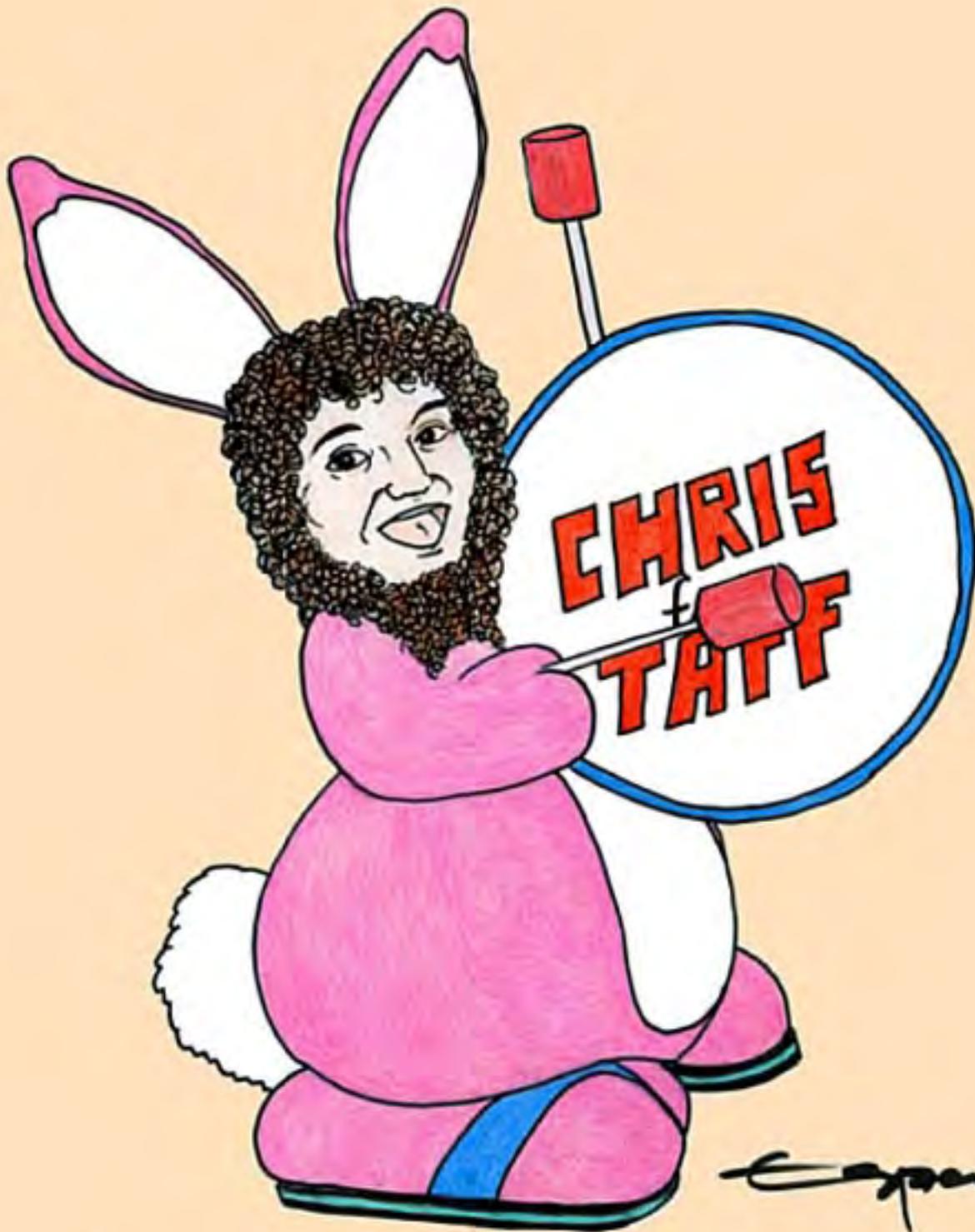


Print Zine



issue 4

Once again, Espana Sheriff graces our cover! This issue features a look at a previous election that I was involved in seriously and a little bit of material from the outside. Let's just get right in to it!



The Last Race I Ran

The last time I was up for anything that required an election was my Junior year at Emerson. I had figured that I could take over the Student Government Association by having a buddy of mine run for President (I've never last at that role) and another buddy run for Treasurer. I was to be Vice-President, and since I had been on Student Government for two years and had run the Student Senate Finance Committee, I was the most qualified person to run for the office. There was no one running against me at the deadline, so I was fairly certain that I'd win.

Strangely, it almost didn't happen.

A little backstory: I was one of the most visible and well-known folks on campus. I worked rooms well (due to my years of con-going) and I knew the clubs and organizations. The one group that didn't appreciate me at all were the Greeks. I'd often said terrible things about the Greeks, like the fact that it was an elitist movement that primarily existed to get people drunk. This did not make me popular with that population, which numbered about 10 percent of the total enrollment. There was a tradition that one of the Sororities did where every pledge had to write the Greek letters on the white board of every classroom where they had a class. I found this most annoying because while they could do whatever they wanted outside the classroom, I felt like they should leave the classroom alone. So, after one girl had written it on the board before the prof had arrived, I got up out of my seat

and erased it.

Tactful? No. Right idea? Yes.

She did not take it well and the story circulated that I had foiled one of the proudest traditions (and one which is now banned at Emerson from what I understand). I was invited by a lovely lady to join her at a frat party on Beacon Street. I figured I'd go, flirt with her, maybe drink a little and leave. I got inside, was chatting her up, and two of the larger members of the frat came out and physically dragged me outside.

"Sorry guy, you're not welcome." One of them said after I was planted firmly on the lawn.

Now, I don't like to stay where I'm not wanted, so I was about to leave and go back to the dorm. The girl came out and asked what the fuss was all about.

"I'm not exactly the best friend to the Emerson Greeks." I said.

"You wanna go to the movies?" she asked.

"I think Ed Wood's playing at Nick."
And off we went.

The years flew by and there was little in the way of interaction between me and the Greeks. I had a few friends who pledged, and that was cool. I get along with individuals even if I completely despise the groups they're members of (see- Garcia and Guys my Exes Cheated on Me With). Junior year came around and the election was right there and I was running unopposed and everything was going to be sweetness.

Or so I thought.

Three days after the deadline, the Emerson paper (which I'd had problems with due to the fact that they received special treatment for funding from the SGA) ran an article describing the races. The main race they focused on was between me and Buck.

What the hell?

There'd been no one registered to run but me at the deadline and here was a newspaper article detailing a race between me and one of the most beloved members of the Greek Council. I looked into things and it turned out that once it had

been discovered by the Greeks (including the election commissioner) that I was officially running unopposed, they instantly submitted the needed paperwork a few hours after the deadline. I was annoyed, but I figured I could handle it. I was well-known, and while not known on the level that Buck was, I was well-liked and nearly beloved by underclassmen who lived in the dorms. I didn't expect the next step.

The following day, there were flyers for Buck everywhere. I was shocked that every free inch of space was covered with a Buck for Vice-President poster. I was now looking like the underdog in a race where I'd been the only contender a mere four days prior. I bid my time and mostly worked on getting out to the folks who usually wouldn't vote. I'd managed to make a name for myself for free while the opposition spent a fair amount of money for posters and buttons and other materials. I just shook hands and sometime carried around a ratty sign on a stick that said Chris for VP (sound familiar?)

The voting days came and it was clear that the Greeks were voting in large numbers. There was a roll list and you could see who had been crossed off. I voted on the second day and a couple of hundred votes had been cast and most of them were names I knew were frat boys. It was OK though, because I knew I'd win.

The paper came out the next week with a brutal editorial against me and officially came out in favor of Buck as their candidate of choice. Yet another reason I wanted to get their funding back under stricter control. It was the last issue of the year, so I couldn't respond, but it was annoying. It also seemed to help my poll numbers. Larger numbers of Freshmen voted than any other election before. That's how I knew I was going to win before anyone else.

The night when the numbers were going to be announced, I holed up in my room with my girlfriend to watch wrestling. The first reports came in announcing all the decided races. My friends won Treasurer and President, but they said that VP needed

more time for a proper count. I was afraid that would mean a much closer race than I had figured and I might even have lost it. I waited and waited and fell asleep before they officially announced things.

Here's what was really happening. It was obvious from the first hour or so of the count that I was going to win. The counters were all friends of the commissioner and were, for the most part, Greeks or Greek-friendly. Before the final numbers were even counted, there was a filed protest of the numbers and a request for every ballot and name to be double-checked. The Commissioner went along and the announcement was held-up. For three days, there were regular meetings between the various people trying to figure out a way to discredit as many of my voters as possible. They did a fairly good job. For various small issues (like forgetting to date the line next to the signature) they disqualified 35 votes. They were making a, I kid you not, FIFTEENTH recount when the Assistant Dean found out what was going on and stopped the madness, insisting on the official announcement and a count done by her staff.

Buck- 78 votes (plus three which had been discovered to have people voting more than once and four more disqualified for



other reasons)

Chris- 238 (plus 35 that were DQed for various reasons)

The Greek community did not take this well and there were more editorials when I returned. They even had a special Greek Council meeting where they invited me. This was actually very funny as Hell because they didn't expect me to show up and the newspaper had already written a piece for the issue that would come out the next morning about how I hadn't shown up and didn't that just show how awful the SGA treated the Greeks. I actually arrived before any of the regulars and they all seemed shocked that I had actually shown. I sat through the meeting, said my peace, answered the various charges and allegations, made a few quips, got a couple of laughs and left. The paper had to pull the issue and print a whole new run. From then on, I was never mentioned again.

So, the last election put a bad taste in my mouth and I'm glad to see that TAFF is going so much nicer. It's the friendly races that I think work the best and this'll wipe out that memory for good, I hope.



George Van Wagner is a great guy and I've known him for a long time. Here's his version of our first meeting (which I don't remember quite the same way)

In the early days of computing, back when everything was done with cams, gears, and a healthy dollop of cod liver oil, programming was hard. The punch cards punched back, and data entry could only be done with a sliver of sharpened goat dung and ink made from the caramelized sap of a petrified tree. It was in this genteel maelstrom that I first met the worthy Chris Garcia.

Back in those dark days, when IT was known as MIS, and Boole was still being illogical, those of us who programmed in binary had only 1's to work with, as Babylonian/Hindu number theory was as yet unknown to those not initiated into a mystic brotherhood. Chris walked in the programmer's dungeon and when we asked him what he'd brought us, he simply replied, "Zip, zilch, nada." It took a moment for it to sink in, but, after the disappointment wore off (we were expecting at least some Thin Mints), we realized that he had provided the missing piece of the puzzle, and now we would be able to write programs like Frogger and Solitaire so the whole world could lose productivity.

And that, ladies and gentlemen, is why you should vote for Chris Garcia for TAFF: because he brings nothing to the party.



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