

ARTHUR HLAVATY - 250 Coligni ave, New Rochelle NY 10801

Perhaps the worldcon might ponder the idea of charging more for tickets that do not admit one to panels, movies, etc. Some fans who pride themselves on not attending programming might be willing to pay extra to show their trufannishness. The reason nobody mentions DNQ is that you have inadvertently activated a fanediting reflex. You should know this. What happens when you're typing a lettercol and you come to "DNQ"? You stop typing and look to see where you can start again. That's why no one can write about you. Hail Eris, Arthur.

Gosh! Thanks for pointing out the danger of fan reflexes! We were considering changing our name to RSN, and can you imagine the effect on fans whenever we said "we're going to publish RSN..."? We ourselves might be affected, and never pub.

IRA THORNHILL - 4214-A Loyola st, New Orleans LA 70115

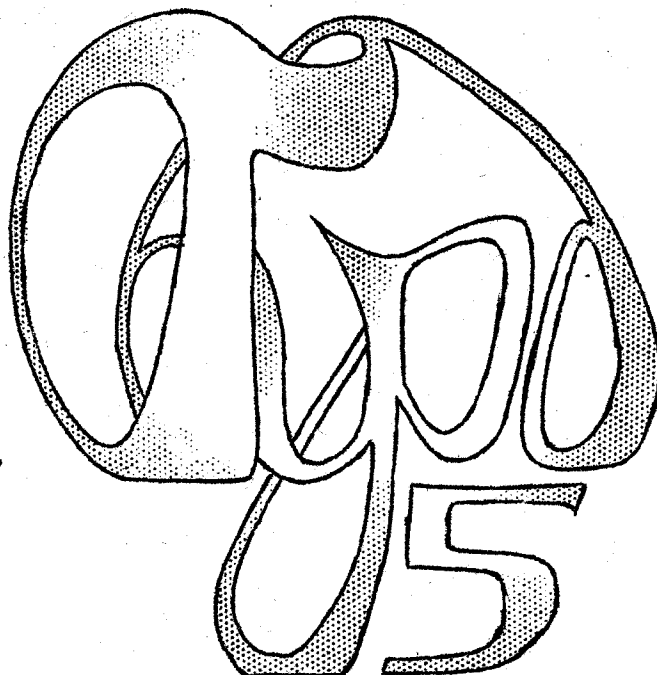
Re: DNQ 10; editorial: seems just possible that the fanzine fandom you're trying to reach may no longer exist. The PO may've finally managed to kill it. Still, I find DNQ something of a focal point for my own faanish and zine urgings. So, for me, you've succeeded. (To which you may, of course, respond with a hearty BIG SHIT! but DNQ is one of only about 3 zines that I really long forward to anymore. I get stoned and I read and giggle for a while... and that's pretty much what it's all about.)

Okay, most dearly love things like "You Gotta Suffer" in #10, the various history things, Saara's bits & pieces, the Feder/Vayne knee experiments, the Future Fan History, the Vegetarianism threat (with which I which I'll whole heartedly agree, by the way), the DNQ Negoboo poll (with which I'll have absolutely nothing to do... not THIS year anyway - too many bad things happening to me lately, and I probably couldn't stand to risk the Karma points), the Toronto/BC Fandom comparisons, Victoria's "Common Factor" in #14, and, of course, the two #14's. For somebody who doesn't care for the Minneapolis Bozo style humour, you certainly seem to be steadily edging further and further into that area.

PS: Saw a commercial for the Navy on TV some nites ago with one PFC Michael Sharpe talking about what a Good Thing the armed Forces can be for a young man looking for a direction in life... I wonder????!! Best, Ira Thornhill.

Don't credit/blame us for both issues of DNQ 14. Mike Hall and Robert Runtē, in spite of their studied looks of innocence, are at the bottom of at least one of them, maybe even both... Naw, can't be that Michael Sharpe. For one thing, his name is Mark Sharpe, and I get the impression from him that he considers his fledgeling career in the Armed Forces a bit of a miscalculation. Too bad D. Gary Grady didn't warn him.

NO NO NO!  
LOOSEN UP  
YOUR LINE!  
WIDEN THAT  
SCOWL!



GEORGE FLYNN - 26 Putnam st, Somerville Mass. 02143

No, Taral, you've got it all wrong: Noreascon isn't changing the amateur Hugos to "Alters", we're changing the pro Hugos to "Egos" (~~not that some of the winners need it~~). Seriously, my amendment doesn't "neutralize" the withdrawal of Algol and Locus. Andy Porter at least has clearly indicated (and says so again in Vol 2) that he won't accept a fanzine nomination; if the nominees want to rule themselves out, that's their prerogative. The Iggy program books went out in January, which is at least better than SunCon did; NESFA's copy came a couple of weeks ago. And Noreascon PR 1 went out on schedule Jan 18 (a bit eerie to read your "scheduled for mailing" item 2½ weeks later). By the way, congratulations on quoting our news release accurately, which is more than some other zines have done. The negoboo poll should have fascinating results, but I really don't feel mad enough to nominate anybody. Sincerely yours, George Flynn.

Well, we got something right after all... but... what did we quote right? I forget.

ERIC MAYER - 175 Congress st, apt. 5F, Brooklyn NY 11201

I'm not going to vote in the Negoboo poll. This may surprise you since we've occasionally agreed in our criticisms of certain aspects of fandom. It surprises me because when I first saw the poll I was very enthusiastic about it. It looked like a golden opportunity for me to experience, for the first time, a feeling of "oneness" with fandom at large. While everyone was filling out his FAAn ballot I would be writing most of the same names down on the Negoboo Poll! But I can't bring myself to do so. I'm not really sure why. I've tried to think it through. For one thing, your results are going to reflect such a mixture of motives as to be meaningless. On one hand, I might vote for Victoria in some of these categories since I believe that the concept of the \$2.50 fanzine, sans trades, carried to its extreme would totally destroy the hobby that presently gives me so much pleasure. That's, if you'll pardon the expression, a "professional" judgement. On the other hand, it would give me the greatest personal satisfaction to fill up all these invitingly blank condemnations with the arcane symbols "Arnie Katz". But that's something else again. That's just the result of a personality conflict. Now, I don't think personal animosities should figure in the poll. But they will. And how will you separate such votes from more legitimately intended votes. Victoria or Arnie might end up with both kinds. What would be proved? I don't care to add a professional criticism of Victoria's publishing philosophy to a possible pile of personal animosities, nor do I think it sensible to try and institutionalize falling out with Arnie via a poll. And of course there is the problem that these votes will appear as simply, total condemnations of the people involved. Each category is described of course, but nevertheless, the shock of finding one's whole name, exposed as it were, on an official shit list, is a lot different from, say, receiving a specifically critical loc. In my articles about fandom I don't mention names. This is not the result of mistake or cowardice. I prefer to talk about ideas rather than people. A lot of fans are going to be hurt by this poll. And I fear they will be the fans least able to shrug the hurt off. I may be wrong, but I expect that the more prominent fans will not be maligned. I expect that those who top the poll will be fans who have recently been involved in some personal dispute, fans who have not yet mastered publishing techniques. The latter are going to be discouraged from continuing. Likewise, any fans whose motto is FIJAGH rather than FIAWOL, who are unfortunate enough to make the poll are liable to just say "who needs this" and gafiate. It is interesting that in the same issue you introduce the poll you introduce a section of reprints from old newszines. Twenty years hence, would you want people who don't know you sniggering about how Taral must have been some nerd, finishing 5th in the 1979 Negoboo poll? It's not that I don't think personal vituperation and hate has no place in fandom. I just don't see the point in institutionalizing it. So anyway, while I love the idea on one hand, on the other hand I feel it would create more hard feelings than it's worth. Of course I trust this loc will suffice to get me the issue of DNQ that prints the results... Best, Eric.

Of course... Actually, I rather expect fan historians 20 years from now will end up thinking I'm some sort of nerd. I'm always at variance with one sacred precept

of fandom or another, and probably from the viewpoint of some mellowed Midwest fan like Jackie Causgrove I am a nerd... As long as people's reasons are accurate I acquiesce in posterity's judgement. (Of course, from my point of view, the reasons never are accurate...) In fact, I believe the ability of DNQ's Negoboo poll to institutionalize hard feelings is limited. The day we have as much clout among perfect strangers as, say, Locus has, is the day I stop thinking the Negoboo poll is fannish. For now, it's a good joke, and the BNF's and SMOF's came up for their knocks too. Both Victoria and I figured prominently in half the categories. You make a good point about there being two bases for voting on the poll, though, and in future polls we are going to have to rethink. Perhaps a separate category for serious and humorous fallacies, somewhat like the FAAns?

---

DAVE LANGFORD - 22 Northumberland ave, Reading Berks. RG2 7PW, UK

Further SeaCon news, which you may quote: The entire committee has now resigned, with the exceptions of myself and Peter Weston. This is partly because of bigamous marriages among committee members, and partly because the new hotel contract makes them legally liable, which has produced a loss of enthusiasm. However, ace fanzine fan Keith Walker has been conscripted to do the program book, while Peter Weston will be impersonating both pro Guests of Honour, who refused to attend when they learnt that, in the interests of impartiality, I will not be awarding the customary automatic GoH Hugo - they'll have to enter the postal Hugo auction (minimum reserve price £1,000) like everybody else. Meanwhile, plans for shifting the con to a gigantic camping site in Central Scotland are well underway; this should produce phenomenally cheap accommodation, though the extra charges for luxury-seekers desiring toilets, tents, etc. may be a little forbidding. D. West has been commissioned to produce a stasteful convention badge with the motif YANKS GO HOME. There is absolutely no truth in the rumour about Rob Jackson... oh, you mean that rumour? Yes, I'm afraid that one's true, but please don't tell anybody. More news next letter.

You needn't worry about the Canadian sense of humour, but I'm worried that we might have to worry about the British sense of humour. You said we could quote you...

---

GEORGE FLYNN REDUX - 26 Putnam st, Somerville Mass. 02143

Ted White makes a good point about the elevator overload when a major event at a worldcon ends, but I'm not sure there's any satisfactory solution. If another major even follows immediately, you just postpone the crush (as at Iggy it apparently came after Watership Down rather than the masquerade), and you have to stop sometime. If what follows is something relatively low-intensity like the open party Ted suggests, a lot of people will want to get to their rooms first anyway. And of course, anything planned to attract over 1,000 people is going to add significantly to the budget. In fact, the films are usually running at such times, and there are usually places for people to congregate (the Hyatt atrium). I think people pretty much just have to make allowances for the crowd. (somebody suggested jokingly that we could solve the problem if we dismissed the audience by sections, but I'm afraid we aren't fascistic enough to get away with that...) It saddens me to see Ted trying to lump together all Boston fandom as a monolithic mass of fascists, the same now as in 1971. After all, we are individuals with our own opinions, and Ted has never even met most of us. Many of us, including me, had nothing to do with the 1971 committee. (Of the current 27 members of the Noreascon 2 committee, 9 were on the Noreascon 1 committee, but only 2 are at area-head or higher level.) I can't respond very well to the "fascistic" charge, since Ted doesn't define what he means by it. But the financial questions are another matter. The worldcon has indeed been growing explosively over the last ten years, but this has nothing to do with any conspiracy to "push for expensive Worldcons". Concoms have reacted in a variety of ways to this, including MAC's deliberate attempt to limit membership, and none of it has had any significant effect (except, for moving SunCon to Miami Beach, but we can't very well do that every year). This is because the causes are basically external to fandom, in that SF has become (relatively) big business. The number of people actively interested in SF has greatly increased, and an institution that calls itself "the World SF Convention" can't help but feel the impact of this. It isn't just the worldcon, either: 1,000-person regionals have become common, and several have passed 2,000. Saying we liked it better when fandom was smaller won't make the hordes of newcomers go away, and we have to cope with them. But lets deal with

specifics. I assume Ted wrote his letter before seeing our projected budget in Vol 1. He seems to be assuming that the money on hand before the con should be used only for before-the-con expenses. The point about "cash flow problems" is that you can't make commitments without being reasonably sure you can pay for them. And many commitments do have to be made in advance - notably the Hynes Auditorium, which will cost on the order of \$20,000 and for which we have to commit ourselves by this summer; then there are films, the program book, etc. You have a cash flow problem if you order all these things and have to gamble that enough money will come in at the door to cover them. (As for what Iggy's experience has to do with us, I refer to Ted's inquiry whether "future concons bother to notice that other Worldcons have predated them".) What will we do with the money in the meantime? Invest it, of course, for as much interest as we can get. This and everything else will be included in our regular financial reports in Vol 1 and the progress reports. If these aren't adequate, let us know and we'll try to improve them; our intention is to be as open as possible. "Progress reports... are supposed to be paid for by the advertising they carry"? This was once the theory, but it hasn't been true for a long time. We do have contacts in the New York publishing scene, and we've been informed that some publishers just aren't interested in advertising in worldcon publications; this depends on the publisher, of course. But there's no obvious reason a priori why the progress reports should have to be self-supporting. They're a service to the members, so it's reasonable that the members cover as much of the cost as required. As for their size... well, if we cut them down to the size of SeaCon's, I'd guess it might cut our budget by 10%; this wouldn't cut the membership rates significantly, and would probably make people even happier about them. On to your own comments, Taral. Maybe "the pattern \$15-\$20-\$30-X suggests \$45", but that wasn't what we had in mind. We can't commit ourselves on this yet (the same cash-flow question), but I for one will be quite surprised if at-the-door rates goes over \$35. (I'd be for holding it at \$30 if I could think of a better way to encourage people to join in advance. At Boskone the advance and at-the-door rates were only \$2 apart, and we wound up registering over 1,000 at the door - although another major factor in that was people being cautious in case of another blizzard like last year's.) Perhaps you don't want the things those fees pay for, but as far as we can tell the great majority of attendees do. There's nothing wrong in principle with the idea of charging people separately for different parts of the con, but the administrative difficulties... It's hard enough to get enough competent people to staff the regular registration lines; imagine having to do that for every part of the con, not to mention enough guards at every door to sort through all the badges and make sure you had the right one for that event (fascism anyone?). We're a long way from Disneyland yet: they can afford to pay people to handle admissions.

There's too much in George's loc for me to go into detailed objections, especially since most of my objections are relatively unimportant. I could mention that I've noticed an interesting trend in Worldcons to re-examine traditional business methods, but never the traditional role of the worldcon. I still maintain that the worldcon is too big, and that it's very bigness is wrenching it away from fandom as more and more people want more and more mundane trappings added to the con. Given the democratic and progressive worldcon role, though, everything about Noreascon 2 makes sense. I just wish I'd had a chance to see a worldcon before they were gigantic... I feel cheated somehow. I though NESFA was fascist too, and some of the horror stories about purges and self-importance still make me wonder, but oddly enough when I met the people individually they struck me as perfectly alright fans. The infamous Tony Lewis, for instance, turned out to be a sloppy-looking jolly fat-man running a mimeo at the last Boskone. Me shining image is tarnished. Nary a jack-boot.

---

HARLAN ELLISON - 3484 Coy dr, Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

Quelle embarrassment. But then, I've only seen one or two issues of your magazine; and apart from reading specifically in those areas concerned with my Markstein problem, I haven't actually read any issues of DNQ. So it really isn't all that odd that I assumed incorrectly that "Taral" was a woman. In my limited historical experience, the use of a single name was most generally a female crochet. You know: Hildegard, Genet,

Lilivati, Lulu. It was an erroneous assumption and one for which I'm extremely sorry - and I hope you'll pass along my apology to Mr. Taral - but as you say, not a felony. Just a case of not doing my homework as assiduously as is my wont.

On the matter of your calling me, as opposed to my erroneous remembrance that I'd called you... of course you're correct. Once I'd read your comment I recalled that was how it had been. Again, just a faulty recall over a period of months. It was a time of turmoil and when I went back, much later, to assemble all the data about what had transpired, I found myself losing track of precisely who had called whom, which event had occurred before whichever other event and... well, you know. There is, as you say, a fine (but I agree significant) ethical point as to who tried to straighten out what. And again, my apologies for disremembering. You can run this note so your readers will have verification that the point you raised was well taken.

As for why I wrote that long recap of the brouhaha, to be distributed by Guy Lillian and George Paczolt... I assure you vindictiveness in no way motivated me. It was prompted by a continuation of rumours - spread by I know not who - that I'd actually had a secret room at this hotel or that, or that I'd gone out and had secret dinners here and there, or that... well, you know the sort of things they continue to say; I guess because they can't accept that I went to great lengths and underwent considerable discomfort, just to make a public statement with my body. George and Guy asked me to send them material, and I found when I went to assemble it that it didn't really make much sense unless I wrote it up sequentially, and buttressed my assertions with the appropriate documents. Those who know me perceive in me an obsessive quality for doing a job thoroughly. And I'm afraid once I got into the story, it took hold of me and I spent many days writing it up as an historical record. At far greater length than I'd ever dreamed it would be. In fact, I was more than a trifle embarrassed when I finished it, to see how long I'd gone on, how much had happened, and what repercussions the whole affair had had.

No, I wasn't being vindictive. I agree that Markstein was put to bed properly at the Iguanacon, despite the attempts of his friends to further the matter by circulating craziness about what I'm supposed to've done. But the one point that I really wanted to make, I guess as a period (or exclamation point) to the whole affair, was that I was quite rightly proud of having been able to serve my commitment to the convention committee and to my moral obligations to the Equal Rights Amendment, without destroying the con or harming the ERA fight in Arizona. And by the inclusion of letters from the Iguanacon Committee and the Arizona ERA task force, that I'd been responsible and done a good thing... well, it was a way of saying, "See, I told you it could be done."

It actually had far less to do with Markstein than it did with demonstrating to others who might want to serve the commonweal that it is possible to be effective in exercising one's moral and social consciousness. It isn't a pleasant gig, and one can suffer unwarranted amounts of personal abuse, but the feeling one gets if it's pulled off is a heady and rewarding one.

So that's why I wrote the long history of the affair. Not petty nastiness. I thought you ought to know. Sincerely, Harlan Ellison.

It must be nice to be in a position where your individual actions matter, a position most of us will probably never be in. As such, your moral obligations might well have been different than those of the humble masses. So it goes.

Meanwhile, I feel as if I speak to you from within the folds of a cloak of invisibility... and as if I'm picking at details in the shadow of greater events. Victoria did not write the comments about "Harlan's Side" in DNQ, and, in fact, nearly panicked when she received your sober looking stationery. She thought we were being sued for sure. No, I wrote that review I'm afraid, and I made the phone call too. Details - but a detail is all my part in this affair was, so I try to make the best of it.

I just thought I'd mention I wasn't a woman, not because I felt insulted, but because my ego demanded I object to the anonymity. Whatever impulse led to your imagining a "Taral" to be female can be forgiven, but the trouble-maker in me wants to remind you of Freff, Lan, and other fannish nicknames like Ecco, DAW, BoSh, DaG, Salo... The later, however, were only pen names and never used seriously. Possibly only Freff affects a truly single name since even I use "Taral" alone in informal situations. The name, by the way, is neither masculine nor feminine in my "mythology".

TERESA NIELSON - Crackerbox Palace, 2 Hernandez, San Francisco CA 94127

About the Iggy money rumormongering: if people had the least lick of sense about this, they would call Sharon Maples, who is still the convention treasurer and bookkeeper. Kind of makes sense, yes? And, by-the-bye, I hear that the scurrilous rumour that Sharon's propagating (which she got first hand from herself) holds that there is no money missing from the Iggy treasury. Catching the progress of this piece of gossip has been illuminating, to say the least. Speaking from personal experience, Patrick and I got to San Francisco on funds borrowed from friends, and took up residence in a sleazy residential hotel in the city's Tenderloin district. We worked as clerical temporaries. And if indeed one of the Phoenix comcom expatriates out here ran off with any money, either he/she is holding out on the rest of us, or we ate a lot of Wonder Bread for nothing. It's also interesting to watch the amount rising. It began as vague mutterings about unspecified monies, burst into bloom as rumour with \$10,000 taken to fund Quakecon, and was last seen as Zetta Dillie firmly asserted in Azapa that if Bill Patterson didn't take \$20,000, then how are he, Patrick Hayden, and Phil Paine living in San Francisco with no visible means of support?... That last one is particularly interesting since a) we haven't seen Phil for six months or so; he's not even living in SF anymore, b) Bill and Patrick will confess under only mild duress that they have been gainfully employed for most of this period, and c) Zetta lives in Arizona, and presumably could have gotten in touch with Sharon to check this out at any time. One can only imagine that this didn't occur to her.

RON SALOMON - 1014 Concord st, Framingham MA 01701

Knights will be coming soon? That's nice. Now can you find out about Notes From the Chemistry Dept., or Tomorrow And... Oh, never mind. Enjoyed Saara's rock review. Since records are no longer in my budget, I'm limited to sporadic FM earfests and the Warner Bros. promo albums I get on occasion. Needless to say, little of PoonBob's loves needs to be heard. I have some Devo, but not the Jocko Homo cut - but now I have an inkling as to what Saara meant. I've heard some Elvis Costello, and he sounds better. Better than Talking Heads and The Ramones that I've also minimally heard. Even though PoonBob must be a knowledgeable concert goer, did he tell his young alien friend that it sounds better (or is it "safer"?) with earplugs? Battered ears hurt. Does Taral hold Rubber Soul in contempt too? Tsk, tsk. Best, Ron.

Actually, no, I don't, but Saara has only heard the taped selections at that concert, and the best pre-Sgt. Pepper Beattles stuff was conspicuously absent. My poor opinion of early Beattles albums is due to the relatively low concentration of songs I like, even though those few that I do like are among the Beattle's best. Even Rubber Soul and Revolver are too diffuse in notable songs to interest me as a whole. And my prejudices wear off on Saara, who isn't supposed to know better...

LESTER BOUTILLIER - 2726 Castiglione st, New Orleans LA 70119

I'm intrigued by your report on the would-be spinoff from Azapa, giving only one side of the controversy, Mueller's side, and seeming to automatically credit that side as the "true version of things. Much of the report contains statements that are open to debate. I haven't had personal experience with John Carver ripoffs; in fact my one financial relation with Ugly John consisted of sending him a \$1 waitlist fee which he never cashed (indicating incompetence, but not embezzlement). But others have claimed that their money has disappeared in the Carver records. Ugly John himself, as his last act as OE, kicked himself out of the apa for what he admitted was malfeasance, misfeasance, and one other fesance that I don't even recall off hand. It seems to me that Jenny won the OE election fair and square, and a lot of older members of the apa were dropped for simple lactivity. If somebody wants to form a new apa, that's perfectly their right. Azapa has survived one spinoff already.

This is the second letter of this sort we've gotten, and it indicates to me that there are personal conflicts involved that have little to do with the facts. Our reportage in DNQ of the affair contradicts nothing you said, and vice versa. You seem to be making unvarifiable accusations yourself, in fact. We weren't assigning fault.

(DNQ 16/17's TYPO 5, belatedly colophonned, © Taral Wayne, 1812-415 Willowdale ave, Willowdale Ontario, m2n 5b4, (416) 221 3517. 5 April 1979. Gaaltlaheen, Taral.)