

Jim For TAFF



**My Vote is
in the Litter Tray**

TAFF NEWS

Beware good people for there are two events I wish to attend before the final TAFF votes are cast. The first is Picocon #30 on the 16th and 17th of February in Imperial College Union. This Picocon ain't as pico as it would usually be and is spreading itself out over two days. I'm not sure I can be there for both but definitely intend to be around for the Saturday. It should be a fun con with Peter F Hamilton attending on Saturday. I shall also be very much available at Eastercon from 29th March to the 1st April. I shall have TAFF ballots and will happily lead you through the process of voting for me. Theresa and I have been talking about some joint events at Eastercon including a Pythonesque election night special. In the near future both Theresa and I have been threatened by a visit from Alan Dorey. He's going to be doing the TAFF interviews this year. More news as it happens.

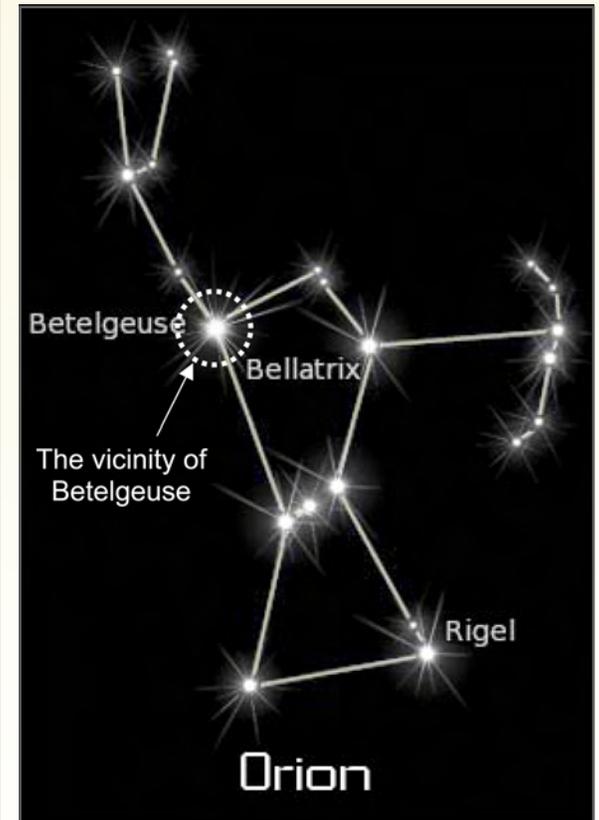


I have a plan. It's a plan so cunning that even Brian Cox wouldn't be able to find the words to say how amaaazing it is. I intend to go to North America and steal the Grand Canyon. I will remove the spaces from between the pieces with my zap-o space removal spray, recording the positions of those spaces with my jigsaw rememberer quantum calculator. I will then bag up all the bits (in a bag) and bring them back to Cambridge (which is at the moment entirely flat) and reassemble them as an absurdist Fen tourist attraction. To do this I need **your help**. I am campaigning to be sent to North America as the TAFF delegate for Europe. Please take the time to vote for me and send me on this mission. For details of how to vote please do visit <http://taff.org.uk>.

If there's anything around here more important than voting Jim Mowatt for TAFF, I want it caught and shot now!

JIM

THE UNIVERSE & EVERYTHING



Why do I Wish to be the TAFF Delegate for 2013?

Lets make a list:

- 1) It'll be fun – this is usually the best reason for doing anything and I can see a few raised eyebrows out there from some of you folks who may beg to differ with my hasty assumption. We'll possibly come back to that later.
- 2) I want to push myself to engage more with fandom – I've been around fans now for approximately 18 years and there are huge numbers of people that I have never met or interacted with in any way. It's about time I put some more effort into getting to know a lot more people in fandom. As with any hobby, the enjoyment you obtain from it is often proportional to the effort you put into it. The campaign and (hopefully) the TAFF trip will help give me the momentum to engage much more fully with the fannish community.
- 3) I'd like to go to one of those mega-sized North American worldcons. At the time of writing I have never yet been to any worldcon but have a membership for London in 2014.
- 4) Over recent years I've considered many of the TAFF campaigns to be a bit of a missed opportunity. I had hoped they would be more playful and vibrant. If my opponent is willing I would like to engage in some electioneering style banter. Some of it could be in fanzines but there's also the opportunity to do online debates, swingometers, and all that election night wibble.
- 5) If I win I will get the opportunity to help run the TAFF race for 2014. I think that one will be very hotly contested indeed and I hope that I can assist in some way to make it an engaging and fun experience for everyone. Lots of razzamatazz and all that jazz.

6) I feel that I can put together a fun and interesting TAFF report. I've been thinking about the style I might like to use. Would I like to do it Kerouac road trip style, or Hobbit quest style? I thought of Gangnam style but that hasn't really got legs (so to speak). Whatever style, even if I just wrote it as 'what I did on my holidays', it would be an extraordinary thing to do and I am intrigued and delighted by the challenge of it.

7) The trip should help me to grow, in that I hope it could make me more confident and open my eyes to different ways of being and different folks and different cultures. Past TAFF winners have often commented upon this and so I similarly would be fascinated to see what effects such a trip might have upon me.

8) TAFF itself is an extraordinary institution. It just keeps going and going and always attracts quite a variety of opinions on fan funds and their value to fandom. I've supported it already in some ways through doing the TAFF interviews over the last couple of years and, of course, voting in it many times over. I feel I want to get right in amongst it now to really understand TAFF and then help promote it as much as possible over the coming years.

9) There are many places in North America that I would like to visit. It won't be possible for me to visit them all in one TAFF trip but it would be nice to visit at least some of them. Ever since I started receiving the fanzine *Wild Heirs* way back when, I have wanted to meet the fan community in Vegas. Since I've been co-editing *Beam* with Nic Farey and met the wonderful Jacq Monahan when she stayed with us on her TAFF tour, this has increased my desire to visit Vegas even more. I'd love to visit Toronto, and, of course, Seattle has a huge fannish force that pulls everything towards it. There are many other places I would like to go to and many other people I would like to meet but there's the vast distances and the strain on TAFF's pocket to consider, so any thoughts or comments upon possible destinations will be gratefully received.

10) Repeat of point 1 – It'll be fun. I've read so much about past TAFF races. There's the fun of the

campaign. There will be playfulness and banter. There will be panels and electioneering at Eastercon. There's the tension and excitement as votes are counted. There's the sheer joy of the trip. The fun and challenge of producing the trip report, and finally the raising of funds and promoting the next race for 2014 in London. It'll be great, so I see your raised eyebrows and raise you a great big grin at the prospect of a remarkable experience.

Let the race commence!

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