

george clarke

From: "John Earls" <jearls@pucp.edu.pe>
 To: <huaidun@aol.com>
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 Subject: things past and future

sci fi person

G'Day Doug

Been reading through the Lincoln listings. Strike, even though I never walked in the place, I feel like I knew it well. I remember 1st hearing about it from people in s.f. circles, and then later from umpteen mates at the Tudor. I think it was probably Appo who let me in onto the details of it all. I always had the feeling that the Tudor was really a come-down from the Lincoln. Was it because with it's greater space it had a sizable population of Alfs – incidentally what ever happened to the Alfs? I remember the Alfs gave rise to the category of Roys, and by fusion with these to the Ralphs. I suspect they were mainly Sope creations.

Funny, looking through all those names: So many I can't remember if I ever met them but their names are as familiar as if I did (and now having closed the file I can't remember a single name in that category). But others still kicked around the Tudor for a time till they shot through to some where else. Here Dicky Preston comes to mind, Mike Baume, Judy Gollan, and of course Bob Elliot. I think about 90% of the names are familiar to me. I suppose about 50% were around the Tudor, and at least half of these have lasted as good mates. It's a strange world, but it did seem to offer some hope back then....

I'm still teaching, but the Dept has very much lighten'd my load so that I can get to get together and publish the best of all that I have published over the decades and is dispersed everywhere. I also have just got in a new project that I am rather proud of ;-). "Economics and Global Warming: the view from self-organised criticality". It's sort of complicated but I propose that global warming is best explained as the entropy accumulation expended by the global economic process. If I am right the global temperature should be increasing according as a process of self-organised criticality and identified by a "log-periodic" wave form. I'm going to test that. What would they have thought about all this at the Lincoln or at the Tudor? Science Fiction I suppose... But this whole world would have been science fiction then. I've read that sf writers now have difficulty in thinking of convincing scenarios more than about 10 years into the future. Before they could think in thousands of years. Now, the only convincing scenarios are those like *Matrix* or *Artificial Intelligence* which have to do with our transition problems to the world of our successors. But the story has to be told through humans; we can't really imagine how to tell a story through non-human eyes. New analysis indicates that the doubling period for computer power is now shortening from the 1 1/2 year mark (Someone's? Law) -- a superexponential explosion.

And at the same time our politicians run around like headless chooks.

Fair enough then Doug

Johnny

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