



ASKANCE

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This time, proofreading services were not rendered by Katrina Templeton.

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member: FWA (since 2007!)

hemmed natterings

The TAFF 2017 race is on!

Indeed it is, and I am one of the three candidates vying to be this year's TAFF (Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund) representative to the 75th World Science Fiction Convention being held in Helsinki, Finland over the extended weekend of August 9-13, 2017. Even though the voting began in December of 2016, I wish to thank my nominators: from North America, David Thayer, Jacqueline Monahan, and Lloyd and Yvonne Penney; from Europe, Ro Nagey (UK - Wales) and Jim Mowatt (UK -England). When I first asked fans on both sides of the Atlantic for nominations, the response floored me: I had to decline almost a dozen people who were willing to do this, and for their support I am grateful and thank them all very, very much. It is quite humbling to get that kind of reaction, especially when I really didn't expect it. Should I get the nod, my hope is be a good little fan and try to meet as many fans in Europe as I possibly can while Valerie and I wend our way up to Helsinki.



At present, our plans are to spend a full month in Europe, flying from Houston to London in mid-July, spend probably two weeks in England (including a stay with Ro Nagy in Wales), then head over to France, Copenhagen, and possibly also Italy and Prague as we meander up to Helsinki. Another potential stop-over is St. Petersburg, Russia, or Tallinn, Estonia, but those depend on time and fundage. We shall see. In any event, the plan is to visit with fans and fan groups, so we have been researching science fiction and Steampunk events in Europe slated for July and August this year. Thus, if I get smacked with the TAFF magic wand, we are definitely going to have a nice European vacation – provided President Trump hasn't declared war on Europe by then.



I Have no Teeth, and I Must Eat

On the morning of January 25, 2017, I underwent major oral surgery to rip out what was left of my decrepit teeth – thanks to my father, I inherited what was called Week Teeth Syndrome, and it's too late to give those genes back – and a new full set of dentures put in. As I write this, that was 24 days ago. Yes, it was quite the ordeal, but as you have probably figured out by now, I survived, and in this issue there is my account of the entire process, complete with illustrations both real and imagined. This was something that had to be done sooner or later, and the upshot of it all is that at least I will have a dazzling smile while presenting the Fan Hugo Awards in Helsinki.

Final Goodbyes

The obituary section of David Langford's fanzine *Ansible* keeps getting longer, it seems. Sadly, this is a consequence of our living longer lives and sharing this world with people we admire, work beside, and love. One thing I have learned over the years – especially since turning 50 – is that a person needs to reach acceptance that all things on this earth have a beginning, middle, and end. I truly do mean everything, too: school, baseball games, the Stanley Cup playoffs, thunderstorms, a beautiful Spring day, a steak dinner, a career, concerts, oral surgery, fanzines, sex, and life itself.

So it also goes in fandom. Two recent deaths have been very personal, and I hope readers don't mind if I share memories of them here.



Sarah Prince (1954-2017)

Hearing of Sarah's sudden death from congestive heart failure was a real shocker, leaving me stunned and incredibly sad. I knew Sarah Prince very well when we both lived in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and were active in Minn-stf from the late 1970s on up through the 1980s. In this picture on the left, taken at a typical Minn-stf gathering, Sarah is standing on the left. FYI,

the other people here – left to right - are Curtis Hoffman, Steven Brust, myself, and Emma Bull.

Her fan activity was across the board: in addition to the local club, Sarah attended conventions, wrote for fanzines, was a member in APAs, and so forth. As an artist, she produced wonderful ceramics and contributed small filler art for my first fanzine, *This House*. She eventually moved to upstate New York, where she was an active member of the community, supporting animal and environmental rights. The Keene Valley, New York, newspaper ran a lovely obituary about Sarah, and there is a page remembering her on Facebook.

I remember Sarah as a quiet yet fun person, possessing a dry wit, and listening to her playing guitar and singing at Minicon and Minn-stf music parties. She was definitely a strong part of the fannish family, and I will miss her terribly. It is so sad to know she is gone.

Peter Weston (1943-2017)

When I attended Corflu Quire ten years ago, there were a lot of British fans in attendance that I had never personally met before, but knew them quite well through their fanzines. After all, this is the fanzine fan's annual convention, and since this particular one was a mere two hour drive from home, I just had to go. So it came to pass that I finally met the noted British fan historian, the eminent Peter Weston.

**Be sure to vote in the various Fan Funds this year!
The TAFF deadline is March 4th; DUFF is March 10th.**

Sadly, Peter passed away on January 5th of this year, leaving behind a legacy both long and noteworthy. I did not know that he had been battling cancer for the last two and a half years, and it should not come as a surprise that the tributes have been appearing all over the fannish realm. This photograph of Peter comes from his Wikipedia entry (dated 2005), and the listing of his awards on that page is extensive.

I have a picture somewhere on my computer at home – haven't found it yet – from Corflu Quire of Peter conversing with Michael Moorcock and myself. I know this photo exists; obviously, this is going to require some serious digging through the photo archives.

The bottom line is that I enjoyed meeting Peter then, and over the years he taught me a lot about the history of British fandom through the pages of his stellar fanzine *Prolapse/Relapse*. Thank you, Sir Peter. We are all going to miss you so much.



Who's in This Issue

A nice variety of material, from serious to silly, from Canada to Texas. Here are the people to blame:

Jason Burnett

A Minneapolis fan, Jason posted his musings about "Canine Mathematics" on his Facebook page, and I thought that this would be a great bit of fun to plunk between articles in *Askance*. So here it is. And just remember: All Knowledge Is Contained In Fanzines.

Teddy Harvia

Teddy lives in the Dallas-Fort Worth area of Texas, usually living inside a closet in David Thayer's house, fed occasionally by their close friend Miranda Thomson. They let him out once in a while to produce installments of "Chat, the 4th Fannish Ghod" for this zine. Good for them.

A.B. Kynock

For quite a few years now A.B. has been perfecting his photo-shopped artwork, and it has been gracing the front covers and interior pages of many fanzines. It is my pleasure to present this issue's matching front and back covers by this fine fan artist.

Lloyd Penney

It has been a long time since one of Lloyd's "Tales from the Convention" has appeared here, so I am glad he offered another installment. When one has been going to SF conventions for decades like he has, stories like this are bound to happen and must be shared. Keep them coming, Lloyd!

Taral Wayne

One of these days Taral – who lives in the Toronto, Canada area like Lloyd – is going to end up on the Hugo ballot in two categories at the same time: best writer and best artist. This issue's lead article is yet another example of why I believe this just might happen. Enjoy!