



THE ZINE DUMP 50

A zine about zines by GUY LILLIAN III

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Do quokkas read fanzines?

The Zine Dump is a fanzine devoted to the science fiction fanzine world. It wants to see and list every generally-distributed amateur publication devoted to SF and its fandom published in English, and hear and comment on all news connected with the hobby. Published on eFanzines.com, by e-mail, by hard copy for trade and occasionally in mailings of the Worldcon Order of Fan-Editors. Just not this year.

Included here are traditional self-contained fanzines, not blogs, which means there's a heavy dose of nostalgia and little – too little – up-to-date discussion and debate of fannish issues. (An exception: *File 770*.) I invite fans better acquainted with web fandom to produce a *Blog Log* or the like. Most publications listed can be found on Bill Burns' magnificent and generous site, eFanzines.com, where you probably found *this* zine. Go thou and read. As always, if you find mistakes in *TZD*, please alert the editor and the errors will be fixed.

I originally intended to run this *Zine Dump*, along with its predecessor, in the 2020 edition of the Worldcon Order of Fan Editors, created simultaneously with CoNZeland. No such luck. *TZD49* was out of date by the WOOF deadline and this zine, obviously, had hardly been started. So here we are in September. So it goes. WOOF 2020, by the way, came off beautifully, a record pagecount of >165 pages and several new contributors. Again, you can find it among my zines on eFanzines.com.

There's no news from "the Greenhouse." We huddle inside, we wear masks when we go out, Rosy designs her father's books, I do fanzines. In addition to this one, I'm writing my political zine, *Spartacus*, and working on the 50th anniversary issue of my SFPazine, *Spiritus Mundi*. And my public defender memoir. And the next *Challenger* (my genzine), to come forth before year's end, I hope. Theme: Sturgeon! Cover by Alan White. Contributors – on any SFnal subject; doesn't have to be related to Sturgeon – *needed*.

Oh yes – for all our sakes, **VOTE BLUE**.

***Acrophilia** Issue One / Martin Pyne, mpyne@cs.hmc.edu / eFanzines / <http://www.goobergunch.net> / Selections from Pyne's weblog, beginning with a long and fearsomely interesting article on Seanan McGuire, ranging from COVID to comics; many cool travelogs of trips within northern Northern California bring regret that I never took such trips before Hellfire overwhelmed the area – except for Mount Diablo, which you could see from my high school; Martin's "book acquisitions" include my favorite David Brin (*Earth*). For a zine with hardly any illustrations, *Acrophilia* (the title suddenly makes sense) certainly excites *der wanderlust*.

***Alexiad** #113 Vol. 19 No. 4 / Joe & Lisa Major, 1409 Christy Avenue, Louisville KY 40204-2040 / jtmajor@iglou.com / efanzines.com or trade / Fandom's most consistent fanzine is also among its most consistently interesting, at least if you let yourself invade Major's head and enjoy monarchy, polar exploration and James Bond fanfiction as much as he does. The first page of this August 2020 issue, though, is devoted to Lisa's affection for horseracing, triply welcome this year, since we have no Mike Resnick to comment on the sport and the Triple Crown schedule is so mucked up. Within, there is indeed Arctic and Antarctic news, a note on the Spanish king's flight from tax prosecution, reviews of historically-based books (another passion of Joe's), a long piece on glaciers, Taral on *The Big Bang Theory* and its attraction for scientist guests, the Hugo and Dragon winners, a jolly lettercol from Joe's usual chorus and brief fanfic, one piece based on *Catch-22*! And I must mention the hysterical Marc Schirmeister illos throughout. *Alexiad* is, simply, a fine and reliable fanzine.

***Ansible** / David Langford, 94 London Road, Reading, Berks, RG1 5AU, UK / news.ansible.uk. / The indispensable British newszine, rich with quotes, humor – no one in this field can *live* without "Thog's Masterclass", examples of wretched writing publishers actually paid for – and regret – the R.I.P. section is always too, too long. I can never scope how, in a publication filled with one-liners, the personality of its author could come through so clearly, but it does. By all means subscribe for e-mail delivery.

***Askance** 49 / John Purcell, 3744 Marielene Circle, College Station, TX 77845-3926 / j_purcell54@yahoo.com / eFanzines / *Fannish Humor* is the theme that developed spontaneously for this issue of a fine American genzine, making it a fun pub for the editor to assemble and for us to read. However, after editorial nattering, Ray Palm describes an embarrassing encounter with Rod Serling, wherein he asked the great writer about the Famous Writers School he endorsed. The school turned out to be a scam – no surprise – a blot on Serling we *Twilight Zone* aficionados could live without. Things take a welcome turn towards amusing when Taral Wayne and Walt Wentz provide redoubtable Sherlock Holmes pastiches (I love Holmes, ersatz or real), and Sam Long graces the page with two enchantingly absurd filks. (That to the tune of "Waltzing Matilda" is *evil*.) T.D. Sadler addresses the Darwin Awards and other stupidities, which bring guilty laughs, as does, *sans* guilt, the usual Figby cartoon. Most

interesting, an article on fanzines past, again with an emphasis on humor – and how tough it is to write. *I* can't do it, at least on purpose; when something I write turns out funny, it's usually by accident! Anyway, John looks to the future and his landmark 50th issue. Like most fan-eds, for Purcell, an issue number ending in "0" is an excuse to pull out all the stops.

***Askew #31** / John Purcell, see above / John's perzine deals this summer with – what else? – the pandemic and quarantine. His thoughts on the CDC advisories and the "Contrary Mary Coalition" opposing them echo mine. However well-turned the virtual con, we both miss in-person camaraderie. Good lettercol from both sides of the Atlantic; Purcell's TAFF delegacy obviously served him well.

Banana Wings / Claire Brialey & Mark Plummer, 59 Shirley Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 7ES U.K. / fishlifter@gmail.com / *BW is an outstanding zine of excellent production values and strong content. As you see, it won this year's FAAn Award for the field's best fanzine and tied for best genzine.*

***BCSFazine #544** / R. Graeme Cameron, the.graeme.bcsfazine@gmail.com / The British Columbia SF Association's monthly clubzine, this issue bedecked with the familiar and welcome pb cover for Andre Norton's *Catseye*. Anointing himself "the God-Editor," Graeme opens with the happy news that his zine *Polar Borealis* has won an Aurora Award, which entitles him to a good-natured strut around the playing field and an envious cheer. He goes on to provide the latest news in asteroids, including flybys, the salts of Ceres, and Psyche 15, the asteroid with the solid gold core. One is reminded of the Carl Barks *Uncle Scrooge* story where such a moon is exchanged by its owner for a handful of dirt. After a somewhat wasteful Bill Rotsler portfolio – those fillos could adorn an entire genzine – Cameron blows my mind with the news-to-me that Rotsler co-wrote some of the Tom Swift Jr. books I read as a lad. How 'bout that? SF Awards come to the fore next, in a long section on New Zealand's Vogels, Robert Sawyer's piece on the Auroras and Graeme's review of the virtual convention that awarded them. (I see that "This is How You Lose the Time War" copped an Aurora as well as a Hugo and a Nebula. What's next? The Heisman?) The aforementioned *Catseye* – darker than one would think – gets a review, ancient SF from a century ago is recommended, Garth Spencer and others offer solid commentary ... *BCSFazine* is nothing if not comprehensive. And monthly?

Beam / Nic Farey, 2657 Rungsted St, Las Vegas, NV 89142, fareynic@gmail.com and Ulrika O'Brien, 418 Hazel Avenue N., Kent, WA 98030, ulrika.obrien@gmail.com / *eFanzines* /

* **Brooklyn!** #108-9 / Fred Argoff, Penthouse L. 1170 Ocean Pkwy., Brooklyn NY 11250-4060 / trade or \$10 for four issues / quarterly / At last! The issue delayed by coronavirus – the print shop was closed – is before us. As ever, nifty photos of Brooklyn sights, from pastoral idylls to factory ruins, Brooklyn history, items from its inexhaustible lexicon, regrettable fashions therein viewed. I love the lady painting the projected highwater marks – should the oceans rise – all over the city. #109 opens with a reminiscence on early issues that must be familiar to every fan-ed; I have file copies of each of my fanzines going back to 1969. Unlike Fred, I don't find re-reading pleasurable; his zines are good, he says, but mine are awful, *I* say. Anyway, this *Brooklyn!* shows off, through photos, some of the emptier sites around the borough, evocative and sometimes quite soulful.

* **Captain Flashback** #s 20-21 / Andy Hooper & Carrie Root, 11032 30th Ave. NE, Seattle WA 98125 / fanmailaph@aol.com / *eFanzines.com* / A zine for the Turbo-Charged Party Animal Amateur Press Association, light-hearted but, as usual for a Hooper-zine, informative and skillful. (Hooper is one of the best sercon writers going). In both of these issues Andy continues his appreciations of TV horror movie hosts; I wonder if he ever encountered the late Sid Noel, the glorious New Orleans icon known as Morgus the Magnificent. He appeared at Nolacon II and asked me for a copy of my program book! In both numbers Hooper provides keys to the hilarious interlinos in the previous issue, and reprints of fine articles by great fan writers (Mae Strelkov, Ned Brooks' friend), John D. Berry on rich brown (who let me republish some stuff in early *Challengers*) and in #21, a piece by Robert Bloch from 1958 – a treasure.

Never forgetting that this is an apazine first and a perzine second, he comments on mailings of the Turbo-Charged etc. APA, but also remembering that others read *Captain Flashback*, he chimes in with enthralling personal natter, on birds, otters and anything else that meets his eye.

* **Christian*New Age Quarterly** Vol. 24 No. 3+ and #4 / Catherine Groves, P.O. Box 276, Clifton NJ 070150276 / 4/year, \$12.50/year / Robert Arias' reprinted article distinguishing faith from belief, and the editor's ruminations on it, is the focus of this wise and sensible journal, which asks questions and suggests answers SF, being a genre of physical reality, seldom considers. Recalling the excellence of *A Case of Conscience* and *A Canticle for Leibowitz*, and the influence religion plays in novels like *Davy*, perhaps it should. Arias' story of his birth-damaged diabetic brother – very reminiscent here of Cynthia Snowden, my neighbor lost to Katrina– carries literary power much science fiction sorely lacks. The Autumn 2020 issue again tackles serious theological issues as they affect real people, the difference between punitive – and therefore false – Christianity and the compassionate real McCoy, and even *Star Trek:TNG*, through one of its finest episodes, the Hugo-winning “The Inner Light”. *Very* worthwhile publication.

* **Claims Department** #29 / Chris Garcia / Journeyplanet@gmail.com / eFanzines / Magnificent survey of abstract impressionists by the astonishing Garcia, whose interest in fine arts comes as a complete surprise; I thought his appreciation of aesthetics extended no further than the WWF. After briefly going over such mentors as Ed Clark and Kenzo Okada, Chris presents work of his own – much as he does in this year's WOOF (see below). He's excellent, but as a word guy I think I most identify with his piece on the “Jackson Pollock/de Kooning room” at the Museum of Modern Art. Pollock makes me feel like dancing. Must view.

* **Comics Review** / Rick Norwood, Manuscript Press, P.O. Box 336, Mountain Home TN 37684 / f.norwood@att.net / \$19.95@ / A beautifully produced magazine featuring exceptional comics of the past, *Mandrake, Rich O'Shay, Steve Roper, Drago, Modesty Blaise* – usually including the full ongoing stories. Among the talents on display: Burne Hogarth, Lee Falk, V. T. Hamlin (just *guess* what strip), Milton Caniff ... and many more. Yes, expensive, but a trove to treasure.

CounterClock / Wolf von Witting, *Dia dei Vanduzzi* 6/4, 33050 Bagnaria Arsa (Ud), Italia / wolfram1764@yahoo.se / No issues of this variegated and inventive genzine in 2020.

* **CyberCozen** Vol. XXXII, No. 08-09, August & September 2020 / Leybl Botwinik, leybl_botwinik@yahoo.com / Monthly publication of the Israeli Society for SF and Fantasy, full of short but nifty articles. This time, the zine reviews a Larry Niven/Brenda Cooper novel I was unfamiliar with, ruminates on alien invasion movies – the best, the first *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, of course – and compares 1965 with the present day. This latter piece quotes a guy saying that one can trace a direct line between Barry Goldwater and Trump, which is blisteringly unfair to Goldwater, who had a good heart and *meant* what he said. Links to articles on some strange subjects: should robots pay taxes? Underground bunker cities for the super-rich. The true age of the Moon. The September issue takes on more fascinating questions: whether 'Oumuamua, the elongated asteroid from beyond the Sol system, is or is not technological, NASA's rather desperate and desperately dumb quest to stop using “racist” names for celestial objects (an example: “Eskimo”), a review of a 1991 Stephen Baxter novel (he should have been Hugo-ed for *The Time Ships*), and ends with quotations from Ronald Reagan on the subject of alien life (!). The way he treated us Berkeley students, *we* were what he thought of as alien.

* **Dagon** #706 (final issue) / John Boardman, 2548 Carrington Way, Frederick MD 21702 / NEW ADDRESS / for Apa-Q and trade / Don't be fooled by the “final issue” notation; John is simply thinking of changing the name of his per- and apazine. Last year, he moved from his nursing home to Maryland to be near his daughter, who is – most heroically – typing it up from his dictation. (John suffers from macular degeneration.) He devotes most text here to family matters and interesting family history (dating

back to the 17th Century, although a note on an astronomical mistake made on *Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader?* is informative and diverting. What's the closest galaxy to our own? This former liberal firebrand throws in some folksongs, too. Damn! I wish I'd visited John in Orlando!

* **DASFax** August 2020 / Jeanne Jackson, 31 Rangeview Dr. Wheatridge, CO 80215 / DASFAEditor@HotMail.com or sourdough.jackson@comcast.net / Clubpub of the Denver SF group, ably edited for years by Jackson. Virtual clubsmanship still maintains, for which large chops to the Denver folk. Central to this issue, Jeanne's superb editorial on culture wars, the left's open and festering wound. George R.R. Martin, as on-line toastmaster of the Hugo awards, mispronounced some of the nominees' names, which offended some, and there has been a to-do. Jackson also opines on John W. Campbell (did I mention he once slept in *this very room*? I did? Several times? Okay), whether he qualifies as a fascist (as Jeanette Ng slandered) and whether his contributions to the field make up for his failure to agree with the abiding political consensus 50 years after his death. Jackson mentions her transgender past in defending her conclusion, "Thou shalt not annoy others, and thou shalt not be too easily annoyed." Damn straight.

* **De Profundis** #569 / Marty Cantor for LASFS, 11825 Gilmore St. #105, N Hollywood CA 91606 / martyhoohah@sbcglobal.net / www.lasfs.org. / \$1 for domestic mail / Same song, next verse: Marty is *still* looking for a replacement editor for the unofficial LASFS newszine – so far no takers. He promises to quit and return *De Prof* to the LASFS Board of Directors if no one antes up before the club finds a new permanent home. For now, he announces, LASFS has moved on-line, and although the Cream of Menace – "Minutes," get it? Me neither – are still informative, as members chime in with neat scientific news, they seem juiceless without the in-person camaraderie for which LASFS is known

* **The Drink Tank** #422 / Chris Garcia, Alissa McKersie, Chuck Surface, not "Surface" fergawdsakes / journeyplanet@gmail.com / eFanzines / Absolutely terrific issue of Chris' Hugo-winning netzine, always different issue-to-issue, concentrating this time on superhero teams. (I wanted to write – and gripe – about the *Flash/Green Lantern* team-ups, but my copies are swamped in storage, 1000 miles away.) Excellent pieces by Julian West, Garcia, Helena Nash, and others. For Our Favorite Guy, it is wonderful stuff, reminding me that my misspent nerdish youth reading comics and writing LOCs was not wasted. Highest praise. By the way, Chris mentions that the fires of summer caused his family to evacuate from their home, but apparently his fears of losing their house were thwarted, and it survived. *whew*

* **Ethel the Aardvark** #204 / LynC, lyn100@optushome.com.au / MSFC, melbsfclub@yahoo.com.au / eFanzines / Clubzine of the Melbourne SF Club. That's Melbourne, Australia, not the Florida city a few miles south on I-95. It's croggling to think that we here suffer from the same quarantine as folks in the antipodes, but this issue's editorial begins with just such concerns. IS Zoom in their future? After reviews of anime, business notes crowd in; hmm, if I have my time zone/date line understanding correct, their Annual General Meeting is going on even as I type! After more business stuff and a short lettercol, *Ethel* mourns Merv Binns, a founding member, with a sad cartoon.

* **Event Horizon** September 2020/ John Thiel, 30 N. 19th St., Lafayette IN 47904 / kinethiel@comcast.net / eFanzines / Formerly known as *The PDF Dragon*. Excellent color artwork fills much of John's zine of fan-wrought prose and poetry, some good, some not-so in this critic's eyes; as if my policy, I won't comment on them here. Very handsome artwork, I repeat.

* **Fadeaway** #64 / Bob Jennings, 29 Whiting Rd., Oxford, MA 01540-2035 / fabficbks@aol.com / \$25/6 issues / Bittersweet it is to see an atypical Steve Stiles cover on Bob's genzine: it seems to show Arnold S atop a motorcycle too small for him, a demon looming, and little trace of Stiles' humor. But the bitterness comes, of course, from the loss of that great fan artist. (Bob never got to meet him; I did, and consider myself lucky.) Explaining that the COVID quarantine has wildly enriched his book business, Jennings begs forgiveness for his apparent lassitude in producing fanac. Forgivable. Envidable. Follows a long piece on the comics industry – disturbing news on DC distribution – leading into Bob's lifelong relationship with "illustrated panel literature." Good, thoughtful fanzine reviews follow; I do believe Bob is the best

fanzine critic working these days. After misspelling “flagrant” in an anti-Trump headline, Jennings presents a very cool reminiscence of reading past by Dale Nelson – delightful titles – and a grand piece on *The Fly* movies by our SFPA brother, Tom Feller. An excellent lettercol segues us to a bacover by Dan Carroll, a terrific artist Bob used to showcase all the time. More Dan! And remember, Bob: fanzines will get you through times of no money better than money will get you through times of no fanzines.

* **Far Journeys** Vol. 1 No. 2 / Justin E.A. Busch, 308 Prince St. #422, St. Paul MN 55101 / t.u. or \$1.40 U.S. postage on s.a.s.e.) / This is a very impressive sercon journal, published “triannually” (doesn’t that mean every three years?), impeccably reproduced on heavy stock. This issue centers a cool interview with fan artist Ken Fletcher – very familiar from my years in comics fandom – coupled with a good deal of his charming dunny animal art. The editor’s article on rats and mice in SF may not tickle one’s funny bone, but it’s informative and fun. One remembers the *juvenilia* of Norman Lindsay (our visit to his house/studio was the pinnacle of our 2003 DUFF trip) as well as acres of kiddy cartoons. H.G. Wells’ predictions on the fabulous future of 1971 are revealed; he got *some* things right. Very happy to see *The Comet*, the Scienceers’ earlier-than-early fanzine (90 years ago!), brought forth; Julie Schwartz let me xerox his copy of the first issue. Justin’s second “Fantastiquiz” dares us to match the big-name pro writer with the zine he produced in his youth. Hey, is that sercon? I care not: excellent second verse. Busch tells me he’s handling fanzine reviews for the NFFF (see *Tightbeam*), so let’s bury him in paper and pixel.

* **File:770** / Mike Glycer, 1507½ S. Sixth Ave., Arcadia CA 91006 / mikeglyer@cs.com / News, interviews, features – all with depth and, with contributors like John Hertz, literacy. A blog these days, but no less essential for that. I call it one of SFdom’s two *essential* fanzines (the other is *The Zine Dump Ansible*) and once you read it, you’ll see why. Indispensable.

* **Films Fantastic** 11 / Eric Jamborsky, mrsolo1@comcast.net / The N3F’s Film Bureau publishes this zine, this time devoted to the silent flick, *Outward Bound*. I cheer Eric for focusing on a movie so obscure. Jamborsky seems to know his stuff; I hope he keeps his eye on films unfamiliar. Again, this zine isn’t posted on eFanzines. The Neffers should see to that.

Fornax / Charles Rector, crector@gmx.com NOTE CORRECT E-DRESS

Instant Message / NESFA, P.O. Box 809. Framingham MA 01701-0809 / info@nesfa.org / Monthly newsletter of the New England SF Association, the most business-like and widest-ranging SF club in America. Apparently a victim of the virus, let’s hope for only the time being.

Ionisphere / John Thiel, 30 N. 19th Street, Lafayette, Indiana 47904 / kinethiel@comcast.net / The official publication of the National Fantasy Fan Federation Fan-Pro Coordinating Bureau. A while back, John explained his misspelled title: “the aim is imaginative rather than scientific.” Point taken.

* **iOTA** #17 / Leigh Edmonds, leighedmonds01@gmail.com / “This little efanzone is produced as a progress report on my project to research and write a history of Australian fandom, focusing on the period between 1956 and 1975. iOTA is a research tool and document, containing some of the material and thoughts that will be used in writing the history. It is also a place where I publish bits and pieces of the writing and art from Australia’s fannish past to help introduce you to the rich vein of material that previous generations of Australian fans have left us.” From the author’s mouth to your eyes! Surely it hasn’t been > two years since the last issue of iOTA, but if Leigh says so ... After a reminiscence of Merv Binns, Leigh allows that the COVID quarantine has given him more time to concentrate on his fannish project, then lists and explains the five ages of Australian fandom (which look like *six* to me, but who am I to argue?) and reprints a 1953 (!) survey of Tasmanian fandom and another historical zine from Don Tuck and a meeting announcement from Binns from the fifties. Leigh’s project is going to *soar* – let’s hope there’s Ditmar Award recognition awaiting him.

* **JoMP Jr.** #37 / Richard Dengrove, 2651 Arlington Dr. #302, Alexandria VA 22306 / richd22426@aol.com / I've known Rich D for decades and still don't understand the difference between *JOMP* and its *Jr.* No matter. Though Rich's writing seems a little slapdash, the three essays in this issue are backed by excellent research and deal with fascinating subjects: Magic in the 17th Century Vatican, crazy sculptor Stanislaw Szukalski and witchcraft in the Ozark Mountains. Good lettercol.

* **Journey Planet** 50 / James Bacon, Chris Garcia, Pádraig Ó Méalóid, Chuck Serface / eFanzines and journeyplanet@gmail.com / TZD isn't the only fanzine celebrating its 50th issue. Here is a huge issue of the last non-blog Hugo-winner, almost 200 pages, dedicated to the British war comic, *Battle Picture Weekly*. Paul Trimble is a guest editor; he bought the first issue of *BPW* 45 years ago and has followed it assiduously ever since. He pens a fine appreciation of the artist Carlos Ezquerra. John Vaughan's interview with writer Pat Mills and the many following portraits of the artists responsible makes me wish further that the subject comics had been available Stateside. From the many appreciations printed here, the comic is a worthy companion to our own *Our Army at War*.

* **Lofgeornost** #140 / Fred Lerner, 81 Worcester Ave., White River Junction VT 05001 fred@fred-lerner.org / FAPA and eFanzines / Polymathematical and always fascinating, Fred's per- and FAPAZine addresses the many subjects attracting his interest, and they are many indeed. This time, he touches on Talmudic torts ("You must not remain indifferent"). As a lawyer and a Christian, I know nothing about the Talmud, although its study should certainly be a part of any legal curriculum. Is fascinating. Now, *TZD* asks its readers, what could be more distant in subject from the Talmud than the discovery and settlement of the Pacific islands? Doesn't stop Fred, he hits the topic in Well, "Topics", and does the same with the question of animal rights, lightning bugs (the most divine of creatures), before turning his zine over to his correspondents, some as curious and coherent as he. I, personally, rejoice that we share a love for Travis McGee.

* **MarkTime** 133 / Mark Strickert, PO Box 1171, Rialto CA 92377 / busnrail@yahoo.com / trade, e-mail / \$2, trade, LOC / Mark and his family face the challenge of a vacation in times of COVID, driving hither and thither around California. They visited some cool sites, many familiar, others not; I don't envy their passage through those mountain roads, but there's no denying the glory of the scenery. Both Strickert adults can now claim they've visited every California county, 58 in all. In my day we lived in Mojave, Rosamond, Riverside, Sacramento, Walnut Creek, and I resided in Berkeley. Surely that's a *few* counties.

* **MT Void** Vol. 39, No. 12 #2137 / Mark & Evelyn C. Leeper, leepers@optonline.net / <http://leepers.us/mtvoid/> / free subs via email / NOTE CORRECT INFO / Every week a new edition of *MT Void* appears in subscribers' inboxes, and I strongly, strongly recommend readers join their number. The Leepers are excellent writers with broad interests within the field, and fill their zine with entertaining and readable – and varied – content. In this particular issue from late September, for instance, Mark mulls *The Creature from the Black Lagoon* and Evelyn visits Jean Cocteau's *Beauty and the Beast*. Both films strike vivid memories for me. I was terrified of the *Black Lagoon* trailer as a whelp, awed by its 3-D effects when I finally viewed it in its intended form, amused when it inspired *The Shape of Water*, an Oscar-winning film. I first saw *Belle et Bête* at the 1976 Rivercon/DeepSouthCon, one of fandom's great events for me (I mean, *Muhammed Ali* was at the hotel). The lettercol looks back at a previous topic, Infomercials, which issue also covered this year's NASFiC and *The African Queen* (the actual boat is on view in the Florida Keys, and can be rented out). A contributor's long review of the TV series *Dark* graces an issue from August; Mark talked about kosher food earlier that month. What's next? Subscribe and we'll both know!

* **My Back Pages** #24 / Rich Lynch, P.O. Box 3120, Gaithersburg MD 20885 / rw_lynch@yahoo.com / Again the erstwhile editor of *Mimosa*, winner of – what was it? Six? – Hugo Awards, reprints entertaining natter of every sort from his various publications over the years, Lush illustrations depict such varied locales as Ghent, Urbana IL, Brussels, Paris and Cooperstown (he's almost as excited to visit

the Baseball Hall of Fame as he is the Louvre). His articles are rich (hahaha) in information as well as description and best of all, unlike me, he doesn't lay on the emoting. Lynch's humor is dry, his writing is crisp, and the zine is ever-illuminating. In addition to travelogs, he also reviews a production of *Sweeney Todd* – high on almost everyone's list of favorite musicals – mourns Steve Stiles, as do we all – and curses the quarantine.

* **The National Fantasy Fan** Vol. 79 No. 8, August 2020 / George Phillies, see below / The National Fantasy Fan Federation business-oriented zine, listing the group's multitudinous bureaus and providing articles and updates from several. Jon Swartz, as usual, brings forth a good sercon article on the field, this time dealing with *Don Winslow of the Navy*, a newspaper strip from days of yore, and, in red, the annual N3F Short Story contest is announced.

* **The N3F Review of Books** August 2020 / George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill, Worcester MA 01609 / phillies@4liberty.net / The N3F's reviewzine, many novels reviewed by divers hands. The reviews vary in quality but none are grievous; plenty are quite sharp. I looked up from the notice for Tim Powers' *Alternate Routes* to the book itself, waiting on a shelf, and resolve to regard it soon.

* **Nice Distinctions** 33 / Arthur D. Hlavaty, 205 Valentine St., Yonkers NY 10704-1814 / hlavaty@panix.com / First issue of Arthur's perzine in three years, and his wit and commentary has been royally missed. Leading off with a review of Farah Mendlesohn's *The Pleasant Profession of Robert A. Heinlein*, robbed of a deserved Hugo by Jeanette Ng's anti-Campbell rant, which – without mentioning Ng by name – Arthur seems next to address. On he goes to discuss golf, the Yankees, the college admissions scandal, Leo Durocher, Harlan and other lost icons, and closes with a righteous call to vote Democratic. Master of the zinger, Arthur is back, and good.

* **OASFiS Event Horizon** Vol. 33 Nos. 3-4 #392-3 / Juan Sanmiguel, P.O. Box 323, Goldenrod FL 32733-0323 / sanmiguel@earthlink.net / \$12/year, includes Orlando club membership / Reflections on the virtual Worldcon by the editor, who expresses approval of the Best Novel Hugo winner (*A Memory Called Empire* by Arkady Martine) and lists the various rocket honorees. The Retro-Hugos went to all sorts of nobodies: Leigh Brackett, Ted Sturgeon, Ray Bradbury, Clifford D. Simak, H.P. Lovecraft, Forry Ackerman, John W. Campbell, Fritz Leiber ... Funny/cynical how fandom can heap honor upon JWCJr. and HPL on one hand, yet condemn them as racist or fascist on the other. Bah phooey. Also given, the World Fantasy Award nominees, the Emmy nominees with SFnal connections. I'll let Juan speak for the attest issue ,, "In this issue we have the following: Ignyte Award Finalists, Letters of Comments, Review of *Sputnik*, review of *Superman: The Man of Tomorrow*." The Ignyte Awards are presented by the staff of *FIYAH* Magazine, and cover excellence and "inclusivity" in the genre.

* **Opuntia** #481-3 / Dale Speirs, opuntia57@hotmail.com / Says Dale on eFanzines: "Opuntia began in March 1991 as an SF and Canadian fanhistory zine and has evolved over its decades of monthly publication. It now concentrates on reviews of SF and mystery, economics, history, and vignettes of life in Calgary. No fiction or poetry, but does include zine reviews other than those posted on eFanzines." I must say that since Speirs brought his zine onto the Net and away from paper, it has grown into one of fandom's most aesthetic; the photos here of the Bow River rapids and environs are gorgeous. He follows the portfolio with a detailed account of the virtual Worldcon and the panels he "attended," following that with reviews of radio fiction based in *haunted houses*. "Seen in the Literature" brings us science and more science, as if Dale was taking *The Martian*'s advice to heart. In addition to more Bow River photos, #482 reviews "cozy mysteries," Miss Marple-type puzzlers, often featuring pet cats. The cover photo of #483, taken at the Glenmore Reservoir, is stunningly beautiful. Inside, a tree wrapped in knitting, more philately, old-time radio (*The Third Man*), time travel, dinosaurs ... each piece part of an ongoing series of excellent studies. Prolific and eclectic zine, *Opuntia*. Approximately biweekly; one wonders if its title cactus breeds as quickly and in such variety.

* **Origin** 30-1 / N3F c/o John Thiel, 30 N. 19th Street, Lafayette, Indiana 47904, kinethiel@mymetronet.net / E-mailed / “Official Organ of the National Fantasy Fan Federation’s History and Research Bureau,” whose purpose is to keep N3F members “aware of their antecedents.” I hope their antecedents proofread their fanzine covers better than the editors did this one: “Publicon of the Naonal Fantasy Fan Federon.” Wow. Fortunately, the illos on this August issue are ace stuff – beautiful color cover and interiors, and the text is quite good. The articles rub as close to controversy as any you’ll find in N3F zines – Judy Carroll’s plaint against rough language in SF films, Jeffrey Redmond piece on sexuality in the genre – usually pretty pubescent in tone. It touches on works ranging from *Gulliver’s Travels* and C.L. Moore’s “Shambleau” to *Stranger* and *The Lovers* – and even later fiction dealing with “gender fluidity.” Huge topic here. N3F historian Jon Swartz’ piece on early Avon paperbacks is richly illustrated with the company’s gojuss cover art. John Thiel pens a short appreciation of an epic fanzine, *Hyphen*, and even throws in a couple of poems. #31, the September 2020 issue, begins with a complaint from the editor about accessing Fanac.org; apparently e-mails addressed therto receive few replies. (I just wait for the next time Joe & Edie drop by for Thai.) N3F historian Jon Swartz brightens my day with photos and reviews of early Bantam paperbacks – oh, that Richard Powers art! Jeffrey Redmond translates the difficult term “scientific romance” and Thiel ambitiously tackles the beginnings of SF and its fandom.

* **Pablo Lennis** #391-4, June-Sept. 2020 / John Thiel, see *Origin* / “This mag combines fantasy with culture” boasts the line beneath the evocative and sexy illo on the June issue; by August John’s saying “This issue’s fare is the sort of thing that man has waited for, and never yet caught sight of.” Staggering syntax but a worthy goal. In July Thiel calls George Wells a *spoon*. No one would argue with his logic. PL has been undergoing a metamorphosis of sorts; the usual fare of fan fiction and poetry continues, but articles and reflections on fandom have been coming forth of late. For instance, there’s a good article by Jeffrey Redmond on artificial intelligence, a solid column by Joe Napolitano, and some insightful zine reviews.

* **Portable Storage #4** / William Breiding, 3507 N. Santa Rita Ave. #1, Tucson AZ 85719 / portablezine@gmail.com / No lie: when I found *PS*’ envelope in our mailbox, and saw who it was from, I called Rosy to watch me open it, She had to see how professional a fanzine can be. “Huge, beautiful, rich and heartfelt” – the terms I used to describe Breiding’s amazing publication in the past still apply. Professionally printed and bound, with a witty (of course) wraparound color cover by Brad Foster and excellent b&w interiors, the zine is a physical marvel – only first-class program books and the print editions of *SF Commentary* match it. Unlike last issue, based around San Francisco, this number seems to have no unifying theme. Andy Hooper’s “Paper Lives” is a reflection on great fanzines of the far past. Gary Hubbard’s “The Cracked Eye” recalls the ‘tween-hood joy of sneaking peeks at his daddy’s *Confidentials* and Tijuana Bibles. (My dad had nothing as salacious; just John D. MacDonald pbs – which I ended up collecting.) Peter Young of *The White Notebooks* reviews Jeff Vandermeer’s *Annihilation* trilogy. Weird illos. Bruce Townley takes us through the latest pages of his “Journal of the Plague Year”. We have a better time than he does, thanks to the semi-weekly Canaverl launches. Cheryl Cline takes us along on a voyage of discovery of sword and sorcery, “The Road to Cimmeria”. And there is much more. *First-rate fan writing in a better-than-first-rate package.*

* **Post WWII Aussie Fandom, the Internet and ASFR** / Bill Wright, eFanzines / “This is a potted history of science fiction; as a literary form” prepped for a 2018 convention panel. Bill was our able and generous DUFF guide in 2003 and won the delegacy himself several years later; we used to see *Interstellar Ramjet Scoop*, his ANZAPazine regularly, but not for several years.

* **Purrsonal Mewsings #74** / R-Laurraine Tutihasi, P.O. Box 5323, Oracle AZ 85623-5323 / Laurraine@mac.com / t.u., \$5, Stipple-Apa / Mike Weasner’s photos of astronomical wonders or cats usually front Laurraine’s per- and apazine, but this issue features abstract art by Al Sirois. Cats and stars get their due within, as well as some scary shots of the plumes from local wildfires. Laurraine reviews a virtual con, two Hugo nominees, mc’s to Stipple-Apa and letters from readers. Tim Lane is

among them, as are David Bratman, John Hertz, and of course Lloyd Penney. The key to this issue, as to many produced in the spring, is *perseverance*. Yes, we will survive!

* **Ray X X-Rayer** #150-1 / Ray Palmer, raypalmx@gmail.com / e-mail & eFanzines / Two articles fill issue #150 of a zine that continues to win me over with its sardonic wit. After an attractive dead-aliens cover – that sounds strange – Ray takes on our societal embrasure of crazy conspiracies with deadpan seriousness; I can't wait to see how he reacts to Dr. Stella Immanuel and Q-Anon. John Purcell, who has been spreading his wealth generously of late, provides a spiffy article on the auction at his recent Corflu. He sold Andy Hooper a set of old false teeth! The next issue, #151, is “a simple one, no fancy graphics and layout,” as he's “sick of complexity.” Nevertheless he brings out a piece on the hideous Boogaloo movement and misremembers Patricia Neal's fate in *The Day the Earth Stood Still*. I do like his imagining of what Trump would say to Gort when asked to save the world.

Scientifiction / John L. Coker III, 4813 Lighthouse Rd., Orlando FL 32808 / jlcoker3@bellsouth.net / Quarterly / *The quarterly newszine of First Fandom, “the Dinosaurs of Science Fiction.” I'm a member!*

SF² Concatenation / office@concatenation.org / eFanzines / **“The Science Fact & Science Fiction Concatenation** is the seasonal review of science fact and science fiction. Formerly the (1987-1997) annual (paper) magazine distributed at the British national SF convention and European SF convention. Today its three principal internet editions come out in the northern hemisphere's academic year: spring, summer and autumn.” Loads of links to most anything you can think of in the field.

* **SF Commentary** #102-103/ Bruce Gillespie, 5 Howard Street, Greensborough, VIC 3088, Australia / Phone: 61-3-9435 7786 / Preferred means of distribution: PDF file from <http://efanzines.com> / email: gandc001@bigpond.com / Says Gillespie: “SF Commentary 102, July 2020, 80 pp./140 pp. is now available from <http://efanzines.com> in either the print/portrait version - SFC102P.pdf - or the landscape/widescreen version - SFC102L.PDF . Coverage of the best of 2019 (The Final Year?) by Bruce Gillespie, Jennifer Bryce, David Grigg, Perry Middlemiss, and Colin Steele, plus Colin's regular column, lots of personal stuff (including a tribute to Merv Binns), a viral poem from Henry Gasko, and covers by Ditmar (Dick Jenssen) and Denny Marshall.” Issue #103 is a tribute to John Bangsund, the magnificent Aussie fan who shed this mortal coil in August. Photos of and articles by the gent accompany reminiscences and regrets by his many mates, including Julian Warner, Stephanie Holt and Bruce himself. All do the man honor.

Skyliner / May 2020 / Alan White, Alan@pixelmotel.com / *You open an Alan White zine on eFanzines.com expecting startling color and imagery – and you always score.*

Stapledon Sphere / Reece Morehead, skywise@bellsouth.net / *Newsletter of the Middle Tennessee Science Fiction Society (aka the Nashville sf club)/ E-mailed / Has Reece's usual collection of cool links come forth this year?*

* **This Here ...** #32-33 / Nic Farey, 2657 Rungsted Street, Las Vegas NV 89142 / fareynic@gmail.com / Beginning with opprobrium for Jerry “Killer” Kaufman for reasons I can't make out (not that reasons are needed; I wish Jerry would publish more – miss that cool paper) and continuing with criticism of the idea of “herd immunity” to COVID-19, Nic's stream-of-semi-consciousness turns to music, and the work of blues guitarist Dom Flemins, whom Nic once taxi'd to the airport and whose play with the Carolina Chocolate Drops apparently bears listening. (Now *that* is a Farey-esque sentence!) A long piece on footy by David Hodson brings sensual memories of the game Alan Stewart, Craig Hilton and I watched in 2003, a splendid example of athletic rope-a-dope: the cool air, the exhilarating breadth of the stadium, the joyful “Row, row, row” of the team anthem and the bellow of the fan behind us. “COME ON SAMMY!” I miss downunder. Great lettercol, especially the long letter from Leigh Edmonds. The long discourses are spiffy, but my favored part of this issue is the section of short takes on topics bouncing from here to

wherever which, except for the photo of a lovely lady named Sarah Jill Ward, closes the issue. #33 opens with fannish chatter – a party held in the teeth of COVID-19 – and ends up with more debate on the FAAn Awards. My last sentence there makes me sound impatient with the topic, and I am not; how fairly we applaud our own is always of interest to me. David Hodson’s “Footy” column deals with much more than sports, including a good notice of a book on Marvel, but there is plenty of roundball natter here, too. The lettercol is so lively and enjoyable that it defies belief. Except for our loyal Lloyd (Penney), no one writes to *Spartacus* ...

* **Tightbeam** #312 / National Fantasy Fan Federation c/o George Phillies, 48 Hancock Hill Drive, Worcester, MA 01609. E-mail phillies@4liberty.net; Jon Swartz jon_swartz@1hotmail.com / E-mailed / The genzine from the N3F, “approximately monthly,” September issue. Very nice cover by Art Editor Angela Scott; she provides all but the bacover art for this issue. Says Phillies in his editorial: “This issue includes an experiment – a review of a political science fiction work, where by political I mean not Honor Harrington but contemporary semi-propaganda, which good or evil being a matter of taste.” These days it’s hard *not* to think of political good and evil, but as George says, many fans are sick of politics. The work in question is the anthology *Alternate Truths*, deals with Trump, and reviewer Chris Nuttall finds virtue and vice in it – Trump is presented as a caricature of evil, a vice, but some of the stories are good, an obvious virtue. I loathe Trump like I loathe COVID – no, worse – so I’m too biased to judge. That review comes near the end of the zine, and before it Neffers take on anime, SF recipes (fish chowder: DROOL), the PC problem with the new, female *Doctor Who*, a nice piece on Anthony Boucher, whom I was honored to meet a year before his death, Straczynski’s autobio, and much else. As you can see, *Tightbeam* actually throws a fairly *wide* beam over the field, and I am actually quite impressed

* **Tommyworld** #80-1 / 12 Haypark Ave., Belfast BT7 3FG, Northern Ireland / tommy@tommyworld.net / These tiny issues center entirely on football – the civilized kind, not the American – and I can only identify with the mad enthusiasm a fan brings to his team. GEAUX SAINTS!

Trap Door / Robert Lichtman, 11037 Broadway Terrace, Oakland CA 94611-1948 / trapdoor@rocketmail.com / No issues of this nostalgic genzine since December 2018, but TD is such a grand work that it merits mention anytime. Again, best wishes to Robert.

* **Vanamonde** Nos. 1389-93 / John Hertz, 236 So. Coronado St. #409, LA CA 90057 / John’s one-sheet Apa-L zine, running weekly since the dawn of time. These issues date back to April, near the beginning of the quarantine, but if there’s an Apa-L, there will be a *Vanamonde*. And like these issues, they will contain not only comments on the previous disty but a page or a paragraph on a topic of John’s interest – which could be anything. John is to thank for alerting me to Tim Kirk’s availability for the WOOF cover (see below), for encouragement throughout the collation experience, and as ever, for *Vanamonde*. Hey, one of these issues has some nice *haiku*!

* **Vita Transplantare** Vol. 1 #9 / John Nielsen Hall / eFanzines / “A diary and a journal of opinion, speculation and diatribes as pertaining to the thought process of John Nielsen Hall,” this is the July issue “of the plague year of 2020.” The issues debated in this zine of LOCs and responses are almost all British, This issue begins with a LOC from Claire, dealing at first with British politics, baffling to this yank. Taking one line out of context: “I know perfectly well that I am on the losing side, in terms of our fandom’s particular political orientation” leads me to wonder, ... *Does* fandom have a *second* side in this current *American* melee? I haven’t read a single word supporting Trump in any fanzine I’ve seen. This is heartening. I wouldn’t trust anyone who *didn’t* despise putting kids in cages to frighten away immigrants. Lest *VT* sound entirely Brit-oriented, Murray Moore and the editor discuss magnificent *Fargo*’s David Thewlis season and Nic Farey mentions the weird *Perry Mason* miniseries (not bad, though I scoff at making Della Street and Hamilton Burger gay, and I believe in Raymond Burr). An inviting diary of sorts finishes matters, with “A Big Thank You to all my readers and Loccers, even that miserable git in a Haringey attic.”

* **Warp #108 (The “Hope Springs Eternal” Issue)** / Cathy Palmer-Lister, via MonSFFA, c/o Sylvain St-Pierre, 4456 Boul. Ste-Rose, Laval, Quebec, Canada H7R 1Y6 / reachable through http://www.monsffa.ca/?page_id=6915 / Says La Cathy: “NB: During the pandemic, membership fees for MonSFFA have been suspended. In other words, this is a good time to join us! :-). Cover art by Lindsay Brown and Keith Braithwaite: This month’s cover depicts a mythological Gryphon, representing strength and courage, locked in mortal combat with “The COVID Creature,” a monstrous personification of the coronavirus that has wrought havoc worldwide this year! “Stay safe my friends,” says artist Lindsay Brown. “Until we meet again.” Lindsay came up with the concept for our cover, and produced the artwork. The rainbow surrounding the battling beasts represents our hopes for an end to this coronavirus crisis and looks forward to a brighter future for us all. Colourization and title design by Keith Braithwaite.” The cover Cathy goes on about is indeed striking, befitting one of the few club-based genzines I know of. The club spirit reigneth despite COVID; we have nostalgia (a *Warp* reviewed from 1992), a chapter in a *Trek* pastiche, a brief chapter in what seems to be a radio play, reviews of Straczynski’s *Becoming Superman*, a zombie trilogy and the Hugo nominees for Best Novella, a strong criticism of Jeannette Ng’s denunciation of John W. Campbell and the Hugo given that spiel. Keith Braithwaite describes the summer’s virtual meetings of the Montreal group, including – in place of the annual BBQ – shots of the various pits and aprons normally used. MonSFFA abides!

The White Notebooks / Pete Young, 136/200 Emerald Hill Village, Soi 6, Hua Hin, Prachuap Khiri Khan 77110, Thailand / peteyoung.uk@gmail.com / editorial whim / Superb perzine with strong sercon values. Highly recommended.

* **Wild Ideas** #s 1-3 / Henry Grynnssten, grynnssten@hotmail.com / A new zine with an interesting emphasis – says Henry, “In *Wild Ideas*, I plan to present ideas on the fringes of science, philosophy, and science fiction. They will be speculative, but hopefully not fall in the conspiracy theory camp – I have no patience with conspiracy theories. That is, all the ideas presented will be grounded in some generally recognized facts, and will at least in principle be testable and falsifiable... In this issue, I answer the first of the questions enumerated. I will prove to you – prove to you – that God exists.” Equating, it seems, the idea of a deity with “the meme sphere,” “the sum and totality of all memes, of all information made up of language and culture,” Grynnssten wails heartily into the question. (I’m reminded of characters played by von Sydow and another actor having a fist fight on the problem in *Wild Strawberries*.) In the second issue, he takes on the “old masters of painting,” Vermeer, Durer and others, and whether or not they had individual genius or were merely sharp technicians. I’ve read analysis of *Mona Lisa* that wonders the same thing. In #3 – after a spiffy cover – he asks “Can Mona Lisa’s smile be explained?” The prevailing explanation seems to be that the lady was simply in a good mood. Wandering far beyond this idea, Grynnssten mentions several theories, with asides on the murder of Swedish prime minister Olof Palme and conspiracies adherent thereto. Hopefully Rosy and I will meet *Mona* person-to-paint-on-poplar-wood next September, and can evaluate her grin face to face. Quite a debut, *Wild Ideas* ... I know from personal experience how one’s bold ambitions for one’s fanzine can send one banging into the shoals of reality and readability, but no one can deny Henry’s skill with an argument.

* **W.O.O.F. 2020** / me and many / eFanzines / A virtual Worldcon like CoNZealand merits a virtual collation of the Worldcon Order of Fan-Eds, and I drew the job. Of all my fanac in this COVID year, this WOOF mailing is probably the most satisfying. It’s the longest such disty ever (167 pages), with the most contributors – many new to the cause – and the most variety. *And* the most color: Chris Garcia showcases recent paintings – “Chris Garcia: abstract impressionist”; the mind goes wugga-wugga, but the work is *pretty damn good*. I can’t go into detail, no matter how proud I am of this WOOF: for space reasons, I must shorten my own review. *Read it!* Who’s up for editing 2021?

Did I miss anyone? Great apologies! Another issue by year’s end ... and this is one year for which we need an end!

THREE LOCS and A NOTICE!

Lloyd Penney
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CANADA M9C 2B2

Many thanks for *The Zine Dump* 49...you're putting them out fast and furiously. Now to see if I can get a response out to you before I fall over from fatigue. It's been a busy and hot day today.

I can still say that I do get most of the zines you list here, but the word "most" has lost some of its value. I am finding it more difficult to keep up with fannish output of zines, so there are zines I have found out about, but am finding that what I get is enough for my own workload. I think some are angry with me over that, but perhaps I should ask for more money up front. Yes, we all do this for free, & they get my gist.

It is so unfortunate that the RIP section on *Ansible* seems to get larger just about every issue. One terrible day, it may overwhelm both sides of the single sheet, and we will all be lesser for the loss of our peers and friends.

Graeme Cameron may be the new *BCSFazine* editor, but he is also the old editor, too. He is kind enough to remind me that a loc is due, and I don't mind whipping up one as he needs it. I think I have been receiving *Ethel the Aardvark* from the Melbourne club since issue 53 or so, and seeing issue 1 is some fun. By all means, join First Fandom! [*I'm there!*] Yvonne and I seem to be its only Canadian members at this time.

You mention that I have won the Best Letterhack FAAn Awards...I have won it five time, but have never been present when it was awarded to me. It is quite possible those days are done, but I am quite pleased with the harvest of egoboo I have enjoyed over the years.

Nic Farey
fareynic@gmail.com

As always, Guy, thanks for *TZD*, which despite the seemingly inevitable shoddy proofreading and fact-checking remains a most valuable resource, and I'm pleased to observe that you intend to increase its frequency.

'As will not surprise you, I'd like to make some remarks on your FAAn award (and bits of TAFF) editorial, which, while a competent expression of your views (aligning with my own in several respects) nevertheless requires some context. Well, actually, quite a *lot* of context.

The influence of the "Corflu Cult" (as E B Frohvet derisively called it) on either of the FAAn awards or TAFF is highly overstated, and in the case of TAFF I'd go so far as to suggest it's practically non-existent, more so since the creation of a Corflu-specific fund (the Corflu Fifty). My admittedly subjective analysis of the last 40 TAFF winners came up with 9 who might conceivably be deemed "Corflu cultists," 12 "maybes" and 19 clearly not, and now you can all go off and have endless fun trying to figure which was which.

The original FAAn awards were given in the years 1975-80, and were only seized by Corflu in their 1995 revival, perhaps predictably a typical [Arnie] Katzian "grand gesture" for the first time Las Vegas hosted the event. Since then it has been a fair criticism to an extent that "the same names keep cropping up", and it's also the case that there's often a small cadre of voters who consistently participate whose perceived "influence" belies their actual numbers. It's more accurate to say that those motivated to vote may tend to favor those "same names" (and titles), which in of itself is not the real issue. As you correctly point out, the response to the "same old, same old" criticism is to get a broader constituency motivated and interested in the awards. The prime example here has to be *Alexiad*, which as you know I share your admiration for, and yet the many inhabitants of the loccol there exhibit resolute disinterest in voting for the FAAns. Joe and Lisa, of course, don't *need* awards to tell them they're doing a good zine; I continue to maintain that reader response is our currency, and they have that in spades, perhaps a "cult" of their own? Another perennially ignored title is *Opuntia*, which despite its admirable longevity and consistency usually fails to register on voters' ballots (though it always appears on mine).

However, it's also pertinent to point out that in many previous years (the rule of LAWS notwithstanding) those "same names" are inarguably some of the top practitioners of our hobby. Mark Plummer, Claire Brialey, Andy Hooper, the late Steve Stiles, Robert Lichtman and Dan Steffan (to name

some of them) didn't suddenly turn to shit or disappear from one year to the next, so as dully inevitable as it might seem, they remain in constant contention.

The fanzine Faniverse, like the rest of it, has been quite Balkanized, and there's no doubt there are those who would prefer it to stay that way.

The other notion that I'd like to disabuse you of is that Corflu and the FAAns are somehow synonymous and part of a mean-spirited conspiracy to deny Taral (eg) a trophy of whatever worth. Analysis of the ballots has shown that Corflu convention members **do not vote** in the awards in significant numbers, the "turnout" of that group has been around 20%, which is risible.

Like you, I'm hoping that the 2021 awards will benefit from increased participation, and I thank you for your own efforts and contribution to the discussion.

Good arrers!

Many thanks for the word on the FAAns – a subject you bring up often in your own zines. You cheer me on the topic immensely. Every one of my readers is encouraged: vote in the FAAns!

Catherine Groves

info@christiuannewage.com

Hi Guy,

I just want to thank you for a much needed laugh when I read you nuked your credit card. Not exactly the best way to sanitize. I usually use soap and water or occasionally (if I'm out) hand sanitizer. It sometimes erases my signature, but I don't have a melted mess in my microwave. :)

Stay safe, Catherine

And just in case you haven't seen it, be sure to check out fanac.org for updates on Joe Siclari and Edie Stern's magnificent fanzine project. Sez they:

"All the fanzines ... can be found in our 'available fanzine' list at http://fanac.org/fanzines/Classic_Fanzines.html. If you can't find something, please let me know at fanac@fanac.org .

"If you saw our last FANAC Update, you know that we now have arranged to put up publications from First Fandom. Today, we started with the first of these (and there are many more to come). There are two titles - *First Fandom Report* and *ScientiFiction* and they'll all be found under http://fanac.org/fanzines/First_Fandom_Publications/. Today we put up 8 issues, along with a membership application from 1992.

"And finally, replaced all of Tucker's *Bloomington News Letters* and *Science Fiction News Letters* with searchable PDFs. They have all been moved into a single directory as well, and you can find them at http://fanac.org/fanzines/Bloomington_News_Letter/. We have been replacing larger fanzines with PDFs to save a little space on the server. Joe is now moving to OCR the newsletters, even though they are smaller, so that anyone looking for information on a particular person or event can make use of the search. Slowly, we'll get there. OCR and the decision to combine the directories for easier access by Joe Siclari.

"Send all comments to Joe Siclari and Edie Stern, jsiclari@gmail.com & estern7770@gmail.com."



One more time, an appeal outside of fandom but as sincere as an old man can make it: *Vote Blue*. Make Buster's smile a *real* one.