

HATS FOR TAFF

**A Joint Candidate Zine
For the 2012
Eastbound Race
October 2011**

Warren Buff
(section 1)

Kim Kofmel
(section 2)

Jacq Monahan
(section 3)

Bonus! Ballot Included!

Hats for TAFF (Warren Buff's section)

The Road In

My path to fandom goes all the way back to grade school, when I was introduced to several good YA series by my parents (the Tripods, Narnia, and Asimov's Norby books) and a number of films (the first one I remember watching is *The Empire Strikes Back*, and I loved the animated *Hobbit* and *Lord of the Rings* movies). While that was just the groundwork on the love of the genre(s), I encountered gaming in middle school, playing a good deal of Magic: the Gathering and Dungeons & Dragons (which at the time was AD&D 2nd edition). From there, I wound up at my high school's sci-fi/fantasy club (yes, we called it "sci-fi" – I'm entirely comfortable with the term), becoming its president for my last two years.

While I was doing my share of reading and hanging out with others who did, too, none of us knew about fandom-at-large, and my first introduction to that came when I was asked to gamemaster at a con in the next big metro area over (High Point, which is part of the Piedmont Triad – about an hour and a half by either car or train). I loved the con, and started going to a couple every year, but really just gaming at them (and strapping a sword to my hip, and sometimes talking with strangers about Star Trek or the like). I didn't really catch on to just how much of most conventions was about books until I'd been going for a few years and found myself in a panel room nursing a hangover on the water service.

But from there, it escalated. I found myself more involved with more parts of the conventions (I was by this point up to three per year, all in North Carolina), and about the time I stepped up for a dreaded committee slot, the one I'd started with (StellarCon) was bidding for DeepSouthCon. Since this largely meant throwing a couple of parties, I was game to help, and made it to my fourth convention, also in NC, which was hosting the DSC where the bid would take place. We won, and in the process, I picked up a copy of Toni Weisskopf's 1997 *Southern Fandom Confederation Handbook*, my first fanzine (this was in 2006, so it wasn't exactly current, but it still holds up).

It was a great place to start, full of stories of grand convention fun in the past, apas, clubs, and assorted silliness. As a consequence, I decided to join SFPA, where I was able to stick around for a few years, and cut my teeth on pubbing my ish. I also read a lot of stories about Worldcons, and the idea of going to one began to take shape (that would be two years later, though). Subsequently, I expanded my congoing circuit into Tennessee and Virginia, and at the 2007 DSC outside of Nashville,

in a state park, in the rain, I was sitting around in a long tunic without my jeans (the heat was unbearable, and I was covered enough), and opened my mouth in a big, consequential way: "So, what do y'all think about a Southern NASFiC in 2010?"

My Fanac

I've been active with conventions longer than I've been active with fanzines, but as my fanac outside of my home state only barely predates my entry into the world of fan publishing, I've really been doing each on a broad scale for about the same amount of time. My initial foray into fanzines was joining SFPA, of course, where I published the first run of *Consurgito!* until my conrunning ate up so much of my time I couldn't both read the 300 pages we were getting in SFPA mailings and do a proper zine every other month. Through SFPA, I met Guy Lillian, and started reading his *Challenger*.

Early into that, I also joined the Southern Fandom Classic Yahoo! Group, which Curt Phillips runs, and met several more fans through that. Arnie Katz gave me some early encouragement as a fanwriter, and ran a few rather stumbling articles of mine in *Vegas Fandom Weekly*. Through that, I discovered efanazines.com, and started checking out zines by other folks I was reading in *VFW*, particularly *The Drink Tank*. The articles I gave to Guy for *Challenger* around that time were probably better, and I think Chris got my first letter of comment, largely for something he'd written about his favorite albums.

When I took over the presidency of the Southern Fandom Confederation (it was Guy's fault!), I began publishing its official organ, the *SFC Bulletin*. I've not been great about putting out the print zine, but when I realized I was going too long between issues, I started doing electronic updates (which removed the most frustrating parts of the process) on a monthly basis (with a few lapses), and it's worked well so far.

On the conrunning front, I've largely worked on regionals in NC, and chaired my first a decade after I started going to them. That was a pretty good experience, and it helped me with the NASFiC. I'm not going to go into great detail on that, though, since it's already written up in the issue of *Consurgito!* I've put up on efanazines. These days, I'm helping to start a new regional in Raleigh (illogiCon) and working on the seated Worldcons and next year's DeepSouthCon.

I came back from this year's Worldcon riding an absolute high of fannish energy, and it's been translating into a lot of writing and publishing, as well as the push over the top to put

together a run for TAFF. I've been trying to get out a lot of LoCs, and have done close to a dozen since coming home while also writing up my trip report on Worldcon and several articles and publishing three issues between two zines. It's a busy time!-

I try to read a variety of zines, but find that my favorites are consistently fat genzines with a good mix of sercon and fannish content. Good examples of those include *Challenger*, *Banana Wings*, *Journey Planet*, and *Argentus* (among others). I don't think I'm quite ready to edit one of those yet, but it's a long-term goal. As far as conventions go, I have the most fun when a convention has a mix of fannish generations – I like to be able to both meet my peers and engage in some timebinding, learning the legends that ought to be passed on. Worldcon and DeepSouthCon this year were both great for that, as was Balticon.

The Rest of My Life

Outside of fandom, I have a rather dull job doing data entry for an insurance company. I get to listen to audiobooks while I work, though, so it's really not so bad. I've lived my whole life in Raleigh, but traveled broadly.

Growing up in Raleigh has given me a passion for certain sports. Our metro area has three universities whose men's basketball teams have combined to win eleven national championships. Given that I graduated from one of these (NC State), I get pretty excited about college basketball. I also play on my employer's rec league team. NC being part of the South, we also love gridiron football (I'm qualifying all uses of the term "football"). Raleigh also has a big youth league in association football and a minor league team (finished at the top of their league this year, but it's American sports, so no promotion or relegation), so I've wound up a fairly big fan of that, and a referee for the youth league. I also follow the Premier League and the Bundesliga – I support Chelsea (they support the youth league I referee for) and Bayern München (I love the city). Lastly, we've got a hockey team in the NHL these days, and they won a Stanley Cup a few years back. That was a bit of a shocker to all of us, but we're proud of our only major league team around here.

I've got a great fondness for beer, whiskey (and whisky), music, and hats – I'm often seen both in

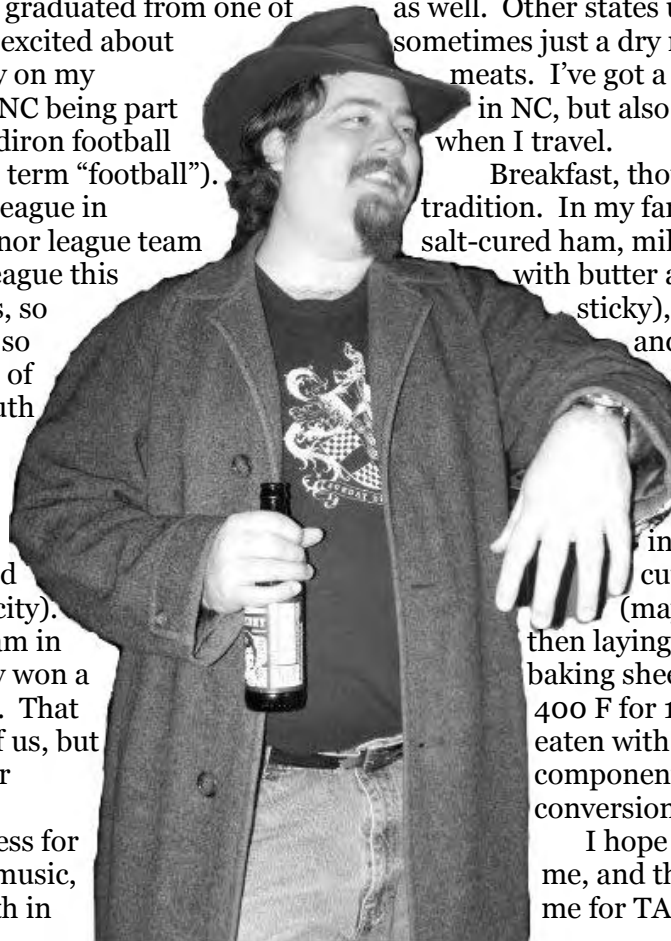
fandom and outside it wearing a fedora. I enjoy poetry, and sometimes even attempt to write some. My degree is in philosophy, with a minor in physics, neither of which I'll ever apply to my career, but they made for a great education.

Lastly, I identify strongly as a Southerner, and could probably go into a long digression about regional identity and our problematic history, but I'll save that for a later occasion. I don't have all that strong an accent for someone who grew up here, but that's partly from the population boom Raleigh has seen in my lifetime, and partly from my mother being from New York. In spite of this, I do say "y'all" a lot, and love it when folks who clearly speak dialects other than Southern American English say it.

Probably the most noteworthy bit of Southern culture, though, is the food. We've got a lot of our own traditions, particularly around barbecue and breakfast. For one, we use "barbecue" to denote meat, slow-cooked with even heat and smoke, usually (but not always) with a really tasty sauce. What that meat is and what's in the sauce vary wildly within the region. In North Carolina, it's always pork, while the sauce is different in the eastern and western halves of the state. Down East, it's vinegar-based, often with little else in it aside from some pepper. As you go west, though, you're likely to find tomato added in as well. Other states use different sauces (or sometimes just a dry rub) and sometimes different meats. I've got a fondness for the way we do it in NC, but also try to explore the variations when I travel.

Breakfast, though, is my favorite Southern tradition. In my family, we eat scrambled eggs, salt-cured ham, milky rice (ordinary white rice with butter and milk added to make it sticky), sliced tomato or cantaloupe, and buttermilk biscuits. Those last are made by cutting 1/3 cup shortening into 2 cups self-rising flour with a pastry tool, then adding a cup of buttermilk and kneading it into a dough, rolling it out and cutting with a small glass (maybe a thumb's length across), then laying them out close together on a baking sheet and cooking at around 400 F for 15-20 minutes. They can be eaten with butter or jam, or the other components of the meal. (Hopefully, the conversions on that aren't too hard.)

I hope this helps you get to know me, and that you'll consider voting for me for TAFF!



Have Hat. Will Travel

Kim Kofmel, TAFF, and Hats. There's Always Hats

A Contribution to the Joint TAFF Candidate Zine

INTRODUCTIONS ARE IN ORDER

You are fandom.

I'm a fan.

So far; so good.

Though, really, saying "I'm a fan" leaves a lot open to interpretation. I could be a sports fan, or a Victorian fan or a ceiling fan.

But that's not the case, and we know that, you and I, because we share a context. We know that when I say I am a fan, I mean a science fiction fan. Which still leaves of ground to cover, because fandom (which is you, dear reader), is Legion, containing multitudes.

So what kind of fan am I?

That would be the congoing-costume-wearing-book-reading-art-buying-conrunning-library-using-movie-watching-party-throwing-webomic-browsing-Facebooking-button-collecting-ribbon-whoring-long-haired-hat-wearing-flirting-bespectacled-respectable-occasionally-disreputable-writing-rhyming-wish-I-could-draw-ing-music-loving-picture-taking-squee-Tweeting-kind-a-shy-but-nobody-believes-me-when-I-say-that-coffee-drinking-food-loving-big-tent-club-running-did-I-mention-hat-wearing kind of fan.

Yeah. I'm multi-hyphen. Pleased to meet you.



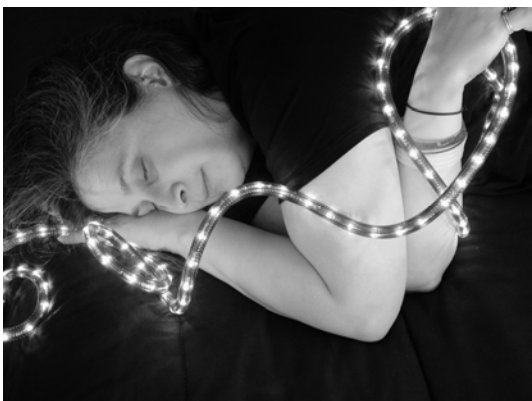
Fandom is a Harsh TAFF-Master

I see I didn't mention puns in my string of hyphens. I should have, I suppose, since one of my early claims to fame was being a three-time winner of the OSFS Annual Pun Contest. I may have been the only three-time winner, and I'm pretty sure I was the only one to win three years in a row. Sadly, my winning streak was broken when the contest organizers decided not to let me enter the fourth year (or any year thereafter, come to think of it).

No more *Star Wars* stormtrooper on the grocery store pony-ride statuette for me after that! Yes, that was the trophy. Mysteriously donated by an anonymous donor. What a shocker, that they wanted to be anonymous. Still, the love and care (and ingenuity) that went into crafting that monstrosity trophy from an action figure, the bottom of bleach bottle, a china horse and ghods know what else should not be forgotten. I certainly can't forget it. No reason why I should be the only one.

To Learn More...

Just turn the page. You can create your own understanding of Kim by selecting one item from Column A, one from Column B, and one from Column C. Or mix 'em up!



Art shot! Because Teh Motorcycle Boy has a Camera! Ah, romance.... (note casual, intimate styling: no hat!)

A

In this Column... THE PAST

First SF I remember reading and knowing was SF:

The Zero Stone by Andre Norton.

First media fandoms:

Star Wars, *Dr. Who*.

First club formed:

Skyward, at Fisher Park High School, Ottawa.

First fannish club joined:

Ottawa Science Fiction Society (OSFS).

First zine read:

Stardock, published by OSFS.

First convention:

MapleCon, Ottawa, 1978 (I think it was 1978).

First competed costume:

Group costume as crew of a space ship (we didn't win).

First boyfriend:

Met at MapleCon II.

First masquerade win:

Don't actually recall. A while ago. A long while.

First US convention:

NovaCon 9 West, Albany NY.

First zine contribution:

Filk for a media fanzine... and "inspiration" for cartoon character in same.

First zine published:

Cadre, an SFF fiction & poetry zine, in the 1980s.

First Worldcon attended:

Chicon V, 1991.

First SF-related research:

"Fandom Reads!" a survey-based independent study during MLS, 1985.

First (& only) dissertation:

"Adult Readers of Science Fiction and Fantasy: A Qualitative Study of Reading Preference and Genre Perception," UW0 2002 PhD.

First con programmed:

ApolloCon 2005, Houston TX.

First con chaired:

ApolloCon 2009, Houston TX.

B

In this Column... THE PRESENT

Hometown:

I have three: Ottawa, where my family is; Toronto, the city I love most in the world; Houston, where I am a prisoner of love (sort of).

Job:

Currently underemployed librarian/editor/writer, and thus chief cook and bottle washer, alternately described as "fannish lady-who-lunches."

Home convention:

ApolloCon, in Houston, although ConFusion in Detroit holds a great deal of my heart, and I wish I could travel back to Ontario cons more often.

Favorite book:

Right now, *The Curse of Chalion*, by Lois McMaster Bujold. I have a copy on my bedside table that is slowly being worn to pieces.

Cat or Dog:

Cat.

Bat or Frog:

Bat.

Jacob or Edward:

Buffy.

First novel:

In a box in a bottom drawer, like everyone else's.

Favorite movie:

Like books, that changes, but I have a great fondness just now for *Avalon*, a Polish-Japanese co-production about a disaffected youth culture addicted to a multi-player VR game, directed by Mamoru Oshii, who also directed *Ghost in the Shell*.

Colour:

Varies, right now either dark red or cobalt blue.

Sweetie:

Teh Motorcycle Boy iz mah sweetie! Don't worries, I haz you!

C

In this Column... THE FUTURE

Brokedown Palace:

A 1925 home in Houston's Historic Third Ward that we are renovating and hope to move into soon.

London in 2014:

The bid to bring the 72nd Worldcon to London, for which I am the Minister of Party (North America), which means I serve a lot of cake and Pimm's. Fortunately, I like cake and Pimm's.

Working on:

ApolloCon 2012 (this year I am Evil Vizier), World Fantasy 2012 (Hospitality), and learning to say "no."

Looking forward to:

Being able to work on my stained glass again, once we are moved into the house.

Fannish goals:

Entering Worldcon masquerades again; bringing FoK back from hiatus; ~~IRIDATION~~, a project I'm not allowed to talk about.

Personal goals:

Gym, trim, slim... the usual hopeless pursuits.

Professional goals:

Get more work out in submission.

Relationship goals:

Twelfth anniversary at Chicon 7! Meeting Teh Motorcycle Boy was worth the Chicon 2000 membership right there!

Hats:

I haz 'em. And to quote *13th Warrior*: "Don't worry little brother; there are *more*."

American politics:

How about those Blue Jays?

Social media:

Wait, no, that's not the future anymore... Is it? Twitter, Facebook, LiveJournal, Dreamwidth... See you there!

What Did I Just Say?

**An Interview with Jacq Monahan by Jacq Monahan
Based on An Interview with Jacq Monahan
by Jim Mowatt**

After speaking with the delightful Jim Mowatt by Skype (my first time ever) about standing for TAFF, I felt the urge to revisit the interview, adding in the things I should have said. I'm afraid you're stuck with what I did say, but I'd like to take this opportunity to expound upon Most Things Monahan. All things would leave no mystery, you see.

Where did you come from?

I've lived in Chicago most of my life, home of Da Bullsss and Da Bearsss (yes, superfans actually exist and some of them really talk like that). I've worked at The Field Museum, Sears Tower and the John Hancock Building. I have a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and another one in Arts, Entertainment and Media Management. I have a Masters in Human Services Administration. Please don't hold them against me. A college administrator in various positions over the years, I ultimately found myself in charge of union compliance for over 1000 part-time faculty. Then I fled to Las Vegas.

What do you do?

I review films, cover local events in a column called About the Town and tutor elementary and middle school students in English, reading and math. I write for fanzines (Idle Minds, Home Kookin', Neon, SNAPS, Further Ado, Small and Far Away, and Beam.

Working on anything right now?

As the co-OE of SNAPS (with JoHn Wesley Hardin) we are putting together monthly issues up until December 2011.

After that the issues will come out once every two months based on a majority of contributor votes. My goal continues to be submitting to fanzines that I admire (Askance, Chunga, The Fortnightly Fix, and Banana Wings to name a few) and revving up the fanac accordingly.



Forget to mention anything or anyone you might like to add?

People I'd like to meet: Mike Meara, James Bacon, Dave Langford, Eve Harvey, Alice Lawson. I've attended a LosCon, A Neon Con and two Xanadu events. I understand panels, dealers' rooms, Con Suites and dead dog parties. I am also the Vegas Reunion Coordinator for Corflu Glitter.



Hats for TAFF!

Why did you say "I'm someone's mother" as part of your two-minute summation in the Skype interview?

I thought I'd amend Jim's question a bit, from "Why you should you be the candidate of choice for TAFF" to "tell these nice people what you will inflict upon them." Being a mom gives me all kinds of problem-solving and coping

skills, makes me require hair dye and blood pressure medication. It's made me a more understanding, versatile and resourceful individual. Those are things that I bring to the table as a TAFF candidate in addition to being a fanzine fan and writer (and punster).



Age shouldn't matter, but there's been talk...

I am "a woman of a certain age," which means that in dog years, I'm dead. Otherwise, life is good.

I'm also available at jaxn8r@msn.com for anyone who would like to e-mail me with questions and comments. Many thanks for your consideration. A Boxing Day article follows on the other side.

Boxing Day

(Reprinted From Home Kookin' #13)

Forget Pacquiao and Mayweather; this Boxing Day took place on December 26 courtesy of Nic and Bobbie Farey, carrying on a tradition long held in Great Britain and Canada (and, Australia, Ghana, Switzerland, Germany, Greenland, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Nigeria, Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago, Jamaica and South Africa).

Alternately called the charming Waifs and Strays, according to Nic, tradition dictated that guests would be offered “an array of drink, finger food, bread, pickles, perhaps a pot of stew concocted from the previous day’s leftovers or whatever is at hand. Those with perhaps no other place to go or no other plans could drop by at any time and be sure of a hospitable welcome.” (from Nic’s own e-vite).

Because it’s not celebrated here, the holiday escaped the undoubtedly more vulgar or commercial appellations that Americans might bestow (Loners & Losers, Homeless and Hostiles, Scraps and Wrappers etc.) Strays we would be; waifs, hardly. Not if the Fareys were in the kitchen.

JoHn Hardin, his son Asher, my daughter Mia and I descended on East Side Insurgent Central (i.e. the Farey house) a little after 1:00 p.m. Arnie and Joyce were already there, but James Taylor and Teresa Cochran arrived in short order, followed by Derek Stazenski, Brenda Dupont, Jolie LaChance and other friends of Nic’s that had small bucket children (stroller-sized, and able to be carried in contraptions with handles). Bill Mills and Roc arrived toting amplifiers and guitar cases, which guaranteed several rounds of live music.

Nic had shopped at the International Market and Bobbie had baked for days in preparation. In addition to the several varieties of sausages and relishes, the Indian meatballs and beer bread, the cheese tray and bottles of cocktail onions, Bobbie has graciously packed goody bags for each guest, containing several varieties of cookies, homemade apple butter, a small quick bread loaf and a package of gourmet coffee.

Emulating Marie Antoinette, our hosts let us eat cake. A homemade strawberry Santa head courtesy of Bobbie’s son Ceth, and a sumptuous red velvet that Joyce brought were displayed on the counter. Bobbie’s other sons (Joe and Dan) had flown in for the holidays and put up with their parents’ posse as best they could.

Resident pooch Lulu, sporting one shaved leg from recent knee surgery excitedly accompanied any guest in possession of sausage – a fair-weather friend if ever there was. She’s a mixed breed who presents as part boxer, part German shepherd, and part rocket, launching into a full gallop on a whim or visiting with you on the couch if that will get her closer to a filled plate.

I brought a Chicago deep-dish pizza (shipped in, mind you, from Lou Malnati’s in the heart of the Windy City). Even though it seemed to evaporate when sliced, I don’t think it was met with overwhelming approval. Maybe I should have paid more attention to the time it was in the oven, but Bobbie had a new single

serving coffee maker for everyone to play with, and the pizza might have gotten a bit too much heat for its own aesthetic presentation (burnt a bit on top). It still managed a respectable disappearing act.

With Nic’s help and a tape measure, Arnie found that he’d lost two inches of vertical height somewhere along the way from puberty to the present, and quipped that at least it wasn’t from a more crucial place. My daughter mistook AK for “a young British gentleman” until he opened his mouth and Brooklyn came out. Nic is the Brit, I told her, but don’t insult him by calling him a gentleman.

The LBoV (Little Band of Vegrants) convened with Bill, Tee and JoHn on guitar, mandolin and harmonica respectively. I wasn’t sure if they took requests, but I immediately shouted out “Angel Baby” to hear Tee’s sultry, dreamy rendition of the Rosie & the Originals hit. She graciously complied and like always I became silent until the last strains of the silky melody filtered out of the room. Then, I screamed out with a groupie’s appreciation. She’s that good.

Nic was on keyboards firing up his famous “Werewolves of Fandom” complete with required howl. Ten-year-old Asher Hardin even joined in on the harmonica for a subsequent song or two, with a remarkably good ear for rhythm.

Bobbie excitedly told everyone of her Christmas gift from Nic – January 19 tickets to see Jersey Boys at the Palazzo. I brought her the soundtrack to the show along with a two-headed dragon for her collection.

The surprise of the evening came with the disappearance of Bill and Nic for an inordinately long time. Most of us figured it was a beer run, even though the cooler was packed with the stuff. Then, one of Bobbie’s sons ran into the living room, telling her to sit on the sofa, close her eyes and extend her arms.

I had to stop from squealing when a chocolate-colored puppy was placed in them; a sweet-faced, soft brown dynamo that Lulu found endlessly interesting. Initially named Rory, the pup’s name eventually evolved to Bailey and the poor (lucky) little newcomer was passed around like a proverbial joint on the set of Easy Rider.

Over on the sectional, Mia, Brenda and I sat covered with lap quilts, watching an assortment of video games like Guitar Hero III, House of the Dead III and Wii flicker across the screen with accompanying rock songs, exploding zombies and cow races. This clashed somewhat with the live music but made for a lively mix of eating, singing, playing and relaxing with a something-for-everyone atmosphere that encouraged guests to stay well on into the night (and some into the next day).

Lulu and Bailey proved they couldn’t share a floor together – too much pounce on Lulu’s part. The gathering was still far from winding down even though it was approaching 10:30 p.m.

Latecomers included Rick King, Shannon Kidwell, Bryan Follins and his wife Darlene. By that time, Arnie, Joyce, JoHn, yours truly, the pizza and Indian meatballs were gone; but there was still cake and beer, music and dogs, and the camaraderie that comes from a house full of good friends and generous hosts.

And so, this Boxing Day, despite having no combatants, no center ring, no commentator, and no sports book action, nonetheless produced a K.O. celebration that packed a punch – and left us all eager for a rematch.

The TAFF Experience

So, TAFF has changed my life a lot of ways. I met so many people who I had no idea existed, some of whom have become friends and colleagues, and some of whom still marvel at my personal brand of WTF. My TAFF trip brought the world my zine Journey Planet, which started as a programme item at the 2008 Eastercon and has gone on to win a Nova, do well in the Hugo nomination process and present some damn fine writing. My time as TAFF administrator also taught me so much in how to run a race, how to promote a fund, how to corral people into standing for something they might never have thought of!

But the one thing I will is most important about my time working with TAFF is that I truly, deeply and madly love European fandom. I may not get to see them too often, I'm lucky if I get to hang with most of them once a year, but they've got a place in my heart and that is largely because of TAFF."

- Chris Garcia
2008 TAFF Delegate

Candidate platforms

Warren Buff: "I came to fandom from an odd angle, but since I got here, I've been exploring its varieties. I got into conrunning enough to chair the 2010 NASFiC, I edit a clubzine for the Southern Fandom Confederation and write the occasional LoC or article for others, and generally expanded my knowledge of SF by asking older fans for reading suggestions. All of this is a blast, but so far, I've only done it in North America. I plan to come to Olympus, win or lose, but winning would fund a further week traveling around the UK visiting even more fans."

Nominated by James Bacon, Paul Cornell, Chris Garcia, Tim Illingworth and Lloyd Penney

Kim G. Kofmel: "I discovered fandom in Ottawa, Canada in the 1970s. I've pubbed perzines, worked on conventions, costumed, written short stories & poetry, and learned smoothing from Tucker himself. I live now in Houston, Texas but still have strong ties to Ottawa, Toronto, & Detroit fandom. I'm overly active in the Houston Science Fiction Association (ApolloCon! Great con! Come see!!). Since I'm working the North American side of the London in 2014 Worldcon bid I'm excited about this opportunity to experience UK & European fandom at Eastercon. I promise to bring the hat – AND I PROMISE TO PUBLISH A TRIP REPORT."

Nominated by Flick, Brad Foster, Jeanne Gomoll, Alice Lawson, and Pat Virzi/Mueller

Jacqueline Monahan: "This flagrant Vegrant (Chicago native) is intrigued by fanhistory and its documentation. I am rarely at a loss for words, either verbally or in print. I am the co-OE for SNAPS (60th issue just out, 17 JM contributions to date) with articles in Beam, Further Ado, and Small & Far Away, among others. Named Best New Fanzine Fan (2010 FAAN Awards); Editor of Alan White's new e-book, The Zombie Effect.

I promise NOT to try to make a Buckingham Palace guard laugh; I WILL produce a fantastic TAFF report, naming names and exposing social gaffes at my own expense. Just wait."

Nominated by Sandra Bond, Nic Farey, Steve Green, Curt Phillips and John Purcell

Ballot inserted for your convenience and voting pleasure!

2012 TAFF Ballot

Eastbound – North America to Europe

The Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund was created in 1953 for the purpose of providing funds to bring well-known and popular fans familiar to those on both sides of the ocean across the Atlantic. Since that time, TAFF has regularly brought North American fans to European conventions and European fans to North American conventions. It exists solely through the support of fandom. Interested fans all over the world vote on the candidates, each vote being accompanied by a small minimum donation. These votes, and the continued generosity of fandom, are what make TAFF possible.

Who may vote? Voting in the 2012 race is open to anyone active in fandom prior to December 2010, and who donates at least UK£2.00 or US\$3.00 to TAFF. Larger contributions will be gratefully accepted. Voting is by secret ballot: only one vote per person, and you must sign your ballot. You may change your vote at any time prior to the deadline. Votes in this race must reach the administrators by **23:59 on December 9th 2011 (GMT in Europe, MST in North America)**.

Donations: TAFF gratefully accepts your freely given money and material for auction; such generosity has sustained the Fund for more than 50 years. TAFF is fandom's longest-running travel fund, and one of its worthiest causes – give early and often! Please contact your nearest administrator for details.

Candidates: Each candidate has posted a bond, promising – barring unforeseen, unavoidable circumstances – to travel, if elected, to the 2012 Eastercon in Heathrow, London (Olympus, April 6-9, 2012). They have also provided a platform (published overleaf), and all of their nominators have personally contacted the administrators to submit their nomination. **Please read both sides of this ballot before voting and send the entire sheet as your vote.**

Voting

System: TAFF uses Instant Runoff Voting (IRV), also known as the Alternative Vote (AV) system – the same as the system used in voting for the Hugo Awards at Worldcons. Candidates are ranked in order of preference (where a rank of 1 is the voter's first preference); as candidates are eliminated from the race, the next ranked votes are applied in a runoff. However, a candidate must receive at least 20% of the #1 rank votes on both sides of the Atlantic to win. Any candidate failing to receive this minimum percentage on either side will be dropped, and the second-place votes on their ballots counted as first-place votes in the next ballot count. Candidates and their supporters will thus need to canvass fans on both sides of the Pond. Your vote will be counted according to your contact address. Votes from fans not resident in either Europe or North America will not count towards either 20% minimum.

Hold Over Funds: This choice, like “No Award” in Hugo balloting, gives you the chance to vote for no TAFF trip this year, should you feel none of the candidates deserve your support. Hold Over Funds may be voted for in any position, and is exempt from the 20% requirement; thus, if it receives a majority of the votes on the final ballot, no trip will be held this year regardless of how many votes that option received on the first ballot.

No Preference: For voters who prefer not to choose between candidates, but don't want the trip held over.

How to Vote: Votes may be sent to the administrators in two ways: either by sending a copy of this form with a check to the administrators, or via PayPal. The minimum donation to vote is \$3 (USD) or £2 (GBP). Checks should be made payable either to “Anne Gray” or “Brian Gray” (for checks in USD) or to “TAFF” (for cheques in GBP). PayPal donations should be made to the email addresses below, **indicating your contact details and ranked voting preferences in the ‘comments’ section**. If you do not fill in the comments section, your vote may not be counted!

Send your signed and completed ballot form and donation to:

North America Anne Gray or Brian Gray (**checks payable to “Anne Gray” or “Brian Gray”**)
5006 Royene Ave NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110, USA
akg.netmouse@gmail.com (for PayPal donations)

Europe John Coxon (**cheques payable to “TAFF”**)
14 Chapel Lane, Werrington, Peterborough, PE4 6RS, UK
john.coxon@gmail.com (for PayPal donations)

For more information on the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund, visit our official unofficial website, <http://www.taff.org.uk/>
For news of the ongoing race and opportunities to learn more about the candidates, follow along:
On Twitter, @TAFNews; at <http://facebook.com/TAFNews>; or at <http://TAFNews.livejournal.com/>

2012 TAFF Ballot

2012 TAFF Candidates

Warren Buff: "I came to fandom from an odd angle, but since I got here, I've been exploring its varieties. I got into conrunning enough to chair the 2010 NASFiC, I edit a clubzine for the Southern Fandom Confederation and write the occasional LoC or article for others, and generally expanded my knowledge of SF by asking older fans for reading suggestions. All of this is a blast, but so far, I've only done it in North America. I plan to come to Olympus, win or lose, but winning would fund a further week traveling around the UK visiting even more fans."

Nominated by James Bacon, Paul Cornell, Chris Garcia, Tim Illingworth and Lloyd Penney

Kim G. Kofmel: "I discovered fandom in Ottawa, Canada in the 1970s. I've pubbed perzines, worked on conventions, costumed, written short stories & poetry, and learned smoothing from Tucker himself. I live now in Houston, Texas but still have strong ties to Ottawa, Toronto, & Detroit fandom. I'm overly active in the Houston Science Fiction Association (ApolloCon! Great con! Come see!!). Since I'm working the North American side of the London in 2014 Worldcon bid I'm excited about this opportunity to experience UK & European fandom at Eastercon. I promise to bring the hat – AND I PROMISE TO PUBLISH A TRIP REPORT."

Nominated by Flick, Brad Foster, Jeanne Gomoll, Alice Lawson, and Pat Virzi/Mueller

Jacqueline Monahan: "This flagrant Vegrant (Chicago native) is intrigued by fanhistory and its documentation. I am rarely at a loss for words, either verbally or in print. I am the co-OE for SNAPS (60th issue just out, 17 JM contributions to date) with articles in *Beam*, *Further Ado*, and *Small & Far Away*, among others. Named Best New Fanzine Fan (2010 FAAN Awards); Editor of Alan White's new e-book, *The Zombie Effect*.

I promise NOT to try to make a Buckingham Palace guard laugh; I WILL produce a fantastic TAFF report, naming names and exposing social gaffes at my own expense. Just wait."

Nominated by Sandra Bond, Nic Farey, Steve Green, Curt Phillips and John Purcell

Please rank candidates with 1, 2, 3 etc. where 1 is your first preference:

Warren Buff

Kim Kofmel

Jacq Monahan

Hold Over Funds

No Preference

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email/phone: _____

TAFF may contact you regarding your ballot or to send out newsletters. We do not publish this data or pass it to any other organisation.

Enclosed is _____ as my contribution to TAFF – minimum \$3 (USD) or £2 (GBP)

If you think your name may not be known to the administrators, please provide the name and contact details of an active fan (not a fan group, a candidate, or one of their nominators) who is known to the administrators and who can vouch for your being an active fan, eligible to vote.

Active fan known to an administrator: _____

Signature: _____

Reproduction of this form is encouraged. It is the official voting vehicle and must be reproduced verbatim. Anyone reproducing this form should substitute his or her name here: *Hats for TAFF*