

Now, because two weeks are too little and four weeks are too much... this is... **crifanac #6**, 8/31/98, The Fanzine of Newtonian Insurgentism. This (allegedly) triweekly and lovably feisty fanzine is co-edited by the essentially lovable Ken Forman (7215 Nordic Lights Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89119) and the amiably feisty Arnie Katz (330 S. Decatur, Suite 152, Las Vegas, NV 89107). Superstar Helpers: Marcy Waldle, Ben Wilson, Cathi Wilson Tom Springer, Tammy Funk and Joyce Katz. Director of Vagrant Affairs/Europe: Chuch Harris.

NewsSquint Snoopers: Rob Hansen, Vincent Clarke, Chuch Harris, Bruce Gillespie, Liz Copeland, Robert Lichtman, Bill Bowers, rich brown, Gary Farber and Geri Sullivan.

Columnists: Rob Hansen, Chuch Harris, Irwin Hirsh, Andy Hooper, Joyce Katz, Bob Tucker Ted White and the editors. .

Artists: Ross Chamberlain (1), David Haugh (4) and Craig Smith (7).

Crifanac is available for news, art, a short article or a letter of comment. Artwork is also urgently desired.

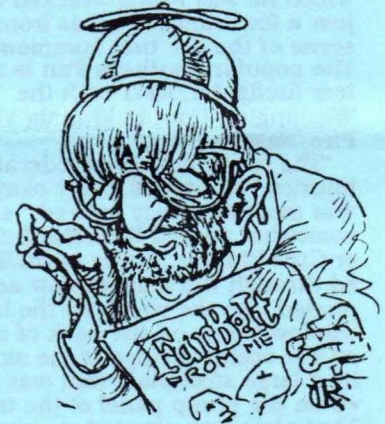
Send egoboo electronically: crifanac@aol.com.

Fanatical member of fwa; lukewarm support of AFAL.

Now is when we fan.

Number 6
August 31, 1998

crifanac



NewsSquint

What We Know, as soon as We Know It

Fan Hugos Announced

Congratulations to **Mimosa** (Best Fanzine), **Dave Langford** (Best Fanwriter) and **Joe Mayhew** (Best Fanartist). The recent world science fiction convention in Baltimore proclaimed them this year's Hugo Award winners in the fan categories.

Additional congratulations to **cri-**

fanac reader **Joe Haldeman**. Although not eligible for the fan awards this year, Joe should derive some consolation from winning the "Best Novel" Hugo for *Forever Peace*.

Farber Reports on the Fan Lounge

Gary Farber, fresh from the world SF con in Baltimore, reports on how

the Fan Lounge fared amid this strange world of pirates.

"How was the fan lounge? Was it heavily frequented, and by whom?"

"Cathy Doyle and Kip Williams did a wonderful job with the materials at hand. But the room was far too small, and the Hilton was a Long Schlep from the main party hotel (the Holiday Inn), from most other main hotels, and from the con center. As a result, while the distance helped keep it from being too crowded — and we *could* always overflow into the mezzanine, or more typically, the Hilton bar just downstairs — it was less than ideal. The "fan lounge" area in the con center was just given up on after the first day.

"The wonderful lessons of how to make a comfy, wonderful place, with flow, out of a con center layout, of Noreascon III and MagIcon, were all

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TAFF Race Begins

Vijay Bowen and **Sarah Prince** are the contestants in the competition for a free trip to Reconvene, the 50th Annual British National Science Fiction Convention, in Liverpool, England, April 2-5, 1999.

The voting deadline is midnight, Saturday, December 5, 1998. Ballots must be accompanied by a donation to TAFF of not less than \$3 US or £2 UK. Official ballots are available from US Administrator, **Ulrika O'Brien**: (123 Melody Ln. #C, Costa Mesa, CA 92627; ulrika@aol.com) and UK Administrator **Maureen Kincaid Speller**, after her return. Until then, get 'em from **Dave Langford** (94 London Rd., Reading, Berkshire RG1 5AU, England; ansible@cix.co.uk). Ballots will be available at the TAFF website: <http://www.dcs.gla.ac.uk/SF-Archives/Taff/>. Some fanzines will carry them, too.

The Platforms

Velma "Vijay" Bowen: Seventeen years in fandom: apahacking, con-running, fanzines, late night conversations, friendships around the world. You could usually find me working in the con suite in the mornings, or listening to tales of Fandom's Golden Years.

In two years of semi-gaflation, I gathered interesting material for fan articles by modeling, acting in bad

movies, being set on fire.... Now I'm diving headfirst back into the heart of fandom. I'm gullible enough to be talked into almost anything for curiosity or the sake of a good story, and I'd like to redeem my family honor by writing and publishing a complete TAFF report.

Nominators: **Avedon Carol & Rob Hansen**, **Jerry Kaufman**, **Patrick & Teresa Nielsen Hayden**, **Vicki Rosenzweig**, **Alison Scott**.

Sarah Prince:

I have been a fan since January 1st, 1976. The bulk of my fanac took place in the next few years. Once upon a time I thought it would be "interesting" to run for TAFF, so I ought to pub my ish (getting out of the apazine ghetto) to get to know people Over There. But with that goal accomplished, one wouldn't need TAFF to have people to visit. Now I have cause and effect even more confused, in standing for TAFF in order to resuscitate my fanac. Would winning magically make me sociable, or shall I hide behind a camera forever?

Nominators: **Steve Davies**, **Cathy Doyle**, **Gary Farber**, **Doug Faunt**, **Pat McMurray**.

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NewsSquint

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abandoned. No re-inventing of the wheel here, just no wheel.

"The exhibits were good, though, even though the layout didn't encourage people to visit them."

Curt Phillips Survives Crash

Curt Phillips displayed slant-like invulnerability when the fire truck on which he was riding wrecked and flip just a few hundred yards from the scene of the fire that summoned it. The popular Southern Fan is a volunteer firefighter/EMT with the Washington County Virginia Volunteer Fire/Rescue.

"The driver suffered moderate injuries but was basically okay. I was more seriously injured," says somewhat dented **NewsSquint** snooper Curt Phillips. "I was partially ejected through the rear window and pinned into the wreck by the broken window frame on the back of my head on the occipital ridge of the skull and by a large steel plate that was mounted on the pump panel of the truck. That plate was pinning me across the forehead. The truck was overturned, and so I quite literally had a fire truck sitting on my forehead.

"Fortunately the best crash/rescue people in this part of the state were

just a few hundred yards up the road and after being pinned in for about 45 minutes they cut me out of the wreckage. I was airlifted to the trauma center in Bristol, TN. Over 50 emergency personnel helped rescue me."

Curt concludes: "Fanzines for the sick and shut-in may be sent to: Curt Phillips, 23800 Green Spring Rd., Abingdon, VA 24211-5316." Gee, Curt, if all you wanted was more fanzines, why didn't you just run for TAFF?

Ken Bulmer Ailing

One of Britain's leading fans of the '50's, Ken Bulmer, is not doing too well at the present time, according to Vincent Clarke. Ken has been confined to a nursing home since a '97 stroke paralyzed his right side.

At present, he's trying to dictate one more story in his "Drey Prescott" science fiction series. There is currently a fund soliciting contributions "to try and get him a voice writer which will suit his PC.

Doctors recently discovered a tumor on Ken's lip, presumably related to his life-long devotion to pipe smoking. But he's had a successful operation. You can contact Ken at: Halliwell

Nursing Home, Kineswood Rd, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 4UN, UK.

Devore Under the Weather

"Currently, Howard's health seems worryingly poor," says Don Fitch of fandom's legendary Big Hearted huckster, "and his wife's even worse. He's trying to take care of her, which makes enormous psychological stress for him.

"I was there the week preceding July 4," adds Joyce Scrivner. "His health is poor. He spent one day having (something) removed from his knees so he could walk more easily. He has obvious areas of trauma on his body, and both of his legs appear to have circulation problems.

"His wife has a medical problem (involving some gland) which has caused physical problems," Says JS, confirming the report from snooper Don Fitch. "He has nursing help in house 24 hours a day (and pays from his pockets).

The indomitable spirit, storehouse of anecdotes and big heart are still very much there. Howard "is still mentally active and a joy to talk with (provided you don't have allergy problems to the smoking.)"

Scithers Will Be 2001 Fan GoH

George Scithers will be fan guest of honor at the 2001 world science fiction convention, scheduled for Philadelphia. Scithers edited the Hugo-

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Uffish Thots

Ted White wonders what's happening to TAFF

One of the stranger sights at the just-concluded Worldcon in Baltimore -- the one with all those people trapped in pirate costumes -- was of Ulrika O'Brien running around trying to hustle up TAFF candidates. I mean no slight to Ulrika here -- she's been an exemplary TAFF administrator thus far. She just had the bad luck to have this happen on her watch:

We're running out of suitable North American candidates.

There are a number of reasons for this, but the best is that making a trip to Britain just isn't that big a deal for most fans these days. And for that reason, a lot of potentially worthy candidates -- like me, for instance -- have already been there too often to qualify for the honor.

Julian Headlong has a piece in **Squib #4** in which he suggests we dispense with short-trip funds like TAFF and concentrate on the long-trip funds like DUFF and GUFF -- where financial assistance still makes sense and far fewer fans have made the trip, either way. He has a point, but I'm a stubborn traditionalist where fandom is concerned, and I'd hate to see TAFF (the mother of all continuing fan-funds) scuttled. It's my theory that there are still North American fans worthy and qualified for TAFF.

But I'm not convinced that this year's candidates fit that description.

I know both Vijay Bowen and Sarah Prince, and I like them. But the quality of their fanac has not been distinguished. Vijay chose to run (or was nominated) first and was the only candidate until Ulrika solicited Sarah Prince at the Worldcon. I think it was clever of Ulrika to find a second female candidate -- it defused what could have

been a sexually charged (and sexist, one way or the other) race, had a male run against Vijay.

It is a sad fact that a majority of male fans on both sides of the Atlantic vote with their gonads. Given a choice between male and female candidates they will pick the female nine times out of ten. (Some may cite Samantha Jude as an exception to this, but in fact she proves it. Using a sexually provocative platform she overcame almost total ignorance of her in the host country to come in a close second.) I think this reflects poorly on that majority of male fans, but it is a force to be dealt with. By talking Sarah Prince into running as a make-it-a-race candidate (Sarah had to be guaranteed she would not win before she agreed to run), Ulrika defused that issue nicely.

But the fact remains that she has fielded a poor slate of candidates, and Vijay still appears the certain victor (although I was glad to see her platform didn't emphasize her looks and she did promise "a complete TAFF report").

So let's look beyond this race to the next one from North America to Britain. Who is there who qualifies and is worthy? I pondered this question during the Worldcon and I came up with one good name: Jeff Schalles. When I suggested to Jeff that he enter the current race ("I'll nominate you, Jeff!"), he claimed that job uncertainties in the year to come made him dubious about the idea. One could hope those uncertainties will be behind him by the time the next race rolls around.

Then I got to thinking. Who else? The name I came up with stunned me. If he's ever been to Britain, it hasn't been at all recently. He has many friends there who've never met him or would be pleased to see him again, this time on their soil. He is perhaps more worthy of the honor of TAFF than any other American fan alive. The only thing I don't know is if he's already rejected the possibility. I am thinking of Bob Tucker.

—Ted White

Critical Froth

Ken Forman is checking lists and taking names

Having a fan historian like Arnie Katz in a group is certainly convenient, some might even say invaluable. A wise man once said "You don't have to know everything, you just have to know how to find out about everything."

That's advice I strictly follow when it comes to fannish history. I know how to call Arnie and ask such things like "What can you say about chocolate covered manhole covers?" or "What are the rules for Ghoddinton?"

Damn convenient. I tell you, damn convenient. On the other hand, having an historian as a friend means long discussions over after-dinner smokes about properly categorizing various facets and eras of fandom. Fascinating stuff since fandom defies easy classification.

As a statistical scientist (don't ask me to explain what a statistical scientist is...I could tell you, but then I'd have to count you), I enjoy the challenge of classifying something that is inherently unclassifiable. One such way of looking for categories or classifications is to search for obvious (or sometimes subtle) patterns.

Frequently, when looking for patterns, artificial groupings become apparent. Sometimes the best way to look for these groups is to organize your data differently and see what emerges.

Fandom certainly defies easy classification. Even so, many people have found different ways to categorize the various eras' of our fandom.

Perhaps the most famous system of fannish classification is Numbered

Fandoms. Unfortunately, this hypothesis starts to break down after 6th Fandom (some would say even earlier) and is useless when trying to count beyond seven. The Numbered Fandoms Theory is a good tool when discussing the beginnings of the hobby, but some other system must be used for more recent times.

To that end, I propose a new organization system for fannish data to investigate the potential of a new system of classification. I believe that looking at mailing lists of focal point fanzines could prove useful. This harkens back to the concept that fandom is a meritocracy. Based on conversations with other fans, and my own experiences, people end up on a particular fanzine's mailing list for one of three reasons.

The first is out of duty: either the recipient subscribes to your zine, or trades with you. (Asps tend to fall into this category since basically you are providing your zine to the members of the apa, whomever they might be, out of an obligation to fulfill the membership requirements.)

The second reason to be on a mailing list is anchored in hope: the hope that this new person might be interested in what the author has to say, or be interested in joining fanzine fandom. "Intro" zines are designed to introduce the author to a potential audience.

The last reason is perhaps the most common, accounting for most of an editor's mailing list. This is the list of people with whom the author wants to share his zine. These are friends — he deems to have enough "merit" to

receive his work. I don't think everyone who sends out fanzines to his friends spends time with every issue thinking "Gee, I'm glad I'm sending Bob my zine...he has enough 'merit' to deserve my work." That's ridiculous.

However, while addressing envelopes, I do spend time thinking about each recipient; thinking about how they'll feel about getting this issue. And I'm sure I'm not alone in this action.

So how does this lead to a new classification of fandom? The first step is to agree on which were the focal point fanzines (or at least the important ones) of the era in question. I'll leave that exercise to the discussion roundtables and the smoking rooms.

Once agreed upon (it shouldn't matter whether there's one or more zines agreed upon, in fact, it is probably better if more than one is selected for each era), the next task is to identify (or guess) at the mailing list for the zines, and which portion of the list that falls into the merit category.

I'm guessing that throughout fandom's history, the mailing lists of the important fanzines will dramatically overlap; perhaps by as much as 95 percent. To a statistician this kind of correlation implies a grouping or some sort of natural category. I have no idea how to label these groups. Again, I'll leave that to the discussion groups.

Do I think this will replace the more popular theories? Certainly not. Fandom's memory is long and firmly rooted in tradition and unlikely to change over a far-flung idea such as this. I seek only to inspire thought and discussion. But, then again, isn't that what our fandom is all about?

-- Ken

Le Zombie Dot Com

Bob Tucker looks at some fannish websites

In the 124th issue of FILE 770 editor Mike Glycer gently tucked his tongue in cheek and suggested "a Pong category for websites." He was overcome by the knowledge that I knew anything about websites and declared the matter to be "awesome." I did have to agree - what I have discovered is/was awesome, and so was the sudden realization that I could become rich and famous by sharing this newfound knowledge. I have recently discovered these three awesome sites:

Fan Stuff = <http://www.fanac.org/>

A huge trove of all things fannish: ancient fanzines and their contents dating back to at least 1945, worldcons and worldcon photos dating back to 1946, con reports, trip reports, fanzine reprints, artwork, and a

stunning directory of 7,250 fan names!

Pro Stuff = <http://www.sfga.org/>

The official page of the Science Fiction Writers and their recommendations and DISrecommendations (read the list of agents), together with the home pages of several hundred writers and artists. I didn't try to count their number. This site offers a ton of information to the would-be pro.

Science Stuff = <http://www.seds.org/>

This is the wow section for today. A hundred and thirty-six color photographs taken by the Hubble telescope ranging from planetary observation to deep space objects. I was most impressed by the photo of a volcano erupting on Io.

Thank you kindly Mr. Glycer. You certainly made my day.

— Bob Tucker

Vug

Irwin Hirsh on Will Straw

In the lettercol of crifanac #13 I excused myself from writing about the visits by out-of-town BNFs. Unfortunately I didn't excuse myself from writing about visits by out-of-town NEFs (Non Existent Fans) and Melbourne has recently played host to one of those.

A couple of weeks ago I was looking at a flyer for Cinesonic: the 1st International Conference on Film Scores and Sound Design. One of the listed speakers was "from Canada: writer on pop music culture Will Straw."

Could this be fandom's Will Straw, I wondered, first to myself and then over the Internet. Jeff Schalles told me that he's 99% sure this was 'our' Will Straw. Re-reading the first few paragraphs of Will's article in **BLAT! #2** had me adding in that extra 1%. So I shot off a letter to Will, care of the Conference organisers, to introduce myself and to see if he wanted to meet some of Melbourne's fans.

At that stage I knew very little about Will Straw. If someone had told me that all he'd done in fandom in the past two decades was write one fanzine article I'd have no reason to disbelieve them. But I had a vague memory of an article in **The Best of Susan Wood....** "We think he's a hoax," Susan quotes someone named Arnie as stating.

That was the speculation back in 1972, when Boyd Raeburn, Mike Glicksohn and Susan went on a Sunday outing to meet this fannish fan who nobody had ever met.

Our Intrepid adventurers didn't find their man. What they *did* discover only added to the Canadian Fannish Mythos. "Deep down, I think I want a Fabulous Canfannish Hoax" is Susan's conclusion.

The next article in the collection is Susan's Torcon 2 report. She describes how she was having a conversation with Bruce Gillespie:

Then Will Straw walked into the room. WILL STRAW?!

"Will Straw! You're real!" I shrieked, bounding across the bed and several bodies to verify his corporeal existence, say hello and apologize for thinking he was a hoax.

So I asked Bruce Gillespie about Will Straw and was told that Will was a legend in fandom in 1973 and that Susan Wood briefly lured him (and a few other gaffated CanFans) back into fandom for Torcon 2. Bruce particularly remembered a convention in Pittsburgh in 1973 when he and Will toured the city's secondhand bookshops, and yes he'd like to meet Will again.

A couple of Tuesdays ago, there's a telephone call at work. The Hoax Man had arrived in Melbourne that morning and would be in town till the following Wednesday. The next four days would be occupied with Cinesonic, but from Sunday on he'd be free. We set a couple of dinner dates (the Sunday and Tuesday).

While Will went back to writing the paper he'd be delivering on Saturday morning, I got together with Bruce to draw up dinner lists. We felt that a dinner party of no more than eight would be best, and that the people we should be contacting were those who were active in the early '70's, together with some of the more active of today's fans.

Perry Middlemiss would be Worldcon-bound by Sunday night, while between the late notice and other commitments most people we approached declined with regret. That's a pity, as it has been a long time since I've seen the likes of John Bangsund and David Grigg.

Six-thirty Sunday evening, I'm standing outside the Gordon Place Hotel introducing myself to this tallish (well, taller than me), balding Canadian. The dinner reservation was for 7:30, so we wandered off to have a pre-dinner beer.

Now at that point I knew very little about Will, and he knew even less about me, but we quickly got into the swing of things. The shared knowledge of the fannish world, and the interlinking connections, works well.

We discussed all manner of things: fandom, Cinesonic, Australia's film industry, sport and my connections to Canada. I mentioned that I've been to Fort Erie, the town where Will lived in 1972, as my uncle (and family) live in nearby Hamilton. And Will replied that he was born in Hamilton, and that upon retirement ten years ago his parents moved back there.

At 7:30 we walked back to the Shark Fin Inn, where Will re-meet Bruce and meet Elaine Cochrane, Lucy Sussex and Julian Warner. We brought Will up to date with all things fannish. Is so-and-so still around? he'd ask.

And Will told us about his perspec-

tive on the Straw-is-a-Hoax theory, in the process destroying Bruce's belief that in 1972-3 Will had returned back into fandom. Will had come to fannish fandom via comics fandom and had already purchased an extensive collection of fanzines and apa mailings.

When he began to write to fanzines he'd already acquired a deep knowledge of fannish history and was able to refer to that in his LoCs. This gave off the impression that he'd been around for some years, but at the same time no-one had ever met him or could remember him from years past. So the speculation going around was that some old time fan had invented Will Straw for a bit of fun. (In her article Susan Wood mentions that she and John D. Berry decided the hoaxer was Harry Warner) when in fact in 1971-72 he was just a teenager who lived a two-hour drive away from the nearest fannish fan.

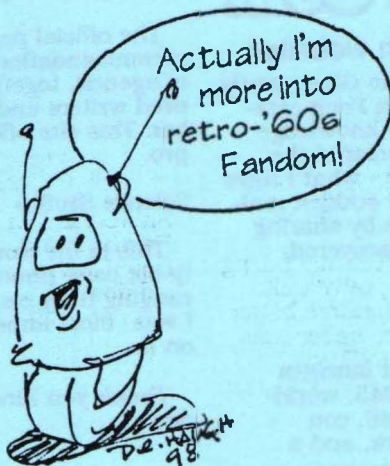
In the mid '70's Will got into the apa scene, particularly a small private apa formed in the circle of friends he'd made. These days his main connection with fandom is getting **Mimosa**. "As we all do, I did a net search of myself, and found that I get mentioned in one of the issues put on the web." I asked in what connection was he mentioned. "In a discussion about fannish hoaxes," Will replied.

Will appreciates **Mimosa** because he likes the idea of a fanzine devoted to fanhistory. "You'll enjoy Timebinders," Bruce and I said. Intrigued Will promised that he'll have to check it out when he gets back to Montreal.

We talked about Montreal and academia and music and fans and stuff. As the meal wound down, Bruce, Elaine and Will made plans to meet for lunch the next day and to ensure that Will gets to check out some of Melbourne's better Op Shop districts.

The Tuesday dinner was an early evening affair, mainly because Will got to meet some of Melbourne fandom's families: mine, and Perry's Worldcon Widow Robyn Mills and their daughter Catherine. I tried to get the Handfield family along but an urgent work deadline for Carey put paid to that. Over the meal and when driving Will back to his hotel a recurring theme seemed to be that the past three days had been some of the most fannish Will had had for some time. He thanked me for contacting him and we promised to see each other on the Timebinders listserv and elsewhere.

And as I drove away from the hotel I thought about going through the day's mail three Thursdays back. I used to work in the film industry, and I'm still on some mailing lists. In the mail that night was something from the Australian Film, Television and Radio School. I almost didn't open the envelope and just 30 seconds before I spotted Will's name I was telling Wendy that I should tell the School to save its money and drop me from their mailing list. Now I reckon they can spend all the postage on me that they want. -- Irwin Hirsh



Timely Response

Bill Bowers

As you might suspect, I couldn't agree with Joyce more. And yet this brief note is precisely what she was talking about. *sigh*

Still, even though I hope, eventually, to Respond in Depth, I did at least want to let you know that **crifanac 5** came today.

I managed, as I recall, six monthly issues of **INworlds** back in the '70's before inertia took over; I both understand and appreciate the rigors of maintaining such a schedule — and I hope you keep it up until you are mentioned in simultaneous tones with Ellik & Carr....

OW70 was "locked-in" to an all-too-great fixed page length a couple of days ago; I'm on the second go-through of fussing & cleaning up formatting and, so far, have "bravely" resisted opportunities/ temptations to "re-open" it.

Don't look for it in your mailboxes quite yet. But my Goal is to have in on the way to you... before I receive the next **crifanac**.

Arnie: Well, you just mentioned us along with Ellik and Carr, so I guess we're on our way.

Bill Donaho

As for your fannish family tree, while it was Dave Kyle who introduced me to club and con fandom, I never heard Dave ever mention the name of any fanzine or even the word "fanzine", so it was Dick Ellington who introduced me to fanzine fandom.

I think I like the idea of fanzine fandom being a tribe, better than it being

a family. There are of course individual families within the tribe.

And perhaps More Important, a tribe member can very quickly become a family member with a minimal amount of contact. Much more quickly than a complete stranger from mundania.

I think printed fanzines have a very good life expectancy—at least among us Old Farts. I have been participating in Timebinders for some three weeks now, and while immediate response is seductive and addictive, it has its drawbacks.

Most of these drawbacks have to do with the large number of postings; there is so much material that one has to rip right through it or spend several hours a day on it. And it's not worth several hours a day.

Most fans rip. But by ripping thru, one misses things. I know that even on threads of conversation I'm not particularly interested in, every now and then, something is said that I find interesting and/or informative.

So, one is never sure that one's postings are read, even by family members. And even if they are read, it takes more to get a response than it does in a print apa.

While I have received good egoboo for much of my material, I have also not gotten a response to some things I didn't so much want egoboo for, but comments, like my review of "Going All the Way".

Thank you very much for producing **crifanac**. It is good to have a Focal Point again. And a worthy successor.

I may even forgive you for abandoning the yearly Las Vegas Con. You killed a con that was well on its way

to being the Best Con of the Year one that was in many ways superior to Corflu. And let us not forget Las Vegas' reasonable hotel rates and also that most airlines have bargain rates to Las Vegas. If Corflu is better it's because far-distant fans had not yet recognized how good the Las Vegas Con was and perhaps how reasonable the attending costs would be, so it was missing some important fans. And there is certainly room for Corflu, Ditto and a yearly Las Vegas Con!

So, by all means, let's have a yearly Toner! And Downtown please. The first weekend in November is OK, as is any Las Vegas off-season date you can come up with, whatever time allows you to make the best arrangements.

Andy Hooper's fanzine reviews are very enjoyable and impressive. And he conveys the entire ambience of a zine in such few words!

Arnie: I like the tribe analogy much better, too. There are pseudo-familial relationships in fanzine fandom, but the group as a whole is more like a tribe or a small town.

Score one for Toner! How about the rest of you?

Jim Trash

I see the fannish father and mother thread seems to be the thing at the moment and ever keen to follow the dictates of fashion (flared trousers and tank tops r us). I add my own two and a half penceworth.

Jenny Glover was editor of the BSFA mag, **Matrix**, at the time and had got all evangelical about the notion of introducing people to fandom. In her zeal she sent me a whole bunch of fanzines with some gentle prods that I might like to review them from a non-fan point of view.

Most of them were unspeakably dire, and perhaps quite fortunately, I

Charrisma

Chuch Harris makes his preferences known

Well, it's nice to be back on The Board again even though I'm not yet eligible for a salary rise. And how nice and comforting it is to see the same old typos again carefully wrecking my immortal prose in the old-time honoured fashion. That was a really good attempt transforming my "nubile hot totty on the back seat" to "hot toddy" I can just see the wonderment on the faces of my fanclub—**CHASM**....the Chuch Harris Appreciation Society Multitude—wondering what their beloved founder is doing sitting on the back seat of a Cadillac sipping hot rum punch out there in the boondocks of the Las Vegas desert.

Believe me dear Arnie, drink has never been my failing. "Nubile hot totty" is Queen's English for a pretty well endowed young damsel who is anxious to become better acquainted with your bill fold. Do try to remember this. When you pay your much-postponed visit to Daventry and I take you out to introduce you to my friends please don't embarrass me by asking for hot toddy or the Madam will have us both thrown out into the gutter

again. All you have to do is stand there waving your Amex card and let me do the talking.

And don't apologise. It could be a lot worse. Just think of poor Walter Himself on his very first visit to Chicago. He makes a mistake on his hotel registration form and innocently asks the receptionist if she has a rubber, never realising that what he really, really wants is what they call an eraser in the USA, and that a rubber is something very very different indeed and not usually obtainable from the receptionist girl.

But you want newsy bits rather than language lessons? Well, did you see in *Nature and Science Today* that, thru DNA, scientists have established a direct line genetic link thru Aaron of the tribe of Levi right down thru the ages to present-day Cohanim (Jewish priests and rabbis)???

Now, in 1820, Simon Aaronson of the borough of Shoreditch, in the City of London, changed his name to Harrison and, a few years later, his only child changed from Harrison to Harris. But the same priestly DNA trickled down from one generation to the next no matter how the name changed. So, you will understand now that without any fear of contradiction, I am the proud possessor of Levi genes.

Hoping, if I can inherit a phrase from my good friend Robert Bloch, you are the same.

-- Chuch Harris

Visiting Vincent

Rob Hansen sees Vincent at home again

From the time Vincent Clarke, a longtime UK fan and good friend, was admitted to hospital in March with a Mysterious Ailment, I visited him most weeks, following him through several switches of hospital until he finally returned home (prematurely in the view of me, him, and most people not working in health service management) a few weeks ago.

Since Vince is held in a great deal of affection in fandom and most everyone wanted to be kept informed of his progress, I started posting reports on these visits to rec.arts.sf.fandom (an online fannish newsgroup that's essentially a daily apa made up almost entirely of mailing comments) and to Timebinders (a private online mailing list devoted primarily to fanhistory). Sometime in, Arnie asked me if he could start running these in **crifanac**. "Sure," I airily replied, not quite realising how odd they'd read when stripped from their context.

Having seen them, I promised Arnie I'd e-mail him a version of the next one complete with extra added context especially for this fanzine's sensitive and discerning readership. Well, I visited Vince again this past Sunday (16 Aug 98). He was a bit down having made some progress and then backslid. The whole physical infirmity thing is frustrating him, particularly how even the simplest tasks

are taking much, much longer than they did before his illness. Also, thanks to fat and muscle wastage, all the sitting down he is now forced to do was making his presently unpadding tail-bone very sore. On the plus side, he's now figured out how to use his VCR again, is slowly regaining his confidence with his computer, and has been reading books he's to review for various fanzines. So, sit's still painfully slow going, but occasional setbacks aside, he continues to gradually improve.

Fanzines, books, and letters to Vince at: 16 Wendover Way, Welling, Kent, England DA16 2BN

I was going to use the rest of my space here to report on the garden party Dave Langford threw to celebrate winning his 97th Hugo, but I can't let Chuck Harris' outrageous attempt to besmirch my name in his last column pass without comment. The allegation that I fart excessively has been following me around, much as the hypothetical farts themselves would, since the otherwise wonderful Leroy Kettle penned a libelous article to this effect in the early 1980s. I was appalled when I first read the article, appalled when I published it in my fanzine **Epsilon** and appalled when I ran off several hundred copies and mailed them to fans all over the world. As appalled as I was then, however, what appalled me about Chuck's column was him claiming I had so little taste that *Heinz* were my favourite baked beans. The nerve. That's the last time I procure goats for you, Harris.

-- Rob Hansen

never could summon up the enthusiasm to put together that review.

Undeterred by this, her husband Steve managed to persuade me to attend a local con and review it for **Matrix**. I still wasn't sure that I enjoyed the con but I had at least been introduced to the scene and intrigued enough to attend the Eastercon next year which had lots of beer and beautiful women, too. What more could I ask for?

It was actually the fanzine **Attitude**, which I received some time later, which made me feel that sense of community, though. It was a huge chunk of paper, and I felt quite privileged to have received something so significant from comparative strangers.

Attitude made me feel I wanted to make an active contribution to this community. The passion and the care taken in production made this an artifact to be valued and a fanzine I could enjoy and appreciate.

Arnie: Void, which I didn't see until I'd been a fan for almost two years, had that kind of galvanic affect on me. Reading it made me want to tap into its fiery, yet fun-loving spirit.

Roy Lavender

Fandom is always in the process of redefining its self. That may be its best feature. It survives.

First came the lonely fan seeking the comfort of not being alone in his strange interest. Even before the name science fiction was invented, the stories sold enough books that magazines specializing in it sprang up.

The strange types that enjoyed that Buck Rogers stuff had to sneak it

home under their shirt, but felt less lonely when they discovered letter columns.

The pencil was the tool. Fans met. Clubs were formed. Contacts increased. Carbon copies didn't hack it.

Hecto, Ditto, Mimeo. Fanzines! The typewriter was the tool, but stencil cutting required dedication.

Ever hungry, Hollywood discovered SF. They didn't understand it, but they did understand money.

Local fan gatherings became conventions.

Electric typewriters, copiers and computers in the workplace were the tools.

Movies, radio, TV. Reading not required. The new definition includes Media fandom.

Fantasy fandom struggles free, then splits. Rings, Disney, unicorns, dragons and fairies each have their following.

Sword and Sorcery goes formal with SCA.

Concoms try to please everyone. Cons grow big and become exercises in frustration with parallel programming and multiple hotels.

History repeats.

Finding fans with common interests is once more a problem.

The new tool is the PC and the internet.

No matter how esoteric your interest, you can search and find others who share the same kink.

Fanzine fans will cling to the past and expand the definition of fanac to include e-zines.

Some editors will welcome the attention.

Others will wonder where these characters came from.

Redefined, specialty cons proliferate.

Gaming, VR, comics, Japanimation, costume, Star Trek, fanzines, fantasy films (with and without Disney), even relaxicons to get away from the above.

Arnie: I'd quibble about your fan-historical accuracy, but not your point. Fanzine Fandom will adapt to changing circumstances. The latest of those circumstances is the Internet, and Fanzine Fandom is already groping toward community in an environment of netizens.

Jay Kinney

Before another moment squirts by, I want to thank you for coming up with **crifanac**. My fannish activities these days are sporadic at best, but getting a zine of news and good cheer every three weeks (more or less) definitely helps boost my rockets. I hope you are able to keep it up (so to speak) for years to come...

Arnie: Whaddaya mean "more or less?" We haven't missed a deadline by so much as a day yet.

Steve Jeffrey

Something's wrong. You're on issue 3 and you've still got only 2 editors. Mind you, you have co-opted most of the rest as Snooper and (fifth?) columnists.

"Newtonian Insurgentism?" Is that the one you have to wind up?

I was intrigued by "Talking Out Loud," and the musings on fanzine fandom compared with amateur journalism. Would you think it fair comment that ayjay (is this esjay's long lost brother, I wonder?) is written to an audience whereas fanzine fandom

is mainly written for response?

Most of the other fandoms you talk about (wrestling, gaming, comics) are still fairly 'young' fandoms, where the core interest is still central to both the writers and readers. SF fanzine fandom is, what, 60 years old and almost eligible for its free bus pass. Very few fanzines are about - even at the 50% mark - science fiction, apart from a relative few allied to reviews book collecting as a major hobby, or mixed fanzine mail order catalogues like Dreamberry Wine.

Enjoyed Ken's report of his Alaskan Cruise trip, though a bit stunned by the idea that Alert Bay would cut the top of the world's tallest totem pole as a hazard to aircraft rather than making them fly a bit higher.

"M'sieur, this Eiffel Tower in the middle of Paris. It'll have to come down you know."

Is it true that there is a magazine called *Alaskan Men* which is basically what it says it is? The women in the office have heard of this somewhere, and are dead intrigued...

As I am (for hopefully different reasons) by mention of a thing called a banana slug. Didn't think bananas grew that well up there.

One of my rare memories of school zoology is that there is an unprepossessing critter with the taxonomical (I hope that's right, it took a long time to try and spell it) name of "Doris," aka Sea Lemon.

Arnie: No, Newtonian Insurgents are the type which, when pushed, push back with an opposite but equal force.

Lloyd Penney

My, the Toronto news in this fanzine continues... Hope has become one of the top sales people for the Toronto in 2003 bid. She's really gotten involved with this project, and she's a pretty happy person for it. I think this kind of involvement is what she needed. Many local fans are involved with the Serial Diners, although it's not really a fannish organization. And to end this paragraph on a high note, I simply won't include any cheap plugs for the Toronto in 2003 Worldcon bid. That's right, no plugs for Toronto in 2003. I wouldn't stoop so low.

2001: *A Space Odyssey* wasn't re-released up here, but I'd certainly go if it ever was. Canadian Shakespearian actor Douglas Rain still gets called upon by fans to say something computerish... this veteran actor was called upon to provide the voice of the HAL 9000 computer.

In my apahackish days, I could see that many apas were simply mild conversations back and forth, diary-style entries and mailing comments to other mailing comments. Sometimes, I tried to produce some kind of research essay, or simply an essay on the current trends in fandom.

I also tried to provide a service by doing an apa calendar, in which the

members listed their birthdays and anniversaries, and I listed important events and conventions coming up in the future. All I got for my work and trouble was the generally milquetoast "That's nice", so I'm even more glad that fanzines proved to be a more active audience, even if I am rooted in the LoCol.

Dale Speirs sums up one of Canadian fandom's problems... we're suffering from a surfeit of geography. The closest Canadian fannish cities to me in Toronto are in Ottawa and Montreal in the east. West? The closest is Winnipeg, and that's quite a trip. For Calgary, the closest is Edmonton. I have contacts in most Canadian fan communities, but zines and letters are often the only way to keep in touch.

Arnie: That's a good summary of the crucial difference between Fanzine fandom and Mundane Ayyay.

Robert Lichtman

It's really great news that Tommy Ferguson is going to start up a fanzine devoted to reviewing fanzines - and not just because he's going to feature **Trap Door #18** (and the first three issues of **crifanac**) in the first issue, though of course I look forward to what he says about it. No, it's my memories of the yeowomanly work of the late Ethel Lindsay and her many years of publishing **Haverings**, which had the same mission. (She later folded **Haverings** into her other fanzine, **Scottishe**, when doing both became too much work.) He reports that he plans an initial circulation of nearly 500 copies, but I wonder if he'll also be putting it online.

To do so could possibly lead to the same sort of influx of potential new

research purposes, but I suppose money talks.

Arnie, in mentioning the old-time term, Well Known Fan, I wasn't "consigning it to the scrap heap." On the contrary, I still consider it a useful term, and one with a wider application than Actifan. That is, one can be a Well Known Fan without being an Actifan.

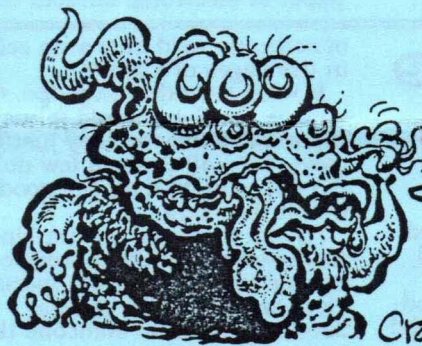
Joyce's column: I don't share "familial feelings" with the multi-thousands who've been at the three Worldcons I've attended since coming back into fandom, but I don't have any particular objection to their being there. Their presence helps subsidize the "smaller gathering for ourselves" - i.e., the fan room. Regarding Andy Hooper's review of the latest **Sail-romania**, I can only suggest that Andy regard Ashley's world as somewhat akin to a stfnal universe - stretch your mind a litter further, Andy, to accommodate its internal logic. Count me as someone not "puzzled by British fanzines."

Ken: You're right, we might pick up one or two other fanzine fans from Tommy's efforts, but I wonder how he got a mailing list of nearly 500 people who he thinks would be interested in reading reviews of fanzines. I applaud his efforts, though.

Concerning SaM's collection, I keep trying to find further information about the auction, but Sotheby's website (www.sotheby's.com) doesn't mention it. E-mail messages and phone calls have proven fruitless. We'll keep you posted, though.

Dale Speirs

The envelope requirement for foreign-bound fanzines makes it



O.K., maybe I'm not so good looking-- at least I've got great hair!

Craig Smith

fanzine fans that the fan columns in the prozines created in their day. But even if he doesn't go that route, a circulation of 500 will spread information about fanzines to a pretty wide audience.

I hope that Speer (or someone) will keep us abreast of the rumored Sotheby's auction of SaM's collection. I don't know if I'd bid for anything, but I sure would like to get a copy of the catalogue! On the other hand, it's a disappointment that his print horde isn't going to be preserved for

impractical to do a 12-pager." Canada Post sets domestic and USA rate increments at 30 grammes, but international mail at 20 grammes. As a result, my zine **Opuntia** is no more than 16 pages (4 sheets), which allows it to be mailed monthly at the first increment of postage. But because of the different increment for international mail, it actually costs the same to mail two copies overseas as it does one copy. Hence my overseas readers get two **Opuntias** at once. I was talking to an expert on

postal rates who told me that Canada Post now has 1,800 different rates, some of which vary only by 1 cent.

Recruiting new people to fanzine fandom seems a lost cause at conventions. I tried once again at ConVersion 15, the Calgary gencon this past July, by setting out back issues of *Opuntia*, doing an unofficial one-shot convention newsletter and talking it up amongst the few remaining Trek -kies and the more common *Babylon 5* fans.

Results so far seem to be the usual. Zero. The freebie table was overloaded with posters plugging Hubbard books, \$10/copy media fiction "fanzine" and chapbooks by authors campaigning for the Aurora Awards. I squeezed in a few copies of my zines but also tried handing them out at the con suite and the writers' workshops.

I think that paperzines will ultimately survive if they become the journals of record and sober second thought. Leave the newsflashes to Usenet and listservers. After all the shouting is over, say, for example, Sir Arthur Clarke's recent embarrassment (and won't a lot of graduate students be re-reading his books to put a new twist on them!), a zine can summarize the whole thing with the benefit of hindsight. The events can be sorted out, the 99.9% of chaff winnowed out from the Internet postings, and the big picture seen more calmly.

Paper newszines just won't do anymore, but by Ghod do we need a calmer and more solid look at life in Sfdom. The Papernet can do this; that is its strength, and playing up that strength will insure its survival.

Ken: I don't agree that "paper newszines just won't do anymore." I see the Internet, paperzines, word-of-mouth, flyers and all that jazz as different sources of information. Sources often have different slants on the

news. The more sources, the more fully you know the story. Imagine people saying that the *National Enquirer* will go out of business because the *Wall Street Journal* is publishing news.

Arnie I don't think a con dominated by non-readers is the place to find new fanzine fans.

On the other hand, your argument that there can't be a fan newszine is irrefutable. I'm so glad we could feature it in *crifanac*.

Harry Warner, Jr.

It was good to find someone, Andy Hooper, coming out in print with commentary on the prevalence of drinking accounts in British fanzines. This has bothered me for a long time, but I've never written much about my reaction to it.

For one thing, I have no way of knowing if the fans who refer to drinking on every page are indulging in hyperbole instead of being so addicted to alcohol that they can't stop referring to it. For another, it seems cruel to criticize any of those British fans who may be genuine alcoholics but are sensitive about their addiction. I can't imagine how a teetotaler like me would get along if he or she won a TAFF trip to England.

Once there was a term in fandom, *voldesfan*, referring to someone who was volatile and occasionally destructive to someone's feelings or possessions. Maybe we should revive it just for Gregg Calkins if he actually goes ahead and moves to Costa Rica and begins to colonize the nation in the shadow of an active volcano. The vol could stand for volcano and the des for what might happen if the thing begins to behave like Mount St. Helen's.

Is there any list maintained in paper or electronic fandom that con-

of someone we'd only seen reflected in the pages of a zine?

It went the other way, too. Once in a while the Brits would let us know there was someone they just had to meet. We'd all throw a few dollars in the pot, and we'd all feel good when we hit the mark.

I'd like to return to that kind of enthusiasm. I'd like to work on Special Projects and do Special Fanzines and make Special Sacrifices, to meet someone that I just can't stand not to know.

I'd like to believe that the Brits were equally anxious to hoist the glass with someone, and that we'd all be struggling to make that possible.

Apathy and indifference are not attractive qualities. If an old institution has become wearisome, let someone else bear the burden. Personally, I'd rather give money, labor, attention to Special Funds for special people.

-- Joyce Katz

tains all the nicknames of all the cons from the first to the present day? If someone took the trouble to compile such a list, it would save a lot of the time that George Flynn indicates was spent deciding if proposed new names for the Orlando 2001 bid were actually secondhand.

I enjoyed very much this latest part of Ken's account of the trip to Alaska. But while I read about the glaciers he met, I couldn't help worrying about the possibility that these wonders won't be there in that particular part of the world very many more years.

From time to time I have been reading about the global warming's effect on glaciers everywhere. There is supposed to be some sort of crack widening in the Antarctic that might send an enormous mass of ice free from its surroundings and out into the oceans. Glaciers are supposed to be receding here and there in the eternal ice areas of the Arctic. Rain was recorded several months ago in the Antarctic for the first time in many years. If glaciers become an endangered species, it will be harder to protect them than it is to preserve a kind of bird or animal or plant that has become scarce, and the effects on the environment will be much worse, in the form of a raising of the water level in oceans everywhere.

Ken: Gee, Harry, I thought you were maintaining the list of convention nicknames (or maybe that would be Bruce Pelz). Nevertheless, a daunting job it would be!

That glaciers are receding, there is no question. In Glacier Bay N.P. alone, the first recorded explorer was Vancouver himself, in 1799. That year the glacier (and there was only one glacier) extended to and out of the mouth of the bay. Since then, almost all Alaskan glaciers have been receding, but not because of global warming.

It just seems to be something they do periodically.

WAHF: Joe & Gay Haldeman, David Haugh, Greg Pickersgill, Jon Diefenbach, Craig Smith and many, many others whose letters are merely postponed until next issue. -- A & K

Fan Dance

Joyce Katz raises the curtain

Remember how it was in the old days, before Fandom grew into a bureaucratic vision sprung from some dreaming neffer's fevered mind? Back in those days, we used to have these things called Special Funds.

If fandom's collective heart pounded with desire to see a friend, we did something about it. It was kinda wonderful to see the way fanzine fandom would rally to a great cause.

Remember how it was, when we used to pass a teacup at every club meeting, to gather pennies for Willis?

Remember how we cranked our mimeos, to produce special issues for the Shaw Fund?

Remember how fantastic it felt when it worked?

What a sense of joy we had when our friend arrived and we could stick out an inky paw and press the flesh

NewsSquint

Needs Snoopers
If something's happening,
Please write
with details...

E-mail: Crifanac@aol.com
Fax: 702-648-5365
Phone: 702-648-5677

Talking Out Loud

Arnie Katz speaks through a hole in his head

Straining the Quantity of Egoboo

Computers are dangerous. Software applications are crammed with esoteric features to snare the unwary user. One minute you're telling fandom about your fannish mother-in-law, and the next you're careening down some digital byway at the controls of some fascinating little module you'd never noticed.

That's exactly what happened to me while I was working on **crifanac**. #5. Well, I wasn't really writing about my fannish mother-in-law, but I did stop my essay-in-progress to fiddle with *Quark's* spell checker. Only Hooper's incessant goading about how we must publish on time again and again before Fandom will take us to its bosom enabled me to push through to successfully meeting the last deadline.

Did he say "spell checker?" All evidence to the contrary, I always run articles through the *Word* spell checker, but that isn't enough for **crifanac**. I wanted to do something more to help keep the typos at bay. So, a few issues back, I began using *Quark's* spell checker on the zine as well.

While weeding out typos in **cf** #5, I discovered that the spell checker gives occurrence totals for questionable words. As I clomped through the document, my focus shifted, almost imperceptibly, from ferreting out mistakes to seeing which words appeared most frequently.

Since I haven't yet customized the dictionary to include fannish words and phrases, the program flags most of them as questionable. The spell checker wasn't designed to help evaluate content, just orthography, yet this feature unintentionally provides a surprisingly clear picture of **crifanac's** interests and concerns.

The most important thing in any fanzine is, of course, my name. (Let he or she who has not egoscanned cast the first stone.) Imagine my pleasure when my name came up a satisfying 22 times — 16 "Arnie's" and six "Katz'es!"

Now is where you'd ordinarily expect me to compare this to mentions of my co-editor's name. I can't, for two reasons. The first is that his given name is also a standard English word, and the second is that I don't care. (Before you rally to his support, ask yourself how much time you spend combing fanzines for his name.)

Much as Ken and I try to keep the spotlight firmly trained on us, this is a newszine. Inevitably, mentions of other fans seep into the verbiage (and

the nounlage, too). Bill Donaho's tribute to Ardis Waters and the associated news item added up to 30 posthumous citations.

As befits our mission as fanzine fandom's newszine, **crifanac** used "fanzine" 26 times and "zine"/"zines" another 14 more. On the other hand, **cf** only made two references to "prozine." Some of our readers don't put their ishes as often as they once did, but they still give it a lot of lip (and keyboard) service.

"Fandom" is there 65 times, but "SF" came up twice. We did refer to the "worldcon" eight times and to "Corflu" only five, so we'd better mend our ways or we'll get a *frown* from Shelby Vick (2). It isn't hard to guess our favorite adjective. We wrote "fannish" 17 times and "faanish" another three.

I think we must be getting the hang of fandom's pecking order. **Crifanac** invoked "Chuch" nine times, but only mentioned "Ghod" twice! Not on our pages as often as Chuch Harris, but more prominent than ghod, is Robert Lichtman (6). "Hansen" got into the

text four times, and not one of them referred to the pubescent rock group.

I hope members of SAPS, TAPS and the Cult, to mention three apas that went unmentioned in **cf** #5, will send some news. As things stand, FAPA (7) and FHAPA (6) sucked up all the egoboo.

And speaking of "egoboo," there's definitely not enough of it in **crifanac**. Oh, your letters have stunned us with extravagant praise, but the actual word only cropped up twice!

Inundated by this fascinating information, I nearly lost my mental balance. When I caught myself wondering about word usage in past *Katzines*, I knew I'd hit rock bottom.

Well, that and the Intervention. Ken and Joyce sat there while I entered all of those magic fan words into the dictionary. It still checks spelling, but it has lost its mesmeric control over me.

So this first report on **cf's** words is also the last. Unless there's a compulsive out there who'd like to do a manual tabulation.

All right, I admit it. This is pretty lightweight stuff. Still, it's a one-issue respite from my analysis and theorizing will do us all a world of good.

— Arnie

Fanzine Log

Arnie monitors current fanzines

Welcome again to **cf's** annotated list of fanzines received. All comments are 25 words or less.

Andy Hooper is our fanzine critic and does all the full-length reviews. I'm just the guy who tidies up the Zine Pile.

FOSFAX #192, Timothy Lane (PO Box 37281, Louisville, KY 40233-7281). 72 pages. After so many issues, little has or will change about this review-oriented zine. The new quarterly schedule won't hurt it or fandom.

Odds, Sods, and Hogwash, Ken Cheslin (29 Kestrel Rd., Halesowen, West Midlands B63 2PH UK). 82 pages. This anthology collects a huge number of Ken Cheslin's non-Olaf cartoons. The presentation is good, though the humor is variable.

File 770 #125, Mike Glycer (PO Box 1056, Sierra Madre, CA 91025). 20 pages. The con-centered newszine also carries a lot of information of broad fannish interest. The cartoons, as always are excellent.

Vanamonde #263-271, John Hertz (236 S. Coronado St., #409, Los Angeles, CA 90057). 2 pages each. A cheery *melange* of short essays, let-

ters of comment and Apa L mailing comments from a likable fan.

Squib #4, Victor Gonzalez (905 NE 45th St., #106, Seattle, WA 98105). 26 pages. This pugnacious genzine has the best Corflu UK coverage I've read so far. This is apparently Victor's audition to join Leeds fandom.

Opuntia #39.5, Dale Speirs (Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2P 2E7). 16 half-size pages. Dale's personalzine is a leisurely stroll through a diverse and quietly interesting life. Topics are largely non-fannish, but well-handled and readable.

Ansible #133, Dave Langford (94 London Rd., Reading, Berkshire, RG1 5AU, UK). 2 pages. The erudite newszine emphasizes British science fiction and its fannish support group. Lot of letters this time, too.

Altered Brands #2, Janice Murray (PO Box 75684, Seattle, WA 98125-0684). The DUFF newsletter reports that September 30th is the nomination deadline for the US-to-Australian worldcon race.

Yngvi Is a Louse #33-#34, Toni Weiskopf (PO 130162, Birmingham, AL 34213). 12 & 14 pages. A Deep-southcon report, editorial musings and Charlotte Proctor's movie column are the main features. -- Arnie

Catch & Release

Andy Hooper is chafed

How I chafe under the stricture that I may review only one fanzine per month! To select a single fanzine and expect it, just a thin section of the overburden that makes up the great fanzine midden, to tell us something about this bigness and glory of fandom in the latter hours of the millennium, seems over-optimistic.

Perversely, I study the pile of recent fanzines, and see that on grounds of sheer volume alone, there is only one choice to cover in this column. Bruce Gillespie has issued another brace of **The Metaphysical Review**, encompassing 168 pages of largely brilliant fan writing, including intensely personal, breezily picturesque and incisively critical material from a significant percentage of the writers currently working in fanzines. **TMR**, like many great genzines, seems to have settled into a roughly annual rate of appearance, but Bruce continues to gather such a weight of excellent material that he could easily produce four issues per year, as reflected by the double-issue numbers on each of these remarkable tomes.

I'm impressed with the appearance of these issues. Bruce has always done highly text-intensive fanzines, but his design here seems particularly fortuitous, roomy double columns (except for an odd lapse into manuscript-level presentation of an article by John Bangsund) executed with style and nicely broken by numerous photographs. The attractively stfnal wrap-around covers are by Ditmar, aka Dick Jenssen. Australian fandom is certainly unique in that it's highest fan award is named for a person who is still living, and for that matter working in fanzines. Lucky country.

TMR and other Gillespie zines are frequently accused of being relentlessly sercon in focus, but this is far from the truth. Bruce's editorial, "I Must Be Talking to my

Friends," bounces between events in his own life and the lives of people scattered throughout fandom — including far too many obituaries.

Bruce has a unique approach to his letter column — letters that natter on fandom and life in general get bolted to the back end of the editorial, while more substantial excursions are separated into the issue's "Feature Letters." I think my new ambition in life is to write a letter worthy of being "featured" in **TMR**. . . .

I have no hope of doing justice to the volume of excellent work in these issues. **26/27** features several excellent travelogues, especially a segment of Irwin Hirsh's report on the Italian portion of his '87 GUFF trip and John Litchen's exquisite account of his stay on Easter Island.

The letters from Mae Strelkov are a particular highlight among the Featured Letters. Much is made of Bruce's predilection for lists of favorite books and films, and there are a healthy dose of those here, but he also presents some of the best critical writing on science fiction that I have seen this year. Gillespie and Race Matthews consideration of Iain M. Banks' *Culture* novels is deft and offers a satisfying sample of "Banksie" lore.

Gillespie does not over-embroider his own critical work and makes ample use of quotation to provide the proof of his theses. His style is more conversational than academic and communicates enthusiasm for his subject matter.

Paul Kincaid also contributes some excellent book reviews, and Doug Barbour's consideration of Michael Ondaatje's *The English Patient* is also very impressive. Even the very shortest of the reviews here are far above the standard set in most fanzines. There is almost nothing about either of these issues which is not an exemplar for aspiring fmz editors, proof that the various dichotomies of the fannish mind are still best addressed by a truly good fanzine.

Reviewed: **The Metaphysical Review**, #26/27, 28/29, Bruce Gillespie, 59 Keele St., Collingwood, VIC 3066 Australia
-- Andy Hooper

Continued from page 2

winning **Amra**. The retired military officer turned prozine editor's program book panegyric will probably not be written by Ted White.

Eyes on Joyce Katz

The Vegas sun sparkles, but the forecast is cloudy for Joyce Katz, at least until her first (of two) cataract operations on September 8th. The condition developed more rapidly than the doctor originally expected, though the case is not considered unusually complex or dangerous.

Send your good wishes, preferably accompanied by extravagant egoboo in big print, to Joyce at: joyworley@aol.com.

Toner Winery Heralds New Vintage.

For those who enjoyed Ben Wilson's fine wines at Las Vegas' Toner convention, but thought you'd never enjoy the fruit of his labor again, fear not. Ben Wilson has a new batch in the works.

Current flavors include blueberry and peach. If we ask nicely, maybe Ben will take requests. (Note: he is

adamant about not making chocolate wine.)

One Up, Two Back & a Hullly Gully

Aileen Forman started one career and ended two others in the last couple of months. She quit her job as a dealer at the Hilton and lost her job as a bridal hostess. During the same period, Aileen made her first professional writing sales.

E-Las Vegas (<http://www.e-vegas.net>) now presents her essays in its "Features Section." **Crifanac** invites you to bookmark, visit often and bury *e-Vegas*' editors in fulsome praise for their latest discovery.

Booklet Helps Clone Memory Hole

Pat McMurray (28 Plaistow Grove, Bromley, Kent, BR1 3PB, UK; e-mail: par@cooky.demon.co.uk) has done a leaflet on how to start a Memory Hole Annex, patterned on Greg Pickersgill's original Memory Hole which collects and redistributes fanzines.

FAPA Boomlet Continues

As FAPAns prepare for its annual election, the group continues to gen-

erate entertaining mailings despite some empty roster slots. Mailing 244 has 45 zines totaling 367 pages.

Get details from Sec.-Treas Robert Lichtman, PO Box 30, Glen Ellen, CA 95442.

SFPA 204 Hits 415 Pages

Jeff Copeland's *Ceci n'est pas une pipe* and Guy Lillian's *Spiritus Mundi 166*, each 40 pages, led the way in the 204th mailing of the Southern Fandom Press Alliance. Two-dozen members produced 35 zines totally 415 pages for the June-July mailing.

There's no waitlist, so those interested should send \$5 to OE Liz Copeland, 1085 Albion Way, Boulder, CO 80303 (liz@indra.com).

NewsFlash!

Walt Willis Suffers 'Mild' Stroke

Walt Willis has had a mild stroke. "He has weakness in the left leg, arm and some peripheral vision in the left eye. He is also a bit confused," Madeleine Willis writes.

After a visit from a geriatric consultant, Walt entered the Stroke Unit of Ulster Hospital. Tests confirmed that he has suffered a stroke, but doctors feel it was a mild episode and that Walter will make a good recovery.

Get well, Walt!

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