

Ansible 21

Editor: Dave Langford
22 Northumberland Avenue
Reading, Berks RG2 7PW
United Kingdom

*** MILFORD (UK) WRITERS' CONFERENCE 1981: GEOFF RYMAN ***

The Yooping Pricket Ate A Rizzarded Snig And Passed A Collet From Its Hypural

Imagine something on your plate that you would not wish to step in if you saw it on the pavement, and which requires only diced carrot to look like a special effect for Ken Russell's *The Devils*: A Milford breakfast. Grey runny powdered egg on greasy bread. God, the food was terrible: too little, too early, breakfast at nine, supper at six. The feeling of debilitation was compounded by the bar arrangements—we just signed for drinks and served ourselves any time day or night, leaching out any remaining trace of vitamins with alternating doses of coffee and booze. The Milford sensation is hollow-eyed, jaded exhaustion from too many late nights, too many words read, too much talk, too much booze and not enough to eat.

There were 120,000 words to read this year—and they really did have to be read at least twice. The standard of criticism was dauntingly high. Flaws in logic, incorrect word usage, gaps in characterization, and mistakes in tone were pounced upon and thoroughly chewed over for the benefit of the writers. My own 10,000 word chunk was admirably digested. But what I really found valuable about Milford was the reading and the criticizing. I found I was out of touch with my own reactions to what I read. I'd shrug off my own boredom during the boring bits, or ignore my own squinting confusion when the logic was faulty. The opportunity to criticize a story while there was still a chance for it to have constructive effect focussed the mind wonderfully. I had to notice I was bored and come up with a reason why. One thing: I'll never be quite so tolerant of my own stuff again. But enough of that.

George RR Martin, fresh from two Hugos in one year, spent about £50 on the video machine, topping Chris Priest's high score last year of £20. Malcolm Edwards and Chris Evans played something called Macho Pool, the main object of which seemed to be to bash hell out of the balls, preferably against the walls or floor. Edwards played with the cue between his legs, but Evans was clear winner, reducing the tip of his cue to a splintered pulp with one masterful shot. Fans of Milford pool will be distressed to learn that the Cowper Tappens were finally discovered by the Management—those little holes will have to be left unblocked from now on. Someone invented, or simply remembered, a cocktail called the Death Wish, which may or may not have included Guinness and Pernod among its ingredients. Lisa Tuttle, revealing the raunchy Texas barfly aspect of her personality, did a truly staggering imitation of a large mouthed frog that should have dislocated her jaw. It was also Lisa who slid out of her chair and collapsed onto the floor in a kind of giggling pudding during Call My Bluff. Something about native drums being stitched together out of hymens, with only plastic replicas being now available. Call My Bluff is the perfect Milford game—all those writers digging up ludicrous words or making up even more ludicrous definitions for them. Cambism was defined as cannibalism with your mouth full. A Caccagogue is nothing to do with a synagogue or a demagogue, but is an ointment of alum and honey used to cure constipation. A Pricket was defined as an obnoxious guardsman... and round and round. Garry Kilworth, however, expended his literary talents on this little piece: *There was a sea dev. on parole/Who went looking for a Black Hole/He'd been sucked before/By both ends of a whore/But he wanted to be swallowed whole.*

In his youth, Rob Holdstock used to paste a little white dot onto the bonnet of his car in order, he told us, to seduce women. Unfortunately, he couldn't remember how on earth a little white dot on the bonnet of his car was any use whatever for that particular purpose. He did, however, in one story session, apprise Marianne Leconte of the obvious. In her story a woman backs away from a strange growth and bumps into a man; the bump is described as being soft. Robert informed Marianne that if she backed into him,

"it wouldn't feel soft at all, I can tell you, it would be hard." Marianne, a woman of Gallic experience, agreed that it probably would. I contributed a blunder of my own while criticizing Pip Maddern's story about a crotchety, wrinkled old woman. "Pip," I said, "I get the feeling that this is you a couple of years on." That wasn't quite what I meant to say. It wasn't as bad as Dave Garnett, though, who started off on the same story with something like "The old bag doesn't half bang on." Explanations did not do much to muffle the blow. Dave Garnett, dead white of face, covered with lines like the glazing on old pottery, achieved distinction on several levels. First, he ate his appalling Milford apple pie with ketchup. Second, he was without doubt the most durable of the late-nighters, surviving the Edwards/Holdstock beer throwing and soda shooting match to be left drinking alone in the dark at 3am. Third, he was the most direct and honest of the critics: "I thought it was fucking awful," was one terse comment.

Things you wouldn't believe if you read them in a story department: Hazel Langford spent her time *knitting* a Klein bottle—a 3-dimensional object with only one surface. Pip and I tried to turn it inside out and it really did begin to get smaller and smaller in a rather unsettling way. Patrice Duvic presented everyone with brandy after the reading of his excellent, amusing story. Kev Smith and Andrew Stephenson drove me nuts with a stupid game in which I was supposed to decode a 'digital' number code that used tooth-picks. It turned out I should have counted the number of fingers on the table instead.

Very suddenly, it seemed, everything was over. We all hung around the bar the last day, paying our bills, feeling a bit let down. Lisa Tuttle came in bemused, having found a pair of green rabbit ears attached to what looked like ladies' knicker elastic in her room. Cambrian Chris Evans put them on and stuck out his teeth for a photo. "Is that what you call a Welsh Rabbit?" asked George Martin. And somehow that was that. Kisses on cheeks, shaking of hands, writing of addresses on little bits of paper that would soon be lost. Groups of people began to stagger away. Chris Evans fell asleep on Marianne's maternal lap as Kev Smith drove us home. Oh yes, there was this fellow called Dave Langford there as well, but most of you know about him. (GR)

*** DENVENTION II: 39th WORLDCON, SEPTEMBER 3-7 1981 ***

JOYCE SCRIVNER: Denvention was disorganized, though bits of the con were relaxing and/or fun. Good fannish panels even if they *did* cancel the one on the 1980s. DUFF made \$500 and TAFF \$300 in auctions etc. Sandy Sanderson & his wife (Secretary & Treasurer of the London 1957 Worldcon) showed up from Long Island gaffiation for the first time in 20 years: talk about ancient fans reincarnating. Barry Longyear told tales of how he'd been insulted by pro friends who were sure he was out to take over SFWA. Why he would want to, no-one ever thought... Jeff Duntemann, dual Hugo nominee this year, is in bad odour with SFWA/Locus due to his promotion of his stories in General Technics fanzines: the low ballot totals don't/didn't help. (16 nominations were enough to get you on the short-story shortlist: Duntemann was there twice, apparently to the annoyance of the Denvention committee since local author Ed Bryant was thus squeezed out.) Bruce Pelz will bust a gut if someone doesn't finish a TAFF report soon... (Ahem. Change of subject—)

THE HUGO AWARDS & SUCHLIKE: NOVEL *The Snow Queen*/Joan Vinge; NOVELLA 'Lost Dorsai'/Gordon Dickson; NOVELLETTE 'The Cloak & the Staff'/Dickson; SHORT 'Grotto of the Dancing Deer'/Clifford Simak; NONFICTION BOOK *Cosmos*/Carl Sagan (who did not deign to send anyone to collect it); PRO EDITOR Edward Ferman; PRO ARTIST Michael Whelan; FANZINE *Locus*; FANWRITER Susan Wood; FANARTIST Victoria Poyser; DRAMATIC PRESENTATION *The Empire Strikes Back*. (Gorblimey. I'll just reiterate my grumble about how *Timescape* has now won the Nebula, BSFA Award, John W Campbell Memorial Award, Australian Ditmar, etc, without even making the Hugo shortlist; similar comments apply to universal runner-up *Shadow of the Torturer*; and again we see the ancient principle of giving the GOH—Simak—an award whether or not he's written anything of discernible merit. *Locus* has printed details of the byzantine vote-counting system, with such remarks as that 'the Disch

story was popular enough to come close to winning, but not popular enough for second or third place'. No comments.) JWC 'NEW WRITER' AWARD: Somtow Sucharitkul; GANDALF 'GRAND MASTER OF FANTASY': Catherine L. Moore. (The Gandalf had been excluded from the Hugo Ballot, but at the awards ceremony someone called Killus leapt onto the stage and invited the audience to award the thing to GoH Moore by democratically clapping their hands. They did. Gosh wow.)

WORLDCON SITE SELECTION: The voting went Baltimore 916, Australia 523, Copenhagen 188, No Preference 37, plus piffle to a total of 1679 ballots. Baltimore announced that their worldcon would be called ConStellation, with GoH John Brunner and FGoH Dave 'Anyone who likes *New Worlds* isn't a member of the human race' Kyle. Address: Box 1046, Baltimore, MD 21203, USA. \$10 supp \$15 att to end of year, then \$10 & \$20 to June 1982. Cheques to 41st World SF Convention...

Such overwhelming defeat of foreign bids is pretty discouraging, of course. A Britain in '84 bid masterminded by Malcolm Edwards was kept dark until after the '83 results above were known (in order not to sabotage Australia): as a result, certain UK fans present at Denvention cleverly announced that since they knew nothing of this bid, it was therefore a mere hoax and in any case a rotten idea. Since Australia is bouncing back with a Melbourne in '85 bid, the odds are that Britain will graciously withdraw and urge its supporters to vote for the highly deserving Australian bid (newsletter from David Grigg, 1556 Main Rd, Research, Vic 3095, Australia: subscriptions taken in lieu of pre-supp memberships). '85 opposition is rumoured to be Albuquerque, Louisville, Minneapolis, Madison and Toronto ("This is virtually the one thing that Glicksohn & I both agree on—that there is no group competent to run a Worldcon in Toronto fandom at the moment..."—Taral). And New York, Philadelphia & Atlanta in '86. I can't cope.

*** ALMOST CREDIBLE RUMOURS from MARTIN MORSE WOOSTER ***

On no account should anybody read this despicable stuff. I've done some digging, and have come up with what is the most probable explanation of the state of the 'Carl Sagan' novel *Contact*. The novel, as by Carl Sagan, has not yet been written. Sagan did indeed sign for a \$2,000,000 advance but this is contingent on the production of an outline acceptable to Simon & Schuster. The actual writer of the novel, Sagan's wife Ann Druyan, has been cruelly described as 'one of the more prominent of the New York plagiarists, specializing in well-written treatments of other people's books.' It has even been wickedly suggested that the outlines Druyan submits are such blatant plagiarisms that knowledgeable subeditors bounce the outlines and inform the authors whom Druyan has stolen from. Among the books she would have liked to use were Gunn's *The Listeners* and Spinrad's *Songs From The Stars*. All Sagan has been paid is about \$250,000; it is uncertain when, if ever, the remainder will be paid. I have heard that when senior editors called in Sagan for a conference about the outline, his cosmic mind soared above trivial technical points; he apparently wished to avoid discussion of the novel and to discourse about *Cosmos* instead. "It was obvious," I was told, "that Sagan had never read the outline."

It should be noted that neither Dave Hartwell nor his staff at Timescape have anything to do with Carl Cosmos; Sagan has been left in the hands of others more used to books that sell, um, billions and billions of copies. I've also learned that no authors have actually filed suit against Sagan: no manuscript as yet exists for a writer to establish a claim against.

You can't possibly object to Baltimore winning the Worldcon, what with a British author as Guest of Hono(ur). But I'm sure *Ansible* readers would like to know exactly why John Brunner was chosen. "Brunner is high-tech," explained chair Michael Walsh. Brunner a techie? "You see," Walsh said, "he fits our theme." What theme was that? "Well, um, we all have to live in the future, see, and Brunner helps describe the future for us!" Oh.

(Martin Morse Wooster)

*** HILLCON (BENELUXCON 1981): JOSEPH NICHOLAS ***

This was held in Rotterdam over the weekend of 28-30 August: GoHs were Jack Vance, Frederik Pohl (attending the WORLD SF meeting held simultaneously) and Kate Wilhelm, with Damon Knight, Chris Priest, Lisa Tuttle, Rob Holdstock and US ex-

patriate (living in Amsterdam) Rachel Pollack also present: plus Dutch authors Wim Gijsen and Tais Teng, editors/translators Anne-Marie Kindt and Werner Fuchs, and many others. It was apparently the largest Beneluxcon to date: during his Saturday stint on the registrations desk Roelof Goudriaan signed in enough walk-ins to take the total over 600—more than the hotel could comfortably accommodate, the committee not having expected such popularity. But it was successful nevertheless: even with only a meagre knowledge of Dutch (no matter; everyone spoke some English) I thoroughly enjoyed myself, and could only wish that more than a few British fans had been present...

The programme seemed pretty varied, though I only attended the English-language items—apart from the opening address by the Dutch Minister of Culture, which was filmed by a Flemish TV crew putting together a programme about the con (including an interview with Chris Priest, who related the astonishing story of how he'd been paid for it before he'd even said a word). A far cry from the treatment usually accorded to UK Eastercons... Jack Vance, not noted for saying anything about his relationship to SF, unbent to give us his conception of the literature's nature and purpose which, incredibly, included the statement that it had sprung full-blown from the head of Hugo Gernsback in 1926; at which point I left. Kate Wilhelm predictably praised the increasing importance of women in SF; well and good, up to a point, but the point was passed about halfway through with some remarks about how we wouldn't have had the 60s New Wave if it hadn't been for women SF writers, all so fatuous (and so at odds with the facts) as to stagger credulity. This reverse chauvinism was on full display in the immediately preceding panel 'SF Writing By Women', whose only sensible comment was the outraged remark by Marion Zimmer Bradley (on her way back to the USA after being GoH in Stuttgart the weekend before) that it was ridiculous to lump all women SF writers together just because they were all women who happened to write SF. There were items on collaborations, workshoping, and authors reading from their works (English and Dutch); the Dutch-language sessions dealt with Dutch fandom and fantasy, editing, the future of the space programme, and Celtic influences on mediaeval 'SF' (which, being both $\frac{1}{2}$ -Celt—you didn't know?—and interested in ancient/mediaeval history, I wish I could have understood). Films included *Flash Gordon*, *The Final Programme*, *Close Encounters* and the Italian *Star Wars* rip-off *Star Crash* (featuring Caroline Munro in not very much), plus continuous video presentation of an amateur Dutch film whose sets, modelwork and effects were quite impressive but whose script, from the English summary pinned to the display boards, was unfortunately banal and vonDänikenish. The book room had Ken Slater with a stock of imported paperbacks, and the few Dutch firms who publish SF: their novels may have a lower print-run and a consequently higher price than ours, but the standard of printing and binding was much better... though most of their cover art seemed to have been looted from UK paperbacks and applied to theirs regardless of the original title. Most of the SF was translations; the feeling about Dutch SF authors seems to be what the Australians call 'cultural cringe', meaning that it's no good if it wasn't written in English: Wim Gijsen's latest novel has been hailed as so good it could have been written by an American(!). Taste is a variable thing: I remain amazed at the number of Dutch fans who read not only the latest from Priest, Wilhelm, Holdstock *et al.*, but also (God help us) the Perry Rhodan weekly magazines.

My only real grouch was the programme delays: despite 'multi-tracking' there was continuous slippage throughout the day, so that several items had to be cut short (paradoxically, others were allowed to overrun by anything up to half an hour)... But all the real action, of course, took place in the evenings, in the bar—where ordering a beer gives you a simple choice between Heineken, Heineken and Heineken—and at the room parties—at one of which, so Wim van der Bospoort informed me next morning, I had *twice* fallen asleep (but the Dutch are as yet unversed in the mystique of felt pen decoration, so there). It was a good convention: my first Continental one, and certainly not my last. The rest of you should give some thought to investigating them as well... (Joseph Nicholas)

TAFF TALK TEN *latest TAFF data from Dave Langford, 22 Northumberland Avenue,*
***** *Reading, Berks, RG2 7PW, UK. (European administrator, etc.)*

The 1981-2 TAFF Race is now under way, with candidates Rog Peyton and Kevin Smith contending savagely. Which is why I don't need to slip in the usual tedious definition of TAFF for newcomers: every copy of this *TT* should be accompanied by a ballot form containing all that stuff, plus urges to vote for one or the other candidate (or Hold Over Funds if you feel that way), plus a genuine Mistake. In a burst of over-enthusiasm good old Peter Weston described Rog as being chairman of the 1977 Eastercon: wrong! it was Pauline Dugate (since Pauline Morgan). The ballots have been distributed via the BSFA and the Maules' *Nabu 11* (many thanks), and are also expected to go out with the BSFG newsletter, *DNQ*, *File 770* and other jolly fanzines: thanks in advance. Litho/electrostencil masters are available.

Greg Pickersgill's Bane: Greg's displeasure with TAFF (on such grounds as that 'anyone can afford to go to America who really wants to') was discussed in *TT9*, and provoked a few letters. Quoth JOSEPH NICHOLAS: "You and [Greg] are both completely wrong about his point that anyone, or almost anyone, can now afford to fly to the States under their own steam. At present, yes, perhaps—but the remaining months of 1981 are likely to be the last chance for anyone to fly the Atlantic for under £100, because the era of cheap transatlantic air travel is now definitely drawing to a close... The 'culprit' is our very own Freddie Laker, who's been losing money hand over fist since he introduced the Skytrain service... has had to put some of his 'surplus' aircraft up for sale, with rumours of ticket price increases to follow. Such will immediately take the downward pressure off the other carriers, allowing them to raise their prices; and not before time, since at present nobody makes a profit on the North Atlantic... Which means, of course, that from next year TAFF will become just as necessary (and hopefully just as important) as it was in previous years." Must admit I'd temporarily lost touch with the horrid Real World in this area, boss. Meanwhile we have AVEDON CAROL: "Pickersgill is right! I can afford to go to America any time I want to! Who needs TAFF? Not me—why, I've been to America thousands of times, and it's no different than being at home." No doubt. TAFF was debated at Silicon too, the most persistent voice (Keith Oborn's) urging that no race should be held until a sufficiency of candidates had made their eagerness known. (Wouldn't have made any difference to the current race: never seen so many bloody candidates, only they all melted away as the moment of truth and the Actual Ballot Form approached.)

Misc: *Toll-Ddu 19* is still available from me at 50p-for-TAFF, with the first instalment of my own TAFF report. *Boonfark 5* may be had for \$2.50 or the usual from [COA] Dan Steffan, 1010 N Tuckahoe St, Falls Church, VA 22046, USA: this contains the second bit. The third is in *Nabu 11*, 50p-for-TAFF from Ian Maule, 5 Beaconsfield Rd, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 3HY; the fourth should be in *Warhoon 30* from Richard Bergeron, Box 5989, Old San Juan, Puerto Rico 00905, USA; and the fifth in *Tappen 3* from Malcolm Edwards, 28 Duckett Rd, London, N4 1BN. Don't worry if it all seems too much effort: there'll be a collected volume one day, Mr Pelz.

Meanwhile, both TAFF administrators have been *compromised!* Rashly I promised to nominate a certain lady (mentioned above) for TAFF when my term was over, and this has been prematurely revealed in *File 770* to many a veiled sneer from editor Mike Glycer. Rashly Stu Shiffman collaborated on a cartoon with Messrs Barker and Bell, and this now evilly appears on the back of *Out of the Blue*, with the sinister addition of a Canfield For TAFF slogan. Where will it all end? Hopelessly compromised though they may seem, the administrators still maintain their utter infallibility, impartiality and all that stuff. (Mine's a pint, candidates.)

TaffTalkContinued: My thanks to those who've already voted for TAFF, often with astonishingly huge donations—full list next year. Meanwhile, a last legacy from SEACON '79: a few copies each of *Mood 70* (fanthology ed. Kev Smith, 64pp), *Fan-artist Scrapbook* (portfolio ed. Eve Harvey, 50pp), *The Enchanted Duplicator* (Willis/Shaw ill. Carol Gregory, 43pp) and the glossy *Seacon Programme Book* (ed. Char-nocks, 136pp). All £1.50/\$3 post free from me. Thanks, Seacon—and John & Eve.

GUFF will not bring an Australian to Channelcon '82 (shortage of time and thus candidates): plans are to run a northbound trip to the '83 Eastercon, there being now no pressure to schedule a British trip to an Australian worldcon that year.

DUFF: deadlines for the Oz→US 1983 trip extended through lack of candidates...

SERIOUS AND CONSTRUCTIVE Shall we have an update on those new SF mags mentioned last issue? *Extro* has had the wonkiest career, the famed first issue slipping from mid-Sept to mid-Nov with an accompanying change of distributors, and now being expected in mid-January. New editorial address c/o Paul Campbell, 27 Cardigan Dr, Belfast, BT14 6LX. Internal disputes as to who owns *Extro*, who edits it, and where all the advertising money has gone, make the power structure a little unclear: Paul Campbell and Robert Allen are bossmen with shadowy figures Langford and Randal Flynn lurking somewhere or other. (Dorothy Davies is no longer connected with the mag.). Expected price: 75p... *Interzone* has done little overt except to provoke some ire at the revelation that it's being funded at least in part by a Yorcon II profit said to be in four figures. Alan Dorey mentions that substantial TAFF and GUFF donations will also be made, and that Channelcon declined the offer of financial support. Pressed to reveal appalling secrets in an exclusive telephone interview, David Pringle had no hesitation in saying "The magazine is still firmly on course"... *OMNI Book of the Future*: fiction rates in the region £20-£40/thou were hinted at by exciting new *BotF* deputy editor Peter Nicholls, who has replaced boring old Langford and Rohan as Fan Closest To The Heart Of Things. (The non-deputy editor is one Jack Schofield, who has a vast knowledge of SF owing to having once written a thesis on *A Voyage to Arcturus*.) Our Peter also revealed that issue 2 was likely to contain a Reader Questionnaire asking such things as "Do you want SF in future issues?", the will of the public being taken as law. Issue 1, incidentally, contains an Asimov reprint of sufficient awfulness to be a likely influence on the answers... Meanwhile, dummy copies of both *BotF* and *Extro* are even now inundating the world's wastebaskets. Onward, with *New Style* magazine... but perhaps you hadn't heard of that one? Neither had I, yet Simon Ounsley informs me that my *Ad Astra* columns have been mysteriously resurfacing in this 'romantic' monthly magazine. When quizzed about this, *AA* editor James Manning hastily paid some overdue money but otherwise failed to comment. Extended subscriptions for anyone sending in a *New Style* containing work by me (even knowing the address would be a start)... MAXIM JAKUBOWSKI's sf/music anthology, turned out into the snow by cruel Sir Jasper at Virgin, contains millions of famous names (Sladek, Watson, Brunner, Roberts, Moorcock, Silverberg etc) yet is so far homeless: Virgin, meanwhile, have been having fun sending letters to contributors saying "it was all Jakubowski's fault, we desperately wanted to publish your story but he wouldn't let us"---a statement somewhat at variance with reality... IAN WATSON's sf/art anthology *Pictures at an Exhibition* is being released at Cymrucon (mid-Nov): it contains many illustrations by filthy pro Pete Lyon and has been set on a word-processor devoid of italics (so HOW is EMPHASIS indicated in the TEXT? You MAY WELL ask)... J. MIKE BARR, even more famous filthy pro artist and anagram, has been doubling his cartoon output for various comic papers, and may shortly have to resign from the BSFA... CHRIS PRIEST, for reasons I cannot reveal, now loathes the BBC with an inexpressible loathing....

∇∇∇∇∇∇∇∇∇∇∇∇∇∇∇∇∇∇∇∇ 1981-82 T A F F B a l l o t ∇∇∇∇∇∇∇∇∇∇∇∇∇∇∇∇∇∇∇∇

What is TAFF? The Transatlantic Fan Fund was created in 1953 for the purpose of providing funds to bring well-known and popular fans across the Atlantic. Since that time, TAFF has regularly sent North American fans to European conventions and European fans to North American conventions. TAFF exists solely through the support of fandom. The candidates are voted for by interested fans all over the world, and each vote is accompanied by a donation of not less than 50 pence (\$1.00). These votes, and the continued interest and generosity of fandom, are what make TAFF possible.

Who may vote? Voting is open to anyone who was active in fandom (clubs, fan-zines, conventions, etc.) prior to May 1980, and who contributes at least 50 pence (\$1.00) to the fund. Contributions in excess of the minimum will be gratefully accepted. Only one vote per person is allowed—no proxy votes—and you *must* sign your ballot. Details of voting will be kept secret; write-ins are permitted. Money orders, postal orders and cheques should be made payable not to TAFF but to the appropriate administrator.

Deadline Votes must reach the administrators by 17 April 1982.

Voting details TAFF uses the Australian system, which guarantees an automatic run-off and a majority win. You rank the candidates in the exact order you wish to vote. If the leading first-place candidate does not get a majority, the first-place votes of the lowest-ranking candidate are dropped and the second-place votes on those ballots are counted. This process goes on until one candidate has a majority. It is therefore *important* to vote for second and third place on your ballot. It is also a waste of time to put any name in more than one place.

Hold Over Funds This choice, similar to 'No Award' in Hugo balloting, gives the voter the chance to vote for no TAFF trip should the candidates not appeal to him/her, or if he/she feels that TAFF should slow down its trips. 'Hold Over Funds' may be voted for in any position you wish.

Donations TAFF needs continuous donations of money, and material to be auctioned, in order to exist. If you are ineligible to vote, or do not feel qualified to vote, why not donate anyway? Just as important as donations is publicity—in fanzines, letters, convention booklets, and by word of mouth—to increase voter participation.

Candidates Each candidate has promised—barring Acts of God—to travel to the 1982 Chicago Worldcon if elected, and has posted bond and provided signed nominations and a platform, which are reproduced overleaf along with the ballot.

Send ballots and contributions to:

European Administrator

Dave Langford
22 Northumberland Avenue
Reading, Berks. RG2 7PW
U.K.

North American Administrator

Stu Shiffman
19 Broadway Terrace (#10)
New York, NY 10040
U.S.A.

* Reproductions of this form are encouraged provided the text is reproduced *
* verbatim. Anyone reproducing it should substitute their own name(s) below: *
* This version produced by Dave Langford *

▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽ T A F F P l a t f o r m s ▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽

ROG PEYTON "Again, I boggle at his staying-power! Chairman of three Novacons, 1977 Eastercon, Brum Group (4 years) and veteran of umpteen other committees, Rog pre-dated me into fandom yet continues stronger than ever. He's a Publishing Giant—BSFA *Vector*, *Tangent* for 2 years, newsletters, and some superb programme books. His 'Andromeda' is Britain's top SF bookshop; No.1 auctioneer at every con, he's into films, fancy-dress, art shows—My God, he's done *everything* (including calling Harlan in the middle of the night)! Unquestionably our most active fan, Rog already has lots of US friends and richly deserves the opportunity to make many more!" (Peter Weston)

NOMINATED BY: Jack Chalker, Malcolm Edwards, Jan Howard Finder, Bob Shaw and Peter Weston.

KEVIN SMITH Kevin Smith has been around in fandom for some nine years, producing fanzines (*Drilkjis* with Dave Langford; *Dot*), writing for fanzines (*Nabu*, *Space Junk*, and others), chairing some British conventions (Skycon, Faancon 8), falling over at most others, editing an anthology of British fanwriting for Seacon '79 (*Mood 70*), devising the world famous Surrey Limpwrist constitution, and downing the requisite amount of alcoholic beverages. He currently edits *Vector*, the critical journal of the BSFA, has clean personal habits, and wants to see America and meet American fans before it is too late (ra ra Ronnie Raygun!). All excellent qualities for a TAFF representative and administrator.

NOMINATED BY: Avedon Carol, Eve Harvey, Terry Hughes, Rob Jackson and Ian Maule.

▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽▽

I VOTE FOR (list 1, 2, 3):—
_____ Rog Peyton
_____ Kevin Smith
_____ Hold Over Funds

Signature: _____

Name and Address: _____

Enclosed is _____ as a contribution to TAFF (cheques etc. payable to Dave Langford or Stu Shiffman, please, and *not* to 'TAFF'). If you think your name may not be known to the administrators, then in order to qualify for voting please give the name and address of a fan or fan group to whom you are well known:—

1981 FANZINE ACTIVITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS POLL (FAAns): BALLOT
For the best fanac of 1980

Send this ballot to:

Gary Farber
4227 8th Ave NE
Seattle, WA 98105, USA

Name

Address

Ballot must be received by Gary no later than DECEMBER 5, 1981. If you wish a direct report of the results, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope (or International Reply Coupon) with your ballot.

CREDENTIALS: To establish your eligibility to vote in this poll, please give specific examples of your published 1980 work in fanzines. Unlike previous years, work in any one area qualifies you to vote in all areas.

FANZINES:

Since there's no voting fee this year, voters outside the USA may send their ballots directly to Gary. Contributions, of course, are still welcome.

WRITING:

ART:

LOCs (at least two, published in different zines):

The FAAn Awards were created in 1974 to encourage excellence within the tradition of fanzine fandom, which considers fannish fans to be those devotees of book and magazine SF who produce or contribute to fanzines dealing with that subject, or with other such fans, often doing so in a way that evinces that indefinable sense of humour and community known as 'fannishness'. Such fanzines do not pay contributors, and are published for enjoyment to which financial gain is incidental. The FAAns are peer-voted, in support of the belief that the active practitioners of an art or craft are the best judges of excellence in that art or craft, and of the further belief that recognition from fellow practitioners in one's field is the kind most valued by creative people. Therefore, the FAAn awards are deliberately limited to those fans and zines defined, as above, as 'fannish'---not pretending to be a universal award or claiming to replace existing awards and polls. It is intended to reflect the views of and be limited in particular to those fannish fans who were creatively active during the year in question. If you were such a fan during 1980, we hope you will participate by voting and helping to distribute the ballots.

In all descriptions of categories and voting credentials on this ballot, the words 'fan' and 'fanzine' in all their forms refer to fannish fans and zines as defined above. The FAAn Award Committee (FAAnAC) has sole authority to rule on nominee and voter eligibility and all other matters pertaining to these awards. The top finishers in each category of the poll will receive an alabaster egg symbolic of egg o' bu (ie., egoboo) as described in Willis's and Shaw's The Enchanted Duplicator.

VOICES: You may make from 1 to 5 ranked votes in each category. Please skip any category in which you, although technically eligible, are not knowledgeable. Remember that the awards are for excellence in work done during 1980, and are not for career or cumulative achievement, or work in 1981. Votes for one's own work or zine will not be counted; you may vote for fans whose work appeared in your zine.

BEST FAN EDITOR

for all-round editing in total fan publishing output; may take into account more than one title.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____

BEST FAN ARTIST (HUMOROUS)

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____

BEST SINGLE ISSUE

for single all-round fanzine issue, including one-shots.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____

BEST FAN WRITER

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____

BEST FAN ARTIST (SERIOUS)

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____

BEST LOC WRITER

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____

THE FANZINE ACTIVITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS POLL COMMITTEE: One-third of the nine-member committee is elected each year for a three-year term. The current committee consists of Dave Langford, Jeanne Gomoll, Mike Glycer, Mike Glicksohn, Gary Farber, Bruce Pelz, Peter Roberts and Stu Shiffman. This year, Gary Farber, Stu Shiffman and Peter Roberts will step down in favour of three new members (unless re-elected) as chosen by the awards voters. Four new members will be chosen. You may nominate up to 6 of your fellow fanzine fans to places on the committee, in ranked order:

- 1. _____
- 3. _____
- 5. _____
- 2. _____
- 4. _____
- 6. _____

Are you willing to be on the FAAn Award Poll Committee? YES---() NO---()

COA MICHAEL ASHLEY, 86 St James Rd, Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 2DB [I have a mysterious note telling me to remind you of this home address: can't remember why] ...MIKE GLYER, 5828 Woodman Ave #2, Ven Nuys, CA 91401, USA...JOHN FAIREY, Clydack House, Queens Rd, Lydd, Kent...AL FITZPATRICK, Clear Lake Village #1601, 1243 Bay Area Blvd, Houston, TX 77058, USA...MARTIN HOARE & KATY McAULAY, 45 Tilehurst Rd, Reading, Berks, RG1 7TT...ROZ KAVENEY, 15 Muscott House, Whiston Rd, London E.2...IAN LIVINGSTONE, Games Workshop, 27/29 Sunbeam Rd, London, NW10 6JP...ANN LOOKER, 46 Bryn Rd, Brynmill, Swansea, W Glam, SA2 0AP...DAVE MONTGOMERY, 6 River Gdns, Purley, Reading, Berks, RG8 8BX...DAN STEFFAN [see *Taff Talk*] ...PASCAL THOMAS, 11 bis rue Vasco de Gama, 75015 PARIS, France...JOHN WILKES, 18a Ivel Gdns, Biggleswade, Beds, SG18 0AN...ROB & SHEILA HOLDSTOCK [see below].

CONS UNICON attendance ≈195 (50 less than 1980); the need to book facilities makes it likely that next Unicon will be in '83 rather than '82... BECCON: "there will not be a Beccon 2" (Jon Cowie)... NOVACON 11: even the BSFA has published this con's problems. Jean Frost asked to resign as registrations boss; boyfriend Chris Smith (chair of defunct Birmingham SF Film Soc) shouts abuse at nice Stan Eling and refuses to let him collect membership records; panic; *Ansible 20* to have featured invitation for you all to panic and write in with duplicate membership details; *Ansible* not told after all; Tim 'Judge Dredd' Stannard puts screws on Smith (whose obscure grudge apparently had to do with the BSFG's failure to offer massive financial aid to the doomed BSFFS/Filmcon); eleventh-hour rescue of records by Phill Probert (said to be the only BSFG member at whom Smith is not prone to shout abuse); BSFG magnanimously pays £90 Filmcon debts; Novacon saved; Smith threatens lawsuits for anyone (ie. Steve Green) saying that he lives with J. Frost (the address is but coincidence) or that there's not enough money to refund all Filmcon memberships; meanwhile, far to the south, Grand Metropolitan Hotels (owners of the Grand in Brum, where Filmcon would have taken place) become cagey about negotiations for an '83 Eastercon, at least temporarily: the moral is that any cancelled con is heap bad business for fandom at large... METROCON is the name of the Langford/KSmith/Jackson/Maule/Hoare/Harvey/Stewart/etc Eastercon '83 bid: the general venue should be sufficiently obvious... ALBACON II (rival bid) has put out a handsome flyer showing the hotel (Central, Glasgow); both are taking pre-supporting memberships at £1, and we hope to arrange that presupporters of the losing bid (~~Albacon II~~) will receive at least some discount on membership of the winning bid. Addresses: Metrocon, c/o 5 Beaconsfield Rd, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 3HY; Albacon II, c/o 1/R 39 Partickhill Rd, Glasgow, G11 5BY... NOVACON 12: plans to have this run from Leeds have seemingly been discarded... ANGLICON attendance was ≈45, rumours Chris Hughes: "Too many cons"... BALTIMORE WORLDCON '83: Avedon Carol promises "I'll do my best to create a place for 'our kind' [fanzine fans] at ConStellation, but it can't be guaranteed, and most future US Worldcons won't even have the facilities to *try* it"... EUROCON 82 date still not finalized by organizer Pascal Ducommun, thus delaying John Brunner's plans for millions of Brits to attend and win EUROCON 84 for the UK. Possible Eastercon/Eurocon 84 rivalry (hinted at last issue) will have to be resolved at the Channelcon business meeting: can't have someone winning the Eurocon bid in 82 only to be defeated as an Eastercon (current plans being to combine the two) at Eastercon 1983...

INFINITELY ROB & SHEILA HOLDSTOCK "are splitting up. No drama, no bad feeling,
IMPROBABLE no hostility... One of the more trivial things we are hoping can be accepted is that anyone who has a party etc. and would normally have invited us *both* can still do so; being in the same room together really *doesn't* induce in us the terrible need to rip out central heating pipes." (RPH) COAs to follow... VIDEO DISASTER: *L'Invasion des Bollardes Enormes*, John Collick's vast

video epic subtitled 'The Life & Times of D. West', was triumphantly completed and almost immediately stolen, along with Paul Oldroyd's (insured) video recorder, etc. Now we shall never see the D. West Vasectomy Scene, alas... KENN EADIE has been cordially invited to resign from the BSFA committee, having beaten all previous records by making himself universally unpopular in under 6 months... THE SFWA NEEDS YOU, says UK rep Ian Watson: prospective Nebula log-rollers (3 shorts or one novel sold) should send SAE for membership form to Bay House, Banbury Rd, Moreton Pinkney, nr Daventry, Northants, NN11 6SQ. We understand that the bug in the SFWA mailing-label system has been corrected, the computer records no longer being liable to be eaten by Somtow Sucharitkul's cat... HARLAN (yawn) ELLISON is suing Warren Publishing for ever such a lot, editor DuBay having ripped off 'A Boy & His Dog' in inadequate disguise... JOHN & MARJORIE BRUNNER would like all sf writers/editors/etc to sign an appeal calling for an end to the arms race: The Square House, Palmer St, S Petherton, Somerset... J.S. CAIRNS offers free mailing of material for "organizations that I admire" (100-odd copies is the figure mentioned): dunno who he mails it to, but try asking: 15 Brinkburn St, Sunderland; SR4 7RG... THE FAAN AWARDS are back, belatedly, with the British bugbear of voting fees gone at last: form enclosed if you can remember what was triffic in 1980. (I'll pass forms on if they're returned to me by 28 Nov)... BRIAN STABLEFORD is taking an evening class in SF every Monday night (7.30-9.30) at Reading U: rush along and learn all about the sociological import of E.E. Smith... DARK THEY WERE & GOLDEN EYED may have closed forever, but what is this rumour I hear that another Stokes SF enterprise may open in the USA?... DENVENTION attendance a piffling 3792, incidentally... BOOKER PRIZE not awarded to nasty SFish rubbish, as usual, though Priest's *Affirmation* made the shortlist of 12 while Thomas's *White Hotel* and Lessing's *Sirian Experiments* reached the final six. (One wonders whether winner Salman Rushdie [*Midnight's Children*] would have done as well had he taken John Bush's advice and let his first book *Grimus* be published as nasty SF: but he didn't, it wasn't, and it flopped hugely...). THE AFFIRMATION hasn't sold beyond its first edition (a lack of mighty-thewed barbarians and vast dragons being among alleged reasons for US SFBC rejection), and neither has the new Watson *Deathhunter*: indeed most UK authors are having a very thin time of it, again... NOT ONLY SNIDE BUT UNTRUTHFUL, says Free Space Society boss Andy Nimmo of my plug for him last issue: no doubt he'll say the same of the Glasgow Bob Shaw's insistence that no-one should send cash to Andy... 'ASTRAL' hardcore book and film emporia have been spotted by slumming Michael Ashley: "seems like West has finally got his cloven hoof into the Soho publishing scene"... COLIN GREENLAND has managed to hang on for another year as NELP/Foundation writer-in-residence and hopes to publish something real soon now, possibly in *Interzone*... YORCON II, men of their word, just sent a large TAFF donation... OLD NEWS: in 1980 Harlan E. foretold his bestsellerdom in '82, doubtless referring to *Blood's Rover* (B&HisD novelization, contract now cancelled by Ace for non-delivery). **STAMPS** Subscription rates 6/£1 UK, 5/£1 Europe, 4/£1 elsewhere. Labels: Keith Freeman.

HAZEL'S LANGUAGE LESSONS #13: 1bo

qkbbkba' handing child to another &
going off to work without
saying 'have newborn child to look
after (but cannot stay)'

ðlq' clay eaten by pregnant woman

ANSIBLE 21: 22 Northumberland Ave
Reading, Berkshire, RG2 7PW, U.K.

AIR MAIL PRINTED MATTER

***** 10
DICK BERGERON
BOX 5989
OLD SAN JUAN
PUERTO RICO 00905
U.S.A.

