



To run or not to run? That is the question.

For those of you who have been watching, blogging, reading Facebook etc, you will notice there has been a bit of a bruhaha about whether I should be running for TAFF or not. The main argument seems to be that I'm considered to be a professional. I won't repeat the blogged comments here, but I will address this issue. If earning £60 in 15 months makes me a professional, then there you go. I've been writing since age 9, but only started submitting stories 15 months ago and I've had some success.

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TAFF

I'm grateful for the meagre success I've had, but I have always considered myself a Fan first and though I would love to be a professional, I have a long way to go, though I am trying hard at it.

The other issues mentioned were my Fannish credentials. Now, it's hard for me to be objective here, but I think I've done my bit.



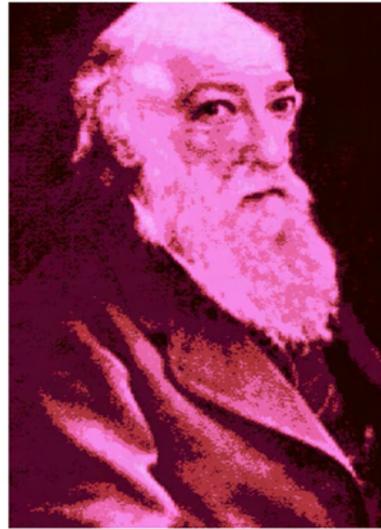
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The Fannish Inquisition!

Nobody expects the Fannish Inquisition! So here goes, in answer to those questions I've received, here's a little bit about me:

I've been attending small local cons since age 16, where I would review events and sometimes books and films for Martin Tudor, Steve Green and Critical Wave. I experienced some ill health a number of years back, which impacted for a period on my activity, however, I soon started attending Brum Group (Birmingham Science Fiction Group) as a member and stood as Secretary for a year. I love the Brum Group and owe a great debt to the Gang for welcoming me into the fold. I attend around 6 - 8 cons a year including Novacon, Eastercon, Microcon, Alt.Fiction, Edge Lit & Asylum as well as local events organised throughout the year. I love hanging out with fellow fans and chatting about books and all things SF. At the minute, I am having Geekgasms at being allowed to be a part of the Novacon43 committee supporting GoH Jo Walton. Our first meeting is this Saturday. I also produce the fanzine Andromeda's Offspring, which aims to raise the awareness and profile of female authors working in SF & Fantasy. This brings me neatly onto the other mentioned issue: gender parity.

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TAFF

My main issue or concern is NOT with TAFF. It's to do with gender parity at conventions, in particular, on panels. I question why there is a lack of gender parity on panels & I wonder why there are barriers, real or perceived, that may inhibit women from taking part in panels. This is why, with an Events organiser I am creating Andromeda One, a one day SF/Fantasy convention which will include a dedicated stream to examine the debates surrounding gender parity. I do hope that this Zine stops the TAFF race from getting bogged down in these issues. Many Thanks, Theresa x



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I am proud to announce that my nominators are Steve Green, Bellis, John Meaney, Chris Garcia & Yvonne Penney. All Fan-tastic Fans!