

A rider with FANAC #56, and, like that indisposible fanzine, published by Terry Carr (1818 Grove St., Berkeley 9, Calif.) and Ron Ellick (1909 Francisco St., Berkeley 9). This rider is edited by Terry Carr, and its title is

AN EGOBOO A DAY FROM ALL OVER

One of the main things we sometimes regret about FANAC is that we haven't room to publish the swarms of comments we receive every issue. Actually, of course, most of the comments aren't very quotable--for after all, what can one say in comment on a newszine? All you can do, usually, is cast a few superlatives and vote for it for the Hugo and such. (But then too, that's really all we ask; we're not proud.)

At any rate, the flood of letters which followed the FANNISH II seemed to provide an adequate excuse to publish a letter-supplement, since the comments on the whole were longer and more interesting than usual to others than just FANAC's egoboo-starved editorial staff. And so we have AN EGOBOO A DAY FROM ALL OVER. The heading illo is by Brian Donahue (who did the excellent job of mastering himself), and all com-

ments typed in red will be by me. ---tgc

WRAI BALLARD: Blanchard, North Dakota

Got the FANNISH yesterday. Have been in a siege of gafia for a month or so. Tapes were answered, but letters were something to avoid and OUTSIDERS was being done by working about 3 or 4 hours a day cutting two pages onstencil. But while I'm still pretty bad off, the FANNISH did get me interested in getting the zines that rated tops in the poll...or at least a few of them.

Come right down to it, while I'm writing to you I'll sub to

INNUENDO, and think about subbing to a couple others and never get around to doing it. That's the fannish thing to do.

Liked the covers too on the FANNISH, though Forry was a waste of space, for I didn't notice him till my mother (who I showed the cover to as an example of fannish activity in other places) asked who the man was. I considered it a purely irrelevant question, but looked and guessed who it was.

Still, that front cover...seeing it was the first time I ever wished that Eney hadn't done FANCY II.

Sincerely, /Wrai

Don't blame Eney, Wrai: we also had other props there with which Trina posed in some of the shots we didn't use. One of the props was the first FANNISH, and the other was THE INCOMPLETE BURBEE. There was one potentially fabulous shot of Trina reading the Burbee anthology and one of her cats climbing up beside her and looking quizzically over her shoulder--but the shot didn't turn out well, unfortunately.

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HARRY WARNER, JR.: 423 Summit Ave., Hagerstown, Maryland

The only thing I can find to criticize in this anniversary issue is the most expensive thing about it, the printed front cover. (I assume that it is more expensive because someone had to pay for that FANCYCLOPEDIA.) As a bad photographer in my own right, I must point out that the effect would have been enhanced wonderfully by

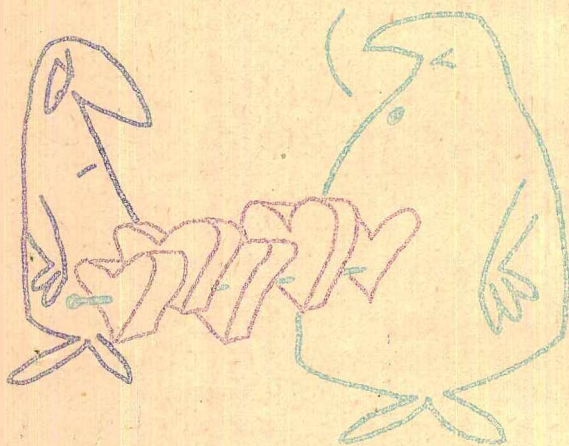
the right cropping. The portion of the photograph just above the propellers and enough of the right side of the picture to hide the hem on the blanket are cluttering items in the scene. Put a couple pieces of paper over the top and right sides at those points, imagine the remaining portion enlarged somewhat, and you'll see what I mean. With that treatment, the shadow would take on more importance and wouldn't look as much like an accidental byproduct of the use of a single main light source. The back cover is perfect as far as composition goes: not a single extraneous element.

I read all the poll results with the greatest of interest, not just those that were likely to mention me, and they agree remarkably well with my own voting, as well as I can remember, except for

the uncalled-for neglect that the FANCYCLOPEDIA received. It's rather odd that I should rise in the fan writing category while HORIZONS vanishes completely from the fanzine ratings. I can't blame my contributors to HORIZONS for this situation, so I can only assume that next year HORIZONS will become the No. Two fanzine and I shall receive only two votes as a writer. Once again, I shudder to think of the time that you people must have put into those summaries of what the best fanzines and writers and fans did in 1959, unless you keep your files in better order than any other fan to my knowledge does.

Several persons have already assumed that I'll be at the Pitts-

I HEARD IT'S
GOOD TO HAVE
A LOT



burgh convention from this remark of mine about there no longer being any excuse for me to fail to attend, since it's so close. I may fool them yet, since I frequently do inexcusable things and I managed to stay away from Philly as a convention site, which is just about the same distance from Hagerstown. However, I do have half-formed plans of just running up for a day on a bus. I think that's as long as I want to be around mobs of fans.

Yrs., &c.,/Harry

You're right about the improvement that would have been made in the cover by judicious cropping. As a matter of fact we asked Darry to do such cropping, but apparently he forgot to do so, or maybe didn't have time. (We got the photo to him a little late, and even as it was the issue was held up a week and a half till he could get the covers back to us.)

Your rising in the fanwriting category while HORIZONS dropped from sight is quite explainable. The former is because you contributed so widely to fanzines during 1959, which with the natural excellence of your work brought you lots of votes; the latter, I'm sure, was simply due to the fact that the fanzine competition in 1959 was Rough. 1959 was a good year, with many excellent fanzines appearing frequently; in such a case it would have been amazing if an apazine with (I think) quite limited outside distribution had made the

listings. As it was, HORIZONS polled more votes than any other apazine, and came close to the listings. (Other apazines getting votes, as I recall, were STEFANTASY, SPACEWARP, KLEIN BOTTLE, STORMY PETREL, FANZINE INDEX, and a couple others.)

The writeups of the year didn't involve as much research as you apparently think. Aside from the writeups of each fanzine, they were mostly done from memory. I keep my fanzines filed alphabetically by title and in order by issue, filing them as soon as they're read; in some instances I couldn't find an issue or two of a fanzine which placed on the poll (hence such listings as "two or three issues in 1959"), but these instances were few. For the most part we had little trouble--the real work was in the time-consuming writing, which took about two weeks of all my spare time.

It's good to hear fairly definite, authoritative word that you'll make an appearance at the Pittcon. Perhaps some sort of ceremony will be in order, like hanging Ballard and Danner in effigy or such. After all, us convention fans gotta uphold our principles.

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DON ALLEN: 12 Briar Edge, Forest Hall, Newcastle/Tyne 12, England

Took me a long time to get past the front cover of the FANNISH II and read its contents. That cover...finest thing I've seen downing any fanzine...very attractive indeed. Do it again sometime, won't you??

Well, so now we know who and what was first second third etc during 1959. Most of the results I agree with completely. One or two I don't. I thought Jim Cawthorn would have rated much higher. The only reason he didn't get a first or second place as an artist or cartoonist must be because his work isn't spread around enough.



He's certainly the best. But perhaps I have an unfair advantage, as I have seen all of Jim's work, apart from faaanish stuff. Some of his paintings are superb.

Well, you and Ron can certainly pat yourselves on the backs. You're doing a great job with FANAC and more than fully deserved that No. 1 placing. Congrats.

Oh, and I like this new milk chocolate coloured paper. Makes the zine look good enough to eat!

All best wishes,/Don

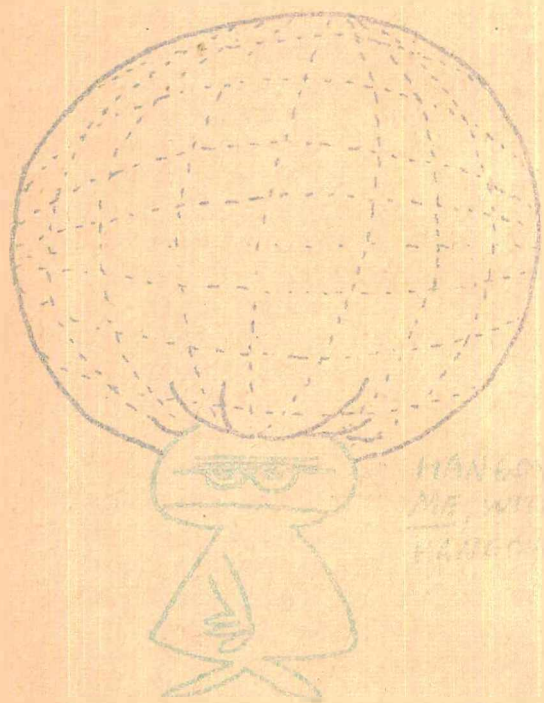
You're probably right about Cawthorn: had his stuff appeared more widely he'd probably have placed higher. (Tho let's not forget that his artwork was prominent in the USSine AMRA, which has a pretty respectable circulation.) And I know what you mean about your thinking more highly of his work since you've seen nonpublished stuff like paintings--I like Bjo's fanzine art fine, for instance, but would vote for her even higher if I were to take into account her paintings.

She did a lovely oil painting of a unicorn for Ted Johnstone and family which I like particularly.

Thing is, though, that on a poll like this you shouldn't vote merely on talent, but also on production; thus you have to take into account how much an individual contributed to the enjoyment of fandom during the year, not simply the basic talent. And that's why I think it's just and proper that Cawthorn didn't place as high as such as Barr, Adkins, and Bjo, who did contribute widely (and well).

By the way, it's just occurred to me to wonder what happens to the extra "n" in "fannish" when it becomes "faaanish". If there are any Zen Buddhists in fandom, I suggest this to them as a Mystery comparable to the questions of what is the sound of one hand clapping, or what happens to your lap when you

stand up, or who sawed Courtney's boat, and the like.



HANDED
ME WITH A
FANNISH

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J. ARTHUR HAYES: R. R. 3, Bancroft, Ont., Canada

I'm enclosing a buck to make sure I continue receiving FANAC. I'm also jealous of those who have duplicating equipment that turns out good readable material, plus those who can afford photo-offset front and back covers. That rates a 1 rating automatically, even if the gal hadn't been as gorgeous as she is. It's nice to see a good photo of he also, but natch, I'm not as interested in him as in her.

I was surprised to see my name as high as it was in the Top Fan Faces category, even tied with such well known fen as Busby, Willis and Bennett. If this poll is held again next year, I imagine this mistake will be remedied. I'm kind of surprised also at the fact that Ford did not make this category, seeing as how he won TAPP. That would seem to indicate he had a wide support, yet it doesn't

show in the poll. Just some of the oddities that turn up with any kind of poll. I can't say I'm as pleased by the Fugghead of the Year. It seems to me that anyone who is disliked by Fans in general should be ignored rather than voted for such a title.

A saturnalian fiend, /Art. Hayes.

I was surprised, too, at Ford's not placing. (Matter of fact, only one person voted for him.) But on sober consideration it occurs to me that TAFF voting and FANAC Poll voting are done on different bases: for TAFF voted you take into consideration a person's contributions to fandom and popularity over a period of years, whereas for FANAC's Fan Faces poll the voting was just for the year 1959. And though Ford was active in OMPA, at the Midwestern and Dotention, he wasn't as active and contributing a member of fandom, probably, as those who placed on the poll for 1959. However, his contributions in years not quite so recent as 1959 were more than sufficient to net him a whole heap of TAFF votes. It really isn't strange at all.

GEORGE SPENDER 8302 Doney Road, Chevy Chase 15 Maryland

I just thought I'd write you a note of congratulations on the FANNISH. Plenty of work obviously went into its production, and the result shows it. I'm a little surprised that you didn't give an award for whatever your cover girl was trying for, though. Let me suggest that next year your FANNISH institute such a category so that all this hidden talent in fandom doesn't go to waste. I presume that it would be something like the Fan Faces category only somewhat more colorful.

I expected to find myself disagreeing with the results of your poll, but instead am pleasantly surprised at how it came out. About the only place where I did some eyebrow-raising was when I saw that White had placed second in the Fugghead of the Year category. Come, now.

I almost laughed out loud when I read that Sox had voted for TARDAN II. Now, why didn't I think of that? Next year, perhaps. And, oh yes, the vote for Melba for Norman Vincent Peale for Fugghead meets with applause in this sector. But if we allow that vote, it's getting to be an and include other candidates like Fidel Castro and John Wayne (who denounced two of the few movies which were not anything to say within the last year - the only "G" rated "Last Summer" and "They Came to Cordoba" - as "not for the family entertainment") and a whole raft of it.

It isn't surprising that White got votes as Fugghead of the Year; after all, whereas most of us irritate only selected individual fans here and there, Ted last year got under the skin of whole groups of fans. These groups voted for him en masse, which accounted for most of the "points" he got in that category.

I printed your crack about Fidel Castro, but if you drag fandom and FANAC into an International Incident I'll hold you totally responsible, sir!



ROBERT A. MABLE: 4500 Aspen Hill Rd., Rockville, Maryland

Received the FANAC II yesterday and think it was really great. The cover was the greatest since Paul's for "Ball of the Neck-Men" on the November, 1933 Wonder Stories.

Was rather surprised by some of the poll results. For instance I thought JD-ARCASSY would rate higher--but maybe I'm prejudiced. However, it did come close to winning the Hugo. But polls are peculiar animals--and a little activity on the part of a certain clique can do wonders for its product.

Sincerely, /Bob

You're absolutely right on that last point. One of the most interesting (and sometimes irritating) things about running the FANAC Poll is watching various groups plump for one particular zine or individual. I don't mind it at all when a group consistently votes similarly to the others in the group, but plumping (like, say, voting for one zine in first place, and deliberately not voting for any others, so as to cut down on points for competitors) is another matter: the FANAC Poll is an egoboo poll, not a political contest with any real Power to be won, and those who plump are giving more egoboo to someone than he really deserves. (Fortunately, there were enough votes cast in the FANAC Poll this time that what plumping was done made very little difference over the long haul. Nonetheless,

I hope next year there'll be no plumping at all.)

RICK SNEARY: 2962 Santa Ana St., South Gate, Calif.

Interesting cover.. I, frankly, never thought you were serious about it. The way you worded your announcements, you didn't say she would be nude, and all there. I thought you would show just a head and shoulders, etc.

Poll results varied a lot. Some seemed reasonable, other, like Top Fan Face, way off. Bjo coming in #3 for Top Fan Face, and Ackerman #6, while Busby and White are in #9 place, show decidedly that votes were cast emotionally, and not with the head. (Willis has been just inactive enough to warrant this low rating.)

If I was feeling better I'd rave a little more, and pat you tads on the back a bit. It is a powerfull goodish type issue, and another handbook of fan history. If there had been a little more chit-chat and less news the past year, you still rate that chrom plated space ship as much as ever.

The Old Man of the Gate, /Rick

You should have known we were serious, Rick: we haven't the guts to collect as much money as we did from Trainacover angels and then renig. Why, we'd have been drummed out of fandom! All fandom would have been plunged into war!

Never underestimate the power of a woman, I say. Especially a nude woman.

I must confess to being a bit amused these days by people who occasionally write in and tell us that FANAC isn't as good as it used to be; either there's not enough news any more, or there's not enough chit-chat, or we're crowding the news together too much, or we should crowd all the news together throughout the whole issue like Late Flash From The Wireservices radio newscaster, or something. I've compared recent FANAC's with those of the first year, and feel that the zine is better now than it was then; I suggest that anyone else who feels FANAC is slipping do the same.

Actually, this all ties in with a theory I've been developing.

...the effect that the popularity of individuals, fanzines, etc. in fandom can largely be traced on a curve that ascends rapidly for the first year or two and then gradually but inexorably declines. Thus, a new fanzine comes along and everybody exclaims that it shows bright promise, and if it fulfills that promise in its next few issues fans keep on exclaiming and pointing with amazement. But pretty quick the point of diminishing returns is reached, and fans are no longer surprised in the fanzine's excellence and consequently are less delighted ...and the egoboo coming in gets a bit rarer. This applies to fans too, of course: how many fans are exclaiming over the continued excellence of the works of such as Bob Leman and Harry Warner, for instance?

For the first year or so there's an element of surprise mixed in those things--you don't expect excellence in an unproven fan or fanzine, and consequently you appreciate it more when you get it. But after awhile it's expected, and you begin to note more consistently the occasional peaks and falling-off of quality which have been there all along, unnoticed on your enthusiasm.



I'm sure this is a large part of the reason so many top fanzines fold shortly after reaching a peak: after you reach that point of diminishing returns, fanpublishing isn't as rewarding egoboo-wise, comment-wise, or communication-wise. It's a rare fanzine that reaches its peak and holds it--or even that continues publication for long after hitting the peak. GSUB, A BAS, and HYPHEN come immediately to mind as exceptions--but how often are they published these days? And how often are they underrated by fans who are more interested in watching the rise of some new talent elsewhere? OOPSLA! is probably the best example of an exception to the rule--but I suspect that even in OOPS's case there'd be less enthusiasm shown by the readers (and hence less by the publisher) if Calkins hadn't switched to a BDC Rex Rotary machine and come up with one of the most superbly mimeoed zines seen in fandom. (Among fanwriters, John Barry is the obvious exception--but that man is so continually amazing that I rather doubt he'll ever reach the point of diminishing returns!)

And I say this is true of the occasional complaints we get about FANAC supposedly lacking its old spark or something. I don't think it is lacking that spark; it's changed in the past two-years-plus, but I think it's changed for the better, mostly. Why not check with your older issues and see if you agree with me? --And let us know, will you?

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LEN MOFFATT: 10202 Belcher, Downey, Calif.

FANNISH II was right up to Hugo-winning par. Results of poll about as expected, and comments on each item, etc. quite interesting. Well, main result of voting on TAPF question wasn't what I expected ...against it is pretty close. And 19 abstaining! Assume some of these latter were people not interested in TAPF at all, at all, but merely a few of them were interested in TAPF but for some reason were so chicken to vote Yes or No or make suggestions. Puh! Anyway, if better than one half of a cross-section (of 10% of fandom) feel that TAPF needs revamping it does indicate that said revamping should be seriously considered by the TAPF officials.

Sorry to say that front cover of FANNISH II was disappointing.

after all that build-up. Not that she isn't a cute lil' girl; but it wasn't the best possible pose. Artistically speaking (harrumph!), the line of the back (etc.) was fine, but spoiled by feet sticking out on lower port side. Also, feet looked dirty; am sure she washes 'em and reckon it was shadows or something. Hand holding FANCY II seems to be coming out of shadow on the wall (a la 4-D Man)--i.e., disconnected from rest of body. Leg (what one could see of it) and right arm straight down make entire position seem strained and uncomfortable. Beanie should have been at a jaunty angle, and pretty face could have looked happier, but can't blame model as pose probably wasn't her idea.

So much for carping. Real nice effort, and certainly fannish in the nekkid sense of the word.

Olo Dad Ackerman on the back cover always takes an amusing pic and Trina looked more comfortable in this one.

What would be nice would be a photo gallery in each FANNISH featuring pics of the poll winners (top ten fan, etc., and clear photos of top fanzines' covers, etc.), but that would be hard to accomplish, as well as being Expensive. But who knows?

Keep smiling!/Len

There were a certain amount of people who agreed with your criticisms of the Trinacover, so don't feel too mean, ole Len. As for Trina not being responsible for the pose...yes, it was her idea, and a clever one, we thought. In fact, we thought it was superb.

Goddammit, what right have you to criticize the cover over which we shed so much blood? (And Trina so many clothes?) You've got a helluva crust, Moffatt. Why don't you go hide your head in somebody's armpit? The blessings of Ashley upon you, sir!

But we forgive you.

Liked your photopage idea. We certainly can't promise anything more than to keep it in mind, but if we can swing some sort of a deal next year...

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ETHEL LINDSAY: Courage House, 6 Dangley Ave., Surbiton, Surrey, England

Congratulations upon deservedly winning the Poll. It is quite enthralling, too, to read through those write ups of the zines issue by issue. This, I should think, must be no mean job in itself! I liked Terry's praise of HYPHEN and have a feeling that, like me, he would have put it further up the Poll. Whilst I think that all the names mentioned for the Best Writers category were justified in being there, I would not agree with all the placings. For instance, with all due respect to John Barry, I just cannot say that he is a better writer than Larry Barnes or Walt Willis. Here, I think, the vote went to their favourite fan writer, don't you?

If I remember correctly, I did not vote for the purge of the zine; I felt it was too unkind. I still do, even though it was GMC that won. Of course I loved that bit of hers that you quoted, and giggled no end, but I still think it is too unkind. Even when people beg to be blasted out of existence, I am against doing so on the grounds that it would make me as bad as they are. I have been quietly ignoring GMC ever since she called me an idealist and managed to make it sound like a dirty word, and I think that is the best thing to do.

I just cannot think of a more interesting zine than this is. It has held my attention from start to finish, breathlessly interested from cover to cover. Ah, those covers! Such genius!

bestest /Ethel

Yes, certainly the voters voted for their favourite writers, Ethel: it would be foolish to ask them to try to be objective about it. Anyhow, it would probably not be apropos to vote strictly on the basis of objective quality rather than enjoyment imparted, since after all fandom is a hobby-group, not a literary group. And too, why worry about it?--quality of writing has much to do with the enjoyability of it, so the better the quality of writing the more enjoyable it will be--even though there are other factors too. I think it works out pretty well.

The Fugghead of the Year question has brought in some protesting letters, but most fans seem to be in favor of it, so we'll no doubt keep it. (Incidentally, it was first suggested by Larry Windham, who moaned that it was the only chance he'd have of getting mentioned in the Poll results; as it happened, he did get a couple of votes in that category, for "whoever suggested this".)

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BETTY KUJAWA: 2819 Caroline, South Bend 14, Indiana

So thanks a heap for the FANNISH II--never expected such a detailed and elaborate creation! Was much enjoyed--aaaahhh and those covers!!! They also restored my husband's sense of wonder! Now he's wondering how old Trina is--which, I keep telling him, is none of his cotton pickin' business. Would that I could be there to read all the comments and adjectives you'll be getting about those covers--heh.



FANNISH, like Bloch, was superb--appreciated all the resumes, too, of each issue of the top fanzines--such work you'all must have put in on this! And, by golly, Archie Mercer's report on Anglofandom for '59--that I truly appreciated...all that mish-mosh over the London Circle, etc. I had known of only disjointed segments; glaaaad to have The Big Picture--merci to he and thee.

"Let me explain it to you again, pal. First I told him I was the focal point of fandom. I was only joking, you know, and I told him so. Then he told me I wasn't the focal point of fandom, and he wasn't joking. Then is when I got MAAAAAAD."

The results of the poll were much as I expected--kinda happy to see GMC win the fugghead title--and who deserves it more!

Bye---/Betty

I don't think Trina will consider it divulging of any secret if I tell you (or your husband, rather) that she's 21.

And I hope this letter supplement gladdens the snoopy little hearts of people like you (and him, and her, and even me) who like to read other people's mail.

One last note--what a gorgeous typeface you have, milady! (Gosh, I wonder how old it is?)

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VIC RYAN: 2160 Sylvan Road, Springfield, Illinois

I got a blast out of the unique covers. Perhaps someday you can lay claim to having discovered the then famous Trina Castillo. And I mean discovered. Actually; Trina looks more like a femmefan who's trying to lure her husband away from the mimeo, and rather unsuccessfully. Who says fans don't have a Sense of Wonder?

Well, congratz on winning again, and by a good 145 points, too.

CRY placing second came as something of a surprise; I knew they'd probably be in the top five or so, but SECOND?? Hell, CRY must be as close to a focal point fanzine as exists today...at least it must be the fanzine with the most loyal readership, percentage-wise.

YANDRO placed a good bit higher than I thought it would, but not undeservedly so. I'll bet if you had circulated the poll with YANDRO the results might have been a bit different.

Hickman has proven that a fanzine doesn't have to be consistently good to be a top-flight zine. I mean, his issues ranged from thick ones containing Bloch, Harmon, etc., to four-pagers with just his fanzine reviews. I think the thing that made JD-A and TWIG place so high was the magnificent artwork that both can sport.

Yes, wasn't it strange that Nelson, the most profane of all the fan cartoonists, should gather 69 points?

Mighod, Bob Lichtman and Don Franson listed as new fans? Mighod, I've been in fandom for about a year and a half, and Lichtman was here about four or five months before me...that makes him almost a two-year man. And while that certainly isn't old, it could hardly be called new.

In Franson's case, however, it would have been quite a PLOY had he been voted best new fan, and been admitted to First Fandom, all at the same time.

I think it would be wise, next year, if you'd define just who's eligible for this Top Fan Face category and what things to look for in voting.

Best,/Vic

It gladdened my heart to see that someone else had noticed and was amused that Nelson got 69 points. Simple things amuse simple minds, I guess.

I dunno about Lichtman...nobody in Berkeley had heard of him till we got PSI-PHI #1, and that was dated January 1959, which makes him eminently eligible for that Best New Fan category.

Okay, we'll try to give fuller explanations of what each category's criteria are, next year. Ron suggested publishing a list of zines which had been published during 1959 for the voters' benefit this last time, but it would either have taken too much room or (chopped down) shown favoritism, so we skipped it. We'll try to work out something ingenious next year.

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Let's get back to purple to end this thing. Our thanks to all those who wrote (including the ghod-knows-how-many whose letters we didn't have room for here), and many thanks for all the egoboo, too. It was all very heart-warming (not to mention id-warming)--but strangely disquieting, for all that. Because the thought that kept running through our heads as we read the egoboo was...what do we do next year? What do we do for an encore? ...Suggestions, anyone?

Just room enough left to mention that the interior cartoons have been by Rotsler (the first batch) and Nelson (the last two).

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"Oh boy, I feel just like a focal point!"