

fanstuff

WEEKLY

J Katz

D Steffan

R Lichtman

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C Garcia

E Mayer

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Arnie Katz



FIAWOL vs. FIJAGH: The Debate Continues

I don't like to disappoint anybody, but I don't have a pat answer to decide the tug-of-war between two extreme, opposite views of Fandom.

Aristotelian logic is not equal to the task. It's a sketchy spectrum stretched between two opposing absolutes.

The topic defies definitive judgments. The more I study the question, the easier it becomes for me to say, "It depends."

Fans have enjoyed discussing FIAWOL versus FIJAGH so long that most of those who began the debate have moved on to the Enchanted Convention.

This argument has outlived them for three very good reasons: **It doesn't matter.** The discussion is apt to resound with grandiose

Continued on page 2_

GREEN WARRIOR fenden

FIAWOL, FIJAGH ...and Me

If FIAWOL and FIJAGH are opposite ends of a spectrum, as I theorized in this issue's cover essay, then I've been at almost every spot along its length.

I'm coming up to 50 years with Fandom. During that time, my life has changed a lot — and my relation to Fandom has evolved with it.

If I got lured into one of those FIAWOL-FIJAGH discussions now, I'd identify myself as someone for whom Fandom Is A Way of Life. I'd also point out that FIAWOL is a Platonic Ideal and does not exist in reality in its pure state and that I accept that "anything two fans do together is fanac."

Here's a brief rundown of my personal circumstances:

My family is very small and I see relatives only once or twice a year.

I'm married to a BNF. We have no children.

My wife and I host a fan club and virtually all our local friends are members of that club.

Professionally, I am engaged in the solitary work of trying to write a novel.

Joyce and I are a "togetherness couple." We share the same circle of friends and have most of our interests, such as Old Time Radio, in common.

So, apart from professional writing and sleeping, most of what I do can be fit into the context of Fandom, if you accept that anything two fans do together is fanac.

I wouldn't have wanted to live my whole life primarily within the context of Fandom and I haven't. There have been long periods when most, if not all, of my life had no connection to Fandom. Right now, I'm happy to have its benefits.

philosophical statements and towering absolutes that don't have much effect on Real Life. You can argue all night and it changes nothing.

No one cares. Most Trufans are willing to champion FIAWOL or FIJAGH, but few are heavily ego-invested. You can debate passionately and then go home to sleep without lingering animosity on either side.

There is no right answer. No one can make a definitive case for FIAWOL or FIJAGH, because the myriad of variables adds up differently for each individual fan.

The roots of FIAWOL vs. FIJAGH dig deep into the history of science fiction. As science fiction coalesced into a genre in the 1920's and 1930's, it became a tempting target for a legion of self-righteous detractors.

Fans rejected attempts to dismiss SF as "escape literature," but a shadow of doubt remained: If science fiction represented an escape, fans wondered, what about a group obsessed with science fiction?

The original meaning of "GAFIA" reflects this worry. It meant *escaping* the real world and burying one's self in Fandom. Eventually, "gafia" became fanspeak for leaving Fandom, and fans expressed their concern about escapism in other ways.

The 1940's LA Insurgents made "Fandom as escape" a key tenet of their philosophy "Why don't *you* quit Fandom?" Francis Towner Laney asked in *Ah, Sweet Idiocy!* FTL claimed that "total fans" like Forrest J Ackerman limited their experiences, narrowed their horizons and missed many non-fannish pleasures. That was probably an accurate appraisal of World War II-era Fandom.

For one thing, Fandom was a sexual wasteland. Fandom was about boys and young men, mostly 15-30 years old. Most fans had to go outside Fandom to meet women, which required participation in non-fan activities

The LA Insurgents felt that total fans lost out in other ways, too. They wanted fans to use their talent and energy to have meaningful careers, enjoy more varied experiences and engage with other possibilities.

Modern Insurgents don't exhort fans to quit Fandom. This is 2012, not 1942. Fandom is 500 times larger and infinitely more diverse.

The depth and complexity of today's Fandom allow each fan to tailor fanac to meet their needs. Each fan gravitates to the types and quantity of fanac that best suits them.

There are more ways to be a fan than there were 60 years ago. People can choose any level of involvement from sitting in a convention program audience to devoting every waking hour to participation in Fandom.

The FIAWOL-FIJAGH debate is particularly popular in our subculture, Trufandom. Maybe it's because each trufan is privately worried about whether they are doing too much fanac to be healthy – or too little to be meaningful.

It's impossible to say whether FIAWOL or FIJAGH is "right," because the answer is different for each fan. It depends on individual circumstances. The most you can say with any assurance is that FIAWOL or FIJAGH is right for you.

It turns out that a phrase first spoken in jest may have a lot to do with whether you see Fandom as a way of life or a goddam hobby.

“Anything two fans do together is fanac,” said with the proper suggestive leer wasn’t intended seriously, but it poses a pivotal question: What counts as Fandom?

To illustrate, let’s say that you, a fan, go to see the movie *The Watch*. Most of us – sorry, contrarians – would agree that this is neither fanac nor an activity within the social context of Fandom. It’s equally clear that if you took the waitress you met at the sports bar to see *The Watch*, it wouldn’t be fanac or an activity within Fandom.

Ah, but what if you go with two friends? If they’re both fans, do you consider that a fannish activity? What if you go to the movie with two people, only one of whom is a fan?

A fan who believes that “anything two fans do is fanac” is much more likely to take the FIAWOL side of the debate. A fan with a narrower view of fanac is apt to take up the cudgels for FIJAGH.

— Arnie

fanstuff

Serving

Fandom

for

1/400th

of a century!

Are You FIAWOL or FIJAGH? Take This Meaningless Test to Find Out

1. If you are married or have a significant other, is he or she
A. An active fan writer, fan artist or fanzine publisher? B. A fan? C. A Non-fan?
2. If you are married or have a significant other, did you meet through Fandom?
3. If you date, which best describes the three most recent persons?
A. All non-fans. B. Two were non-fans. C. Two were fans. D. All fans.
4. Do you regularly attend a fan group?
5. Do you regularly attend a non-fan group (exclusive of work)?
A. No B. One C. More than one
6. The last time you went to a movie, who went with you?
A. Went alone B. One non-fan C. More than one non-fan
D. One fan E. More than one fan. F. Mixed group of fans and non-fans.
7. The last time you went to a restaurant where you spent at least \$20, who was with you?
A. Went alone B. One non-fan C. More than one non-fan
D. One fan E. More than one fan. F. Mixed group of fans and non-fans.
8. Have you co-edited a fanzine (three issues min.) with a significant other?
9. Have you ever done fanac at your job or missed work o do fanac?
10. Which statement best describes your last vacation trip?
A. Visit to Family. B. Visit to non-fan friends. C. Visit to fan friends.
D. Fan convention E. Non-fan convention or event.

**No One
Wins by
Skipping
School

By
Joyce
Katz**

The recent discussion of fannish socialization raised some differing views. I believe that fans benefit a lot from mentors who try to shepherd them through the wilderness with help, suggestions, and even criticisms.

In fact, I've always said "It takes a fan to make a fan," meaning that it's hard to blunder through all the pitfalls on the way to becoming skilled in fannish customs, unless you have some guiding lights to help find your way.

I benefitted greatly from fan mentoring. Sometimes they shot the ground from under my feet, like when I learned turning a zine into a commercial success was improbable. Among other things, they taught me that mediocre material should be cut, thereby saving the cost of publishing it. Reducing the zine to a more reasonable size paid dividends in popularity and response, and also cut the postage bill substantially. I learned that the scrapbook approach to publishing didn't win admiration nor promote coherency in style.

I learned that all faneds have trouble financing their zines. And I learned that no award has any value if you have to ask for it.

There's some interesting fannish cross-talk happening on this subject. When *Dark Matter Fanzine* drew some criticism from Robert Lichtman, Nalini Haynes dismissed him and his suggestions, calling Robert a "hater."

I doubt many would agree; Robert is known for his sterling qualities and courtesy. His vast knowledge and experience of fannish customs have earned him the nickname "The Sage of Fandom."

Guy Lillian picked up the subject in *The Zine Dump #29*. Guy, with the pleasant manners of a southern gentleman, jumped to the defense of the lady. He took issue with Arnie's remarks about the Lichtman-Haynes teapot, and his discussion of fannish socialization. Guy feels that this education "seems to have conformity as its goal, and a clique as its concept of community." He says, "Teacher Leave Those Kids Alone."

I disagree. I believe fans are improved by "fannish wisdom". The intent is not to make them conform, but rather to help them through a steep learning curve and acquaint them with the essentials of the subculture so they can enjoy it more. No one wants to force neofens to be anything but themselves. If old fans can ease the path, it seems helpful to do so.

Not everyone is going to become a fan historian, but it's pleasant to have a smattering of knowledge about our hobby. Not every fan will come to the same conclusion that I did, that it's no fun to collate and mail thousand-issue zines with hundreds of pages. Not every fan feels that it's bad manners to ask for help financing their hobby, or to solicit awards, or to call correspondents "haters" when they make suggestions or criticisms.

I can't agree with Guy when he says "Teacher Leave Those Kids Alone." I think new fans should have the opportunity to hear advice from others who've been down the same road, even if they then reject it.

I'd like to know what other fans think about it. Is it actually best to stand back and let neos either figure out things for themselves or flounder?

—Joyce Katz

steffanac

My reading habits are sporadic at best. My adult ADD (undiagnosed, thank you) keeps me spinning off in many directions at once and sometimes things slip by me when I am otherwise distracted. One of those things was Joyce's article in *Fanstuff* #5 called, "Corflu Crises to Come." I don't know how it got by me the first time with a name like that -- I wake up in a pool of my own sweat worrying about such things -- but it did.

Recently, however, I finally had a chance to read it and I found it to be a thoughtful contemplation on Corflus of the future, based on her own past experiences, and I thought that I would take this opportunity to express my feelings about some of what she wrote about in that article.

As you might imagine, I found most of it fascinating. I missed the "Trufandom 2020" panel at Corflu Glitter -- it happened before I got to the convention on Saturday afternoon -- but I agree with the opinions the panelists expressed about the GoH situation. I see their concern about the dwindling resource of candidates as legitimate, but I think we've got a while yet before we've used up our pool of possible suckers -- *ahem*, I mean honorees -- even with the folks who pay to stay out of the hat.

I like the idea of having the freedom to occasionally pick a GoH, when there's somebody ripe for the picking, but we still are planning to go the established route next year and reach into the hat for our Guest of Honor. Although, personally, I'm thinking of just declaring Frank Lunney to be the GoH to pay tribute to him for his valuable contribution to Corflu's legacy and history -- namely, being the first to suggest that a payment would get you out of the hot seat. It has become such a beloved tradition and I believe traditions should definitely be rewarded. So, what I'm saying is, Frank should probably watch his ass next May. We'll see...

I also agree that the con should be considered a three day event and, in fact, I have always regarded it as being that way. Early birds get there on Thursday (not an official con day) and then the con officially starts on Friday. I agree that often there hasn't been very much programming on Fridays, but even before I'd read Joyce's article Lynn and I had agreed that we would be having our first program item on Friday afternoon and another in the evening, after drinks and dinner. We will also be having some kind of after dinner program on Saturday, as well, along with the day's activities. We plan to keep everybody busy and entertained whenever they aren't out exploring the city of Portland's many distractions.

I know several attendees have concerns about the smoking restrictions in Portland, but because the whole city is non-smoking, the Smoking Room concept is a non-issue for us. The fines for violating the hotel's smoking ban can be stiff, so we will be encouraging all the tobacco smokers, including Ms. Lynn, to venture outdoors to get their fix. There is a huge fifth floor patio that is accessible whenever the bar is open, for everyone's afternoon and evening

Exploring The Joycean Fannish Mind

By
Dan
Steffan

CORFLU XXX

**May 3-5, 2013
Portland, Oregon.**

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steffanlandpdx@comcast.net

Visit our website:

www.corflu.org

puffing pleasure, and there's also a covered entranceway outside the lobby that will provide smokers with shelter, as well.

The other kind of Smoking Room is a problem of logistics and finance. While it *is* a non-smoking hotel, each guestroom at the Red Lion does have a small window that actually opens to the fresh air and I believe that with a little cleverness and a few old school precautions -- coupled with Portland's cool head about herbal entertainment -- visiting fans should be able to enjoy themselves just fine.

There will definitely be a t-shirt for next year's convention. Our staff artist would never forgive me if we didn't produce one. We'll have more than one size available, but the majority of them will be either larges or X-Ls -- with a few XXLs in the mix because fandom is getting larger -- especially our staff artist -- and we want to keep everybody happy. I like the idea of people sending in reservations for a certain size to help guide our ordering and encourage folks to mention their preference when they join by PayPal or by sending an e-mail to us at steffanlandpdx@comcast.net with your size preference.

I also want to mention that we are planning, as part of our celebration of the 30th Corflu, to offer our attendees a gallery display -- probably a clothesline -- of all the Corflu t-shirts that have been produced over the years. The variety of designs featured on those t-shirts are a time capsule of our convention's visual identity and we think it will be quite a lot of fun to see them all together.

Of course, the most alarming part of Joyce's article was the description of the unexpected \$1000 media fee that the hotel hit the Vegas committee with. It is a cautionary tale, indeed. As a result, I have looked closely at our contract to check for hidden fees of this kind. Fortunately, we also have a really good relationship with our hotel people, and they have assured me there won't be that kind of surprise on our bill next year.

I don't see how Vegas' hotel got away with charging for the use of JoHn Hardin's own computer for the program streaming. That's just totally bogus. Free WiFi means just that. Isn't the only difference between streaming a panel and Skyping with your grandma the direction the camera is pointed? At present we have yet to acquire a Master of the Intertubes to run next year's internet content, but when we do, we'll be sure that we know where we stand with the hotel.

The other really important point in Joyce's article was her thoughts about the state of current day Corflu auctions. As a former TAFF winner (and administrator for 3 years), I know how hard the funds have had to work to create their funding, but these days the fan funds are much healthier than the average Corflu and I believe it may be time to finally split up the auctions. I believe that, as a matter of financial necessity, the modern Corflu auction needs to be held primarily to support the con itself.

I agree that it would seem that the funds are taking too big a bite of the Corflu auction pie, especially when you consider the fact that fan fund winners -- as far as I know -- rarely go to Corflu, but are usually Worldcon bound instead. This doesn't mean that we want to stop auctioning material for the fan funds at Corflu, but I do think it is time for the fund's representatives and sponsors to conduct their own fund raising event at the con. Something separate from the Corflu auction itself.

In fact, it was our intention -- even before Joyce brought it up -- to separate the auctions at the Portland Corflu into separate affairs. It is a matter of self-preservation. We will still be happy for all the funds to have an auction of their own where they can sell any and all materials that they have gathered expressly for that purpose and we will be happy to provide them with space to do so. But

that separate auction will need to be run by somebody representing the funds, and the materials they auction will have to be provided for that purpose by the funds themselves.

Corflu XXX will be having a large auction of its own, featuring material acquired to help provide funding for the con's expenses. Everything to be auctioned will be gathered by myself or my representatives for the sole purpose of a Corflu fund raising auction and all proceeds will go towards our expenses and, hopefully, future Corflus. While we will be pleased to extend any help we can to the fund representatives, we will not be including their auction materials at our auction and it will have to be their responsibility to inquire about a time and place for their own sale.

It was a hard decision to make. We have no interest in creating any kind of split between the funds and Corflu. My record as a supporter of their efforts is well documented, but putting on a Corflu in the midst of a recession and without pass along funds requires us to take this stand. We hope everybody understands that and receives the news in the spirit it has been offered.

As in the past, Andy Hooper will once again be conducting auctions for Corflu XXX on eBay in the months to come. And we are also taking a new approach to some of our fundraising by introducing an online sales catalogue - a virtual fannish flea market, if you will -- that will be linked to the Corflu website and will sell materials -- like fanzines and artwork -- at pre-set prices. The catalogue itself will be regularly updated over the next 10 months and the income from those sales will go right into our general operating fund. We hope to have the first catalogue entry online within the next few weeks. Check at www.corflu.com for that and our first PR, which is also in the works as I write this.

Joyce's suggestion about higher membership rates is moot for us. We've already set our membership rates and we've sold more than 45 attending memberships to date, which makes it impossible to even consider changing the rate. (That's for future people who are foolish enough to host one of these damned things.) Nevertheless, if it proves necessary, we will consider raising our membership rate to \$75 for the last month of pre-registration before the con, which would then become the At The Door rate, as well. We hope that we won't have to do that. As Joyce said in her article, "our group is very good at ponying up in advance." Yes, you are, aren't you?

However, we are going to be instituting one small innovation next year, a Saturday Only membership. We're calling it the Gonzalez rate. That means we will be selling a \$20 Saturday Only membership to anybody who might want to come to the con for only a brief visit. This Saturday rate will get them into that day's panels and that night's parties and give them a con badge, etc., but it won't entitle them to go to the Sunday awards banquet or parties. While it will probably only be used by a couple of people -- a few locals and maybe an unexpected guest or two -- we think it is a good idea and hope that others will adopt it in the future.

My committee and I -- the committee is taking a nap nearby as I write this -- are hoping to provide as much entertainment for our members as can be arranged and it is our solemn oath that when they leave Portland after attending Corflu XXX they will leave with both memories and memorabilia. They will leave with a Sense of Wonder in their hearts and our motto on their lips: "Thirty Corflus? That's not too many."

--Dan Steffan
Corflu Optimist Prime

Interpreting the Test

1. A=2R; B=1R; C=1L
2. Yes=1R; No=1L
3. A=3L; B=1L; C=1R D=2R
4. Yes=2R; No=1L
5. Yes=2L; No=1R
6. A=0; B=1L; C=2L; D=1R; E=2R; F=0
7. A=0; B=1L; C=2L; D=1R; E=2R; F=0
8. Yes=2R; No=1L
9. Yes=2R; No=1L
10. A=0; B=1L; C=2R; D=1R; E=2L

Interpreting the Test

1. Total all the "L"s and all the "R"s.
2. Subtract the smaller number from the larger number.
3. Put the letter associated with the higher number next to the Net Total.
4. Compare your score with the table below to find where you fit along the FIAWOL-FIJAGH spectrum.

17R = You are a highly committed Trufan, though you may need to brush up on your math.

12R-16R = Fandom is extremely important to you and you strongly adhere to FIAWOL

6R-11R = You lean toward FIAWOL, but major portions of your life lie outside the subculture.

5R-5L = To paraphrase Bill Rotsler, "You just like it."

6L-11L = You lean towards FIJAGH, but sometimes, Fandom becomes very important to your life.

12L-16L = As much as you like and enjoy Fandom, it's just a goddam hobby to you.

17L+ = Fandom is only one of many activities and social groups that fill your life, but math is not one of your main interests.

The 'Loccer Room' House Rules

These are the ground rules:

There are no editorial interruptions or revisions. What you write is what I'll print. My comments are in the skinny columns.

When a writer addresses a topic the full text is always printed. It's like posting on an e-list, except that it's easier to read and won't bury your contributions at the end of a seemingly endless thread.

Apologies for disagreeing with the editor are unnecessary. The last thing I want to do is stifle anyone's opinions. I'd like to keep the column free of personal attacks, but I don't care *what* you write as long as you make your case intelligently. Fact is, I don't even *have* a firm opinion on many subjects raised in **fanstuff**.

A Few Words about Frequency and Schedules

The weekly schedule is a cornerstone of **fanstuff**. All content, including all the Locs, that reaches me by Wednesday evening are guaranteed for that Friday's issue — and I do my best to get material that hits my inbox on Thursday, or even Friday morning, into that **fanstuff**, too.

I'm happy (and flattered) by Loc-smiths who try to send something for every issue. My greed notwithstanding, I understand that it's a fast pace.

Fanstuff is like a bus line, not a plane flight. If you miss one issue, another will come along next week (and carry your letter).

To Eric Mayer FAPA... Forever?

One of the things I like best about Fandom is its vast variety of possibilities. As you state, you aren't the only fanzine publisher who isn't inspired by the apa environment. There are also fans who haven't done anything *but* apazines over the last two or three decades.

I admire *Trap Door* and its editor, but I wouldn't want to emulate the fanzine any more than Robert would want to switch to my style.

loccer room

Eric Mayer

My experience with apas is limited to a stint in eAPA but I had the same inexplicable experience Chris describes. For some reason I had a hard time coming up with a zine every month. Odd, because I had no trouble putting out 17 longer and more elaborate issues of E-Ditto last year. Something about knowing I had to get material together by a certain date made me freeze. eAPA is, of course, an electronic apa. If FAPA went electronic I'd join in a minute but I expect members would figure an electronic FAPA wouldn't really be FAPA anymore and they'd probably be right.

Is fandom a hobby or a way of life? It depends. Maybe.

Back in the nineties I was deep into orienteering, a sport where you run a course through the woods, navigating to terrain features using a compass and a highly detailed map. One year the club I belonged to, Rochester Orienteering, put on the annual United States Orienteering Convention. I was surprised when I saw the t-shirt design. The motto on the shirt said: Orienteering A Way of Life.

In my case, the motto arguably applied. During the spring and fall my whole schedule was built around local meets held every other week. I car pooled with friends to spend weekends away at National "A" meets.

I spent hours running, to keep in shape, watched my diet, nursed the minor injuries inherent in being a life-long couch potato trying to run around the woods in his forties. In addition I served on the club's board of directors, did the newsletter (of course), directed and set courses for local meets. Yes, for me orienteering was a way of life. By contrast, the tedious legal editing job I dragged myself in to every day was nothing more than a way to make money.

Are there any hobbies that are not, for some enthusiasts, a way of life? Something more meaningful than a stressful, unrewarding job, thrown in among people with whom one has nothing in common?

On the other hand, for me fandom has been more of a hobby. For a long stretch of time I spent far more time reading fanzines and writing articles and locs than should ever be spent on a mere hobby, and in many ways my fanac was more meaningful to me than the work I needed to do to make a living. However, I've never gone to conventions or socialized much with other fans except through the mail, and surely life, as opposed to a hobby, involves social contact.

So I would say that whether fandom is a hobby or a way of life, as is the case with all such activities, depends on the participant. The catch is that many fans define fandom as a way of life. And to them anyone who does not embrace fandom as a way of life, in all its aspects, but only as a hobby, is not, truly, a fan. At least that is my impression.

FIAWOL or FIJAGH is probably an unanswerable conundrum. But FIAWOL is a better acronym.

Chris Garcia

Good stuff from Vegas! Gotta love weekend zones when I tend to have the most time to LoC!

Fannish Common Wisdom does worry me a bit. All Fans Are Brothers is probably my biggest mantra. We're all fans, and no matter what track we take, we're all fans. TO me, any belief other than that pretty much saying "What I do is better than what other folks are doing." and to me, that's just not right. We're fans, we have the greatest thing in common: fandom. There is nothing more important.

Fandom is getting older, there's no question. There are fewer folks coming in at a young age. We're not dying off so much as seeing a slower rate of replacement than we were even a couple of decades ago.

The elitist snob argument is a tougher one, and I can see it tied to All Fans Are Brothers. We've GOT to accept everyone regardless of performance. We've GOT to see that other new peoples' view have value. We've GOT to let folks in without judgment. Yes, that may be my naive beliefs again, but there is no way we can keep fandom going without encouraging folks who might do things differently than we think is the right way. I want there to be a vibrant fanzine fandom in thirty, forty, fifty years, and the only way to do that is to be a place where people want to be.

Sadly, there are very few fanzines today in SF fandom, or outside. I've been tracing all the Wrestling zones I can find. There are a lot of what we might call Wrestling Semi-Prozines, and a *lot* of proziness including The Wrestling Observer and Figure Four, but I can't say I've seen a wrestling zine in ages. There was a great wrestling fanzine in the 1990s that was all about The Missing Link. It was called... wait for it... The Missing Link. I loved that!

I am, and probably always will be, Fandom is Just A Goddamn Hobby type, but at the same time, I LOVE Fandom.

The Nickname is a dying art. I love them and frequently give them to new folks at work.

Thank Ghod! Good to hear that *Askance* is sticking around!

On the matter of Digital response, I think you've got a lot of it wrong. As a guy whose primary fanac is electronic and digital, I've talked with a lot of folks who are big blog fans who are not at all interested in the world of Zines, and ESPECIALLY not eZines. They have a form they like, and it's almost always RSS feeds, and they are not at all interested in the zine form. Long Time Fans have a habit they have formed, but it's the folks who haven't had that form who seem to be the most resistant to taking to eZines. It's a shame, as there is a lot of great stuff. Let's face it, The Drink Tank doesn't get response because it sucks. I'm OK with that, but maybe it goes back to the All Fans Are Brothers argument. If we value the way we're doing things, if we value zines and want to see them continue, we've got to get over it. We need to encourage new folks and neither ignore them or knock 'em down. That's the only way. Not everyone can be me and just go on and on for no good reason!

Dick Lupoff

Robert Lichtman is, as usual, right when he suggests that I obtained satisfactory service from the Krishna Copy Company. I had many dealings with them over the years and they were always terrific. Good service, prompt, reasonable prices. Jeez, if this sounds like an endorsement, so be it. I think I was first intrigued by the name of the company, of course, but once I

More to Eric Mayer The Uniqueness of Fandom

Not surprisingly for such a word-oriented group, Fandom has added several new terms to the mainstream dictionary. "[something] is a Way of Life" is an example. And yesterday, I heard someone on the radio refer to "egoboo."

I expect people to love their hobbies. Who'd participate if they didn't enjoy it?

Fandom isn't like most other hobbies, though. Most of them are geared to a specific activity (like orienteering) or category of object (like numismatism). Collecting has a place in our Fandom, but it quickly became secondary to discussion of the ideas in the stories. That made it possible for Fandom to range far and wide without having to peg everything to one parochial subject.

To Chris Garcia One Fan's Brother Is Another Fan's Irritating Stranger

Your characterization of the position of those who don't subscribe to "All fans are brothers" is unfair.

I don't think what I'm doing is better than what anyone else is doing. I just think it is better for *me*.

I believe that all humans are brothers, so all people who call themselves fans are my brothers, too. Yet I don't feel any *special* close kinship.

For one thing, there are simply way too many "fans" for me to feel any overriding emotion about such a large and diverse throng. Over 80 million Americans identify themselves as "fans" of science fiction.

"Fan," like many other words, means different things to different people. I have little in common with a "fan" who collect the autographs of actors in science fiction movies. That's good for those people, but it really doesn't connect them to me in any way that I find meaningful.

To Dick Lupoff Satisfying Service

The potential problem with copy shops isn't the result of spite or sadism. It's a somewhat misguided attempt of the shops to Do Good by carefully respecting copyrights.

That's not a bad idea, in theory. The problem is that they don't know about fanzines. As I explained in the original story, the high quality of what we do actually works against us with those people, because they assume that anything good is stolen.

More to Dick Lupoff Who Gets the Credit

As you well know, the absence of a couple of syllables or a short word can stand an otherwise reasonable sentence on its head. Robert's observations about your return to Fandom were partly the kind of additional information that is one of the great elements of his locs and partly a reaction to a missing "un" that made it sound like I was taking credit for your return rather than pointing out your long and luminous fannish pedigree.

Actually, it seems to have been a grassroots movement, a benign conspiracy among several of your friends, including Robert and me, to lure you back into Fandom.

Maybe it was selfish of me, but I missed you and wanted to re-establish contact with a valued friend.

It strikes me as kinda wonderful that you, Robert and I all went through long periods of time and now we've all back, reasonably sprightly and enjoying fanning together once more.

Four-Dimensional Mental Crifanac All-Time Favorite Apans? All-Time Favorite Fanwriters?

All the topics we discuss in *fanstuff* don't have to be deadly serious. Sometimes, it's fun to kick around more frivolous topics.

It looks like we have a couple of them started, so I'm looking forward to getting your choices for best apans and/or best fanwriters.



started dealing with them they never gave me a hard time and they never let me down.

As for who's responsible for "getting me back into fandom," I feel a little bit like the proverbial bug on the microscope slide. Reminds me of an experience I once had at Kaiser Hospital in Oakland. I'd been having my eyes checked and a young ophthalmologist saw something interesting in one of 'em and started coralling his colleagues with comments like, "Hey, come and take a look at this."

I felt like saying, "Hey, bub, I'm the customer, you're the merchant, and you're here to serve me, not the other way around." But I was too polite to complain (a mistake) and eventually the incident came to an end.

Some years later I spent a long time in the hospital due to a very nasty abdominal situation. One day my doc came into my room and invited me downstairs to the X-ray department. Showed me several images of my innards.

"You are now officially an interesting case," he said. "This is not something that you want to hear."

Fortunately my doc got me to a gastroenterologist who got me to a mad genius over in San Francisco who was doing some experimental work with endoscopic surgery. A fascinating experience, especially as I was more or less awake and aware during a series of procedures.

Did they work? Well, that was in 2003 and here it is 2012 and I'm still here, still writing books, and still over my head in debt.

As the late Kurt Vonnegut was wont to say, *So it goes*.

And right now I am going to go eat lunch.

Robert Lichtman

About FIAWOL and FIJAGH, I suggest that both can coexist in the same fan. That's certainly the case for me. In your fannish common wisdom article you write that back in the '60s "fanzine fans were mostly 15 to 30 with a few lifers like Jack Speer and Bob Tucker." Fast forward fifty years and *we* (you and me) are among the lifers. So clearly on the one hand for us fandom *is* and has been a way of life. We got into it young, found it appealing, and have stuck

around. That's not to say that we've devoted all our time to pursuing it, but that it's usually the default when some free time opens up.

But not always...over time our active involvement and interest has waxed and waned, and both of us have taken sabbaticals. Yours was 1975 to 1989, mine 1971-1980. And even within our more active periods there have been times when we participated more actively than some other times. I would guess that this ebb and flow is common, and look forward to any thoughts on what I'm saying that other readers might have.

And yet, it's still a hobby—not to be on the same page of one's life as family and friends and, well, enjoyable non-fannish pursuits. All fanac and no outside interests make little Johnny Fann a dull boy.

A correction cries out to be made in your survey of fannish nicknames. You write: "Size had something to do with the nickname for Miriam Dyches (Carr/Knight), whom Terry Carr dubbed 'the girl with the golden googies.'" The proper spelling is "goojies," and it was actually "Forrest J (no period) Ackerman" who did the deed, as recounted in his article, "The Girl With the Golden Goojies," in *Mental Marshmallow*, Miriam's first fanzine, which was a Goojie Publication. Oh, and by the way she's been Miriam Lloyd for many years now.

I guess I'm living up to that "Sage of Fandom" handle you've stuck on me. I was formerly just the "Sage of Glen Ellen," but that small town couldn't hold my sagacity, ahahahahaha.

In your "thoughts about the APAsphere" to Chris Garcia, you write, "I try to do my fanzines at a somewhat more leisurely pace. I try not to get in the position of having to do a whole apazine in one day, even though I have done so more than once." For someone who's now produced 73 consecutive weekly fanzines, your actions would seem to belie the "more leisurely pace" part of that comment. But perhaps your subjective view of producing such a frequent fanzine differs from that of those looking on.

Taral writes, "A healthy environment for fanzine fandom has to take the shape of a hierarchy, with a large number of readers and loccers, a modest number of contributors, and a relatively small number of publishers. Instead, we have a fanzine fandom that seems to consist mostly of publishers, a few dedicated writers and almost no fanartists or loccers." Speaking in the context of the part of fanzine fandom that devotes itself to electronic fanzines, the proliferation of publishers far exceeds the ability of many if not most fans to keep up with their output. Even when the content of those electronic fanzines is good—and Taral's *Broken Toys* certainly is—to some extent it's lost in a sea of titles that pop up on Bill Burns's fanzine newsstand, each competing for readers and response. Given the limited time I have available to read fanzines, I tend to gravitate towards the ones that arrive in the mail—and only print and read a few of the electronic fanzines that reach me. I printed all of *eI* (since you mention Earl in your "Fan Den" response that appears sparked by Taral's comments, among others), and of yours I printed all of *VFW*, all of *Glitter*, and now all of *Fanstuff*. There are a few others for which I've created my own personal hard-copy files over the years: John Foyster's *eFnac* was the first, also Dave Burton's and Dave Locke's output...and more, but it's not my intent to get sidetracked into making a list, even a short one. (I add that I download and archive more electronic fanzines than the ones I print.)

It's good to read in John Purcell's letter that he still intends to eventually join FAPA. Like him, I enjoyed my SNAPS participation but I'm not sad to see it go. As I wrote in my letter in this issue, it unfortunately got swamped near the end of its life with page-count bloat and became less enjoyable on that score. As far as

Still More to Dick Lupoff An Interesting Case

I'm glad that you're no longer "an interesting case." My eyes have made me "an interesting case" since I was about three years old.

I guess I'm not such an interesting case any more, either. There's practically nothing left that can break and there's nothing they can fix. About all I can do is wear sunglasses outside in the daytime and wage an aggressive (successful) preventative campaign against glaucoma.

To Robert Lichtman FIAWOL or FIJAGH: The Inner Struggle

Your discussion of the mental shifts that move each of us back and forth between FIJAGH and FIAWOL explained your theory brilliantly. I also agree with your concept, so there's not much I can add.

I especially liked your description of lulls that occur even during periods of relatively heavy fanac.

It's sure true for me. Sometimes, I'm divided within myself. I may be white hot about one fan project — and ice cold about a bunch of others.. Sometimes, my enthusiasm for Fandom flags when I finish a project.

I'm particularly glad that I started **fanstuff** when I did. Putting on Corflu Glitter had many satisfactions, but it also had some brutal aspects. If not for this fanzine, I might have let my disgust with certain behaviors cause me to burn out on Fandom, at least temporarily.

I love doing **fanstuff** and it has certainly revived my enthusiasm. I'm also grateful for your enthusiastic and positive response to my quirky brainchild.

Not directly related to this discussion, but... I confess that I indulge myself in one way that probably impedes some of my fanac. I have always been consistent in my professional work. But I sometimes surrender myself to a fanwriting project (*The Fractured Circle*) and put everything else to the side.

That's not too serious when I'm excited about a two-page article, but a sizable project can make me seem to disappear from the rest of Fandom.

**Even more to Robert Lichtman
Breaking into Print**

I knew that you printed out *some* of my fanzines, but I am honored and flattered that you've print out so many of them. All the issues of *Vegas Fandom Weekly*, *Glitter* and **fanstuff** would make a mighty stack.

I read electronic fanzines on-screen, because it's easier for me. I save all digital fanzines on the hard drive and periodically burn them onto a disk.

**To Lloyd Penney
SAPS Is the APA FAPA'd Be...
If FAPA Had the Nerve!**

That was the slogan of the Spectator Amateur Press Society during one of its more competitive periods about 60 years ago.

I reprise it to make a point. No apa outdoes FAPA at being FAPA, even in these days of its weakness. Yet other apas may excel in other ways or offer something not found in FAPA. SAPS in the late 1950's had incredible mailing comments. Apas are as individual and distinctive as genzines.

**More to Lloyd Penney
The LoC Commandments**

That was supposed to be a light review of the basics. You, of course, are a Master Loc-smith who works at a higher, more sophisticated level.

**Still More to Lloyd Penney
The LoC Commandments**

I like to meet new people and make new friends. Yet in a world of limited time, I prefer to prioritize that search.

I'm not hunting for People Just Like Me, but my interest is highest in people with whom I have common ground.

**To David Williams
Welcome to the Sandbox**

It's a pleasure to have you with us in **fanstuff**. I hope you'll make it a regular port of call in the future.

your and John's comments about FAPA being a place where "all the fans who long for the dear days of printed fanzines" would congregate; that could happen if the people flocking there produce interesting fanzines. Being a general-interest apa, even while nominally about science fiction, FAPA has a full range of participants and—along with that, and not to put too fine a point on it—a considerable range of zines. To be candid about it, I don't give a full read to everything in a given mailing and some mailings are "better" than others depending on who's there. But this is true of all apas, in my experience.

Great to see Jay Kinney here! He writes: "I wonder whether the present and upcoming generations of potential fans— more accustomed to tweets and instant messaging than to email, much less snail mail— will have much use for e-lists or fanzines." For some reason this brought to mind JoHn Hardin et al's *Nine Lines Each* postcard fanzines, and I thought that *they* could be the future of fanzine fandom—each issue consisting of 140 characters.

And good to see Graham Charnock popping up, too. His best line: "I admire Ted White's fan fiction although I sometimes remain perplexed why he continues to write it." The very same day you wrote in "Fanews" about the Mearas' and Skeltons' "two-shot," a copy of it turned up in the mail. "High-spirited" doesn't half approach the sense of fun I found in reading through it.

Lloyd Penney

It's another loc on two issues...seems all I can do for the moment, but at least each two-issue loc is a decent size. Here are comments on fanstuff, issues 11 and 12.

11...Apas have come and gone, and SNAPS was an excellent shot, but nothing will ever beat FAPA. I have been approached to join, but I just don't have the time. I've said the same thing about a zine of my own, but no time for that, either. I might have full employment again shortly (waiting for two calls), so finding time just to write locs might be difficult. Think you might re-launch an electronic apa any time in the future?

Eric, thank you for your good words in your article. I do try to loc every zine I get, and I admit there have been exceptions; a few have been unreadable or just particularly vile in their content. I also admit that I follow few of those Commandments; many of them are actually tasks an editor should be doing, not necessarily a correspondent. We supply the content, and the editor polishes and edits for inclusion in the next issue, or not.

Murray's loc...I found out that Con*cept in Montréal is not cancelled, but is cancelled for this year. There are efforts to get Con*cept 2013 going. This isn't the first time Con*cept has been cancelled, but it's not dead. Same goes for Askance, by the looks of it...

12...I still prefer to explore fandom and see who's there, and what it is about their own corner of fandom that turns them on. I may not share their interest, but I probably understand their enthusiasm. We did that for the local steampunk groups, and we found it connected with our old costuming days, and we jumped aboard. We now have many new friends, and that's what keeps fandom fresh for us.

As much as I would like to say FIAWOL, time and money often demand that I say FIJAGH, and I hope for more time and money later on. No one gets to do all the things they'd like to do; I know that for a fact.

I think I am following at least one Commandment here, Arnie, and that I am not commenting on every point in both issues. Can't possibly do that, for you can only write on what you know. Anyway, time to fold it up and fire it off. Hope this gets to you

David Williams

One item of “common wisdom” in your Fanstuff 12 lead essay jumped out at me. That refrain was “Trufandom is composed of elitist snobs.” You rightly challenged that assertion. But a malicious little voice in my head whispered, “Maybe we should be.”

An essential ingredient of common wisdom, and the best lies, is a pinch of truth. “Elitist” and “snob” are considered to be pejorative terms. But there is a certain clubbiness among old-time trufans (or stfans, a term that does possess historical roots and reflects the origins of SF fandom in scientification).

Most of us are familiar with how organizations work. If I might choose an example as mundane as Kiwanis, some clubs have been meeting weekly for almost 100 years. Long-established Kiwanis clubs always have an Old Guard, members who have been active for 20, 30, even 50 years. They tend to clump together at meetings, filling their own tables. Their primary function often seems to be discouraging change, sometimes informing new members who propose new ideas that “that's not how we do things in this club.”

The same is true in stfandom. Back in the days when Worldcons had banquets, I well recall how each table would be filled with groups of chums. The pros had their tables, the BNFs had theirs. Snobs, elitists? No, just folks who were most comfortable with their own kind, people who were familiar and shared a long history of common experiences

I remember sitting at a table filled with twerps and nobodies (my own kind), while at the adjoining table editor Cele Goldsmith was being regaled on one side by Fritz Leiber and on the other side by Avram Davidson. Now that's the table where I wanted to sit!

As a self-designated member of contemporary stfandom's Old Guard, I have been dismayed for some time by the observation that there are too many strangers at our table. I refer, of course, to the many sub-fandoms that have crowded into traditional stfandom and are crowding us out

I have expressed myself on this subject in “The World's Only Normal Fan” from *Fosfax 212* (http://www.dbwilyumz.net/the_worlds_only_normal_fan) and I heartily recommend Taral Wayne's sad lament in File 770, No. 160, page 40, “The Little Engine That Wanted to be Big.

I believe the problem began when stfandom's main recruiting track changed from the prozines to conventions. Back in the days of the pulp magazines, the readers who wrote to the letter columns were pre-selected as potential recruits. They were readers, they were keen on SF, in their isolation they were eager to make contact with others of similar bent

With the decline of prozines and their invaluable lettercols and fanzine reviews, the local con became the most effective recruiting tool. But cons have expenses. To meet their hotel overhead, they needed to attract as many attendees as possible. So they began programming for media fans, costumers, and eventually the vast audience of gamers. I stopped attending our local con when I noticed a few years ago that there was no longer any programming track for SF. This con generates new members for the sponsoring club, which, not surprisingly, is also dominated by media and gaming interests. I dropped from membership when I realized that the meetings no longer held any interest for me

It's too late for elitism or snobbishness to turn back the tides. So, we retreat to our fanzines and conventions organized just for our own kind. It may not be a perfect solution, but it's something. We're comfortable at our own table.

More to David Williams Snobbish Elitist, But Lovable

I'm reluctant to accept the slanted epithets of know-nothing outsiders.

The people who come up with these insults have usually tried, and failed, to gain entry to a circle or clique that they believe will enhance their status.

Many of these fan have very little knowledge or understanding of the Trufandom subculture. Often, they don't understand the basis on which someone is accepted or rejected. Their sense of entitlement leads them to the mistaken conclusion that they have the right to “join.”

The so-called elitist snobs welcome kindred spirits with open arms. People who come on strong, or even condescending and do not show an interest in the group's fannish activities are not likely to become part of it.

Let's turn the mirror around for a moment. Someone who has no interest in a group's activities, and wants to become part of it because it is “exclusive” or something, are the elitist snobs.

Send fanstuff Your Fanews

Only with your help can I keep “fanews” from being an obit page.

Fanstuff needs some fan reporters. It's not necessary for anyone (except me) to do a mammoth amount of work, but a small amount of help would make a big difference.

So if you find out something interesting, I'd greatly appreciate you passing it along to me for **fanstuff**.

Thanks to all who commented and those who sent acknowledgements. Once again, “locer room” contains all locs I've received.

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Unpleasant Incident Reported at ReaderCon.

Genevieve Valentine, in a series of Live Journal Blogs, alleged that she endured several incidents of disrespect and sexual harassment at the recent Readercon 23.

The first incident occurred during her appearance on a Readercon panel. Genevieve felt that the moderator talked to her in a condescending and inappropriate manner.

The other two, more serious incidents involved unwanted touching on two separate occasions by the same person.

The Readercon Board of Director issued a statement that says, in part:

“During the course of our conversation with Rene it became immediately apparent that he realized what he had done and was sincerely regretful of his actions. It was that recognition and regret that influenced our decision, not his status in the community. If, as a community, we wish to educate others about harassment, we must also allow for the possibility of reform.

“Our decision was suspension of his membership for at least two years. In the three years between Readercons 23 and 26 we will actively look for evidence of real and permanent positive change in his behavior. It was made very clear to him that if we receive any substantiated reports of continued inappropriate behavior at any venue - during or after the suspension period - his suspension will become permanent.”

Relevant documents can be found at:

<http://blog.bcholmes.org/the-readercon-thing/>

I'm sure I'm not the only fan with an opinion about this. I'll hold mine until **fanstuff #14**. I hope many of you will share your viewpoint next issue, too.

Let's Not Cry

... even though we must part for now. See all of you in a week. Meanwhile, keep fanning! — Arnie

fanstuff #13, July 27, 2012, is a frequent fanzine from Arnie Katz (cross-fire4@cox.net), who is apparently under a geas to put out a fanzine every week, at least for the present.

Fanstuff is at efanzines.com, thanks to kindly Mr. Burns, free and without strings to my emailing list.

Reporters this issue: Andy Porter, Joyce Katz and me.

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