holkar (Mo to all you plebs) - President, Emperor Penguin, Il Duce, The Big Cheese, The Head Honcho, Numero Uno, etc. etc. Hertford, physicist, occasionally to be found at 63 Aston St. Responsible for EVERYTHING, esp. Discussion & Speaker Meetings & Freshers' Fair.

John Bray - Secretary & Newsletter editor, not to mention Conine committee member. Exeter, physicist, 3 Woodbine Place. Publicity, speakers, Conine, newsletter, punt party.

Penny Heal - Treasurer, Somerville, maths & philosophy. Somerville Penrose 6. Responsible for memberships, punt parties and taking all your money.

Jane McCarthy - Member without Portfolio. St. Hilda's classicist, generally in the area of SHC Wolfson Building room 234. Want a mug? Go see Jane (or other merchandise, for that matter)

Matthew Bishop - Member with Portfolio. Jesus mathematician. Room 19:19. Video Rep.

Paul M. Cray - Librarian, Newsletter editor, Sfinx editor, Conine committee member. St. Anne's physicist, St. Anne's 60 Woodstock Road, Room 2. The man with the books. Also has a finger in the newsletter, Sfinx, Conine & general SF stuff.

Mel Dymond - yet another Newsletter Editor. Pembroke, Maths and Computation. To be found for about an hour a week in the top flat, 100 Abingdon Road. Newsletter editing and two-fingered typing.

MERCHANDISE - Jane has mugs at £2 each. We will also be ordering sweatshirts this term. Please specify colour, size and whether old or new design preferred when the list comes round.

SPEAKER, BOOK AND VIDEO SUGGESTION LISTS - are on display in the library.

CONINE - "How can we extol thee, who are born of thee.." (or something like that)

As you will no doubt become all too aware, this amazing event is in Oxford Poly from 5th to 7th August, and Ivan, Paul and John are all out to get YOUR bums on our seats. Guest of Honour is Terry Pratchett, a friendly and funny man, writer of the Discworld novels (see the reviews for more on the fourth of these) which are required light reading. Also David Lally will be giving an audio-visual show based on the Prisoner, and YOU TOO can sing in the musical FUNDAMENT, though we may need auditions to weed out those with real talent. Games of Chaos, massage and cocktail workshops, quizzes and downright ludicrous games. Best described as a 3-day OUSFG party ("oh no, not another one" - Mel) - make this your first convention, or forever wonder if....

Rates: attending £9, supporting £4, rooms with self-catering facilities £11.50 a night, cheap food and bar. See John Bray or Ivan Towlson for more info.

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST... - A big, warm, OUSFG welcome to RPGsoc's very own Chris "Cuddles" Hinze, the man who manages to have a moan about OUSFG in every newsletter (that he gets to edit). Chris has been awarded an honorary membership of OUSFG for his publicity work.

THANKS TO.....Paul Cray, John Bray and Mel Dymond for writing this stuff, except where otherwise credited.

Mel (again) (might as well thank myself, nobody else will!) and John Graham-Cumming for typing.

Paul & John for cutting it up, faffing around with it and most likely losing bits.

Graham, John, Tommy, Mo, amongst others, for distributing it.

Ivan, whose dead hand is still trying to throttle us.....

REVIEWS AND OTHER STUFF...

Forthcoming films at the Phoenix

Sat. 7th May: The Fly (late night showing) 11pm

Fri. 13th May: Near Dark (late night showing) 11pm

Sat. 14th May: Apocalypse Now (late night) 11pm

Fri. 20th May: Pink Floyd - The Wall (late night) 11pm

Fri. 27th May: The Blues Brothers (late night) 11pm

The Witches of Eastwick (l.n.) 11pm

Sat. 28th May: Rocky Horror Picture Show 11pm

The Witches of Eastwick (again!) 11pm

Unfortunately no details at the moment for what's on at the PPP - they now publish details to the end of the month, i.e.

until Saturday 1st week...

THE GOOD BOOKS....

GREG BEAR - Blood Music (Adrian Cox)

It's all Ivan's fault. A year ago I would probably have enjoyed this. Anyway, first a plot summary:-

Brilliant young research scientist Vergil Ulam is doing unauthorised spare time research producing intelligent clumps of cells. He is discovered and loses his job; to save his experiment he injects himself with some of his own blood cell modified for intelligence. The cells soon start making changes. Vergil becomes healthier; his short-sightedness is cured, he loses weight. Then the cells start talking to him.

It's an interesting idea, and Greg Bear deals with it fairly well. The book is readable, but lacking in characterisation and indeed in any feeling at all. When the entire population of Northern America got turned into a mass of protoplasm I didn't particularly care. I was also unconvinced (to say the least) by the ending, being for once unable to suspend my disbelief. Final conclusion - interesting, but NOT literature. (There is a dead dog impression (but who needs it when you can have the real thing? - ed.) but I wouldn't buy the book for it.)

GREG BEAR - The Infinity Concerto & The Serpent Mage (Adrian Cox)

In 1939 the Infinity Concerto by Arnó Waltiri was performed for the first and last time. Afterwards, twenty people who disappeared. In the present, before he dies, Waltiri gives instructions and a key to Michael Perrin. Using it, Michael enters the Realm of the Sidhe. There he meets others from Earth, brought over by music. Michael is trained by the Crane Women in Sidhe ways, then goes on in this and the next book to become powerful and save the world. (Sorry, that's it. I'm not saying how. If you're really interested you can read them yourself.)

The basic idea, that music and poetry are magic, is hardly new. The books are fairly standard fantasy, but thankfully not another Tolkien rehash. Competently written and quite enjoyable, but not "a delight" as ANALOG said.

HARRY HARRISON - The Stainless Steel Rat Gets Drafted (Adrian Cox)

Well, here we are, reviewing a Stainless Steel Rat book. Slippery Jim diGriz gets drafted into the Nevenkeblan army. Will he survive? Will he get revenge on General Zennor who caused the death of the Bishop? Will it be funny?

Of course, that would be telling, in parts. You know by now if you like these books. This one is not as good as the others, though it was quite fun. I wouldn't buy it myself, and I probably wouldn't read it again.

DOUGLAS ADAMS - Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency (Adrian Cox)

I was, to be honest, disappointed by this book. There were some good ideas in it, such as an Electric Monk (a labour-saving gadget which believes things for you, saving the trouble of believing yourself), but there are some truly awful passages as well, such as in Chapter 21 where two fairly long paragraphs are taken up with a description of the effects of adding two sine waves together in and out of phase. This particular problem simply shows that Douglas Adams has fallen in love with an Apple Macintosh and wants to tell everyone about it.

I'll give a brief summary, omitting a lot, of the first part of the book. Richard MacDuff visits his old college tutor. After a conjuring trick and a strange incident with a horse in a bathroom, Richard drives home and on the way he sees the ghost of Gordon Way, his boss, who, unknown to Richard, has just been shot. Richard then breaks in to Susan Way's flat to remove a tape from her answering machine, for reasons that seem logical to him at the time, and is seen doing this by Dirk Gently, who he knew at Cambridge as Svlad Cjelli. After this point, things become complicated.

Personally, I didn't like the book as a whole. Douglas Adams seems to be trying harder to be funny, and succeeding less. Borrow this one. (NB - it's out in paperback in about 2 weeks' time - ed.)

Paul M Has Two Dicks Shocker!

Philip K. Dick Radio Free Albemuth

The surprising thing about *Radio Free Albemuth* is that it is set in the real world, or at least one (Watchmen-like?) only slightly deviating from it. Dick himself is one of the main characters, and the other, Nicholas Brady exhibits characteristics (he is a record store manager, and only attended college for one year) which suggest that he is merely another Dick persona.

Brady becomes convinced that he is receiving signals from a superior intelligence (the Vast Active Living Intelligent System A, or VALIS), and a series of bizarre incidents convince his friend Phil Dick as well. This does not affect his life greatly until the President of the United States, Ferris F. Fremont enters the story. Fremont is obsessed with threats against his regime, and institutes totalitarian measures to prevent this.

Dick and Brady manage to identify VALIS as a satellite orbiting Earth, placed there by a civilisation from the star Fomalhaut (also known as Albemuth, hence the title). However the authorities have too, and they are bent on destruction. The struggle by Brady and Dick to maintain their freedom becomes a struggle between good and evil, of almost religious magnitude. The ending is shocking and yet surprising, leaving one gasping for a sequel.

Philip K. Dick I Hope I Shall Arrive Soon

This, posthumously published collection of short stories, has much in common with some of his novels. Many of the characters seem to have something wrong with them, such as the Lysol Lady in *Strange Memories of Death*, who obsessively uses the cleaner of the same name on her apartment. The title story presents us with a neurotic forced to relive old memories for ten years as the suspended animation equipment on his space craft has broken down. However he is unable to endure this, and the ship's computer is forced to simulate his arrival on the colony planet, to which they are headed. In the end he does arrive, but is unable to accept that it is not yet another simulation. In true Philip K. Dick fashion we are left wondering just what or where is reality, and whether it ever occurred in the first place.

Religion plays an important part in several stories. *Rauravaara's Case* has a human revived from death and subjected to horrifying inversion of the Christian Eucharist by inquisitive aliens. In *Holy Quarrel* a computer discovers that a Californian businessman is the Devil, and orders all-out war against him. Unfortunately the computer's human operators ignore this, to their cost... Religion is also significant in probably the best, and most shocking part of this book, Dick's own introduction, in which we learn that much of the ideas espoused by Brady in *Radio Free Albemuth* Dick actually believed in. For instance, time stopped around 70 AD and the present is just an illusion! It is difficult to know what to make of this. Call him mad or what you will, but there is no doubt that Dick had some amazing ideas!

Paul Marrow

Paul Cray

'Surely You're Joking, Mr Feynman!' R.P.Feynman

Compulsory reading for physicists and non-physicists. Feynman may be dead but you can still laugh along with him, in this fascinating and unusual verbal biography. Feynman's range of interest matched that of any skiffy fan. Highly recommended.

'The Sirens of Titan' Kurt Vonnegut

A genuine SF classic which actually really is good, marvellous, funny and acute. The story of Malachi Constant should be required reading.

MORT – Terry Pratchett (Mel Dymond) (reportedly based on the life of a St. Hilda's undergraduate...)

The fourth of the Discworld books, and less about the odd effects of magic than the others. Pratchett, having introduced a Death in the previous books who has a habit of TALKING IN CAPITALS and feeling grossly misunderstood, now devotes a whole novel to Death's attempt to hand over his business to his apprentice, Mort.

Having hired Mort at an apprentice fair, Death begins to teach him the ropes of the soul-taking trade, not to mention a bit of matchmaking with his daughter Ysabell. As Mort becomes more competent, Death starts taking nights off and investigating the human custom of "having fun". Unfortunately Mort makes a ghastly cock-up on the rounds one night, leaving a young princess alive when the world is convinced she ought to be dead...the rest, as they say, is history.

Although I enjoyed this book, I didn't feel it was as good as the first two Discworld novels. Though there are less awful puns, it doesn't seem quite as coherent. Wait for the paperback, and borrow before buying.

RAMSEY CAMPBELL – Incarnate (Ivan Towlson)

This powerful 1983 "soul-wrenching novel of ultimate nightmare" has a gross cover and a still grosser blurb, neither of which, I was pleased to find, bear any but the most superficial resemblance to the contents, which, although not as well-written as Campbell's best short stories (see review of "Dark Feasts" in the mid-Michaelmas edition of Spung) are perhaps more disturbing and provocative than any of them. "Incarnate" is about dreams, and Campbell allows himself to range widely over the topic, using the plot device of dreams infecting reality as a springboard from which to throw out ideas about insanity, belief and — well — dreams (in the sense of hopes). Some very powerful and chilling sequences, marred by poor characterisation (especially the rather cliché paranoid) and a rather disappointing ending. I'm not sure quite what to make of the loose ends; I see what leaving them unresolved might be hinting at, but I'm not sure it isn't just sloppiness. "Incarnate" isn't so subtle that I'm prepared to give the author the benefit of the doubt, but it makes up for that with the quality of the writing and the density of the ideas (even if they are somewhat scattergun). Recommended.

(No, John, I'm not going to make it any shorter than that. You can't review a decent novel properly in less than 300–400 words, and there are limits to even my lack of principles. I had to rewrite that several times to squash it this far, and I'm deeply unhappy with the result. So there.)

SURVEY OF THE STACKS – THE SCUM RISES TO THE TOP... (John Bray) (no, John's not the scum, he just reads it)

Now exams loom ahead, here's Uncle John's tip for exam revision. Enliven your breaks between tomes with rubbish, none of Ivan's challenging material, just switch off the brain, put the eyes in gear and let it all wash over you. To select material, use Paul's stacks catalogue, but beware of such gems as "Dr. Who and the Abomindale Snowman" (John assures me this is not a misprint – MD) and "Donovan's Brian". Having sampled 80 books, here are the worst.

The Cataclysm, R.C. Sherriff – End of world vies in importance with pet chicken.

Dark Dominion, David Duncan – First use of Magdelanum, element where F is proportional to M squared (where the hell are those maths symbols? – typist)

Space Sex, Roy Warren – Bionic man has some sex scene every 6.25 pages.

Sex Link, Hy Freedman – Animals' sexual habits. "No vagina? Then drill your own"

Purple Armchair, Olga Hesky – Don't read the book, just the blurb

Comet Kings, Edmund Hamilton – The worst science and characterisation ever.

Doc Savage: Meteor Menace, Kenneth Robeson – What a man!

Dawn of the Mutants, Lionel Fanthorpe – Crap from the master himself

Assassin of Gor, John Norman – How to treat your women...but remember those knots!

Dumarest, E.C. Tubb – 20 books all enjoyed by Rob, how many can you read a day?

Man of Many Minds, E. Everett Evans – How to donate 1/20th of your brain to a bird.

The Ant Men, Eric North – Yep, men vs. giant ants vs. giant praying mantises

To Outer Space, Capt. W.E. Johns – Biggles' creator should have stayed in the air

The Gods hate Kansas, Joseph Millard – so they throw alien meteors at it

Enterprise Stardust, Perry Rhodan – Very, very tacky heroes, science and plot.

Fleshpots of Sansato, W.F. Temple – well, you can guess why I read this one!

Topsy and Tim choose a Puppy, Joan Adamson – (almost anyone can understand this)

How to be a follower of Jesus Christ, Scripture Union – blaaahhhh!!

Battlefield Earth, L.Ron Hubbard – need I say more?

Follycon Report – A Lost Weekend in a Hotel in Liverpool

JOHN BRAY

As Neal (of interminable – oops – extensive Conspiracy report) Tringham refused to do this one, you get muggins, and lump it.

There was my first Eastercon, in a good hotel with sound organisation (except those damn tech crew with the walkie-talkies that mumbled at 90 dB) but with a lousy bar – forced onto lemonade for 4 days, I ask you. These things are so damn big that it's tempting to follow the lemmings into the programme items rather than meet anyone, but if you try, odd things can happen (Falling Leaf is 'strainge' (sic))

Sleeping on the floor in a **** (four star ... honestly) hotel left me wondering if Paul Marrow cocooned in a sleeping bag really was the pupal stage of a lower form of life, and gave Adrian nightmares featuring a Paul ('I've slept with that man') Cray looming over him, about to roll off the bed and squash him with 1/2 a ton of pontificating blubber.

Ivan rushed around looking for his beloved 'tech crew', Maria had to be forcibly restrained (Neal tried to persuade, then Paul C sat on her) from following John Styles to the little boys room, and Matt Bishop scoffed cream eggs for breakfast.

Eastcon won the 1990 bid, Star Cops (errrrk) won the media award, Keith Roberts the novel, and the A C Clarke (who he? – anon) award to George Turner's 'The Sea and Summer', a book recommended by Simon of all people.

Convention Diary

Congregate (June 10, 11, 12: Peterborough)

Guests Terry Pratchett and Bob Shaw £11 A, £16 S. Not ideal this, a trifle slap-bang in the middle of finals, and of course you can see Terry at Conine.

Albacon (June 20 to August 1: Glasgow)

GoH C. J. Cherryh, £10 A, £5 S. Albacons are renowned for their collection of walk-in Glasgow fans, despite some problems with the hotel they should do a good con.

Conine

See elsewhere for my delirious praise of the event of the year.

Wincon (August 19 to 21: Winchester) Guests Patrick Tilley, Michael de Larrabeiti, Geoff Ryman, £10 A,

£6 S. The 9th Unicon, strongly recommended as it's friendly with a strong student contingent. Large OUSFG party attending.

Decaid (October 21 to 23: Hatfield) £6 A, £1 S. A very studenty one this, very cheap as you can crash on the floor and drink in the student bar, Simon McLeish seems to know about this, and wants questions for their quiz, so disgorge your trivia on him.

Contrivance (March 24 to 27, Easter heathen!: Jersey)

Guests Anne McCaffrey and M. John Harrison, £18 A, £9 S. Should be good, I like the committee, but beware the travel costs, although the lack of duty on beer could help.

See me (John Bray) for further information on any of these, I've also some details of Conscription (con-running con), Lucon 89, Confiction (1990 Worldcon), Rubicon 3, World Fantasy Con, Twilight 88 and Armadacon.

Alan Garner has traditionally been considered as a children's author. However, as the complexity of his ideas and deceptive simplicity of his language has developed, the age of his readership has increased so that it is now impossible to consider his books solely in these terms. Garner's central theme is of actions in our modern world being linked to occurrences elsewhere, either in alternate worlds or in the past. In 'Elidor' the redemption of a parallel (and traditional fantasy) world is achieved by a group of children in present day Manchester. In his award winning novel 'The Owl Service' he describes how the containment of a dark power in a Welsh valley causes successive generations to re-enact the romantic and violent tragedy described in a legend. Only the ability of those involved to overcome their character weaknesses offers any hope of re-channeling this 'curse'.

Garner's astonishing 'Red Shift' is considered by many to be his finest achievement. The three male characters are examples of Garner's favourite figure, the Fool. The book concerns three sets of lovers, one in Roman Britain, one in the Civil War period and one living today. The pairs are most obviously connected by the males' name, Tom, or a form thereof, and their possession of an ancient axe-head but the links are far more deep and rich than these crude devices. There is no idea of re-incarnation or time travel, rather, Garner is expressing a profound connectivity between the Fools via their emotions, their sensitivity to life but inability to control or understand it, their physical location and their feelings of inadequacy when confronted with a cosmos which itself is dissipating away in what seems to be despair. The females in each group react by condemning these emotions as indulgence and encouraging a grasp for happiness when the opportunity arises. The intricacy of Garner's writing can certainly be used as a basis for pretentious parlor games (and some feel the book to be flashy, indulgent and empty of meaning) but this is to trivialise an astounding description of rage and impotence, terror and sadness. This is a novel to be read time and again and each reading gives increased satisfaction.

Garner's most recent novel 'The Stone Book Quartet', employs many of the same ideas but used the structure of a family history. Garner has paired down his language to such an extent that he now uses basic, powerful words to describe his subtle and complex ideas. The connectivity between the book's characters now seems almost trivial: they are generations of the same family and live in the same place. But by writing of key days in the lives of a child and a community and the importance of a craft 'The Stone Book Quartet' is an interesting description of rural life but, far more importantly, it is a gentle courage and purpose; a foundation for the line which runs through the generations and joins the living with the past to form an undying concatenation of humanity and place. The book is profound, beautiful and deeply moving.

Garner is perhaps not a writer of SF in the traditional sense, as he deploys none of the technological devices possessed by the genre and seems to have moved away from obvious fantasy elements. However, the quality of his writing and his exploration of the nature of time, its effect on human character and its ability to convey empathy through the persistence and recognition of artifacts and places will make him of interest to a wide range of Society members.

Alan Garner will be speaking to OUSFG next week
ON 'ACHILLES IN ALTJIRA'

Good, A space for it . . .

"Graham, Graham, aaahhh!" – Rob S.

"Pervy or what?" – Mel D.

"I have this desperate urge to bugger John Styles with this bottle" – Paul C.

"Sit down scumball, I only need 3 inches of it" – Neal T.

"You said it, I didn't" – OUSFG opens its mouth and puts its foot in it...

"But I don't want oral sex, I want a hot water bottle." – Maria Hamilton

"So that's what coprophagy means. Well, I'll look forward to it then." – Andy Elliot.

"Penny, you're really cute when you're catatonic." – Ivan Towlson

Ivan on his newsletters – "I think any reasonably intelligent person could understand most of that newsletter."
On being asked what it would take to understand all of it – "A great deal. Being me, for a start."

"Oh, Rob Sadler, he's just so horny." – John Bedford.

"OK, so he is, so what?" – Matt Bishop.

"That's not fat, it's just folds of skirt and penguins." – Jane McC.

"Well, I've got the vaseline, I'm alright." – John Bray.

"The worst thing about women is they always make these really broad generalisations." – Tommy W.

"They made me rivet plates on it because it wasn't stiff enough at the end." – Adrian C.

"It was in front of me – so I bit it." – Lynn A.

"All that effort and it's still wrinkled!" – George

"Does anyone else want to have a blow on it?" – John Bray

"I'm still going for the All-Female committee in '89" – Penny.

"Oh yes, and who did you have in mind?" – Matt.

"Anyone I can rape in, really..." – Penny.

"Don't tell her about the donkey, I'll get it out at some point" – Tommy

"The swelling's gone down, but the bruising hasn't" – Liz W. (about Andy)

"People aren't very happy when you get them in bed" – Kath M.