

ENOUGH ALREADY!



PRINTZINE



Namaste, y'all! It's good to be back writing another one of these RaceZines for all my TAFF-lovin' homies. It's been a big weekend: I hung around with the delightful, Lovely and Talented Miss Linda, I went to see Balls of Fury and I enjoyed some good New Zealandish food. It was one of those weekends of relaxation and joy.

This issue's pretty simple: I talk a little about TAFF, I say a few things about other stuff and I give you the ballot. No fuss, no muss. Hopefully I'll manage to get the first PodCast done since technical problems have been hampering me. These things can and will be fixed.

And now...the zine!

Randy Byers made an interesting point in Banana Wings. In my article called Annoying Pete Weston, I said that TAFF was still important and I had failed to explain why TAFF was still important. I thought it was obvious. As I often do when I forget to mention something in someone else's zine, I shall now talk about it in my zine.

It's important because I have no idea what Sue Mason looks like.

That's an easy one. It really is. You'd think that there'd be photos of Sue all over the place. Sue Mason accepting the Hugo. Sue Mason doing this that or the other thing. You'd fully expect there to be photos and video all over the web of her and, with all the time I stand on the virtual street corner watching all the bits go by, you'd think I'd have a clue.

I do not.

And that would have been far more true for many fans living in the 1950s and 60s and 70s than it is today, but it's still true for some of us. I have no idea what Sue Mason looks like. Niall Harrison, Dave Langford, Graham Charnock, Mark Plummer, James Bacon, Lillian Edwards, Claire Brialey, Pete Weston, these folks I can picture, but not Sue Mason. Or Peter Sullivan for that matter, and it's his fault



that I'm running for TAFF in the first place! TAFF matters because you get to put faces with names and oft-repeated stories.

OK, that's an over-simplification, but here's the more straight dope: TAFF matters because it makes it possible for schlubs like me to make it across the



Atlantic, even in these days of affordable air-travel. I figured out that it would have cost me 2 ½ months total pay to go to WorldCon in 2005. That means I'd have had to have stopped eating, paying rent, paying bills and such for 75 days to afford to fly into the UK, get a hotel room for five nights, eat 20 dollars worth of meals each day, spend 20 bucks in the dealer's room each day, buy a membership and fly home. (by way of comparison, it would have cost me 3 months pay to get a hotel at Yokohama for the duration of the con, NOT including airfare). That's a lot of money to a guy like me, and I'm not the worst-off person in fandom. Far from it. Just giving that opportunity to someone makes it worthwhile. There are fans who should be met on the other side of the Atlantic who will never get a chance because they straight can't afford it, and TAFF gives them that chance.

That's the monetary reason, but that's not really the best reason. Oh, it's a good reason, but not the best. Another good reason is we need to know. We need to know what? You may be asking. I'm here to tell you we need to know what it is that us fans have in common and what we got different. We have traditions, some of them well-established across each country, and they don't necessarily translate across the water. Even just watching what goes on will give a TAFF delegate an idea of what there is to be had and perhaps make a few new things happen in the country of travel or origin. Hell, it could change the world (though it's not all that likely).

The best reason of all? That handshake. OK, stick with me, this one goes around a bit. You'd ask any of a number of old Rave promoters in SF why they risked getting arrested and having thousands of dollars of equipment impounded and most of them (at least the ones I knew) would all say the same thing: the nod. Someone would come up to them, ask them if they were the promoter, they'd say yes and the other person would nod in approval. That's it. Nothing more than the nod. That's why they'd do all that craziness.

The handshake is just as valuable in my eyes. I've never met Dave Langford, but if I ever do, I plan on shaking his hand with full appreciation. Same with any number of others. Hell, I might even give Greg Pickersgill a giant hug. OK, maybe that's going too far, but the thing is, it's that interaction that is so

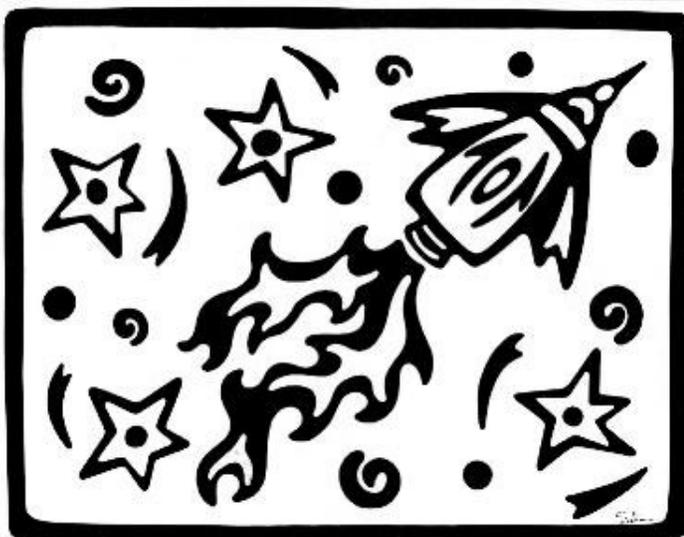


important.

We have virtual interactions with English fans every day. I see their blogs, read their zines, listen to their bemused natterings on podcasts and when they travel over here ever-so-briefly for the big cons. These are folks who I think of a lot and whose news I always try and keep track of, and I'm sure I'm not the only one of the candidates who can say that, and I wanna know what the deal is, what brought about these wonderful people who I watch from behind the blind. The way to change fandom for the better is by changing one fan. That one fan will go out and infect, for lack of a better word, those around him with what's changed them. That's all a part of the handshake for me.

There's another reason, and one that's harder to put into a coherent phrase. People work hard for TAFF. Dave Langford puts in the hours to maintain the website. The administrators take their time to put together the ballot, to keep track of the finances. The folks who put on auctions and get the words TAFF into the public eye, they're all another brilliant example of why TAFF's important. In a way, that's self-reflexive (TAFF's important because people work on it because TAFF's important...) but it's true.

So to me, I still believe TAFF matters. I've thought so since I got back into fandom. I've found myself paying close attention to who wins (though sadly, I've never voted in TAFF, though I did vote in GUFF) and reading everything I could get my eyes on. I believe TAFF is important, and not just because I'm running. I believe TAFF is important because I can run, and anyone else can too, and they can take their trip, publish their report and make fandom a slightly better place. It's the opportunity that I love.



Even though I'm known as a rapid-fire producer of fanzines and writing, I'm often amazed at exactly how much I can do in a normal day. It's not that I spend every waking minute typing, it's just when I get a minute to type, I can make a lot happen.

Today, I wrote my wrestling article in under 20 minutes. Only about a thousand words, but still I got it out of the way. I then wrote some stuff for work for about another ten minutes, polishing off about three paragraphs before sliding over to working on The Drink Tank 142. That went pretty quick and I was finished by the time it was my turn to go downstairs and clean the SDS 930 Console.

And that's where things get interesting. It took me the better part of an hour to get it looking good. It was dusty and it was old and I had to pull a sticker off of it and make it look good enough to photograph. I went over it with one of our special, museum-quality brushes and followed that up with water and museum-quality paper towels from the bathroom. I did the brush and then the wipe and the polish and it was looking good as new.

It also took me nearly an hour!

In the amount of time it took me to write the entire review I did of Westercon for John Purcell or the NASFiC review for The Drink Tank, I managed to clean a little thing about the size of a small desk of a little dust. It was maddening that it seemed like it only took a second yet the whole process took me an hour (thought some of that might have been hobbling time as my bad foot has been acting up again!). It worried me that doing something in the real world, something that would have taken most people a few minutes, took me an hour!

On the other hand, the opposite is worse in my eyes. We're putting together bundles on the history of computers and that requires writing a few hundred words in essay form and a few bullet-points. I can pump one out with research time in a day or so. The rest of my group can finish one in two to three weeks. I really do believe in the 'Just Write' philosophy and when folks are slow (especially when there's a deadline) it bothers me.

I hope I'm not going to be one of those guys who can type a billion words a minute but uses a day to go to the fridge. That would suck. At least I know I can still fling food around. I made some fajitas and did a pretty decent job. Maybe I should take the Benihana Class to get my skills up!



This Cray-1 Supercomputer could calculate billions of points of data in the 1970s. While slightly slower than the machine you have on your desktop in theory, it could still blow it away in dealing with large number combinatorics and would blast well-beyond it in modeling simulations.

Also, it's able to think like a human. I fed a bunch of info in and it said that you should Vote Chris for TAFF!



Elvis Costello
"Less Than Zero / Radio, Radio"
December 17, 1977

There's No Good Reason for this Image. I just wanted to include Elvis Costello somehow.

2008 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. Interested fans all over the world vote on the candidates, 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 2008 race is open to anyone who was active in fandom prior to April 2006, 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 17 November 2007. This is 8 AM, GMT, Sunday 18 November 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 2008, 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/Claire Brialey.

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: _____



2008 TAFF Ballot — North America to Europe

Chris Barkley

In many world cultures, the pilgrimage is seen as a serious undertaking; a sacred journey to a place of personal or spiritual importance. When I first entered fandom in the 1970's one of the first (and most exotic) things I learned about was the TransAtlantic Fan Fund, where sf fans were exchanged from the far-flung corners of the United Kingdom and North America. TAFF is not only our annual pilgrimage; it is one of our most important cultural traditions. It would be an exquisite honor to visit the land that gave us such icons as Olaf Stapledon and Doctor Who.

Nominators: Johnny Carruthers (US), Colin Harris (UK), Marcia Kelly Illingworth (UK), Michaele Jordan (US), Laurie Mann (US)

Linda Deneroff

For over 35 years I've had my fingers and toes in many fannish pursuits, ranging from convention running to Star Trek and Star Wars fanzines. I've worked on many conventions including Worldcons and Worldcon bids on both the left and right coasts, in capacities ranging from volunteer to treasurer to chair, starting with Lunacon in the early 1970s, (1980 chair, James White GoH!). Today I live in Seattle, where I help produce Foolscap, a small literary-and-art oriented convention. I love reading, traveling, and attending conventions. I'm thrilled to be nominated, and I hope you'll vote for me.

Nominators: Margaret Austin (UK), Hank Graham (US), Tim Illingworth (UK), Margaret Organ-Kean (US), Kevin Standlee (US)

Chris Garcia

Stop me if you think that you've heard this one before. Chris Garcia is a fan. He's from Northern California. He writes zines like The Drink Tank, Claims Department and Science Fiction San Francisco. He's been a member of ANZAPA, FAPA and a few other APAs. In general he writes as often as he breathes. Chris does game shows at cons, likes fried food, enjoys a good bourbon, plays a mean game of poker, likes cons with Fanzine Lounges that turn into parties, and will talk and talk and talk. He also once fell down a mountain. Ask him about it.

Nominators: James Bacon (UK), Arnie Katz (US), Mark Plummer (UK), John Purcell (US), Ted White (US)

Christian McGuire

I'm a reader, conventioneer, and club fan. I was a regular contributor/first O.E. of The Gallifreyan Home Companion (a Dr. Who APA), and written for other fine fanzines. I've met many British and European fans over the years without getting to know them. My theory of conventions is that everything serves the opportunity for great conversation. If chosen for TAFF, I'd sit down to as many parts of the conversation as possible to meet new people and get to know those I've only briefly encountered before. I'd take a ton of notes, some photos, and write a great trip report!

Nominators: Chaz Boston Baden (US), Vincent Docherty (EU), Mike Glycer (US), Milt Stevens (US), Robbie Bourget & John Harold (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 Barkley

Christian McGuire

Linda Deneroff

Hold Over Funds

Chris Garcia

No Preference

Send ballot & donation to:

North America - Suzanne Tompkins, PO Box 25075, Seattle, WA 98165 USA.

Checks payable to: Suzanne Tompkins. Email suzlet@aol.com with questions/comments.

Europe - TAFF c/o Claire Brialey, 59 Shirley Road, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 7ES UK throughout the voting period, or Bridget Bradshaw, 39 (1F2) Viewforth, Edinburgh, EH10 4JE UK after 10 Sep 2007.

Cheques payable to: TAFF. E-mail bugshaw@cix.co.uk with any questions, or if you would like to use PayPal.

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

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