

Accepting FAAn award at Corflu 2004
for Best Fanzine

Noting that the 2007 FAAn awards ballot was part of the January mailing and that by the time this mailing appears the voting will be over and the results announced, I'm listing the votes I cast *and* parenthetically the position of each in the final tally.

Best fanzine: *Banana Wings* (Claire Brialey & Mark Plummer) [1], *Bye Bye Johnny* (Graham Charnock) [12], *Vegas Fandom Weekly* (Arnie Katz) [3].

Best fan writer: Ted White [2], Andy Hooper [10], Claire Brialey [1].

Best fan artist: Dan Steffan [1], Craig Smith [16], Taral Wayne [10].

Best letterhack: Ted White [10], Milt Stevens [9], John Purcell [3].

Best new fanzine fan: Peter Sullivan [2], Claire McDonald [9], Teresa Cochran [1].

Comments on the 20th mailing:

Marcy Waldie: Thanks for a moving account of Arnie's commencement speech. I hope that a transcript of it will be made available for those of us who couldn't be there.

John Purcell: "I was on the FAPA waiting list for something like three years before I finally got in, only to drop off immediately because I was basically burned out from too much fanac (1983). This is what happens when you try to do it all. Oh, well. Live and learn." I approach the subject cautiously because you're such a hyperactive fan these days as well, with a new issue of *In A Prior Lifetime* or *And Furthermore* cropping up every time I turn around twice; but if you could stand a little more fanac in your life there is no waiting list for FAPA these days, there are over two dozen open membership slots, and the minimum activity is still only eight pages a year. Mailings are quarterly, annual dues are \$15, and the current copy requirement is forty.

To R-Laurraine you write: "Caffeine makes you sleepy? That's interesting." She's apparently far from alone in this regard. When Bruce Gillespie was here in 2005, he amazed many of us by saying exactly the same thing—that he needed a cuppa late at night in order to be able to sleep. I'm not quite that way myself, but I do find that I'm less affected by caffeine late in the day than, for instance, my wife.



To Joyce you comment, "Like you and Robert, I don't like the scorched taste of some coffees — never cared for Starbucks." I like Starbucks just fine, although I don't favor it over other, better choices. Just like a Big Mac is the same wherever you go, so is Starbucks' coffee—reliable, uniform, adequate, perfect if you're passing through in your travels and don't have time to seek out other coffee establishments (or there are none). If I stay in an area long enough to ask around, I go for other alternatives. When Carol and I were in Taos, New Mexico, visiting my son last October, he told us

which coffee shop in his (and his girlfriend's) view was the best. And we had to agree; they brewed damn' fine coffee. (Or, in our specific case, espresso.)

To Arnie you note, "As far as the N3F goes, I have never been involved with it as a member, but did trade zines with the group back when Donald Franson was editing *Tightbeam*." I sent every issue of *Trap Door* to Don, mostly out of long-time friendship—he got into fandom around the same time I did and contributed to my first fanzine back in the late '50s—but also in trade for *Trash Barrel*, a fanzine review zine he did for many years which circulated mostly to other fanzine editors and to the N3F. I recall a tiny scattering of interest from some of its N3F recipients, but mostly I enjoyed the continued occasional contact with Don. Back in the early '60s he created a "Cry Letterhack" card and sent copies around to those of us youngfans who showed up regularly in that fanzine's lettercol. I used to have one, but it passed out of my hands when I moved to Tennessee in 1971.

In February 1997 I wrote to Don: "I seem to have misplaced my *Cry* Letterhack Card over the years. F. M. Busby's mention of them in his article in the latest *Science Fiction Five Yearly* reminded me. If there are still replacement copies available, I'd certainly appreciate one.

A self-addressed stamped envelope is enclosed so you have no out-of-pocket costs in responding—with the card, one hopes, though I won't be surprised if you've run out. Advance thanks (either way)." A few weeks later, one turned up in the mail. As you can see from the scan, Don used some correction fluid to change the name—but no matter, I appreciated the thought and treasure the card (which I keep in a glassine sleeve inside the first folder of my *Crys*.

Congratulations on your strong third place win in the FAAn awards for best letterhack.

→ **CRY LETTERHACK** ←
This is to certify that

ROBERT LICHTMAN

Has had a letter published
in **CRY OF THE NAMELESS**
The fanzine of stf & humor
E.C.C.C.H.

Linda Bushyager: "I think though that for our generation 60 is the new 40 — we are a better fed and more healthy generation. Weren't our parents and grandparents gray-haired and OLD by now. Of course, there is hair dye now! Still, we are definitely more active. Hopefully 80 is the new 60!" There was hair dye then, Linda, although perhaps not in the vast profusion of brands and colors that exists today. As for eighty being the new sixty, we have the example of Art Widner as he approaches his ninetieth birthday this September. He shows few signs of slowing down.

"Many Vegas residents eat out a lot," you write at the beginning of your lengthy survey of various casino buffets. While it must be tempting not to have to bother preparing your own food, especially considering the low prices charged for these meals, I would wonder about the quality of the ingredients, the oils used in their preparation (and the transfats therein), and the long-term effects of eating the "buffet diet" so frequently. In fact, I think that about most restaurant food. Although I don't let such concerns spoil the fun of eating out now and then, I mitigate it with plenty of healthier choices at home.

To me you write, "I'm not sure we've ever met, but I've heard of you all during much of my fannish life. Good to share an apa." We've "met" any number of times, mostly at conventions in Vegas, but I don't know if we've ever had an actual conversation.

To Joyce you observe, "Good for you, doing your exercises. I'm knuckling down too to do my knee exercises. At least we can watch TV while we do the boring exercises. Yuk." Like many (most?) fans, it's easy for me to be pretty sedentary—to sit myself down at the computer and just stay there. But since I retired and moved in with Carol, I get a lot of exercise. Just climbing stairs provided a significant amount. There are eighteen steps down to the entrance of our house, and another twenty-two from the main floor down to the basement where I have my computer, books and fanzine collection. In addition, last June I got an "elliptical trainer" (an Eclipse 1100HR/A, pictured here) and set it up in the basement. It's near the windows, so as I use it I can look out at the urban forest behind our house. I use it almost every day for at least fifteen minutes, and have found that my strength and endurance have built up considerably over the months. I keep a spreadsheet with my daily results so I can track my progress in concrete figures rather than a general impression. In addition, I continue to climb those steps daily, often many times, and do as much walking as I can out in the world.



Chris Garcia: I'm sorry to read of the death of your friend, Jon Chapman. You write about your participation here: "I had intended to do full comments on

every piece and have each set of comments contain an original illustration." I think it's only human that you were affected so much by his death, and admirable that you were able to detach from your fannish concerns and connect with your and Jon's mutual friends.

Congratulations on your multiple wins in the FAAn awards: sixth place for *The Drink Tank*, fourth place for fan writer, fifth place for letterhack, and third place for best new fan. Too bad you don't also draw, ahahahahaha!

Joyce Katz: Unlike Arnie, I liked *Place Holder* as a title. It had zip, panache and an insurgent feel, especially since you assigned no issue numbers and they could only be told apart by the date. However, *Rodeo Rider* is a perfectly good title, too, and it does allow you a context in which to write about your love of the west—as you do quite well in this premiere issue. Like you, I've also “never been on the range” and have “never seen a rodeo outside of the movies.” When I was very young I tried riding a horse exactly once, and my sore butt afterwards convinced me that it was never going to be a favored mode of transportation.

I'm not a club-type fan, either, and also avoid being on convention committees. Like you, “I'd rather do a genzine,” and I find it exciting that you're contemplating a move in that direction once again. Of the titles you listed, my favorites were *Potlatch* and *Smokin' Rockets*—and speaking of the latter, it always seemed to me that you left off without completing its run and you might well just take it up again. But whatever you do by way of a genzine (and whatever you decide to name it), I'm looking forward to it!

“Lawsuits in fandom always seem ill-considered. In the first place, fandom should permit us all to speak our minds freely without worry about other people's feelings. And it's just ridiculous to think that a disgruntled N3F member should sue someone for making negative utterances about that group. I hope that this all blows over quickly; it's very distasteful for one fan to try to stifle another.” As it turns out, the lawsuit talk was another instance of Jeff Redmond putting words in someone else's mouth (as he did in mine, trying to foment ill will between me and Chris Garcia).

Congratulations for placing seventeenth for best fan writer in the FAAn awards—not bad for relatively few appearances this past year. Also kudos for your part in winning the 2008 Corflu and serving as its chair. I hope this won't derail your genzine plans.



Deep-fried haggis

Teresa Cochran: Thanks for writing a most enjoyable trip report! However, I'll admit that I gagged a little when I read, “Christmas eve, I tried fish and chips and deep-fried haggis. It all came from a hole-in-the-wall takeaway, and it was scrumptious and not healthful in the least. Yum.” I enjoy fish and chips a lot, but I don't think I could, er, stomach haggis.

Congratulations on winning the FAAn award for best new fanzine fan.

Arnie Katz: I enjoyed your response to Mike Glycer's tongue in cheek assertion in *File 770* that you've "produced 88 fanzines since 2004 without giving them at least 37 different titles." There are some titles in your alphabetical list that are unfamiliar to me: *Damn Yankee* (for SFPA?), *La Merde*, *Nemesis*, *Polaris* (channeling Paul Freehafer?), *Umpyre* (for your fantasy sports fetish?) and *Zup*. Where did these appear and, more important, why aren't copies of them in my collection? Of the example of *Folly* for your "F"-titled zine you note that "some letters have several titles, such as 'F'—with *Focal Point* and *FLAWOL* as well as *Folly*." When it comes to your titles beginning with that letter, the first one that comes to mind for me is always the memorable *Filk*, the second issue of which is now over forty years past due. You mention that you still haven't published fanzines beginning with K, R and Y. May I humbly suggest that if you rejoined SAPS you could perhaps chase away the fellow already there whose presence has been keeping you from doing so with a SAPSzine titled with a very specific word beginning with "K." I'm sure you know which word I mean, so I won't mention it here.

I enjoyed your lengthy essay on Laney and wondered if this was some version of the introduction you wrote to Damien Warman's long-delayed reissue of *Ah! Sweet Idiocy!* Whether or not it is, it's a fine job. You make reference to my "putting the finishing touches on a collection of Laney articles," and I'm happy to report that this volume is now available. (Of course, you already know this, but here's the information for anyone who doesn't.)

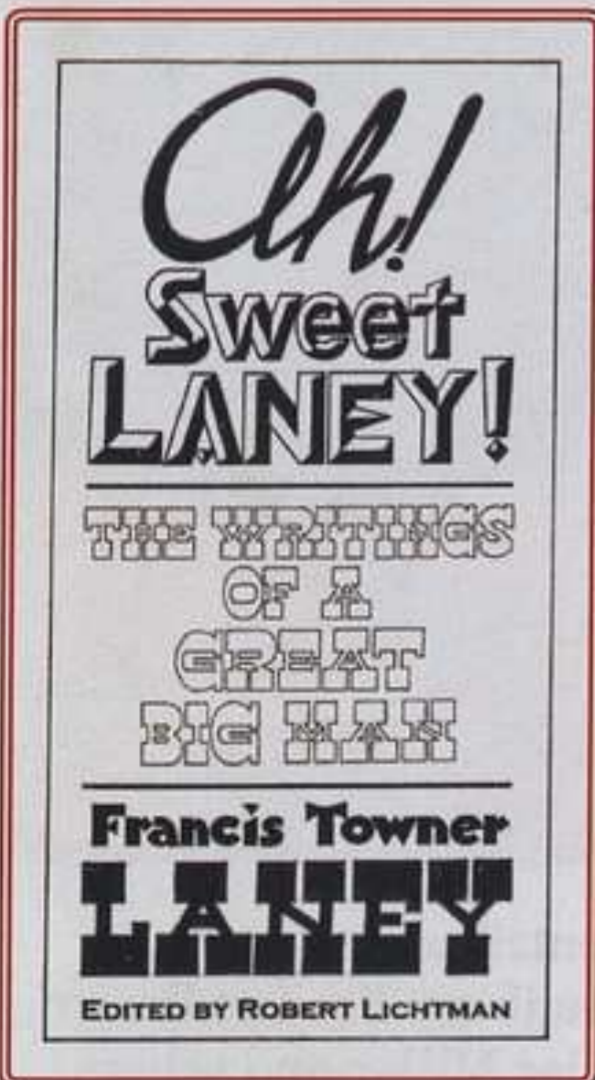
Here is a direct link to a detailed announcement, including a sample article, for *Ah! Sweet Laney!*—a 134-page collection of Laney's writings:

<http://efanzines.com/ASL/index.htm>

This link provides ordering information, and please note that a Paypal link is available for sending money. This collection of 29 varied articles of Laney's was

edited by me, and was beautifully designed and produced by Pat Virzi. The cover artwork is by Virgil Partch (VIP) and Dan Steffan. Dan also did the title page. All other interior artwork is by Bill Rotsler. In addition, there are reproductions of many of the covers of his two fanzines, *The Acolyte* and *Fan-Dango*. These are by Alva Rogers, Duane Rimel, Howard Wandrei, Tom Cockroft and others.

What the information about *Ah! Sweet Laney!* at efanazines doesn't address is just how lush the actual volume is to the hand and eye. The interior pages are printed on 70 lb. Finch Vanilla, a creamy paper stock that's easy on the eyes and lends a sort of sepia quality to the pages. The covers are 80 lb. Classic Linen Red Pepper, against which Virgil Partch's caricature of Laney on the front cover and Dan Steffan's attractively hand-lettered back cover take on an additional eye-catching resonance. The book is "unibound" with a burgundy spine and clear plastic protective covers front and rear. With these



components, each copy weighs over a pound. I'm proud to have been part of the team that put together this quality production, and hope many SNAPS members will send away for and enjoy it.

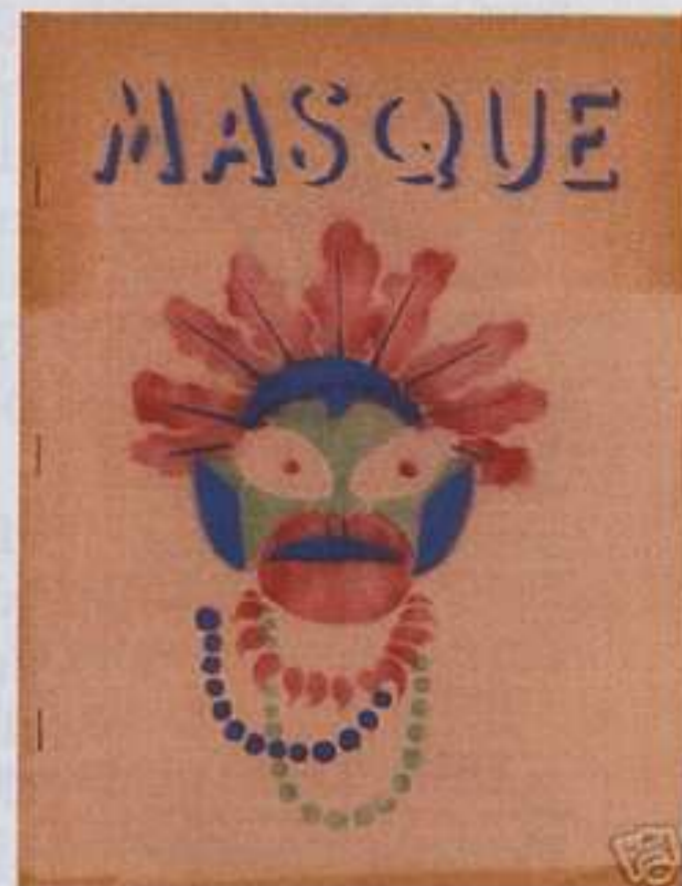
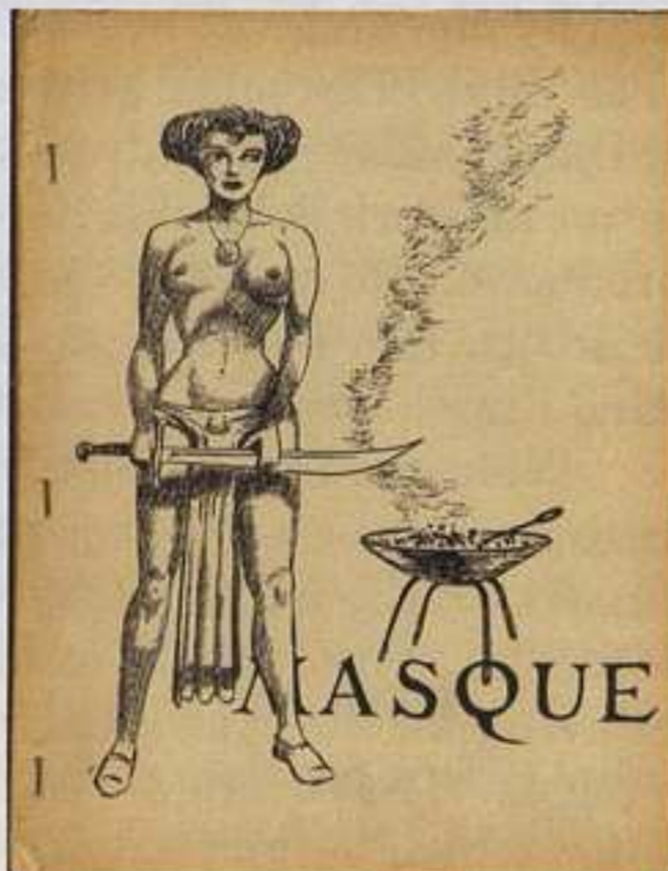
You note that Laney "did a regular column for the number one fanzine of the late 1940's, *Spacewarp*," but don't mention that this was "Fanzine Scope," a review column presaging indirectly the KTF reviews of much later. It actually didn't begin appearing until the 37th issue, near the end of the genzine run. It was only in two of the four issues that appeared before Rapp got drafted and sent to Korea and turned *Warp* over to Laney and Burbee for the two magnificent "Insurgent issues" before resuming its publication himself as a long-lived SAPSzine. So it wasn't exactly regular. Something in the back of my mind tells me Laney continued it elsewhere, but I can't find evidence to support my wispy notion.

To me you exclaimed, "See what you made me do, Meyer? You put a short, stfnal zine in the eMailing and now I've gone and written about science fiction right out here in front of SNAPS and everybody. Maybe I could redeem myself by calling it 'sci fi' a few times." Go ahead and try, but I don't think it's going to help. You've outed yourself, Meyer, and there's no way to go but forward. I fully expect a lengthy article comparing the editorials of Ray Palmer to those of Doc Lowndes in the next mailing—and all because I ran a few holiday prozine covers as a quicky placeholder without a single mention of the mother literature at all!

"I'm hoping to acquire a more recent version of Acrobat." Which do you have?

To John Purcell you suggest, "If you are looking for great Rotsler stuff, by the way, I suggest issues of *Masque* ('The Gaudy Fanzine') and anything with 'Tattoo's Dragon' in the title." It's *Tattooed Dragon*, Arnie, as you undoubtedly actually know. I agree with your suggestion, but this is easier said than done given the age and scarcity of those fanzine. Fortunately there is one issue of *Masque* on-line at...

<http://fanac.org/fanzines/Masque/>



...and happily it's the "Wish I'd Written That" issue with contributions on the subject by James Blish, Robert Bloch, Nelson Bond, Ray Bradbury, Fredric Brown, August Derleth, E. E. Evans, Ralph Milne Farley, P. Schuyler Miller and others.

There are also articles by Burbee, Boggs, Eney, Joe Kennedy, Tucker and Warner. Of course there's plenty of art by Rotsler and also a portfolio by Russ Manning.

Congratulations for your excellent placing in the FAAn awards voting: third best fanzine for *Vegas Fandom Weekly* and also third best fan writer.

R-Laurraine Tutihasi: "The colonoscopy I reported on last time had a longer effect on my life than probably on most people. It took me a month to recover to pre-colonoscopy energy levels. Although it only took me a week to stop feeling tired all the time, I was more susceptible to fatigue whenever I did anything out of the ordinary. I believe I'm finally back to my old self." This is an extended reaction to the procedure. I had my last one (of three) in 2004, and on all occasions I was completely back to normal within hours—essentially, as soon as the sedative they gave me so I wouldn't be awake for the procedure had completely worn off.

"My near miss with fandom happened when I was at Carleton College. When I was a senior, freshman Glenn McDavid told me about Minicon. If I'd gone, I would have made contact with fandom two and a half years earlier than I did." My own near miss was two or three years prior to my actual discovery. I'd taken to



frequenting Larsen's, a cavernous used bookstore in Hollywood, on Saturdays after the judo lessons I was taking nearby at Bruce Tegner's dojo (I got up to just short of first brown belt). They had a huge wall of old prozines, including a lot of *Amazing Stories* from the '30s and beyond. I got caught by the Shaver Mystery yarns and also by Rog Phillips' "Clubhouse" column. In it I read of fans and fanzines, including many of the latter I now have in my collection. But somehow I never conceived of the idea that the fanzines I was reading about that had come out in the late '40s might still be appearing or that others may have taken their place. So it wasn't until a few years later, when I encountered Robert Bloch's "Fandora's Box" column in *Imagination*, that I finally sent away for some fanzines and got involved (as I've mentioned here previously in my first issue).

James Taylor: "Of course I am convinced that one reason for Joyce giving up being OE was frustration over not getting me to understand the proper usage of there and their." No wonder she quit! That would frustrate me, too.

Congratulations on taking home next year's Corflu. I'm looking forward to being there.