



HEALING ... author Robert C Auty puts his faith in the alternative therapy of reiki.

# A novel way of telling your tale

By MIKE HALLOWELL

**I RECENTLY had the privilege of interviewing science-fantasy writer Robert C Auty, whose new book, *Trance Warriors - The Siege of Scarn*, has just been released.**

I liked Robert from the first moment we spoke. He's quiet, unassuming and, to be honest, not the sort of person you'd imagine penning a rip-roaring novel about a world beset with chaos and warfare - Robert's words, not mine.

The futuristic anti-hero of *Trance Warriors* is Connor - an outlaw who finds himself drawn into a cosmic battle between the forces of good and evil.

The psychically-gifted Connor is forced into the role of Master of Ceremonies, as both sides head for the final conflict on the mystical Middle Isle.

The twist to the tale is that a far darker power lurks in the background - an evil that could engulf the entire planet.

As Connor squares up to the hideous Blood Cult, he realises that his ultimate test is just about to begin.

Auty was raised in Canada before moving to Lancaster, where he now

## BIZARRE

resides. He has a love of the great outdoors and comes across strongly as a passionate environmentalist.

You can feel this strongly in his novel, where you just know that the author yearns for a past age in which the word wilderness still meant something.

He said: "Trance Warriors came about when I was writing another novel. I penned a two-page premise and eventually *Trance Warriors* grew out of that."

*Trance Warriors - The Siege of Scarn* is right out of the Conan the Barbarian mould in terms of its mystical earthiness.

However, the story does a feel of *Lord of the Rings*, *Dune*, 2001 *A Space Odyssey* and even *Star Wars* about it too.

But Bizarre readers shouldn't fall into the trap of thinking that Auty has simply pinched previously-published ideas and rehased them.

It is fresh, unique and stands firmly in its own merit.

I probed Auty further about his per-

sonal life and he revealed amongst other things his passion for the healing art of reiki which he is studying.

"Reiki impresses me. It really works. Its both mystical and practical."

It's not hard to see why Robert would be enthusiastic about an alternative therapy like reiki.

Whether it's food, the environment or literature, Auty has a passion for that which is natural.

Big, grimy cities are not his abode of choice.

Auty is a streams and mountains guy and Reiki is a natural, gentle, healing art.

Back to the book. As Connor fights battles on the personal front, yet still shoulders his responsibilities as a great leader, his ally is the mysterious Blade of Scarn, a nice touch which gives *Trance Warriors* a lovely Arthurian feel.

The author and publisher have donated two, signed copies to give away to Bizarre readers who take part in the following competition.

■ Another famous science-fantasy character, Conan the Barbarian, was invented by a famous writer in the 1930s.

Was the creator of Conan the Barbarian a) Howard E Roberts, b) Robert E Howard or c) Ronan E Hebart?

The first two Bizarre readers to e-mail the correct answer to [bizarrefan@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:bizarrefan@tiscali.co.uk) will receive their free, signed copy.

*Trance Warriors - The Siege of Scarn*, by Robert C Auty, is published by Apex Publishing (ISBN 1-904444-58-8) and priced at £8.99.