



Taffluorescence! second issue



Here we all are, living in the future where it's Jan 2024 already.

This newsletter of the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund – TAFF to its friends, and you're all its friends, aren't you? Good, thought so – is produced by *Sandra Bond, 1B Chestnut House, Mucklestone Rd, Loggerheads, Market Drayton TF9 1DA, UK* who holds the lonely post of European TAFF administrator. The North American one is:

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Online ballots, histories, ebooks, a wealth of fable: taff.org.uk



We warned you to expect it in our first issue, and it was willed where what is willed must be: the 2024 TAFF race is now OPEN FOR BUSINESS. You have a choice between two popular human candidates, as well as the perennial also-rans of No Preference and Hold Over Funds. The winner (assuming always that it's one of those two humans) will travel as a representative of North American fandom to the Worldcon in Glasgow, 8th-12th August 2024.

Those human candidates are (in alphabetical order) *Vanessa Applegate* and *Sarah Gulde*. Both have been formally and fully nominated and have fulfilled all other prerequisites to appear on the TAFF ballot. Thanks to them both, and to all their nominators, for their promptitude, which makes the heart of weary old administrators very glad.

You have until Tuesday 2nd April 2024 to cast your vote. This being, as noted in the colophon, The Future, we encourage you to do so electronically, for the sake of our convenience, yours, and the planet's; but all votes which arrive by the deadline, no matter what means they travel by, will be welcomed and included in the count, so long as they include the vital sum of £3 (GBP), €3 (EUR), or \$4 (USD) at a minimum. (Sums in excess thereof are, naturally, very welcome). To vote, you must have been active in fandom since April 2022 or earlier.

The ballot form will appear on taff.org.uk (all being well) at the same time as this newsletter does. Go take a look at it now, why don't you? (We'll wait here for you.)

...you're back? Good. Okay: after that deadline of 2nd April, the votes will be tallied, and the winner announced as soon as is reasonably possible. (That date is the Tuesday after Eastercon here in the UK, and your administrator will be attending that, so I crave your leave to take a day or two past the deadline to recover and to ensure that I'm not too tired to miscount the ballots.)

I don't know about *you*, but I'm all stoked and excited for this race (and as administrator, I get to watch the votes coming in, and see the totals sway this way and that. You don't, of course. But I do. Mwahaha!)

Off you go! Get to it! Vote, vote, vote!



In other news...

I promised you that bits of my own TAFF report, *Her Beautiful Mistake*, would very soon be appearing, and so indeed they have.

Chapter 5 is out, and may be read in *Idea #13*, edited by former TAFF winner and general elf-friend, Geri Sullivan. It's available at <https://efanzines.com/Idea/Idea13.pdf> and may be perused there for nix; but it's well worth getting onto Geri's mailing list because in printed form, it's a delight, not to mention that Geri appears to have fallen in love with that newfangled habit of pubbing your ish via Amazon and has grand plans for future issues sooner rather than 23 years later.

Speaking of newfangled formats, *Octothorpe* 98 not only stars me reading Chapter 6 part 1 of my report, but features me as a guest for the rest of the episode too, pinch-hitting for Liz Batty. *Octothorpe* is a model of how to run a podcast based on science fiction fandom and may be listened to via <https://octothorpe.podbean.com/> (among others). Alison Scott, one of the pulsating brains behind it, is the current European GUFF delegate – GUFF being the sibling fan fund to TAFF sending fans between Europe and Oceania – and you should support that fund with almost equal fervour to your support of TAFF...

Future chapters are a little nebulous, but readers of *Banana Wings*, *Beam*, and *Inca* in particular should brace themselves for impact. If you edit a fanzine and want a piece of me (so to speak), do feel free to get in touch.



The TAFF travellin' show is coming to some North American conventions very shortly! If you plan to be at Capricon (Chicago, 1st to 4th February 2024), Boskone (Boston, 9th to 11th February) or Corflu (Las Vegas, 29th February to 3rd March), read on:

Former TAFF administrators James Bacon and Geri Sullivan will be raising money for the fan funds at both Capricon and Boskone, the first two weekends of February. Score interesting kipple at the sales shelf in Glasgow 2024 and other parties James is hosting at both conventions, and also at the fannish yard sale at Boskone; fan art donated by Don Fitch, interesting postage stamps from eras long past (likewise), and we've heard rumor of some comics, too. You never know what you'll find, only that that's a fun way to add to your own stash while helping raise money for TAFF (also GUFF and DUFF). What's more, James and Geri will have a shelf at the parties for books and comics, if you want to Bring and Buy!

And then at Corflu, while no TAFF-related events as noteworthy as the above are planned, your admin will be in attendance and happy to talk TAFF. Corflu attracts many fannish veterans; if you have suitable material to donate to TAFF, I shall happily glom onto them and carry them away with me for future auction (fanzines and tchochkes, anyway; duplicators and miniature golf courses are less portable...)



Especial thanks this issue to the 2024 Eastercon and Worldcon for donating advert space to TAFF. In addition, Glasgow have requested a piece on fan funds for their third progress report, and that should be appearing within mere days. And we must once more thank Dave Langford for heroic words and deeds on TAFF's behalf, which this space is too --