

Graham Rowlands

GEORGE NEGUS' 2000 TOMORROW

Well, there it is. There it was. There they were:
the midnights midnight after midnight after midnight
the sunsets & sunrises set after rise, rise after set
zoning all the way around the time-zones & I'm still here.
As I promised at the beginning over 25 hours ago now
back in the twentieth century, the second millennium
there've been surprises & there's one more in store:
yes, the last midnight in not the *lost* continent of
but the *found* continent of, wait for it — Alialiani
with its stunning capital city, Avagoogi. Excuse me.
Here in central Avagoogi, the five 900 metre obelisks
in the five different marbles of the five provinces
each with its own sky-climbing hieroglyphic totems
unknown to the populations of the other four provinces.
No one has managed to translate one obelisk into another
despite the commissioning of ex-spooks & deep ex-spooks.
Whole civilisations have come & gone, gone & come again
while the Alialianis haven't lost their marbles. Excuse me.
Gremlins. Now up they go. Once a century, every century
they go up their obelisks in their hundreds & thousands
with suction-pads on their feet & hands they go up & up &
Excuse me. Glitches. Gremlins. More technical problems.
Far be it from me to put words into their hieroglyphics
but I'm sure if they could see you billion viewers now
& if you billion could see *them* now, the Alialianis
in beautiful Avagoogi & throughout the five provinces
would wish you all a ... Excuse me.

