



TAFFTastic
Volume 1 • Issue 2
1st March 2014
A JM-pire Publication

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE TRANS-ATLANTIC FAN FUND

This TAFF mid-election newsletter edition brings you the candidates in all their visual splendor, along with their platforms and in some instances, additional micro articles. (JM-US)

For your voting pleasure may we present:



Randy Smith

Fandom is a conversation that began in the letter columns of the 1920s pulps and now extends around the world. As active participants in that conversation, we can look for new ways to expand, strengthen, and create new and divergent paths of exchange. We truly never know where it will take us. The TAFF delegate to LonCon 3 will be able to contribute in some small and unforeseen ways to that creative conversation. I would be honored if that person were me. I also promise a speedy appearance of my trip report.

Curt Phillips

Why should anyone vote for me as the 2014 TAFF delegate? Well, all I can offer as an answer is this; a little something of my personal fannish philosophy and what I think really matters in fandom. I started out in fandom with science fiction, as many of us did. The year was 1969, and I was 11 years old. I discovered the books of Robert A. Heinlein in our school library, and my elementary school librarian - Mrs. Jennie Rose Dameron

- recognized something in me that made her buy a subscription to The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction for the library; really, as it turned out, just for me. At the end of the school year she presented me with all the back issues that she'd saved and these which became the start of my SF collection that today includes a complete set of F&SF as well as most other SF magazines. The point of my story is not about SF magazines, it's about *people*.

So I was a reader and primarily a reader of science fiction because that's where I felt challenged to think beyond the box. And in the fullness of time I realized that there were others like me. Not many, in the pool of people I knew, but some, and then I heard stories of clubs and fanzines and conventions.

I'm running for TAFF - not so much for a trip to the Worldcon; not so much for a trip to Europe, but for the chance to meet the fantastic European fans whom I've met through fanzines or on-line groups, and the fantastic European fans who I *haven't* met through. In other words, to me the single most important reason to make this TAFF trip is to meet the fans in Europe, as many as possible, and to share the fannish experience as well as it can be shared.



(Curt as a volunteer big-band jazz DJ at a local public radio station, WEHC-FM, Emory, VA)

TWO for TAFF

Brad & Cindy Foster - TAFF 2014



"We come to see London..."

...not to destroy it!"

Cindy sez...

Friends in college introduced me to Fandom, by going to LACon II in 1984. I had always been a voracious reader, just not specifically science fiction. I'm an Air Force brat, so we moved around a bit as a kid. Making friends took a while, but there was always a library in town or on base. About 3 days in to the con, after realizing I wasn't going to be grilled on SF knowledge, I realized something that hasn't changed in almost 30 years. I was home. I found the family I choose to spend time with, at least once a year, these were "my people". The following year I went to the NASFIC in Austin and found out about local and regional cons. I volunteered at a local con, and mostly did airport runs. I also got the privilege of escorting L. Sprague and Catherine De Camp around a 3-day Dallas con. Then I started helping with Austin's yearly Armadillocon. Stuffing envelopes, assisting in the con suite, general lackey. I ended up being on the board for FACT for a few years. I experienced 2 episodes of "Smooth" with the great Bob Tucker! I played Vanna White for Pat Cadigan at a Family Feud event. I was the assistant to the Hugo awards ceremony when San Antonio hosted Worldcon in 1997, after helping with the bid for about 5 years.

I had known of Brad and his work for years, but we met when I was helping the art show at Armadillocon, in 1990. We put together the last issue of *The Texas SF Inquirer*. (I won't say "final" issue, because I'm hoping someone will take it up again.)

Why LonCon, why now? We both have always wanted to visit Britain. My best friend in 6th grade was British, and taught me to drink tea with milk and sugar. She moved away, sigh. But the friend from college who got me in fandom is an American, who spent some time as a kid in England. So, we both would drink proper tea, and still do every time we are together. I've known of TAFF for some time, and Brad introduced fanzines to me. I've since attended a panel on "The old ways - hectographs and mimeos". Looked fun. The trip in 2014 would be a chance to connect faces to the words we've been reading, and we would get some time to visit this "strange new world". If we can schedule it, we would attend both LonCon3 and Shamrokon and have a few days in between to see more and meet more fans.

Brad sez...

I don't recall specifically how I got into fandom, or got my hands on my first fanzine. Seems to be in the mid '70s. But I loved the whole idea of zines, people writing, drawing and publishing just for the pure joy of being creative. I noticed right from the start that most of the people were also *much* smarter than I was.

However, I did have one skill, I could draw things. Mostly goofy cartoons, and once in a while a few nicer illustrations. And, even if my own locs weren't all that smart, if I sent those editors some of my drawings, they would not only print them, but would send me more copies of their zines for me to enjoy. This was a no-lose situation!

I found fanzine fandom a place where I could learn new things, read fascinating thoughts and opinions, and always looked forward to the next new zine to arrive.

I started attending conventions, but was still very much the nerd cartoonist. I'd hide behind my dealer's table with my prints and weird little books for sale. I'd enjoy talking with everyone who came by, but always in the back of my head was the knowledge it was not me, but my work, that was the attraction. When the dealer's room closed, I'd head back to my hotel room and draw the rest of the evening. The thought of going to a room party never entered my mind—if I had to talk to these smart folks, without having a drawing to hold up, they'd quickly see how uninteresting I was. And it never entered my mind that anyone noticed I wasn't at any of those things.

That changed when I met Cindy. While I am the shy paper-based fan, writing my letters and reading my zines, she is the people-based fan. She loves talking with people, learning about them, about new things they have to share. So she started taking me to the room parties, out to dinner with groups of people. I slowly found that, mostly, I really didn't mind. It was almost like a real-life version of a fanzine, except I couldn't file it away alphabetically.

When Cindy is with me, I sometimes even come across reasonably well in person, even through the nervousness and often non-stop talking.

Hundreds of cons and thousands of zines later, here I am an old but happy fan, still looking forward to many more decades of this to come. And hoping to be able to put some faces and voices to all the names in the British fanzines I've received over the years if we are lucky enough to be allowed to visit London this year.

TAFF Ballot is at: <http://taff.org.uk/ballots/taff2014.html>

Acknowledgements The administrators would like to thank Mike Glycer (File 770) and Dave Langford (Ansible) for helping with news distribution, and for Dave's ongoing maintenance of taff.org.uk and Bill Burns for hosting TAFF newsletters and fanzines on efanzines.com. The remaining contents of this newsletter are licensed. License: This newsletter is yours to copy, produce derivative versions, pervert or wrap your fish and chips. The choice is yours. Logo and layout by: Alan White.