

PRINGLINE



ISSUES 2

Welcome back to the second issue of PrintZine. I'm so glad you've come. This issue will be about the campaign so far and will feature a mini-review of WorldCon and Silicon, a few words from friends and a lot of Chris for TAFF art from folks like Frank Wu, Jason Schachat, Espana Sheriff (who did the cover this issue), Brad Foster and more. So, let's get it started!



Chris for TAFF Tour Stop Number 1- Anaheim for LACon IV

I'd been thinking a lot about how to do the thing. I needed to find a way to get my name out there and have a way to get to chat with folks. I'd ordered a ton of ribbons and I'd been ready to shake every hand in that convention centre, but I needed a way to be easily identified by folks who didn't know me by sight. I was wandering around the Fan Gallery that Chaz maintains and I came across a photo of a guy who was a legend of BArea fandom: Bill Donaho. The guy was dressed like Friar Tuck, but he was holding a sign on a stick.

Perfect!

I've got a rep for being slightly over-the-top, and this was the perfect time for it. It wasn't a totally serious project, the signs looked like hell, but they allowed my friends to find me and they broke the ice with folks I didn't know. They also allowed me to do far more potential damage with the signs as I was walking through the Con. Always a good idea.

I headed into the convention centre

after a night of wandering the streets of Anaheim (you can find out more about that in my 95th and 96th issues of The Drink Tank). There weren't a lot of folks around, I mean it was something like 9am, but I had my sign and folks were starting to mill about. Not but ten minutes into the trip I was stopped by someone.

"Excuse me, but what's TAFF?" She asked.

I went into the spiel, going back to Walt Willis and all. I took about three minutes and she actually stuck around and listened intently. I handed her a Chris for TAFF ribbon and she left smiling. I ran into her a couple of other times during the con too. Nice lady. I think her name was Linda.

About five minutes later...

"Excuse me, but what's TAFF."

Another couple of minute explanation.

I wandered off again after giving a ribbon and was stopped less than ten steps away.

"Hey, what's TAFF?"

I needed a shorter explanation. I came up with a twenty second description of the Fund that made sense and though it only briefly mentioned that the Fund was more than fifty years old, it seemed to get things into the right mode. I ended up giving the speech about a hundred times.

At one point, I was walking through the halls and I passed a guy in a wheelchair.

"Chris for TAFF, eh?" The gentleman said.

"Yeah, TAFF's the..." at that point, right before I broke into the entire speech I discovered that the gent in the chair was Mr. Rusty Hevelin, DUFF winner in 1975. I ended up having a nice chat with Rusty. I'd always wanted to meet him and I was so glad I got the chance.

I didn't do much campaigning, though there were some folks who thought that even the signs were a bit aggressive for a TAFF campaign. A lot of folks used it as a way to find me. My pal and nominator Frank Wu took one of the signs that wasn't on a stick and put it up in his section of the Art Show. I can say that my handiwork has now

appeared in a WorldCon Art Show. Linda Bushyager pointed out that might be going a little too far, and I kinda agree, but one of my mottos is 'Screw Subtlety', though the slogan that's got the most support is Chris for TAFF: Why Should American Fandom Suffer Alone!"

I ran into folks I never see except when I get to the big cons. Kelly Buehler and Daniel Specter were in from Thailand and were the ones who started using Chris for TAFF as a fannish version of 'Aloha'. I was most pleased. Since that point, Chris for TAFF has greeted me just about everywhere. It's become one of the battle cries of BASFA, which is always a good thing.

I did get to meet many TAFF and DUFF winners. There was Suzle Tompkins, who I've known since CorFlu last year, and Jerry Kaufman, who won DUFF years ago. Guy Lillian, who wrote an amazing WorldCon report that he let me take a look at, and Marty Cantor and Joyce Scrivner who were all DUFF delegates at one point or another. There was Randy Byers and I think Ulrika O'Brien was there too, but I didn't meet her. There was Bug Bradshaw, who I was very happy to get to meet first at BASFA and then at WorldCon. And of course, who could forget Mr. James Bacon. There was Rusty, and Art Widner, who gave me the biggest boost in confidence I've ever received by saying that he wasn't running because he wanted me to win. That just blew me away.

The trip was wonderful and I was so happy to have gotten a chance to meet so many people who I had so many wonderful conversations with. I was exhausted by the whole process, but it was a lot of fun too.

Chris for TAFF Tour stop #2- Silicon

Silicon is an old convention. I believe it dates back to the 1980s when BArea cons were at their peak, before the Anime explosion and the cons that started drawing huge numbers. It died in the late 1990s, but was reborn in 2000 as a small con in the early fall. I've been going since 2001 and the 2006 edition has turned out to be one of the best so far.

I had agreed to work the SiWire newsletter staff and that meant that I had to go to events and provide coverage. I've never worked on any Con newsletter, so I wasn't sure how much work it would turn out to be, and it wasn't huge, but it was a lot of fun.

I got there around 3 on Friday. The con wasn't really going by that time. They had chosen to start programming around 7 on Friday night, but there were people milling about and that gave me a chance to press the flesh. OK, since I didn't really run into anyone who wasn't already a friend of mine, I wasn't really campaigning, I was more doing the Chris for TAFF bit. I ran into Ken Patterson early on, as well as Trey and Barbara who were also on Newsletter Staff and happen to be the President and Secretary of BASFA. We met in the Newsletter HQ and I commented that if the room were fire-bombed, BASFA would be in disarray. Trey came up with the retort that it would probably be an improvement for the club! I wrote a few short pieces and went out with my camera and sign to the floor where things were starting to happen.

Barbara and I went down to have some dinner at the Coffee Garden. The Coffee Garden is where you can sit and see everyone walking by. While we were eating, about half a dozen folks walked by and yelled 'Chris for TAFF!'. I had managed to infect the collective consciousness. We ate a decent and expensive meal and I headed to the Meet the Guests. First, I swung by the Quiet bar and found Leigh Ann Hildebrand, Andy Trembley, David Moyse and



Kevin Roche...who was wearing a suit! I'd never seen him in a suit and he explained that they'd just signed the deal for CostumeCon 26 to be at the DoubleTree, so that explained it. We headed over to the show a couple of minutes later.

There were so few people around that the fifty or so that turned up for Meet The Guests made me worry that the con would be a disaster, with only a couple of hundred people. Still, we

managed to have a very short series of intros with no bells and whistles. The guests said hello and we all left.

I managed to run into Jean Martin, my co-editor for SF/SF, and David, who happens to be our Copy Editor/Proofer. We headed down to the Quiet Bar and chatted. Now, this was the first time we'd managed to get together at all since BayCon, and the three of us were only together briefly then. We had a few drinks...well, David had several drinks, I had one, and Jean had dinner, but that evens out to us having a couple each!

After about an hour, Mark Bode came by and joined us. I mentioned that my Dad had mentioned that he knew Vaughn Bode a little in the old days and we swapped a couple of stories. He saw my Chris for TAFF sign and decided to put one of his famous busty lasses on the sign wearing a 'UK or Bust' necklace. Looking at here, I think I'd have taken the bust. The drawing got a lot of attention. We were joined by Phil Yeh and a few others over the next hour or so, which was nice. We had to break things up so we could get to the parties.

I headed over to the film festival, but discovered that it wasn't running quite yet, so I walked back towards the party floor when I ran into Leigh Ann on one of the



chairs in the lobby. I had mentioned my HarlanZine and she had an idea for a naughty piece that I'll be psyched to run. We chatted for a while and then a while more. I didn't realise that I'd spent nearly half-an-hour there until I realised I was getting tired of holding my sign! I ran upstairs and attended the BASFA party for a bit, then it was off to the various other ones before heading back to ask Kevin Standlee to

confirm a few rumors I'd heard about an upcoming bid for a San Jose WorldCon. Sadly, Kevin couldn't confirm the rumors, but he said that the time made sense. I'd figured he wasn't involved with a WorldCon bid, but his ear is much closer to the SMOFish ground than mine is.

I should mention that I had to explain what TAFF was a few dozen times by this point in the con, but there were only about 200 people registered by that point.

I went home and came back the next morning with news that Bob Tucker had passed away. I quickly wrote up a memorial article for the zine and headed out to find news.

A strange thing happened on Saturday. Silicon had so many problems, from the weakness of many website sections to a free parking promise that couldn't be kept. We were expecting many people who might have come in the past to skip this year, but they didn't. In fact, they showed up in bigger numbers. There are several numbers bouncing around and the official attendance seems to be about 1000 with 600 or so of them being paid members. I'd thought of Silicon as a small con that know that it was a small con. Now, I think it's a small con with a medium-sized con attendance.

The larger than expected number of

people meant that there were a lot of folks getting out and talking, though few made it to panels. The two that I had on my sched for Saturday were lightly attended. One only had five people there for the Fan Guest of Honor and myself! I'm used to drawing much bigger crowds for my panels. At least 10 to 12 people! The parties that night were full of folks. The Evil Genius



Hall of Fame party was packed, as it is every year. I agreed to help pass out drinkbands for the first hour or so before I had to run and catch the Lobotronic film festival. As always, the amazingly gorgeous beauty who I've only talked to once or twice came in and out, exchanged a quick smile with me and made her way to the Klingon Slave Auction. She was even hotter than she normally is on the fateful Silicon evening. I had to go and watch Lobotronic though, so there was no time for love, Dr. Jones.

Mr. Lobo is our local horror host. In the BArea, there were two men, John Stanley and Bob Wilkins, who were both legends for hosting Creature Features on KTVU. They both have mentored Mr. Lobo, whose show is Cinema Insomnia. It's a fun little show and it's on around the country. Here, it's on our PBS station, KTEH. There's also a small film festival that's put on once or twice a year called the Psychotronic Film Festival. They show a bunch of 16mm films ranging from old cartoons to newsreel sections to episodes of old TV shows. Lobotronic was much like it, only with Mr. Lobo doing Horror Host schtick in-between. They had a fish-throwing contest where you had to try and throw rubber fish through the belly (or crotch, since the hole was a little too low) of Frankenstein. I managed to get two out of three and won a poster, an au-

tograph and a deck of cards along with a DVD copy of Cinema Insomnia's The Brain The Wouldn't Die. It was a nice haul. I headed home before the episode of Ultraman finished because I was just too tired.

I came back with my sign and walked around a little, dropped off the last of my articles and wandered around. There were a bunch of folks I hadn't spent much

time with who were around and I got to talking to them. There was Doug Berry and John O'Halloran, aka JohnO on LJ, who are both very smart and really entertaining. It was nice to have the two of them around. I went to a panel that I wasn't even on! That seldom happens nowadays.

I had just gotten the official TAFF ballot from Suzle and thus started to distribute it to folks at the con. I was getting a lot of support, which wasn't unexpected since it's one of my home cons. I'm guessing that the reaction will be much more mixed at LosCon and probably even more so at PhilCon. I kinda wish the deadline was later so that I could take the Chris for TAFF show to QuireFlu, but I guess attending knowing whether I'd won or lost will have to be enough.

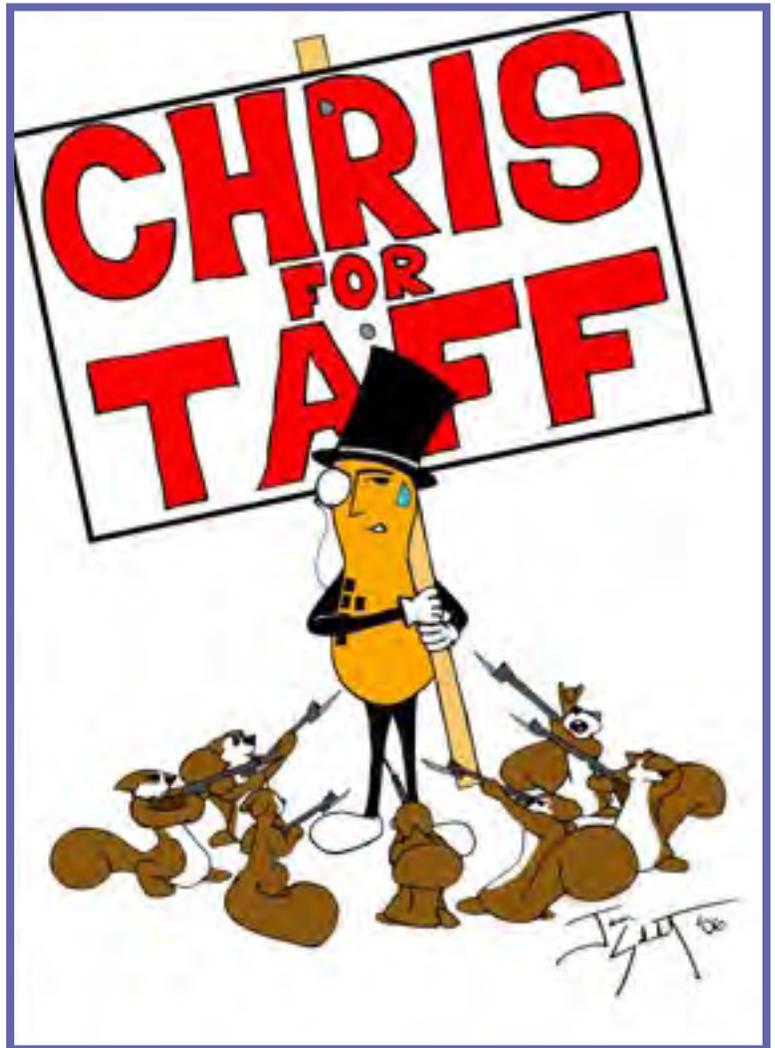
That was followed by a fine time at the SF/SF panel. We got almost all of the contributors together and we took a family picture. It was a great turnout, something like 25 people in the room. It was the largest turn-out for any panel I noticed and actually we outdrew the GoH panel in the big room by about ten people!

SO that was Silicon: A really good time and a new high mark for a con that was too small in recent years. I'm hoping that next year is as strong as this one! It's always good to have another con to host a Hoax at!

Have you ever wanted to blush? Well, I had one of those moments when Suzle forwarded Frank Wu's nomination email to me a while back. I'm reprinting it her and turning bright scarlet.

Chris Garcia is a new but powerful voice in fandom, having just won the FAAn award for best new fan. He has been around fandom since his dad took him to Nasfic in 1975, but burst into the actifan arena last year with his fanzine *The Drink Tank*, which has - in a remarkable year and a half - accumulated 85 issues. He also writes articles and LOCs for just about every other fanzine on the planet, and has called the last year, "The Year of the Hyperactive Typing Fingers." He also makes short films (including the award-winning "The Chick Magnet") and he is the voice of the title character in the animated "Guidolon the Giant Space Chicken." In 2005, he was also the (youngest ever) Toastmaster at Baycon. Chris is a loud, powerful, self-effacing voice in fandom, who lights up any room he enters, and heats up any discussion in which he is involved. I cannot think of anyone who would be better suited to be TAFF representative.

How do you respond to that kind of praise coming from a man who has 2 Hugos of his own and is probably the smartest guy you know? I have no idea. I want to say thanks to all my nominators again for being such wonderful people and putting a ton of faith in me. John Purcell's always saying nice things about me, Frank wrote that which you see above, Pete Sullivan and Arnie Katz have written a bunch about me and it means the world to me that such great



people support me on my path. I'm not sure how I could ever repay them for all their support and time.

I guess I could buy them all puppies.

So, another issue of PrintZine comes to a close. I want to tank everyone for their help and I hope you'll take the time to look over the ballot and read Mary Kay's personal statement and mine as well. You really can't go wrong voting for either of us...wait, what am I saying?

No, seriously, finally finding out that Mary Kay will be my opponent was rough, but I think we'll have a good race and an interesting time in the UK and Europe if either of us wins. The plan is still to go to Eastercon, or the Eastercon replacement con, so it'll be the UK in Spring for Mary Kay or me.

Would I need a jacket?

2007 TAFF Ballot — North America to Europe

What is TAFF? The Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund was created in 1953 for the purpose of providing funds to bring well-known and popular fans familiar to those on both sides of the ocean across the Atlantic. Since that time TAFF has regularly brought North American fans to European conventions and European fans to North American conventions. TAFF exists solely through the support of fandom. The candidates are voted on by interested fans all over the world, and each vote is accompanied by a donation of not less than \$3 or £2. These votes, and the continued generosity of fandom, are what make TAFF possible.

Who may vote? Voting in the 2007 race is open to anyone who was active in fandom prior to April 2005, and who contributes at least \$3 or £2 to the Fund. Larger contributions will be gratefully accepted. Voting is by secret ballot: only one vote per person, and you must sign your ballot. You may change your vote any time prior to the deadline.

Deadline: Votes in this race must reach the administrators by **Midnight, PST, Saturday 6 January 2007. This is 8 AM, GMT, Sunday 7 January 2007.**

Voting details: TAFF uses a preferential ballot system which guarantees automatic runoffs until a majority is obtained. You rank the candidates in the exact order of your preference for them. If the leading first-place candidate does not get a majority, the first-place votes for the lowest-ranking candidate are dropped, and the second-place votes on those ballots are counted as first-place votes. This process repeats itself until one candidate has a majority. Your votes for second and third place are important, but you may give your candidate only one ranking on your ballot. In order to win, a candidate must receive at least 20% of the first-ballot first-place votes on both sides of the Atlantic, separately. Any candidate failing to receive this minimum percentage on either side will be dropped, and the second-place votes on their ballots counted as first-place votes in the next ballot count. Thus candidates and their supporters will need to canvass fans on both sides of the pond. You may send your ballot to either administrator, but it will be tabulated with the other votes from the side of the Atlantic on which you reside. Votes from fans not resident in either Europe or North America will not count towards either 20% minimum, but are important to the outcome of the race.

Hold Over Funds: This choice, like "No Award" in Hugo balloting, gives you the chance to vote for no TAFF trip this year, if the candidates do not appeal. Hold Over Funds may be voted for in any position, and is exempt from the 20% requirement; thus, if it receives a majority of the votes on the final ballot, no TAFF trip will be held this year regardless of how many votes Hold Over Funds received on the first ballot.

No Preference: For voters who prefer not to choose between candidates, but don't want the trip held over.

Donations: TAFF gratefully accepts your freely given money and material for auction; such generosity has sustained the Fund for over 50 years. TAFF is fandom's oldest travel fund, and one of its worthiest causes — give early and often! Please contact your nearest administrator for details.

Candidates: Each candidate has posted a bond, promising — barring Acts of God — to travel, if elected, to: Eastercon 2007, and has provided signed nominations and a platform (overleaf).

Please read both sides of this ballot before voting. Send entire sheet as your vote.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number or e-mail address: _____

(We need your full contact details. TAFF may need to contact you regarding your ballot or to send out newsletters. We do not publish this data or pass it to any other organisation.)

Signature: _____

Enclosed is _____ as a contribution to TAFF.

Please make checks/cheques, etc., payable to:
'Suzanne Tompkins' for US dollar checks mailed to Suzanne.
'TAFF' for all UK (sterling) cheques posted to Bridget Bradshaw.

If you think your name may not be known to the administrators, then in order to qualify your vote, please give, in the space below, the name and address of an active fan (not a fan group, a candidate, or their nominator) who is known to them and to whom you are known:

Active fan known to the administrator: _____



2007 TAFF Ballot — North America to Europe

Chris Garcia

Christopher J. Garcia is a fan. That's probably the best way to put it. There are specifics, like the zines Chris edits (The Drink Tank, Claims Department, SF/SF) and the fact that he has made films and run fanzine lounges, that are just icing on the cake. Chris grew up with a fannish father who introduced him to cons and to zines like Granfalloon, Holier Than Thou and Niekas. Chris makes this one promise: if he wins, within 30 days of his plane touching down back home, he'll have a complete and beautiful trip report ready to circulate!

Nominators: Arnie & Joyce Katz (US), John Nielsen Hall (UK), John Purcell (US), Peter Sullivan (UK), Frank Wu (US)

Mary Kay Kare

After 30 years in fandom I've learned to be good at building bridges. I've done conrunning, zines, apas, dealing, and filking. I'm very active in online fandom these days too. I am, she said, modestly, renowned for the greatness of my parties.

Still, that's only half the battle, and there are reasons why I'd make an excellent administrator. I'm detail oriented, can balance checkbooks, and love playing with spreadsheets. I already have experience with TAFF auctions, and I travel to lots of cons at which to hold those auctions.

Nominators: Karen Babich (US), Moshe Feder & Lise Eisenberg (US), Sue Mason (UK), Andi Shechter & Stu Shiffman (US), Maureen Kincaid Speller (UK)

Please read and fill out both sides of this sheet. Send in entire sheet as your vote. Do not detach this portion!
I vote for (rank 1, 2, 3, etc.):

- Chris Garcia
- Mary Kay Kare
- Hold Over Funds
- No Preference

Send ballot & donation to:

Suzanne Tompkins, PO Box 25075, Seattle, WA 98165 USA (check made out to: Suzanne Tompkins)
-- suzlet@aol.com

Bridget Bradshaw, 103 Rustat Road, Cambridge, CB1 3QG UK (cheque made out to: TAFF)
-- taffbug@googlemail.com

For more information on TAFF, visit: <http://taff.org.uk>

Reproduction of this form is encouraged. It is the official voting vehicle and must be reproduced verbatim. Anyone doing so should substitute his or her name here: Christopher J. Garcia