

FAAN AWARD

DISCUSSION

#2 of an irregular series begun with DOES ANYONE HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY? from Gary Farber of 602 12th Ave E., Seattle, WA 98102. (206) 324-9857. March 15 1980. This is available for a SASE to anyone as long as the supply lasts .

The purpose of this fanzine is to serve as a forum for evaluation of how the Fanzine Activity Achievement Awards (FAAns) have succeeded or failed in this, their 6th year of existence. The FAAns were created in 1975 after much discussion throughout 1974 by various fans in THE ZINE FAN: a special fanzine with a rotating editorship (Moshe Feder, Linda Bushyager, Don D'Amassa, Mike Glycer, etc.) devoted to discussion of structuring this new award. The Ad-Hoc Committee for New Fan Awards at the time of the first ballot in 1975 consisted of: Bill Bowers, Donn Brazier, Linda Bushyager, Don D'Amassa, Tom Digby, Moshe Feder, Mike Glicksohn, Mike Glycer, Eric Lindsay, Sam Long, Ray Nelson, Darroll Pardoe, Peter Roberts, Jim Shull, Jeff Smith and Harry Warner, Jr. All took part, as did others, in extremely lengthy discussion of the merits of the many proposals. Since then, the awards have been given 5 times, and are about to be given for the 6th. The current Committee consists of Gary Farber (despite DNQ), Mike Glicksohn, Jeanne Gomoll, Lee Pelton, Peter Roberts, Stu Shiffman, Don C. Thompson, Taral and Victoria Vayne. Don C. Thompson, Taral and Victoria Vayne will be finishing their terms this year, and three new members will be elected. The Committee is responsible for administering the awards and producing the rules under which they operate; that is all the Committee does. On the Nominating Ballot, distributed each year thru as many fanzines as possible, there is a space where you may nominate any four of your fellow fanzine fans to places on the Committee. There is also a place where you may check off if you are willing to serve. Nine is the number of Committee members, each elected for three years, three stepping down every year. Got it? The current Official Teller is Mike Glicksohn, 141 High Park Ave., Toronto, Ont., M6P 2S3, CANADA.

This is not an official publication of the FAAn Awards Committee. It is merely a publication by Gary Farber, a member of the Committee, to contain discussion prior to possible publication of a new issue of THE ZINE FAN wherein an official vote by the Committee on certain proposals might take place.

Those of you who only heard about this from DNQ, the Toronto "news"zine were misinformed by certain mistaken untruths in the relevant issues. Taral has apologized to me for an apparently sudden attack of killer amnesia. To contradict DNQ with the True Story: I am a member of the Committee, have discussed this with several other members, etc, etc, etc.

I have at this time received 14 replies in writing from DOES ANYONE HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY?. Contributors addresses may be found at the end. The Committee members who responded were: Mike Glicksohn, and Victoria Vayne (with her own publication). I'm pleased to see we have such a concerned, activist committee setting such a fine example. Victoria's comments will not be found here, except perhaps in summary,

since she has issued them in her own 6 page zine, I HAVE A LOT TO SAY!, available from her for 20¢ in dimes, and a self-addressed 4 x 9" envelope.

Next what you're going to get here are the relevant comments divided up by subject, followed by my comments, and my actual recommendation. I'm soliciting comments on all of these points, and any others you feel are relevant to the FAAn Awards from anyone who reads this or hears about it. My deadline for replies is June 1st, 1980.

I. PHYSICAL AWARDS

Since the first year the Award has been an actual physical trophy. Ideas originally presented ranged from nothing more than knowledge of the winners (i.e., nothing physical); to fancy certificates; to Golden Beanies; to medallions; to plaques; jewelry; and ever onward. Settled on at the begining of the actual award, and never changed was agreement that the winners of the ~~six~~ categories would receive the Award: a baked plasticine/clay statuete done by Randy Bathurst consisting of a beer-can-type figure wearing a propellar beanie standing atop a mimeo (representing the Enchanted Duplicator). This statuete stands atop a handsome wooden base with an enscribed plaque on the face declaiming the winner of the Award, date, category, etc. The top 5 nominees in each category were to get a certificate.

RAY NELSON: Let's keep the Bathurst statuettes.

BRIAN EARL BROWN: Personally, I wouldn't turn down one of Randy Bathurst's statuettes, but feel that the fan awards would be better served by one "Egoboo" poll jointly circulated by FILE 770, DNQ and WHOLE FANZINE CATALOG, and other interested fanzines. That would cover the width and breadth of fannish fandom. No voting fee would encourage voting and no awards beyond maybe a certificate would make it painless to perate.

MIKE GLICKSOHN: I like Randy's sculptures although there's a problem if he can't come up with them. He still hasn't made last year's awards, for example. The idea of a personalized award is a fine one, if we can find someone who's willing to go to that much work each year for so little reward. It might be sensible to go to a standardized, hence more dependable, award but it would detract from the essential fannishness of it all.

HARRY WARNER, JR.: The Bathurst design seems fine to me, unless Randy himself or some other genius could contrive something equally inspired and less complex to manufacture.

JOAN HANKE-WOODS: I must make mention, however, despite Mr. Bathurst's numerous blandishments, vows and promises, I cannot pass judgement on his superlative sculpture (I think they're great!!!) because I ain't got one!!! (weep moan). And I've purchased a lovely, small, nasty/beautiful elvish face "nametag" sculpture by Mr. Bathurst for \$ to make up for this loss (sob sigh). (...) That's what I find as the essence of much of fannish activity -- all blow no show. What a bore. Anyway, the important thing for me, really, was the consideration of my firends, and the estimation of many people I have never met; that encouraged me more than I can say.

ALEXIS A. GILLILAND: Ah yes, the FAAn awards. I won in 1978, and got the statue on the wooden base but not the plaque. I won in 1979, and was given the base with no statue and no plaque... a pretty base award if you like. If you aren't going to take the trouble to prepare a proper award, have Tim Kirk or Joan Hanke-Woods draw up a citation, suitable for framing, and give those out. If the committee doesn't take the award seriously

enough to prepare it for presentation properly, why should the recipients take it seriously?

GARY FARBER: I think the Award is a nice one. I've seen most year's, and I think that the degree of individuality that Randy has put in each award is both commendable and remarkable. I myself think that they're attractive. They have, however, always had the problem of being overly delicate -- often breaking and needing repairs, particularly when in transit. The key element remains that no matter how pretty an award, it does no good whatsoever if it does not physically exist. Besides Alexis and Joan, I know that Jerry Kaufman & Suzanne Tompkins have never received plaques for their last award, either. I believe others have undergone the same experience. I agree with Alexis 100%, here. For the Committee to announce presentation of a certain physical Award, and then never follow thru, or even following thru, but not for a period of years is only to mock and disgrace the award.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT AWARD BE REPLACED BY CERTIFICATE IF THE PRESENT AWARD CANNOT BE PROPERLY DISTRIBUTED FULLY AND PROMPTLY TO THE WINNERS.

II. RANGE OF VOTERS

RAY NELSON: Keep the present balloting system, and ~~distribution~~ system.

LUKE MCGUFF: I've never voted. I thought they were passed out at Midwescon, but heard they were handed out at Seacon. (...) I've never voted, and I don't know how to go about it. Obviously, getting a letter like this means I've done enough so that now I could vote. But the FAAns are a remote organization, like DUFF and TAFF. Oddly enough, it's only since I've become able to vote for DUFF and TAFF and the FAAn awards, that I've become conscious of the immense snobbery of the groups. My problem is I like it, get a kick when I get a zine I've never seen before. Duff, Taff, and the Faan awards are created from the same symptoms of closed-door parties at cons. Yet I'm usually inside the rooms (some of them, at least). So I don't know what to say about the whole thing.

WAYNE BRENNER: Forget the "wider range of voters" and stick with the "more knowledgeable set". The hugoes will take care of the mass-appeal awards; you people on the FAAn committee (taking for granted that you know what you're doing) should award for quality. That's the way it should be, no? The Hugoes are for the mass-appeal, pro and fan; the Nebulas are for pro quality judging by Those Who Know; and the FAAns are for fan quality judging by Those Who Know.

HARRY WARNER, JR.: The only thing that has bothered me about the Faan awards in the past year or two has been the occasional tendency to deviate from the original idea of awards by and for a small minority in fandom, those who publish and contribute to fanzines. There seems to be undue emphasis on how many people nominate and vote for instance, and the original plan to make the presentations and announce the winners at a faanish-type con seems forgotten. I think we should keep the nasty facts in mind: real fanzines and the people who publish them, write for them and draw for them are a tiny minority in fandom today; to 95% of those who attend a world-con "fanzine" means something entirely different like LOCUS and ALGOL or whatever Andy Porter calls his publication now and the Star Trek fan publications. The FAAn awards were meant originally as something by and for fanzine fandom. They're meaningless and out of place at a worldcon and there's not much point in trying to make them any more prepossessing and fancy than QUANDRY or HYPHEN were. I think they can survive if they're kept low key and aren't forced even on the people in fanzine fandom who aren't interested.

BRIAN EARL BROWN: At 80 or so voters, the FAAns can't afford a smallervotership, but since only 25-40 are at all knowledgeable about fandom today perhaps

committee awarded prizes would be better. Perhaps the committee should just award prizes to each other because besides being the most knowledgeable they are also the best zine producers. (...) Only punk neos should be allowed to run the FAAns.

MIKE GLICKSOHN: I'd like to build the widest possible base of qualified voters but the emphasis is on the "qualified". By all means let's try and interest fellow fanzine fans in the awards but there's no need to corner strangers at cons and thrust ballots at them. Last year I was able to increase the number of participants by about twenty because I did go around cons and grab people who were knowledgeable but had not voted before. (Even got Ted White to nominate!) There is also the possibility that now we have a more solid financial base we might drop the registration fee for a year to try and get more overseas participation. I'd happily go along with that if a majority of committee members like the idea.

JOAN HANKE-WOODS: In a setup as large and diversified as fandom any efforts to narrow the field of voters would necessarily exclude large segments of fanac and cause FAAn to become another "subset" -- not necessarily more learned or authoritative.

LAURIE MANN: The FAAn Awards are not supposed to be the Hugo Awards. Therefore, only people who have an active interest in fanzines should participate in voting for them. The only change in the voting rules I'd consider would be one to permit people who were included in the WAHF column of at least three different zines to vote. At least this would show that a person was reading zines, even if he/she was not having any luck at getting locs publisheed.

GARY FARBER: The amounts of votes has ranged from about 50 to over 100, I believe. I think that this is about right. I don't see anything snobbish (or negatively so, depending on your definitions) in taking the position marked out by Mike Glicksohn and Harry Warner, Jr. There is a markedly limited number of people who are familiar with most of the fanzines published each year. It is as simple as that. If the purpose of the awards is to remain the same (be "peer-group" awards reflecting the views of those who know the field) the range of votership can't change. An essential point to note, though, is that the actual people who vote each year must change somewhat because of the turnover in fandom. It is accurately said that an average fangeneration is two years. This refers more to the average person who enters fandom, and then burns out after two years, and different category than those of us who come in and will stay (or have) for 8, 10, 20, 40 years. However, the active fanzine fans pool will change year by year, and we must always be careful that the new active fans are made aware of the awards, and are brought into the voting pool; else the award will drift away from active fanzine fandom and wither away. Also, all who mentioned it (6) strongly favored not releasing the winners until the ceremony. Lastly, ignorance about the awards has spread the misconception that the Committee picks the nominees, winners or both. This is not so. It might be an idea worth considering: after all, the committee is democratically elected. People in this country should not be unfamiliar with a system called "representative democracy". Certainly, picking at least the nominees so might be considered. However, I wouldn't even propose this, if the current set-up gets accusations of snobbery and mutual back-patting (as it does -- I'm not sure who the awards are supposed to go to, though, thinking that way -- to those who are ignorant of, or don't do fanzines, perhaps?). Lastly, the voting fee of \$1 has been discussed. I, despite living at an income certainly below both the median and average of those in fandom who support themselves, fail to see the great trauma in contributing an entire US dollar once a year. However, I recognize that some feel very strongly about this essentially minor issue (particularly in Britain), and am willing to go along with Mike Glicksohn's proposal of dropping it as an experiment for a year. Certainly, I'd like to encourage cons with surplus money to donate it to the FAAn's as the Iguanacon

Committee was persuaded to contribute \$200.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT EFFORTS BE MADE EACH YEAR TO SPREAD BALLOTS THRU THE MAJOR FANZINES OF THAT YEAR. THAT THOSE INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING THE AWARDS BE ENCOURAGED TO DISCUSS THEM, BOTH IN PERSON AND IN PRINT. I FURTHER SUGGEST IF SOMEONE WILL VOLUNTEER, THAT A COMPILATION OF THE HISTORY OF THE AWARDS TO DATE BE COMPILED AND PUBLISHED, ALONG WITH A BRIEF HISTORY AND EXPLANATION OF THE AWARDS, ALSO TO BE DISTRIBUTED EACH YEAR FOR PEOPLE NEW TO THE FIELD. I MAY GET AROUND TO DOING THIS MYSELF.

III. CATEGORIES

After immense amounts of discussion categories originally settled upon and that have remained unchanged are: Best Fan Editor, Best Fan Writer, Best Fan Artist (Humorous), Best Fan Artist (Serious), Best Single Issue, and Best Loc Writer.

LUKE MCGUFF: It seems that fanzines are pretty uniform in style and content. There are only two good zines with a varied and changing approach to graphic style, DIAGONAL RELATIONSHIP and XENOLITH (that I've seen at any rate). The awards don't seem to foster diversity, to me. A best Single Article award would be okay, I guess. This comment actually ties in with (...) that I think the (Best Loc Writer Award) should be dropped. Practically any reasons I offer will sound like carping or something. It takes quite a high tolerance for variations of sameness to be able to read enough zines to earn the award. I think the categories should definitely be limited in some way or other. It could get like a grade school contest, where everyone gets a prize. I wouldn't support Apa Awards. Just another set of closed groups. Besides, I think proliferation of awards in general cheapens the meaning of the recognition. I mean, look at all the broadcast awards, the Oscars, Emmys, Country Music Entertainer, The People's Choice, all those things. The same would go for the FAAn awards: too many and it's "Everybody Wins". I think the awards should be kept down for the same reason. I think the voters (numbers) should be increased. An award from a small group, covering lots of categories wouldn't mean as much as an award from a large group, covering only a few categories.

(From a 2nd letter, in response to a letter from me): Why I feel the FAAns don't foster diversity. Why should they, as they represent what is basically an establishment viewpoint (whether it's Best Loccer or Best Female Vocalist -- Country). So why should we have awards to recognize diversity? I would suggest changing the Best Loccer award, for some kind of innovation award, given to an editor who performs the most interest experiment with format, as Arthur Hlavaty does in DIAGONAL RELATIONSHIP, as Bill Bowers does in XENOLITH, as Brian Earl Brown does with MAD SCIENTIST'S DIGEST. Eric Mayer's GROGGY would be in here, too, from what I hear. I still can't say why I think such an award is a good thing. It just seems right to me somehow. I mean fandom prides itself on its diversity (which it certainly is), so why not recognize it officially? (...) But, I think there might be at least two objections to the Design Innovation Award and here they are: one is that a fanzine reflects the basic personality of an editor and he or she just does what come naturally. I agree, and the fanzines I've mentioned as being innovative in design bear a strong stamp of the editor. That is one of the benefits of experimenting with format: The editor does what is most comfortable for him (the ones I named were all men. I've seen only a couple of women's zines, but THE WITCH AND THE CAMELEON #5/6 was pretty good). This personal stamp might as well make it a perzine award, because some genzines just don't try for any innovation (DR, a perzine, succeeds without trying). And then of course, there might as well be a genzine award, and there might be both of these already. So here we have come full circle. The other objection is that the recognition of diversity might create a chaotic new wave period or something, which is often rather harmful. Lots of new wave artists are

maturing quite admirable (such as Elvis Costello and XTC), but they have the stigma of punk against them. The same thing applies to new wave sf. I wouldn't want the award to be a token gesture of recognizing difference for its own sake. There would have to be something about the innovation that somehow speaks of the editor. Back to the perzine issue again. (...)So, let's see if I can state my platform free and clear: I would like there to be a Design Innovation Award, given to the editor whose zine shows the best continuing use of design innovation, that reflects the personality and intent of the editor. We don't need to get into any lengthy discussion of definitions here, although we probably will. (...)I would like this award to be considered only as a replacement of another award, Best Loccer. So, I'm really asking for two things at once.

BOB TUCKER: I do like the idea of adding a new one, an award to Best New (or Most Promising New) Fan of the year. Believe me, sir, they are appearing in droves. I've been to two cons already this year (Chattacon and Confusion) and more new faces are appearing all the time. Some of them have talent. I would be in favor of adding that award, if the committee sees fit to do so.

HARRY WARNER, JR.: I like the present categories but I'd like to see at least one new one: a retroactive award to honor fanzine editors and writers who were ~~g~~afiated or dead by the time the Hugo fan categories and FAAn awards began. I doubt the practicality of the proposed best single article category because ~~one~~ oftwo things would happen: either a large quantity of items would receive one or two nominations each, or there would be politicking to arrange bloc voting in the nominations for this or that article. I'd hate to see the loc award dropped, even though my loc output has dropped off so radically in the past year that I have little chance of winning another.

BRIAN EARL BROWN: "Best Taral Illo" so Taral will be assured of winning something. Keep the Loccer award. Is it the FAAn's fault that only 3 or 4 people put any work into their locs? Best New Fan would be interesting, only these days it takes 2 or 3 years to immerge from regional obscurity to national obscurity. Deb Hammer-Johnson is a great loccer, but she writes mainly to southern zines. Apas are so obscure that no one knows enough about all of them to itelligly vote on them.

MIKE GLICKSOHN: I like the idea of a Best Single Article category myself, but I'm doubtful that it would work. Few fans would -- I feel -- take the time to research an entire year's fanzines to find the best nominees and once the ballot was set, I also doubt most fans would try/be able to read all the final nominees to determine the winner. A few of us would have the resources and the desire to see this work to make good suggestions and reread the final list, but on the whole I don't see it working too well. If enough people wanted to try it, though, I'd certainly go along on a trial basis. I think I'd better stay out of the debate on the Letterhack award. If I agree, people will think it's because I've already won some, but if I say no, they'll probably say I just want to win another, even though I'm not allowing my name on the ballot as long as I'm the teller. I see no valid new categories among those suggested. As it happens, I think going to more specific categories would be a mistake; it's hard enough with just the six we have sometimes. Trying to decide who qualifies best as a humorist, as an essayist, as a critic, etc would, I think, cause more problems than the extra egoboo would merit.

JOAN HANKE-WOODS: NO! Don't drop the "Best Loccer Award! Please! Don't let Mike Glicksohn lose his only opportunity to win an award in something that rhymes with "soccer" -- it would wrench his tiny little head, he would wring his tiny little hands, he would be even more unbearable! On the whole, any category termed "~~the~~ best" sort of bothers me...I dislike competitions generally as I find that such things destroy my concentration, break the "artistic" mood so to speak -- chase the muse away.

DAVID EMERSON: I think rather than single out one each year each category and say "this is best", they should be less competitive and say "these are good this year; all these people/zines deserve recognition." I guess it's like stopping the process at the final ballot. Fandom should be progressive enough to be supportive rather than competitive.

ERIC MAYER: I've often wondered myself just what it is, if anything, the committee does, because for a long time it seemed to me that the awards, essentially a great idea, are badly flawed and need changing. But I am particularly reluctant to get involved in any kind of politics, though it should be obvious that someone who's put out 8 issues of a fanzine in the past two years while maintaining a circulation of 50 is not especially motivated by awards. Still, I like voting, I enjoy "horse races", and I'd like to see a more sensible and sensitive system set up - one that would attract enough voters to keep the awards alive and finger enough deserving fans in need of egoboo.

You wonder about instituting more categories. For my part I can't understand why we have as many categories as we do. Considering the present less than frenetic pace of fan publishing and the less than inspiring efforts, whoever wrote the "best" article (for instance) is almost by default the best writer. Does it really make sense (to give an example of one ~~of~~ the inconsistencies in the present system) to honor an editor for his total output, but to honor an artist only for the humorous or serious part of his output? More versatile artists end up being penalized. And how do you separate "serious" from "humorous"? Where's the dividing line? Take the last XENIUM for instance. The inside pulp cover by Joan Hanke-Woods is, though stylized, more realistic than the serious efforts of most fanartists. But the intent is humorous. Derek Carter's cover on the other hand is clearly humorous, but its composition, textural quality and so forth are complex and give it much greater visual artistic interest than most serious fan art.

I think the FAAns are already too cumbersome. I dread the idea of struggling to come up with five deserving fans in fifteen different categories. (Ok, so maybe I don't get as many zines as others, but there is a limit to what one can read and really appreciate anyway.) Anyway, I think what's needed is simplification. First off eliminate nominating requirements. The idea of one's peers nominating one for an honor is nice but invalid as applied to fandom. We're all each other's peers. The fact that we're all involved in this fandom silliness is far more important than whether we happen to involve ourselves via pen or typer or duper (and to tell the truth nearly every one of us, at one time or another, takes a crack at it all. We've seen Andy Porter's drawings, right?) In order to satisfy those who tremble at the very idea of the Trekkie Menace, you might require a nominator to cite some instance of zine activity in the last year. My opinion is, to judge by the distribution of the ballots, anyone who's active enough to get his hands on one, and cares enough to pay a dollar, is active enough to vote.

As for categories...keep Best Loccer. What's more important than locs? Just because Harry and Mike dominate the category now doesn't mean they always will. It looked like the Yanks and Celtics would own their sports for years. But they got tired eventually. And as important as letter hacking is you can't ignore it. If Mike or Harry continue to be the best for the next fifty years they ought to get credit for it for the next fifty years.

Second, eliminate those two atrocities Best Editor and Best Single Issue. Those categories are a reflection of a current trend which may or may not continue, and probably shouldn't be encouraged -- in the trend toward publishing enormous one shots each year or so and calling them fanzines. Why reward that? An editor who has the gall to publish a frequent, solid

fanzine, consistently good, will wind up ⁽⁸⁾competing with himself in best single issue category. Does that make sense? And does it really make sense to have a fan poll without the category Best Fanzine? Isn't that like an Academy Awards without a Best Movie Category? If voters figure what they want is a yearly one-shot, then they'll vote it as Best Fanzine. No problem. Most winners of Best Single Issue didn't publish more than one or two other issues during the year anyhow. What's the point?

Ok, now, before you object to all this simplification -- and I know what the objections would be (from the FAAn fathers) -- how do you reward all the different kinds of artists, the editor who publishes more than one kind of fanzine, etc., etc.,... -- let me set forth my format, which has absolutely no chance of acceptance (but would save the committee money...).

After you've eliminated, or drastically simplified nominating requirements, you conduct a poll, rather than an election. The poll would be designed along the lines of the writers polls for sports teams. Categories would be: Best Fanzine; Best Writer; Best Artist; Best Letterhack; Special Achievement. No agonizing over what category what fan fits in -- nice and clean and simple. Vote for up to ten in each category. I would favor weighting the votes 10-9-8, etc. Whoever gets the most points wins the FAAn Award. No election. You vote for who you want to vote for, period. No middleman committee sorting nominations, deciding on a cutoff point and then telling you to vote for fans you don't want to vote for.

Consider the advantages. Not only do you have a winner, in a big, broad category that really means something, but you have a top ten! A neo, a perszine writer, a letterhack other than the big two, can still get deserved recognition by cracking the TOP TEN. No longer will we see only the same old faces. Too many places for that. Neos will finish 10 or maybe 8 and fans will take notice. Fans who publish more than one fanzine have a shot at both, or all three or whatever, making the Top Ten. Say you think newszines should be recognized for their value to fandom, but you just can't see placing one number one ahead of a genzine. So vote it in the second five places on the ballot.

Any loose ends can be picked up in SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT -- a suitably anarchistic category. It can be anything: Taral's long awaited super zine, Bergeron's Willish, Mayver's braving heckto for a year (sadly passed), or Farber's restructuring the FAAns, or an article, or a cover, or a particularly bad pun at a convention. Now, that would be a fun category. As a matter of fact, the whole thing would be more fun than the stuffy set-up we have now. And only one mailing. That has to help participation, and though there would be a lot of numbers it should be easier than two tallies. Too often, to me, the FAAns and all run off election formats seem negative. Can Shaw beat Langford? Here the emphasis is more on making the top ten, and if you happen to be number one that's just something extra.

OK. That's what I have to say.

ANNE LAURIE LOGAN: I feel that the FAAAAAn Awards are wonderful things, that the ~~lacky~~ Bathurst statuettes are adorable, that the overwhelmingly predictable and highly conservative trend of the annual ballots merely reflects Fandom's commendable Respect for Tradition, and that little contretemps like the election to the committee of Mr. Roberts (who does not, apparently, share my enormous respect for this institution) only add to the High Faanishness of it all.

In fact, I so highly rever the Awards that I think they should go to as many fans as the plasticine supply allows. Were I a member of the estimable committee, I would endorse all of the new categories you suggest, and any others imaginable, including: Best Loccer Other Than Harry Warner; Most Politically Correct Fan

(possibly this should be divided into⁽⁹⁾ right-wing and left-wing categories); Best Drunk; Best Doper; Best Rumor-Monger; Best Rumor; Best Advocate of Will Midwestern Sexual Promiscuity (spectator and participant; male, female, and other or undecided); Most Invisible Fan (for those fannish greats who are too busy these days to publish); Best Burn-Out of the preceding year; Most Prolific Apan (for both those joining the greatest number of apas, and those contributing the greatest number of pages to any given apa); Most Pointless Contributor (obviously apas, which are not filtered through an editor, will figure heavily in this category; Best Repro (at last an award that the meticulous-but-talentless can aspire to); Worst Repro; Worst Fan Writer Outside of Indiana and Winnipeg; the Golden Fang (for the editor, writer, or loccer who viciously attacks the greatest number of individuals with the least possible perceptible motivation); Best Surprise Revelation; Most Tasteless Single Article or Editorial; Most Sensitive Male; Best Castrating Female; Most Mealmouthed; Most Likely to Become an Entrenched Old Fart; Best Secret (hahaha) Apa; Most Long-Suffering Apa OE; "News"Zine Editor Leas Confined by The Boundaries of Fact and/or Good Taste; Best In-Print Groupie (Ellison, Bradley, Roddenberry, Kurtz, Heinlein, and Howard Divisions -- among others); Least Interesting Trip Report; Con Report that Manges to Bring in the Most Names per Page; The Vanished Ingenue (for the BNF best demonstrating the gentle goshwow Sensitivity usually expected of neos); the Poor Baby Award (for those fans not nominated by anyone for any of the above)...

LAURIE MANN: I'd suggest dropping only one category -- Best Single Issue. The other awards are more general -- this is the only specific award of the FAAn Awards. "Best Single Issue" and "Best Fanzine Editor" tend to be very close, at least as far as the nominations go. Why, essentially, duplicate the same award? (RE; "Best Single Article"): When I vote for "Best Fan Writer", I try to vote for who I thought wrote the best, not who wrote the most. Since I probably only see about thirty zines a year or so, I don't know how many articles each fanwriter writes. What, drop "Best Loccer"? My one shot at being a FAAn Award recipient? For shame! Actually, I wouldn't like to see this one drop because there are many writers who write splendid locs but do little in the way of articles. Furthermore, locs are often a substantial part of a zine. It would be too bad to ignore good writing purely because it is in letter, and not article, format. Count mine a loud NO! vote on dropping the entire FAAn Awards. They really are a good idea. I don't really like any other new categories, with the exception of "Best Book Reviewer: (...)" "Best New Fanzine" might be a good idea.

RAY NELSON: I'd like to keep the number of categories fairly small, certainly no larger than it is, thus oppose "Best Single Article" category, would like to drop "Best Loccer", and certainly don't want any other of the suggested additions.

WAYNE BRENNER: I'm all for the addition of a "Best Single Article" category.

GARY FARBER: There are only a small number of ideas here that I suport. I find that looking on the whole subject from the perspective of what we wish to encourage puts it in an interesting context. I would strongly consider the idea of a "Best New Fan", or "Most Promising New Fan". I am strongly opposed, as much as anybody to the proliferation and resultant complete meaninglessness of awards. I have never liked the concept of "awards", period. If you ask me what I'm doing here, you have a good question. I support the FAAns because the Hugo situation is contemptibly ridiculous, and I do apporve of recognizing quality. The problem with most "fan awards", of course is that of comparing apples and oranges, ditto and mimeo, JANUS with MOTA, etc. For this reason, I've long preferred lengthy polls of the old "EGOOBOO" sort, or the FOCAL POINT, or FANAC polls: 20-30 questions, none of them taken very seriously, but a great deal of fun. These clearly serve different ends, to varying extents, than the current FAAn Awards, and I'm not proposing that we switch; I do suggest actually giving very strong consideration to Eric Mayer's proposition.

That is: keeping the categories down to a basic 4-6, but publishing the top ten in each category, thusly making the award mor of a "recognition" one and less of a "king of the small pond" one. Those who still want the "glory" of Being Number One can still have it.

Failing this I support keeping the present Awards; dropping the Best Single Issue (the reasons for it originally was to recognize people who would otherwise have been passed over; this has clearly not been the case, and I agree that huge, 1 issue-a-year fanzines are not something I wish to encourage); consideration of a "Best New Fan"; and a Special Committee Award (the Committee picking either a Special Category for that year, and making nominations; or ~~handing an~~ actual Award.

RECOMENDATIONS: DISCUSS AND VOTE ON ERIC MAYER'S PROPSAL. FAILING THAT, DROP "BEST SINGLE ISSUE", REPLACE WITH BEST NEW FAN. ALLOW FOR A SPECIAL COMMITTEE AWARD.

IV. ON THE COMMITTEE, AWARDS IN GENERAL, LATE COMMENTS, LEFT OUT, AND MISC.

HARRY WARNER, JR.: The very thought of dropping the FAAn Awards is horrible. (and...) Am I right in assuming that the FAAn statuettes for the 1979 winners haven't been produced yet, rather than someone forgetting about me? Terry Hughes brought my base to me back in September and said that the remainder would be produced later; that's the last I've heard.

RAY NELSON: Next time you poll the fans, could you ask how many support Jerry Brown for President? I do, because he's for space. Ad Astra!

BOB TUCKER: I have no complaints about the FAAns or their administration. They seem to be going very well indeed, with a minimum of criticism and you know how much attention I pay to critics.

JOAN HANKE-WOODS: Thanks for the FAAn Award, you guys -- it really took me by surprise as I don't like fanzines all that much (just particular ones), and I don't contribute massive amounts to them...and it was a totally wierd and wonderful thing to happen to me.

MIKE GLYER: If you can get some action started on the FAAns, you're a better Fan than I am, Gunga Farber. In retrospect, the committee's only real purpose has been to lend a chachet of acceptability to the FAAn's. If not that, then it served no purpose at all since the work, most of the time, has been done by the Teller and people not on the committee. One would like to know what special talent X brings to the committee. Has X responded to your zine? To date I have seen nothing from him except notes accepting congratulations on election, published variously. X has not even circulated the nominating ballot. (That, however, is one lapse I should not complain about. If X does circulate the ballot, it will be a runaway for XXX, merely a mediocore fanzine. Last year in terms of ballots used from different sources, XXX readers outran F770 readers 5 to 1.)

I'd like to tyie up a few of the loose ends. One of them is the state of ignorance concerning what the Committee actaully does. Well, this will be terribly disillusioning to some, and I hate to be the one to cause another myth to die, and all, so if the news that there was no Santa Claus broke you up, you had better sit down. Those of you who really know fandom won't find it hard to beleive -- the Committee does NOTHING. I don't mean little, or not much, but nothing: el zilcho. There isn't even any communication between members, (save for those who are local to each other, or talk at cons). I'd like to change this, which is why this is in your hot little hands. People might also give a bit more thinking to who they're voting for, too -- they might even take positions, and run.

I don't, though, support Victoria Vayn's proposition that the committee be dropped to 5. I think that the "prestige" of top ranking fans is needed on a continual basis for the awards to continue to find the acceptance that they do. I'm not fanatic about it, though, and will listen to argument.

I censored Mike Glycer's reference, he did put in the name. I've been in enough feuds lately, though.

I decided there was little point in summarizing Victoria's comments, since she has published them herself. So be it.

I neglected to comment on Harry Warner, Jr.'s proposal of an award retroactively recognizing those who died or gaffed (ever noticed how fans act as if the two states were identical?) before creation of the FAAns and/or Fan Hugos. As fandom's quinteritary fanhistorian (after Terry Carr, Harry Warner ((reverse the order, there)), Arnie Katz and Bruce Pelz, y'know. Joke, Moshe.), naturally I approve of *anything* that will focus more fans' attentions on great fanzines or fanwriting that came out less recently than last week. I think Glycer's recent F770 poll of the best of the decade was a laugh because of just that typical shortsightedness. Due to the rapid turnover in fandom, though, I'm heavily skeptical, and in fact I stand in outright disbelief that the voters will have enough knowledge of fandom's past to make intelligent decisions. Rather, I'd discuss a special committee award here. However, why run different people from the past "against" each other? It makes no sense to me. Rather, perhaps people should discuss (and then vote?) on the top 20, or top 50, or top 100 fanzines of all time, and perhaps publish something recognizing them. It seems to me that this would best be done outside of the FAAn Award structure. Sorry, Harry. I like the idea, otherwise, though.

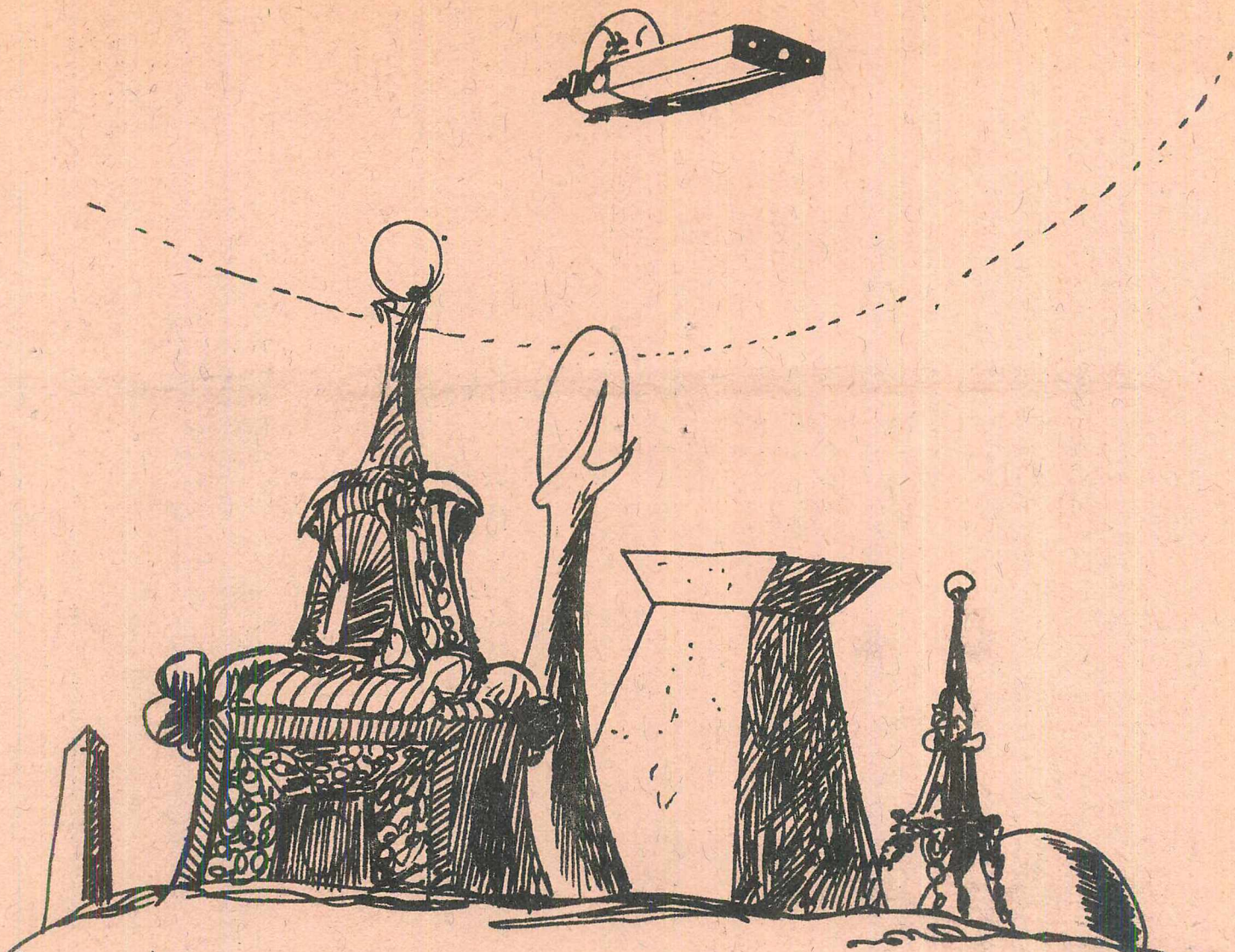
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Comments are solicited for the next issue. DEADLINE: JUNE 1, 1980.

Comments are particularly solicited from committee members. Ahem.

My apologies, as usual, for typos. Be warned that the next issue will be much more heavily edited than this one. Specify if you think what you're saying is of such importance that it must be Preserved For The Ages. Contributions of stamps from those receiving this are appreciated.



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