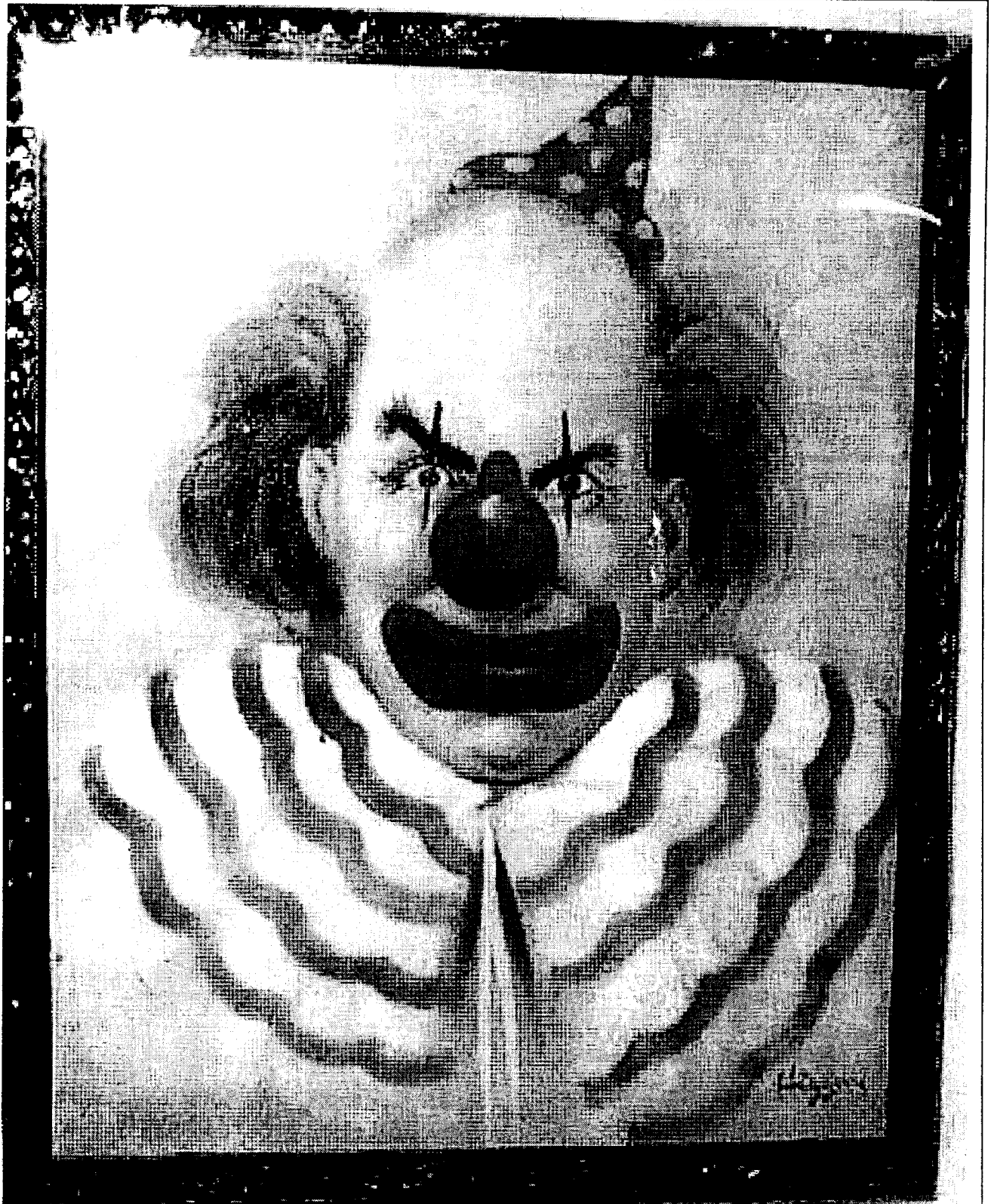


*nichevo* *fandomcentric genzine*

*issue #1 : November 2000*



# *nichevo* *fandomcentric genzine*

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Cover picture: 'Jerez the clown' (Higgins) from the Museum of Bad Art

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Potential contributors please see our guidelines in back. Unsolicited contributions will be  
considered, but larger articles should be discussed with the editor first. You know it makes  
sense.

Locs to the above address or email: [nfarey@comappspecc.com](mailto:nfarey@comappspecc.com)

## Nic Farey

What is, and what do you expect from, a fanzine which is defined as "fandomcentric"?

This is broadly explained in our "contributors' guidelines" (see page 28), but was worded somewhat differently (and a little more stridently) in a "pitch" document I sent out to a number of fans and also quoted most of in an online forum. In that case I had specifically stated "no anecdotal memoirs", an editorial policy which generated some spirited discussion. Arnie Katz, for one, commented:

*I was surprised to see "anecdotal memoirs" on the banned list. Labels are tricky things. One fan's "anecdotal memoirs" are another's "eyewitness accounts of fanhistory."*

I therefore felt it necessary to expand upon my decision. My initial idea was simply to put "fanhistory" on the banned list, but it occurred to me that this would create an erroneous impression and would raise some hackles too high for people to see over. My point is that "anecdotal memoirs" *per se* are often of limited interest, except to those who were actually there or thereabouts and can say "Ah, yes, I remember it well", or a few others who may be avid for such tales for their own sake. I'm much more interested in "today" than "yesterday" (at least as far as *nichevo* is concerned), but I'm a great believer in *context*. So, there may be fanhistorical elements to discussions or articles which arise, simply because, say, particular events or sequences of events of the past (however recent or distant) will have influenced a current situation. For example, it's almost a given that TAFF and fan attitudes to it have been influenced by (the now ancient) "Topic A", and in the nineties certainly by Abigail Frost's theft of the fund. An example of the type of article I would

absolutely *not* consider for *nichevo* would be Mike Resnick's "list of restaurants I want to brag about having been to" or whatever it was. Conversely, I know many are aware of the discussion which arose from Ted White's *Squib* piece on Ardis Waters - I suggested to Ted that the different *reactions* to the piece could be analyzed as very salient to describing different (generational?) groups in today's fandom. Sure, that article (if written) arises out of a fanhistorical context, but is really about what's going on *now*.

There are already zines out there recording fanhistory in "anecdotal memoir" format, so why use space in *nichevo* to do the same thing many others are already doing well.

Another likely criticism is that the kind of issues and topics I would like to see discussed in this fanzine are already being combed over *ad nauseam* by any number of online fora. This is also true, but these venues are unlikely places to find more lengthy, reasoned and edited opinion and commentary. The point here is not to achieve immediacy. As fond of the usefulness of the Internet as people may be, it is risible to suggest that issues can be raised, discussed and resolved in nanoseconds. I believe there is still a place for a court of reasoned opinion, and, clearly, because I have initiated this new fanzine, I believe *nichevo* can be its home.

At this point I'd like to thank all those who gave their advice and opinions at the onset of this project, and especially our contributors to this first issue, without whom...

Needless to say, any opinions expressed by our writers are their own. The publishing of any statement within does not imply editorial approval or support.



# fanzines

## *From Another Place, Far From Here*

### *Jim Trash*

There it lay, a brown thing, all floppy and recumbent.

I reached in and extracted it from its lair.

Flashy insignia screamed out at me, "I am from another place far from here".

I took it inside and investigated further.

Sure enough, there was a fanzine in there.

To the toilet (where else) to peruse the contents.

The fanzine was Swedish although thankfully written to cater for readers of English. My heart sank. I've heard so much about Swedish fandom being dreadfully sercon and dutiful bound to indulge in frightful feuds which mean nothing to anyone but themselves. I always feel kind of uncomfortable when I receive a fanzine I don't enjoy. These people have spent time, effort and money getting this thing to me. I hate to think of it being wasted. Thankfully the *Plotka* cabal don't send me their works anymore so that's cut down the discomfort factor to some degree. I was sure I'd hate this latest effort from Sweden also.

The introductory bit was most unpromising. A list of contents that sounded like it should have been stashed away in some frightfully learned academic conference where no-one would listen but all would nod and pretend they were doing enough to justify the outrageous amounts their particular institution was paying for them to be there. Then 'What's all this then then' which rambled incoherently for a whole A4 page.

Oh ferfucksake, I thought.

Why oh why did these people waste all that stamp money and paper shoving out this shit. Then we progressed on to the meat of the thing headed up by 'Eastercon 2003'. This was written by Ylva Spångberg and was an absolute delight. A more unkind person than myself might suggest that a report on a fictional con could infer that nothing ever happens in Sweden so they have to invent things but whatever the motive this was astounding fun. Starring role was played by a dog who may or may not be an Irish Setter. A souvenir brochure attempted to get involved but was ousted by a map of the subway and a panel was judged on how many times they used the word Fuck. This con may not have and may never exist but I like it anyway.

*"...it reaches under the ribs and indulges in a spot of serious tickling."*

Lennart Uhlin then reviews a proper con that actually did take place (so he sez). This one is not quite so bizarre but does get strange enough that it reaches under the ribs and indulges in a spot of serious tickling. He invents an urban myth known as a 'ConKiller' and reveals the "Anders Holmström secret of how to kill long and involved conversations stone dead".

Then, lurking dead centre is a scary looking piece which concerns Swedish fanhistory. I braced myself with a large gin and tonic and plunged onwards. Pleasant surprise. Johan Anglemark can really write. The English is downright beautiful. Anglemark talks about the ups and downs of Swedish Fandom (in particular Uppsala fandom). It had died away to almost nothing and then they had the wild idea of trying to put across the sercon side of

fandom and the folks began to flock in. At first this seems a little odd. Science Fiction doesn't seem so marginalised now and has become almost mainstream. Why should we need to seek out those people that share our passion? Surely they're everywhere, on the street, in the workplace, down the back of sofa (or is that old threepenny bits?).

Hmmm.

But thinking about it from my own point of view, I remember a while back being disappointed with a number of books I was reading. There was something rather mundane about them. I craved violent plot twists, wild ideas, endless possibilities and yet I was reading fiction that seemed terribly constrained. Then I twigged. It was a return to Science Fiction I needed and no other genre offered the same freedom from constraints. Possibly it's that particular craving that marks a difference between those who quite like the occasional episode of *Voyager* and those who consider themselves fans of SF. The difference perhaps between a passion and a passing pleasure. Whatever the real reason it worked for Uppsala Fandom and the fans met, mixed and multiplied.

The final piece in this fanzine is the jewel in the crown. "The Super Aestheticism Speaks Up". Not the snappiest title in the world but the best fanzine article I've read in a long time. Ylva Spångberg takes a day of her life and views it as art. She studies the composition, the presumptuousness, the sterility, the pseudopregnancy, the literary merit and the intriguing use of colour. It's all here, life as art. She focuses in on the very small and then pulls out to view Stockholm, then Sweden, then Asia, then Earth, Solar System, Milky Way and then simply everything. Her final words:

"The known universe is a tad too unfinished to form an opinion of. I will be happy to return when it is done."

Yes, I like this fanzine. It's wild, it's weird, it's fun. If you haven't got one then hassle them for a copy.

[[ **New Kind of Neighborhood**, published in July or thereabouts, may still be available for the usual from **Lennart Uhlin**, Högsåtrav 22, 5 tr, S-181 58 Lidingö, SWEDEN ([lennart@sfbok.se](mailto:lennart@sfbok.se)) and **Ylva Spångberg**, Disponentg 3, S-112 62 Stockholm, SWEDEN ([ylva\\_s@yahoo.com](mailto:ylva_s@yahoo.com)). ]]

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## Not Enough Zines

### Jae Leslie Adams

Not Enough Zines were brought to the worldcon. There was a great archive of beautiful historical zines strung up on the dividers, and several piles of old zines to sort through for the taking, and long tables of various fanthologies and TAFF reports and suchlike for purchase to the benefit of various fanfunds. But I mean currently produced zines. The reason is plain, though; there were more than 5000 members of the convention, and who wants to publish & haul around fanzines in such numbers for people you hardly know and who may not be interested? In the current category I came home only with:

**THE KNARLEY KNEWS #83** which I haven't read in its entirety yet, although an item by that Gene Stewart (who briefly appeared on Trufen) caught my eye describing the recent ensuing fracas; also much consideration at weary length of fanpublishing issues, both within the lettercol and without... but never mind.

**6 IN 60**, edited by Marcy Lyn-Waitsman, "An Incomplete Look at 60 Years of Science Fiction Fandom in Chicago", contents extremely various, which I am finding impenetrable simply because I know absolutely none of the contributors except Ross Pavlac and Neil Rest, well okay I've heard of Bob Tucker, but the rest including the Worldcon GoHs are who again? There were, sadly enough, cases of this publication lying uncollated in the fanzine lounge, and I suspect there were enough printed for the entire convention, as the colophon credits the convention with underwriting the project.

**CHICON 2000 SOUVENIR PROGRAM**  
and its lighter weight sidekick **BOB EGGLETON SKETCH**

**BOOK/GRANDFATHER SUN** by Ben Bova, featuring the work of the artist and writer GoHs back-to-back, which I am not at all sure count as fanzines. They weigh too much.

**HARRY PLOKTA AND THE BLUE SCREEN OF DEATH**, the latest edition of Plokta, enough said, by the usual suspects; and

**SEX, VIOLENCE AND PERIPETEIA** by David Levine in Ace-double format with **MOOSE NEXT 3800 MILES** by Kate Yule, a Bento Press publication. (Publications? whatever.) Available by editorial whim. David went to Clarion, and Kate had a Summer Vacation wandering the eastern wilds; both are insightful and entertaining writers who put their very selves on the line for our amusement. I'd like to congratulate David at his success here in this our little literary pasture, no matter the excruciating results of his attempt to work into the field of pro fictioneering. And Kate's travel notes made me want to go and do likewise.

*"This one was a thin little thing..."*

**WOOF #25** from the Worldcon Order Of Faneditors (a group apparently consisting of whoever shows up at a worldcon with 100 copies of an apa-like ish for distribution), is a publication I had previously encountered only at the Aussiecon (that issue including a helpful list from Alan Stewart of Aussie fanzine mailing addresses). This one was a thin little thing, padded with several of pages of **CHICAGO MOON-TIMES**, the more-than-daily con newszine which ran to 18 numbered issues plus three half-numbered photo issues. All one-page flyers, with an outstanding combination of illustrations, photos, factual info, news, and short-form fanwriting. All the editors (Chaz Boston Baden, Colleen Crosby, Shawn Crosby, Steve Davies, Sandra Childress, Jan van't Ent, and the multitudes of lovely assistants named in the colophon) should be commended for such a lively outreach of fanzine fandom into the surrounding campgrounds.

From the archives I also came home with:

**BUTTONTACK; THE RICK SNEARY MEMORIAL FANZINE**, edited by June & Len Moffatt and John Hertz (1993). The Sneary material is wonderfully friendly and sweet, just the sort of fanwriting that makes you wish you could meet the author. But unfortunately you can't anymore, and I found the number of obituaries included a bit wearing.

**EPSILON 13** from Rob Hansen (January 1983), the kind of thoughtful fanhistorical lit-crit that fills in lots of the blanks for me; this one concerning the origins of The Women's Apa, and various currents of fanzine theory & practice that preceded the late unpleasantness

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known now mostly to its participants as Topic A (in which all of fandom was plunged into war). Vital lettercolumn. Illos confined entirely to the cover, and Rob's - er - graphic short story "Trufan & Junior".

**2 LOONIES AND A SOFT TOY**, the 1998 FFANZ trip report featuring Renaldo, Frances & Phil, which I happened upon as the fanroom was packing itself up. Not only entirely illustrated but hand-lettered. Didn't I tell you about meeting Renaldo the small stuffed sheep that won a fan fund trip from Australia to New Zealand? Boy would it be nice to see those guys again.

**HAVE BAG... WILL TRAVEL** (Martin Tudor, 1996) and **ON THE TAFF TRAIL** (Rob Hanson, 1984) are both lengthy TAFF trip reports...

The chief fannish publication of the worldcon was flyers. The fanroom distributed several extremely functional pages of interest. Bill Bowers' list of fannish e-contacts, "FanBasic 101", is four pages of tiny type; and Henry Welch (editor of Knarley Knews) produced "What Everyfan Should Know About Fanzines", which includes a list of fanzines to send for. Dick & Leah Smith reprinted an article by Mae Strelkov and a couple of recipes under the title "Hectography: A Lost Art of Fandom", and at their demonstration Saturday afternoon I was able to pull a couple

*"...[not] nearly as inflammatory as the author ... seemed to expect."*

of hecto prints from drawings supplied on the spot by Sue Mason. And then from the endless rows of freebie racks in the hallway I picked an interesting reaction to the Old Fan Network, **THE NEO-FAN MANIFESTO**, which I didn't find nearly as inflammatory as

the author Julie Stickler seemed to expect... but then maybe I'm a bit of a troublemaker. Would have liked to have seen it in **WOOF** though.

**The Knarley Knews**, Henry L. Welch and Letha R. Welch, 1525 - 16th Ave., Grafton, WI 53024-2017 USA, welch@msoe.edu, <http://www.msoe.edu/~welch/tkk.html>, available for the usual or \$1.50

**6 in 60**, edited by Marcy Lyn-Waitsman, copyright Chicon 2000, no other information available.

Chicon 2000, P. O. Box 642057, Chicago, IL 60664, [www.chicon.org](http://www.chicon.org)

**Plokta**, Steve Davies, 52 Westbourne Terrace, Reading, Berks RG30 2RP; Alison Scott, 24 St Mary Road, Walthamstow, London, E17 9RG; Mike Scott, 9 Jagger House, Rosenau Road, London, SW11 4QY; locs@plokta.com, [www.plokta.com](http://www.plokta.com)

**SEX, VIOLENCE AND PERIPETEIA** and **MOOSE NEXT 3800 MILES**, David Levine and Kate Yule, 1905 S.E. 43rd Avenue, Portland, OR 97215 USA

**WOOF**, founder Bruce Pelz, collator/contact Victoria A. Smith, 1416 S. 20th Street, Arlington VA 22202, available in worldcon fanzine lounge or copy room after Sunday noon collation.

**CHICAGO MOON TIMES** may still be available. Send a large manila envelope with \$.99 postage to Chaz Boston Baden, P.O. Box 17522, Anaheim, CA 92817 (overseas fans may omit the postage).

**Button-Tack**, Moffatt House, Box 4456, Downey CA 90241 USA.

**Have Bag, Will Travel**, Martin Tudor, 24 Ravensboume Grove, Willenhall, West Midlands, WV13 1HX, United Kingdom, proceeds donate to TAFF.

**On the TAFF Trail** and **Epsilon 13**, Rob Hanson, 144 Plashet Grove, East Ham, London, E6 1AB

**2 Loonies and a Soft Toy**, from Renaldo, Frances & Phil, Oz FFANZ Admin., P. O. Box 33, Seville, Victoria 3139, Australia, and proceeds donate to FFANZ.

**FanBasic 101** from Bill Bowers is online at <http://www.galaxy-7.net/squib/links3.html>

**Hectography: A Lost Art of Fandom** reprinted from **STET 7**, Dick and Leah Smith, 410 W. Willow Road, Prospect Heights, IL 60070-1250 USA

**The Neo-Fan Manifesto...** Julie Stickler, no address given [say, I'll send you one of the two copies I have.]



## What, If Anything, is a Fanzine?

Dale Speirs

### Chicago Prelude

Normally I don't vote the Hugos, but since I had a membership in the 2000 Worldcon at Chicago in order to vote for Toronto in 2003, I filled in a ballot. As traditional, the fannish categories included Dave Langford and his zine *Ansible*. I did not give him a vote.

### Let's Hear It For The Deaf Man

Langford is an excellent writer, a dry humorist, and I enjoy reading his single-sheet, microprint zine *Ansible*, but he is not a fan writer. I want to make it clear from the start that I bear no personal animosity against him. I have some of his anthologies, and re-read them from time to time with renewed pleasure. I receive *Ansible* each month and peruse it with enjoyment.

*Ansible* is not a fanzine, as good as it is. It is a poor man's version of *Locus*, covering the British publishing scene with flair and fun, but whatever it may be, it is not a fanzine "within the meaning of the Act", as the legal phrase goes. The news is not of fandom but of British publishing, and indeed should put *Ansible* in the Semiprozine category to compete against *Locus*.

### What Constitutes A Fanzine?

In these modern times, matters have been confused by e-zines.

Many of these are actually only just Web sites with sporadic updates. As an aside, the difference between a paper fanzine and an e-

zine seems to be that the former appear more frequently.

A true e-zine is that which is issued as a locked-down text and graphics issue, to be held the same thereafter. If the editor goes back and updates it, thereby changing the reading experience for any subsequent reader, then it is a Web site, not an e-zine.

Just as the term 'fanzine' is much abused, especially by commercial publishers, so it is that an e-zine is often just a Web site. Against that, we can only contend in vain, but it does not alter the fact that a true zine never changes its individual issues after publication.

*Ansible* is primarily an e-zine, which explains its continuing popularity among Hugo voters, who can subscribe to it and read it passively. Name recognition is the most important factor in the Hugos, which is why so many people such as Connie Willis are repeat winners even in the face of superior competition.

A new trend is the pdfzine, whereby the publisher can lock in the form and look of a zine issue as he wants it to appear. Arnie Katz is publishing pdfzines, as one example. Again, these are fixed in situ, not mutable Web sites, so they do qualify as legitimate e-zines.

*"...I define a zine as a fixed set of text and graphics laid out in a permanent form"*

Whether on paper or phosphor screen, I define a zine as a fixed set of text and graphics laid out in a permanent form. More than this, though, it should be a hobby or non-profit cultural related periodical, devoted to the non-commercial side of life.



*Ansible* is not devoted to the non-commercial side because it discusses primarily a particular commercial industry.

## What Should A Fanzine Discuss?

If *Ansible* is not a legitimate fanzine because it primarily covers the British publishing scene, where do we draw the line in the content of sercon zines? I suggest the division is made on the basis of the perceived audience. Yes, *Ansible* has a lot of fannish readers, probably a strong majority. But an outsider with no knowledge of the background of SFdom would perceive that *Ansible* is a trades journal. The gossip is primarily about professional authors and publishing companies. At work I read *Hazardous Materials Management*, *The Arborist*, and *Landscape Alberta*, all obvious trades journals. If *Ansible* were placed among them, it would not seem an awkward juxtaposition. It would be obvious by comparison that it too is a trades journal.

## Creation Zine

Zines date back to the middle 1800s. The first amateur press association, the National A.P.A., was founded in 1876 and is still going. The first SF apa, the Fantasy A.P.A., is now approaching its 63rd year and still going strong. In the 1970s, punk musicians and political cause activists discovered zines, and many to this day believe they invented them. That is not an insignificant factoid. SF fans of the 1930s had at least a glimmering of an idea that they stood on the shoulders of giants from the 1800s. Although SF fandom made many changes and innovations to zinedom, they at least knew a bit of history.

For punkzines this was never the case. Completely ignorant that their great-grandparents might have done the same sort of thing, they decided they were all that was.

The concept of "The Usual" is almost completely unknown in the alternative underground. Many will trade, it is true, and I do indeed receive such zines the money-free way. But for the large majority of zines, money is expected. Punkzines were made to be sold at basement bands or warehouse raves. Corporate media, always ready to co-opt and commercialize the latest cultural fads, quickly produced colour slick adzines masquerading as fanzines, just as several decades ago Hollywood co-opted fanzines as movie magazines.

## And What Of The Future?

The paperless society seems a long time coming, no quicker than the cashless society. Pulp mills report sales of laser-printer quality paper increasing each year. Book and periodical titles are increasing each year. E-commerce still needs the postal and private couriers to deliver their goods.

## The Impact Of Electronic Communication

No new medium of communication has ever destroyed an old one, save perhaps clay tablets. Changed it significantly, yes. Movies did not kill stage theatre, television did not kill radio, and videocassettes did not kill television.

There were, of course, substantial changes in the old media, as there will be in the Papernet. Vaudeville died a mostly unlamented death at the hands of radio in the 1930s, but stage theatre still thrives today with better quality plays. Television usurped half- and full-hour programming from radio, but music and talk quickly filled the vacuum. Movies were forced to improve with bigger screens and better quality, if not necessarily better content,

and are still today a multi-billion dollar business despite videocassettes.

Will the Papernet survive the Internet? I think it will, but only if quality and depth are emphasized. Newspapers and magazines cannot compete for immediacy, rapid updating of references, and news. In that, the Internet will displace printed media. References such as directories, indexes, and databases will be electronic. It will be much easier for a technician on a service call to read an updated repair manual from an e-book or handheld gadget than a thick binder.

Publishers are now finding that one should not rely on a single medium of communication. Most magazine publishers now have Websites, even if simple brochureware. Websites have begun publishing paper magazines, having learned that dead-tree media are not as dead as supposed. The portal Yahoo started its magazine *Yahoo! Internet Life* in September of 1996, made it profitable in two years, and by early 2000 had a circulation of 1,000,000. Other Websites soon followed; eBay, for example, began its magazine in August 1999. What the Website operators have discovered is that print magazines have high profit margins on advertising, reinforce Websites, and can be used as traffic builders for them<sup>6</sup>.

*"The survivability of electronic media is not as good as that of paper."*

## Archival Value As Individual Items

The survivability of electronic media is not as good as that of paper. I am thinking not so much as the physical ability of tape or floppies to retain the electronic bits, but their future compatibility. Each time a new medium is

created, a lot of material is never transferred from the old medium. Hollywood will copy its movies onto video and DVD, but the small experimental films, whose creators are dead and gone, will quietly rot away in some archive for lack of funds to do the job.

Much good music on 78s was never transferred to LP vinyl, and in turn a lot of LP issues never made it to CDs. Bach and Strauss will have their works transferred, but individual performances by specific orchestras may not be forwarded on to the next generation. Someone might say that record players are still being made for vinyl. The problem is they are being made for modern vinyl, and are paradoxically too sensitive for older vinyl. My elderly uncle has a large collection of 78s and 1950s LPs and 45s that he cannot play on his modern player because it picks up every little microscopic scratch and hiss.

Buy an 35-year-old player? Yes, you can still find them in big cities, and pay the cost of keeping them in good repair. But will the average person bother? Few people drive 35-year-old cars because it is too much trouble to fix one yourself or wait for a mechanic to get parts.

Books and magazines may grow brittle but they can still be readily photocopied or scanned without having to find a special machine from one particular manufacturer. If worse comes to worst, a printed text can be re-set into fresh type by having someone read it as is and type it in. This is not so easy with an obscure software application on an 8" floppy.

## Archival Value As Collections

Most zinesters start to feel the wind blowing out of the graveyard by their 40s or 50s, and

begin to think of how to dispose of their zine collections built up over the years. There are two methods of preserving zine collections as collections, not to be confused with preserving individual issues. One can pass the collection on to private collectors, whether by sale or gift, or donate it to a library.

Selling to collectors may be a difficult task, since zines have low liquidity. It has been made easier in recent years by eBay and other Internet auction sites. Zines can also be donated to non-profit distros such as Memoryhole (c/o Greg Pickersgill, 3 Bethany Row, Narberth Road, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire SA61 2XG, Wales) or the Library of Amateur Journalism (c/o Martin Horvat, 112 East Burnett Street, Stayton, Oregon 97383).

Libraries have been a traditional depository but they are generally reluctant or unreliable. Horror stories of theft, mutilation, or tossing the collections in the dumpster abound. An example are the H.P. Lovecraft writings clipped out of their original zine appearances<sup>4</sup>. Few libraries collect zines as such, but if a collection is labeled as "regional small press", then they may be more favourably received. A library that will not take an entire collection may, however, be glad to take the zines of its geographical area for its Local History collection.

The difficulty with this approach is that it yanks zines out of their historical contexts. Zines are international by thematic interest, not geographical by region.

One reason why many libraries are reluctant to accept zine collections is that they are a bibliographic nightmare. Most zine editors know enough to have an issue number and pagination, but there are lots without. (Reference #5 cited below has no date or

page numbers, for example.) And what of all the one-shots and assemblings? The fear of trying to prepare a proper bibliography of thousands of zines is off-putting. The way around this is to treat zine collections as finds, much like manuscripts, letters, and other documents, with a finding aid rather than an index<sup>5</sup>.

Electronic collections will be even worse, with no standardized bibliographic controls. Further, each library would have to have the machines and software capable of reading the electronic files. Webified documents are reasonably compatible, setting aside minor formatting issues, but HTML will eventually go the way of Watfile. Any librarian can take a 150-year-old zine down from the shelf and read it, but trying to download a 15-year-old graphics file will probably be a nightmare. Further, one can read a paper text exactly as the original reader saw it, but an electronic text may be formatted differently and create a different visual impression than the original readers saw, unless it happened to be preserved in something like pdf format.

## **An Overlooked Part Of The Papernet**

Index cards are still sold in vast quantities at the stationers. I am one of those regular customers. I don't know what other people use them for but mine are for my bibliographies and article indexes. Since I was a university undergraduate in the early 1970s, I regularly, about once a week, visit the library and check the current periodicals. On coming across an interesting reference, I jot down the author, date, title, periodical name, and pagination on a card, and include a brief summary of the article's contents. I've been doing this for almost thirty years now. Currently I have five card files boxes for the plant sciences (I am a professional

# *fanzines*

horticulturist), one for philately (a hobby), three for all the other sciences (amateur interest), and one for general items such as literature and history. The cards from the early 1970s are still quite readable, and I can quickly find a reference under the appropriate subject tab.

Now during that time, I have gone through computer software as follows: Gotran, Fortran 4, Watfile, Cobol, Info2000 (Ultron

application), WordPerfect/Quattro Pro 7 and 8, Word 97, Excel 97, Access, Xedit, VM/CMS, Windows 3.11, 95, and NT 4.0. The computers I worked with in the early 1970s were punchcard / fanfold printout terminals. Since then we have seen two sizes of floppy disks, CD-ROMs, and the next big thing, DVDs. At work, within the space of three years, I had to convert my files from Xedit to WordPerfect to Word 97. The Info2000 database was not Y2K-compliant, funnily enough, and the cost of fixing it was so much that we just abandoned it completely. The data could not be converted by high-priced experts, so a staff of four had to be hired to manually re-inventory everything in the database. Thirty years from now, as an elderly man, I will still be consulting my 3x5 index cards, while all those computer files will be useless.

## **Quality Value**

Each form of communications media has its special value that enables it to retain a place. Radio could not sustain set programmes against television, which is why sitcoms and dramas moved to the younger medium. Radio, however, is much cheaper to produce for on-the-spot news or talk shows, and is the dominant source of music. It survives because one can listen to it while driving or

working, something visual media will never be able to compete against.

In like manner, print media has advantages over electronic media. One can flip pages back and forth much faster than scrolling down a computer screen. Electricity is not required to read a book or magazine. E-books will soon become common, but they will, like laptop computers, be a boon to the battery industry.

For the solid content of novels, books and magazines will still survive. One does not expect to see a monthly magazine have the latest news, but that magazine will be valued if it has the overview of a situation, the historical background, and the thoughts written in tranquility that Internet postings will omit.

This is where newspapers went wrong several decades ago in trying to compete with television, by going with Lifestyle sections instead of "And here are the details you never saw on the Evening News".

## **Security Value**

What has convinced me more than anything else about the viability of the Papernet is ECHELON. This is a computer network that intercepts all Internet, radio, and telephone communications in the world. It uses software called DICTIONARY, which listens in for keywords in context and flags them for the attention of analysts.

ECHELON is the modern result of the UKUSA Agreement, signed in 1947 between the USA, Great Britain, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. Signatories each have monitoring stations and share intelligence data. They also standardize terminology and intercept procedures to make it easier to share

# fanzines

data<sup>1,2,3</sup>. More recently, the F.B.I. came to public attention in 2000 for its automated e-mail intercepts using software called Carnivore<sup>7</sup>. This is installed on Internet service provider network traffic, and is used to monitor suspects.

While real mail can be intercepted by authorities, it requires foreknowledge of a suspicious address or a person's identity. It is impossible to trace the source of the mail unless the sender is previously known and under surveillance. That was why it took so long to catch the Unabomber; he just dropped his deadly parcels in a street letter box.

Computer tracing, on the other hand, is a task that can be automated. Hackers are starting to find out that if the authorities are really determined to get them, they will, witness the author of the Melissa virus or the February 2000 denial-of-service attacks on e-commerce firms. Many companies are now learning to scan the Internet regularly for mention of themselves, mainly for copyright violations, such as Paramount Studios versus the Trekkies, for competitors sites, and for libelous sites, such as numerous <company name>.sucks.com sites. This is why it is foolish to set up Websites or listservs for doubtful topics.

The Infiltration Website, for example, is now becoming known to security officers. This site, which also exists as a zine, chronicles the accounts of people who enjoying snooping where they shouldn't, such as exploring storm sewer systems or the Royal York Hotel in Toronto. The zine is below the radar of building security officers, but word spreads much wider on the Internet. Had the originators confined themselves to the Papernet only, infiltration as a sport would last much longer, but within a few years from

now, anytime someone brags about a site on the Internet, the matter will be brought to the attention of company security chiefs.

*"Slash fiction is safer in a privately circulated apa than on a Website."*

A zine, however, usually only circulates between people in the know, as opposed to hacker BBSes which, I'm sure, have half of their subscribers from police and computer security operations. Apas (amateur press associations) will be particularly good for circulating sensitive or personal material between members who don't want just anyone reading the stuff on a Website. Gay/lesbian groups, anarchists, and anyone else with dodgy material will be safer as an inconspicuous apa sent via plain envelopes than as a Website or listserv indexed by ECHELON. Slash fiction is safer in a privately circulated apa than on a Website. Enthusiasts of media SF are discovering how Paramount Studios is hammering unauthorized Star Trek Websites, but genuine zines (ie., not so-called zines that are actually commercial magazines) and apas are below the radar if properly discreet.

## Natural Selection In Action

Zines can sometimes come back to haunt, as Jim Goad found out when his *Answer Me!* zine, which glorified violent abuse of women, was used in evidence against him at a trial for a domestic dispute. On the other hand, he had been a publicity hound and the zine was widely circulated under his real name.

A pseudonym for knowingly sensitive material would have saved him from the hard time he got, just as Mike Diana was foolish to publish pederastic comics under his real name, for

which the State of Florida prosecuted him. Trekkies who blatantly advertise cut-and-paste 'fanzines' need not be surprised if they get stepped on hard by Hollywood. Send out letters with return addresses such as the Man-Boy Sex Association or the People's Anarchist Violence Movement and don't be surprised if you are added to a police or Customs file.

Free speech has nothing to do with it. Society has never allowed people to shout "Fire!" in a crowded theatre, to libel, or to violate the obscenity standards of the times. That people do so is because the Papernet makes it harder to trace violators. Mail must be physically inspected, an impossible task for today's postal networks which handle tens of millions of letters and parcels per day. The only way it can be done is by prior knowledge of an offender's name and address. Using common sense such as plain envelopes, mailing in street letterboxes, publishing pseudonymously (which requires more legal work to prove that you are the pseudonym), and being careful how you chose your friends will provide better protection than any Internet anonymous remailer.

## You Can Run But You Can't Hide

Anonymous on the Internet you say? Not if the authorities really want to find you. It will become easier as time goes by for police to track an individual, even through remailers. The idea that one could be anonymous on the Internet arose because police were slow to catch up to technology, but now they are rapidly gaining on hackers. Ten years ago the Internet was just a playground for a few nerdy hackers, and police had better things to worry about. Now, when billion-dollar multinationals like Microsoft, AOL, and eBay complain, they will get attention. Use your own computer at home or work and you can

be tracked. Use a public library computer and you will be observed via security cameras hidden in the air vents.

## Litera Scripta Manet

Don't rely on the courts to protect your freedom of speech.

Any barrister can tell you how arbitrary judges and juries can be. Electronic text can be wiped automatically by computers, but paper text requires a physical search, something impossible to do if the documents are widely scattered and still being reprinted. That will be one of the great values of the Papernet.

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## *The Secret History of TAFF War 3 (or, Six Days That Shook, Rattled and Rolled)*

[[Editor's note: unattributed text written by **Nic Farey**.]]

On **October 3<sup>rd</sup>** 2000, outgoing North American TAFF administrator **Ulrika O'Brien** issued the following:

"Some almost 25 years ago, the 1976 Eastbound TAFF race produced a tie. The two TAFF winners of that race were Roy Tackett and Bill Bowers. Roy Tackett made the 1976 trip, but Bill Bowers was unable to travel at that time.

TAFF funds are presently such that the administrators were pleased to be able to offer Bill Bowers the opportunity to finally take his TAFF trip in 2001, on the Silver Anniversary of his original TAFF win. Bill has, upon deliberation, accepted the invitation, with a caveat about his health permitting. We are therefore pleased to announce that TAFF will be sending Bill Bowers to Paragon, the 2001 Eastercon, at the Hinckley International Hotel, near Coventry, England, from April 13 through April 16, 2001.

The health caveat is well-advised in this case, however, which leaves us in extraordinary circumstances. Bill Bowers very generously suggested that we consider holding a race for a concurrent new TAFF winner.

TAFF does not ordinarily send two TAFF winners who did not win together either as a tie, or a joint ticket, on a concurrent trip. The current administrators feel concern that sending two entirely separate TAFF delegates diminishes the honor of the distinction for

both winners. We do, however, have to regard the real chance that Bill may not be able to travel, come Easter. We are therefore currently considering the suggestion of holding a race for a second, concurrent or possibly subsequent 2001 Eastbound TAFF trip. There are cogent arguments both for and against holding a race for another 2001 trip, and we are trying to give them all fair consideration. A further announcement on this issue should be forthcoming soon."

Later that same day, former TAFF administrators were invited to participate in a fan fund online discussion group.

On **October 6<sup>th</sup>**, former (1998) TAFF candidate **Victor Gonzalez** issued the following statement:

"The decision to send Bill Bowers to Eastercon in 2001 is worthy of extended applause. Bill has been a major force in American fandom, has had more than an inconsiderable impact on British fandom, and certainly deserves to take the trip he won 25 years ago.

The Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund has served for decades as an effective tool for cross-pollination of British and American fandom. In my opinion, the energy has been quite noticeable over the last two years; the British Corflu, the Seattle Corflatch, and Plokta.com have all had success attracting fans from across the pond. There has been a lot of trans-Atlantic fanac in the last few years, and we can hope the bonds will continue to strengthen.

One way in which TAFF does enhance those connections, even before a winner steps onto foreign tarmac, is through a vibrant election process: fanzines, auctions, the debate between supporters and detractors, and silly

## fan funds

publicity stunts. The election itself is a catalyst for communication.

For this reason, I believe fandom should enjoy a participative race between candidates for the upcoming Eastercon, and that TAFF should do something it has never done before -- delivered upon the British deserving fans from two different eras. There will, I expect, be drink enough for all.

Tom Springer, a fan formerly of Las Vegas (now living in Vancouver, Wash.), the editor of "Brodie," and co-editor of "Wild Heirs" and "Nine Lines Each," talked to me some months ago about the possibility that he would run for TAFF. The British fans at Corflatch, he said, had inspired him to get more involved in British fandom. Though I have been to Britain since the first time I ran for TAFF, my own enthusiasm for a return visit is unabated. Tom and I are friends, and see no problem in running against each other. The winner would certainly take the trip, and would willingly and rapidly detail their experiences in a trip report.

These discussions remained private while we awaited announcement of the expected TAFF race. We were both taken by surprise by the brilliant choice of fulfilling TAFF's obligation to Bill, but we believe that a TAFF race to accompany that choice would be a positive thing, and we are optimistic that there is enough time to arrange the race.

Both Tom and I commit to deliver the \$20 bond, nominations, and platforms to Vijay Bowen by any reasonable date. We also believe that nominations should be opened for a reasonable period of time -- more candidates would make for a better race, with more participation and energy. We would, naturally, leave the scheduling to the standing

TAFF administrator, but we are willing to pitch-in if needed.

*"...a high-energy election process would further enhance the fund's effectiveness..."*

With TAFF in a good position these days, it seems to us that a high-energy election process would further enhance the fund's effectiveness, helping, perhaps, to create in other fans the same fondness for the opposite landmass that Tom and I have felt from our all-too-meager interactions.

[...] We also encourage other fans to join in and make the race even better."

On **October 9<sup>th</sup>**, new North American administrator **Vijay Bowen** issued the following announcement:

"I'm pleased to announce that nominations are now open for the 2001 North-America-to-Europe TAFF race. The winner will attend Paragon, the 52nd annual British National Science Fiction Convention (Eastercon), to be held 13-16 April 2001 in Hinckley, Leicestershire (<http://www.Keepsake-web.co.uk/paragon/>).

To be on the ballot, prospective candidates must be nominated by three nominators from North America and two from Europe. Nominations provided on paper must be signed by the nominator. Nominations provided via email must originate from an email address that the administrators can verify belongs to the nominator. Prospective candidates must also post a US \$20 bond, and they or their nominators must provide a written platform not longer than 100 words.



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Checks must be made out to Velma J. Bowen, not to TAFF.

All nominations, platforms, and \$20 bonds must reach North American administrator Velma J. Bowen (address below) by November 6, 2000. So long as at least two prospective candidates have satisfied these requirements by that date, distribution of ballots, in both electronic and paper form, will begin immediately thereafter.

The voting deadline will be 31 January 2001. As usual, voting will be via signed paper ballots only, and the deadline will be a "received-by" deadline, not a "postmark" deadline."

As you may have heard, in addition to sending a newly-elected Millennial Delegate to Eastercon in the stfnally fateful year 2001, TAFF also hopes to send Bill Bowers -- health permitting -- as the Silver Anniversary delegate, twenty-five years after the TAFF trip he won but was unable to take. We'll keep everyone informed about this as events develop. Right now, it's time to elect a contemporary delegate, so get those nominations, platforms, and checks in today!

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### *Lilian Edwards*

>When the Bowers trip to the UK was first announced by Ulrika, I had a number of reservations and questions. One, when was the decision made to send Bill Bowers rather than to have a traditional race, and for how long had it been bubbling under? And two,

connectedly, were any UK people other than Maureen [Kincaid Speller, European TAFF administrator] consulted before the decision to go with a Bowers trip was made? I wanted to know the answers to these points because I wasn't sure if the views of UK fandom had been fully taken into account. There was no doubt that Bill Bowers had once fair and square won a TAFF race to the UK which he had by his own altruism never taken; but did that automatically make him the right candidate to send, without a fully contested race, some twenty years later? TAFF is a bilateral and living institution, wholly and rather fragilely dependent on the good faith and donations of fans on *both* sides of the pond; and while Bowers was obviously fondly recalled by many older yet still active US fans, in truth I was not totally sure that Bill Bowers meant a great deal to most of current active UK TAFF-voting fandom.

Did this matter? No one clearly was thinking of denying that Bowers deserved to win TAFF back in 1975, but there did seem legitimate doubts that he would have won a hypothetical openly contested 2001 TAFF race to the UK. When a unilateral decision to send Bowers and not have a "normal" race appeared to be on the cards, I felt worried that prospective voters on this side of the pond, as well as prospective candidates at the US end, might feel (with some justification) that they had been cheated; that they were being denied the opportunity they expected to have to see a candidate they did vote for at Eastercon 2001, while a candidate they did not choose, was being foisted on them instead using (effectively) their money. In the language of the European Parliament (zzzz, I know) there would be the impression of a "democratic deficit".

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This perception might or not be justified - we can debate this till the cows come home. Given the rocky time TAFF has had in recent years, however, it seemed to me the safest approach would be to run a "normal" 2001 race, preferably to Eastercon but if necessary, given elapsed time, to Novacon, *as well as* the Bowers trip. And as we now know, this was the decision eventually arrived at.

But what should have happened if TAFF did not have the money for both, especially given that it seemed possible Bowers might need a first class plane ticket for medical reasons, something which would drain the TAFF coffers fairly dry? In that eventuality, which trip should be dropped? From a lawyerish point of view, I thought it was possible that Bowers, by not going in the correct year when he was elected, had technically waived his right to the trip, while the TAFF voters (and donaters) had not waived their right to elect a US candidate in 2001 in return for the funds they had raised and donated. But of course legalistic points of view are not what TAFF is about - if anything it is more about social comity and compassion. However a precedent for compromise existed. If it was impossible for Bowers and a 2001 candidate to be sent to the UK, then it seemed to me Bowers could more appropriately be sent to the UK by a one-off fund such as was raised for the likes of Willis, Mae Strelkov, Langford, Chuch Harris and Gary Farber. Then everyone could be happy.

### *Don Fitch*

I'm reluctantly (I think that's the best word) in agreement with the decision to send Bill Bowers as a TAFF Representative. I say "reluctantly" because I've long believed that TAFF (and the other Fan Funds) should, ideally, send Representatives who are in the

early phase of their fan careers, so that the contacts they make may strengthen the bonds of the fandoms of the two countries for many years.

I don't feel that it should be a reward for past services to fandom, but rather an encouragement for future ones. This doesn't seem to be the popular view of TAFF & the other Fan Funds, nor has it, usually, been an easy one for me -- it's sometimes led to me having to vote for candidates running against fans I know & like and who would make excellent Representatives, but who were (in my opinion) well over-the-hill in terms of fan *activity*, and it's often led me to vote "No Preference".

Still... Bowers, having actually won (in a tie, in 1976), though he was unable to make the trip then, really does deserve the opportunity to make the trip, and I fervently hope his health permits him to do it, and to enjoy it.

*"I don't feel that [the funds] should be a reward for past services to fandom, but rather an encouragement for future ones."*

At the same time, if the TAFF Funds are sufficiently robust, I'm glad to see a current race conducted, as well. I don't think it will appreciably diminish the Honor for two people to share the Award, nor do I think they'd necessarily have to attend the same Convention. (If I understand correctly, there is at least one other in the UK that's almost as large, and about as Fannish, as the EasterCon.) But that would be something for the Administrators, Candidates, and Previous Representatives to work out.

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We appear to have at least two good Candidates, and I'm not sure it would have been a good thing to put off the in-person contact between one of them and UK fandom for another year. Time's wing'ed chariot & all that, you know.

### Robert Tichtman

Bill Bowers is a good friend of mine, but I agreed with Lilian's point of view regarding his cachet with contemporary British fans. His fanzine *Outworlds* has some circulation over there, but (a) it's not widely distributed like, say, *Trap Door* (58 copies to the UK) and (b) there hasn't been an issue for well over a year anyway. As for whether he'd have won a current race on his own merits, all I can say is that would depend on who would be running against him.

Like Lilian, I'd like to know how the decision to award Bowers his quarter-century-delayed trip was arrived at, who was consulted, etc. And I had serious concerns over his ability both to take the trip, given his ongoing serious health problems, and (perhaps more significantly) his ability to administer the fund for several years following a trip.

Thus I proposed that a concurrent North America to Europe race should be implemented immediately. I knew of the two candidates who had already expressed interest in running, so no lengthy period of awaiting nominations needed to be factored in (though a short one, widely announced, would be appropriate), followed by a voting period that ends in sufficient time for the winner to make travel arrangements to the Eastercon.

By doing this, Bowers still takes his trip if he wants to, his health allows, and sufficient funds exist in the TAFF kitty or via private donations of money or airline upgrades/miles

-- and TAFF will have a North American administrator who will definitely be in good enough health to perform that task.

This was discussed exhaustively (and exhaustingly) on the FanFund Administrators e-list, on which both current and the just-now-former TAFF administrator are present. From my point of view, it was incumbent on them to make a decision -- and quickly -- about the whole matter. My own opinion (and that of quite a few others) was that there should be a 2001 TAFF race either to the Eastercon or to the Novacon later in the year. The winner of that race would then be the North American administrator, not Bill Bowers. Bill needs to conserve his fannish energies for publishing *Outworlds* No. 71 and *Fanthology '95*.

During my own administration, if I'd considered anything so radical I would've consulted with as many former administrators as possible before arriving at a final decision. (I generally considered Chuch my touchstone in such matters.) As it turned out, I wasn't the only one holding the above opinions, they were discussed at fast and furious length, and the end result is that Vijay et al listened, took our comments into consideration, and now there is a 2001 race. A happy ending, in my opinion.

### Nic Farey

There seems to have been some kind of timing problem here. It would seem to have made more sense if the Fan Fund Administrators' discussion group was set up first, therein encompassing discussion on the (actually rather charming) idea that Bill Bowers be offered the opportunity to take what is now being described as a "Silver

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Anniversary" trip. Assuming all is well, this then leads to a joint announcement from outgoing and incoming administrators, perhaps of both Bill's trip (as always, assuming TAFF has the funds, which it seems are munificent enough for the task) *and* of the opening of nominations for a "normal" Eastbound race to the Paragon Eastercon in 2001.

But that's just a better *sequence* of events. The other timing issue is that all of the above should have been started months ago, at the very latest solidified during the trip of European delegate (now current European Administrator) Sue Mason. Well, time does get away from you sometimes doesn't it?

It's a feasible deduction to suggest that after almost three years as North American Administrator (and why wait so long to release the reins?) Ulrika O'Brien here seeks to mask her incompetence in failing to get a 2001 race under way in a timely manner by the smokescreen of a grand gesture, perhaps hoping that the noise of the celebratory fireworks will drown out any uncomfortable questions. A possible alternative explanation, that the outgoing Administrator deliberately delayed opening nominations for 2001 out of some kind of ill-will toward specific potential nominees, may be too distressing to contemplate.

Some of the phraseology used in Ulrika's announcement struck me as curious, to say the least. After mentioning that Bill's uncertain health could jeopardize his ability to take the trip, she writes: "Bill [...] generously suggested that we consider holding a race for a concurrent new TAFF winner", as if this was an option which had not occurred to her. This is followed by: "TAFF does not ordinarily send two TAFF winners who did

not win together..." as a seeming attempt to pour cold water on this idea, which would lend credence to the theory that Ulrika *did not want a 2001 race to occur*, for whatever reason. As might have been expected, there was some spirited comment on this announcement from several sources. Those of a more cynical frame of mind might then conclude that the creation of a Fan Fund Administrators' discussion group immediately afterwards might be used as a vehicle to contain or suppress discussion rather than engender it. This makes the October 3<sup>rd</sup> announcement look even more like a *fiat* from some remote Czarina. Lilian Edwards (above) seems of the opinion that this was disenfranchising TAFF voters. Since TAFF has always run under a tradition of democracy, I would suggest that those voters might feel that they had been kicked in the nuts with an O'Brien hob-nailed boot. O for an editorial cartoonist.

The amount of (or lack of) consultation which went into the decision to "award" the 2001 trip has been extensively questioned. It appears that at the very least, incoming North American Administrator Vijay Bowen and European Administrators Maureen Kincaid Speller (outgoing) and Sue Mason (incoming) were at least *aware* in a general manner about what was being planned. However, based on many years of friendship with Maureen, I find myself unable to detect her *imprimatur* on the Bowers announcement, though of course I may be quite mistaken in this. (Maureen could not be reached for direct comment by the time this issue was completed.)

However, I find there are also more forward-looking, and some might argue more important considerations: an argument which, had it been considered in time gives much greater validity to the idea of delaying a "true" Eastbound race until 2002.

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The 2002 Eastercon is Helicon 2 in Jersey. The previous Helicon coincided with the absence of a TAFF race as a result of Abigail Frost's attempt to cover up her theft of the fund. Although a Jersey Eastercon has been a previous winner's destination (Robert Lichtman in 1988) this is not only a good opportunity for a North American fan to sample the delights of the Channel Islands, but also, as the Australians might say, it's a "good jumping-off place for the continent." A Jersey visit should (and certainly ought to) provide an excellent opportunity for the delegate to visit *European* fandom rather than just concentrating on the UK. I hear Euro rail passes are still quite reasonable. Let's expose wider European fandom to the TAFF ethos, something which hasn't really happened since the likes of Tom Schlück won the 1966 race against Bo Stenfors, Peter Weston and Eric Jones. (We won't mention Mario Bosnyak.)

Now let's add to this the fact that a Westbound 2003 race would bring the European delegate to Toronto. Some

Canadian fen promote the complaint that they are ignored when TAFF comes around, and again this schedule has the potential to be a tremendous boon to TAFF and its continued relevance into the next millennium.

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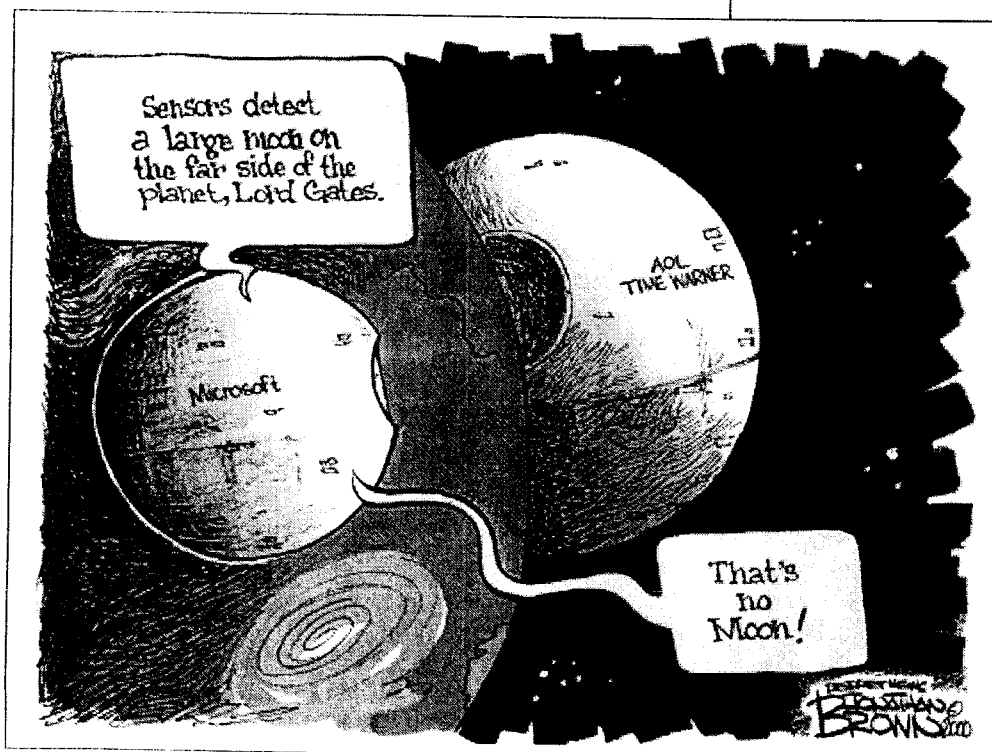
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## The Derailing of "Old 815"

### Nic Farey

Issue #83 of Henry Welch's fanzine *The Knarley Knems* contains an article by Gene Stewart under the general title of "Witchard's armangac", subheaded: "...is a potent spirit that some say adds clarity to otherwise muddled thought. Let's hope."

The "hope" expressed by this heading is in vain, which is perhaps just as well since judging by the content of the piece it is quite insincere.

Badly constructed though it is, the article at face value would purport to be a plaint about the increasing incivility of modern life. The bulk of his writing concerns one specific example. He begins:

"And I alone am left to tell this tale of nastyfen.  
Or so it feels to me.  
I'd joined Trufen, an email-based discussion group. Thought it might be fun, based on my enjoyment of the cross-chatter in LASFAPA's Wurlitzer, an apa-zine. After all, Marty Cantor, LASFAPA's Little Tin Ghod, had invited me."

The bulk of this paragraph might not even be relevant except for the fact that it contains an untruth, a harbinger of what would follow. Stewart may indeed be "alone ... left to tell this tale" (which may be the best place for him); he did indeed join Trufen, but was not invited to do so by Marty Cantor. The essentially uncomplex arrangements for the group mean that all invitations are made by moderator Victor Gonzalez. At the *suggestion* of Marty Cantor perhaps. A fine distinction, but one indicative of Stewart's disregard for facts.

"First thing I noticed was the Ted White Unoriginal Amateur Hour, also known as Ted Declaims As Sycophants Kowtow, I believe. It's a show I'd caught before. For those who don't know, Ted White once edited *Amazing* and makes the term opinionated seem like damnation by faint praise."

*"It's clear enough that Stewart does not like Ted White..."*

It's clear enough that Stewart does not like Ted White, and implies by this statement that he is familiar with his writings in other fanzines or other discussion groups. Granted, Stewart is not alone in this viewpoint, and few of my acquaintance would omit "opinionated" from a description of the Man From Virginia. I have had my own criticisms of Mr. White in the past, and no doubt will do so again in the future, but I take a different view of the use of "opinionated" as a blanket term of denigration. There are indeed plenty of people who are opinionated boors (like Stewart), but there are fortunately also some others whose opinions are generally interesting (like White), and in the latter's case more often than not based on fact or experience, an impression the former does not convey. For a person who boasts about the number of dictionaries in his possession, the definition of the simple words "fact" and "truth" seem to elude him. "Ted Declaims As Sycophants Kowtow" is an astonishing and thoroughly ignorant statement from a person who in three days cannot possibly have read postings from more than 20% of the Trufen membership, if that.

"Undaunted, I ventured a few friendly whacks on a few familiar heads and even tweaked Ted's ad astra'd nose, having tangled with him in some print zine or other awhile back."

➤ MOLLY IVENS?

- (Molly Ivins?)
- Oh, Ted, Ted, Ted
  - (Gene Stewart Trufen posting, 7/5, subject: "Ted's crush")
- Do I know you?
  - (Ted White, 7/5)
- You ask if you know me, as if that's relevant. And surely you're better-qualified to answer that question than I
- Interesting response.
- Shall we move on?
  - (Gene Stewart, 7/6, subject: "Know Thyself")

The first post above is presumably the "tweak" to which Stewart refers. The context itself is unimportant, other than that a periodic spate of political discussion was occurring in which Ivins' (as her name is correctly spelled) columns were cited. Stewart is insultingly overfamiliar. Personally I would have been more voluble in a reply had this been directed at me. Ted White's reply makes only the simple mistake of asking "Do I know you?" when the correct question would have been "Should I know you?" This either gives the lie to Stewart's claim that he had previously "tangled amicably" with his target, or that his comments at whatever time this was supposed to have occurred were singularly unmemorable. The posting of July 6 is a clear attempt to get out from under while attempting to deliver a wan parting shot.

- Gently, Gene, gently. We have been sparring for quite some time, you and I, but many on this list will not have read your columns and many locs (or may not remember them).
  - (Marty Cantor, 7/6)
- I feel my response was justified by your inappropriate, overly familiar and chiding response to my comment on Molly Ivins. Obviously neither of us knows the other.
  - (Ted White, 7/6)

"Then I began to have my contributions to the discussions not bantered about in witty repartee, not answered in drollery or wry asides, and not playfully zinged, tweaked or squibbed, but attacked. Personally. Ad hominem per ardua, at length, in detail, and as nastily as possible. What'd I say?"

- How much Viagra does it take to screw Ted's dim bulb? (Couldn't resist)
  - (Gene Stewart, 7/7)
- Try harder. Your cheap shots at Ted since you joined Trufen are getting pretty tiresome. What's your beef?
  - (Robert Lichtman, 7/7)
- Well, I guess that Stew cannot afford the more expensive shots. And Stew has no beef as he is on a vegetarian diet.
- But he should lighten up (I say without smartassery) – Ted does not deserve this. I think that Old 815 will fit in here.
  - (Marty Cantor, 7/7)

I'm still looking for the nasty, personal attacks Stewart cites. Perhaps he was looking in the mirror and found them there. Robert Lichtman delivers a sharp, but unabusive and not uncalled-for reply, and Marty Cantor (who does know Stewart), chides gently while still attempting to place him in a good light. Stewart, however, manages to shoot his other foot, and one of Cantor's too. Perhaps through unfamiliarity with an online discussion group, he had posted replies under his own separate subject headings as if this were a regular loc to a regular print fanzine, rather than replying to individual threads and maintaining the subject. It seems that he was privately advised of the netiquette required.

- Marty tells me I should send out each individual comment separately, but I've got no time for that. Just scan down and

see if you spot your name, if the rest doesn't interest you.

- Of course, one's own name may not be of much interest either, but I can't help that.
  - (Gene Stewart, 7/7)

Translated: "I've been informed by a sympathetic friend that this discussion group is not quite like locking a zine, but you can all fuck off. By the way, here's the mock-genial insult to the group I feel obliged to include in every posting." The above posting also included the following "highlights":

- I respect and like Ted, although he does have an unusual number of invisible buttons, which makes it fun to discover them.
- Nic, you wrote: "...kids are much easier to catch out when they're doing something they shouldn't." You don't have any kids, do you?
- Robert Lichtman, sorry if my tweakings of Ted's steep nose offend thee. Pluck them out.
- As for trying harder, sorry about that, too, but this capacity's been set by the group's parameters.
- Tiresome I may be. I'll let you know when I wake up.
- As for what's my beef? I'm a vegetarian, and I think that cows are a hell of a lot smarter than those who eat them. So where's Clara now?
- I have no quarrel with Ted, or in fact with anyone. Just splashing in the warm yellow waters of Trufen, same as the rest of you.
- Marty, you want me to lighten up? Okay, okay. Where's Ted, I'll kiss and hug and love him and call him George. As long as it's not Scithers.
- However, be it noted that I wasn't especially being hard on poor old Ted. I was just joshing. Translucent skin abounds, apparently.

"After all, I'd only been joshing, making jokes, cracking wise in a manner that has served me well in many zines over the years. And in going over things I set aside any insult I might

have felt and thought, "Ah, it's just the local style. I shall offer rejoinders in kind."

Once again, I find nothing to give credence to Stewart's comments in his article, nor anything to justify his presumed wounded pride. I *do* see a great amount of needling, a number of incredible arrogant assumptions (yes, I do have kids), and a number of further insults directed to the group as a whole, the "jewel" of which has to be the comparison of trufen to a puddle of piss. If these are examples of "the manner that has served ... well in zines over the years", then there should be a number of faneds who ought to be hanging their heads in shame right now for printing Stewart's drivel and therefore encouraging him.

*"...there should be a number of faneds hanging their heads in shame for printing Stewart's drivel..."*

"Yet another tactical error thus embroiled me deeper in snide dismissals, arch disdain and outright hostile vituperation. Could calumny and contumely be far behind?"

- Though you've not aimed any of your "joshing" my way yet, I guess my skin is getting a little thin too. There's a difference between being witty and being a smart-ass. Ted, Robert and the others can certainly take care of themselves here, but your banter isn't as funny or amusing as you seem to think. You write: "Marty tells me I should send out each individual comment separately, but I've got no time for that", and "I wasn't doing much more than amusing myself with a bit of off-center humor". This is a contemptuous attitude on your part. If you're writing only to amuse yourself, start a private diary. If you want to engage in conversations with reasonable people, try being a little more reasonable yourself.



# feud

- Your writing shows promise, but the personal abuse you've been slinging around makes it hard to put up with the good stuff you write.
  - (Curt Phillips, 7/7)

And here. I believe, we have the final insult which sent Stewart packing. After all, he self-identifies as a loccer and article writer of some years standing, and is a member of LASFAPA well enough known to Marty Cantor. He preens his supposed superiority, exhibits great familiarity with all, and generally comports himself as if he really were the 600lb gorilla he imagines himself to be. Who, under these circumstances, would not be mortally offended by the cruel pronouncement: "Your writing shows promise"?

"Just short of three days after subscribing to the list I unsubscribed, as the inelegant term of choice has it. Quite simply I had neither stomach nor time to indulge in such truculence."

- Two people left Trufen this week. Mike Scott and Gene Stewart.
  - (Victor Gonzalez, 7/8 weekly report)
- Jae Leslie Adams wrote: "The social dynamic on display must surely account in part for the way prospective (and sometimes active) young fanzine fans flee the scene."
- Like Gene Stewart? Gene – who left the scene today (to my true regret) – was, in my opinion, trying hard to make a name for himself here rather than trying to join the party. He was needlessly rude to several folks and mocked all who tried to point out that he was trampling on the rules of this party that he's joined.
- I thought Gene had great potential, he's been an interesting letterhack in zines for some time now, but if he has to be treated with any more consideration here than any of the rest of us before he'll stay...

- Having said that, I hope he'll try us again when he's got a little more time. I doubt that anyone here has any truly hard feelings about him over his visit, or at least I hope not. I certainly don't.
  - (Curt Phillips, 7/9)

*"...all the things you expect to hear when you have a junior-grade Dorothy Parker wannabe..."*

- I'd expect, Curt, that for Jae Leslie, Gene isn't an example of a fan fleeing aggressive fanatic, but an example of a practitioner of that dubious art. I'm not regretful (nor the least bit surprised) that Gene ran. He began with a mild (yes, mild, lest we forget) as well as pointless and gratuitous dig at Ted. When folks challenged this, he's probably have gotten respect, from me for one, by offering a clean apology. Instead, he suggested a rather complex reference to a line from the Christian gospels – if I've read Stewart correctly – that others here, specifically Robert Lichtman of all people, do the same kind of thing he's done, announced he'd tell us if he was ever good and ready to quit doing it, suggested he had the right to do it because he was smarter than us, likened Trufen to a puddle of urine, and said it was OK if he acted like an asshole because folks ought to be able to take a joke.
- In short, you have pretty much all the things you expect to hear when you have a junior-grade Dorothy Parker wannabe in your workplace, always ready with a self-serving dig, and you can call them on it. Boringly predictable stuff, really.
- I'd like to think, as Curt does, that Gene has a lot more to offer than this. Most such behavior can be seen as a destructive inversion of some noble and useful impulse. But there's still no way to tell if Gene will find his way clear to tap into his essential goodness, even with the obvious

stimulus of Trufen participants peppering his sorry ass with verbal buckshot. One can only live in hope.

- May the Force be with him, and all that there stefnal stuff.
- (Gene, I hope you've read this far. I wasn't about to say anything behind your back I wouldn't say to your face. Some of what I've written here was angry, some of it kindly. Take 'em both with the my hope that it's of use to you somehow.
  - (Mark Manning, 7/9)
- Gene Stewart seemed to be trying to make a big noise from the getgo, and he seemed rude, but the best way to respond if it bothers you is to ignore it, delete it and go onwards.
  - (Mike McInerney, 7/9)
- I White visited Friday night so we could see Brian Wilson [...] and we had agreed Gene S was Very Promising!
  - (Frank Lunney, 7/9)

"Next day I got an email from Marty, passing along a lengthy diatribe from Trufen in which my name featured. It was a mock lament I'd been "run" or "scared away" and issued crocodile regrets with downright Political sincerity. I endeavored to ignore this but soon was treated to another lengthy tarantella, this one mocking me only this time celebrating my departure as good riddance to bad trash."

You may search in vain among the above posts for the "mock lament" to which Stewart refers. By the description given in the article, Mark Manning's post would seem to qualify, and he has a better regard for the reality of the exchanges than Stewart does and says kinder things about him than I, for one, feel he deserves. Consulting with Marty Cantor, it would appear that the second "lengthy tarantella" was sent privately, although the clear implication is given that the missive issued from Trufen (implicating the group) rather than from an individual there.

"[Marty] tells me Trufen is rapidly degrading toward disintegration. They're just too nasty toward each other to keep going, it seems."

This statement forms a perfect cap to the part of the article which is the tale of Stewart's Trufen experience. This is entirely appropriate, since the piece begins with the minor lie that he was invited by Marty Cantor, and ends with this major double lie: (a) Marty states that he never said any such thing as "Trufen is rapidly degrading...", and in any case would not have, since (b) Trufen is in fine fettle, with new members joining regularly.

It must be pleasant in Gene Stewart's world, where the facts can be distorted through the funhouse mirror of a twisted mind to emerge in a form unrecognizable to every observer except the happy twistee. Perhaps Stewart was a lawyer in a previous life, or even this one. I have never met Stewart, and have had no connection with him other than his three day sojourn in Trufen. I thought him a boor for his remarks there, but at that time echoed others' sentiments that perhaps he would try the group again at some later date. That is, until I read the astonishing, self-serving article he had written.

The lettercol of *The Knarley Knews* has contained some discussion recently about an election for fandom's "resident curmudgeon", a position for which Stewart may qualify. I, however, have another epithet for him. It also begins with 'c', but is much shorter.

**[[ The Knarley Knews** is a bi-monthly genzine edited by **Henry L. Welch**, 1525 16<sup>th</sup> Ave., Grafton, WI 53024-2017, USA ([welch@msoe.edu](mailto:welch@msoe.edu)) and is available for the usual. **Trufen** is an on-line discussion group moderated by **Victor Gonzalez** (905 N.E. 45<sup>th</sup> St., Apt #106, Seattle, WA, 98105, USA ([squib@galaxy-7.net](mailto:squib@galaxy-7.net)) with an invited membership. **]]**



# Pillars of fandom

## #1: Martin Tudor



What dark stain upon the character of British überfaan Martin Tudor can possibly remain undredged by the man himself? Like a human version of the *Centre Pompidou*, he wears his insides on the outside: alcohol abuse, unemployment, ill health, muggings, calamitous debts – all have been grist to the *Empties* mill. It is *The Book of Job* rewritten as autobiography.

Were it not for bad luck, Martin would hardly have any. Even the "honor" of winning TAIFF ended up as welcome as an unmentionable disease contracted as a result of an alarming sexual peccadillo (ah, the one themed issue of *Empties* we happily appear to have missed). Less trusting fans might have beaten the truth out of Abi Frost with a pickaxe handle, but not Martin. Then again, it's doubtful he could have afforded the train fare. (Ultimately, fanzine fandom dispatched a blunter instrument: Gary Farber.)

Martin's "hands on, thumbs down" approach to technology is legendary: he is the Pol Pot of mimeography and the Ed Gein of Xerox, a

serial killer of copiers. Presented with a state-of-the-art PC, he can reduce it to a smoldering ruin simply by fingering the spacebar. As chair of Novacon 19, he provided GoH Geoff Ryman with a radio mike for the Saturday night one-man play - only to have a local taxi firm on the same wavelength supply the Greek chorus. Indeed, so great is his power, Martin could probably get a manual typewriter to crash. (Not for nothing was he adjudged a witch at the third MiScon).

The legacy of the former *Critical Wave* photocopier (that hulking engine so cruelly lampooned by Alison Scott) may nevertheless be arguably his greatest achievement. Soviet dictators have been allowed to depart Earthly existence with more decorum than this pitiful testament to the evils of spare part surgery, which has now gone through more chewing gum and Band-Aids than a thousand first-graders. All this might be forgivable if the print was not often so faint that many suspected an international cartel of opticians was paying him off in Guinness.

So, what lies ahead for the Prometheus of Willenhall? He might have been a SMOF by now if he could only renounce the wretched backroom labors (editing the Brum Group's monthly newsletter for an active readership of three, negotiating Novacon contracts to ensure that Tony Berry won't whinge about the Real Ale, running the Tad Williams Fan Club). Perhaps instead he should have taken a more vacuous yet high-profile job (chairing the next British Corflu?). Doubtless, it is now merely for us to look forward to *Empties: the "Joys" of Parenthood* and suggest that some day, as a fitting tribute, Guinness will be served on the vehicles of West Midlands public transportation.

*"Juvenal"*

*Contributors' guidelines*

Articles submitted for inclusion in *nichevo* should have as their primary concern either fans, fanzines, fan funds, fan awards, conventions, local groups or issues of the day relating directly to fandom. This is what we mean by "fandomcentric".

Bring a solid subject, and a firm point of view that you are willing and able to defend.

*nichevo* is not intended to be another purveyor of fanhistory. There are several fine fanzines which already cover that.

Contentious is good.

No whining.

Contributions can be emailed to the editorial address in any format Word will handle.

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