

# Some Time Before the Beginning

The Convoluted Tale of the Fan Achievement Awards and What Followed.

## FAN ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS, 1961 Nominating Ballot

This ballot is for your voting convenience in the first Fan Achievement Awards nominations. The only qualification for voting is that a donation be given to help defray the expense of the awards. You must include your name and address so that a final ballot can be sent to you ... only those of you who nominate will be allowed a final vote. Final ballots will be mailed during May, 1962.

"Best Writer" includes both fiction and non-fiction; humorous or serious. "Best Regular Column" includes columns of all sorts from editorials to letters and anything in between.

"Best Artist" includes cartoonists, etc.

"Best Single Publication" includes one-shots, special publications, and any single issue of a regularly published fanzine (be sure to include issue number).

"Outstanding Merit" is without nomination and will be offered on the final ballot.

Return this ballot prior to April 15 to the teller listed below:

Roy Tackett  
915 Greenvalley Road N.W.  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Fan editors wishing to reproduce this ballot must obtain permission.\* This is the only way tellers can be given equal returns.

BEST FAN WRITER OF 1961

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
2 \_\_\_\_\_  
3 \_\_\_\_\_

BEST FAN ARTIST OF 1961

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
2 \_\_\_\_\_  
3 \_\_\_\_\_

BEST REGULAR COLUMN OF 1961

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
2 \_\_\_\_\_  
3 \_\_\_\_\_

BEST SINGLE PUBLICATION OF 1961

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
2 \_\_\_\_\_  
3 \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\*From George C. Willick, 410 W. 110th Street, New York 25, New York.  
(This copy distributed with flyer 5 [Xero interim publication].)

***Some Time Before the Beginning:*** A fanzine compiled & written by Kim Huett in order to hopefully settle certain questions regarding the life and death of the Fan Achievement Awards and the ripples this failed project set in motion. Brickbats and bouquets can be sent to kim.huett at gmail dot com.

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A while back I discovered a copy of the 1961 Fan Achievement Awards Nominating Ballot. I scanned this of course as it seemed like the sort of ephemeral item which should be preserved on Fanac.com. Then, since it was relevant to some recent discussion about early fan awards (though now I can't remember where this discussion occurred) I thought it might be nice to pass the scan on to various folk who might be interested. And just so we're all on the same page as to what kicked everything off there's a trimmed version of that scan posing as a cover for this fanzine.

I then received via email an copy of *This Here #36* (published by Nic Farey). This was unexpected because *This Here* is a fanzine I do not care for and thus have no contact with. Just why I'd been sent this issue quickly became apparent as the scan I'd made had been included in the hopes that the story behind it might be revealed. For the record I didn't object to this having been done as I'd sent the scan out with the intention that it reach as many interested parties as possible.

However I was rather disappointed by the response to the scan when the following issue was also sent to me. I suppose this is an unreasonable reaction because at least some people responded, which is better than echoing silence after all. Still, none of the responses added much and the Farey made it clear that HE wasn't going to go to any any effort to uncover the story behind this form.

On the other hand I thought somebody should look into this. Just enough had been uncovered to pique my curiosity and I wanted to know more. And since I believe that if you want something done you do it yourself (because who else can you trust to do the job properly) I went forth and researched the topic.

I won't claim the following is the full story as I'm sure there is interesting material published in places I've not thought to look, or which I don't currently have access to. It's also probable that certain facts didn't make it into any fanzine at all and therefore are lost forever. I'd also like to point out that its possible that some of the sources I've used made claims that were incorrect. Even with the best will in the world the publishers of fanzines and their contributors can make the occasional error. I've pointed out in a couple of places where I think somebody has gone a little off the rails but that doesn't mean I've caught every dubious claim. Still, I think what follows covers the majority of the story more or less accurately.

Included at the end of my article are all the sources I found most useful. I haven't included absolutely every reference as some I found added nothing new in less detail. I transcribed every reference worth including so you might more easily look up anything you might want to check. I also find transcribing material like this more useful than simply reading it because there's much less chance of missing a significant fact or misinterpreting a comment. Even so, if I had realised just how much relevant material I was going to discover I'd have skipped the transcribing. I started this project assuming that it would be a struggle to find any answers to my questions. Instead it turns out that the Fan Achievement Awards plunged all fandom into having an opinion. Of course by the time I realised how many twists and turns there were to this story and how well documented they were I'd already transcribed enough to fill a half-dozen pages. So it was either carry on to the bitter end or waste all that effort. I'm not sure I made the right choice but what is done is done. Look upon my work ye reader and despair.

## Some Time Before the Beginning

A few words by Kim Huett

It all began with George C. Willick. As it happens I was already aware of George C. Willick. In the early 60s he published a happening little fanzine called *Parsection*. Many of the best known fans of the day; Redd Boggs, Sid Birchby, Rog Ebert, Harry Warner Jr, Bob Tucker etc had articles published in *Parsection*. Willick was also a character who liked to argue for unpopular causes in his fanzine, the existence of UFOs for example, or how much fun fan feuds were. Such contentious topics were never the sole focus of his fanzine however. He definitely liked to stir things up but really no more various other fans of this period.

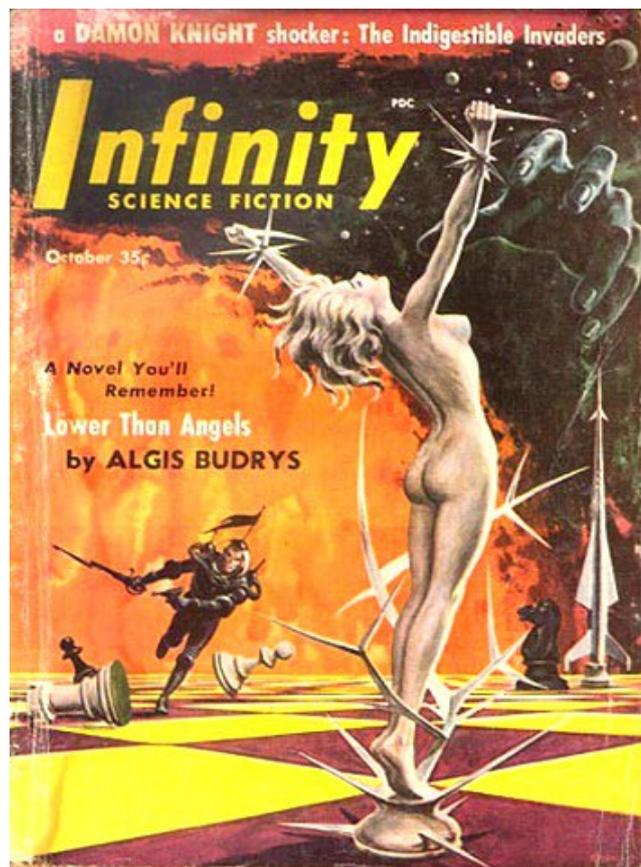
He did have a bee in his bonnet in regards to the Hugos though. Willick was of the opinion that it hardly fair for fandom to only receive one Hugo in the shape of Best Fanzine. Willick argued multiple times in *Parsection* that this situation needed changing, that the Hugos should include categories such as Best Fanwriter and Best Fanartist. His comments sparked considerable debate in the letter column but for the most part it wasn't a particularly acrimonious debate and most of those who commented weren't against extra fannish categories being added to the Hugos. One the other hand at least some of the fans who were deep into the mysteries of running a worldcon, F.M. Busby in particular, do not appear to have appreciated Willick nagging them with his concerns. Busby did admit that additional awards were not a bad idea but he made it equally clear that he thought Willick's various Hugo comments were impertinent and ignorant (this becomes important later).

Eventually Willick came to the conclusion that merely complaining about the inadequacies of the Hugo Awards was going nowhere. So early in 1961 he proposed instead the setting up of a separate set of fan awards. To that end he sent out a questionnaire with an attached drawing by Dave Prosser showing what the proposed award statue would look like. Just what Willick wrote in his questionnaire I don't know as I've not seen a copy. However, it's possible to make a reasonable guess given Willick published various comments he had received in response to his proposal in *Parsection* #8.

Also, according to Walter Breen in *Fanac* #77, the Prosser drawing was adapted from an Emsh *Infinity* cover. What I believe to be the cover in question is to the right so I think we have a fair idea of what Willick was proposing.

I suspect this is where Willick's trouble began as I can't imagine a more inappropriate design.

For the record it probably didn't help that the drawing was by Dave Prosser, a fanartist whose style of art wasn't popular with a lot of folk. Breen makes it clear that Prosser's drawing was a close copy of the Emsh original but given that Emsh drew a dagger wielding nude I don't think that helps any.



Not only was the proposed statue of a nude but it had no discernible connection to fanzine fandom and would be expensive to make. The nudity was particularly relevant at the time due to the large number of teenagers publishing or contributing to fanzines back then. To me in the here and now the utter randomness of Willick's choice of subject is just as big an objection. Surely the design should be of an object with at least as much connection to fanzine fandom as a rocket has to science fiction? I can't help but suspect Willick wanted something to rival the dramatic image of a rocket but was stumped as to what. So when Dave Prosser sent him a drawing based on the Emsh figure, probably with the intention that it be a future cover for *Parsection*, Willick saw the figure as making the sort of arresting impression he was after and ran with it

regardless of the obvious downsides.

One of those downsides being that a statue would cost and the money would have to come from somewhere. According to the 1961 Seacon Financial Report (which can be found in Chicon III's *Progress Report #2*) there is an expense labelled 'awards' (presumably the Hugos) which cost them \$87.83USD. According to the 1963 Discon I Financial Report (which appeared in *Science-Fiction Times #416*) the Hugos cost that committee \$306.58USD. These were not exactly small amounts in 60s terms for what is a pretty basic rocket design.

Even worse, according to Ben Jason in *Cry #155*, the Ems/Prosser design would cost \$1800-\$2000 (unfortunately he doesn't specify exactly what the buyer would get for that). Clearly if George Willick wanted something to rival the Hugo rockets he was going to need a fair bit of cash to realise his dreams. His solution to that problem was to suggest voters would be required to send in a donation (the amount to be decided by the voter) along with their ballot.

Such a proposal was another aspect of his plan which didn't go down well. Which from the here and now does seem a bit unreasonable but I suspect this had to do with timing. The early sixties saw a flurry of fan charities seeking donations from fandom at large. As well as the annual TAFF races there was the Willis Fund to bring Walt & Madeleine Willis from Ireland to the 1962 worldcon in Chicago and the Parker Pond Fund to bring Ella Parker from England to Seacon, the 1961 worldcon in Seattle. Under the circumstances it's understandable that fans might feel that they were being asked to put their hands in their pockets a little too often and not be willing to support another new charity. To be fair I've read that the Parker Pond Fund was mostly supported by those fans on the mailing list of the Seattle fanzine, *Cry* (but then again it's also been suggested that a good deal of the opposition to the Fan Achievement Awards came from the *Cry* crowd so take that as you will.)

But then various fans began discussing in print rumours that George C. Willick was a difficult person to deal with and that he was attempting to bully fandom into supporting his awards. I suspect all Willick did to become such a notorious character was to annoy people like F.M. Busby and Earl Kemp with his Hugo nagging and then propose a set of awards that had not been clearly thought out. It seems likely to me that various fans who resented the fuss Willick had kicking up over the Hugos saw this as an opportunity for payback. That there was some sort of anti-Willick whispering campaign going on was raised by John Trimble in *Shangri L'Affaires #60* and confirmed by Harry Warner in his *Shangri L'Affaires #61* letter. However, while John Trimble complained about such a campaign being conducted in fanzines such as *Cry* and *Axe* I haven't been able to find any such comments about Willick or his awards in *Axe* prior to *Shangri L'Affaires #60* and only one such comment in *Cry* (that comment was made by F.M. Busby mind you, surprise, surprise). If Trimble was correct in his claim that Willick was being unfairly commented on, and I think Trimble is correct about this, then this whispering campaign was more likely confined to private correspondence rather than public hints in fanzines. Which makes sense as whispering campaigns are far more effective when conducted in a one on one basis where third parties can't object to whatever is being said.

Just as an aside, John Trimble was not quite the fine and upstanding defender of truth in this matter as he was painting himself. While Bjo & John Trimble had acted as editors of *Shangri L'Affaires* it had been their decision to publish an anonymous article mocking Willick's awards plans in *Shangri L'Affaires #57*. According to Walter Breen in *Fanac #84* the pseudonym used for that article, Leslie Norris, had been created some years earlier by Rich Brown and Ted Johnstone as a hoax fan who published a fanzine called *Fantoccini* (mostly for SAPS I believe). Breen also claimed that it was Sid Coleman who used this pseudonym to hide behind while attacking the Fan Achievement Awards and furthermore that this use was without the permission of Rich Brown or Ted Johnstone. In other words a less than classy performance by both Coleman and Trimble and one which rather undermines the moral high ground John Trimble assumed in *Shangri L'Affaires #60*.

Anyway, despite such opposition Willick continued with his plans, the idea of using statues was dropped and was replaced by plaques, the awards acquired the nickname Forrys (well, Willick at least was calling them that), a committee was assembled to help make decisions, etc. There seems to be more than a little confusion regarding that last development with people who were named as committee members denying they had accepted such a status. I suspect this was a simple misunderstanding in that the people George Willick called a committee could better be described as advisers. I don't think they had any official status or responsibility other than to offer up opinions when Willick asked. As such Willick made all the decisions without obtaining the agreement of his 'committee' first. I imagine he discussed everything them in a

general way and then made up his mind on his own. It was careless of him however to not make clear to this group that he, Willick, considered them to be advisers and to explain the extent of their responsibilities.

Then early in 1962 reports were made to the effect that George Willick had moved from Madison, Indiana to New York. Willick never used this move as an excuse but I think we can all agree that moving house like that is a major disruption to everyday activities. It also seems unlikely that anybody would move from Madison, Indiana to New York unless it was for a much better paying job. If so then it was probably a more demanding job as well that left less time for fanac. Certainly as far as I'm aware Willick never published another issue of *Parsection* once he had moved to New York. Indeed, he appears to have steadily disappeared from fandom's sight once he was there. (Oh, and for the record the reason that the NY address for Willick mentioned in *Axe #25B* is the same as Avram Davidson's is that initially that's who he was staying with.)

George Willick certainly decided to drop his involvement in the Fan Achievement Awards after moving to NY. *Axe #26* quotes a letter Willick sent to F.M. Busby in which he explained, '*There are selfish reasons involved..the cost of the plaques, the trip to Chicago, the nip & tuck fighting that would result, etc*' This all makes sense if you assume that moving house had left him short of cash for the making of plaques and that he hadn't been in his new job long enough to ask his new employers for time off for the Chicago worldcon. It's also worth noting that by this point the debate about the Fan Achievement Awards had been dragging on for nearly twelve months and Willick himself had likely become so tired of the subject that he no longer wanted to deal with matters such as how to pay for the plaques or how to attend Chicon III. Besides which, as the article by Roy Tackett in *Shangri L'Affaires #60* demonstrates, there were now some other fans willing to take over organising the awards so Willick now had a get-out-of-jail-free card he could employ. And it's not as if Willick hadn't previously made clear that he didn't want to be permanently in charge of the Fan Achievement Awards.

Just as an aside I'd like to point out that George Willick was probably also tired of the whispering campaign which was painting him as a very bad man, somebody who fandom would be better off without. This feeling was probably not helped by F.M. Busby suggesting in *Cry #159* that Willick was the anonymous individual who had accused the Pittcon Committee of throwing away Hugo ballots in order to ensure that *Science-Fiction Times* won the Fanzine Hugo rather than *Fanac*.

To be fair, according to a letter of Willick's (published somewhere I can't remember because I stupidly didn't save it) about this time he also had a minor role in the saga of D. Bruce Berry's infamous article, *A Trip To Hell*. Apparently Berry had originally offered it to Willick for publication. Willick intended to publish it but first notified Earl Kemp of his intentions at which point Kemp's lawyer contacted Willick and persuaded him that publishing the article would be a bad idea. Willick wisely accepted this advice and returned the article to Berry (only for it to be then published by another fan later on). Clearly he dodged a bullet by not publishing the Berry material but even announcing his intention to do so was a bad move and no doubt garnered him some deserved condemnation.

So by the middle of 1962 George Willick had dropped out of the project he himself had started nearly twelve months previously without actually presenting any awards. So before I go any further I'd like to explain where I think George Willick went wrong.

It has been suggested that the Fan Achievement Awards failed because it wasn't the Hugo. To me the problem with this idea is that I don't see any evidence to suggest that active fans of that period would only be satisfied with recognition in the form of a Hugo. For example the annual *Fanac* poll had been running for several years and had proved popular despite it not being the Hugos. In fact while some fans suggested the Fan Achievement Awards were redundant they did so due to the existence of the *Fanac* poll. Nowhere did I discover anybody making the same argument in regards to the Hugos. It's also worth noting that the initial proposal was for the Fan Achievement Awards to not clash with the Hugos by not having a Best Fanzine category. The proposed categories were designed to fill a void the Hugos didn't fill, a void which worldcon committees of the day were not keen to fill by increasing the number of Hugo awards. Then there is the fact that according to Willick his initial poll results were '*YES 77, NO 24, UNDECIDED 10*' (which, unlike Larry & Noreen Shaw, I'm going to assume are correct since I've seen no evidence to back up their claim about '*Willick's tendency to make mistakes*'). Those figures do not speak to me of a fandom that only wants a Hugo. I think we can safely assume the Hugo preference claim to be nothing more than a baseless assumption born of insufficient research.

Okay, so if wasn't a fannish preference for Hugos that was the problem then what was? Well, as previously discussed the Prosser statue and compulsory donation proposals didn't garner much good will and there was definitely an anti-Willick/Fan Achievement Award whispering campaign going on. To be fair though I haven't seen any evidence that there was anywhere near as many open hints being made as John Trimble implied in *Shangri L'Affaires #60*. Still, gossip, especially malicious gossip, is like the presence of cockroaches, you only need to see one to know there are another dozen scuttling about unseen. If nothing else the fact that the pro-award people kept feeling the need to publicly announce that the Prosser statue idea had been dropped definitely implies that the whispering campaign was out there.

However, while it's clear the above was bringing Willick's idea into disrepute I don't think this was the only problem.

No, what I think also turned fandom against the Fan Achievement Awards was George Willick's own insistence that before the awards could be made reality the topic had to be thoroughly discussed. It's like that situation at a convention where a large group decide it's time to go to dinner. The group pauses outside the hotel and somebody holding a copy of the convention restaurant guide makes the mistake of asking, "So where shall we go?" This never ends well because no choice will be to everybody's satisfaction and all the usual suspects will insist on having their say (sometimes at annoying length). Consequently no progress is made and the mood of the group sours. Even if a decision is eventually made nobody enjoys the initial frustration.

This is exactly the situation Willick caused by not only calling for discussion but as far as I can tell allowing this discussion to be unguided in nature. It's likely that Willick's original questionnaire included a number of specific questions (but with no copy to hand this is no more than a feeling based on some of the responses published in *Parsection #8*). However after that point the discussion becomes vague, calls for discussion are made by Willick and various other people but nowhere do they make clear exactly what needs to be discussed. How any consensus is suppose to be reached this way I've no idea. Then because fandom at large sees no progress being made many fans becoming bored with the topic and the mood sours. Consequently, by the time Howard Devore decided to repeat Willick's initial poll the majority of respondents voted against the idea not because they dislike the idea but rather because they want the debate to stop. They were bored hearing about it, they had stopped believing it will never actually happen, they just wanted it to go away.

I do have to wonder if the determination of Willick (and others) to have a thorough debate before actually doing anything concrete has something to do with the growing size of fandom. This was the period when the monster and comics fandoms first arose and even within what was still considered science fiction fandom there were large groups that had little contact. (For example by that point I suspect the overlap in readership between *Science-Fiction Times* and *Fanac* was relatively small.) Given such circumstances it's easy to see why the average fan might harbour doubts as to how popular their proposals might be. Gone were the days when a small group could simply announce an idea like staging a worldcon or initiating the Hugo Awards and the rest of fandom could be counted on accept the idea. So perhaps, right or wrongly, by the 60s all too many people believed that extended debate was necessary, not so much to improve the initial proposal but to ensure wide-spread support. That this sort of endless discussion might prove to be a self-defeating process clearly never occurred to anybody. Even with the Devore poll a good many fans, including Willick himself, made it clear that they still wanted more discussion. In the end I think fandom simply talked itself out of supporting the project.

Would the Fan Achievement Awards have been a success if George Willick had simply announced their formation and gone ahead without asking for debate? Impossible for me to say for certain at this late date. If Willick had simply distributed voting forms, announced the winners at the 1961 worldcon in Seattle and handed out printed certificates I could see the idea of the Fan Achievement Awards might enough momentum to run for several years at least. However, even if it did I see administration as the eventual downfall of such a project. Willing administrators are always hard to find and running the Fan Achievement Awards would be a relatively thankless task. Unless it was eventually taken on as a permanent worldcon activity my bet is that it would stall sooner rather than later because everybody would want somebody else to administer the damn thing.

However... You might think this was the end of the matter. That after nearly twelve months of seemingly endless debate fandom would want some other topic to fight to the death over. You would be wrong. This

was merely the half-time break because now we have to introduce a certain Charles Wells.

It was because of Wells that the idea of recognising fannish effort and achievement reappeared out of the mists. In *Axe #30* came the news that Charles Wells of Atlanta, Georgia had sent out a form letter suggesting the formation of a committee to discuss whether an annual poll would be a good idea. If this committee decided that an annual poll was indeed a good idea then another committee would be formed to run it. If this seems like exactly the same sort of endless turning in circles that had already been the norm then well spotted. Why then did this proposal not immediately founder given everything that had gone before?

I suspect it was partly because the discussion was quickly confined to that ad hoc committee desired by Wells. This ensured interested parties could yammer incessantly at each other while leaving the majority of fandom in peace (or to argue over Harlan Ellison's Hugo proposal because it's always something with fandom). It was also announced that this new iteration of the Fan Award would be entirely different to what had previously been proposed. Not only would George Willick have no connection to this version but what was proposed was a poll rather than a set of awards. This ensured there would be no continuation of the whispering campaign as both Willick and the Prosser statue were entirely removed from debate.

(It could be argued that the story should stop here because the Fan Poll was a completely different animal to the Fan Achievement Award. Because I see the Fan Poll as a project inspired by Willick's initial proposal I will instead continue the story.)

Luckily for this second attempt Charles Wells appears to have had boundless energy of youth. Thus he was not only able to survive that initial ad hoc committee but also formed the proposed Fan Poll committee and had this second group send out an actual Fan Poll voting ballot (yet another form I've never seen a copy of). From what I can gather the Fan Awards poll was similar to the already existing *Fanac* poll in most aspects.

This is not to say that the voting process ran smoothly under the leadership of Charles Wells. It's certainly my impression that Wells wasn't the sort of details man the fledgling Fan Poll deserved. For starters whoever created the voting form failed to mention what the voting deadline was, a rather important detail I should think. For that matter if Wells intended to be the one who counted the votes then perhaps a deadline which didn't clash with his university exams would have been a good idea. But I won't berate him for mis-attributing *A Remembrance of Things Past VIII* to Richard Eney when announcing the results of his poll. That's an easy mistake to make after all (and if I point the finger at Wells then Muphry's Law will ensure that I make an even worse gaff in this fanzine). And to be fair I can hardly describe it as his fault that after he put Harry Warner in charge of distributing ballots Warner fell and broke his hip.

So, Wells' determination to see a result did result in a set of winners being determined. As you will probably already have assumed by this point I don't have a copy of the official announcement Wells sent out. However, if you scroll down to the quotes from *Skyrack #55* and *Fanac #94* most of the details can be worked out. Most importantly it can be seen that *Warhoon* won Best Fanzine, *A Sense of FAPA* Best Single Publication, Atom took Best Artist, and Best Cartoonist, and Walt Willis took Best Column, Best Writer, and Number One Fan Face. On the whole I wouldn't call any of these results much of a surprise.

Mind you, there are a couple of entries I thought rather low given the high regard certain fanzines and fans have been held in more recent years. For example *Hyphen* only made it to 8th in the Best Fanzine category and William Rotsler was only considered the 5th Best Cartoonist. Such apparent anomalies can probably be attributed to the fact that Charles Wells only had 47 ballots returned to him. I assume the rather disorganised manner in which this first Fan Poll was run didn't encourage a high level of response. It's also probable that many potential voters were probably still feeling a little soured by all that gone before to bother voting.

What I would most like to know about the Fan Poll was how each subsequent committee was chosen. Did somebody on the current committee write to likely prospects and ask? Was there a space on the ballot for interested fans to volunteer? All I can be sure is that each set of Fan Poll results sent out included the names of the next committee.

However the committee was decided, the important point is that Richard Eney was in charge. Now, a lot can be written about Richard Eney, and much of it not very complimentary, but I think he proved with fanzines such as *A Sense of Fapa* and *Fancylopedia II* that he had what it took to not only take on major projects

but to finish them as well.

Consequently it's hardly a surprise that the second annual Fan Poll ran smoothly. The fact the various newszines of the day weren't full of updates and corrections leading up to the announcement of the winners proves this. Also, according to *Starspinkle #38* this second poll saw no less than 93 ballots returned, twice what Charles Wells' first poll garnered.

Once more, given how certain fanzines and fans of the past are currently viewed, the choice of *Yandro* as Best Fanzine and *Double:Bill #7* as Best Single Publication is a bit of a surprise. Which is not say either of these fanzines were terrible, just not what I've ever seen anybody claim to be the cream of the crop. Less surprisingly Best Artist was awarded to Atom while Best Writer and Number One Fan Face went to Walt Willis.

Also, according to *Starspinkle*, the committee chosen to run the 1964 Fan Poll consisted of Wally Weber, Bruce Pelz, Charles Wells, Bill Donaho and Terry Carr. These names are worth noting because it is with this committee that the Fan Poll disappeared with a sigh. To be fair Wally Weber had the distraction of being the US TAFF Administrator, a post he handed over to Terry Carr sometime in 1965. Also Bill Donaho was probably busy recovering from his part in running Pacifcon II, the 1964 worldcon, and plotting to bid for the 1968 worldcon, the eventual Baycon.

And so it was that due to the continuing lack of a Fan Poll Mike McInerney, co-editor (with Rich Brown) of the newszine *Focal Point*, wrote to Wally Weber with the suggestion that the editors of *Focal Point* might relieve the Fan Poll Committee of their duties for 1964 with the idea that the latter group would resume the Fan Poll beginning with 1965. Wally Weber agreed to this plan and that was the last anybody ever heard of the Fan Poll Committee. Certainly I find it significant that none of this committee is listed in *Focal Point #15* as having voted in the *Focal Point* poll (and I think it unlikely that any of the Fan Poll Committee wasn't on the *Focal Point* mailing list).

They weren't the only ones who couldn't summon the energy to vote though. In *Focal Point #15* the editors noted that only 33 of 230 ballots were returned, a poor return which suggests to me that the lateness of the poll and the ad hoc nature of it wasn't inspiring fandom as a whole.

Despite the mediocre response the results were largely in line with the previous Fan Poll; *Yandro* was Best Fanzine, *The Discon Proceedings* Best Single Publication, Steve Stiles Best Artist, and Walt Willis Best Writer. It's worth noting by the way the lack of interest shown in the Best Single Publication category (as can be seen below). Despite the enthusiasm organisers have always shown for including such a category voters rarely share this enthusiasm. Of course this lack of interest is particularly pronounced in this case due to the lateness of the poll but even so the points difference between Best Single Publication and the other categories is hard to ignore.

Come August 1966, and with no sign of a Fan Poll in the making, Mike McInerney announced he was running a second poll in *Focal Point #22*. It was not to be though, only one more issue of *Focal Point* appeared and it contained no mention of the poll. So that was that.

However it can be argued that not all was lost. By 1966 I assume the committee for Nycon 3, the 1967 worldcon was already giving some serious consideration to the idea of expanding the number of fannish awards to be given out. Did the Fan Achievement Awards and what followed inspire the members of that committee? I've no idea as that's a topic I've not researched. It's a story for somebody else to tell I think.

As for the Fan Achievement Awards/Fan Poll, the basic idea had been shown to be a viable but flawed. The big problem being the fact it was so dependant upon the enthusiasm of a chosen committee. George Willick certainly had that right, a fannish award needed to be tied to some other sort of annual event. That way it became a duty less easy to delay and delay or blow off entirely. It's the same old song, everyone likes to have a slice of the cake but willing cooks are always in short supply.

## SOURCES

### *Fanac #77 – (30 July 1961) – Walter Breen*

George C. WILLICK has been circulating a 'Fan Awards Poll' questionnaire accompanied by a Prosser drawing of the proposed statuette, 'adapted from an Emsch *Infinity* cover (was this with Emsch's consent?). The idea of having fan awards as a counterpart to the Hugos, presumably to be awarded concurrently with them at the worldcon, is at least interesting, and deserves consideration and serious thought whether one decides to vote for having them or not. But I for one must go on record as unequivocally opposed to the statuette depicted. It shows a standing female with a dagger in each hand, and spikes from wristbands; the gesture implied is stabbing, as perhaps a high priestess sacrificing a victim. But what has this to do (if anything) with either science-fiction or fandom? Its sadism is repellent, though to be expected from Prosser (to judge from the subject-matter of most of his published artwork). And consider the repercussions, on the winner and fandom in general, were some youngfan to win one of these awards and proudly display it – until his mother came upon it!

### *Axe #9 – (5 August 1961) – Larry & Noreen Shaw*

George Willick is receiving replies to the Fan Awards Poll ballot he sent out. It's said he mailed out a thousand copies; the results should be fascinating...

### *Shangri L'Affaires #57 – (July/August 1961) – Bjo & John Trimble*

#### **AN OPEN LETTER TO GEORGE WILLICK**

Dear George,

English does not contain – nay, even ESPERANTO does not contain – words adequate to the task of expressing my enthusiasm for your Fan Awards project. One voice like yours crying out of what I mistakenly thought to be a wilderness of collectors and FIJAGH enthusiasts, has done much to warm the cockles of this old heart, long grown weary to the pint of despair in the great fight to awaken fans to the true magnitude of their destiny. (And what known to man is more pathetic than a despairing old heart with cold cockles?)

Indeed, you seem to me at this moment a star risen in the Midwest. You can not know how true is the path you have chosen: it is only through ventures such as the Fan Awards, replete with organizations, committee, finances, voting, untold glorious paperwork (perhaps, who knows?, even letterheads), and, most, important of all, actual, tangible, material trophies, the labor and expense of their casting signifying the labor and expense undergone by those worthy of winning them, that fandom will be raised from a mere petty hobby to a magnificent, glamorous, Big Time Thing.

The veriest buffoon could see that the petty institutions we now possess, this claptrap of egoboo polls and fan commandments, could never raise this banner on high with their puny shoulders.

Nevertheless, despite my warm enthusiasm for the general outlines of your project, I think it deficient in several important details from its ideal self. Let me elucidate:

Firstly, you display a cowardly trepidation about expenses, evincing a mean concern with trivial financial matters that are better left to mundane minds. Of course all right-thinking fans would be willing to pay extra convention dues to finance a project that does so much towards making them persons of Real Importance, just as all right-thinking convention committees would be overjoyed to offer their ample leisure time to work for the success of such a venture. As for those who are too miserly and lazy to do their part, to the wall with them! The sooner we are rid of them, the better. If they want hobbies of friendships, let them collect stamps or join lonely-hearts clubs.

Secondly, you are squeamish as a petty bourgeois about the Hugos. What can you possibly mean when you say that the Fan Awards will be awarded at the same time as the Hugos? Is this not a fan convention? The Hugos must be eliminated, removed from the face of the Earth, swept into the dustbin of history. How can you dream of humiliating a slan like Kemp, Trimble, or Coulson by giving him an award at the same gathering that honors mere money-grubbing hacks like Heinlein, or Sturgeon, or Leiber?

Thirdly, your plans are too modest. The magnitude of fandom is best enlarged by increasing the numbers of the awards, just as the power and the glory of the N3F is shown by the multiplicity of its officers. It is true that there might be a slight difficulty in devising the necessary categories, but the ingenious mind of fan should not be troubled by this. I have asked around the LASFS, and they have already added to your paltry six or seven categories such obvious omissions, as best mimeoscope work, most even stapling, and most truly serious discussion of the year. Even if these prove inadequate, the number of awards can be increased by the simple stratagem of offering second and third prizes in each of the existing categories.

One final word of warning. In your innocence and your enthusiasm, you may believe that all of fandom is with you. Do not be deceived! The same foul mad dogs that kneed the WSFS, Inc. in the groin still prowl fandom. The foulness and treachery of these men is unbelievable: some of them read s\_\_\_\_e f\_\_\_\_n, and others have been seen with non-fan friends!

Do not let them get their hands on you. Remember what they did to poor Claude.

Leslie Z Norris

P.S. I do not want to carp, but, in my opinion, Prosser's proposed statuette, magnificent as it is, lacks the necessary emblem, or trade-mark, that would identify the award with fandom as surely as the Hugo's phallic contours identify it with sex-man prodrom. Something must be added.

The first suggestions that come to mind, the beanie and the zap-gun, are clearly inappropriate, not only for petty technical reasons, (the figure's head is canted in such a way that it is difficult to place a beanie anywhere except directly over the face; on the scale of the award, the zap-gun would be indistinguishable from the mundane and uninteresting revolver), but because they represent a trivial frivolous attitude that is part of the ephemera of current fandom.

We must never forget that this award is not merely something for the next lustrum or generation, but an institution we are bequeathing to the ages, indestructible as the N3F. It would not be meet to embarrass future fans, no doubt as superior to present fans as present fans are to contemporary mundanians, with reminders of the distressingly frequent lapse of their predecessors from high purpose. Something more permanent must be utilized, something symbolic of the essential quality of fandom, the time-binding ability that alone enables fans to broaden their mental horizons. May I humbly suggest a clock be tastefully inserted in the lower abdomen?

### **Cry #152 – (August 1961) – F.M. Busby**

Down Plow, Up Bicycle: Doffing the Pemberton Hat (because this is the only page we have for this issue), let's look at this Fan Awards idea. There seem to be strong partisans on both sides. I've been veering pro and con with the arguments as they come in, but it's time to take a firm stand, so I will. I'm UNDECIDED.

I have the Willick Poll on hand, all filled out and ready to mail. The first thing that comes to mind is that it would be a Bad Thing to run this idea up for a vote just now— my hunch is that there are a great many factors that haven't yet been brought up for discussion, because they are second-or-third-thought items. I think it would be a big fat mistake to start voting resolutions just yet.

The Emsch-Prosser design circulated with the Willick Poll would be fantastically costly to fabricate—and—process—for—mounting—on—a—base. Don't take my word for this. Take that drawing around your city and price it from drawing to finished ready-to-mount product. Frankly, I wouldn't dare contract to get these for less than \$250 each. I may be high on that estimate, but you can prove me wrong. If you wish.

Tell you the kind of resolution that the Seacon will be glad to entertain on this bit — that the present Hugo Committee structure be retained (with replacements as needed), and that the HuCom be designated as the channel for recommendations re Fan Awards, to be presented to the 1962 (Chicago in '62!) WorldCon, for vote. But we will take a dim view of attempts to railroad any half-digested conclusions through.

**F.M. Busby writing as Renfrew Pemberton.**

### **Shangri L'Affaires #58 – (September/October 1961) – Bjo & John Trimble**

The Open Letter to George Willick is more disturbing evidence of the damage done by that dreadful statue

design distributed with the fan awards poll. I'm afraid it's going to prejudice fandom against what is basically a sound idea, simply because of the vulgarity and pretentiousness of the proposed award. I fully agree with the individual who wrote this open letter, as far as the foolishness of considering such a design, and the uselessness of spending a lot of money on fan awards, are concerned. I disagree completely with the added implication that Heinlein, Sturgeon, or Leiber, are better writers than the fans who would be likely to win the awards if the new categories were set up. I will stack up Willis essays or Bjo's art against the professional fiction and illustrating for basic worth, despite the impossibility of finding exactly comparable ideals against which differently slanted productions can be judged. I feel that the Hugos are insufferably overpriced, and that the fan awards should not be created in their likeness, because there is no sense in repeating a conspicuous consumption mistake. But I think there should be fan awards, and if the world convention is afraid that they'll outshine the Hugos in interest-attraction, one of the regional events, like the Westercon or Philcon, could make the fan awards its principal feature.

**Extracted from Harry Warner, Jr. letter.**

### **Parsection #8 – (1 August 1961) – George C. Willick**

#### **THE FAN AWARDS POLL; HOW THEY'RE VOTING...SO FAR**

The opening return on the poll is good. Those who have the poll beside their typers are encouraged to send them in. I'd also appreciate having the names and addresses of fans whom you know I missed in the initial mailing. There are enough votes in to establish trends but rather than reveal how the vote is going, I'd prefer to give a few quotes that I found interesting.

FORRY ACKERMAN thinks, "The awards should be made at the worldcons but originated and managed elsewhere."

REDD BOGGS wants a neuter title because, "A fan for whom the awards are named may do something discreditable later, or due to a feud, become actively anti-award."

TERRY CARR says, "This is pretty gung-ho on the whole. Keep the whole plan simple and don't go overboard on the importance of fan productions."

SID COLEMAN reasons, "All the award design needs to make it perfect is a clock in its belly."

LAWRENCE CRILLY says, "It seems to me that this project is stupid and unnecessary." and also, "This whole project smacks to me of a fuggheaded scheme to gain egoboo."

DICK ENEY thinks, "The Con Committee or Worldcon organization may, without prejudice to the idea, be reluctant to take on additional responsibilities. An independent committee can make an award at the Con without adding to the Con Committee's workload."

LES GERBER opposes the awards because, "The FANAC Poll is enough formal egoboo for fandom."

EARL KEMP says, "Do not quote. You have been warned." OK, Earl

NORM METCALFE approves because "Fans deserve some sort of award for effort...it might cause some of us to take a few more pains with our work."

REV. C.M. MOORHEAD says, "Those who see something vulgar in a nude statuette have dirty minds themselves. If knives and daggers suggest sadism to the beholder, then you can be pretty sure that some sort of sadism is latent in the person seeing it. If nudism suggests vice and fornication to the observer, you can be reasonably sure that some sort of vice or desire for fornication lurks in the mind of the beholder." Might I add, Amen?

SCOTTY NEILSEN says, "Now that you have it, what are you going to do with it?" Good question.

OTTO PFEIFER feels that World Con membership, "...dues are about as high as the average fan can stand at present. There should be a committee set up to investigate other ways of raising the funds for these awards."

ESTHER RICHARDSON is all in favor of everything...and there's the old sense of wonder we've been looking for.

JOCK ROOT says, "FIJAGH."

CLAUDE SAXON says, "Considering past performances, I doubt that a fan organization organized for the purpose of dispensing this award would remain effectively active for any length of time."

GEORGE SCITHERS isn't in favor of anything, including, "I don't like the way this poll is organized." Swell.

PEGGY SEXTON says the design, "Looks like an award given for the Top Man in an Orgy."

TED THOMAS says, "I don't know enough about all this to comment but if you ever have an extra statuette you don't know what to do with..."

BOB TUCKER prefers, "Something entirely lacking in sexual symbolism. This award may be won by younger people still living with parents, and it could cause embarrassment or punitive action to the winner. Remember the fans of other days who found it necessary to remove covers from magazines before taking them home." I often wonder if these kinds of parents burned High School Health textbooks on the grounds of lewd anatomy displayed therein?

DON WOLLHEIM approves of by-passing the World Cons, "Just to make trouble." Now here is the fan of old.

JOE GIBSON says, "This awards pitch is the cheapest bit of snivelling adolescents' Big Deal that I've seen in years. When you gonna organize fandom, kid?" and for an award category he prefers, "Bullshit Artist...but you would probably win." (There were other derogatory remarks but I prefer to dote upon these myself alone in the event that I come face to face with this sweet soul.)

For general information; the five male members of the Hugo Committee have responded. Two abstained while three voted 'No'.

Judging from some answers I've received...there seems to be some misunderstanding about me choosing 6 fan awards categories. I thought that 6 was as good a number as any since the purpose of listing the categories was to eliminate two or more and find out other suggested categories. It could have been 5 or 4 for all it matters.

The intention of the poll was to aid any committee that the World Con Committee might name to investigate the fan awards...however, Buz was telling me that he preferred to let the matter rest until the Chicon...and Earl seems to be opposed to the awards...so it looks like wasted effort.

Maybe someone out there will volunteer a good alternate answer to this seeming deadlock.

### ***Parsection #9 – (1 August 1961) – George C. Willick***

Fan Awards comments have been deleted from this issue as past business since the Awards are now a working reality.

### ***Axe #13 – (October 1961) - Larry & Noreen Shaw***

#### THE FAN ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

by George C. Willick

THE FIRST SET OF FORRYS (Fan Achievement Awards) will be awarded at the Chicon. They will consist of 6 awards. The awards themselves will be plaques of not too elaborate design. The categories will be the following: Best Fanzine, Best Artist, Best Regular Column, Best Writer, Best Single Publication, and outstanding merit. The first four of these categories will be awarded yearly whereas the latter two are optional. Best Single Publication shall be awarded only in such years as three of these publications are nominated. Outstanding Merit will be awarded only when one fan has amassed 75% of the final vote and will be without nomination.

Some minor details have yet to be worked out but I can give you a reasonable outline of the voting procedure. Nomination ballots will be available to fans for reproduction and distribution at their convenience on January 1st, 1962. The only requirements for voting will be that the voter include his name and address along with a donation of no set value to help pay for these awards. The ballots will then be returned to three fans who will provide an honest check system to insure fairness of balloting.

Final ballots will then be mailed to those fans interested enough to nominate and these will also be returned to three fans.

Possibly some explanation is needed to clear up a few points. First off, the motion to appoint a Fan Awards Committee was withdrawn from the Seacon Business meeting because it became evident that the awards should first be shown to be functional, desired, and administerable. Five of the categories are the direct result of what could tentatively be called a Fan Awards Committee consisting of Len Moffatt, Dave Prosser, Ben Jason, Roy Tackett, John M. Baxter, and myself.

The dates regarding nomination deadline, etc., and the wording to be engraved on the plaques must yet be decided...as also must the three vote teller be picked. Personally, I think this system is workable and practical. We shall see.

### **Axe #16 – (12 November 1961) - Larry & Noreen Shaw**

BEN JASON was also surprised (along with Len Moffatt) to read in *Axe #13* that he was a member of the Fan Awards Committee. Ben tells us that he too is very busy and cannot accept. Two nights a week to school, one club night, don't leave too much time for modernizing his house (a project which he has been working on for a couple of years) upkeep of the house, etc. Apparently the decision to make the awards at Chicago is solely Willick's idea and not the committee's.

And from ROY TACKETT: "Tis true I was a member of the original committee but have since withdrawn. Ummm, the usual reasons." Apparently, Willick's announcement was entirely well-intentioned but somewhat hasty. He has indicated that he will straighten out any confusion that exists, and may have already done so by now. Keep cool while awaiting developments.

### **Cry #155 – (December 1961) – F.M. Busby**

I REMEMBER WHEN "G\_\_\_ W\_\_\_" always had six letters-to the surname, but not any more it doesn't. George Willick, we understand, is bucking for a starring role in the Second Coming of Degler. You'll recall that he got a bit fractious last year? George's trouble seems to be that when he wants his own way he wants it so bad he can taste it, regardless of circumstances or of anyone else's wishes or rights. It would be nice if he- would just relax a little more. Voluntarily, I mean. And I'm afraid that further details must be reserved for DNQac for the time being, but keep your crash hats on, just in case "all fandom" really is "turned upside down".

**Extract from F.M. Busby column.**

Also enjoyed my first issue of *Cry* (#153) and feel like making some comments on Len Moffatt's letter concerning the Fan Awards. You might be interested in knowing that George C. Willick, via an announcement in *AXE #13*, named a Fan Awards Committee consisting Of Len Moffatt, Dave Prosser, Ben Jason, Roy Tackett, John M. Baxter, and George C. Willick. I should point out that both Len and I were astounded at this announcement which was made without our approval or knowledge and I see where Len took the pains to write *AXE* to that effect and very shortly I intend to do the same. Since then, I've been notified that Roy Tackett was unaware of the decision to make these awards at the Chicon. It therefore boils down to this! The decision to do so was, and is, entirely Willick's. From what I can gather, Tackett's stand on the Fan Awards is that he is "somewhat in favor of this fan awards business". Mine was, and is, still undecided. Apparently George is pushing - and pushing hard - much too hard. It would be interesting, to see what Earl Kemp thinks of this announcement.

I agree with Len on (1) where he says that there is nothing wrong with the Fan Awards set up - if enough actfans are interested enough to make it a workable project. This remains to be seen. Disagree with him on point (2) about a TAFF set up with votes and donations. Methinks that there are too many such donation set ups and fans are showing signs of turning away from them. While I disagree with Len, unfortunately, I cannot think of a better set-up. Agree with him that Worldcon membership fees should NOT be raised for the

Fan Awards or any other reason for point (3)... And finally agree with him. that the Emsch-Prosser design is in poor taste and would be too expensive to make (\$1800 to \$2000), and on this point I could argue or discuss almost indefinitely.

Noted scattered comments on the Fan Awards throughout CRY #154 and particularly Forry's mention of Charity #1 - one third of proceeds to the First Fan Awards, to make Ackque Plaques or Forry Trophies, etc. Methinks many fans are jumping the gun and assuming too much, particularly when half of Willick's alleged committee has resigned, which includes yours truly. Willick's action in announcing these awards was premature in more ways than one and unfortunately (?) may pave the way for their demise. In a recent letter to me, George resigned from the Fan Awards Committee and threw the whole Fan Awards project into my keeping - an astonishing action, in view of my neutral viewpoint concerning it. What, if anything, shall be done about these awards, I cannot say at the moment, but I will make public any decision that I may reach after conferring on this project with fans, whose opinions I respect, at the forthcoming Philadelphia Conference which I plan on attending.

**Extract from Ben Jason letter.**

It matters not a damn if Fandom goes on or dies, if Prodom goes on or dies. I don't think any of us will stop breathing. In fact, we'd all have more money in our pockets. So let's put these silly FIAWOL versus FIJAGH arguments aside for a while and look at this thing objectively.

The Fan Awards will not inspire anyone to great efforts of perfection. They will not give Fandom its glory or whatever word you want to tack on. They will not accomplish anything that you can point to and say, "The Fan Awards did that."

The Fan Awards will achieve one purpose and no other. They will eventually become regarded as fandom's collective opinion of what it considers its most active and deserving practitioners in any given category. Why bother? Well, I shouldn't answer a question with questions but this seems a good time to do so. Indeed, why bother to hold a World Con? Why bother to present Hugos? WHY? BECAUSE WE WANT TO.

No one is going, to agree a 100% on anything. I heartily endorse the Fan Awards. I think, they fill a needed gap in fandom's structure. We've been playing-pussy foot with minor and numerous egoboo polls long enough.

I see absolutely nothing more innocent or pure of intention than a field initiating a set of awards to give public recognition to its best participants. If you want to disagree...swell. You do that. But if you can't be reasonable about it for Christ's sake be human.

It's a hell of a lot easier to sit back and hoot than it is to try to accomplish something. I know, I've been on both ends. I like to think I learned something.

Len Moffatt remains very astute in his observations-and I find that I agree with him more and more. If you don't like the-Fan Awards then avoid them like the plague. If you have something constructive to say then spit it out and we can kick it around. But why clutter up the print with silly things like "I'm not against the awards as such...just the fact that they're an indication of further removal from stf."

**Extract from George C. Willick letter.**

### **Dynatron #9 – (January 1962) – Roy Tackett**

I find myself agreeing with you as re Fan Awards. I don't really feel that we need them; with a regular fanzine Hugo, and the Special Award in the wings. I think fans are certainly getting enough egoboo at the conventions. And Willick has shown too much tendency to rush off half-cocked, as witness the appointment of Jason, Moffatt and yourself to the Fan Awards Panel without consulting you people beforehand. It might be best all around if the ChiCon were to come out with a statement of some sort to the effect that the concept of Fan Awards was being taken under advisement, and would be acceptable as an item of business at the Business Meeting, but would definitely not be considered for awarding as part of the ChiCon. Might hurt Willick's feelings a bit but I'm afraid they're in for more of a shock if nothing is done, to say nothing of the danger of badly singed feelings all around if the expected fiasco--like, we don't need the bad taste-tinge from that to mar the Twentieth World Stf Con.

**Extract from John Trimble letter.**

You are in agreement with Edco on the Fan Awards, not with me. I'm in favor of them. Just to stir up a ruckus, if for no other reason. Fandom has been too quiet of late. One bit of correction, ussjt, Jason and I were already sort of on the committee when GCA made his announcement. The idea had been tossed around a bit as it were.

**Roy Tackett reply to John Trimble letter.**

### **Cry #156 – (January 1962) – F.M. Busby**

George C. Willick: You say, re fan awards, "But if you can't be reasonable about it for Christ's sake be human." Apply that to your own behavior, George, and we'll all like you better. So far as I know, no one has any strong objection to Fan awards as such, but only to the methods you've used in pushing them. (I hate all this hint, hint, hint stuff--but when you're told things under dnq that you shouldn't refer to and can't help but react to--what do you do?)

**Extract from Elinor Busby column, HWYL.**

### **Axe #20 – (21 January 1962) - Larry & Noreen Shaw**

GEORGE C. WILLICK HAS FOUND A JOB IN NYC and is currently in the process of moving there permanently. Or so we have heard; the news is second-hand and not guaranteed. The following from George himself was dated December 14, 1961:

"FAN ACHIEVEMENT AWARD REPORT #2

"Allow me to begin with a plea, if I may. To my knowledge, only two fans have bothered to write to the Awards Committee and express any personal opinions re the management, procedure, etc of the awards; Ted White and Len Moffatt. Please feel free to do so. We can't come up with every idea or suggestion of merit and would like to hear from any of you who may have one...send them to me and I will include them in the Committee reports. OK?

"Now, the first AXE report was based on the poll taken prior to the Season. Several changes have been made by the committee in the poll results and since nomination time is very near, we have decided to release findings up to this point.

"1) Best fanzine has been dropped. The Hugo committee decided and was supported by majority vote to continue Best Fanzine as a Hugo category. And even though the voting results would probably be different, it is not necessary to have a duplicate award or risk the embarrassment of different winners. If and when the Hugos are made entirely professional, Best Fanzine will automatically become a Fan Awards category.

"2) There will be five Fan Awards. Writer, Regular Column, Artist, Outstanding Merit, and Single Publication. Two of these have been altered slightly. Because of a scattered demand, we have decided to include under Single Publications any single issue of a regularly published fanzine. Outstanding Merit will be a final vote award only and given on a majority of at least 75% of the votes cast. There will be a 'No Award' vote space allowed here also.

"3) Misc. items are A) only three nominees per category, B) previously mentioned teller system has been approved, C) ballots may be produced by any faned only if he requests a sample ballot from me...this is done so that a teller can be appointed to his ballots, D) the awards will be passed out at Chicon either formally (decision pending) or informally, and E) nomination time will extend for slightly over three months with only a month given to final balloting.

"It is required that a donation accompany the nomination ballot but there will not be any set fee. Now this is made in good faith and I hope it is taken this way. I don't want to appear overly angry so I will warn those jokers among you that a penny will be frowned upon...especially as it will cost a nickel to return the final ballot to you. Any teller receiving such a nomination ballot be on his own as to what to do with it.

"Due to a previous mix up it might also be re-stated that the Awards Committee consists of Ben Jason, Roy Tackett, John Baxter, Dave Prosser, and myself. Sample ballots are now available."

An addition dated December 19: "All committee members are ineligible for an award."

Nominating ballots accompany this issue of *Axe*.

### ***Shangri L'Affaires #60 – (January/February 1962) – Fred Patten***

I do object, however, to people naming names, and then letting the deed remain a vague, hinted-at thing. Specifically, I object to the current vendetta (or whatever) against one George Willick.

Willick is an unpopular cuss. He seems to have made himself such by taking offence when criticised, instead of replying to the criticism. He appears to bridle immediately if he suspects he's been snubbed, instead of investigating to see if someone who didn't pay immediate attention to him was too busy elsewhere to at once reply. And he's been a little roughshod in pushing his idea of the Fan Awards.

However, over and above all that, there has been a great deal of hinting going on about what a nasty character George Willick is. Hints that he's tried to pressure people behind the scenes, and tried some kind of "blackmail", etc. Hints in *Cry*, *Axe*, etc...real public, like. If all this is true, then George most definitely deserves to be Condemned.

On the other hand, if this is part of an attempt to black-ball the Fan Awards and smear Willick, then it is one of the most underhanded, unfair campaigns that good ol' fandom has ever witnessed.

Understand, this last may not be true; I'm only pointing out- that fandom, in general, has no basis upon which to judge in this matter. We had the facts in the case of a fan who skipped out with some funds entrusted to his care...there was enough publicity given so that everyone could beware of him as he and his family travelled. And with all the facts to hand, I don't see or hear anyone claiming foul in the Hal Shapiro case. But in this Willick matter, we only know that his reputation is not the best; he's pushy and takes insult and injury much too easily; But, hell, people have been hanged on such circumstantial evidence.

And from what has been made public, it looks very much as if George Willick is about to be tried and convicted on such a basis, and then be consigned to the ranks of the Wetzels and Deglers.

I claim foul, and ask that all the evidence be made public. I think fandom is fully qualified to judge its members, if it has all the evidence in the case. C'mon, Buz, Larry, Howard, I vote, for more discussion; is Willick actually the double-dyed villain you hint he is? Or have a few asides been let go unexplained?

I object to being "protected"; I want all the facts before me so that I can make a sound decision. Hell, that's only common courtesy; to Willick, and to fandom.

**Extract from guest editorial by John Trimble.**

### ***Shangri L'Affaires #60 – (January/February 1962) – Fred Patten***

#### **MARINATING**

By Roy Tackett

Marinate, v.t., to pickle or soak in brine for a period of time.

Generally the comments which appear under the heading of this wandering column can be said to be properly marinated—a bit on the sour side since they reflect things seen through a somewhat jaded eye. For a change I want to reverse things, to do a bit of de-marinating as it were, to try to remove some of the brine from what has become a sour subject: the Fan Achievement Awards.

I was first approached on the subject of the awards about a year ago. I liked the idea then. I still do. It is true that there have been certain aspects of the project which have caused me to rear up on my hind legs and scream like a wounded grizzly; to quit the project, in fact. Yet I find myself back in the middle of it, once again a member of the awards committee because I think the idea has enough merit to be put into effect.

Probably the greatest amount of adverse comment on the Fan Awards project was caused by the proposed award statuette. Three things, at least, can be said about that proposed design: it was impractical, unsuitable, and in very poor taste. The fans who returned the awards questionnaire emphatically rejected

the many-pointed female figure. Even Dave Prosser, who drew up the design, voted against it. However, there seems to have been a breakdown in public relations and the majority of fandom still appears to be under the impression that Our Lady (?) of the Daggers is to be thrust upon some unsuspecting youngfan thereby eliciting horrified screams of parental disapproval. Not so. That particular atrocity was quickly given a well deserved toss into the ashcan. The awards committee settled on plaques as being more suitable, practical, and vastly less expensive.

"So what?" I hear you say. "Who needs fan awards anyway?"

Fandom does.

Fandom contains a number of highly talented people whose work is equal to that of any "professional". Name two? Willis and Berry. Want two more? Boggs and Warner. Two more? Bjo and ATom. Two more? Name your own choices; there are lots to choose from.

The point is that all of these people work in an extremely narrow field. The very nature of the thing they do best limits its appeal to the tiny group we call "fandom". They know this but nevertheless they continue to work, and work hard, to provide stories, articles, artwork, and other things fannish to interest, entertain, and amuse the rest of us. 'Why do they do it? Not for any monetary reward, that's for sure. How much time and money do you figure L. D. Broyles put into his "*Who's Who in SF Fandom*"? Did he do it for profit? Obviously not. Then why?. Because he thought that it would be something that other fans would appreciate.

And there's the key to it all. Appreciation.

The writers who pound typewriters, the artists who wield pen and brush, the fans who dream up special projects and pour their time, energy, and money into them, do so because they hope the rest of us will appreciate their efforts.

We do. There is no denying that. We write them letters and we praise them in fanzines. We cover them with egoboo—an immaterial and fleeting thing. I believe we should do more. I believe we should give them something a bit more lasting than momentary egoboo. I believe we should give them something they can put up on the mantle, or on the wall, or toss in the closet, to remind them now and again that we really do appreciate their efforts. During the past year fan writers and artists and publishers have given me many hours of enjoyment. If I can (figuratively, of course) hand one of them a plaque that says he is the best, by ghod, fan writer, fan artist, or fan whathaveyou of the year 1961 then I feel that I will have, in a small measure, made some recompense for the time and effort he has spent on me—and you—and a few hundred other fans.

As to the awards themselves, the awards committee has decided on five, basing their decision for the most part on the results of the questionnaire sent out by George Willick. (As a matter of information 117 questionnaires were returned; 93 favored the fan awards and 24 were opposed to them.) The five awards are as follows:

Best Fan Writer.

Best Fan Artist.

Best Regular Column. This one was something of a surprise. It was not one of the categories proposed on Willick's questionnaire but a large number of write-in votes convinced the committee that it should be included.

Best Single Publication. This category is meant to include a wide variety of fannish publications: one-shots, specials, or a particularly fine issue of a regular fanzine.

The Outstanding Merit Award. This award is meant to be something special and takes a bit of explaining. The committee feels that once in a while someone makes a special contribution to fandom and his contribution should be recognized as such. Such as? Such as Willis, perhaps, who changed the whole concept of fandom. Such as Moskowitz, perhaps, who chronicled the early years. Such as Sneary, perhaps, whose warmth and humor and intelligence have inspired a vast number of aspiring fans. Such as...well, the choice is up to fandom. There will be no nominations for this award—just a space for a write-in on the final

ballot. If 75% of the voters write in the same name then it can be assumed they have come up with an outstanding fan.

Otherwise, no award.

I hope I've managed to clear up a few points concerning the fan awards. I like the idea. Sure, fandom is just a ghoddamn hobby but there are some talented hobbyists knocking about in it. Let's give them some recognition.

### **Cry #157 – (February 1962) – F.M. Busby**

And you are one of the most diabolical offenders, Buz. Hint! Hint! Hint! There are low-lifes in our midst! Willick is plotting terrible things! Sure I can see why those in the know are reluctant to go into detail. But, goddamnit, think of the effect on those of us who don't know what's going on. These loud alarms do us no good. Instead, they tend to make us suspect the worst, tend to make us distrust the innocent, and tend us toward violent reaction where (in all probability) none is warranted.

**Extract from Stephen Schultheis letter.**

### **Axe #23 – (4 March 1962) - Larry & Noreen Shaw**

EVERYBODY TALKS ABOUT THE FAN AWARDS, BUT... George Willick says the Fan Awards will be distributed at the Chicon to recipients chosen on the basis of a popular fan vote, and to this end recently distributed ballots via *Axe* and other fanzines. Some people, however, feel that the whole idea is worthless or worse to begin with, and that George is attempting to railroad it through without sufficient public discussion beforehand. Until now, nobody has done anything about it. Howard DeVore decided it was about time that somebody did, and prepared the postcard ballot attached to this issue; though we do not necessarily agree with Howard, we are happy to cooperate in its distribution. Check "Yes" if you are in favour of the Fan Awards, "No" if you are opposed, and the final box if you simply wish to see more discussion before any action is taken. The vote will be tabulated carefully, and the results reported here as soon as possible. This may be important; spend two seconds and three cents on it before you forget.

### **Axe #24 – (18 March 1962) - Larry & Noreen Shaw**

APPROXIMATELY 70 FANS HAVE VOTED in Howard DeVore's poll questioning whether or not fandom is in favor of the Fan Achievement Awards initiated by George Willick. The results will be tabulated and published in the next issue of *Axe*, so make sure your ballot reaches us before March 31 if you want it to be counted. We'll also print pertinent comments, including a letter from Willick on the subject. Meanwhile, a couple of points can be cleared up briefly. George asked, "If people omit names, will these be counted?" The answer is yes; the ballot went only to *Axe's* mailing list, and we consider everyone on that list eligible to vote. By far the great majority of the returned ballots have been signed, in any case. Avram Davidson said, "This is very ambiguous. YES or NO what?" As a matter of fact, we were a bit worried about possible ambiguity ourselves, so said, in announcing the poll, "Check "Yes" if you are in favour of the Fan Awards, "No" if you are opposed, and the final box if you simply wish to see more discussion before any action is taken." Of course, anyone who didn't read that far in the last *Axe* probably hasn't read this far in this one...but this is our fault?

### **Axe #25A – (1 April 1962) - Larry & Noreen Shaw**

AXE'S READERSHIP – or at least the portion of it that has definitely made up its mind – is against the Fan Achievement Awards exactly three to one. A total of 111 of Howard DeVore's ballots were returned; of these, 17 fans voted the straight "Yes" and 51 the flat "No". However, 33 wanted more discussion; four marked both the "Yes" and "More Discussion" boxes, and six marked both "No" and "More Discussion". It seems, then, about a third of our readers want to see the subject kicked around some more. Well, let's have the discussion, then; the letter section of *Axe*, which begins as a regular separate department in the second section of the annish, is wide open for the publication of all opinions. We already have a letter from George Willick to lead things off and hope to have Big-Hearted Howard's own analysis and opinion of the voting results next time. A few of the brief comments added to the ballots themselves seem worth printing, too, although we'll withhold names where we deem it wise. If you voted for more discussion, please join in.

### **Axe #25B – (6 May 1962) - Larry & Noreen Shaw**

GEORGE WILLICK, 410 West 110th St., New York 25, N.Y.

*Axe* #23 circulated a card-form questionnaire from Howard Devore. It was another Fan Awards Poll (I found this one lacking something from the original). This is a good thing. We need more fans like Howard Devore who will do things that have definite results.

I am very much in favour of more discussion We must have this if the awards are to become Con controlled. The entire reason for the present independent set-up functioning outside the world con is to prove that there are enough voting fans to support them. The results of the first Fan Awards Poll are these (give or take 3 or 4 for Willick's tendency to make mistakes); 1) Are you in favor of Fan Awards? Answers; YES 77, NO 24, UNDECIDED 10, No vote 2; TOTAL 113.

Since this is all Devore's questionnaire pertains to, these are the only figures I offer for comparison. I offer them freely because they are exact and each voter is known.

I am for con controlled awards...have been for them since the very beginning. I wanted no part of them after that point. However, it became necessary to have an independent set-up first. And regardless of opinion to the contrary, there was no one else with the 1) information, 2) desire, and 3) willingness to set them up. The awards must now be presented and I will see that they are. However, I will be delighted to turn the second year over to anyone the present committee will accept.

And I will step down immediately upon request of any two of the present committee members. I would in such case raise holy hell in any freelance discussion pertaining to the awards.

However, the present Fan Achievement Awards committee has made its decision based on the original poll and has laid down its laws and requirements for the first year's awards. I only wish Howard Devore had shown interest previously.

In parting I might reassure Howard that he has nothing to fear from any real or imagined response to his ballot (it isn't...it's a questionnaire) being proclaimed with a flourish and a demand that the convention committee furnish time, space and any needed money for the presentation. The original poll was not followed by any such demand or flourish.

((No trumpets here either, but the readership will remember that the *Axe* poll vote was 3 to 1 against the awards...and for lots more discussion. So start. L & N))

**Entire George Willick letter – including bracketed editorial intrusions.**

AVRAM DAVIDSON, 410 West 110th St., New York 25, N.Y.

Well, let's see. I said that the Devore pockard ballot was ambiguous, you say that you cleared that up in the attached copy of *Axe*, and indicate rather waspishly that if I'd only read the fershluggener paper...It happened that three other souls got to the combo ballot & newsletter before I did and the two items were detached. Nothing on the ballot-card indicated that a thirty-three word codicil was to be found in *Axe*, so I mailed off the card with my comment and learned the rest of it later when I read *Axe* at my leisure. This is your fault? No, my dears, of course not. It is nobody's really. I am just used to simple-type ballots...Ballots requiring reference to a semi-detached document, I haven't previously encountered. And hope not to have to again.

**Extract from Avram Davidson letter.**

### ***Axe* #26 – (20 May 1962) - Larry & Noreen Shaw**

GEORGE WILLICK HAS DROPPED THE FAN AWARDS. In a letter to F.M. Busby date April 5 George said:

"Money will be refunded and awards as I proposed them will be dropped. I see no reason why the boat should leak when I can kick upon the hull. There are selfish reasons involved..the cost of the plaques, the trip to Chicago, the nip & tuck fighting that would result, etc...I am sure that there are now enough interested fans to carry on the idea and make it succeed – I mean, let's face it, I've shown them what not to do. Right?"

We have on hand a few letters commenting on the fan awards idea, but in view of this statement and the documents on the inside pages will hold them until it appears there really is continued interest.

**Inside documents relate to Hugo matters,  
not the Fan Achievement Awards.**

### ***Shangri L'Affaires #61 – (June 1962) – Fred Patten***

I think John Trimble's editorial should be heeded and repeated frequently until it has permeated all fandom. I am bound by a dng but there certainly there must be somewhere in fandom an individual who heard the facts in the Willick case without undergoing such an obligation to silence, and that individual should write and *Shaggy* should publish the account of what really happened. It seems absurd that the incident should have bloated to such enormous proportions and I fear that when it finally does see print, most of those learning the truth for the first time will feel badly let down, wondering what all the excitement was about. Meanwhile, Willick is being talked of as if he was a Degler or Wetzal, and fans who pride themselves on their clear thinking are using their dislike for his procedure to destroy a perfectly sound and logical project, the fan awards.

**Extract from Harry Warner letter.**

### ***Axe #30 – (5 August 1962) - Larry & Noreen Shaw***

CHARLES WELLS has sent out a form letter suggesting the formation of a committee to discuss the question of a permanent annual poll, with or without awards, "not conducted by any one fanzine but by a group responsible to all of fandom." He stresses that this ad hoc committee will not be this group, just pave the way for it. Ideas, anyone? Send them to CW at 2495 Sherbrooke Dr. NE, Atlanta 6, Ga. – Not to us.

### ***Skyrack #47 – (18 November 1962) – Ron Bennett***

AWARD MINDED FANS IN THE STATES have for some time been bombarding the mails (mainly to *Axe*) with views towards a definitive set of awards to deserving fans. The upshot of much to-and-fro commenting was quite a squelch of mudslinging as would-be organisers, but now out of the chaos comes a scheme which has no connection, I'm urged to say, with the proposed Willick awards. A group comprising such notables as Betty Kujawa, Charles Wells, Dick Lupoff, Richard Bergeron, John Baxter and Harry Warner is looking into the idea.

### ***Fanac #89 – (20 November 1962) – Walter Breen***

THE FAN AWARDS ARE NOT DEAD, AS WAS RUMORED. A committee under Chuck Wells has come up with a plan very close to one proposed some months ago by Sneary. The provisional committee includes, besides Wells, Harry Warner, John Baxter, Dick Lupoff, Richard Bergeron, myself, Betty Kujawa (resigning), George Scithers, and Lichtman (nonvoting). Shortly after 1 Jan 63 a ballot will go out to all fanzine fandom, comprising (a) a fan poll similar to the *Fanac* poll but without the 'Fugghead' category, and with different numbers of places (top 12 fmz, perhaps, etc); (b) a list of candidates, 5 to be elected, for the first elective Fan Poll committee; (c) a brief charter to be voted yes or no. Lupoff is running off ballots; Warner will mail them out; I have provided addresses; Well will probably be teller; Kujawaa has donated \$\$ towards the project. Ballots will not go out with any fanzine, but results will be announced as soon as possible after the 1 March 63 deadline. The awards will probably consist of certificates, though this is still under discussion.

### ***Starspinkle #2 – (3 January 1963) – Ron Ellik***

MORE CANDIDATES are needed, too, for the first formal committee to administrate the Fan Awards Poll initiated just before the Chicon by Charles Wells. The awards have been set up by an ad hoc committee, but due to insufficient publicity outside the group only Walter Breen, Bob Lichtman and Dick Lupoff have shown willingness to sit on the committee for 1963. For more information, or to volunteer for the committee, write to Dick Lupoff, 210 E. 73rd Street, New York 21 N.Y. No money or box-tops.

### ***Axe #33 – (January 1963) - Larry & Noreen Shaw***

FAN ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS (Yes, really) A new FAA committee is operating under the chairmanship of Charles Wells; instead of endless preliminary wrangling, the new group is proceeding with its first annual

poll. Ballots will be mailed in January. The committee as now constituted will pass out of existence after taking this first poll. A new five-member committee will take over for the new year. Membership on the new year's committee is to be five fans, elected as part of the first year's polling. They are calling for volunteers to stand for membership on the new committee. Will all interested notify Dick Lupoff, 210 E. 73rd St., New York 21, NY.

### **Starspinkle #8 – (28 March 1963) – Ron Ellik**

FAN ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS BALLOTS are probably sitting in your Unanswered Mail pile right now. Charles Wells must have them back by Wed, 1 May – and he regrets this deadline doesn't appear on the form. ## If you didn't get one, and would like to vote for your favourite fan writer, publication, #1 Fan Face, etc., shoot a card off to Wells at Apt #1, 200 Atlas, #1, Durham, North Carolina, and you can still beat the May Day deadline.

### **Axe #35 – (March 1963) – Larry & Noreen Shaw**

By now most of you should have received your Fan Poll Ballots from Harry Warner, despite the curse that seems to have been put on the whole endeavour. Late word from Charles Wells is that he has a supply of ballots on hand and anyone who didn't get one and wishes to vote should write him at once. Address: Charles Wells, 200 Atlas, #1, Durham, North Carolina. Charles also imparts the information that the deadline for ballots to be in his hands (he is poll teller) is May 1, 1963. This information was inadvertently left off the ballots themselves. He intends to get the poll report out in early June.

### **Fantasy Fiction Field #6 – (26 March 1963) – Harvey Inman**

ACCORDING TO A NEWS RELEASE from Charles Wells, Fan Poll Committee chairman, the new deadline for return of the ballots has been set at May 1, 1963. He expects to get out the poll report in early June. Harry Warner, Jr, who is in charge of distribution of the ballots, is now reported to be home and back at work, but the amount of physical activity he is permitted is still very limited. He has, however, assigned a top fannish priority to distribution of the ballots. Harry, as reported in an earlier issue of *FFF*, recently fell and broke his hip and severely injured his head, Charles Wells further notes that he will have a supply of ballots for anyone who does not get one. His address is: 200 Atlas, Apartment #1, Durham, North Carolina.

### **Starspinkle #13 – (June 1963) – Ron Ellik**

Charles Wells says he has finished his exams, and the results of the Fan Awards Poll will appear early this month.

### **Skyrack #55 – (20 June 1963) – Ron Bennett**

THE FIRST ANNUAL FAN POLL results have just been published by Pollster Charles Wells, 200 Atlas, #1, Durham, North Carolina USA, from whom additional copies are available on request. Briefly, the main places in the ballots were as follows:

- BEST SINGLE PUBLICATION:**
1. *A Sense of FAPA* (Eney) 74pts.
  2. *A Remembrance of Things Past VIII* (Eney) 21pts.
  3. *Xero #9* (Lupoffs) 20pts.

*The Atom Anthology* rated 5 points, *Parker's Peregrinations* 4 points, *The Harrogate Convention Booklet* 2 points.

- BEST FANZINE:**
1. *Warhoon* (Bergeron) 356pts.
  2. *Xero* (Lupoffs) 268pts.
  3. *Yandro* (Coulsons) 252pts.

*Hyphen* was 8th with 115pts, *Scottishe* 13th with 86pts, *Orion* 16th with 57pts. *Skyrack* rated 20pts, *Pot Pourri* 7, *Scribble* 5, *Parker's Peregrinations* and *Vagary* 4pts each.

Arthur Thomson ran away with two categories, BEST FAN ARTIST and BEST FAN CARTOONIST. Eddie Jones, Terry Jeeves and, Jim Cawthorne were also well placed in these sections.

BEST COLUMN was Willis' *The Harp That Once Or Twice* in *Warhoon* with 143pts, a tremendous lead over *File 13* (Boggs in *Warhoon*) 2nd with 36pts. Willis' *I Remember Me* in *Scottishe* was 14th with 10pts. Scibblings – 5pts.

BEST FAN WRITER was Walt Willis with 159pts John Berry was 9th with 23.

BEST NEW FAN OF 1962 was Fred Patten with 19pts.

Walt Willis was the year's outstanding personality, taking the NUMBER ONE FAN FACE section with 64pts. Ethel Lindsay was second, jointly with Ron Ellik, 15pts each.,

The Fan Polls Committee for this year lines up as Dick Eney, Bob Lichtman, Terry Carr, George Scithers, and Ron Bennett.

### **Fanac #94 – (summer 1963) – Walter Breen**

CHARLES WELLS FAN POLL (he says first annual, but until I see results on the 2nd or 3rd I am not too confident) elicited 47 ballots; copies of the tabulation may still be available (CW, 200 Atlas, #1, Durham, N. C.). Winners in brief:

BEST PUBLICATION – *Sense of FAPA*, *Remembrance of Things Past* (*Spaceways* ish), *Xero 9*, *Wrhn 17*, *8th Stage of Fandom*.

BEST FMZ – *Wrhn*, *Xero*, *Y*, *Cry*, *Shaggy*, *Axe*, *Horizons*, "-"; *Amra*, *Bane*.

BEST ARTIST – ATom, Bjo, EJones, Barr, Krenkel, Cawthorne, Bergeron, Stiles.

CARTOONIST – ATom, Nelson, Stiles, Bjo, WR, bhob, Dorf, Jeeves.

COLUMNS – Harp, File 13, Keen Blue Eyes, Accidentals & Nomics, Beermutterings, my 5th Col (in *Wrhn*), Squirrel Cage, Warier Bard, Doric Col & Requiem For ASF (tied), Hwyl.

WRITERS – WAW, HWjr, me, T. Carr, Boggs, Bergeron, Tucker, Ellik, 3-way tie between Buz, Berry, Avram.

BEST NEW FAN – Patten, Paul Williams, Armistead.

#1 FAN FACE – WAW, Ellik & Lindsay (tied), Buz & H. Warner (tied), Bergeron, me.

NEW POLL GROUP: Eney, temporary chmn; Bennet, Lichtman, Scithers, T.Carr.

I refrained from running a FANAC poll in conflict with this one, but judging by the lackadaisical results I need not have bothered. Good try, Chuck.

### **Starspinkle #15 – (July 1963) – Ron Ellik**

FAN POLL NOTE: Charles Wells is abashed to learn that he credited Dick Eney for *Remembrance Of Things Past*, runner-up as Best Single Publication of 1962; the editor and publisher of *ROTP* is Bill Evans, who is simply not at all like Dick Eney. ## We insert here that we did too publish one issue in 1962, Mr. Wells, and we would like to thank all who on the basis of that single issue voted us #22 fanzine for the year.

### **Starspinkle #18 – (15 August 1963) – Ron Ellik**

FAN POLL WINDUP: Charles Wells ( 200 Atlas, Apt. #1, Durham, North Carolina, 27705) has published a single-sheet flyer correcting and adding to the results of the First Annual Fan Poll. This sheet and the earlier publication are available from him on request.

### **Starspinkle #38 – (21 May 1964) – Ron Ellik**

FAN AWARDS POLL NEWS:

Dick Eney, this year's Teller for the Fan Awards, happily announces a turnout of 93 at the polls, with the following results:

Best Single Publication of 1963: (1) DOUBLE BILL #7 (2) XERO #10 (3) HYPHEN #34.  
Best Fanzine: (1) YANDRO (2) CRY (3) STARSPINKLE.  
Best Artist: (1) ATom (2) Bjo (3) Steve Stiles. (inc. art & cartooning)  
Best Column: (1) "Strange Fruit" in YANDRO (2) "Hywl" in CRY.  
(3) "With Keen Blue Eyes and a Bicycle" in CRY.  
Best Writer: (1) Walt Willis (2) Harry Warner (3) John Berry.  
Best New Fan of the Year: (1) Arnold Katz (2) tie: Joe Pilati & Langdon Jones  
(3) Len Bailes.  
Number One Fan Face: (1) Walt Willis (2) Ron Ellik (3) Wally Weber.

Next year's Fan Awards Committee: Weber, Pelz, Wells, Donaho and T. Carr.

Fuller information, with details of voting and short notes about each winner, will appear soon from Eney (417 Ft. Hunt Road, Alexandria, Virginia, 22307). To reserve a copy of the Yearbook containing all this, write to Eney immediately.

### ***Focal Point #11 – (23 June 1965) – Rich Brown & Mike McInerney***

FP EDITOR CLEARED, ENEY APOLOGISES: Mike J. McInerney, the bushy-bearded playboy editor of *Focal Point*, a fanzine devoted to the finest principles of yellow journalism, stood accused of urging people to bollix the Fan Poll by voting en bloc for Walter Breen as Number One Fan Face in one of his fanzines; the accusation came in IN PART SCAL'D, Dick Eney's Fan Poll Report. Mike published a flyer, defying Eney to name the zine in which he was supposed to have done this; the result has been an apology by Eney, admitting a colossal error in confusing a typed comment to him personally with mimeographed matter in the fanzine. The comment may have been typed by Earl Evers (who addressed the zines), so it wasn't completely Eney's fault.

### ***Focal Point #13 – (24 August 1965) – Rich Brown & Mike McInerney***

THE FOCAL POINT POLL which you will find FP is here because fandom has not been polled about the year 1964. We polled our readers about conducting a FP Poll earlier this year, but those who replied – all three of them – voted a resounding no, inasmuch as fandom already had a body elected to take care of such things. The body was Wally Weber, so we let sleeping polls lie...until recently, when we stopped to wonder what had happened to the 1964 poll. We dropped a note to Wally, suggesting that we might put out a different sort of Poll, less elaborate, something more like the Pillar Poll that appears in SAPS and FAPA.

Wally replied, "Funny thing, you mentioning the Fan Poll. Bill Donaho, one of the committee members, wrote me an airmail letter couple of weeks ago (I should be answering it Real Soon) asking much the same thing. To tell the truth, what I thought I had volunteered for was ballot counting, but it stands to reason I won't have anything to count unless I make up some ballots. You have my permission for your pillar type poll whether or not I get off my, er, drafting stool and produce a ballot and some action."

We'd suggest that, since Wally has been busy with TAFF business and suchlike and also because it will now be rather hard for people to remember what went on in 1964 (and not confuse it with stuff stuff that went on in 1965), this FOCAL POINT poll will be considered Enough for the year 1964 and that the Fan Poll committee get its bearings and be ready to poll fandom about the more easily remembered year 1965. This is just a suggestion. Anyway, fill out your FP Poll and get it back to us by November 1, 1965.

### ***Focal Point #15 – (1 November 1965) – Rich Brown & Mike McInerney***

#### THE 1964 FOCAL POINT POLL RESULTS

Voting in the 1955 FOCAL POINT Poll were the following people: Ann Ashe, Jeanie Berman, Ruth Berman, John Boardman, Carl Brandon Jr., Rich Brown, Redd Boggs, Jack Chalker, Mike Deckinger, Frank Dietz, Mike Domina, Alex B. Eisenstein, EEEvers Jack Gaughan, Cindy Heap, Mike Irwin, Arnie Katz, Harriet Kolchak, John

Kusske Jr., Fred Lerner, Bob Lichtman, Richard A. Luc, Richard O. Mann, J. A. McCallum, Mike McInerney, Andy Porter, Jim Sanders, Gretchen Schwenn, George H. Scithers, Peter Singleton, Ben Solon, Ted White and Greg Wolford. 33 out of 230...that's not too many. Ye eds were the first to vote and were thus not influenced by the other voting.

BEST FANZINE

1. YANDRO (69 points)
2. NIEKAS (51 points)
3. LOGHORREA/QUARK (34 points)
4. DOUBLE: BILL (33 points)
5. AMRA (26 points)
- LIGHTHOUSE (26 points)
7. SAM (19 points)
8. HYPHEN (18 points)
9. ZENITH (17 points)
10. STARSPINKLE (15 points)

BEST NEW FAN

1. Tom Gilbert (16 points)
2. Richard Mann (13 points)
3. Joni Markwood (10 points)
4. Ron Bounds (8 points)
- Arnie Katz (8 points)
6. Ross Chamberlain (7 points)
- Hank Luttrell (7 points)
- Creath Thorne (7 points)

BEST FAN ARTIST

BEST SINGLE PUBLICATION

1. DISCON PROCEEDINGS (9 points)
- THE GREAT RAYBURN
- DOGDIDDLE (9 points)
3. NIEKAS #9 (8 points)
4. LOYAL OPPOSITION (6 points)
5. GRAND VIZIER'S HORSETAIL (5 points)
3. QAR #1 (5 points)

1. Steve Stiles (78 points)
2. Arthur Thompson (70 points)
3. Bjo Trimble (43 points)
4. William Rotsler (29 points)
5. George Barr (23 points)
- Ross Chamberlain (23 points)
7. Jim Cawthorne (14 points)
8. Dian Pelz (13 points)
9. Roy Krenkel (12 points)
10. Dan Adkins (9 points)

TOP TEN VOTE TOTALS\*

1. Steve Stiles (103)
2. Walt Willis (92)
3. Bob Coulson (80)
4. Terry Carr (70)
- Arthur Thompson (70)
6. Felice Rolfe/ (65)
- Ed Meskeys (62)
7. Bjo Trimble (53)
8. Ted White (48)
9. Tom Perry (43)
10. Harry Warner (42)

BEST FAN WRITER

1. Walter A. Willis (72 points)
2. Terry Carr (40 points)
3. Harry Warner (34 points)
4. Ted White (31 points)
5. John Berry (24 points)
6. Norm Clarke (12 points)
7. Bob Coulson (11 points)
8. John Boardman (10 points)
- Redd Boggs (10 points)
10. Bill Blackbeard (8 points)

\*The result of tabulating all totals, or maybe I mean the result of totalling all tabulations. The above totals were arrived at by allowing full credit for a co-edited zine to each individual, providing they received some votes as individuals.

Just what this whole damn poll is suppose to mean, I'm not quite sure. I disqualified only two votes – one for FOCAL POINT, one for a too too silly made up name. I even counted votes for things published in 1965, tho I said I wouldn't; such are the results of trying to take a poll a year late. C'est la cotton pickin' vie.

**Please note that the above aren't the entire poll results which appeared *Focal Point #15*, just the most important highlights - KH.**

***Focal Point #22 – (August 1966) – Mike McInerney***

FOCAL POINT POLL is being distributed with this issue and the new deadline is Oct. 1st 1966. I would like to get a good response so we can have meaningful results. This poll covers the year 1965, so please vote accordingly. If you have already voted do not vote again (only your first vote will be counted) but if you haven't yet please do so. Other faneds are encouraged to reproduce the ballot.