

Special Corflu Heatwave Recovery Issue

BEST FANZINE

Banana Wings 13
SF Commentary 12
Chunga 10
Beam 8
Thy Life's a Miracle 6
Portable Storage 6
This Here... 4
Inca 3
The White Notebooks 3
Trap Door 3
Raucous Caucus 2
Ansible 1
Lulzine 1
Challenger 1
Drink Tank 1
Spartacus 1
Skyliner 1
CounterClock 1
Askance 1
Lofgeornost 1
Captain Flashback 1
Journey Planet 1

BEST GENZINE

Banana Wings 12
Chunga 12
Portable Storage 11
Beam 8
SF Commentary 8
Inca 7
Askance 5
Raucous Caucus 3
Pablo Lennis 2
Challenger 1
Trap Door 1
Alexiad 1
Random Jottings 1

BEST PERZINE

This Here.... 16
The White Notebooks 9
Lofgeornost 6
Opuntia 4
Skyliner 4
Spartacus 3
Askew 3
Captain Flashback 3
My Back Pages 2
All New or Reprint 2
Sam 2
brg 1
Quoz 1



BEST WHATCHAMACALLIT

Ansible 8
Lofgeornost 8
Captain Flashback 6
The Zine Dump 4
Mumblings from Munchkinland 2
brg 2
TAFfish 2
The Thai Literary Supplement 1
Lulzine 1
Claims Department 1
CyberCozen 1
BCSFAzine 1
Rose Motel 1
Vanamonde 1
Sporadic 1

BEST WRITER

Mark Plummer 11
Claire Brialey 10
Nic Farey 9
Andrew Hooper 7
Pete Young 5
Taral Wayne 3
Ulrika O'Brien 3
Paul Skelton 2
Curt Phillips 2
John Hertz 2
Caroline Mullan 1
Dave Langford 1
Chuck Serface 1
Stephanie Alrod 1
James Bacon 1

BEST ARTIST

Ulrika O'Brien 14
Steve Stiles 7
Ditmar 7
Dan Steffan 7
Brad Foster 5
Alan White 5
Taral Wayne 4
Sarah Felix 3
Sue Mason 3
Jeanne Gomoll 2
Hillary Pearlman 2
Vanessa Applegate 1
Meg Frank 1
Mo Starkey 1
Espana Sheriff 1

Special Corflu Heatwave Recovery Issue

Be Bop 1
Quoz 1
Crash of the Hard Drive 1
Random Jottings 1
Sweet Jane 1
Madison Four Square 1

Derek McCaw 1
Chris Garcia 1
Padraig O'Mealoid 1
Flick 1
Joe Major 1
Rich Lynch 1
Billy Wolfenbarger 1
Fred Lerner 1

Marc Schirmeister 1
Allison Scott 1
Harry Bell 1
Steve Jeffrey 1

BEST LETTERHACK

Steve Jeffrey 11
Leigh Edmonds 8
Jerry Kaufman 8
David Redd 6
Claire Brialey 4
William Brieding 4
Lloyd Penney 3
Paul Skelton 3
Joseph Nicholas 3
Roy Kettle 2
Mark Plummer 2
Fred Smith 1
John Purcell 1
John D. Berry 1
Andrew Hooper 1
Robert Lichtman 1
Steve Stiles 1

BEST COVER ART

Thy Life's a Miracle 10
Chunga #26 6
Banana Wings #75 5
Inca #16 5
Skyliner #8 4
Beam #14 4
A TAFF Guide to Beer 3
SF Commentary #100 3
Drink Tank #413 2
Journey Planet #47 2
Challenger #42 2
Portable Storage #2 1
Reluctant Famulus #124 1
Drink Tank #417 1
Opuntia (unsp.) 1
Skyliner #5 1

BEST SPECIAL PUBLICATION

Thy Life's a Miracle 18
Random Jottings #17 9
The Giant Leap to Never Never 4
A TAFF Guide to Beer 4
SF Commentary #100 3
Portable Storage #2 2
Journey to the East 2
Fandom Harvest II 2
The Willis Papers 1
Curt Phillips' TAFF Report 1
Rose Motel 1
New Maps (Sladek) 1
Challenging Moskowitz 1
Then Again 1
The Astral League Dossier 1
Conversations w/ First Fandom 1
WOOF 2019 1

BEST ONLINE ACTIVITY

Fanac.org 10
File770.com 8
TAFF eBooks 6
Ansible Free Books 6
efanzines.com 3
Rob Hansen's Free Stuff 2
Dr. Strangemind 1
Star Wars Explained 1
WOOF 2019 1
gostock.co.uk 1
Fiawol.org 1
Journey Planet 1
InTheBar 1
Fancylopedia3 1

The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Robert Lichtman at Corflu 37 by Andrew Hooper.

The Guest of Honor for Corflu Heatwave was Bill Burns, who gave a presentation on "Thomas Edison and his Amazing Electric Pen" that held the assembled fans mesmerized.

The total attendance at Corflu Heatwave was 33 people.

The average daily high temperature during the convention was 79° F, or 25°C.

How appropriate.

Voters

James Bacon, Sandra Bond, Claire Brialey, Pat Charnock, Leigh Edmonds, Nic Farey, Christopher J. Garcia, John Hertz, Andrew Hooper, Rob Jackson, Steve Jeffery, Jerry Kaufman, Christina Lake, Robert Lichtman, Guy H. Lillian III, Mark Plummer, John Purcell, David Redd, Carrie Root, Paul Skelton, Suzanne Tompkins, Taral Wayne, Peter Young.

Some words about the above numbers

First off, Nic Farey has already written about these numbers in his most current issue of *This Here...*, which, as can be seen above, won the Best Perzine FAAn by a wide margin. Now, I am not going to argue with what Nic wrote about in his zine; those are his opinions based on how he personally interprets the FAAn award tabulation process, and he takes that process quite seriously, which is obvious when you read his zine. What he alluded to in some of his qualifying statements was that my concern was not as attuned to the minutiae of FAAn vote tabulation. Nic was quite correct to note that my attention was mostly directed at the larger event's various functions working cohesively than being focused solely on the FAAn voting. In fact, I said from the onset of my assuming the task of running the FAAn was to streamline the process, knowing fully well how busy I would be organizing the convention, in addition to my full-time job responsibilities at Blinn College. On top of that, there were deadlines for having assorted parts of the convention ready on time, which definitely shortened the amount of time necessary to do a serious individual vote analysis of each ballot. But, like I said, my goal was to streamline things in hopes of simplifying matters regarding these awards.

Even with those caveats, I am pretty darned pleased with the results. I believe they are representative of those who voted, and I thank each and every one of these 23 voters. See, the thing that Nic was parsing things down were regarding decisions that I made last December, and those all come down to settling on ten main award categories. The specific categories that Mr. Farey carried on about were the Whatchamacallit, Perszine, and Online Activity categories; in the process, he had questions about tabulating votes.

Now my intention of creating the Whatchamacallit category was to have a single place where apazines, newszines, clubzines, reviewzines, etc., could be placed and counted. This meant – as I pointed out on the ballot – that Fapazines like *Claims Department* or *Lofgeornost* could get votes there, but could also be placed in the Perzine category because both of those fanzines meet those criteria, too. Ergo, they each received votes. I did, though, move a few votes into their appropriate categories: *Askance*, my genzine, got a vote in the Perzine category, so I moved that vote over to the genzine category; I did the same thing with a vote for *Raucous Caucus*. In contract, *Ansible*, which is an online newszine, received votes for both Whatchamacallit and Online Activity, and because it matches both descriptions, whichever votes were cast for it in either of those categories those votes stayed there. Two other items in the Online Activity group, *Ansible Free Books* and *TAFF eBooks*, received an equal number of votes **for those individual web addresses**. That is why they were counted as separate items. Yes, from either of

those sites a person can access the same ebooks, but I considered the method of **getting there** the defining characteristic, not the result.

This may seem all a bit nit-picky when you read that nice Mister Farey's meticulous fine-tuning of the numbers, but a person can tweak numbers all night long if they have the time. I did not. Nic mentioned that some zines should not have been counted, or ballots not accepted, because those zines were not published in 2019. *Trap Door* is the obvious example here, but I received my copy in mid-January of 2019, and face it: even if that vote was discarded, it would not have a difference in the outcome. Now it *might* have made a difference if I had had the time to tell that voter, "Hey, you voted for an ineligible fanzine; send in a new ballot," then I might have done that. And that, folks, was the driving force behind leaving that vote stand: there was not enough time to do that kind of back-and-forth with a half-dozen or more similarly completed ballots.

Even so, I believe the final results stand up well, and everyone present seemed happy with all the winners. People like Nic Farey can play around with the numbers all they want, and as far as I'm concerned, when they're all done diddling with the numbers, they can diddle with themselves. Therefore, I stand by these results, and believe that all the winners are worthy of their awards. That includes Nic Farey's *This Here...*, which obviously impressed a lot of the voters. It is a damned fine personal fanzine, and he deserves the honour because he has worked very hard on that zine. So enjoy the plaque, Nic. Hang it proudly on your wall at home. Or in your cab. I don't care where you put your award, as long as you stick it where it belongs.

Books

I have read a lot of old science fiction in the nearly ten months since the last issue, all while actually maintaining a decent job of keeping up on current sf magazines that I subscribe to: *Analog*, *F&SF*, *Asimov's*, plus a couple online markets (*Uncanny* and *Clarkesworld*), and also the mystery magazines *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine* and *The Strand*. All in all, it's been fun, and since I really don't want to review every single book or story right now, I think I will simply **highlight** the ones I enjoyed the most.

The Lost Stars: Tarnished Knight, by Jack Campbell. Titan Books, 2012

The Chaos Fighters, by Robert Moore Williams. Ace Books, 1955

The Super Barbarians, by John Brunner. Ace Books, 1962

Sentinels from Space, by Eric Frank Russell. Ace Books, 1960

Space Tug, by Murray Leinster. Belmont Books, 2nd edition, 1968

The Syndic, by C. N. Kornbluth. Berkley-Medallion, 1965 (first published in 1953),

Grave Expectations, by Sherri Browning Erwin and Charles Dickens. Simon & Schuster (2011)

Roughing It, by Mark Twain Reader's Digest Facsimile edition, 1994.

Dune, by Frank Herbert

The Ramsgate Paradox, by Stephen Tall. Berkley, 1976

Bodacious Creed, by Jonathan Fesmire, Self-Published, 2017.

Captain Nemo, by Kevin J. Anderson. Titan, 2011.

Flaming Zeppelins, the Adventures of Ned the Seal, by Joe R. Lansdale. Tachyon, 2010.

The Man from Tomorrow, by Wilson Tucker. Bantam, 1955. (original: *Wild Talent*, 1954)

Point Ultimate, by Jerry Sohl. Bantam, 1959

Curioddity, by Paul Jenkins. St. Martin's Press, 2016

The Devil's Detective, by Simon Kurt Unsworth. Doubleday, 2015.

Skewed Responses

I did receive letters of comment from last summer's 28th issue from John Hertz, Lloyd Penney, and Leigh Edmonds; however, since I really want to get this current issue out of my hands so I can concentrate on my job, I have made yet another executive decision to not include a proper letter column this time. The next issue – probably a mid-May issue, once finals are over and I can relax a little while – will likely have a decent-sized letter column based on the opening section of this issue. So there.

Final thoughts

{29 March 2020} Corflu Heatwave is two weeks in the past as I type this final paragraph, and it should not surprise anyone that I reminisce a bit about that fershlugginer convention.

In short, I am glad I accepted the challenge of running Corflu 37. My reasoning for doing so was pretty along the lines of the *Field of Dreams* movie tag: "if you build it, they will come." And by crikey, they did!

When Pablo Vazquez – whom I had yet to meet in person – approached me via email a year ago about bring Corflu back to Texas, I thought that was a good idea. After all, the last time it was here was 2007 in Austin, and Pat Virzi ran a one-woman show called Corflu Quire, and it was bloody wonderful fun. I met a lot of old friends there – Geri Sullivan, Joyce Scrivner, Hope Liebowitz, and others – and made many new ones. And so I agreed with Pablo that Corflu needed to

return to Texas. We got it, started planning for it, and Pablo promptly scooted off to London to finish his Masters Degree. It became my baby and stayed that way, but having my wife Valerie and Pat Virzi helping out made a gigantic difference. They are the best, and I thank them dearly. I could not have done this without them. Or any of you people. Thank you so much for making Corflu Heatwave a success. Now let's hope Corflu Concorde flies next year in Bristol.

