

FIRST ANNUAL FAN POLL -- FINAL WINDUP REPORT
Charles Wells, 200 Atlas St #1, Durham, NC 27705.

d/w cadenza &
First -- correction of the serious errors, which I humbly apologize for. In the first place, REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST should be credited to Bill Evans, not to Dick Eney. This came in second in the Best Single Publication category. Second, VOID #29 should not be listed at all in that category because it has not been published yet (info: Gary Deindorfer). Third, STARSPINKLE is eligible to appear under Best Fanzine, since one issue was published in 1962. Therefore it should be listed as #22. (info: Ron Ellik).

Those, as I say, are the serious errors and I am glad to set the record straight. There were, however, some less important errors, which are probably not all caught, but here goes: Part E -- should be "Best" not "Bext" of course. Also, it's "Ant in the Bottle", not "And". Part G: it is highly dubious that Dave Kyle, Harvey Irman, Shelby Vick, Forry Ackerman, and John Baxter were new fans in 1962. But the votes for these were scattered, so it's not too important. Part A: Deindorfer says several of these (besides Void #29) are ineligible, but mentions them not. Rather than risk my neck trying to remember publication dates, I'll simply let it go with the statement that all those which got more than six votes apiece were clearly eligible.

Nobody criticized my addition & multiplication at any point. Hah.

There were a number of comments on the poll results. Aside from everybody jumping down my throat (deservedly, I admit) about ROTP, the most general question was "How many ballots were sent out?" The answer: I don't know. The closest I can come is between 200 and 300. This puts the turnout between 16% and 24%.

Other comments: Harry Warner points out the bias in favor of people active in the project. He uses his own case as an example, but I think a better case can be made for the way Cadenza came in so high in the fanzine listings -- much higher than it ever did on any other poll. I'm not being falsely modest (neither was Harry) -- it is an objective fact that Cadenza did much better on the only poll I sent out than on any other poll. Vic Ryan says: "It may take quite a while to settle the issue of whether or not one must sign his ballot, but I suspect the pollsters will be taking valuable steps if they simply set and maintain vigorous "moral" standards, and be properly circumspect; this bit about using the results for blackmail and degradation is bound to rankle any system of voting. ...Have you given any consideration to possibly publishing, prior to balloting time, a list of the eligibles in all categories? This would not only eliminate the difficulties in "definition" -- as in "new fan" -- since a small committee could accomplish the task with a minimum of effort, and, not only that -- I'm sure it'd make for much better results." He also is in favor of letter columns being included in the columns category. Gary Deindorfer is in favor of a Best Single Written Piece category, seems to think the new fan category has been subjectively defined, "Fans new to the voter", and has no objection to signing his ballot. But he thinks it should be left up to the voter. Ron Ellik says, "Why, if I weren't all swole up like a love-sick toad from the Fan Face and Writer results, I'd send you a copy of STARSPINKIE #1, dated 17 December 1962, wrapped around a bomb." Bjo Trimble (with her ballot) also suggests listing the publications of the year. She is in favor of signatures, violently opposed to a "fagghead of the year" category, wants a carefuller def. of "best artist", talks about an auction for expenses, and a printed card for awards. And I just discovered a letter from Walter Breen which has some more errors listed on it, so please turn over.

Additional goofs by Wells, as listed by Walter Breen: Category A: ATOM Anthology was ineligible (published in 1961) as was Fancyclopedia II -- produced years before (I thought so...) Alter Ego #4 "is not part of our fandom," says Breen, and "Bloch's 'The Eighth Stage of Fandom' is not a fanzine on any conceivable grounds." (But the publications in part A were not required to be fanzines, Walter).

I think I'll quote the rest, so as not to get all mixed up in parentheses and quotation marks: "Category B: Smudge is not part of our fandom. K.O. is totally unknown to me -- is it in our fandom? Category C: Has Meatheringham's work ever appeared in fanzines? Who is R. White? Category D: Who are Mattson and Battin? Category E: Isn't it The Warier Bard? (I was absolutely croggled to find my own Wrhn thing outdistancing Tucker and the Willis AXE col...) Are letter cols eligible? Terry Carr decided they weren't, and I've followed his decision. 'End of Cry' aka WAHF likewise. And also rotating things of the kind most recently represented by XERO's AICFAD. There are also a few totally unknown to me: Turnip Ghost, Emergency Flare, ... And isn't Bjo's SHAGGY col called 'Fallen Angelenos'? Were any published in 1962?

"Category F: Which Norm Clarke is being referred to? The Canadian one of DESCANT or the fringe-fringe one of XERO? /The one of XERO -- this is my error in not specifying as the ballots did--cw/ Who is 'Hermant'? ...Category G: Eligibility questionable for Dian Girard, and absolutely impossible for /and he lists the ones I did, plus Bill Sarill, Ron Bennett, Alva Rogers, Madoleine Willis, and Avram Davidson/

"Category H: Take a look at the ballots that mentioned 'Beard' and see if they could have been referring to me. I have some reason to think so, as I sometimes get called 'Walter Beard' in fanzines and have even gotten mail addressed to 'The Beard'. I know nobody in fandom named Beard; the Wm. Blackbeard who had a thing on Hubbard in INSIDE is an oldtimer coming back. If the 'Beard' is actually me, then this changes my standing slightly." /It does indeed say "Walter Beard" on that ballot (it was just one, with a first place vote). On the assumption that this was you, the listings should have you in 5th place, with 10 votes, Madeleine Willis in 6th with 9, and the rest the same. I should have realized this when I tabulated the results. Scrry.--cw/

Walter also makes some other comments, as follows, and pardon me for changing the order of the letter: "So this is what I helped create...foeey and double foeey. I promise you this: there'll be a FANAC poll next year if I'm still around, and I'll have nothing to do with the just-elected committee or its proposals, etc. Fan apathy certainly showed up this time; 47 ballots -- too few to mean anything. I'm not blaming you at all, but rather the fans who either didn't vote, voted too late, voted apathetically & unthinkingly, or sent you spoof ballots which you didn't recognize... /But I did recognize most of them. I reported them anyway, not considering it part of my responsibilities to do anything but report the votes as they actually done.--cw/

"I will mention in FANAC that your, um, poll results are available. More than that I shall not say, lest tempers flare up...

"My fafia of the past few months has been due to illness. Culmination was a couple of weeks ago in blackouts, EEG grossly abnormal, indicating a focal lesion in the temporal lobe. Neurologist thinks it's a bit of scar tissue. I'm on anti-convulsants now and must remain unalcoholized with plenty of sleep even at world-con." / And fanzines for Walter Breen should now be sent c/o Ted White.--cw/

Well, this winds it up. I'll leave it to the new committee to have their falls on ice, arguments with Walter Breen, and like that. --Charles Wells