

RANDOM JOTTINGS 19



THE CORFLU FIAMOL PAPERS

Random Jottings 19

The Corflu 36 Papers

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COVER BY DAN STEFFAN: "Correction Fluid Reunion 36," provided as a framed, limited-edition art print to the members of Corflu 36 FIAWOL.



Publication

Editorial

THIS VOLUME COLLECTS the progress reports and other publications related to Corflu 36 FIAWOL, the annual wake for fanzine fandom, which took place May 2-6 (with some activities earlier and later), 2019, in Rockville, Maryland. Most of these publications only ever existed in PDF form, and none used my favorite print-on-demand method, so appear in print here for the first time.

Please note that I've eliminated most of the comic panels sprinkled through the online versions, and I also cut Andy Hooper's "What's My Derogation" (PR 1) as not relevant for this book. (The online versions remain in their original form.) I've added an introductory page to each of the publications. I've also left out the Pocket Program booklet, but it too is available online.

Random Jottings 19 is the second of three print issues devoted to Corflu 36 FIAWOL. *Random Jottings 17, the Corflu 36 Fanthology*, came out in May, just in time for the convention itself. *Random Jottings 20, the Corflu 36 Proceedings*, will chronicle the convention itself, and I'll start working on it as soon as this issue is finished.

This issue is only of interest to completists and those with an interest in conrunning, so I'm not planning on providing print copies to the entire Corflu 36 membership. If you really feel you need to have a print copy, drop me an email or order a copy from Amazon. The PDF will be online at <https://efanzines.com/RandomJottings/>, and of course all the online pieces will remain online, thanks to the tireless efforts of Bill Burns: <http://efanzines.com/RandomJottings/>, <http://www.efanzines.com/Inca/Inca16.pdf>, and <http://corflu.org/Corflu36/index.html>. (The program book only had a print edition, distributed at the con.)

Aside from my personal desire to have a bound copy of the Corflu 36 ephemera for my own bookshelf, the higher purpose in publishing all this is to provide information to those of you who may be afflicted with Corflu-running responsibilities in the future. In my day job (one of my day jobs), I teach project management. While most project management is designed to help get multi-million dollar programs under some degree of control, some of it is appropriate even for much smaller efforts.

One standard piece of advice you'll always find in any project management book or class is that doing "lessons learned" at the end of a project is the only way for future projects to get better and easier. Sadly, most of the time the effort is wasted. (See my webinar at <https://www.greatpro.org/webinar-detail/?id=718>. Or not.) Instead of lessons for the future, it's mostly about blamestorming the past. Even valid lessons often aren't shared with the right people, and most of those hang out the "not invented here" sign and reject anything outside their comfort zones.

I argue for a wider approach: recovering value in whatever form you find it. Progress reports (or sometimes “lack of progress” reports) let you see what ideas were proposed, which were implemented, and which were successful — or not. They often contain useful information, like Aileen Forman’s brilliant article “Consuite Management,” in *Random Jottings* 13.

My own convention post-mortem appears in *Random Jottings* 18, toward the end of this book. It contains a lot more in the way of traditional “lessons learned” content. However, it’s Rob Jackson’s “Notes for a Corflu Conrunner” (originally appeared in *Inca* 16 and used here with permission) that takes everything here and turns it into practical, operational guidance that any person running a small convention will find useful.

I would have found something like this invaluable, myself, though your mileage may vary. I did ask lots of people for advice on running a Corflu, and adopted many (though not all) the suggestions and ideas I received. Thanks to all for their contributions. Whether or not they were used, they all helped shape my thinking.

Thank you all very much for your contributions to all the Corflus over the years.



INTRODUCTION

Corflu 2019 in DC (Pre-Bid Package)

“How do I know what I think until I see what I say?”

— E. M. Forster

When I have no idea what I’m doing, I start by writing it all down, and eventually get around to explaining it to myself. It usually takes a few drafts, but usually I figure it out. When it came to Corflu 36, I had no idea what I was doing, so I started writing. This is the result.

You’ll see a lot of preliminary ideas and dreams in this issue, along with a Work Breakdown Structure (WBS), one of the most useful project management tools. The idea of a WBS is to make sure you identify all the elements of the project and organize them into a useful form. Each Corflu will be slightly different, but these elements normally need to be accomplished to some degree.

The idea of running a Corflu made me quite nervous. For all that I make trufannish noises (“Foo! Foo!”), I am a fringe-fan. In a fannish career spanning half a century I was completely inactive for more than 35 years, and barely involved the rest of the time. Publishing one fanzine a year, going to one convention a year, and contributing to one apa was for me intensive fanac. When it came to conventions, I was clueless.

“The last convention I ran was a one-day Carolina Minicon in Charlotte back in 1972, so it’s all new to me,” I wrote in this issue. “I am assured by All and Sundry that it really isn’t that hard, but when people say stuff like that, I start to sweat. I live by Hofstadter’s Law: ‘It always takes longer and involves more than you expect, even when you take into account Hofstadter’s Law.’”

How did I come to this? “In a moment of misplaced sercon-infused enthusiasm at the Richmond Corflu [in 2014], I suggested that having a Corflu in the DC area would be nice. And so my troubles began. Instead of forgetting all about it the next morning, as real friends would have done, Ted White and Frank Lunney took our conversation as my agreement to chair a Corflu.”

The 2015 through 2017 Corflu had already been decided, and as 2018 was the year of my son’s West Point graduation, 2019 turned out to be The Year. As 2018 drew to a close, I figured I’d better get started.

CORFLU 2019 IN DC

What rough Corflu, its hour come round at last, slouches toward Falls Church to be born?

Corflu 36 Names

There are several options for Official Corflu Name. There's **Corflu Trump**, of course (or possibly **Corflu No-Trump**). The sum of the digits 1-36 is 666, the Number of the Beast, so possibly **Corflu of the Beast** (my current favorite). 36 is the smallest square triangular number other than one, and is also an Erdős-Woods number. I don't think **Corflu Square Triangle** quite works, but I haven't ruled out **Corflu Erdős-Woods**, because we're not out of the Woods yet. So for now, it's **Corflu of the Beast**.

Committee

Michael Dobson (chair)

Ted White (programming)

Patti Ross (treasurer)

Curt Phillips (awards)

not to mention The Usual Suspects (or should it be The Usual Gang of Idiots?).

Contact: Michael Dobson
(michael@dobsonbooks.com)



Corflu in DC! Come See Your Laws (and Your Sausages) Being Made!

Corflu in the Capital! This is a bid proposal for the 2019 Corflu, to be held in the Washington, DC, area. And no, it's not TrumpCon.

DC is a great place to visit, no matter your opinion of the US government (current or otherwise). In addition to the Smithsonian museum complex (including two Air & Space Museums), there are numerous other museums ranging from the Phillips Collection to the International Spy Museum to Dumbarton Oaks.

Not too far away there's Mount Vernon, and a bit farther away is the Gettysburg battlefield. Baltimore, about an hour north, has numerous attractions as well.

We're All Doomed (editorial)

In a moment of misplaced sercon-infused enthusiasm at the Richmond Corflu a few years back, I suggested that having a Corflu in the DC area would be nice. And so my troubles began.

Instead of forgetting all about it the next morning, as real friends would have done, Ted White and Frank Lunney took our conversation as my agreement to chair a Corflu.

The last convention I ran was a one-day Carolina Minicon in Charlotte back in 1972, so it's all new to me. I am assured by All and Sundry that it really isn't that hard, but when people say stuff like that, I start to sweat. I live by Hofstadter's Law: "It always takes longer and involves more than you expect, even when you take into account Hofstadter's Law."

Of course, any convention is only as good as the people there, so if this doesn't work, I'm blaming you.

We specialize in the cuisine of distressed nations (your country falls apart so your countrymen open up restaurants in DC). The inspiration for Uncle Tom's Cabin is in north Bethesda, and the gravesites of F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald are only a couple of Metro stops away.

The current committee consists of **Michael Dobson** (chair), **Patti Ross** (treasurer — see below), **Ted White** (programming), and **Curt Phillips** (awards). We are counting on many of you to perform your regular convention functions: **Andy Hooper** (auction and possible play), **Bill Burns** (website), and **Rob Jackson** (online Corflu). Corflu, of course, is only as good as its members, so we hope you'll join in to make it the best possible.

A Few Modest Proposals

Corflu has its traditions, but there's always room to try out a few new ideas or special activities. The big two are below; you'll find some others scattered through the remaining pages.

A Week-Long Convention

Official Corflu will be three days, as always, but normally a fair number of us (especially the British) use the occasion for some tourist-type activities, whether in the host city or in the region. We'd like to make this a bit more formal. We'd prepare a list of potential activities, starting the Monday before the convention, and for those activities that get enough interest, make necessary pre-arrangements.

We'll host at least one (and possibly two) parties prior to the official start, one of them at my house in nearby Bethesda. If budget permits (see next proposal), we'd like to have a hospitality suite available at the hotel for people to meet and hang out in the evenings. (The bar is always available, of course, but a room option would be, we think, more congenial.)

Bringing the Tribe Together (or, Hectoring People Until They Agree to Come)

Let's face it. There are a limited number of remaining opportunities for us to get together, and too many of you that we only see once in a while. I'd like to urge all of you to send an email to people you'd like to see at the convention, in the hopes that some people will get quite a few requests. We are, after all, effectively the Worldcon for traditional fanzine fandom.

We will also offer a **Prodigal Fan Membership** (\$25 off) to anyone who hasn't been to Corflu for at least three years, and try to figure out additional incentives depending on the budget.

The more people you want to see decide to come to Corflu, the more likely you are to come as well. Yes, East Coast Corflus tend to be smaller, but let's not settle for that. Crossing the Rockies doesn't mean you'll turn into the Donner Party.

Sponsoring Memberships (or, TrumpCon Lives!)

Of course, things like extra hospitality suite nights cost money. Taking our inspiration from my TrumpCon bid at the Chicago Corflu, I'd like to propose a Sponsor-level membership. In general, we've always striven to keep membership rates and hotel costs low. However, different attendees have different means, and perhaps some of you might be willing to pony up some more money to become a Sponsoring Member. This would allow us to add some luxuries to the convention experience, such as more hospitality suite nights, trophies for award winners, improvements in food or other facilities, or even assistance to bring more of our favorite people together.

I'm willing to start; I normally spend around \$300 on an airplane ticket which I will add to the Corflu treasury for this year.

2019th Nervous Breakdown (or, a Project Management Plan for Corflu)

"No battle plan survives first contact with the enemy," wrote Helmuth von Moltke the Elder, and by a similar logic, no project plan (or plan of any sort) survives first contact with reality.

That's not to say that planning is without value, but it's the act of planning, rather than the plan itself, that provides the majority of the benefit.

My day job, as some of you know, is teaching project management, and one thing I tell people is that the more you have no clue what you're doing, the more important it is to develop a plan. Given that I don't have a clue what I'm doing, I figure I should follow my own advice, and thus this document.

This is sort of a hybrid of a project proposal, project charter, and project plan (I'm not particularly a purist about these things), and its big purpose is to encourage all you experts to weigh in, tell me what I'm doing wrong, and set me straight. Future progress reports will have a lettercol, so you'll have a chance to weigh in.

It's mostly written for my own benefit. It helps keep me organized. But I hope you'll find it useful as well.

A Man, A Plan, a Convention — Corflu!

The first step in managing any project is to figure out what the hell needs to be done. A project consists of a number of work packages: things that need to be done (deliverables). That's different from activities, which are the things you have to do (work). You need to have the deliverables in order to list your activities.

In the trade, this is done in the form of a Work Breakdown Structure (WBS). In its most common form, a WBS looks something like an organization chart, except it organizes the work rather than the people. The work is broken into big chunks, then little chunks, and so on until the individual elements can be assigned to people who will (in theory) get the job done.

The biggest challenge in developing a WBS is making sure you haven't forgotten anything, which is why it usually takes more than one draft to get it all committed to paper. If a necessary work package doesn't appear in the WBS, it won't show up in subsequent planning steps, and you usually find out at the most awkward possible time that it really does need to be done. That's why it's a good idea to do a draft WBS early and give other people a chance to figure out what's wrong with it.

A preliminary WBS for Corflu 36 appears on the next page. I've got two goals in mind: first, to make sure I haven't left out anything; and second, to start figuring out who is going to take charge of getting each work package done.

While some of the blocks are self-explanatory, it's useful to provide some description and commentary. (This is technically known as a "WBS Dictionary," but I hate the term so I won't use it. Forget I even mentioned it.)

Because some jobs have traditionally been done by certain people, I'm assuming the Usual Suspects for certain jobs. Check the Committee list to see if your name is mentioned, and let me know if there's an issue. If there's something you'd like to do, let me know as well. Most importantly, if you notice something missing, please tell me.

Corflu Work Breakdown

The top block on the WBS is just the name of the project, so it doesn't require anything else. I've broken the project into four main deliverable areas: Operations/Policy, Hotel, Communications, and Programming. Under each, I've listed the various functional areas and work packages that need to be done.

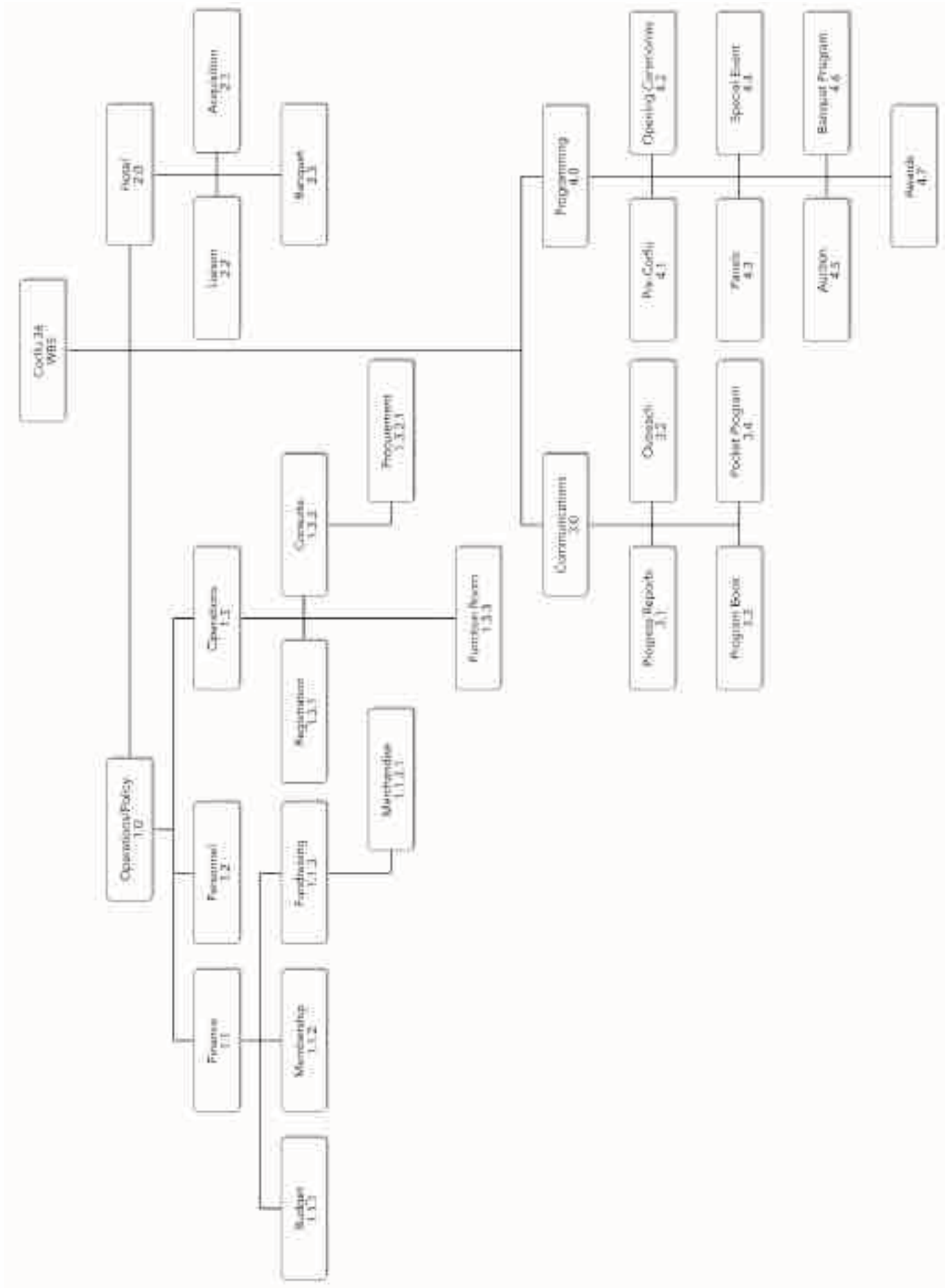
Operations/Policy (1.0)

This is usually a catch-all category in a WBS, sometimes labeled "Project Management." Some policy issues (finance and personnel) start well in advance of the con, and general "operations" stuff done during the convention itself.

Finance (1.1)

As Watergate's Deep Throat famously said, "Follow the money." From what I've been told, Corflus are more likely to lose money than to make any, and while I can deal with that up to a point, I'd sooner the convention paid its own way as much as possible. In the event there's money left over, passing it along to the next committee is easy enough to do.

I have a part-time admin, Patti Ross, who already does various bookkeeping tasks for me, and I've volunteered her to be the treasurer of the convention. She's done a number of events for various clients, though admittedly not one involving fandom.



Budget (I.I.1)

The first part of making sure the convention at least breaks even is preparing a budget. There are fixed costs (hotel function room and consuite, etc.) that aren't particularly affected by the total membership, and variable costs (consuite food & beverages, name badges, banquet) that fluctuate based on membership numbers.

There are three (actually four) sources of income: membership fees, merchandise sales, and fundraising (share of auction proceeds, money from previous Corflus, etc.). The fourth source, of course, is my checkbook. Obviously, I prefer the other funding sources.

Membership (I.I.2)

Membership fees constitute the largest single source of convention revenue, but there's a catch-22: if the membership rates are too high, attendance suffers, meaning the fixed costs have to be amortized over fewer attendees. Given that some of us are on fixed incomes, this is potentially a big deal.

Corflu 35 is charging \$75 US for attending. That seems reasonable enough, but I haven't done the numbers yet.

The supporting membership is pretty profitable for the convention, now that progress reports and other materials are electronic. All you get is the program book (3.3), and you pay a bit of a premium for it. Toronto is charging \$20 US.

Regular attending membership rates traditionally escalate as the convention gets closer, on the grounds that cash upfront is more valuable than cash later. There's a fair amount of money that needs to be spent before anyone shows up.

The Prodigal Fan membership rate for people who don't come very often will be built into the

budget, but I don't expect it to affect us much.

After all, each additional person only affects variable costs, so the discount rate should mostly offset itself

The sponsoring membership rate would be between \$75 and \$100 more than a regular attending, if we end up doing that. In addition to the honor and glory of supporting one's fellow fans (a fan in need is a fan indeed), there would be some special benefits, ranging from a special name badge to perhaps a limited edition Corflu logo item.

If we go that route, there'd also be a "supporting sponsor" rate.

Credit cards. I'm already set up with Square (including Squareup), Paypal, ApplePay, and Venmo, so we'll be able to accept credit cards or email transfers for membership, merchandise, etc. Swipe fees are fairly low (nonexistent in some cases).

Other Income (I.I.3)

There are two additional sources of income for the convention, fundraising and merchandise. Oh, and shakedown fees for people who don't want to be guest of honor. Mustn't forget that. (Sponsoring Members get that as an extra benefit if they want it.)

Fundraising (I.I.3.2)

My understanding is that at least some part of auction proceeds are donated to the convention, but I'm unaware of any other contributors.

The Corflu Fifty fund, while nominally part of Corflu, is run independently by Rich Coad and Rob Jackson. We're happy to promote the fund in progress reports and elsewhere. When the recipient is selected, perhaps there are some ways the con can make it a bit more special. Maybe we

could automatically upgrade the winner from regular attending to sponsoring, or something like that.

I know that sometimes fundraising for TAFF or other fan funds takes place during Corflu, and we are happy to support that.

Merchandise (I.1.3.1)

I'd like to think "outside the T-shirt" for Corflu merchandise. I only wear my Corflu T-shirts at other Corflus, meaning I've already acquired a lifetime supply. On the other hand, the great shoulder bag I got in Austin gets regular use And who couldn't use a real **Mystery-Man Mask**?

I just finished a term chairing the merchandising committee for the West Point Parents Club in my area, and was amazed at the range of items available.

I'm open to ideas, and in fact may end up with more than one item — and that's in addition to whatever we cook up for sponsoring members.

Personnel (I.2)

Someone (sometimes more than one someone) needs to handle each of these items. In many cases, there's already someone who takes care of it: the auction, awards, Corflu Fifty, etc.

I'll be reaching out to past Corflu committees in order to track you all down and put you to work. Depending on the budget, we might even have a special merchandise goodie for you.

Operations (I.3)

The operations category contains the work done immediately prior to and during the convention itself.

Registration (I.3.1)

We'll have to buy the necessary supplies and make (we don't need no stinkin') badges in advance, assemble the membership packets, and provide a table and credit card reader for the actual registration. The registration table will also sell merchandise. Someone will need to handle the onsite registration work, but it shouldn't be difficult or take long.

Consuite (I.3.2)

By far the biggest and most important job during the con itself is managing and stocking the consuite, so finding the right person or persons for the job is essential. Recommendations? Advice? Volunteers? Bueller?

Procurement (I.3.2.1)

This is another major budget item, involving everything necessary to feed and water the ravaging hordes. A big part of this will be accomplished before the convention itself starts.

Function Room (I.3.3)

The function room is pretty straightforward, though we'll need extra tables for merchandise/pre-auction display, along with either security for the room or a process to gather up and store everything in the evening.

One thing I've noticed is that the function room is usually pretty barren, and when there's no programming going on, nobody wants to hang out there. Given that we have possession of the room for the entire con, I wonder if it's possible to use it better. We could put together a display of photographs from previous Corflus, for example. At the Richmond Corflu, I remember we did an affinity diagram with PostIt notes showing all our fannish connections. Anything to use the space better.

Hotel (2.0)

Work involved in getting a hotel, managing liaison with the hotel, and organizing the banquet are the major items in this category.

Acquisition (2.1)

A good hotel is reasonably priced, conveniently located, and has the necessary hospitality functions.

We don't really plan to get serious about the search until early February, but by the time of the Toronto Corflu we should have the hotel, rates, dates, and other information ready. We do have a few preliminary venues to check out, though.

Hilton Garden Inn, Falls Church. This is Ted White's recommendation. It's a newer hotel, relatively inexpensive¹ (\$140-160/night) and there are restaurants nearby. It's not particularly close to Metro, though.

Hyatt Regency, Bethesda. Located directly above the Bethesda Metro station, it's the most convenient public transit option and it's a more upscale hotel. Rates appear to be around \$170. It's in easy walking distance of Bethesda's restaurant district, with a wide range of food choices within 5-8 blocks.

Residence Inn, Bethesda, and Hilton Garden Inn, Bethesda. A few blocks away is the all-suite Residence Inn, rates in the \$150-160 range. The Hilton Garden Inn is across the street, prices similar to the Falls Church venue.

William F. Bolger Center, Potomac, Maryland. The Bolger Center is a conference resort owned and operated by the US Postal Service. I've taught a number of seminars there, and it's a truly wonderful place. The conference rooms are very high quality, and the food service

is exceptional. There are free shuttles to Bethesda and the nearest Metro station, but cars are recommended if you want to do much in the way of touring. Rates are in the \$170 range, and some hotel plans include free meals (which at the Bolger are a really good value).

It would be a very unusual choice for a Corflu, and I'm not necessarily saying it's a good idea to hold it there, but it's definitely worth some investigation.

Again, we're at a very early stage in the process, so don't be surprised if the winner is None of the Above.

Liaison (2.2)

This item covers all hotel dealings after acquisition except for the banquet. That probably falls to me.

Banquet (2.3)

This is logistics, food service, and hotel, not banquet programming. I was initially curious, though, why the banquet is such a big deal. The food is usually indifferent and all the program items could easily be handled elsewhere.

Ted explained that the banquet is a key bargaining chip with the hotel, providing us with discounted or free function space. If we don't have a banquet, our fixed cost of meeting rooms/hospitality suite will be higher. On the other hand, the cost of the banquet is a major factor in membership rates.

If there are additional reasons for the banquet, or if it's something enough people enjoy for its own sake, there's no need to visit this further.

However, if the only reason for a banquet is to lower other convention costs, do you think it's

¹ Hotel prices were taken from Travelocity for spring 2018 dates (they don't have 2019 dates available in their system). They aren't negotiated rates or official information from the hotel, and are just here to give you an initial feel.

worth it? Depending on what I hear, I'll look for prices with and without the banquet to see what the difference is. I'd particularly appreciate hearing from those of you who've gone through the process.

Communications (3.0)

Convention publications, publicity and outreach, and website fall under this heading.

Progress Reports (3.1)

We're off to a flying start on this one, given that this sort of counts as a progress report. Or a "lack of progress" report. There will be a second report in time for the Toronto Corflu, once we've got hotel and membership rates established. I'd plan on another one sometime in the late fall of 2018 (the theme will be begging for more volunteers, I expect) and another a month or two before the con.

Random Jottings 15, due Corflu 2010, will contain the after-action report. (See Item 3.3.)

Outreach (3.2)

In addition to progress reports, there's a Corflu website that I believe Bill Burns maintains. We'll need to provide him with up to date information for it. We'll also need to provide various fannish news outlets (*Ansible*, *File 770*) with convention details.

Let me reiterate something I mentioned earlier: let's make an effort to contact people and invite them to come, especially people we want to see but who seldom make it. The bigger the gathering of the tribe, the better the convention.

Program Book (3.3)

Given that I'd be producing (and paying for) *Random Jottings* 14 for the 2019 Corflu regardless, there's no reason not to make it into the Corflu 36

Program Book without adding to the budget. My preliminary idea is to make it into a fanthology of sorts, and ask each of you to select a piece of fanwriting you particularly like, and write a page or so as an introduction.

I'd also like to make *Random Jottings* 15 (the 2020 issue) into a proceedings book. Instead of asking for complete convention reports, I'll ask each of you to write up a particular aspect of the convention, such as a report on a panel. The cover would be a group photo of attendees, and I'd add an interior photo section as well, so take lots of pictures.

Pocket Program (3.4)

Of course, we'll have a pocket program and a guide to restaurants and other local activities.

Programming (4.0)

While Ted will be in overall charge of programming, I do have some thoughts on the matter.

Pre-Corflu (4.1)

A number of us, especially the British, make Corflu part of a regular holiday. With that in mind, I'm thinking that we should make "pre-Corflu" a bigger part of the experience. Given the wide range of activities in the DC area, we could make arrangements for anything you might want to do. Why do catch-as-catch-can arrangements? Want a backstage Smithsonian tour? An art tour of Baltimore? A visit to the Gettysburg battlefield? Music? Dumbarton Oaks? Non-Mall DC museums? Georgetown pub crawl? A performance of the Capitol Steps? The oldest continuously operating airport in the US? Following the spirit of the last Chicago Corflu, we'll have parties at our house in Bethesda and at Ted's house in Falls Church.

Opening Ceremonies (4.2)

GoH selection and introduction activities.
Shaking down unwilling attendees who want to avoid being GoH.

Panels (4.3)

I imagine we'll have the usual range of panels, but I have to say I don't like them very much. One or two people usually dominate and no one has time or opportunity to make a point fully. I'd like to encourage more solo presentations. I have a projector, so we can show PowerPoint presentations. I know Steve Stiles does a program on comics, John D. Berry has stuff on layout and typography, and I've done a little bit of speaking myself.

Consider this a "Call for Papers." You'd have around 30 minutes on a topic of your choice. Make your pitch.

Special Events (4.4)

Sandra Bond's game shows, Andy Hooper's plays, and other special events should be considered. We probably won't do a repeat of LA's Game Night, but I could bring some boardgames (*Settlers of Catan*, *Ticket to Ride*, etc.) that are relatively short duration and easy to learn. That may be another thing to make available in the function room. There's normally room for a few more tables.

While we're on the subject (and because I forgot to give it a separate WBS block), there's the online Corflu presence that Rob Jackson historically leads. I am assuming he'll do it again, so he's drafted.

Auction (4.5)

Andy Hooper usually takes care of this, as I understand it, so I've drafted him as well.

Banquet Program (4.6)

Ted leads this effort, as usual.

Awards (4.7)

Curt Phillips has asked to run the 2019 awards program. If our budget will stand it, I'd like to have some nicer trophies for the winners.

Your Thoughts

.....
Care to volunteer for something? Have an idea for a pre-Corflu event? Want to do something on the program? Have hotel thoughts or ideas? Have an opinion on the banquet?

Remember, I don't have much of a clue about any of this, so if you want it (don't want it) at Corflu, please let me know.

Timeline

Here's a rough timeline of what needs to be done for the convention.

Phase	Dates	Actions
Pre-Bid Report (this one)	December 2017	(This) Announce bid, propose ideas for feedback, create plan.
Bid Package	May 2018 (at or just before Corflu)	Hotel under contract, dates selected, membership fees established, requests for program book contributions, system for accepting and registering members
Progress Report 1	Late Fall 2018	List of potential pre-Corflu activities and registration for them, general updates and announcements, merchandise pre-ordered, announcement of new committee members, pleas for more help, warnings of impending disaster
Progress Report 2	2-3 months out	Final program decided, pocket program started, program book underway, merchandise ordered, scramble to finish everything in time
Pre-Pre Con Phase	1-2 weeks out	Membership packets, name badges, all non-perishable items prepared

Phase	Dates	Actions
Pre-Con Phase	1-2 days out	Food & beverage shopping, final scramble
Corflu	D-Day	Assault the beaches at Normandy
After-Action Report (probably as part of RJ 15.)	Later	Finish up the accounting, turn stuff over to the next Corflu, issue final report, collapse

Letters

There aren't, of course, any letters yet, but upcoming progress reports will have plenty of opportunity for you to weigh in. Please do so.

See you in Toronto, I hope.

INTRODUCTION

Random Jottings 13 (Corflu Bid Issue)

I started thinking about Corflu seriously after the Los Angeles Corflu in 2017, and published the Pre-Bid package in December. I knew that I needed dates, a hotel, and membership rates in time for Corflu 35 in Toronto.

I also needed help, and it's not as if DC/Baltimore has a large fanzine fan community. Ted White was willing to mentor me, but he was equally clear that this was *my* con, not his. The most important thing I didn't know how to do was get a hotel. Ted coached me through the process and through the first hotel meeting, for which I was very grateful.

With the help of "Visit Montgomery," the local tourist board, I was able to do the additional legwork to get the Cambria Hotel Rockville under contract. Dates, hotel, and membership rates in hand, I made my annual issue of *Random Jottings* into an official bid package. I gave out print copies at the con, but it was otherwise available PDF only.

It covers some of the same ground as the Pre-Bid, but you can see some of my thinking firming up. Several of my initial thoughts had already proven impractical, and a few others looked as if they might work.

The standout item in this issue is Aileen Forman's guide to "Consuite Management." We took her recommendation of \$10/person/night as the hospitality suite budget, and it turned out to be right on target. It should be required reading for anyone running a hospitality suite.

The biggest reaction, of course, came from my proposed Supporting Membership rate, which I adjusted as soon as Corflu Toronto was over.

Random Jottings 13

The 2019 Corflu Bid Issue

Ghu help us all



Random Jottings 13 (Corflu 36 Bid)

This is the thirteenth issue of *Random Jottings*, an annual magazine edited by Michael Dobson and published by Timespinner Press. This issue is available in print for members of the 2018 Corflu (Toronto), and as a free downloadable PDF from efanzines.com and corflu.org. Letters of comment and trades are welcome. This issue primarily contains bid and initial progress information for the 2019 Corflu, Rockville, Maryland. Mailing address is 8042 Park Overlook Drive, Bethesda, Maryland 20817-2724, and email is editor@timespinnerpress.com.

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For the convenience of completists, an extra copy of the registration form is on the last page of the print version, so you can tear it off and still have the rest of the issue intact.



Desperate Times Call for Desperate Fanzines (editorial)

Once again, *Random Jottings 13* isn't the fanzine you're looking for— or, at least it wasn't the one I was planning. There's nothing wrong with that, mind you, but I thought I'd share what might have been (and might yet be).

Philip Roth and Me

Unlike a lot of people with Wikipedia pages, I have had nothing to do with mine. Evidently the page was created as part of an attempt to chronicle everyone who'd done professional D&D material, and it's been updated to include my novels with Doug Niles and my various business nonfiction books. There are pages for some of my novels and all of my TSR games, but they aren't linked.

They also have my birthday wrong.

I read a newspaper story about best-selling novelist Philip Roth and his troubles with Wikipedia. It seems his birthday on his Wikipedia page was incorrect too, and so he wrote a comment on the talk page: "I'm Philip Roth and my birthday is actually ____."

"Sorry," the reply came. "We can't use that as a source because it constitutes original research."

Roth eventually had to arrange to be interviewed in a major magazine so he could explain the situation and tell them his correct birthday. Once it could be sourced to the outside publication, Wikipedia was able to make the correction in line with its own policies.

Fortunately, unlike Philip Roth, I have my own magazine.

The "Dear Wikipedia Editor" issue was going to have properly sourced and credited information that some Kind Person could add to my page, and I'd avoid that pesky original research issue.

A Princely Tale

In *Random Jottings 10*, the Improbable History issue, I published an excerpt from Humayun Mirza's book *From Plassey to Pakistan*, a history of the Raj in India from the perspective of his ancestors, the royal family of Bengal, and of the foundation of Pakistan from the perspective of Humayun's father,

Pakistan's first president (deposed in a 1958 coup).

Humayun himself has had a remarkable life, and in the many years we've been friends, he's told me many stories. I've been urging him for some time to write them down, and he's finally agreed. Here are a few highlights.

Humayun was in the hospital at the time of Partition, and when the Calcutta Riots broke out, he was in serious danger of being killed. Gandhi personally quelled the riots, saving Humayun (among many others). When Humayun met Gandhi to thank him, Gandhi replied, "Oh, yes. I know your grandmother."

He was smuggled out of India by the aviation pioneer and adventurer Sidney Cotton. In England, he met Churchill; pissed off Sir Anthony Eden; and was mentored by Thomas E. Dewey, who urged him to move to the US. During a long World Bank career, Humayun worked throughout Central and South America, as well as in Nigeria and Saudi Arabia, with numerous adventures along the way.

He was a stunt pilot, and did the flying scenes for the 1951 film *Mr. Denning Drives North*. He hunted tigers on elephant back (the tiger skin hangs on the wall of his family room), nearly made the Olympics twice (in fencing), played cricket for the Pakistan National Team, fended off an amorous Vivien Leigh, and much more.

Unfortunately, the project's going a little more slowly than planned, and it

became clear it wasn't going to be finished in time for the 2018 Corflu.

Pub That Ish!

During the Vietnam War, it was proposed that we should simply declare victory and go home. That's kind of the philosophy that underlies this issue of *Random Jottings*.

Random Jottings has come out once a year every year since 2008, and I'd like to keep my record more or less intact. Thus, in a moment of desperation, I've decided to add a little bit to what would otherwise just be the Corflu 2019 bid package and call it an ish, Desperate times, you see, call for desperate fanzines.

Print distribution will be by photocopies rather than CreateSpace, and I'm only printing them for Corflu attendees. Everyone else can get it at either the efanzines.com Random Jottings page or through corflu.org. Either way, thank you **Bill Burns**.

Regular service will return with the next issue.

— Michael

Corflu of the Beast

Where #MAGA Stands for 'Zine

Same Bat Time, Same Bat
Station

Corflu 36 2019

Dates: May 2-6 (Thursday-Sunday)

Hotel: Cambria Hotel and Suites,
Rockville, Maryland (\$109/night)

Membership: \$100 attending, \$60
supporting (but see the fine print)

Party at No-Trump Towers

This is the second progress report for the proposed 2019 Corflu DC. The first progress report is available here: <http://www.corflu.org/Corflu36/Corflu36-PRO.pdf>

PRO.pdf

Here's what's happened since:

1. We've got a hotel contract
2. We have dates
3. We have membership fees
4. We have a budget
5. We have several initial volunteers

This progress report will bring you up to date and prepare you to vote on

Sunday. If you have any questions, of course, you know where to find me.

Not Just the Usual Gang of Idiots

Lots of you typically work on some aspect of Corflu, and I very much appreciate it. **Curt Phillips** has taken charge of the hospitality effort, and asked **Aileen Forman** to give advice. Aileen wrote a detailed guide to consuite operations, and was kind enough to let me publish it in this issue.

Ted White coached me through my first hotel visit, and gave me numerous insights on convention management. He'll be in overall charge of programming for the convention.

Geri Sullivan and **Ben Yalow** contributed their considerable expertise to the hotel contract, and it's much better for their input.

Our treasurer **Patti Ross** and her husband **Dale Ross** also advised on the hotel contract. Patti is bracing herself for the flood of money we'll no doubt receive.

Andy Hooper, **Rob Jackson**, and others have signified their willingness to pitch in. I'm grateful for all your help.

A big “Smoooooooooth!” to all.

Fan Mail from Some Flounders

In rough order of receipt:

Curt Phillips: I am toying with the idea of offering to conduct a tour of the [Gettysburg] Battlefield — let’s call it “The Peter Weston Memorial Gettysburg Battlefield Tour and Death March. ... I’m a lifelong Civil War buff and was a Civil War reenactor for twenty years.

That’s a great idea. I want to urge people to combine Corflu 2019 with a regular vacation. DC is filled with interesting things to do.

My goal is to have something arranged for each day of the week prior to Corflu. With the number of history buffs in our group, we ought to be able to come up with a wide range of options to offer attendees.

Besides Gettysburg, there are numerous museum options, from art tours (Colleen Brown used to work for the National Museum of American Art) to air & space (I used to work there and may be able to get some backstage access).

Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald are buried within walking distance of the convention hotel. The original Uncle Tom’s Cabin can be found in nearby Bethesda. Assuming they haven’t torn it down yet, I can take people to the actual

parking space where Deep Throat met Bob Woodward.

Harper’s Ferry is not far away either. Baltimore (home of Steve and Elaine Stiles) is also filled with attractions and it’s only an hour or so away.

Murray Moore: You do realize, don’t you, that if you do too good a job running a Corflu, you will be expected to do a second one. (See Virzi, Pat)

Nobody expects the Corflu Inquisition!

Andy Hooper: Your Corflu bid certainly has my blessing. I’ll be happy to do and write stuff.

I look forward to it.

Jim Caughran: I discovered myself to be in a project management department about when I came to Canada, 1972 or so. I didn’t know that, nor did they seem to know I hadn’t any project management credentials. I was hired as a computer jock. My background was pure mathematics, so pure I didn’t know what the applications of the field I worked in were. (I was a little shocked when I found some of them out.) I had worked in computer stuff before, on real live vacuum tube computers yet. But I gave that up. I shouldn’t have.

I recall a guy talking about teaching scheduling at a community college. His students didn’t seem keen; one even asked why they were studying scheduling. In the discussion of that, he asked what

they thought they would do as project managers. "Well, manage, I guess." So it was time to talk of sealing wax, cabbages and kings.

I shined at the job, mostly because I was willing to hang around and work extra when upper management did its Friday afternoon hack jobs. "Cap the spending at \$100K per month." (It was a billion dollar steel mill, and the expense was undoubtedly one of the things that did the company in, a few years after I left to post policy transactions for insurance companies. It didn't start out at a billion dollars.)

"I normally spend around \$300 on an airplane ticket." Porter mentioned \$1000 as his estimate for coming to the Toronto Corflu. When I was young (Sonny) I used to wonder what a con committee did with the \$25 they charged for full membership. Such a lot of money! Now I wonder what a hotel does with \$150 or more a night. \$1000 would be a start for me to attend a DC convention. More by next year, no doubt.

At least some convention stuff is more or less routine. Badges and registration, for example, shouldn't be hard -- unless you've grossly underestimated the at-the-door attendance. Other stuff is less well defined. Can you plan that the Morality League which took the suite next to the consuite is complaining?

Your non-progress report should be seen as a good beginning for anybody's WBS. But what about the softball game?

I figure I'll spend a certain amount of money whether I go to somebody else's Corflu or run my own, but there are specific costs (like airfare) that I only incur when going out of town.

Many years ago, Disclave once shared their hotel with a SPEBSQUSA (Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America) event, so the risk is always with us.

We only play hardball in DC. Just ask Chris Matthews.

The Corflu Manifesto

"All happy Corflus are alike; each unhappy Corflu is unhappy in its own way."

A great Corflu is all about attendees. If the right people show up, you'll have a great time, no matter how incompetently the convention is run. This gives me a great deal of hope, and a convenient excuse if required.

In the meantime, here's what's already known about the convention. I expect to get a lot of comments during the con, and so there will be another progress report in a couple of weeks.

Location, Location, Location

Corflu 36 will be in Rockville, Maryland, a relatively close-in Maryland suburb. Our hotel (the Cambria) is a two-block walk from the Rockville Metro station, so you're only a brief walk away from most major tourist attractions.

We'll be in Rockville Town Square. It's a renovated downtown with about 30 places to eat within no more than a three-block walk of the hotel. We're even next door to the World of Beer!

The Cambria is a new upscale brand from Choice Hotels. Everything is new and fresh. It gets mostly business travelers (Rockville is the capital of Montgomery County and home to the courts and local government) so we have

exceptionally good weekend rates: \$109 a night for all hotel rooms.

The link for Corflu-rate reservations won't be ready for another week or so, and we'll publish it as soon as available.

Membership Has Its Privileges

In my fake Trump Con bid presentation at the Chicago Corflu, I mentioned offering a Premium Membership, complete with gold-plated name badges. For those who don't need no stinkin' badges, though, we do have the regular rate available.

Regular Attending: An attending membership will cost \$100 through the end of May 2018, and then goes to \$125 for the rest of the year. From January 1, 2019, onward, it's \$150.

Supporting: The supporting membership rate is \$60 at any time. We will have a special gift only for supporting members. I've got a couple of ideas, but will survey those affected before making a final choice.

Prodigal Fan: While Corflu has its stalwarts, there are too many fanzine fans who only come occasionally. Sometimes

it's geography, sometimes money, but whatever it is, we want you to attend.

If you haven't attended any of the last three Corflu, you can take a Prodigal Fan discount of \$25 against any regular attending membership. We really want to see you.

Day Rate: If you want to attend Corflu for a single day, it's \$50. If you want to go to the banquet, it's extra (and we may not be able to add people at the last minute).

Premium Membership: If you'd like to help Corflu be even better, consider buying a premium membership. The cost is an attending + supporting. For your extra \$60, you get the special gift mentioned above.

What will we do with the money? People who win FAAn Awards should have something tangible to celebrate their accomplishment. (\$20-30 per winner). If we get a significant number of premium members, we could even look at a custom trophy, and lay in stock for Corflus yet to come.

If by some surprise we end up with lots of money in this category, I've got other ideas, but I'll put them out for discussion before making a decision.

FAAn Awards

Nic Farey will once again be the awards administrator, with **Curt Phillips** handling liaison with the convention itself. **Greg Benford** has agreed to present the awards.

I hope there will be trophies.

National Lampoon's DC Vacation

Springtime is particularly lovely in DC. Our early May dates mean that we miss the traffic of cherry blossom season (I've got a late-blooming cherry tree in the backyard if you've just *got* to see one), and we're too early for the big tourist invasion of the summer.

Why not make Corflu an occasion for a vacation? As noted earlier, we're going to try to line up potential activities for the week, and someone on the committee can surely answer any questions or give you advice about your DC tourism options.

Because we're on the Metro, lots of the big attractions are easy to get to. If you don't want to traipse around the Mall for hours, there's a Tourmobile route with free on-off privileges.

Away from the Mall you can visit Dumbarton Oaks, the Philips Collection, the National Cathedral (don't miss the Darth Vader gargoyle), and more.

If you do come in early, let me know before booking your hotel. While we won't necessarily be able to get you the \$109 rate for your entire stay, our hotel liaison says she should be able to arrange some kind of discount, if I let her know it's for a Corflu attendee.

Publications

I am planning two issues of *Random Jottings* for Corflu.

The Program Book Issue. This will be a crowdsourced fanthology. Here's what you do:

1. Pick a piece of fanwriting you really like (no limits on when written). Either type it up or scan the original fanzine pages.
2. Write an introduction for it.

The Proceedings Issue. This will be a group con report. I will ask each attendee to take a single item at Corflu, such as a panel, and write a con report just about that event. Take lots of pictures. If enough people join in, we'll have the best documented convention ever.

More Progress!

Corner me at Corflu if you have any questions or suggestions, or drop me an email. progress report within a few weeks of the con, so I'll have a chance to respond.

Consuite Management

By Aileen Forman

*As far as I'm concerned, the most important job at any Corflu is managing the consuite. That's why one of my first steps was to ask **Curt Phillips** to take charge of it. He, in turn, wrote **Aileen Forman** for her advice and insights, and Aileen sent the following. I asked if I could share it. She replied that it was mostly off-the-cuff, but if I thought it was actually helpful, I was free to share it.*

I often tell my students about the Iceberg Principle of Work: 90% of the work it takes to get the job done is invisible to outsiders. I knew the consuite was a big job, but I didn't know how big.

We probably won't be able to do all of this, and we may have a few surprises, but this is a great start to planning. I hope you'll find it interesting.

MSD

These suggestions are mostly for Corflu conventions but work with any smallish convention.

As the person in charge of consuites, don't overextend yourself. If you're a night owl, ask a morning person to open consuites for you and detail how to do so, and vice-versa. You should have at least one reliable person to either open or close consuites while the person in charge does the reverse.

Hotel Rules

MOST IMPORTANT!!! Find out what the hotel allows and does not allow. Do not do anything that the hotel disallows or you will put the convention at risk. Some allow cooking. Others only allow a microwave. Some will allow a hot plate but not a tabletop convection oven. Others offer an entire kitchen at your disposal. Some require that you buy some of the food from catering while others don't care. Some have refrigerators and at others you'll have to use ice and an ice chest.

Once you've established the parameters, you can work from there. I am assuming for the purpose of this document that your hotel allows food in the suites and that no catering is required, outside of maybe a banquet, which doesn't concern consuites. If you don't live near the hotel, ask someone to take pictures of the suite they've booked ASAP. That way you'll know what you have to work with. Find out if you'll have small tables, a big table, no tables, chairs, a kitchen, a bathroom, a tub, a sink, etc. as well as exactly what the hotel will allow food-wise.

Money

Find out how much the ConChair is willing to give you. Keep in mind that it's based on the money left over after the hotel & other expenses so you may not have as much to work with as you'd like but you can make a good consuite even on the cheap.

Ideally, each person would be allotted 4-5 cans of soda and/or bottles of water per day (budget \$.40 per for a total of \$6) and 3 beers (budget \$1 per for a total of \$9) as well as a bag of chips per 3 days (\$2.50), three candy bars (\$2.50), a meal (\$5) and another \$5 in misc. snacks.

That's \$30 per person in food for three days. At 50 people, that's a budget of \$1,500. Obviously, not all cons are going to be able to afford that.

Personally, I've found that it's more helpful to plan any events at consuites, figure out what I have left over and spend the rest of the money on bottled water, coffee, tea and soda. Then let the chips fall where they may. Folks can always buy their own drinks in a hotel.

Events

Most people enjoy the following:

Beer tasting: It's time to show off your city. There are breweries in every one. Buy 3 bottles of at least 10 different kinds of specialty beers. Best to be held on Friday night. Have various cheeses and crackers. Now is the time for that cheap bag of pretzels. Plan for after

dinner on Friday night and there will likely be around $\frac{1}{3}$ of attendees there.

Sandwich Spectacular: Do *not* buy a platter from the grocery store. It's cheaper to buy a pound of ham, a pound of turkey, a pound of cheese and a tub of chicken salad from the deli (or from Costco) for each dozen people. Now's the time for chips, carrot sticks, a sliced watermelon and perhaps some cookies. Don't forget brown mustard, regular mayonnaise, and a smallish jar of sliced pickles.

Don't go cheap on the ingredients. Offer one loaf of white bread, one rye, one wheat, one bag of hoagie rolls for two dozen people. Best held on Saturday afternoon. Plan on $\frac{2}{3}$ of the attendees.

Cookies and Milk with Storytime: Homemade cookies are the best but not everyone has a baker handy. This can be a Friday night event (following or instead of the beer tasting) or a Saturday night event. Individual cartons of milk work best but you can get a gallon instead. This event requires a BNF who doesn't mind telling stories about other BNFs from the past. Don't forget tea and decaf coffee as not everyone likes milk. Plan on $\frac{1}{3}$ of your attendees unless the BNF is exceptionally well-liked.

Cartooning Session: If there's a cartoonist coming to the con, ask them if they'll volunteer to hold a cartooning session. Provide them with paper of all shapes and colors and put a sign on him/

her reading “Will cartoon for astounding compliments.” Put a bunch of ideas in a bowl and allow the cartoonist to read them ahead of time so they’ll have some ideas and won’t be put on the spot. The time and day should be whenever it’s most convenient for the cartoonist. An “out” for the cartoonist is to look at the idea and shake his/her head and offer them a Tootsie roll. (Don’t forget to buy Tootsie Rolls if you plan on offering this event.)

Dead Dog Party: This is tradition and it’s a reward for those folks who stuck with you all weekend. Break out the bottle of whiskey that you’ve held back. This is also a chance to finish off leftovers. Make them attractive. Put them in small bowls around the room. If it’s something perishable, though, that had too many

hours out in the heat, toss it. Better safe than to be talked about as the person who poisoned the convention back in 2018.

Attractions: There should be a reason to be in the consuites. It should be a gathering spot. Bring people into the consuites with events and games. I’ve found that slot cars (if you have a large table) work very well as an attraction. People like the competition and it can be done quickly, in between panels. Remote controlled toys also work but don’t forget spare batteries. Paper airplane contests can be held at regular intervals. Rubik’s cubes and other fidget-type toys are always good and can often be found in dollar stores. So can crosswords. Not everyone at SF cons feels comfortable socializing 100% of the time and the consuites can be a good respite if they



have something that allows them to be in company without having to interact and these games gives them an excuse.

Drinks: Put the lotion in the basket... Oops! I mean, put the sodas and bottled water in the tub with ice, set up the electric kettle and tea on the bathroom countertop (if you have a pump carafe, use it), along with the coffee maker and just keep an eye on things. Make the coffee a half-pot at a time.

Don't put the beer in the ice until around 2 p.m. each day. If folks need a beer earlier than that, they can take care of it themselves. Don't bother with iced tea or lemonade as it's a mess and not popular.

Food: Ah, the *raison d'être* of the consuites. Okay, here goes:

If you cannot cook in the room and have no fridge, this is simple. Chips and salsa, cookies, M&Ms, pretzels, etc. are the only things that you'll be able to offer on a daily basis. (You may still be able to hold many of the events.) Do not buy anything that requires refrigeration, like dip.

If you can actually cook in the consuites, figure out how to do so. Microwave? Tabletop convection oven? Hot plate and/or slow cooker? If you can have a hot plate, then you can have a slow cooker in which you can offer meatballs in BBQ sauce (don't forget toothpicks, serve with celery sticks put into a glass of ice water), cheese dip (serve with corn

chips or a Dorito-type chip) or chili (serve with quartered flour tortillas). Keep an eye on the slow cooker! It can go from yummy to disgusting in the blink of an eye. Stir frequently and be sure to time hot food carefully, never putting it on too early. Remember it takes time to heat, though. All slow-cooker foods should be served in bowls since hot food is frickin' dangerous on plates.

Have spare serving spoons because people will drop them. All foods that are cooked will need refrigeration prior to the meal, though, with the exception of maybe a Velveeta dip. Remember what equipment you have to work with before you buy the food!

If you have a full-size fridge with freezer in consuites, shout hallelujah! Ice cream socials! Space for food storage! No need to go to the grocery store during the convention! This is rare, though, so plan accordingly. If you still want to have food events, plan on going to the store at least an hour before it's scheduled.



Schedule Suggestion

Friday

AS SOON AS YOU GET CHECKED IN, CALL HOUSEKEEPING AND ASK THEM TO BRING A COMMERCIAL TRASH CAN TO THE ROOM! TIP THEM \$20 AND BE WONDERFUL TO THEM! (Can you tell that this is important?)

Every time you need that trash can emptied, call housekeeping, give them a \$5 tip and a handful of candy. Housekeeping is the hotel's eye. If you're doing something that you really shouldn't be doing, housekeeping is the one who will rat you out and being well-loved will keep that from happening.

Every interaction should start with a tip and a smile. And chocolate. Find out what time they will be coming in to clean and plan to close consuites when this happens or decide that all you'll need is for them to pick up the trash and/or vacuum and tell them your decision clearly! They will also be able to help you with ice.

3 p.m. Open consuites with sodas and beer already in bathtub, games set around the room, snacks in bowls. If you want to offer a Bundt cake or something, now's the time.

4 p.m. BBQ meatballs in slow cooker if allowed.

7 p.m. Race car rally or paper plane contest. Beer tasting starts unless not

enough people have come back from dinner. Make coffee.

10 p.m. Milk and Cookies Storytime unless you think Saturday would be better.

12 a.m. or 1 a.m. Close Consuites. Wash dishes!

Saturday

7 a.m. Make coffee and tea and then put out one box of Costco danishes. If you have a fridge, you can offer cereal and milk. Buy one box of Rice Chex and one box of whatever cereal the consuites host(ess) wants to take home with them. The Rice Chex can be offered as a snack later if uneaten. Done.

10 a.m. Put out snacks in one-cup amounts around the room.

12 p.m. Sandwich Spectacular or slow-cooker offering if possible

3 p.m. Take down slow cooker and put away leftovers if applicable. Refresh snacks and put beer in bathtub.

5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Close consuites so you can have some time off and everyone can get dinner.

7 p.m. Refresh snacks, check drinks. Put on more coffee.

10 p.m. Milk and Cookies Storytime (if not held on Friday)

12 a.m. Close consuites

Sunday

7 a.m. If you can cook in the room, offer toast with a variety of jams. This is a good way to get rid of the bread left over from Saturday's Sandwich Spectacular. Put out the other box of Costco pastries.

10 a.m. Put out snacks. Some kind of game event unless conflicting with banquet.

12 p.m. Slow cooker something or other. Cartooning session if possible.

3 p.m. Cookies and tea. (Gets rid of any cookies left over from storytime and leftover tea bags.) Clean slow cooker.

7 p.m. Dead Dog Party. Honestly, do NOT save food for this. If they've eaten all the food you've bought, buy pizza and make everyone pitch in \$5. Push whatever beer's left or if there's no beer left, coordinate a beer run.

Cleaning

Wow, is this important! Unless the suite has a kitchen sink, buy a plastic dishpan at the dollar store and keep it filled with soapy water in some obscure corner or countertop. You will use it when you wring out a dishcloth and wipe down the tables as well as when you need to wash the slow cooker, the platters, etc. It will also be what you'll use to get fresh ice.

Serving

How are you serving every damn thing you've bought?! Once you've written down each food you're offering, write beside it the kind of plate, napkin or bowl that it will be served in as well as the utensil needed to eat it and then tally it up. You may only need a few plates but a buttload of bowls. Also keep in mind that they have to be served on something. Dollar stores offer large plastic platters. Also, you'll need about 25 or so 16-ounce plastic glasses, napkins, dishcloths and dish soap. If you're cooking anything, bring two hot pads, a sponge, several knives, a lightweight plastic cutting board (dollar store again) and tubs to store leftovers.

Packing

When you're packing up to head to the con, put the games and other entertainments in one box, the utensils and dishpan in another box, the cups and plates in another one, etc. before you leave for the convention. Label the boxes!



CAMBRIA

hotels & suites.

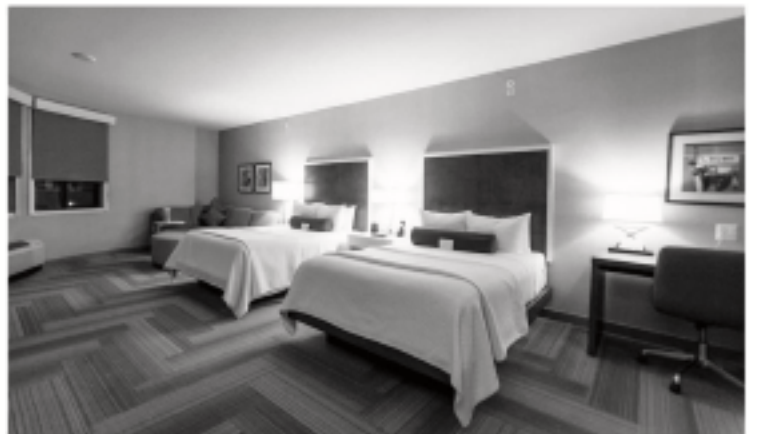
where everybody is somebody®

1 Helen Heneghan Way • Rockville, MD 20850

301.294.2200

CAMBRIASUITESROCKVILLE.COM

\$109/night; booking cutoff April 3, 2019. Use CORFLU 2019 code when booking to get convention rate. Rates include free parking, 20% on non-alcoholic purchases at the hotel restaurant.





The convention hotel is located two blocks from the Rockville Metro Station (RED LINE). Most DC tourist attractions and museums are easily accessible via Metro.

There are three major DC airports: Reagan National (DCA), Dulles (IAD), and Thurgood Marshall (BWI).

FROM DCA: You can take Metro directly from DCA (YELLOW LINE to Gallery Place; transfer to the RED LINE toward Shady Grove).

FROM IAD: Take the Silver Line Express Bus from IAD to the Wiehle-Reston East Metro station (\$5; purchase tickets at the counter inside Arrival Door 4, Baggage Claim level). Buses run every 15-20 minutes. Take the SILVER LINE to METRO CENTER and transfer to the RED LINE.

FROM BWI: While public transportation is possible, either a rental car or SuperShuttle is probably best. However, you can take a shuttle bus to the BWI train station, transfer to AMTRAK or a MARC commuter train to Union Station, and transfer again to the RED LINE.



Corflu 36

- "What rough Corflu, its hour come round at last/Slouches toward Rockville to be born?"

Thursday, May 2, 2019, through Sunday, May 6, 2019
Rockville, Maryland (suburban Washington, DC)

Membership Rates (US\$):

Regular Attending: \$100 through May 2018
\$125 from June 2018 through December 2018
\$150 January 2019 onward. **Day Rate:** \$50.

Supporting: \$60 at any time (includes free special gift).
May upgrade to regular attending at the price applicable
at the time original membership was purchased

Premium Membership: Combine regular attending
and supporting rates. Receive free special gift.

Prodigal Fan Rate: If you haven't attended Corflu in at
least three years, deduct \$25 from any regular
attending membership. Deduct \$10 from day rate.



Corflu 36

Registration Form

Name

Address

Email

Membership Type

Regular Attending

\$100

\$125

\$150

Supporting

\$60

Premium

\$160

\$185

\$210

Prodigal Fan Discount

-\$25/- \$10

Day Rate: \$50

PAYMENT METHOD:

Cash

Check

PayPal

Square

Venmo

ApplePay Other _____

Membership No.

Date

HOW TO DISAPPEAR

VANISHMENT MADE EASY

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(Ed Cox, doodle here)

INTRODUCTION

Corflu 36 Progress Report #1

I got instant pushback on my initial proposal for a \$60 supporting membership. On reflection, the critics had a point. I thought about lowering it to a more customary \$20, but then decided to go with “pay what you want.” Mailing and publications meant that a supporting member really cost about \$10, and anything above that was a donation to the con. I ended up with an average rate of \$11, but that included a fair number of complimentary memberships. I’d say the real amount per paying member was at least \$20.

With Hofstadter’s Law nipping at my heels, I was already convinced that I was behind schedule even though it was only a month since Corflu Toronto. Some of that is a combination of neurosis and perfectionism, but it’s also something I’ve experienced on too many projects. Always try to get ahead of schedule, and with luck you won’t end up too far behind.

My biggest fear at this point was the attending membership number and room night count, as I was personally on the hook for unsold room nights. If you’re chairing a Corflu, you might want to look at how the membership numbers moved from PR to PR. I got a big batch up front, then little or nothing for a long time, and a bunch near the end. Financial planning was more difficult as a result. I expected to lose money (and was pleasantly surprised to have a small surplus), so I didn’t worry too much, but if my Corflu had needed to break even, the uncertainty about memberships would have been stressful. So do future Corflu chairs a favor. Buy your memberships and reserve your hotel rooms early!

I’m particularly happy with “You Can’t Spell ‘Award’ Without ‘War,’” and my observation that because “award categories, nominees, and winners are always noncontroversial and universally praised, I anticipate little in the way of problems.” Yes, well.

Corflu 36

Progress Report 1

May 2018



Hotel Booking Link! Revised Membership Rates!

Membership Rates

Attending: \$100 through 9/30/18
\$125 10/1/18-1/31/19
\$150 beginning 2/1/19

Prodigal Fan: \$25 discount if you haven't been to a Corflu for at least 3 years

Supporting: Pay whatever you want to. (No, we're not kidding.)

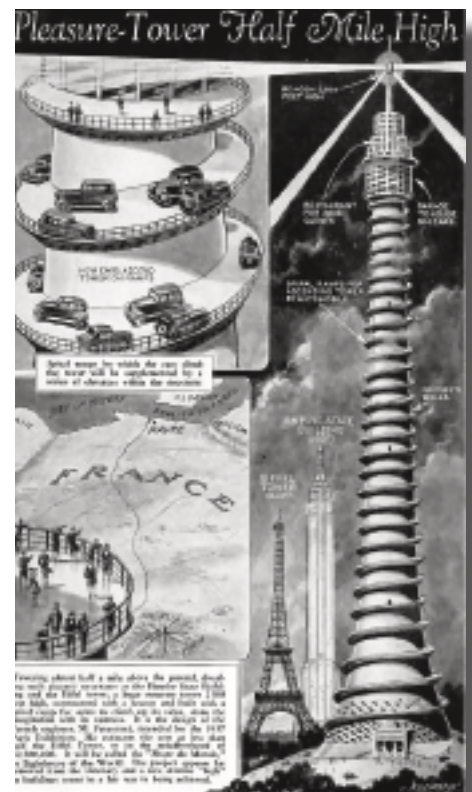
Premium: Pay \$50 or more over the attending rate (or at least \$50 for a supporting membership).

Hotel Booking Link!

<http://tinyurl.com/Corflu2019>
<https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/DH10Z3>

Cambria Hotel
Rockville, Maryland
All rooms \$109/night
(301) 294-2200

(Actual hotel. Illustration not to scale)



Editorial

There seems to be some confusion (okay, I got confused) on the numbering of my Corflu pubs. They should be:

- 1) Corflu Pre-Bid Package (December 2017)
- 2) Corflu Bid Package (aka *Random Jottings* 13, at Corflu 35)
- 3) Corflu Progress Report 1 (this, May 2018)

I figure this is the first progress report because it's the first publication following the official award. Granted, I was the only bidder, making it somewhat of a foregone conclusion, but still. From now on, the convention reports will follow in order: 2, *e*, 3, π , 4, etc.

Although this is being released less than a month following the Toronto Corflu, don't take that as a precedent. I'll do a PR any time there's real news to share, but the next scheduled PR will appear late September/early October.

The big news is on the front page. In the remaining pages, I'll go through the membership rate issue and overall finance for the convention and provide a quick update on other areas.

As always, a successful Corflu depends on the unpaid toil of its members, and I can use the help. Remember, ask not what your Corflu can do for you, but what you can do for Corflu. If you're already doing it, let me know.

- Michael

The Committee (So Far)

- Michael Dobson, Chair
- Curt Phillips, Hospitality
- Ted White, Programming
- Nic Farey and Curt Phillips, Awards
- Andy Hooper, Auction
- Bill Burns, Webmaster
- Rob Jackson, British Agent
- Rob Jackson, Online Corflu

...and a yet-to-be-determined cast of thousands! Maybe even *you*!

The big news for this PR is, of course, a rather dramatic change in membership rates and cutoff dates. To put things in context, let me explain my original thinking and why it's changed.

As I've mentioned several times, I haven't run a real convention before, so I don't have a lot of personal experience to draw on. That's why I'm using things like a work breakdown structure (Pre-Bid Package) and lots of communication: identify the work, identify who's going to do it, and make sure people are more or less on the same page.

Another basic project management tool is drawn directly from Watergate: Follow the money. I started with a very basic budget breakdown. Drawing from Aileen Forman's hospitality suite piece in the Bid Package and from the Cambria catering menu, I figure that it will cost about \$70 per attendee for food, beverage, and a few incidentals, like name tags. With a \$100 attending membership, that leaves \$30 per attendee for all fixed costs. In rough terms, that means 50 people (and 107 room nights) will make the convention roughly break even. If we get significantly fewer than 50, we'll have some additional costs because we won't have met our hotel guarantees. Over 60 members, and we're comfortable.

I came up with the "premium" membership idea in hopes of paying for actual award trophies for the FAAn Awards—off the shelf if we must, custom if we can. I'd also like to do something special for the Guest of Honor, who deserves it. I have a few other ideas on my wishlist as well.

I ended up making the supporting rate the same as the premium charge, but that, in retrospect, is clearly too high. So here's what I'm doing instead.

The attending membership rates remain the same, but I've extended the deadline before rates go up. The "premium" level is \$50 or more as an additional contribution.

For supporting, I looked at the actual cost to the convention, and I estimate that it's somewhere around \$10. Anything more than \$10 is extra money for the convention. With that in mind, the new supporting membership is "pay whatever you want." If you choose to pay \$50 or more, you'll get whatever the "premium" benefits turn out to be. Any amount, though, is welcome.

I've also got some extra details on paying via PayPal, Venmo, Apple Pay, etc.

PayPal: editor@timespinnerpress.com (friends or family)

Venmo: Michael-Dobson-2

ApplePay: (301) 404-7439

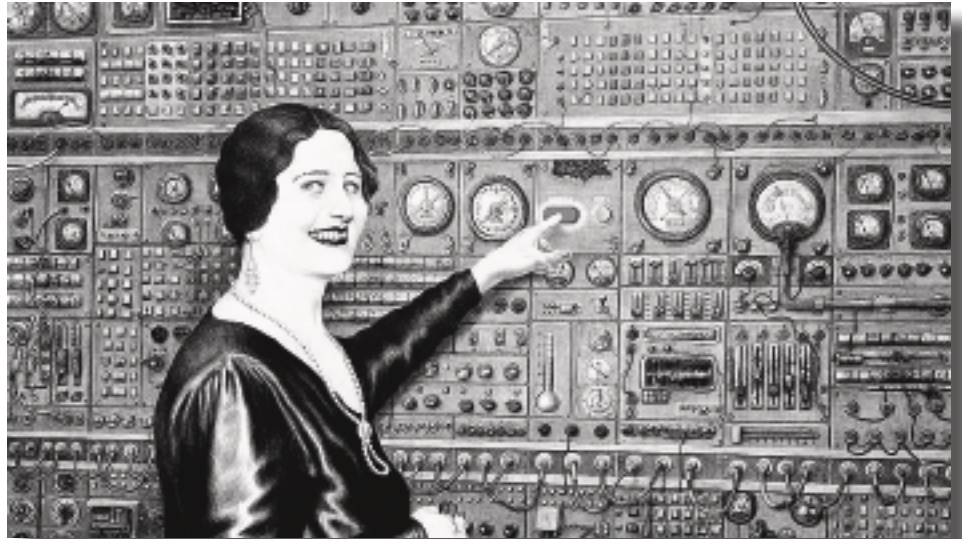
On site, I'll be able to accept credit cards. I also accept cash, but only with proper identification.

If you want to pay in Bitcoin, contact me.

Weighnty Financial Matters

You Can't Spell "Award" Without "War"

The 2019 FAAn Awards are co-chaired by Nic Farey (who did the honors this year) and Curt Phillips. Because award categories, nominees, and winners are always noncontroversial and universally praised, I anticipate little in the way of problems. However, Nic has put together a steering committee of Prominent Fans, and they are having a highly productive discussion on what to do this year with spreadsheets and everything. Once the dust is settled, we'll bring you the news As It Happens.



The FAAn Award IT department prepares to tabulate ballots.

Deprogrammers Are Standing By

We're in the very early stages of programming for Corflu 36, but we have made some initial progress. Fortunately, the basic structure of Corflu has existed for some time.

The week prior to the convention, we'll have tours and other activities for early arrivers or people who want to make their Corflu trip into a vacation. ***If you want to stay at the Cambria more than the four nights of the convention, let me know prior to booking!*** While we can't do the \$109 rate throughout, we can help get at least some discount for you.

While the official program begins on Friday, we are planning to have the hospitality suite open on Thursday, so you'll have someplace to go and someone to drink with.

Friday, we'll have the Opening Ceremonies and our annual human sacrifice (GoH selection). After dinner, the consuite will open. The annual beer tasting will probably take place, and I'd like to have some of us talk about great fans of yesteryear, maybe 3 or 4 people talking for around 15 minutes each. (I'll have a projector if you



Just one of the exciting program items planned for Corflu 36!

want to bring photos.)

Saturday is the traditional day for most Corflu programming. Personally, I liked the mimeo display and the Susan Wood installation in Toronto. I plan to visit both WSFS and BSFS in the upcoming months to promote Corflu, and I thought I'd see if local fans wanted to put together an exhibit on DC/Baltimore fan history.

Other than that, we'll follow tradition: three panels, followed by the auction. (Andy needs more items to auction, and tells me that mentioning this in the progress report will accomplish nothing,) There will also be a dunk tank.

After dinner comes the Lighter Side of Corflu (where is Dave Berg when you need him?). Pat Virzi and Jeanne Bowman are developing an idea, Andy Hooper is writing a play, and maybe something else will happen as well.

The banquet will happen according to tradition, featuring crottled greeps and other delicacies well suited for the trufan's palette. As the sick and wounded fade slowly into the darkness, the ghost of Corflus past will gnaw on old bones around the campfire and the dead dogs will howl.

Gee Whiz, Sparky! I Just Can't Wait for Corflu 36!

I'm sure I've forgotten any number of important details that belong in this progress report, but if I have, that just means I'll need to put out additional progress reports. Fortunately, my supply of odd images is large enough that I should be able to cope.

For the latest exciting Corflu news, you have several options. If you're a member, I'll send around an email broadcast from time to time. If you're on Facebook, join the Corflu 36 group. Check Corflu.org from time to time while you're at it; the current membership list should be reasonably up to date. You can email me at editor@timespinnerpress.com with Corflu matters (michael@dobsonbooks.com for non-Corflu) matters. Mailing address is 8042 Park Overlook Drive, Bethesda, MD 20817-2724 USA.

Membership as of May 2018 (all attending)

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Ted White | 9. Rob Jackson |
| 2. Michael Dobson | 10. Geri Sullivan |
| 3. Colin Hinz | 11. Murray Moore |
| 4. Catherine Crockett | 12. Mark Olson |
| 5. Nigel Rowe | 13. Deborah Dobson |
| 6. Tom Becker | 14. Edie Stern |
| 7. Spike | 15. Joe Siclari |
| 8. Sandra Bond | 16. Ken Forman |

Korflu Karaoke! Can you dig it?

Letters

Terry Kemp

I'll have to start saving all my hard-earned pesos for the journey as I'd truly love to see Gettysburg. A couple of Kemp ancestors (yes, CSA, what can I say) died there facing the 20th Maine and as a military history buff I've always wanted to see where they died.

Jerry Kaufman

I eagerly await your membership cost update. For now, I'll say that your many proposed and implied outings are enticing. I am tempted, but will probably not succumb anyway. But I certainly hope the burning zeppelin on your cover is not an omen.

You mention on page 10 the Disclave that shared the hotel with SPEBSQUSA (even the acronym is remarkably long) and imply this was a bad thing. But I saw it as a plus - several members of Disclave had memberships with both groups, and were able to get a real quartet for our performance of The Mimeo Man. If I remember correctly, one of the four was Doll Gilliland.

I have not seen an offer of doodling space for Ed Cox in at least four decades. How kind of you!

[Actually, I didn't see it as a negative myself, but overall rather amusing. I have to say, though, that my appetite for barber shop is, well, limited.]

I accept your gratitude on behalf of Ed Cox.]

Nic Farey

You'll no doubt receive the "results issue" of TIR on Sunday, and I direct you to the postscript/editorial in which I propose dropping the "Best Website" and "Best Cover" categories for 2019, the former more stridently than the latter. I don't intend to make those decisions pre-emptively, and I hope there'll be some useful discussion on those topics; you and/or Curt are encouraged to weigh in, and there may be a further "interim" TIR this Fall to publish opinions (and the decision).

It's still my contention that the awards administrator serves at the pleasure of the incumbent Corflu chair (M Dobson, heir presumptive) who therefore dictates policy which the administrator should then follow (or quit). Or, of course, the chair can simply delegate to the admin.

I plan to continue outreach to those who have shunned the awards in past years, including dialogue with faneds to ensure that the listing is as thorough as we can make it. This is a more proactive approach than that taken by previous admins, but I consider it very worthwhile.

[I am, of course, humbled to be your God-Emperor in all award matters. That being said, as long as everyone gets heard, I'm good. As long as I can afford actual awards.]



INTRODUCTION

Random Jottings #14 (Corflu 36 PR #2)

I decided to turn the remaining progress reports into issues of *Random Jottings*, having already decided to collect them. Originally, I thought they'd just be an appendix to the Proceedings volume, but there's more of it than I expected.

In Issue 14, I talk about publicity for the convention. There are a number of people who really ought to come to Corflu, but don't. I campaigned hard to get a number of my favorite people to come, and I urged others to send out a few invitations of their own. For the continued health of Corflu, this will be increasingly important as finances tighten and travel becomes harder. It was a challenge for me. I've never been more than a fringe-faan, and my contacts are much more limited than you might think. The *gemütlichkeit* of Corflu is dependent on the attendees, and putting resources into Corflu outreach will pay great dividends. I pushed all I could in that area, and wish I could have done more.

It's traditional to have increases in membership rates from time to time in hopes of scaring a few more people into paying early, when it's most helpful. The additional money, though, wasn't a big deal, so I ended up rolling back rates as a way to encourage a few more people. I don't believe anybody paid the official at-the-door full membership rate.

When I wrote RJ 14, I was still of the opinion that Corflu merchandise would be a source of income, and shortly after this figured out that this wouldn't be the case. I ended up doing T-shirts (and my personal preference, a polo shirt) by popular demand, but not as a moneymaker.

Andy Hooper's quiz show from Toronto made its appearance in this issue as well. It doesn't appear in this volume, but for those interested in fan trivia, it's still in the online version.

RANDOM JOTTINGS 14

"Progress is man's ability to complicate simplicity."

Thor Heyerdahl





Corflu 36

The convention for fanzine fans
Home of the Fan Activity
Achievement Awards (FAAn Awards)

Thursday, May 2, 2019, through Sunday, May 5, 2019
Cambria Hotel, Rockville, Maryland (Washington, DC)

All the details and newest progress reports available at

www.Corflu.org

Membership Rates (US\$):

(see website for details and how to register)

Attending: \$100 (through 9/30)

Supporting: Pay what you want to.

Premium: Additional \$50, or \$50+ for supporting

Prodigal Fan Discount: \$25 off attending if you haven't attended
Corflu in at least three years.

Do you know who sawed Courtney's boat? Was
Yngvi *really* a louse? Can you say "Smoooth"?

If you're into fanzines, traditional fandom, and fan history,
Corflu 36 is the place for you. Plus, you—yes, *you*—might
become our Guest of Honor, chosen by lot at the con*!

* Opt out available.

RANDOM JOTTINGS

The regularly scheduled issue of *Random Jottings* has been preempted so we can bring you the following special program: CORFLU 36, THE PROGRESS BAR ISSUE, in Living Color. *Random Jottings* is edited and published by Timespinner Press, Michael Dobson, 8042 Park Overlook Drive, Bethesda, Maryland 20817, editor@timespinnerpress.com. Like the previous issue, this *Random Jottings* is primarily available online through the generosity of Bill Burns, at both efanzines.com/RandomJottings and at corflu.org (also home to previous progress reports). Issue 14, August 2018. © 2018 Timespinner Press, CC BY-SA 4.0.

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The Corflu 36 Committee

Michael Dobson	Chair
Curt Phillips	Hospitality
Ted White	Programming
Patti Ross	Treasurer
Andy Hooper	Auction
Bill Burns	Webmaster
Rob Jackson	British Agent
Rob Jackson	Online Corflu
Elaine Stiles	Registration

Quotations from Chairman Dobson (editorial)

The convention is still some months away, so there's only a little bit going on, Here's a quick summary of what's been happening behind the scenes.

Publicity and Promotion

I did a Corflu single-page flyer (<http://corflu.org/Corflu36/C-36-One-Sheet.pdf>, or page two of this issue) and asked people to hand them out at cons, and a few have done so. When you go to a convention this year, please run off a handful of copies and drop them on the fan table. A big tip o' the Hatlo Hat to Joe Siclari and Edie Stern, who handed them out at a recent party.

Craig Glassner, who was in charge of the San Jose Worldcon fanzine lounge, was extremely helpful. I sent him 150 fliers and he bought two plastic stands for them.

Still on my to-do list is getting the word out to all the fannish news sources that list conventions.

Local Fandom

I visited WSFA and will be visiting BSFS in the next few weeks to hand out Corflu fliers and see if there were any fanzine fandom stalwarts lurking in the bushes. I didn't find many, though there was some interest. My other goal in reaching out to the local clubs is to see if there would be interest in doing a program item or exhibit on local fan history. No response yet, but it's early.

Hospitality

The most important job at the con, I am convinced, is running the consuite, and I'm delighted beyond words that Curt Phillips has agreed to shoulder that task. Curt came up to DC for a visit in late June, and we had a very productive time. We toured the Cambria a second time to get a rough idea of consuite layout and options, and are both very happy with the space and with the hotel staff. We scouted out local food and beverage options, looked at neighborhood food options, and ended with a visit to F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald's graves, located within a few blocks of the hotel. In spite of some rain, a good time was had by all.

Awards

As Nic Farey announced in the most recent *The Incomplete Register*, he won't be continuing as FAAn Awards administrator this year, so Curt Phillips and I will be sharing the responsibility. Nic and I had a difference of opinion on a matter of awards policy, and decided that it was best to make a change for 2019. In no way is this a reflection on Nic's administration; I share the general consensus that he did an outstanding job. Our disagreement was amicable and we remain friends, of course.

The reason I'm not going into too much detail is that I haven't yet worked out exactly how I want to handle the issue. When I do, I'll let everyone know.

Trophies

My other big awards-related issue is trophies (the biggest reason for the “Premium” membership option). Thanks to Bill Burns, I’ve learned about a 3-D printing service that will allow us to have a custom trophy for a very reasonable price. My idea is that the trophy will be a mimeo on a little pedestal, with the inscription “THE MAGIC MIMEOGRAPH IS THE ONE WITH A TRUE FAN AT THE HANDLE.” I’m working with Steve Stiles on the design. There’s an upfront fee to assemble the necessary digital files, but the actual cost of manufacture is modest.

While nothing we do is ever binding on future Corflus, there will at least be an affordable FAAn Award trophy they can use if they want to. It comes in various grades and colors of plastic, as well as steel, sandstone, and even gold! If previous FAAn Award winners want trophies, they will be available at cost.

Membership Rates Update

The \$100 attending membership rate is still good through the end of September, so if you know you’re coming, why not register today? Here’s more information about rates.

ATTENDING

Until 30 September 2018	\$100 (£75)
10/1/18 – 1/31/19	\$125 (£95)
After 1/31/19	\$150 (£110)

SUPPORTING

Pay what you like. Get publications after the con.

PREMIUM

HELP PAY FOR FAAN AWARD TROPHIES AND OTHER GOODIES, GET VALUABLE COUPONS

Attending, add \$50 (£37) to the regular membership rate

Supporting, pay \$50 (£37) or more.

PRODIGAL FAN DISCOUNT

WE LIKE YOU! WE REALLY LIKE YOU!

\$25 (£18) discount on any attending rate if you haven’t attended any of the last three Corflus

ONE-DAY MEMBERSHIP

Saturday only, \$50 (includes publications)

Sunday only, \$75 (includes banquet and publications)

Hotel Details

ROOM RATE

\$109/night plus tax. If you’d like to stay additional weekdays, contact me before booking to get the best rate.

HOTEL BOOKING LINK:

<https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/dh10z3?checkInDate=2019-05-02&checkOutDate=2019-05-06&ratePlanCode=BRDETU>
(or if you need to type the URL, use: <http://tinyurl.com/corflu36hotel>.)

Booking hotel rooms early is a big advantage for us, so if you know you’re coming, please book soon.

Ask Not What Corflu Can Do For You...

I'm enormously grateful for those of you who've already stepped up and volunteered to be part of the 2019 Corflu team. For the rest of you, you'll all be glad to know that your opportunity to be part of next year's Corflu is still alive and well!

Here are some con-related activities that can use your support. Drop me an email if you're interested in any of them.

Publicity

The larger the Corflu, the more likely you are to find people you want to talk to.

I've already mentioned the convention flier. I've still got to send out notifications to the various fannish news media, but I'll have that done in the next few weeks.

Here are some ways you can help.

Invite Five. Send an email to five people you'd like to see at Corflu, and invite them to come. Some people just need that little push. If we all invite five, some of the invitees may receive multiple invites — and that's even more incentive to come.

Newsgroups. If you're a member of newsgroups or lists that have fanzine fans among their membership, make sure they know about Corflu.

Flyer. You'll find a stand-alone Corflu one-pager on the corflu.org website. Print a handful of copies and drop them on the fan table whenever you go to a con.

Program

Want to be on program? Have an idea for a program item? A little later in this PR you'll find details on how to volunteer.

Hospitality

Running the hospitality suite is a big job, but maybe you wouldn't mind taking a shift, especially if you've done it before.



Pubbing Our Ish(shes)

(fanthology, proceedings, and more)

Publications

We're planning a fanthology to be released at Corflu 36, and a "proceedings" book for afterward. You'll find details on both in the next few pages.

For the fanthology, we want you to choose a piece of great fan writing, scan it, and write a short intro. That's due by the end of the year.

For the "proceedings" book, we'd like you to volunteer to write a con report on one segment of the convention: a program item, an expedition, the banquet, etc. Take lots of pictures.

More details to follow.

Corflu is a fanzine convention, and what's a fanzine convention without fanzines? In addition to the bid package and various progress reports, we plan three publications associated with Corflu 36.

- A. A **pocket program** will list convention activities, local restaurants, and tourist attractions.
- B. A **fanthology** of classic fan writing and art, released at the con
- C. A **proceedings** book published after the con

Pocket Program

There really isn't much to say about the pocket program, so I won't.

The Corflu 36 Fanthology

In Toronto, I shared my plans for the Corflu 36 Fanthology. Given my well-known fascination with print-on-demand publishing, you'll be unsurprised to know I'll be using CreateSpace again. That means we will have a full-color wraparound cover, and I'm not terribly concerned with page count.

With Corflu being all about fan history, this Fanthology isn't just for works published in the last year or so, but covers the entire history of fanzine fandom — and I'd like you to be a part of it. You don't even have to be a member of Corflu.

Here's what I want you to do.

1. Pick a piece of fan writing (or fan art, for that matter) you particularly like. It can be by any person from any zine at any time.
2. Get permission if practical¹

¹ Whether or not the original piece is covered by copyright, getting permission from the creator is preferred. However, in our situation, it isn't always practical. For some important pieces, there is no one alive authorized to give permission. If that's the case, we'll print it as long as it's in the public domain. This means: 1) It was first published in the US between 1923 and 1977 without a copyright notice, or 2) It was first published in the US between 1923 and 1963 with a copyright notice, but the copyright was not renewed. For work originally published outside the US, if it's in the public domain in the country of origin and it was created no later than 1977, it's public domain here.

3. Scan the original fanzine pages (high quality TIF or PDF, 300 dpi or better).
4. Write a brief introduction about why you chose the piece and what makes it good/important.
5. Send it to me.

In response to questions already asked, it's okay to 1) submit more than one piece, and 2) submit something you wrote. In the latter case, however, it's better to have a friend send it or at least use a hoax name for the intro. Your call, though.

I'd prefer to get submissions before the end of the year, but as long as they're in before the end of January, I'll take them. Send them to me at editor@timespinnerpress.com, or if it's a Dropbox link, send it to michael.dobson@me.com.

The Corflu 36 Proceedings

I also talked a little bit about this at Toronto. I'd like to do a memory book, with photos, details on each of our attendees, and a report on each convention event, and like the fanthology, will be drafting you to help. Rather than write a full con report, I'd like you to take on one event (a panel, an evening, an activity) and write it up. Take lots of photos. I'll assemble it, add some back-of-the-book con information, and have it available for the following Corflu.

More about this later, as the convention approaches.

Get With the Program

I've had numerous conversations with people about things they might or might not want to do for this year's Corflu, and it's time we started making things official. I'd ideally like to have the schedule squared away by the end of the year.

Certain program activities are determined by custom, but you may have ideas about how to liven them up or add to them. For others, send your suggestions!

To suggest a program item: Send an email to both Michael and to Ted White. We need 1) the name of the proposed event, 2) a brief description for the program book, 3) details on what the event is, 4) who will participate, and 5) what support will be needed from the convention.

The program categories are:

- A. Pre-Corflu Activities
- B. Opening Ceremonies
- C. Formal Program
- D. Auction
- E. Corflu After Dark
- F. Banquet Program
- G. Consuite Activities

Pre-Corflu Activities

We hope you'll consider coming to DC early and making Corflu part of your vacation. The Smithsonian, numerous monuments and battlefields, and a wide range of restaurants (we specialize in the cuisine of distressed nations) — it's a great

place to visit. With that in mind, we are working up a list of potential pre-Corflu events. Let us know which ones you might like to be part of so we can refine the list.

Here's what we have so far:

Colleen Brown, who's spent a number of years at the National Museum of American Art, will offer a tour of the **Gallery Place/Chinatown** neighborhood. In addition to NMAA (the Throne of the Third Heaven is a must-see), there's the National Portrait Gallery, the International Spy Museum, and more.

Baltimore is only an hour away, and you can reach it either by car or by public transport (Metro and Amtrak). **Steve and Elaine Stiles** will lead a day's worth of activities, which may include Harborplace (home of the USS *Constellation*), the Visionary Art Museum, the National Aquarium, and much more.

Andy Hooper has discussed a **battlefield tour**. While Gettysburg is around three hours away, Antietam is closer, and Civil War buffs can find a huge number of attractions. Details to follow.

I'm planning to throw a **party at my house**, which is about 20 minutes from the con hotel. Transportation will be arranged. This will be either Wednesday or Thursday night.

If there's something you'd really like to do or see in DC, let us know. If you're interested in leading a tour or activity, please step up.

The above events will only happen if enough people want them, so be sure to let us know if you're interested.

Opening Ceremonies

The format of our opening ceremonies is pretty fixed by tradition. GoH opt-out is \$20. We aren't planning to pocket it, but will instead use the money to pay for an actual gift for the Guest of Honor.

Formal Program

The Corflu formal program has traditionally consisted of three one-hour panels beginning at noon Saturday, followed by the auction.

I am also interested in having at least one of the three slots filled with something other than a panel.

I have a digital projector and we'll have a screen, so think about what you might want to do with the extra capabilities.

While many of us don't get up until late, there are early birds as well. While we haven't usually offered any events before noon, I'm not ruling it out. We pay for the function room all day Saturday and all day Sunday, and it seems a shame to let it go to waste.

Auction

The Corflu Auction has already started. **Andy Hooper** has been selling some of my fanzines on eBay, and I'll shortly be sending more. Andy tells me it's going exceptionally well.

The at-the-con auction will take place after the end of formal programming.

Contact Andy if you have items you're interested in donating.

Corflu After Dark

The lighter side of Corflu comes out on Saturday evening. We have the opportunity for up to three activities that will take no more than an hour apiece. Andy Hooper and I have discussed a play; Pat Virzi and Jeanne Bowman have an idea for an act but I'm not sure what it is yet. I enjoyed the fannish linkage game in (was it) Richmond.

Banquet Program/Sunday

Again, tradition pretty much governs this.

Please note, however, that we still have the function room for the rest of Sunday. If nothing else, it's good to have room to spread out. I'm thinking about bringing in some low-intensity boardgames (no *Interplanetary*, sorry to say). If someone wanted to organize bridge, hearts, or poker, that would be good as well.

Consuite Activities

While the consuite is primarily for unstructured interactions, there are potential consuite activities as well. Geri Sullivan has offered to repeat her bheer tasting event; Spike has offered a complementary wine-tasting. Now we just need a whiskey night.

Corflu Swag

As mentioned in an earlier report, I want to think outside the T-shirt. I don't know about you, but I've got plenty. We're considering three potential items.

Bheer Glasses. A boxed set of four pint glasses with a Corflu logo for around \$30; single glasses \$10 each.

Polo Shirt: Instead of a t-shirt, we'll have an embroidered polo shirt with color logo. The price will be around \$35. But it will still be a shirt.

Framed Stiles Print: Steve and I are discussing a limited edition color print for Corflu 36, available in a presentation folder or frame, \$20/folder, \$40 framed.

With the first two items, there's a one-time set-up fee, plus a price per item. That means if we get more than the minimum order requirement, we'll be able to drop the price. If you think you might want to buy any of these items, please let me know. You don't have to commit until later.

If not enough people are interested to meet the minimums, we won't offer the item.

And if enough people demand t-shirts, we'll probably give in.

Random Jottings on *Random Jottings* 13 (Ghu Help Us All Issue)



Lloyd Penney

First of all, great to chat with you at Corflu! I had a fine time at the con, and finally got to attach faces to names. And, now that I have *Random Jottings* 13, here comes a fast loc.

You don't often get to loc a progress report, but here I am. I don't think I have anything of mine on Wikipedia, and I am not often there, seeing there's as much opinion as fact there. Hey, it's your title, so use it as you will, and you have used it with various formats over the years.

Hmmm...membership is now US\$125, real money as you said at Corflu. Looks like you have quite the committee helping out, so I expect the convention to be quite the time. Your hotel is in Rockville, Maryland, and I

think we all know fans who are local. I am not sure if the Lynches live close.

I am still unemployed, and Yvonne is happily retired, which also restricts our disposable income. When I add up the cost of the flight, the hotel, the membership...well, I know you said something about getting me there with something similar to the Corflu 50 fund, but I am under no illusions that I would be able to afford to get there, even with some financial assistance. Real money costs a lot in Canadian dollars, too. There were a couple of people who were not pleased to see me there at Corflu this year, and I expect them to be at your Corflu, so... I know I expressed some interest, but having a budget meeting with Yvonne revealed the extent of our income and our expenses, and even just me going to the con would put a huge strain on the finances. I appreciate the fact you'd like to see me there, Michael, but I think I'd better say thank you, but no thank you. I am sure there are others who could use the financial assistance to go to the con to see their friends. (Yvonne and I do plan to go England in 2019, but with my situation, I haven't been able to add a cent to the kitty. She is taking me with her to England, and I will be grateful.)

However, I am always interested to see how things go at the convention, and see who disses who, etc. There's always the FAAn Awards, too. Keep the PRs coming out, and I will respond. Thanks for this one, see you with the next.

Eric Lindsay

Thanks for the print copy of *Random Jottings 13* that I received at Corflu in Toronto a few months back.

Loved the front cover of the Hindenburg disaster, backed by a give away playground space ship. Are you trying to tell us something with these?

During the convention you mentioned Humayun Mirza's book *From Plassey to Pakistan*, and your hope to publish some of his stories. Sounds a remarkable character, so I hope that happens.

Aileen Foreman did a great job of covering consuite management.

I will wish you the best of luck in doing your Corflu next year.

[I never need an excuse to publish a picture of a zeppelin. MSD]

Jerry Kaufman

Thanks for *Random Jottings 13*. I eagerly await your membership cost update. For now, I'll say that your many proposed and implied outings are enticing. I am tempted, but will probably not succumb anyway, for reasons I told you at Corflu. But I certainly hope the burning zeppelin on your cover is not an omen.

You mention on page 10 the Disclave that shared the hotel with SPEBSQUSA (even the acronym is remarkably long) and imply this was a bad thing. But I saw it as a plus - several members of Disclave had memberships with both groups, and were able to get a real quartet for our performance of *The Mimeo Man*. If I remember correctly, one of the four was Doll Gilliland.

I have not seen an offer of doodling space for Ed Cox in at least four decades. How kind of you!

Membership


1.	Ted White	Attending
2.	Michael Dobson	Attending
3.	Colin Hinz	Attending
4.	Catherine Crockett	Attending
5.	Nigel Rowe	Attending
6.	Tom Becker	Attending
7.	Spike	Attending
8.	Sandra Bond	Attending
9.	Rob Jackson	Attending
10.	Geri Sullivan	Attending
11.	Murray Moore	Attending
12.	Mark Olson	Attending
13.	Deborah Dobson	Attending
14.	Edie Stern	Attending
15.	Joe Siclari	Attending
16.	Ken Forman	Attending
17.	Robert Lichtman	Supporting
18.	Pat Virzi	Attending
19.	Jay Kinney	Attending
20.	R-Laurraine Tutihasi	Supporting
21.	Claire Brialey	Supporting
22.	Mark Plummer	Supporting
23.	Dixie Kinney	Supporting
24.	Gregory Benford	Attending
25.	Curt Phillips	Attending
26.	Steve Stiles	Attending
27.	Elaine Stiles	Attending
28.	Rich Coad	Attending
29.	Ian Sorensen	Attending

INTRODUCTION

Corflu 36 Flyer + Program Book Ad

I produced a flyer for the Worldcon Fanzine Lounge (next page). The Stileses also put some out at Balticon, and I wrote the membership to urge others to do the same. I don't know whether anyone did, but it might be worthwhile to lobby regular Corfluvians to drop off flyers at whatever conventions they regularly attend.

I received a number of interesting emails offering support to Corflu. Gigi Edgley, who played Ciana on Farscape and hosted Jim Henson's Creature Shop Challenge, offered to provide us with a full range of media programming. Sadly, I had to decline, but I did accept an offer from the Philcon Program Book team to place a quarter-page ad for the con. It wasn't very much money, and it may have gotten us one additional attendee, so I'm not sorry I did the experiment. The Philcon ad is below.

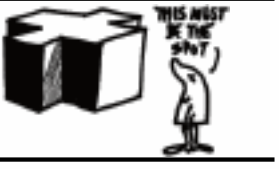


Corflu 36

The Convention for Fanzine Fans
May 2-6, 2019, Rockville, MD (DC Area)

Who sawed Courtney's boat?
Was Yngvi *really* a louse?
Why won't Dave Kyle let you sit here?

If you're into fanzines, traditional fandom, and fan history, Corflu 36 is the place for you. Plus, you—yes, you—might become our Guest of Honor, chosen by lot at the con! Smoooth, right?



Visit the website for membership info and PRs.
Mention "Philcon" and get \$25 off attending membership (through 12/31)

corflu.org or **Corflu 36 on Facebook**



Corflu 36

The convention for fanzine fans
Home of the Fan Activity Achievement
Awards (FAAn Awards)

Thursday, May 2, 2019, through Sunday, May 5, 2019
Cambria Hotel, Rockville, Maryland (Washington, DC)

All the details and newest progress reports available at

www.Corflu.org

Membership Rates (US\$):

(see website for details and how to register)

Attending: \$100 (through 9/30)

Supporting: Pay what you want to.

Premium: Additional \$50, or \$50+ for supporting

Prodigal Fan Discount: \$25 off attending if you haven't attended
Corflu in at least three years.

Do you know who sawed Courtney's boat? Was
Yngvi *really* a louse? Can you say "Smoooth"?

If you're into fanzines, traditional fandom, and fan history,
Corflu 36 is the place for you. Plus, you—yes, *you*—might
become our Guest of Honor, chosen by lot at the con*!

* Opt out available.

What's Corflu?

Corflu is the only convention focused on traditional fanzine fandom, now in its 36th year. The name comes from "correction fluid," a smelly purple substance used to fill in errors on mimeograph stencils. Corflu moves around, with venues in the US, the UK, and Canada.

In 2019, we're in Rockville, Maryland, a suburb of Washington, DC. The convention hotel is only a few short blocks from the Metro, and most DC tourist attractions are easily accessible. The Rockville Town Center, which surrounds the hotel, is filled with restaurants of every variety. If you're interested, Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald are buried a few blocks away.

Corflu is mostly an occasion for good (and not-so-good) friends to socialize, but we do have a program focused on fan history, fan culture, and the craft of fanzines. There will be an auction of classic fanzines and fan memorabilia. At a Sunday brunch banquet, we give out the Fan Activity Achievement (FAAn) Awards and elect the Past President (sic) of the Fan Writers of America (fwa).

If you've ever been involved with fanzine fandom, it's time to come home for a visit. We'll kill the crotled greep and have a feast.

Information, Please

The Corflu website (www.corflu.org) has an up-to-date membership list, rates and reservation information, and several progress reports. If you're into project management, you'll be glad to know that the convention has a WBS.

There's a Facebook group named Corflu 36. When it inevitably changes its name to Corflu 37, you'll still be a member.

The FAAn Awards information is here: <http://corflu.org/history/faan.html>. Of course, you'll want to be a knowledgeable voter, so catch

up with all the great fanzines as the essential <http://efanzines.com>.

For questions, payments, or anything else, feel free to drop me an email. I'm Michael Dobson, this year's chairman, and I can be reached at editor@timespinnerpress.com.

The Fanthology

The convention publication will be a fanthology printed using CreateSpace, and everybody's welcome to take part. Pick a favorite piece of fan writing (any time, any person, any topic). If practical, get permission. Either retype the piece or make high quality scans (300 dpi) of the original fanzine. Write a short intro putting the piece in context and explaining why you chose it.

Expand Your Horizons

We're encouraging people to come in the week before the convention and take some vacation days. With luck, we'll be able to put together some special trips and other activities to share with your fellow fans.

Tell Your Friends

The ultimate success of a convention is how many people are there you'd like to talk with. The more people who come, the more people who will come, and the more fun that will be had by all.

Sign up for Corflu now, and tell all your fannish friends as well. Come join us as we relive those thrilling days of yesteryear and catch up with old friends. See you in Rockville!





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Random Jottings #15 (Corflu 36 PR #3)

The “Magic Mimeograph” issue of *Random Jottings* 15 primarily concerned the FAAn Awards. Originally, I had no intention of getting involved with the actual administration of the awards, confining myself to an attempt to produce a 3-D printed trophy. Sadly, the trophy project failed when we ran out of time, and equally sadly, I ended up running the awards when Nic Farey and I were unable to reach agreement on the problem of Steve Stiles and Bill Burns/efanzines being unhappy about winning award after award. Some argued that it wasn’t a problem. I considered it a problem *not* because they won so many awards, but rather that they were *unhappy*.

There was quite a lively email exchange among a number of interested parties. It was, for the most part, quite civil, even though there was rather passionate disagreement. While I was agnostic on how to resolve the repetitive award problem, I was unwilling to let it go unsolved.

Where I lost it was when someone argued that the right response to Steve and Bill’s discomfort was, “Hey, you won an award. Suck it up.” I cannot imagine a statement less fannish.

When it comes to fandom, my core value is fun. The only way to do fanac wrong, as far as I’m concerned, is fail to have fun. Decisions and choices that promote more fun are good; decisions and choices that lead to less fun are bad. “Hey, you won an award. Suck it up,” is saying not just that My Fun Matters More Than Your Fun, but also says Your Fun Doesn’t Matter. And if that is what the FAAn Awards are about, then to hell with the FAAn Awards.

It’s obvious that my own attempt to rethink the FAAn Awards failed, but it’s equally true that the FAAn Awards overall have failed. The annual whinge-fest over What Went Wrong With This Year’s Award seems to be the only thing the awards actually accomplish.

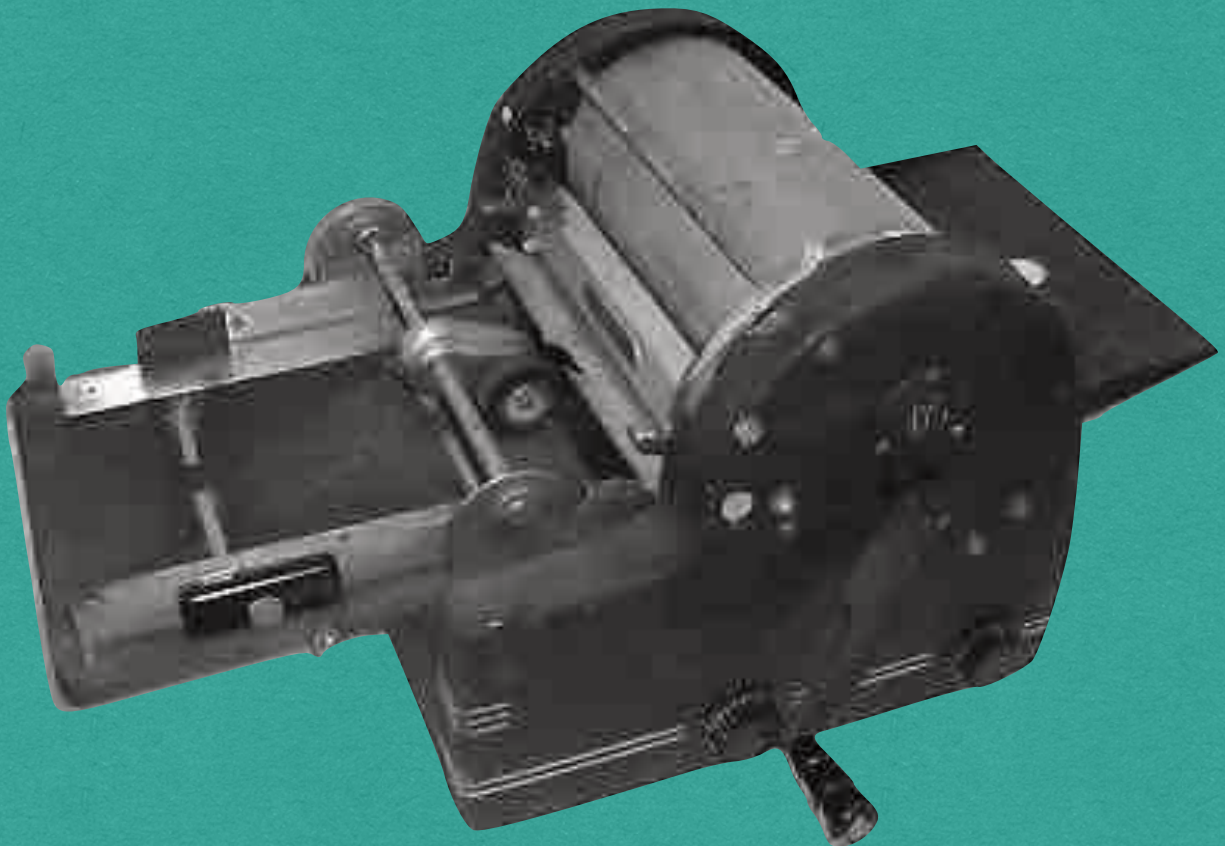
In my defense of my own administration (see *Random Jottings* #18), I was accused of claiming that previous FAAn Awards were illegitimate. That was not my intent; I was defending this year’s awards and winners, not criticizing anyone else. In retrospect, the accusation has a point, if not the one the writer intended; As far as I’m concerned, the words “legitimate” and “FAAn Awards” don’t belong in the same sentence. Nor, in the spirit of fannish insurgency, is it needed.

I’ve been told there was a certain amount of complaining about my administration in some corners of fandom. I haven’t read any of it and don’t intend to.

RANDOM JOTTINGS 15

Magic Mimeograph Issue (Corflu 36 PR 3)

December 2018



*"For the Magic Mimeograph is the one with a true fan at the handle."
The Enchanted Duplicator*



Corflu 36

The convention for fanzine fans
Home of the Fan Activity Achievement
Awards (FAAn Awards)

Thursday, May 2, 2019, through Sunday, May 5, 2019
Cambria Hotel, Rockville, Maryland (Washington, DC)

All the details and newest progress reports available at

www.Corflu.org

Membership Rates (US\$):

(see website for details and how to register)

Attending: \$125 (through Jan. 31, 2019)

Supporting: Pay what you want to.

Premium: Additional \$50, or \$50+ for supporting

Prodigal Fan Discount: \$25 off attending if you
attended Corflu in at least three years

Do you know who saved the world? Was
Yngvi *really* a louse? Corflu is so smoooth?

If you're into fanzines, tradition, randomness, and fan history,
Corflu 36 is the place for you. Plus, you—yes, *you*—might
become our Guest of Honor, chosen by lot at the con*!

* Opt out available.

Random Jottings 15

Random Jottings 15, THE MAGIC MIMEOGRAPH ISSUE, is another in a series of progress reports for Corflu 36. Like the previous issue, it is available only in PDF form through the generosity of Bill Burns, both at efanzines.com/RandomJottings and at corflu.org (also home to previous progress reports). Edited by Michael Dobson and published by Timespinner Press, 8042 Park Overlook Drive, Bethesda, Maryland 20817-2724, 301-404-7439, editor@timespinnerpress.com. Issue 15, November 2018. © 2018 Timespinner Press, CC BY-SA 4.0.

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The Corflu 36 Committee

Michael Dobson	Chair
Curt Philips	Hospitality, FAAn Awards
Ted White	Programming
Patti Ross	Treasurer
Andy Hooper	Auction
Bill Burns	Webmaster
Rob Jackson	British Agent, Online Corflu
Elaine Stiles	Registration
Pat Virzi	Logo
Doc Morgan	Trophy Design

Editorial

THIS IS THE THIRD PROGRESS REPORT for Corflu 36, to be held May 2-5 in Rockville, Maryland. Most of this issue is a discussion of the FAAn Awards, including a preliminary ballot. In the next PR, you'll get a final version along with recommendations from one or more Fannish Authorities about the worthy products deserving of your vote.

There's an updated membership list, preliminary information about programming, and even a few letters.

Price Change. You'll note the rate rollback on page 2. Getting memberships matters more than getting another \$25, so if you mention "RJ15," you get the original membership rate of \$100 (\$75 prodigal fan) through January 31 of next year. Tell your friends.

Publicity and Promotion. The Philcon people contacted me and offered a 1/8-page program book ad for Corflu for only \$65. We'll see if we get any extra people from it.

I visited BSFS to promote Corflu and get local fannish interest. I'm not sure whether that accomplished much, but their clubhouse is really cool and I got to spend the evening with Steve and Elaine.

Publications. I have one contribution to the Fanthology in hand and promises of several others. I'll be following up with email

requests in the coming weeks, so think about what you want to submit.

The process is simple:

1. Pick a piece of fan writing (or fan art, for that matter) you particularly like. It can be by any person from any zine at any time.
2. Get permission if practical
3. Scan the original fanzine pages (high quality TIF or PDF, 300 dpi or better).
4. Write a brief introduction about why you chose the piece and what makes it good/important.
5. Send it to me.

Swag. All the good swag turns out to be too expensive, especially in the small quantities we'll need. There will be some physical memento of Corflu 36, whether it's a shirt or a print or a bheer glass, but the price will be set at breakeven or possibly a loss.

Next PR. I'll publish the FAAn Awards Official Ballot and Rules in early January. There's a rather extensive discussion of the awards and my intentions in the pages that follow, so if you're interested in the topic, be sure to read that section. If you don't care about the FAAn Awards at all, this will be a pretty short PR.

Cheers, Michael

The 2019 FAAn Awards

You Can't Spell "Award" Without War

TRUTH BE TOLD, I DON'T HAVE A VERY strong interest in the FAAN Awards. I'm not active enough or involved enough to be a decently knowledgeable voter; I get about six fanzines and am only religious about reading three of them. I don't publish often enough or distribute widely enough to be a contender, and I'm fine with that.

As Corflu chairman, I now find myself *ex officio* in charge of the awards. Originally, I had one objective, which was to have actual trophies for the winners. (More on this later.) Nic Farey, who did such an outstanding job the previous year, was to be in charge of the balloting and voting process, and Curt Phillips would be in charge of the presentation portion.

I did have one minor issue. I knew from several years' conversations that both Steve Stiles and Bill Burns had grown somewhat embarrassed by their string of wins, and had expressed an interest in being able to opt out. The possibility of a special award followed by future ineligibility was discussed. I assumed this would be easy enough to sort out.

This turns out not to be the case.

There are, in fact, a number of strong and principled objections to this, and there was quite a spirited discussion on the matter.

Would allowing certain frequent winners to opt out create a "Buggins' turn" feeling that whoever did win was really the second-place choice? Would manipulating the categories to avoid the automatic awards to Steve and Bill compromise the integrity of the awards? Is it appropriate to consider the feelings of the prospective awardees or should the awardees just accept the honor and move on?

Ultimately, we weren't able to come to an agreement that worked for everyone. Nic, a firm believer that the Corflu chair's preferences should carry the day, voluntarily stepped down as administrator.

While both Bill and Steve have said that they were okay with the status quo, I just couldn't support an award system that gave awards to people who didn't want them. At the same time, I don't want to ignore the very legitimate arguments and concerns raised by various people.

Categorical Imperatives

IF THE SAME PEOPLE WIN EVERY YEAR, there's something wrong. Either there isn't any competition in the category and the category should go away, or the category is badly drawn or confusing. I think there are different reasons why Steve and Bill have been winning so consistently.

With Steve, he has for the last several years been the most prolific fan artist by a wide margin. While there are a number of very talented artists in fandom, they haven't been particularly active in the last few years. Steve deserves his awards, but it's hardly meaningful without much competition.

In the case of Bill and efanzines.com, I think the problem is more that we are cramming the entirety of online fan activity into a single ballot category. News sites, archive sites, blogs, lists and groups, and general online activity are a large and growing part of contemporary fan activity.

These are the "Fan Activity Achievement Awards," not the "Fanzine Activity Achievement Awards." If that's the case, we should recognize fan activity wherever and however it takes place. So let's take a closer look at the awards.

The FAAn Awards Manifesto

THE FAAN AWARDS ARE A JOKE — but I mean that in a *good* way.

Jokes are an essential part of fannishness. We call them the FAAn Awards, a name no one can take seriously. We have a category named #1 Fan Face, for goodness sake. By the same token, Corflu is a joke. Other conventions recruit pros and BNFs to boost attendance; we pick our GoH by lot. We elect a past president of a nonexistent organization and treat it as a great honor. That's fannish.

While last year's award process was a masterpiece of administration, I remember a Corflu some years back in which I was

cornered by the awards administrator on Saturday night to fill out a ballot for the awards that were to be given out the following morning.

While I don't want to get *that* casual, I do see this sort of thing as part of the charm. Fans at our best don't take ourselves seriously; we spoof our own traditions; we have fun. This has always been the part of fandom that attracts me.

Does this mean we shouldn't take the awards seriously? Well, that depends on what you mean by "serious." One sense of the word "serious" is professionalism: taking pride in a good job, striving for excellence, making sure the work gets done, and putting thought and effort into it. That kind of seriousness is good.

Another sense of the word is how we ascribe value of things. Is this "serious" business or not? How "serious" is it? Of course, your ideas and mine on what constitutes "too serious" or the "wrong" kind of serious may differ, but we all recognize there's a problem when those ideas of "seriousness" get in the way of other values.

The FAAn Awards honor our achievements and ideally encourage others to improve or increase their own fanac. They don't quite constitute an enduring final critical judgment for the ages, which is why there's frequent discussion about the great fanac that was overlooked or the mediocre fanac that took the prize. Fortunately, there are other sources of egoboo, and in the end, excellence is eventually recognized, awards notwithstanding.

We have a tradition of standing tradition on its head, and that's the sort of tradition I can get behind.

What is "Fan Activity?"

WHEN I THINK ABOUT WHAT FANS actually do that constitutes "fanac," I think of several categories, each of which have numerous sub-groups.

Fanzines can be genzines, newszines, personal zines, one-shots and special publications, apazines, and special interest fanzines.

Writing includes articles, humor, and letters.

Art includes covers, illustrated articles, spot illustrations, cartoons, non-cartoons, other media (not necessarily in fanzines, like art shows or sculptures), and graphic design.

Fannish activities include convention work, working for fannish causes and charities, club participation, and simply being good company.

Online fannish activity can include hosting archives, running news sites, participating or leading groups and lists, blogging, and general online presence.

There's also a Lifetime Achievement Award, but that's decided by a Sekrit SMOF Group and isn't officially part of the FAAn Awards. I'm also planning a "We Wuz Robbed" Award for a product in the previous (say) five years that really should have gotten an award but was sadly overlooked.

All Categories Great and Small

TO BRING THIS DOWN TO A MORE manageable size, we will give both trophies and certificates. Trophies will be given for the main categories, with certificates for winners of subcategories. You will list your choice for each subcategory, plus give a vote to whatever you think is, for example, the best fanzine of the year, regardless of subcategory. Essentially, you have two votes for overall best plus a single vote each for as many of the subcategories as you chose to vote for.

Subcategory winners get a certificate. Whatever gets the most total votes for the entire category gets the best fanzine award.

Unlike in previous years, you'll only write one item per category or subcategory. While the number of categories grows substantially, having only one entry per line means the burden of tabulation should be about the same. Frankly, I can't see much value in a top-three listing here; that approach would make more sense if there were a nominating round that narrowed the final choices.

A little later, I'll go through this in detail, and show you a sample ballot.

Isn't That Special?

ONE PROPOSAL TO HANDLE THE BILL and Steve situations is that we give a Special Award to each of them, which would make them ineligible in the future to win in their respective categories.

There was strong objection to this idea in our discussion. Instead of a Best Fan Artist category, we would essentially have a Best Fan Artist Who Isn't Steve Stiles Award.

In Steve's case, there's some justification for going this route anyway, because he so dominates the category at the present time that there really isn't any other serious contender. Moving him out of the category means that we can recognize other worthy fan artists who just don't happen to match Steve's prodigious output.

With Bill, as mentioned earlier, I think the problem is different. There's a lot of online fanac worthy of recognition, but dumping everything into a single catchall category leads to people making the easy default choice. More categories will result in many more potential winners, and I don't think Bill will be as much of an automatic shoo-in as he's been in the past.

Still, I think it's important to recognize the preferences of those involved. If Bill and Steve want to be considered for a Special Award, that's enough reason for me to do so. However, the FAAn Award voters should have a say as well, so I'm going to put the question on the ballot and let you make the final decision.

If "For" wins, Steve or efanzines.com would still be eligible for a certificate in particular subcategories, but someone else would win the overall category trophy. If "Against" wins, all "For" votes would be counted toward the category trophy, so you wouldn't waste the vote either way.

By the way, another objection raised to the Special Award idea is that some people

might be eligible but not want one. That's why the first requirement for a Special Award is that you have to want one.

Campaign Contributions

BECAUSE CAMPAIGNING HAS BEEN historically frowned upon, I say let's encourage it instead! There's nothing wrong, in my view, with those of you who have strong opinions about quality work sharing those opinions.

Rather than publish a list of eligible 2018 products and people, I plan to publish a voter's guide. If you'd like to write up your recommendations and why they're so good, I'll publish them.

Voter information is good. As I said, I personally don't read lots of fanzines, so I really don't know the best of the year. With good recommendations, I'm more likely to check out a few things I might otherwise have missed.

A Laurel and Hearty Handshake

WHAT'S AN AWARD WITHOUT A TROPHY? Aside from the generous cash prize, eternal glory and the adulation of millions, I mean.

Providing actual trophies for FAAn Award winners was one of the first objectives I set for Corflu 36, but as is often the case, the project turned out to be a bit more difficult than I thought. There are numerous cheap trophies available, but none with a stellar or fanish quality. At higher price points, you can get some nice things, but a custom trophy

could easily run a few hundred dollars. I looked for alternatives: I found a rocket-shaped lava lamp (take that, Hugoes!), but it still looked cheesy. Then Bill Burns told me about Shapeways (www.shapeways.com).

Shapeways is a commercial 3-D printing service. Upload the design file and select your preferred material, with options ranging from plastic to platinum. Once you're in the system, ordering new trophies for each year is a matter of a few clicks. The cost (not counting design charges) is relatively modest, and it's possible to have exactly what you want.

And what should the trophy be? In the fannish spirit, it seems to me that it should be a mimeograph. Not just any mimeograph, but the Magic Mimeograph, you know, the one with the true fan at the handle. In *The Enchanted Duplicator*, it's an old, beat-up mimeo sitting on a cube of gold. That means it would consist of two pieces: a gold-colored cube with a small hole on top and a gray mimeograph with a little post at the bottom that would fit in the hole.

Unfortunately, I don't know anything about 3-D printing, but this is, after all, fandom. If you need to know something obscure, there's a fan somewhere who's an expert in it. In our case, it's Toronto fan Doc Morgan. Doc is working on the final design, and we've got plenty of time to get everything done.



And the Mimeo Goes To...

IN THE CASE OF THE HUGO AWARDS, both the trophy and the awards have the same name. In the case of the Academy Awards, however, there's a difference: the awards are the Academy Awards but the trophy is called the Oscar. I think we should adopt something similar for the FAAn Awards.

As noted, while calling them "FAAn Awards" works within our little hobby, no one outside the in crowd can possibly take the name seriously. (I presume "FAAn Awards" is pronounced with the bleat sound, like "faan.") If the trophy is the Mimeo (or Magic Mimeo), then it would be equally acceptable to call the awards by either name. Personally, I'd sooner say I won a Mimeo than a FAAn Award — not that I will win either of them — but the choice is up to you.

Voting Process

THERE'S A SAMPLE BALLOT ON THE NEXT page. While there may be some fine tuning before the official release, you can start thinking about who you're going to vote for now. If you would like to share your ideas (see "Campaign Contributions"), fill out the ballot, write some commentary, and send it to me to be published in the next PR. I'll share all recommendations received.

There are 5 major categories, for which the winners will get a Magic Mimeo. Within each major category there are subcategories, and winners of subcategories will receive a certificate. (You can win a Mimeo and also get one or more certificates.)

For each major category and subcategory, you can vote for one person, group, or product (as appropriate) of your choice, as long as the person did fanac in that category at some point during 2018.

For each subcategory, the top vote-getter wins the certificate and gets five bonus points toward the major prize. (Example: If Roscoe Q. Fakefan gets 20 direct votes for Best Fan Writer and also wins the Best Humorist subcategory, he gets a total of 25 votes.

Category Definitions

MOST OF THE CATEGORIES SHOULD BE self-explanatory, and if they're not, you're free to interpret them within reason.

The basic requirement for all categories and subcategories, as noted earlier, is that the

person/group/product for which you vote has to have done fanac of that type during 2018, except for the Award for Unrecognized Achievement.

I don't have the knowledge, the time, or the desire to compile an exhaustive list of who and what is eligible, so unless your vote is obviously bogus (*Hyphen* for Best Fanzine), I'll count it. After all, just because someone didn't publish a fanzine in 2018 doesn't mean it isn't a current fanzine. I've gone 32 years between issues, myself.

I've done the best I could in thinking of subcategories, but I'm sure there are legitimate categories I haven't considered. Please feel free to suggest additions or alterations.

Best Fanzine. What's a genzine? What's a perzine? Use your best judgment. For example, I've never thought of *Random Jottings* as a perzine, but that's how it's been classified in the past. If one person thinks it's a perzine and someone else considers it a genzine or even a special publication (or given that I sent it through two apas, an apazine), it's okay with me and I'll count the votes in whatever category they're received.

Special publications can be completely stand-alone or can be a numbered issue of a fanzine (*e.g. Warhoon 28*).

Special Award for Achievement in Fan Art. If you vote FOR this award, don't also vote for Steve in the Achievement in Fan Art category. If FOR wins, Steve will be henceforth ineligible to win future Fan Art awards, although he can still win certificates.

2019 Fan Activity Achievement Awards Sample Ballot

BEST FANZINE _____

BEST GENZINE _____

BEST PERZINE _____

BEST SPECIAL PUBLICATION _____

BEST NEWSZINE _____

BEST APAZINE _____

BEST SPECIAL INTEREST FANZINE _____

BEST FAN WRITER _____

BEST HUMORIST _____

BEST SERIOUS WRITER _____

BEST FAN HISTORIAN _____

BEST LETTERHACK _____

SPECIAL AWARD TO STEVE STILES FOR
ACHIEVEMENT IN FAN ART

FOR _____ AGAINST _____

ACHIEVEMENT IN FAN ART _____

BEST COVER _____

BEST INTERIOR ILLUSTRATOR _____

BEST PORTFOLIO _____

BEST PHOTOGRAPHER _____

BEST DIGITAL ART _____

BEST GRAPHIC DESIGN _____

#1 FAN FACE _____

CONVENTION WORK _____

WORK FOR FAN CAUSES _____

SERVICES TO THE HOBBY _____

GOOD COMPANY _____

SPECIAL AWARD TO BILL BURNS/
EFANZINES.COM FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN
ONLINE FANDOM

FOR _____ AGAINST _____

ONLINE ACHIEVEMENT _____

ARCHIVES AND RESOURCES _____

NEWS AND INFORMATION _____

BEST GROUP OR LIST _____

BEST BLOGGER _____

BEST ONLINE PRESENCE _____

AWARD FOR UNRECOGNIZED FAN
ACHIEVEMENT ('WE WUZ ROBBED') _____

If AGAINST wins, all FOR votes will be counted as votes for Steve toward the Fan Art Mimeo.

If you vote AGAINST, but you still think Steve should get a regular Fan Art Mimeo, vote for him in the Achievement in Fan Art category as normal.

Achievement in Fan Art. The Fan Art category now includes photography, digital art, and graphic design.

Cover art and interior illustrations are separate categories. A portfolio is a multi-page collection of art by the same artist, whether published as a stand-alone work or as a fanzine article. The art pieces can be stand-alone, or can constitute a comic story.

The best graphic design award is for a product, but is awarded to a person. If you choose Roscoe Q. Fakefan's design of the fanzine *Whazzap*, write *Whazzap (Roscoe Q. Fakefan)* on the ballot.

#1 Fan Face. This has historically been a meta award, combining votes from all categories. This year, the category covers in-person fan activity, from convention work to just being good company. However, to keep at least some tradition intact, #1 Fan Face will get five bonus points for every subcategory won across the board, and ten bonus points for every Magic Mimeo.

Special Award for Achievement in Online Fandom. This is a special award for Bill Burns/efanzines.com. Like with the Steve Stiles Award, if FOR wins, efanzines.com will

no longer be eligible for the Online Achievement Award. If AGAINST wins, FOR votes will be counted as votes toward the Online Achievement Mimeo.

If you vote FOR, don't vote for efanzines for Online Achievement, though you may vote for it in the appropriate subcategory.

Online Achievement. Subcategories cover the range of online activity. *Archives and resources* include sites like efanzines, the Internet Speculative Fiction Database, and other repositories of fannish or sf/fnal information.

News and information sites are eligible even if they also offer a fanzine-style publication in either print or PDF form. If it's mostly a fanzine-formatted news publication, vote for it in the Best Newszine category; if it's primarily an online blog, vote for them here; if they offer both versions, you can vote for them both places.

Groups and lists might include Facebook groups like FAANEDS, public or limited-access groups like InTheBar. Don't vote for lists that are supposed to be secret.

Bloggers can include people who do a lot of fannish content on Facebook or other platforms, but this is mostly intended for those who write a semi-regular blog.

Best Online Presence is sort of like Best Letterhack, in that it recognizes people who not only do their own thing but also participate on other sites or in public forums.

Award for Unrecognized Fan Achievement. If it was published in 2018, it

is *not* eligible in this category. Instead, think of something that came out in the last five or so years that in your opinion *should* have won an award but didn't.

If no single item receives at least 20% of the total vote, then the award will be a certificate rather than a Mimeo.

I Hate It With the Heat of a Thousand Suns

DRAFT VERSIONS OF THIS HAVE BEEN sent around, but there's still time to make changes. A number of the details (especially the list of potential categories) are easy to modify, and I would really value your suggestions. Ideas on how best to administer this, or tweaks to the idea are also welcome. If you can think of additional categories in the graphics category, that would be particularly welcome.

If you think I need to provide additional detail on anything, let me know and I'll make the changes before the official ballot is released in January.

If you think this is a terrible idea and should be stopped, I'm willing to consider alternatives. I'm not willing to accept a solution that leaves the noncompetitive category problem unresolved. I prefer solutions that increase egoboo and recognition, and solutions that simplify administration. If you'd prefer to take this over and do it yourself, let me know, as long as my first condition is met.

There's not a tremendous downside to this. No matter what, my administration lasts

only a single year, and the next Corflu committee gets to decide what to do next.

Membership Rate Rollback

AS OF DECEMBER 1, WE HAVE 52 members, 42 of which are attending. I need 60 attending to break even because of the room block guarantee, so if you are (or know someone who is) planning to come but haven't registered yet, please do so.

Currently, the attending rate is US\$125, with a \$25 "Prodigal Fan" discount for anyone who hasn't been at any of the last three Corflus. Frankly, the rate increase was a way to encourage registration rather than a need for the extra \$25, so if you mention "RJ15" when you pay, you can still have the pre-September membership rate of \$100. Supporting members still pay whatever you like, and it's all appreciated.

There are a lot of people who *should* be at Corflu who for various reasons don't come. If you know someone in that category, please drop them an email or give them a call and mention the discount. Remember, the more people who come, the better the convention!

Finance and Auction

ASIDE FROM MY WORRIES ABOUT meeting the room block guarantee, we're in good financial shape. This is in large part due to Andy Hooper, who has managed to sell off a significant portion of my fanzine collection (such as it is) through eBay. Thanx and a great big tip o' the Hatlo Hat to Mr. Hooper.

Membership and Hotel

The Roll of Honor

1	Ted White	Attending	40	Steve Jeffery*	Attending
2	Michael Dobson	Attending	41	Alan Rosenthal	Attending
3	Colin Hinz	Attending	42	Jeanne Bowman	Attending
4	Catherine Crockett	Attending	43	Pat Charnock	Supporting
5	Nigel Rowe	Attending	44	Bruce Newrock	Attending
6	Tom Becker	Attending	45	Flo Newrock	Attending
7	Spike	Attending	46	Keith Lynch	Attending
8	Sandra Bond	Attending	47	Nic Farey	Supporting
9	Rob Jackson	Attending	48	Colleen Brown	Attending
10	Geri Sullivan	Attending	49	Leonard Stockman	Attending
11	Murray Moore	Attending	50	Dan Joy	Attending
12	Mark Olson	Attending	51	Gordon Eklund	Attending
13	Deborah Dobson	Attending	52	Doc Morgan	Supporting
14	Edie Stern	Attending			
15	Joe Siclari	Attending			
16	Ken Forman	Attending			
17	Robert Lichtman	Supporting			
18	Pat Virzi	Attending			
19	Jay Kinney	Attending			
20	R-Laurraine Tutihasi	Supporting			
21	Claire Brialey	Supporting			
22	Mark Plummer	Supporting			
23	Dixie Kinney	Supporting			
24	Gregory Benford	Attending			
25	Curt Philips	Attending			
26	Steve Stiles	Attending			
27	Elaine Stiles	Attending			
28	Rich Coad	Attending			
29	Ian Sorensen	Attending			
30	Mary Ellen Moore	Attending			
31	Frank Lunney	Attending			
32	Jeff Schalles	Attending			
33	Jerry Kaufman	Supporting			
34	Suzanne Tompkins	Supporting			
35	Jim Benford	Attending			
36	Andy Hooper	Attending			
37	Carrie Root	Attending			
38	Mary Burns	Attending			
39	Bill Burns	Attending			

* Steve Jeffery is our Corflu 50 winner.
Congratulations, Steve!

Hotel

AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, THE ONLY significant worry I have is for the room block guarantee. For Thursday and Sunday, the number is relatively low, but I need 40 people staying over Friday and Saturday nights or else I have to pay for the unsold rooms. One of those rooms I've already decided will be added to the consuite, but for the rest, the more of you who stay in the hotel and the earlier you book, the better. See last issue for the booking link or drop me an email.

It is a lovely facility, brand new and in a restaurant-filled neighborhood, so you'll enjoy yourself, especially at the super-low (for this area, anyway) rate of \$109/night.

If you are planning to come in for the pre-Corflu activities or want to stay over extra days, my hotel contact says she'll be able to arrange a discount rate (though not the \$109 bargain) if the booking is done through her. Contact me to make arrangements.

Program and Activities

Pre-Corflu

THE FINAL PROGRAM ISN'T FINALIZED, of course, but we do have some pre-Corflu activities lined up for those who want to come in a few days ahead.

In addition to these, we may also have a battlefield tour (both Antietam and Gettysburg are within driving distance) and possibly a downtown Smithsonian tour. I suspect my own schedule will be a little tight, so I won't be able to do an Air & Space Museum tour. Any volunteers?

Wednesday. Baltimore is only an hour or so away, and Steve and Elaine Stiles have agreed to show you the city. Baltimore has excellent museums (my personal favorite is the Walters Art Gallery), historic attractions (Fort McHenry, the USS *Constellation*), and lots of good restaurants. You'll learn why people say "Virginia is for lovers, but Maryland is for crabs!"

Have something special you'd like to see or do in Baltimore? Send an email to Steve and Elaine.

Wednesday evening. I live about 20 minutes from the convention hotel, and will throw a party Wednesday evening. Details to follow.

Thursday. Colleen Brown spent many years working for the Smithsonian's National Museum of American Art, located off the Mall in the Gallery Place/Chinatown neighborhood, and is offering a guided tour. In addition to NMAA, there's the National Portrait Gallery, the International Spy Museum, and lots of great restaurants.

Corflu

THE HOSPITALITY SUITE WILL OPEN Thursday evening, with the official convention starting early Friday evening with our opening ceremonies and selection of the Guest of Honor. The standard opt-out fee of \$20 will apply for those who don't want the "honor;" the money will go to buy a special gift for the one selected.

Regular programming will take place on Saturday, with evening activities following dinner. On Sunday, bring your appetite, because we'll have lots of tasty crottled greeps and other culinary delicacies.

Given that we pay for the program room for all day Sunday, I'm considering bringing playing cards and boardgames for those interested.

Letters

Lloyd Penney

Thank you for *Random Jottings* 14, otherwise known as Corflu 36's PR2. Something 48 pages long has GOT to have something in it to write a loca about? You'd think? Well? Guess I'll find out.

Well, Corflu 36 is looking good, and it looks like you're getting lots of members, saw something from Bill Burns on e-mail earlier today. Looks like you're heavy on the organization, and I hope you can find someone for all the positions on the committee. You're looking for attending interest? Some here, but guaranteed there will not be any money available for me to go. I still cannot find work in Toronto, so cash is a rarity right now. I will say a firm no right now, so that I am not tempted to spend money I don't have. (Well, if I can scrape up a few bucks, perhaps a supporting membership, but no promises.)

A huge quiz, which was at the Toronto Corflu...I didn't even try. I went home both Friday and Saturday nights at Corflu 35. You know, I've been to three of these now... perhaps it's just not for me.

Anyway...lately, we've become horrible hucksters, selling costume jewelry and Hawaiian shirts, and we've been doing more of it, and we're making a nice buck. Perhaps we need more of that.

But by all means, keep the PRs coming out, and I promise a loc each time. We will see you with the next one.

Robert Lichtman

I love the fanthology concept and will definitely provide something. Maybe several items depending on time and energy. Good that you'll accept multiple contributions from the same person.

Corflu swag: Could be interested in single beer mug. Not sure about polo shirt. Both of those kinda depend on what the graphic is. Definitely interested in Stiles print.

Don't know where Andy got his information, but Joe Kennedy's *Green Thoughts* #2 was published in March 1950. How do I know this with such precision? The usual way: I have a copy.

Murray Moore

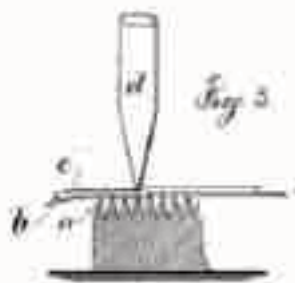
Of the off-site options, in order, both of us, Baltimore, Washington, and third, battlefield (me). We explored Antietam on the drive to World Fantasy, several years ago, but I would go again if the others in the vehicle are congenial.

What dates do the con hotel rate begin and end?

Perhaps an off-site activity, Chopping Wood with Ted?

[The reservations cut-off date is April 3, 2019. Of course, early booking is strongly encouraged. MSD]

T. A. EDISON.
Method of Preparing Autographic Stencils for Printing.
No. 224,665. Patented Feb. 17, 1880.



Witnesses
Chas. H. Smith
Geo. D. Pinckney

Inventor
Thos. A. Edison
for L. W. Pearell
att'y

3-224,665-1-1

INTRODUCTION

Random Jottings #16 (The Last Dangerous Corflu 36 Progress Report)

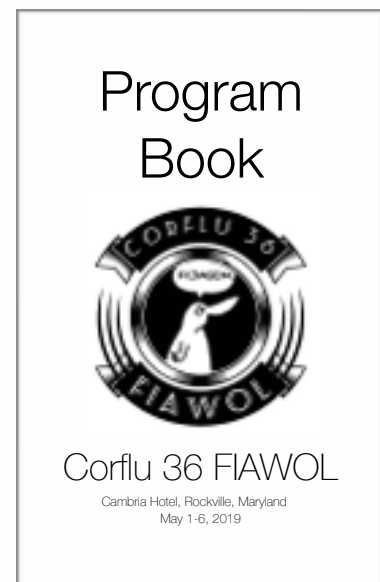
As the convention grew ever closer, I started to feel a time crunch. The Federal government shutdown in January 2019 meant that the seminars I was scheduled to teach that month were postponed, and several weeks I had left clear for Corflu business suddenly got swallowed up. On top of that, I got a jury duty summons.

While I could have gotten a postponement of jury duty, I decided to take the risk. Montgomery County, Maryland, has a one-day/one-trial system. If you don't get selected for a jury the day you're called, it's all over. You get a number on your summons, and the night before you're supposed to report you call this phone number and find out if your number is called. I had a number in the 500s, so I felt pretty safe. If I did get called in, I was unlikely to get on a jury (I've had five or six jury summonses over the years and haven't gotten on a jury yet), and if I did, I could probably arrange to be disqualified. "Yes, your honor, I'm already certain the defendant is guilty." Still, it was a nervous weekend until I found out for sure that I had dodged that particular bullet.

I had divided the remaining work into a small pile of "must-do" items and a larger pile of stuff that would be nice but not essential. One remaining item was the program book. As I collected information for the issue, I realized that I had most of what I'd have put in a program book anyway, so I decided this would do double-duty as the Corflu 36 Program Book, as it did provide lots of useful information on getting to the hotel from various airports. I discovered later that some GPS units didn't recognize the hotel address (it was on a recently built street). I did check that both Google Maps and Apple Maps had the correct hotel information, and I navigated there several times using it. That being said, I usually enter the hotel name rather than the street address, which often gives better results.

Shortly before the convention, though, I received Andy Hooper's auction catalog and decided at the last minute to do a program book. It's not reprinted in this volume, but I've asked Bill Burns to add it to the Corflu 36 archive site for the completists among us.

The standout contribution in this issue is Curt Phillips's "Hospitality Suite Questionnaire." I strongly recommend that future Corflu committees use this (Rob Jackson echoes that recommendation). In fact, one of my biggest "lessons learned" was that I should have done one for the rest of the con.



Random Jottings

Issue 16

April 2019



The Last Dangerous
Corflu 36 Progress
Report

Random Jottings 16

The Last Dangerous Corflu 36 Progress Report

Random Jottings is an irregularly published personal magazine by Michael Dobson for The Canal Press. This issue is doing double duty as the fourth and last progress report for Corflu 36, only three weeks away at the time of writing. The Corflu issues of *Random Jottings* are only available as PDFs, and can be found either on efanzines.com/RandomJottings or corflu.org. Copyright 2019 Michael Dobson, CC BY-SA 4.0. Contact: editor@timespinnerpress.com.

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You Really Should Read This (and Bring It With You to the Convention)

This is the last progress report before Corflu, and includes a lot of information that would normally be part of a program book. I recommend you print out a copy and take it with you, as it's got a lot of information that may be helpful to you as you travel and once you get to the convention.

Convention Details

Dates: Corflu FIAWOL will be held Thursday May 2nd through Sunday May 5th 2019 in Rockville, Maryland.

Hotel: The hotel is the Cambria Hotels & Suites, located at 1 Helen Heneghan Way, Rockville MD 20850.

Membership: Officially, it's \$150, with a \$25 "prodigal fan" discount if you haven't been to Corflu in at least three years. However, I'm lowering it to \$100 and \$75 if you're a "prodigal fan." Having another person join us at Corflu is worth a lot more than \$50.

News: For up-to-date convention information, join the Corflu 36 group on Facebook or visit corflu.org. I'll send an email blast on any important news.

Transportation

We're looking forward to seeing you in just a few short weeks. When you arrive in DC, you can get to the Cambria via rental car (parking is free for hotel guests; \$15/day otherwise, though there are

cheaper options nearby), taxi/Uber/Lyft, or the Metro system.

Here's how to get to the hotel via public transportation from the three major DC area airports. See page 4 for a map of DC's Metrorail system.

FROM NATIONAL AIRPORT (DCA). The Metro station is directly connected to the B and C terminals, and is served by the YELLOW and BLUE lines. Take a YELLOW line train to Gallery Place. (Take the escalator labeled SHADY GROVE to end up on the right side of the tracks.) Take the RED line train to Rockville, which is two blocks from the hotel, and follow the map below.

FROM DULLES (IAD): Construction of the Metro hasn't yet reached the airport, but you can take the Silver Line Express Bus from IAD to the SILVER line Wiehle-Reston East Station. (\$5; purchase tickets at the counter inside Arrival Door 4, Baggage Claim level). Take the SILVER LINE to Metro Center, and transfer to the RED line. Take the RED train to Rockville, two blocks from the hotel, and follow the map above.

FROM BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON (BWI): This airport is significantly farther away, but sometimes it'll offer the cheapest fare. If you have a car, getting to Rockville isn't difficult, but your public transportation options are limited. This article lists the various options: <https://freetoursbyfoot.com/transportation-bwi-airport-washington-d-c/>. If you take MARC to Union Station, you can get on the RED line in the



direction of Shady Grove and get to Rockville without a further change of trains. If you take the Metrobus option (no weekend service), you'll get on the GREEN line at Greenbelt. Take the GREEN train to Gallery Place, transfer to the RED line toward Shady Grove, and get off at Rockville. Either way, follow the map above.

BY CAR: GPS will guide you to the hotel better than I can. If you're a hotel guest, the parking garage next to the hotel is free; otherwise it's \$15/night. Here's a

link to other Rockville Town Center parking options; there's also street parking: <http://rockvilletownsquare.com/parking/parking-faq/>.

Registration

Informal early registration will be available Wednesday evening at my house (see program section) and Thursday evening in the consuite. Formal registration will open Friday around 4PM and run until a little after 6. The registration table will be in the lobby area near the front desk. On Saturday, there will be a registration table outside the function room; it will open around 11:30a and run until late afternoon. It will likely close for a late lunch and for program events. Informal registration will then return to the consuite.

At next year's Corflu, we'll have a Corflu 36 memory book, so we'll take your picture at registration.

The Convention Neighborhood (and Restaurant List)

The Cambria Hotel is located in Rockville Town Center, a mixed use district designed to look like an old-fashioned downtown. Within a few blocks, there are around 27 restaurants, an upscale food market, and numerous bars, including next door's The World of Beer.

On the next page an overall map of Rockville Town Center along with a map showing the route from the Metro station to the hotel. For complete information on what's there, visit their website at <http://rockvilletownsquare.com>.

As far as restaurants are concerned, here's a list of options within no more than four or five blocks from the hotel,

each with a link. I've eaten at Gordon Biersch (brew pub), Golden Samovar (Russian, not impressive), La Canela (Peruvian, excellent), Lebanese Taverna (local area chain, excellent), and Spice Xing (Indian in a modern environment, decent). Dawson's Market is a Whole Foods-type store.

Restaurants in Walking Distance

Click the links for more details on each restaurant option.

- [BAR LOUIE](#)
- [BERRY CUP](#)
- [BONCHON CHICKEN](#)
- [BUFFALO WILD WINGS](#)
- [DAWSON'S MARKET CAFE - NOW OPEN!](#)
- [FINNEGAN'S WAKE IRISH PUB](#)
- [FIRST WATCH](#)
- [FIVE GUYS FAMOUS BURGERS & FRIES](#)
- [GOLDEN SAMOVAR - NOW OPEN!](#)
- [GORDON BIERSCHE](#)
- [LA CANELA](#)
- [LA TASCA](#)
- [LEBANESE TAVERNA CAFE](#)
- [MARBLE SLAB CREAMERY](#)
- [MR SMOOTHIE](#)
- [PETER CHANG](#)
- [SPICE XING](#)
- [STARBUCKS COFFEE](#)
- [SUSHI DAMO](#)
- [THAI PAVILION](#)
- [VIE DE FRANCE](#)

Not listed is **Giuseppi's Pizza**, about a block and a half away. We'll be bringing in their pizza for Sunday night.

The Cambria has a bar/restaurant, **The Social Circle**, next to the front desk. We'll be holding our Friday night opening ceremonies there. They serve breakfast and dinner (no lunch) and have a bar in the afternoon and evening. There are links to their menus on their [website](#).

Hospitality Suite (and Questionnaire)

Our current rough plan for hospitality suite hours is:

- **Thursday** 6pm - late
- **Friday** 6:30p - late (the opening ceremony takes place in the Social Circle beginning at 6p, and the hospitality suite will open up immediately thereafter.
- **Saturday** 8a - 11:30a, with some light breakfast foods; closed for the afternoon programming period.
- **Saturday** 3:30p - late (we'll open after the auction begins, and may close during the two Saturday evening program items)
- **Sunday** 8a - 11:30a, light breakfast before the brunch banquet.
- **Sunday** 3:00p - late, after the banquet. Pizza planned for the evening.

Curt Phillips writes:

I'm about to start spending Corflu's money on consumables for the consuite, and would like to ask your input.

Ignore questions that don't pertain to you, or don't interest you, and feel free to elaborate as much as you like. Email me at Absarka_prime@comcast.net. Could every Corflu attendee who can please tell me:

1) What kind of soft drink - if any - do you prefer?

2) What kind of beer - if any - do you prefer?

3) Shall I get other beverages for the consuite for you and if so, what kind? Water? Milk? Coffee? Tea? please be specific. (There will be some of all of these, but stating your preferences will help me know what quantities to buy.)

I will bring an electric kettle for boiling water, a teapot (a proper teapot, says Liz...) and the fixings for those beverages.

4) For coffee, all rooms at the Cambria have Keurig machines. They give you a couple of pods per day for free and sell others in the little shop by the front desk. We'll have a couple of boxes of Keurig pods on hand so you can drink as much coffee as you like.

5) What brand of tea do you prefer? Milk and sugar will be available. Do you want anything else with your tea? Do you want herbal teas?

6) I won't be buying any hard liquor with Corflu funds¹, but if any of you would like to bring some of your favorite to share around, the consuite will be happy to have you do that. We'll provide

¹ *Michael adds:* If someone is interested in organizing a hard liquor tasting to go along with the beer and wine sessions, we might be persuaded to change our minds.

some of those classy cheap plastic "glasses" and ice. Need anything else?

There will be a wine tasting hosted by Spike and a beer tasting hosted by Geri. Contact them for details. You are invited to bring contributions of spirits for both these events. I'll be bringing some of a local beer made here in my home town. No idea what it tastes like as I don't drink, but I'm bringing it anyway.

7) Any other beverage related questions or issues?

8) There is a wide variety of restaurants surrounding the Corflu hotel and their number is legion. Even so I'm planning a pizza feeding in the consuite for Sunday afternoon/evening (time:TBA). Exactly what kind of pizza do *you* like? No guarantees, but I'll try to have something for everyone.

9) What do you normally eat for breakfast? I'm thinking that it would be good to have something basic available for a breakfast snack in the mornings, but what that will be depends on your answers. I'm not allowed to "cook" in the consuite, but let's see what I can come up with for those of us who'd like a little something in the morning and who don't want to go out that early.

10) Specific suggestions for those "breakfast snacks"?

11) What kind of general snacks do you like? Be as specific as possible, multiple suggestions welcome. I've got a shopping list of snacks already but I want to provide what *you* want provided. So tell me. What snacks would you like to see

provided? What snacks are you sick of seeing in consuites?

12) Liz is sending some of her home made salsa, some cookies and maybe other things. Would *you* like to bring something in the realm of snack foods to donate to the consuite, homemade or otherwise? If so, what will you bring? Cakes? Pies? Crottled Greeps?

13) There is no Question 13.

14) This one is serious, and you should feel free to answer it privately to me. Do you have any food allergies of the kind that would impair your breathing? It would be a good idea to tell me if you do. I'm an RN and an EMT, Rob J. is a Doctor, and we may have others at the con with medical training who would help in an emergency, but we'd like to know about allergies in advance. Please respond by email to me at Absarka_prime@comcast.net and your response will be considered confidential.

In that same vein, do you have any other medical conditions you'd like to tell me about? For example, do you have a heart condition that requires you to carry nitroglycerin, and if so where do you carry it? That sort of thing. Again, confidentiality will be maintained.

15) What other related questions should I have thought to ask as pertains to the consuite, and what are your answers?

Curt Phillips
Head Fry Cook & Dishwasher
Corflu FIAWOL

Programming

Details of the program are firming up, but not everything is finalized. Please check the pocket program in your membership packet.

Program items are subdivided, into the Pre-Corflu events (trips to Baltimore, a party, Gallery Place, and the Mall), the formal Corflu program, running from the opening ceremonies through the banquet's end, and Post-Corflu, which is primarily the Antietam trip.

The Baltimore, Gallery Place, and Antietam trips all have tour leaders in charge. If you're interested in them, you need to contact the individual organizers directly.

Pre-Corflu Events

Wednesday May 1

Daytime: WELCOME TO BALTIMORE, HUN!

Join Steve and Elaine Stiles for a day touring Baltimore, Maryland, around an hour north of the Cambria. From Ft. McHenry to Harborplace, from the American Visionary Art Museum to historic Ft. McHenry, Baltimore is a great city to visit. To be part of this day, contact Steve (stevecartoon2001@gmail.com) and/or Elaine Stiles (emstiles@comcast.net) for details.

Steve writes:

After a quite busy month of March, working on a very involved and never ending accursed freelance gig, plus

preliminary stabs at trying to get our backyard into some kind of order for Spring, it's about that time to start planning for the May 1st Corflu Baltimore tour. Gulp.

I imagine the tour will be like herding cats.

Coincidentally, just after I decided to get on the dime with this last night, I received an e-mail from Rob Jackson, who, along with Steve Jeffrey, wants to be in on the tour. Rob may also be in a position to provide transportation. (Let Rob know at robjackson60@gmail.com if you need a ride.)

First question: Who wants to go.

Second question: Where to?

If there's six of us with six different desired destinations, that presents a problem; I think it would be most practical to aim for a major tourist spot in B'More, the Inner Harbor which has many items of interest within easy distance of each other. I'll list them shortly.

Elaine suggests that we might consider everyone using light rail (\$2.10 for a day pass) instead of trying to park in the Inner Harbor area, or parking in a garage & splitting the cost of it among everyone on the tour.

We've also got to decide when and where to assemble.

First, the link to the **Inner Harbor** itself, which is nice to stroll around in and there are many mall eateries: <https://baltimore.org/article/baltimore-inner-harbor>

And the items of interest in that area:

American Visionary Arts Museum:
\$13.95 for seniors. Unusual, bizarre, eccentric: <http://www.avam.org>

Babe Ruth Museum: Donations.
<https://baberuthmuseum.org/babe-ruth-birthplace-museum/>

B&O Railroad Museum: \$17.00.
Really great. <http://www.borail.org>

Constellation & Torsk: \$13.00
http://www.historicships.org/plan_visit.html²

Maryland Science Center: \$23.95
<https://www.mdsci.org>

And finally, there's the **National Aquarium:** <https://www.aqua.org> I've left this for last since it's the most expensive, around \$35.

Near the Inner Harbor there are other attractions. The nearest, about three miles away, is **Fort McHenry:** <https://www.nps.gov/fomc/index.htm>

Entrance fee is \$15.00. This monument to the War of 1812 and "The Star Spangled Banner" is of personal interest to me since an ancestor of mine, Captain George Stiles, set up the artillery placement. Legend has it that he was the

first man to fire on the approaching evil British fleet!

The Maryland Zoo: <https://www.marylandzoo.org> One of our members has expressed interest in seeing the zoo. Senior admission is \$ 18.99. Non-senior: \$25.99 (BTW, under 65 prices for most of these places is usually one or two dollars more).

The Baltimore Museum of Art:
<https://artbma.org> First class. Free, unless you want to see their current new exhibit on surrealism, which is \$13.00 for seniors. Probably a good idea to reserve tickets in advance.

The Walters Art Museum:
<https://thewalters.org> Also first class. Excellent exhibits of Chinese and Japanese art. Admission free. (*Michael adds*, I love their armory.)

Someone is bound to ask about the **Edgar Allen Poe Museum**; alas, it's CLOSED on Wednesdays!

Well, this is a start on things and I hope plans will solidify as we go along. This is a first time experience for Elaine and I, herding cats... er, fans, so we need feedback, especially how many Corfluans

² *Michael adds:* My wife Debbie's great-great grandfather William Schwartz was the sergeant of marines aboard the USS *Constellation* during its Mediterranean cruise from 1855 to 1858. He also took the first known war photographs during the Mexican-American War and made \$25,000 during the California Gold Rush (which he subsequently lost). During his career, he wrote numerous letters, which I've published as a *Timespinner Press* book. (And while we're on the subject, the commander of Ft. McHenry, George Armistead, was the brother of my 5th generation great-grandmother, Marie Armistead Tyler, wife of the governor of Virginia and mother of the 10th US president.)



"The Throne of the Third Heaven of the Nation's Millennium General Assembly," by James Hampton, in the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

to expect, and we'll try to get things settled on how to proceed before May 1st.

Evening: COLLATING PARTY AT MICHAEL DOBSON'S HOUSE!

Michael lives less than 20 minutes away from the Cambria (8042 Park Overlook Drive, Bethesda, Maryland). Join us for drinks and eats from 6pm on. We should still be open when the Baltimore crowd gets back.

Please let me know if you're coming so I'll have proper quantities of food & drink on hand.

In fine fannish tradition, I'm going to ask for help collating and stuffing the registration envelopes.

Thursday May 2 Daytime

Daytime: GALLERY PLACE AND CHINATOWN! Colleen Brown Stockman, who worked for many years at

the Smithsonian National Museum of American Art, will show you a museum-filled neighborhood that is easily accessible by Metro and isn't on the Mall. To join her expedition, email her at stockmann_s@yahoo.com.

10:15am Gather and meet Colleen and Leonard in the Cambria lobby, then head downtown to GalleryPlace on Metro.

Here are 3 options to choose from:

The **National Building Museum** (fee \$10). Click the link for [Current Exhibitions on View at the National Building Museum](#).

Meet for **lunch** at 1pm

2pm tour of **Smithsonian American Art Museum** or 2:30pm tour of **National Portrait Gallery**

3 or 3:30pm visit to **Luce Foundation Center** and **Lunder**

Conservation Center, (see descriptions below)

OR

Clara Barton House for Missing Soldiers (fee: ranges are youth, senior and adult \$8-\$10)

Website for Clara Barton House is [Clara Barton Missing Soldiers Office](#).

OR

Walk through special exhibitions in **National Portrait Gallery** or **Smithsonian American Art Museum** on your own before joining tours.

12pm tour of **National Portrait Gallery** or 12:30pm tour of **Smithsonian American Art Museum**

1pm or 1:30pm **Lunch**

2pm tour of **Smithsonian American Art Museum**, [Homepage | Smithsonian American Art Museum and Renwick Gallery](#) or 2:30pm tour of **National Portrait Gallery**, [National Portrait Gallery](#)

3pm or 3:30pm walkthru of **Luce Foundation Center**, [Luce Foundation Center](#) and **Lunder Conservation Center**, [Lunder Conservation Center](#). (Photo below.)

4:30 head back to Metro and back to hotel at 5pm

LUNCH options (a few of my favorites)

There are many fast food and waitron service eateries in the area. McDonalds,

Chipotle, Burger King, etc. I will provide list in the next few days.

My favourite special occasion full service place, **Zaytinya** (Mediterranean, tapas, famous chef Jose Andres restaurant), <https://www.zaytinya.com/location/washington-dc/>

Fast food is **Bibibop**, Asian food bar, <http://bibibop.com/locations> (enter Chinatown Wash DC in locations) or modern Ramen eatery: <http://www.daikaya.com/> or <http://rerendc.com/>

Places in the Area to visit that I have not been to; all have hefty admission fees, except possibly the Small Museum.

Madam Tussauds Washington DC, <https://www.madametussauds.com/washington-dc/en/>

Small Museum, <https://www.jhsgw.org/>

The **International Spy Museum** used to be in this neighborhood, but is moving to a new facility near L'Enfant Plaza. They are closed and won't reopen until May 12.

Thursday Evening May 2

CONSULTE OPENS. We'll probably open the consuite around 6PM.

Friday Daytime May 3

Daytime: THE NATIONAL MALL! Of all the areas of DC, the Mall and its attractions are the easiest to get to and the easiest to navigate. I say this, of course, because we haven't lined up a



volunteer to put in the work that Steve and Colleen have done.

So hook up with your fellow fans and plan a day downtown. Two Metro stations serve the Mall area: the Smithsonian stop on the BLUE/ORANGE/SILVER line and the L'Enfant Plaza stop on the BLUE/ORANGE/SILVER/YELLOW/GREEN lines.

L'Enfant Plaza (7th & Maryland exit) is closest to the Air & Space Museum; Smithsonian is closest to Natural History and American History.

Here's a link to the National Park Service site: <https://www.nps.gov/nama/index.htm>. The FDR Memorial is particularly worth seeing, though it's a bit of a walk.

And here's a link to the Smithsonian museums on the Mall: <https://>

www.si.edu/visit/floorplans. The PDF below may help.

While we can't provide tour guides, all of us from the local area are happy to answer questions. I worked at the Air & Space Museum for a number of years, and can answer lots of Mall-related questions. Don't hesitate to ask.

Try to be back at 6p for the opening ceremonies. If not, you may find yourself Guest of Honor without a chance to protest!

Consuite. We may have the consuite open during at least part of the day on Friday but a final decision hasn't been made. It'll be closed during the Opening Ceremonies, of course.

The Corflu Program

Friday Evening May 3

4PM: REGISTRATION OPENS.

There will be a registration table near the elevators in the lobby. Get your picture taken for the official convention report! Pay \$20 to opt out of the Guest of Honor selection. (The money will be spent on the ~~sacrificial lamb~~ Guest of Honor.) The "Social Circle," the hotel bar, will be open for business. (Elaine Stiles)

6PM: OPENING CEREMONY.

Join us in the Social Circle bar & restaurant (just next to the front desk) for the opening ceremonies! We'll select our Guest of Honor, welcome attendees, and adjourn for dinner. (Michael Dobson)

6:30PM: CONSUITE AND BHEER TASTING! The consuite opens and Geri Sullivan repeats her popular Bheer Tasting. Come thirsty! (Curt Phillips, Geri Sullivan)

Saturday Daytime May 4

11AM: REGISTRATION OPENS.

The registration desk will be located outside the program room. (Elaine Stiles and helpers.)

11AM: FANAC.ORG SCANNING STATION. Fanac.org is bringing a scanner to add to its online collection of classic fanzines; it will be available all day. (Joe Siclari)

11AM: PROGRAM ROOM SETUP.

Those of us with set-up responsibilities will have access to the program room beginning at 11am. iPad and LCD

projector are readied. (Michael Dobson, Andy Hooper, Rob Jackson)

11:30 AM: PROGRAM ROOM

OPENS. We throw open the doors to accommodate the teeming mobs!

NOON: THE PROGRAMMING DAY BEGINS. Welcome remarks by Michael Dobson.

Panels and Auction

12:00PM-12:50PM: PANEL: A BHEER CAN TOWER TO THE MOON AND OTHER FANNISH MEMORIALS.

Fanzine fandom has created some truly memorable writing and art, but it's only memorable if people remember it. The desire to preserve and honor the legacy of fandom is nearly as old as fandom itself (bricks for the Tucker Hotel, anyone?).

While the Bheer Can Tower to the Moon may be beyond our meagre technology, we've been pursuing several different approaches to preserving fanac. Join Luis Ortiz, who has recently been anthologizing fan writing; Joe Siclari, whose Fanac.org is scanning and preserving thousands of fanzines; Susan Graham, special collections librarian for the Sapienza/Coslet fanzine collection at the University of Maryland Baltimore County; moderated by Michael Dobson, who has combined scanning and print in his own method of preserving the spirit of fanzines. (Michael Dobson, moderator, with Luis Ortiz, Joe Siclari, and Susan Graham)

12:50P-1:00P: BREAK

1:00P-1:50P: PANEL: THE VOID BOYS SPEAK! The history of the legendary focal point fanzine VOID, as presented by three Void Boys and special guest Luis Ortiz, who is working on a VOID anthology. **WARNING:** May include a rendition of the Void Boys Song. (Greg Benford, Jim Benford, Ted White, Luis Ortiz)

1:50P-2:00P: BREAK

2:00P-2:50P: ROTSLER AWARD WINNERS. Steve Stiles moderates a PowerPoint presentation of Rotsler Award-winning fan artists, with discussion by Grant Canfield, Jay Kinney, and Dan Steffan.

2:50P-3:00P: BREAK

3:00P-6:00P: AUCTION! The auction will last a maximum of two hours, but we're allowing three hours in the schedule in case things run late. We'll need to set up an Auction Processing area to settle up. (Andy Hooper)

6:00P-8:00P: DINNER. The consuite will be open.

Saturday Evening May 4

Evening programming begins at 8PM.

8:00P-8:50P: TIME CHUNNEL, a play by Andy Hooper

8:50P-9:00P: BREAK

9:00P-9:50P: JUST A MINAC (Sandra Bond & company)

10:00P-onward: CARDS AND GAMES IN THE PROGRAM ROOM. We'll have several decks of cards as well as poker chips, and some casual low-intensity boardgames like CATAN, TICKET TO RIDE, etc. Another place to

hang out when the consuite gets overloaded.

Sunday May 5

NOON: BANQUET ROOM OPENS

1:00 PM: BANQUET PROGRAMMING. Opening remarks (Dobson), Guest of Honor speech (GoH), presentation of FAAn Awards (Greg Benford and Curt Phillips), selection of FWA Past President (Ted White), Corflu 37 Site Selection (hopefully), closing remarks (Dobson)

2PM: FANAC.ORG SCANNING STATION! Fanac.org is bringing a scanner to add to its online collection of classic fanzines; it will be available after the banquet. (Joe Siclari)

AFTER BANQUET: CONSUITE OPENS.

AFTER BANQUET: PROGRAM ROOM REOPENS FOR GAMING

Monday May 6

8AM: ANTIETAM! Andy Hooper wields his terrible swift sword and leads a trip to the famous Civil War battlefield. Get in touch with Andy (fanmailaph@aol.com) for details.

8AM: SHUTDOWN. Dobson and Phillips pack up, go home, and gafiate.

FAAn Awards

While my approach to the ballot this year did not, shall we say, receive universal acclaim, I think people will be happy with the quality of the winners.

Doc Morgan, a 3-D printing enthusiast, worked with me on trying to create a custom Corflu trophy in the form of the Enchanted Duplicator. We came close, but needed more time to get the final product into an affordable range, so we decided to punt for this year and revisit it later on. I'm very grateful for all his hard work, and am still hopeful that we can work out something nice and affordable.

In the meantime, the service that is printing our Corflu T-shirts also does award trophies, and that's what we'll have available this year. Here's a mockup.

The eight main category winners will each receive a trophy; the 20 secondary category winners each receive a certificate.



Fanthologies, T-Shirts, and Polos (Oh my!)

We're manufacturing the exact number of T-shirts that have been ordered, so there won't be any extras available at the con. However, if you just can't live without that special Corflu shirt, we've got you covered. Alison Scott of **Fannish Clothing Emporium** has **both T-shirt and embroidered polo shirts for sale**, and here are the links: [Corflu T-Shirt](#) and [FIAWOL/FIJADGH Embroidered Polo](#). Personally, I love the polos and have one of each color.

The **Corflu Fanthology** (aka *Random Jottings 17*) is done and copies are on order for all members. It's 164 pages with front and back full-color covers by Steve Stiles. The fanthology is also available on [Amazon](#), and any money I happen to make that way will be donated to fannish charities.



Letters

Lloyd Penney

Well, seeing your PR3 for Corflu is also a fanzine, Random Jottings 15, you shouldn't be too surprised that I'm going to loc it. Well, I am. So, here goes.

That's an old mimeo on the front cover. I wish I'd gotten the chance to wield one, but such equipment was locked away for the use of teachers only, and the rest of us could keep our grubbies off it.

Ahhh...so tempting to send a few bucks to you for a supporting membership, but I don't even have that. Should that change, I will fire some \$\$ to you. The resumes are out to some great jobs, but no word just yet. Seeing it is Friday and a partial week after New Year's, I don't expect any calls until this coming Monday, fingers crossed.

The Corflu 36 committee...I am pleased you're working with John Morgan. John is our local 3D printer guru, and also one of the seniors connected with the Toronto Steampunk Society. Seeing it is now early January, the FAAn Award ballots should be out soon, looking forward to them.

In contacting me earlier about how many locs I had written...based on the various counts I do, in 2018, I wrote 186 letters of comment on a grand total of 279 individual fanzines. That's a lot of locs on more than one issue at a time, which is a real indication of lack of time management, or simply getting a lot of zines all at once.

I have attended a few fanzine conventions, but none where there was any substantial programming. Sounds like those who do attend are going to have some fun.

As much as I'd like to do some more, well, I've run out of zine. I think I've run out of mental juice, too; perhaps the coffee has yet to kick in. Anyway, this is what I've got, so now you have it, too. Many thanks take care, and keep them coming.

Membership List (as of 4/15)

1	A	Ted White
2	P	Michael Dobson
3	A	Colin Hinz
4	A	Catherine Crockett
5	A	Nigel Rowe
6	A	Tom Becker
7	A	Spike
8	A	Sandra Bond
9	A	Rob Jackson
10	A	Geri Sullivan
11	A	Murray Moore
12	A	Mark Olson
13	A	Deborah Dobson
14	A	Edie Stern
15	A	Joe Siclari
16	A	Ken Forman
17	S	Robert Lichtman
18	A	Pat Virzi
19	A	Jay Kinney
20	S	R-Laurraine Tutihasi
21	S	Claire Brialey
22	S	Mark Plummer
23	S	Dixie Kinney

24	A	Gregory Benford
25	A	Curt Phillips
26	A	Steve Stiles
27	A	Elaine Stiles
28	A	Rich Coad
29	A	Ian Sorensen
30	A	Mary Ellen Moore
31	A	Frank Lunney
32	A	Jeff Schalles
33	S	Jerry Kaufman
34	S	Suzanne Tompkins
35	A	Jim Benford
36	A	Andy Hooper
37	A	Carrie Root
38	A	Mary Burns
39	A	Bill Burns
40	A	Steve Jeffery
41	A	Alan Rosenthal
42	A	Jeanne Bowman
43	S	Pat Charnock
44	A	Bruce Newrock
45	A	Flo Newrock
46	A	Keith Lynch
47	S	Nic Farey
48	A	Colleen Brown
49	A	Leonard Stockman
50	A	Dan Joy
51	A	Gordon Eklund
52	S	Doc Morgan
53	A	Grant Canfield
54	A	Susan Graham
55	A	Luis Ortiz
56	A	Karen Schaffer
57	A	Michael Ward
58	A	Lynn Koehler
59	A	Martin Morse Wooster
60	A	Dan Steffan

61	A	Lynn Steffan
62	A	Illi Ferreira
63	A	Victor Gonzalez
64	S	John Hertz
65	A	Frederic Gooding III
66	A	Richard Dengrove
67	A	Mowgli Assor
68	S	John Purcell
69	S	Lloyd Penney
70	S	Patti Ross
71	A	John D Berry
72	S	Stephen Beale
73	A	Alta Sligh Ayers
74	A	Bob Crain
75	A	Matthew Moore

The Corflu 36 Committee

Michael Dobson, Chair

Curt Phillips, Hospitality and Awards

Ted White, Programming

Patti Ross, Treasurer

Andy Hooper, Auctioneer, Playwright, Tour Leader (Antietam)

Bill Burns, Webmaster

Rob Jackson, British Agent, Online Corflu

Elaine Stiles, Registration, Tour Leader (Baltimore)

Pat Virzi, Logo

Doc Morgan, 3-D Trophy Designer

Alison Scott, Clothes

Steve Stiles, Logo, Tour Leader (Baltimore)

Colleen Brown, Tour Leader (Gallery Place)

Dan Steffan, Art Print

Geri Sullivan, Bheer Tasting

Spike, Wine Tasting

INTRODUCTION

Random Jottings #18 (The Corflu 36 SMOFing Issue)

Perhaps it's not the best thing to start the post-mortem immediately after the con. There's always an emotional letdown after everything's over. There's the tendency (at least for me) to focus much more strongly on things that went wrong than what went right, and overall I was a little down in the dumps immediately after Corflu. But time, tide, and project management waits for no-one, and I dove in while I still had some remaining energy to get the last bits of Corflu 36 done and sorted.

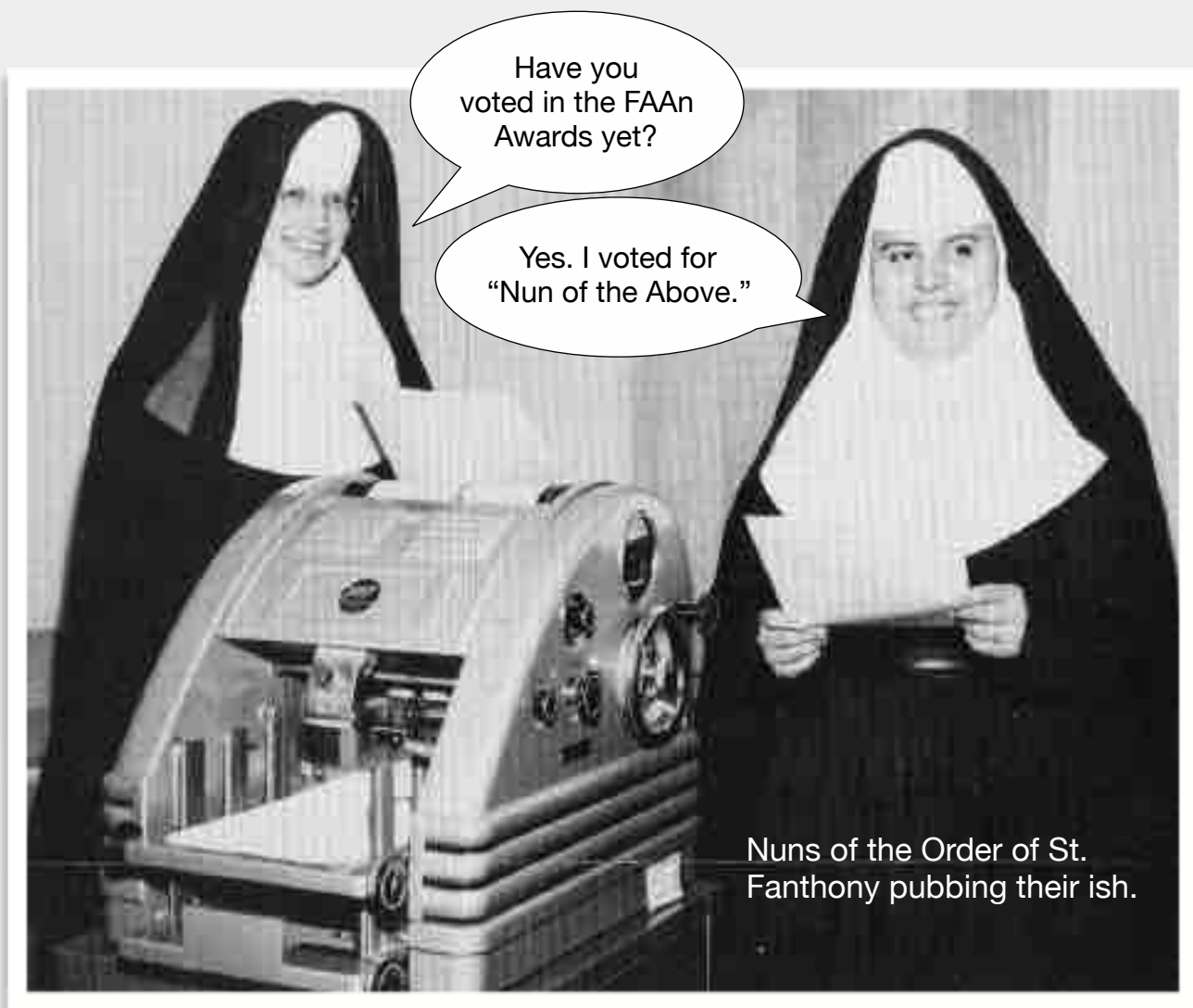
I sent out an evaluation survey to attending members (another thing I recommend), and the results are presented here. A summary of the Corflu financials follows. Unfortunately, the very last iteration of my Excel budget file vanished into the digital aether (taking with it the addresses of the last couple of members), but the summary numbers are accurate.

I created a Corflu Budget Simulator spreadsheet in Excel. It's evolved from the version presented here, and is a good tool for doing some financial modeling so you'll know what you're getting into. I made copies available to a number of fans, and if you'd like one, send me an email. I'm also going to ask Bill Burns to add it to the Corflu 36 archive site.

This issue also included the FAAn Awards analysis. Regardless of the range of opinion about the awards themselves, my analytical results are pretty thorough. Email me if you want copies of the spreadsheet and raw data, but everything you might want to know is told in these pages.

Random Jottings 18

The Corflu 36 SMOFing Issue



Our Most Boring Issue Ever!

]Random Jottings 18

Random Jottings 18, the Corflu 36 SMOFing issue, is published exclusively in PDF form and is available on efanzines.com, corflu.org, and dobsonbooks.com. Eventually, it will join the other Corflu papers in a print edition, which confusingly will bear the same issue number. Written and edited by Michael Dobson, editor@timespinnerpress.com, and published by The Canal Press. © The Canal Press, CC BY-SA 4.0. May 2019 issue.

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Editorial

by Michael Dobson

It turns out that there's a lot more after-Corflu work than expected, and without the anticipation of throwing a party for lots of your friends. **TIP!** You'd better plan to have a free week after Corflu just to finish all the odds and ends.

The 18th issue of *Random Jottings* nearly completes my work as chair of Corflu 36 FIAWOL, which at this writing started about two and a half weeks ago. This issue is mostly boring unless you're into this kind of thing; useful to a small set future con-runners and of interest to people who want the details of the 2019 FAAn Awards. The FAAn Awards results are available separately on the corflu.org website, but if you have this issue, you don't need that as well.

One of my biggest frustrations in running this year's Corflu is that while a lot of the information is in various peoples' minds, not much has been written down, at least that I was able to find. I've tried to correct that by writing down everything I can, in hopes of people avoiding the mistakes I made and avoiding always reinventing the wheel. Rob Jackson is working on his own collection of information, which he plans to publish in *Inca*, and we're discussing collecting his material, mine, and whatever else we can come up with into a CreateSpace book with the working *The Smoffer's Guide to Corflu*.

I'll also be collecting all my Corflu-related material into a print version of *Random Jottings* 18, available only on request, and also available on Amazon. I really just want a bound copy for my bookshelf (which reminds me that I also want to do a volume of all the pre-CreateSpace issues of *RJ Real Soon Now*.)

Random Jottings 19 will be the Corflu Proceedings, and that will be available to everyone in print form at Corflu 37 Heatwave. I'm collecting photos, con reports (including brief snippets talking about a particular moment of the convention), and other materials, in hopes of putting together a memento of that rainy Rockville weekend. Please contribute.

Now on to the boring stuff.

Corflu 36 FIAWOL Evaluation

by Michael Dobson

In my business, you always send out a post-event evaluation to get an overall read on how successful you are, and to solicit comments — which are often more useful.

I sent out a nine-question evaluation. As of today, 20 people have responded. I estimate there are 50 potential voters, making this a 40% response; not bad for this sort of thing.

Fans being fans, a number provided comments but no scores, and some provided scores higher than 5 (note Curt's hospitality earns a well-deserved 5.04 on a 5.00 scale). I allowed it.

Here are the results, followed by the comments.

Category	Total Votes	% Voted	Average Rating	Rating as %
Administration	14	27%	4.93	99%
Materials	13	25%	4.73	95%
Communication	14	27%	4.93	99%
Hotel	14	27%	4.64	93%
Hospitality	14	27%	5.04	101%
Program	14	27%	4.39	88%
Special Events	11	21%	4.77	95%
Banquet	14	27%	3.89	78%
Overall	14	27%	4.96	99%
Cumulative	20	38%	4.70	94%

Comments

Michael, there wasn't an area of the convention that I could give less than a 5.

Absolutely every facet of the convention was handled superbly. You were totally accessible to deal with any problems, from getting a room to keep Keith Lynch happy to handling Lynn Cohen's stolen phone. Personally, I had no problems at all... ever....

The hotel was amazing and amazingly affordable.

Curt was incredible with his advance planning (scones & clotted cream, homemade chocolate chip cookies! Tequila with Margarita mixer), the banquet had something for everyone (exactly what I was hoping for - eggs, potatoes fresh fruit!), the GoH gave a speech that was actually interesting, the program was worth attending...

and on and on.

It was THE fannish event of the year for fanzine fans.

Magnificent!

Frank Lunney

it was a thoroughly enjoyable Corflu except for the banquet. All I can say is the food was cold & had it not been for the bacon & sausage & to a lesser extent the chicken, it would have been totally inedible. This was especially noticeable due to the excellent fare provided in the con suite.

Elaine Stiles

It struck me as extremely well organized and performed (if that is the right word). Many thanks for the Wed. night party and guest accommodations, and the opportunity to hang out with you and Curt on Thursday. If I had any criticism, it would mainly be that the programming could have benefited from microphones and speakers. As luck would have it, my Lyft to the National airport on early Monday morning went smoothly and on time, and my flight back home even arrived ahead of time to Oakland. All in all, just a great vacation. You rock!

Jay Kinney

Curt is a treasure and his wife has a chest of gold... nope, better not continue that metaphor!

The three mark-downs I gave were for hotel (dearer than I'm used to in the USA, but of excellent quality), banquet (I was first to the trough and many items were lukewarm - I like my food hot) and Program. Here I have to confess I am not a real Corfluvian as I'm not so much into fanzines as into fanzine fans. So and item on fanzine archiving followed by reminiscence about a zine I'd never heard of (mea culpa) then a fanzine auction was not compelling. Andy's play was, I think, the best he's done since Fanotchka - and it was short! But my failure to be ignited by the program items was more than

compensated by the conversations with fans I've either never spoken to before, or renewed my links with after too many years.

But above all, the exceptional teamwork you had with Curt made it the best Corflu I can remember. You have always been my hero. Perhaps now you are pushing for demi-god?

Ian Sorensen

Banquet is 3 because of the blah hotel food, which is what you could afford for the money you had to spend, so, not a criticism of you.

Murray Moore

I'll be honest--Corflu falls into that category of fandom that I'm interested enough in to go to it if it's in Washington or Baltimore and not go to if it's somewhere else. And I speak as someone who first wrote for fanzines in 1975.

I can't complain about the con--I thought you and Curt did a good job. And who knows, some day I'll go to another one.

Martin Morse Wooster

Consuite: 3 for the space itself, 5 for the food and hospitality. Program: Too sercon during the day! Well, except for the artists panel...Just a Minac was the highlight for me. Banquet: Food was cold and program was too long. Although Benford's GoH speech was just fantastic.

Alan Rosenthal

Your Corflu was fabulous! Everything was perfect and I had a wonderful time!

Jeff Schalles

Corflu 36 was an excellent convention. This is from my perspective as a member, a conrunner and a fanzine fan. Great job!

I have a concern about giving money to the GoH but am having trouble articulating it. It seemed absolutely brilliant at the time, a great idea to try!! But now I'm having second thoughts. I'm a bit afraid that it raises an expectation for later Corflus. And Corflus usually cannot afford to hand cash over to someone -- at least not until the con is done and dusted. I've long thought the GoH's membership fee should be refunded. I'd draw the line there.

Spike

1) Administration: 5/5, but tech ops (which should really be a separate question) 3/5. (Points rehearsed fully in the Corflu-running compilation.)

2) Materials: Totally 5/5 - outstanding. Dan S's lovely illo suffered shattered glass in my case in transit home, but that's airport baggage-chuckers for you. This particular minor disaster was recovered brilliantly by Coral who said: "I think there are some old photo frames with glass in them in the family history drawer!", and there was indeed a 7" x 5" one with no other duties except to donate its glass insert to Dan's illo frame.

3) Communication: 5/5. (Colin and Catherine last year: 1/5, especially if you weren't on Facebook.)

4) Hotel: 5/5. Value also definitely 5/5 - an outstanding deal, considerably cheaper than (for example) the central Chicago place. However Nigel was needing to shoehorn us into the centre of a major US city. You were happy for reasons that are now obvious, to accept a less central place but with lovely local facilities such as restaurants.

5) Hospitality: 5/5. Egoboo in shovelfuls for the Stakhanovite work Curt put in. He is obviously used to working long and unsocial hours! And for Liz's baking, too.

6) Program(me): 4.5/5. Good balance of serious and light-hearted items, all enjoyable one way or the other; it is arguable whether it would have been possible to shoehorn an 11 am start on Saturday and one extra item, though. (Nic F went far too far the other way at Richmond in 2014, with a 9 am start.)

7) Baltimore/Inner Harbor and Washington Galleries trips: 5/5, but Antietam trip N/A from me, sadly, as I was needing to drive down to Raleigh to see my son and daughter-in-law. Trips very much enjoyed, so many many thanks to Steve, Elaine, Colleen and Leonard. Colleen and Leonard hosted just me, so those who failed to come along to the Galleries trip missed a treat. Colleen is a lovely host, and the Clara Barton house was a revelation of relevance to my own work with UK Forces veterans.

8) Banquet: 4/5 for food; 5/5 for programming (see above). FAAn Awards presentations eventually well received despite the earlier whingeing about complexity, and presentations efficiently run on the day. Some whinged about Jim B's long and technical speech, which was only very tangential indeed to fanzines; but as a space travel freak and regular Space.com visitor, I love the kind of speculation Jim gave us.

9) Overall: Definitely 5/5! Brilliant atmosphere. Despite imperfections (and not many of those), once you have a positive vibe started, with a Chair and other committee who have everything decently under control, then everyone has a great time which becomes self-reinforcing. Which is why this was one of the best Corflus of recent years.

Rob Jackson

Administration: Rob was a great help at navigating me through flight bookings, travel documents and currency exchange given that I haven't been outside the UK in over 20 years, and some of which I left a bit late. But it all worked out in the end.

The program was just about right for me. I know some folk like less 'formal' programming and more chat/party time but I like to have a nominal schedule even if chose to ignore it. Sandra's panel was a hoot, and I enjoyed the fan art discussion/slide show. Splendid job from Andy and his crew at the auction.

The pre-con collating party was fun and a very welcome introduction for a US Corflu 'newbie'.

On the banquet, I subtracted 1 for lack of mushrooms :-), but a late breakfast / brunch was an inspired choice and far better option than rubber chicken. (United served me that one on the plane back. It was truly terrible, and the veggie pasta option looked equally unappetizing. I should have taken a con suite doggie bag, but I wasn't sure if I should smuggle scones through security.)

Overall, I had a really great time. Shame about the sunburn on the DC sightseeing trip, but I've stopped peeling now .

One bonus category: People 5++! This was the main reason for coming. Usually I get to chat to about half a dozen people out of several hundred at a big con, but here I think I met and chatted with almost everybody at one point or another.

Loved it. First con in probably 8 years and I felt hugely welcomed by everyone and make a whole bunch of new friends. Hope to see as many of you as possible in the UK in 2021!

Steve Jeffery

Duh, everything was excellent. You're just fishing for compliments. You deserve them. Thanks so much for getting me to def come. I had a wonderful wonderful time.

Chris Couch

We "attended" Corflu by watching some of the videos on Youtube - Opening Ceremonies in the bar, most of the Void Boys panel and the Rotsler Awards panel, and the post-banquet presentations. Let Rob Jackson know we appreciated the opportunity.

And the membership packet arrived today - many thanks for that. The framed Dan Steffan piece was intact, and the Fanthology looks very appealing. I'll be reading that sometime in the next week or two. The other items were fun, and maybe we'll visit some of the Maryland attractions in two years, if we attend Worldcon in DC.

Jerry Kaufman and Suzanne Tompkins

Could have rearranged or chosen a different Con Suite with more overstuffed chairs in circular clusters, for easier talk and less overwhelming noise. I had some good conversations just outside.

Frederic Gooding III

You did an extraordinary job of it. All the success must go to you -- even if Curt did bring the meatballs.

Dan Steffan

[I brought those meatballs, dammit! Me! Me! Of course, Curt did everything else. - MSD]

The Membership

1	A	Ted White
2	P	Michael Dobson
3	A	Colin Hinz
4	A	Catherine Crockett
5	A	Nigel Rowe
6	A	Tom Becker
7	A	Spike
8	A	Sandra Bond
9	A	Rob Jackson
10	A	Geri Sullivan
11	A	Murray Moore
12	A	Mark Olson
13	A	Deborah Dobson
14	A	Edie Stern
15	A	Joe Siclari
16	A	Ken Forman
17	S	Robert Lichtman
18	A	Pat Virzi
19	A	Jay Kinney
20	S	R-Laurraine Tutihasi
21	S	Claire Briailey
22	S	Mark Plummer
23	S	Dixie Kinney
24	A	Gregory Benford
25	A	Curt Phillips
26	A	Steve Stiles
27	A	Elaine Stiles
28	A	Rich Coad
29	A	Ian Sorensen

30	A	Mary Ellen Moore
31	A	Frank Lunney
32	A	Jeff Schalles
33	S	Jerry Kaufman
34	S	Suzanne Tompkins
35	A	Jim Benford
36	A	Andy Hooper
37	A	Carrie Root
38	A	Mary Burns
39	A	Bill Burns
40	A	Steve Jeffery
41	A	Alan Rosenthal
42	A	Jeanne Bowman
43	S	Pat Charnock
44	A	Bruce Newrock
45	A	Flo Newrock
46	A	Keith Lynch
47	S	Nic Farey
48	A	Colleen Brown
49	A	Leonard Stockman
50	A	Dan Joy
51	A	Gordon Eklund
52	S	Doc Morgan
53	A	Grant Canfield
54	A	Susan Graham
55	A	Luis Ortiz
56	A	Karen Schaffer
57	A	Michael Ward
58	A	Lynn Koehler
59	A	Martin Morse Wooster
60	A	Dan Steffan
61	A	Lynn Steffan

62	A	Illi Ferreira
63	A	Victor Gonzalez
64	S	John Hertz
65	A	Frederic Gooding III
66	A	Richard Dengrove
67	A	Mowgli Assor
68	S	John Purcell
69	S	Lloyd Penney
70	S	Patti Ross
71	A	John D Berry
72	S	Stephen Beale
73	A	Alta Sligh Ayers
74	A	Bob Crain
75	A	Matthew Moore
76	A	Ulrika O'Brien
77	A	Craig Hughes
78	A	Chris Couch
79	A	Marla O'Neill
80	A	Dan O'Neill
81	A	Motya Gershunskiy
82	A	Bob Madle
83	A	Priscilla Olson
84	A	Rich Lynch
85	A	Nikki Lynch

Of the 85 total members, 70 were listed as Attending Members and 15 as supporting members. Ten were “single-day” attending (all Saturday), leaving 60 as full attending. Seven full attending and two single-day attending didn’t come, meaning there were 53 full attending members and 8 single-day attendees, for a total of 61 at the convention. (An earlier count had attending membership at 50; this has now been corrected.)

Corflu 36 FIAWOL Financials

by Michael Dobson, Corflu 36 FIAWOL Chair

I'm very pleased to say that Corflu 36 FIAWOL finished in the black. Total convention income, combining membership fees and auction revenue, was \$9,536. Expenses totaled \$9174, leaving a surplus of \$362. Corflu 37 Heatwave received \$300, and the Corflu Fifty received \$62. (All amounts are rounded to the nearest full dollar.)

Balance Sheet

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Memberships	\$5,917	Banquet	\$1,841
Auction	\$3,002	Hotel	\$1,240
T-Shirts	\$270	Consuite	\$2,334
Consuite Sales	\$67	Awards	\$608
GoH Opt-Out Money	\$280	T-shirts	\$426
TOTAL	\$9,536	Advertising	\$377
		Program	\$109
		Giveaways	\$1,331
		Registration	\$206
		Mailing	\$422
		Guest of Honor	\$280
		TOTAL	\$9,174
NET INCOME	\$362		
To Corflu 50	-\$62		
To Corflu 37	-\$300		
BALANCE	\$ -		

Income Details

Membership Income	
Attending	\$6,265
Supporting	\$166
Transaction Fees/Exchange Rate Costs	-\$89
Premium/Sponsoring	\$650
Prodigal Fan Discounts	-\$325
Complimentary Memberships	-\$750
Net Membership Income	\$5,917

Membership

The official membership rates began at \$100 for attending, then jumped to \$125 and \$150 as the convention neared. The supporting membership rate was “pay what you want.” In the end, it averaged \$11.08 per person, though that included a few complimentary supporting memberships that lowered the average.

I waived the \$25 lateness increase when it came due, and only went to \$125 at the end. If you hadn’t attended Corflu in more than three years, you got a \$25 Prodigal Fan Discount. If you added another \$50, you could upgrade to a Premium membership. Premium members received a free T-shirt. The money from premium members was allocated to pay for awards. There was one Sponsoring member, Timespinner Press (me). I charged myself \$200.

Because the convention was in good financial shape, I focused on getting more people to attend, and as a result, gave out quite a few free memberships. Saturday guest panelists received a one-day complimentary membership, as did our Balticon representatives.

Corflu is about its attendees, and my goal was to get as many of my favorite people here as possible. Different people had different issues. Some were logistical, others financial. In addition to free or discounted memberships, I paid portions of hotel bills and provided other support for a number of people. Some of the aid reimbursed people who did work for the convention. The total cost was around \$1,600, and I’m only sorry it wasn’t much more.

Auction and Consuite Honor Box

Almost solely due to the superhuman efforts of Andy Hooper, the auction proceeds of around \$3000 are fully half the total membership income of approximately \$6000. This utterly changed the financial position of the con.

In Advance. One of the smartest things I did was reach out to Andy Hooper early to ask his advice about auction matters. He told me if I could get him enough fanzines to sell on eBay, he could raise much more money and do it before the con, when it's most useful. I sent Andy three boxes of fanzines (roughly six reams of paper), warning him that my fanzine collection had never been that robust and I wasn't sure they were worth much. To my surprise, Andy said otherwise, and by the end of 2017 I had nearly \$2500 extra cash on hand, all due to Andy. I'm enormously grateful and deeply appreciate all the time and effort he invested in supporting Corflu FIAWOL.

Andy, in return, has pointed out that these were all my fanzines in the first place. While that's true, they have been sitting in boxes for more than four decades. I loved them when they arrived, but I don't expect I'll ever reread more than a handful. I planned to give them all away at some point, and probably would have even paid to ship them. Those fanzines, thanks to Andy, are now in the hands of people who will appreciate them, and Andy's contributions played a major role in my ability to deliver a good Corflu.

When I first discussed chairing a Corflu back in Richmond, I was told I should expect to throw in about \$2000 of my own money, and I was prepared to do that. In a way I did, but as I would never have put in the time and effort to sell these fanzines myself, it is, as far as I'm concerned, free money, and I'm very glad it happened this way.

At Corflu. I knew that some portion of the at-Corflu auction proceeds would come my way, but I expected most of it to go to other fan charities. I was amazed when Carrie handed me a big wad of cash (\$559) as Corflu's share. It kept Corflu FIAWOL in the black and allowed me to pass on some money, so again, my thanks to Andy, Carrie, and everyone else who made that happen.

Honor Box. Several people brought items to sell on behalf of either Corflu-the-con or Corflu-50-the-fund. We displayed them on a table in the consuite and put an honor box next to them. A total of \$67 was collected, but as we couldn't determine what money was for Corflu 50 items and what was for Corflu-the-con items, so I decided the fairest way to go was split the money 50-50. Once I calculated the final surplus and gave \$300 to Corflu 37, I added the rest to the Corflu 50 pile and sent Rich \$62.35.

Overloading. I teach my classes the “iceberg principle” of work: 90% of it is invisible to outsiders. I underestimated the tremendous effort Andy put in to raise all that money, and while I understand it better, I’m sure I’m still missing major pieces of the work. Andy’s tireless work on behalf of fannish causes is well known, but it’s unfair for him to shoulder this responsibility year after year without help, whether in the form of a decent commission or others to take on part of the work.

However, auction revenue is now and will increasingly be essential to putting on Corflu without higher membership fees, losses to con runners, or cuts in services. Try the Corflu Budget Simulator (“What Do Corflus Cost?”) with and without auction income to get a sense of the impact.

Expenditure Comments

I’m not going to go over each and every Corflu expense, but some of them warrant comment, especially for the benefit of future Corflu chairs.

Banquet. I had to provide numbers to the hotel in advance, and estimated 55 people would attend. (I didn’t perform an actual count at the banquet, but it was less than that). The total cost was \$1841, or \$33.50 per person. Future Corflu chairs should note that the list price was \$25/person, but hotel taxes and mandatory gratuities drive the actual cost up substantially. An unanticipated extra \$8.50 per banquet attendee will play hell with your budget. All hotel charges are subject to these large taxes. **TIP!** Always ask for an “all-in” number on any hotel expense.

Hotel. By meeting the agreed-upon number of room nights, we received three free nights of consuite, and received a discounted rate for the fourth night. The list price of the program room was \$300/day, but with taxes it came to \$387. We had it for two days (and it’s why we did the opening ceremonies in the hotel bar, which was free).

Consuite. This covers all hospitality expenses except for the room costs. Curt and I based our budget on a formula we’d gotten from Aileen Forman, \$10/person/day. We spent \$2334 in total. Discounting Saturday-only members, who mostly didn’t stay into the evening, we had 53 actual attendees, making the final actual cost \$11.00/person/day, pretty close to the target, especially because we weren’t particularly worrying about money at that point. Note that Thursday and Sunday are lighter than Friday and Saturday in terms of stocking, but the \$11.00 number is the average for the full convention.

Awards. We gave eight FAAn Award trophies, 22 certificates (counting the Corflu MVP Awards), and two small trophies for “Just a Minac” and Past President of FWA. I had set aside premium membership income specifically for that purpose, so we spent \$608 out of a budget of \$650. The rest of the money partially offset the cost of free t-shirts to the premium members.

T-shirts. I’m not a big t-shirt fan, and wanted to do an embroidered polo instead, but there was enough desire for a t-shirt that I gave in. (Although I still arranged for a FIAWOL/FIJAGDH polo through Alison Scott’s Fannish Clothing Emporium. Spike and I rocked ours.) I had promised that there would be a benefit for those who spent the extra money for a premium membership, so decided to give all those people a free shirt. This was not entirely altruistic, as I had to order a minimum of 25 anyway. I spent \$426 on 25 shirts (\$17 each), and offered them at \$20 each. I collected \$270 (as a committee member, Ted got his for half price) for a net loss of \$156.

Advertising. I experimented with different ways to get the word out about Corflu, including a display of flyers at Worldcon and an advertisement in the Philcon program book. (Philcon had sent me an email offering an ad at a discount.) I would have broken even on it with two new memberships, so I decided to give it a try, offering an extra discount for mentioning Philcon so I could track response. There was no detectable response from either the Worldcon or Philcon promotions. I’m not sorry I tried the experiment, but I wouldn’t recommend doing it again.

Program. Aside from the function room, there were a few minor costs associated with running the program. I bought a table runner with a Corflu logo (I omitted the “36” so it can be used again), buzzers for the Just a Minac game, name tents, and cards and poker chips for the planned game evening. Nobody ended up coming to the game evening, but the cost was trivial. All told, \$109, and some of the stuff was passed forward to Corflu 37.

Giveaways. This category includes the items in your membership packet: the *Corflu Fanthology*, the Randy Byers anthology, the Dan Steffan framed print, and the program book (a last minute add). The Montgomery County Visitors Guides were, of course, free. The framed print accounted for roughly half the \$1331. We contributed to the printing fund for the Randy Byers book, but almost certainly paid only a fraction of the actual cost of those copies.

Registration. Name tags (we did have lanyard as well as magnetic, and even a couple of clip-ons I had around the house), the Tyvek envelopes for the member packets, a box of pens and Sharpies, and a couple of other miscellaneous items cost \$206. Again, some of this was passed forward.

Mailing. Now that progress reports don't have to be mailed any more, the only cost associated with a supporting membership is sending out the member packets. The need for protection of the glass print and the bulk of the packages drove the cost this year much higher than expected. Add in mailing trophies and certificates (thanks to those who took them at the con), and shipping leftovers to John Purcell, the total cost was \$422, against supporting member income of \$166. If our membership packets had been of normal size, the cost would have been dramatically less, but the mailing cost (including international) has to be factored into whatever supporting membership rate you set.

Guest of Honor. Corflus have taken different approaches to the GoH opt-out tradition. Some count on that money as part of their budget. At least one in recent years has waived the \$20 altogether. It does seem unfair to demand a ransom from attendees who have already paid to get out of a responsibility they didn't ask for. Given that there's already been variation from Corflu to Corflu, I figured that whatever I did wouldn't count as setting a precedent.

For Corflu 36, I made the \$20 opt-out fee optional. We asked everyone for the \$20, but told them it was their choice. If they wanted to opt-out without paying, that was fine, and several people took that route. By telling people the money was going to the GoH, though, more thought it was a fun thing to do, and the vast majority chose to pay. We earned \$280. I'm delighted we got Jim Benford at GoH, and he did spend all his GoH money at the auction.

I also thought the GoH should get some sort of memento, which is why I got the Dave Kyle pillow. In retrospect, I would have taken out enough of the opt-out money to pay for the pillow. Guest of Honor opt out money is listed both under income and expenditures; it's a net wash. Except for the pillow.

I've gotten some feedback about this, suggesting the prize was too rich, and that limiting the benefit to a membership fee refund and perhaps a memento of some sort (there are some inexpensive trophies you can get for under \$20 including imprinting) would be enough.

Honestly, I wasn't expecting \$280 when I decided to give the money to the GoH; I thought we'd get a hundred or so. Had I known, I might have gone with that approach. On the other hand, telling people the opt-out money was going to the GoH got more people to pay. If you go with the membership fee + gift idea, I'd tell people that any remaining money was going to something specific, rather than into the general Corflu treasury. You'll get higher response. And you can pick something you planned to do anyway.

What Does Corflu Cost?

I didn't have any prior financial data on Corflu running, so my preliminary budget was made primarily of WAGs¹. Now that I've been through it, I've put together a Corflu budgeting model, which will be available as an Excel spreadsheet on the corflu.org website. (It's being tested, and I expect to make numerous changes before it's finalized.) Modify this with your own assumptions and data, and you'll have a budgetary snapshot of your prospective Corflu.

Here's a screenshot of the current version, followed by some comments. There will be detailed instructions accompanying the final.

CORFLU BUDGET SIMULATOR MODEL

To estimate your Corflu financial situation, fill in all boxed cells. Cells without boxes are calculated by the model.

ASSUMPTIONS		EXPENSES		Banquet All-In Cost Per Person	
Attending Members (#)	<input type="text"/>	Advertising/Promotion (\$)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	\$ per person
Supporting Members (#)	<input type="text"/>	Awards	\$ -		
Auction Proceeds (\$)	<input type="text"/>	Banquet	\$ -		
Other Income (\$)	<input type="text"/>	Consuite Supplies	\$ -		
		Hotel (Function Room)	\$ -		
		Mailing	\$ -		
		Member Packet	\$ -		
INCOME		Program (\$)	<input type="text"/>		
Attending Members	\$ -	Registration (\$)	<input type="text"/>		
Supporting Membership	\$ -	T-shirts	\$ -		
Auction	\$ -	Other (\$)	<input type="text"/>		
Other Income	\$ -	Contingency Reserve	\$ -		
Total Income	\$ -	Total Expenses	\$ -		

(Note on memberships: Most people sign up either early or late, so % for in-between are likely lower.)

Supporting Memberships		THE BOTTOM LINE		Consuite Supplies	
Initial Rate (\$)	<input type="text"/>	Total Income	\$ -	<input type="text"/>	# of nights
% of Members	<input type="text"/>	Total Expenses	\$ -	<input type="text"/>	\$ per person per night
1st Rate Increase (\$)	<input type="text"/>	Net Profit or (Loss)	\$ -		
% of Members	<input type="text"/>				
2nd Rate Increase (\$)	<input type="text"/>				
% of Members	<input type="text"/>				
Premium Charge	<input type="text"/>				
% of Members	<input type="text"/>				

Supporting Member Average Price		#DIV/0!		Function Rooms	
Remaining % to Allocate*	-100%			<input type="text"/>	per day (\$)
(Premium Upcharge % not counted)				<input type="text"/>	# of days
				<input type="text"/>	Other hotel charges

Attending Memberships				Mailing Costs	
Initial Rate (\$)	<input type="text"/>			<input type="text"/>	International supporting members (%)
% of Members	<input type="text"/>			<input type="text"/>	100% Domestic supporting members (%)
1st Rate Increase (\$)	<input type="text"/>			<input type="text"/>	No-show attending members (%)
% of Members	<input type="text"/>			<input type="text"/>	Mailing Cost (each) for International (\$)
2nd Rate Increase (\$)	<input type="text"/>			<input type="text"/>	Mailing Cost (each) for Domestic (\$)
% of Members	<input type="text"/>			<input type="text"/>	Mailing of Awards, Supplies, etc.
At-Door (\$)	<input type="text"/>			\$ -	Total Mailing Costs
% of Members	<input type="text"/>				
Complimentary/Free	\$0.00				
% of Members	<input type="text"/>				
Premium Membership Upcharge	<input type="text"/>				
% of Members	<input type="text"/>				

Attending Member Average Price		#DIV/0!		T-shirts/Merchandise	
Remaining % to Allocate	-100%			<input type="text"/>	cost each (\$)
(Premium Upcharge % not counted)				<input type="text"/>	price each (\$)
				\$ -	margin (each)
				<input type="text"/>	% who buy
				<input type="text"/>	% given away
				\$ -	Net Profit/Loss
				(If profit, shown with minus sign on Expenses)	

Premium Membership Income				Awards	
(included in total membership income)	\$ -			<input type="text"/>	number
				<input type="text"/>	price ea. (\$)

				Member Packet (ea.)	
				<input type="text"/>	cost (\$)
				(includes all handouts and giveaways)	
				Contingency Reserve (%)	
				<input type="text"/>	(At least 10% recommended)
				\$ -	

¹ Wild-Assed Guess, as distinct from the SWAG, or Scientific Wild-Assed Guess, which by tradition includes a decimal point.

In the spreadsheet, every cell with a box around it needs your estimate; cells without boxes are calculated.

We start with some basic assumptions about memberships, auction proceeds, and other income, followed by the various rate increases and the estimated percentage of members who will register at each price point. You get to fill in all these boxes on your version; this has sample data so you can see how it works.

ASSUMPTIONS	
Attending Members	50
Supporting Members	20
Auction Proceeds	\$2,000.00
Other Income	\$500.00

Attending Memberships	
Initial Rate	\$40.00
% of Members	30%
1st Rate Increase	\$50.00
% of Members	30%
2nd Rate Increase	\$75.00
% of Members	20%
3rd Rate Increase	\$100.00
% of Members	15%
At-Door	\$125.00
% of Members	5%

Supporting Memberships	
Initial Rate	\$25.00
% of Members	50%
1st Rate Increase	\$50.00
% of Members	50%

These assumptions (which can be changed on the spreadsheet to model different scenarios) tell us that the average attending member will pay \$63.25 and the average supporting member \$37.50.

Here's total income, all numbers calculated from the assumptions.

INCOME	
Attending Memberships	\$3,162.50
Supporting Membership	\$750.00
Auction	\$2,000.00
Other Income	\$500.00
Total	\$6,412.50

Some expenses also require assumptions:

Banquet All-In Cost Per Person		
	\$30.00	per member
Consuite \$10/person/night		
	4	nights
Function Rooms		
	\$350.00	day
	2	days
Mailing Costs		
	20%	% International members
	10%	Estimated no-shows
	\$15.00	Cost for International
	\$7.00	Cost for Domestic
T-shirts		
	\$17.50	cost each
	\$25.00	price each
	20%	% who buy

Awards	
6	number
\$30.00	price each
Member Packets	
\$10.00	each

There are a few lines in the Expenses column that require your input, but most are calculated from this data. You need to supply data for items marked in bold.

EXPENSES	
Advertising	\$200.00
Awards	\$180.00
Banquet	\$1,500.00
Consuite	\$2,000.00
Hotel	\$700.00
Mailing	\$123.00
Member Packet	\$700.00
Program	\$100.00
Registration	\$200.00
T-shirts	\$105.00
Other	\$250.00
Total	\$6,058.00

This scenario leads to the following.

Total Income	\$6,412.50
Total Expenses	\$6,058.00
Net Profit or (Loss)	\$354.50

You can play with these numbers to your heart's content. Please let me know if you find errors or omissions, or whether the model is giving realistic results. I hope it's of some use in your planning and budgeting.

Corflu 36 FIAWOL Post-Mortem

by Michael Dobson

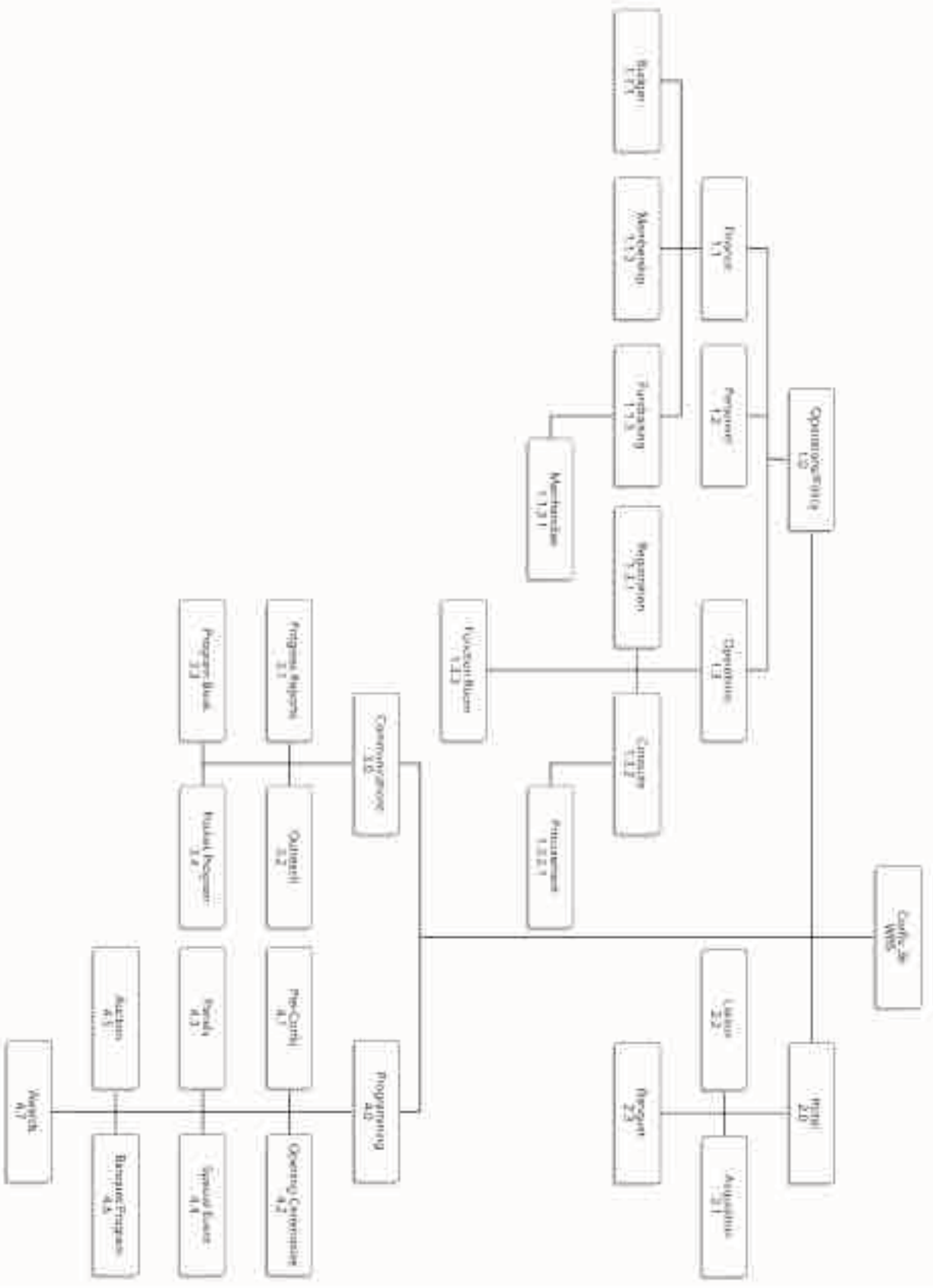
As many of you know, my day job is teaching project management seminars, but it's been a while since I turned my hand to an actual project. Now, Corflu isn't *that* complicated, and I didn't exactly need an industrial-strength project management process (Dobson's Law: Don't drive carpet tacks with a sledge hammer). However, there are some basics of project management that are worth doing even on smaller projects.

To give myself more incentive to do it right, I've been using Corflu as a case study in my seminars. In the Corflu pre-bid package (available at corflu.org), I included a Work Breakdown Structure (reprinted next page), one of those basic project management techniques. It's like an organization chart, but of the work of the project rather than the people. You'll notice there are quite a few moving parts, even in a small convention.

As this was done at the very beginning, there are some deviations from the original, and in an ideal world I'd redo the WBS armed with all my new knowledge. It wouldn't be that different, however, and the one here is good enough to serve as a template for future Corflus. You'll find a full discussion of the WBS elements in the pre-bid package.

I always think a WBS is worth doing (sticky notes and a whiteboard or sheet of flip-chart paper are all you need). In general, I also recommend a project charter, a written statement of the scope of the project. I didn't do it on this project because (a) the scope is basically known from previous conventions, (b) I didn't need to arrange approvals or sign-offs as would be the case in most organizations, and (c) I was operating with a severe lack of knowledge. While I've been to many sf conventions, I really have never run one. I made up a fair amount of it as I went along..

In an ideal world, all the material from previous Corflus would be available as reference, allowing the incoming Corflu chair to get up to speed quickly. On the grounds "better late than never," that's why I'm doing this report. Some of my project management students may choose to look at it as well, as I'll continue to talk about it in my classes.



I didn't use any of the most common scheduling tools; there's no Gantt chart and no network diagram. Neither would have been of much benefit in this case, because the majority of work consists of small activities that show up in random order, and there aren't a lot of mandatory dependency relationships (*i.e.*, activity X can't start until activity Y is complete).

Instead, a milestone chart, a simple grouping of tasks that had to be accomplished before a given deadline, was all I needed. For example, the first project milestone was last year's Corflu in Toronto. Before the convention, I needed (a) hotel, (b) dates, (c) membership rates (implying the need to create a rough budget), and (d) a bid package. Exactly when or in what order (for the most part) I did these things didn't matter, as long as they were all done prior to the convention.

I could have used more in the way of checklists, but again was hampered by a personal lack of experience and a lack of data. Rob Jackson and I discussed this, and he's working on some even as we speak. Other than that, I didn't use many other formal tools. On the other hand, my general project management experience came in handy. Though the subject matter was different, every project has people, budgets, stakeholders, communications needs, risks, etc.

At the end of every project, project managers are exhorted to perform "lessons learned," and I seem to be about the only person in the field who disagrees. Not that there aren't lessons to be learned and value in learning them, but "lessons learned" doesn't scratch the surface of what can be captured at the end of a project. Every project throws off lots of information. They aren't "lessons" as such, but they are useful information, but they have to be captured. I don't call it "lessons learned." I describe it as a salvage operation.

This isn't a formal post-project analysis, but it does reference the major categories of project planning and operations.

Project Management Issues

Project managers often reference the "Knowledge Areas" listed in *A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge* (the PMBOK Guide). While most of PMBOK is of interest and use only to people running large and complex projects, all projects have at least some issues in common: scope, time, cost, people, communications, risk, and stakeholders. A good plan (and a good project review) needs to address all those issues.

Scope. While it's ideal to have scope fully defined at the outset of the project, it's not always practical. The basic outline of Corflu is long established, though not written down, and there's significant variation from year to year. I had a number

of ideas but had yet to figure out which ones were actually possible. Scope was inevitably going to change, and change inevitably increases risk.

A WBS helped me wrap my mind around the job and start to plan how to get all the moving parts moving in the right direction. Here's where vision comes into play. From the beginning, I announced my intent to try new things. It's always been my belief that the best strategy for meeting a target is to aim higher than you need to. Things inevitably go wrong, and if you shot for "good enough" in the first place, you won't even achieve that. By aiming high, my Corflu was also more fault-tolerant. If one thing didn't work, another would, and I'd still end up ahead.

I focused on the relationship between value and effort. If you can get high value for low effort, that's a strong reason to try it, especially if the cost of failure is low. High effort for low value activities should be carefully examined (or ones where failure could do major damage), and killed or cut back when possible.

The additional special activities (Baltimore, the party at my house, Gallery Place, Antietam) made Corflu seem more like a vacation destination. A fair number of people arrived early and stayed late, and overall I think they boosted attendance. By the time the official Corflu started, the con had been going on for days. From the con-runner perspective, these were great because they didn't take a lot of con time or money. All I needed to do was find willing volunteers and make sure information was communicated to the membership. My special thanks to Steve, Elaine, Colleen, Leonard, Andy, and Carrie.

The crowdsourced fanthology (*Random Jottings* 17) was also successful thanks to the participation of many. I only spent a couple of days putting it all together, and thanks to the magic of print-on-demand, it was amazingly cheap.

Having just come off a term as Merchandise Chair for the DC West Point Parents Club, I had recently developed a fairly large line of branded projects. My original thought was to do something similar with Corflu, but a quick survey of minimum order quantities made it clear that there was no money to be made in that area. We're just too small. (**TIP!** If you're trying new things, figure out the quickest and cheapest way to make them fail. You lower the cost on the ones that fail, and the ones that pass now have a much greater chance of success.)

At first I was going to give up the idea of merchandise altogether, especially once the auction money began to arrive, but I still wanted something physical to give people as a memento, and I wanted everyone to have one. From there came the idea of a signed and numbered art print, and Dan did his usual incredible job.

Several people demanded I do a t-shirt, so I overcame my initial reluctance and provided one. I made a bulk order of 25 from a local promotional service. Alison Scott of Fannish Clothing Emporium was able to meet my need for a polo (still on

sale; buy one now), and she also added a print-on-demand t-shirt, so Corflu shirts remain available.

Time. A very basic milestone chart was enough to help me keep Corflu on schedule, but there were other issues to consider. I was very aware of the Planning Fallacy (explained in *Random Jottings* 6, the Cognitive Biases Issue): Everything takes much longer than you think.

That motivated me to get started on everything I could far in advance of the convention, and it's a good thing I did. While I was able to get a fair amount done early, other areas experienced delay after delay I started a logo project in July; I had a finished logo in October. The process of developing an "enchanted duplicator" trophy using 3-D modeling started in September; it became clear it was a no-go in March.

None of this is abnormal, none of this is surprising, and none of this is a reflection on anybody. In a volunteer organization, everybody has a life and everybody has other things to do. What looks like a simple job at first mutates into the job from hell. By getting as much as possible done early, and at least starting the rest, you're in much better shape to handle the inevitable problems.

The biggest issue in time management for Corflu is that we all have a finite amount of time and energy we can devote to the con. Most of us have lives and jobs that necessarily take precedence.

Until the final few weeks, I devoted maybe a full day here and there to Corflu (visiting hotels, finishing up a PR), but most of the work up until March consisted of various email exchanges. On a busy day, Corflu took up an hour or two, but there were few busy days. However, the fact that I could only devote limited time to Corflu meant I had to be careful what responsibilities I took on.

I had arranged a light seminar schedule in the weeks prior to Corflu so I'd have time to get everything done, but the government shutdown meant most of my January and February work was pushed forward. I had 3-day seminars to teach on each of the two weeks prior to Corflu. To make matters worse, I got a jury duty summons. It was for one day or one trial. I could afford the day, but getting on a jury would have been disastrous. Fortunately, it was done by the numbers, and I had #578. Only the first 200 were called, and I was excused.

Starting the weekend prior, Corflu took all my time. I felt I needed to host one of the pre-Corflu events, since I'd roped so many others into the project. Ideally, I would have done an Air & Space Museum trip, but that would take a full day. I scheduled a party for Wednesday night. Shopping, cleaning, and prep work took

all of Wednesday, but I recovered some time by getting the partygoers to collate the membership packets.

Thursday we set up the consuite after final shopping. I spent Friday morning at home getting final Corflu materials in order, arriving at the Cambria shortly after lunch. And from then on, it was showtime.

(TIP! As noted up front, there's lots of work to do after the convention. If you don't plan for that extra time, you'll end up having your Corflu drag on for months after the fact.)

Cost. My original WAG, thanks to Aileen Forman, was that the cost of feeding and watering each person was around \$70 (\$10 x 4 nights + \$30 banquet). By that metric, a \$100 attending membership contributed only \$30 to all other convention costs. That meant I'd have to be very careful with costs. But once the auction money came in, Corflu went from being financially risky to having money to spare. I used the money to bring more people to Corflu, and to provide the art print. Other expenditures included the second consuite for Saturday night, an upgraded banquet, and a few more items. And there was still money to pass on.

Not having money worries is a huge advantage on almost any project, and it lowered my stress significantly on this one. Thanks again to Andy. Had the auction money not been there, it would have been a significantly different convention.

People. It's always challenging to run any project with a volunteer workforce. Some volunteers are rock solid reliable; others less so. Some are cheerful and easy to work with; others high maintenance. It's often hard to get people to volunteer at all. This is normal and expected on any project. I was lucky that my volunteers were both competent and reliable, and overall there was a lot less friction than I've encountered on past projects.

The backbone of my convention effort was, of course, Curt Phillips, whose magnificent job running hospitality has been singled out by just about everybody as the best thing about Corflu. Without someone willing to work as hard as Curt, I think the hospitality suite is at least a two-person job.

[*Curt Phillips writes:* "I really did have two people working on the consuite prep. Liz probably invested 30 hours at least in direct Corflu work. Since it was all done prior to the con it's not directly visible, but I think you'll agree that it added substantially to the success of the consuite. I promise you that my baking skills simply aren't in the same league as hers!" *Michael replies:* And anyone who ate her scones would definitely agree. Advance prep is essential. In actually *running*

the hospitality suite, however, Curt was essentially on his own, though various fans pitched in to help. Another person sharing the full load would have been helpful.]

I had responsibility for all operations outside the hospitality suite, and frankly, that turned out to be a two-person job as well. Because of a GPS address problem (the hotel was on a new street), the person who was going to handle registration Friday afternoon was more than an hour late. It couldn't be helped, but I now had to do registration while trying to answer questions and get ready for the opening ceremonies. I did have a list of previous GoH winners that I expected the registration volunteer to handle while putting slips in the box. I tried to mark them all off, but with unavoidable interruptions, some slipped through. The first two names drawn for GoH were ineligible because they'd already done it. When it became clear I'd made a mistake in not ordering a microphone for Saturday, I couldn't easily leave the program room. I was, after all, on the panel.

Neither of these are major disasters, but they're examples of mistakes that could have been easily prevented with a second person working con operations. The second person should be officially in charge of registration, but the con-runner and registration person would serve as mutual backups. It would be important for them to keep an eye on each other so they could respond quickly when help was needed. I had authorized Curt to make hotel decisions involving money, as he needed to order ice. I would have authorized that second person as well so they could handle situations like the microphone. Plus, a second set of eyes always catches stuff you'll miss.

Perhaps most importantly, a team of four (two hospitality, two operations) allows shifts. Con runners need to sleep, visit with friends, see a program item or two, and maybe even go out to dinner. You can't do any of that unless you've got someone to cover for you.

That makes four people more or less full time during the convention, plus people who have specific responsibilities: in my case, that included (among others) Rob for online Corflu, Andy for auction, Geri for bheer, and Spike for wine.

Sometimes the work and the volunteers came together. We were happy to welcome **fanac.org** (FIAWOL!) to set up its scanning operation, and they brought equipment and personnel. They report that it was very successful.

Communications. Several previous Corflus have been criticized for a lack of communication, but that seemed to me to be one of the easiest problems to solve. I'm a fanzine publisher, for goodness sake. These days, when you don't even need to print, collate, and mail, quick con updates are easy.

I tried to increase publicity for Corflu, but again hit bandwidth limits. I would have liked to have had a volunteer take active charge of publicity. I think if we'd taken the time, we could have talked more of the people who really should have been there into coming.

Risk. This is one of my favorite topics to teach, but its application to Corflu was limited. The two broad categories of risk are *pure risk* (all downside, no upside) and *business risk* (possibility of gain or loss). In general, it's smart to avoid pure risk if you can do so at a proportional price, but business risk is entirely different.

For a project like this, the key question is, "What's the worst that can happen?" If nobody takes advantage of our game room, what's the worst that can happen? We're out a couple of decks of cards. What if nobody signs up for the Baltimore trip? Steve and Elaine get the day off. For all the experiments I tried, that was the metric. If a failure would really hurt the convention, I either found a way to lower the risk or dropped the idea. If the cost and consequences of failure were trivial, I saw no reason not to go ahead. Most of the time, the latter was the case. Not every experiment succeeded, but the cost of failure was kept low.

Certain risks simply require organizational steps. If I don't keep track of the money, I risk going way over budget. So I keep track of the money. No big deal. The checklists Rob Jackson is working on will be invaluable in controlling those sorts of risks. If microphones had been on a program room checklist, for example, I'd have ordered them. As we know, all knowledge exists in fandom. The problem is that a lot of it isn't written down.

Procurement. From negotiating the hotel contract to acquiring consuite supplies, there's a lot of buying associated with a Corflu. As I didn't have experience with hotel contracts, I reached out to Ben Yalow and Geri Sullivan, who steered me through the process and provided extensive comments. Consuite decisions include make-or-buy (Liz Phillips' contributions in particular), when and where to buy (Curt bought a lot of the nonperishables in southern Virginia, where prices are generally lower), and what to buy.

Curt made up detailed lists after a very thorough survey of the membership. I'm sure previous Corflu hospitality coordinators have done similar things. It would be helpful to have checklists of needed supplies adjustable by attendance, and it would also be useful to keep track of leftovers, with an eye toward lowering excess food and drink. Curt plans to organize his thoughts and provide an additional analysis of hospitality operations as part of our continuing effort to document all parts of running a Corflu; it'll be along later.

Procurement also includes figuring out where to put the stuff after you buy it. Curt Phillips writes, “It's always been my belief that with any project, doing as much prep work as you can beforehand pays off in the execution of the project. And that includes staging your materials (in this case, the food) for sequenced injection into the project as needed. That's one reason why having that room very near the consuite door was so important to me.”

Do work with the hotel to have rooms around the consuite reserved for you and your team, with the closest doing double-duty as a warehouse. It's ideal if you can arrange to group most con-goers on the same floor, though as noted it's not always possible. Doesn't hurt to ask, though.

Stakeholders. Every project has stakeholders, people who have a stake in (or sometimes want to *put* a stake in) your project. Stakeholders have interests and needs, and it's often the case you can't make everybody happy.

Corflu is a major part of our little corner of fandom, and a number of people (including me) have a strong emotional connection to it. How Corflu is run and what it does is legitimately of interest to many, and inevitably not everyone will agree. There were issues of this sort, primarily involving the FAAn Awards, when discussions became passionate.

Given the history of fan feuding, I had approached running Corflu with a certain amount of worry. Projects have cost me friendships in the past. I'm both pleased and relieved that even in the heat of discussions, everyone kept their head. When we weren't able to come to a mutually agreeable outcome, we were able to keep the issues and the people separate. Thanks to everyone involved.

Since I made a conscious decision to apply some of my own project management advice, I tried to do so here. The first piece of advice I give is to listen. You don't have to agree with everything, or take every suggestion, but be sure you've understood clearly. Decide how much of a dog you have in every fight. Sometimes you need to win; other times it's more important they win; still other times the best strategy is to change the subject. Double-check to make sure you understand and are understood. I don't think my execution was by any means perfect, but I did do my best. And to whatever extent I succeeded, I think it helped.

* * *

I'm grateful for the support, encouragement, and hard work so many people put in to make Corflu 36 a success. Most of all, I'm glad just about everybody seems to have had a great time. Thanks for being part of this.

2019 FAAn Awards Report and Analysis

by Michael Dobson

The 2019 FAAn Awards were presented at the Corflu 36 FIAWOL banquet on Sunday, May 5, 2019. Twenty certificates and eight trophies were awarded to a wide range of highly deserving winners. It was for some recipients an emotional moment. Worthy candidates won trophies for the first time, such as fanac.org (not, as I mistakenly typed on the certificate, FIAWOL).

We honored people outside the traditional range of fanzine publishing, fan writing, and fan art. In-person fanac was recognized for the first time, and we recognized people who made contributions to our hobby in many ways.

This year saw a dramatic expansion of the number of categories, including the differentiation between certificates and trophies. This was a radical change and drew some sharp criticism.

When I first bid for the 2019 Corflu, I made it clear that I planned to try new and different things. While I didn't initially plan to have much involvement in the FAAn Awards, that changed, and last December I published what I intended to do and why in *Random Jottings* 15, the third Corflu 36 Progress Report. My primary goal was to resolve the expressed discomfort of Steve Stiles and Bill Burns for continuing to win each year in their prospective categories.

I could think of two ways to go. First, a special one-time Special Award followed by permanent retirement from the category; second, adjusting the categories so they would no longer be automatic winners. I chose to try both, believing that various additional categories should at least be tested, and that more egoboo was preferable to less egoboo. I knew this was the only time I would serve as awards administrator, so elected to experiment with a large number of categories — more than I would recommend be awarded on a regular basis.

Various opinions were expressed. At best, the reaction was neutral, or in support of the idea of experimentation (if not the specific implementation), and went down from there. I should note that only a few people expressed an opinion at all.

The objections can be summarized as (1) there is no problem in the first place, and thus no solution is necessary or appropriate, and (2) the proposed solution is bad either because it's a radical change and/or it's excessively complex. I disagree with the first, but I have some sympathy for the second, especially the "excessively complex" part. At the same time, I can't think of a different approach that would have achieved my goals.

That being said, there are two clear successes. First, the quality of the winners was high. I've heard no complaints that such-and-such winner was undeserving, or only won because of bloc voting. And second, the trophies (my other FAAn Award goal) were really nice.

THE VOTE AND THE VOTERS

Nineteen people in total voted, a dramatic drop from last year's 77, and by far the lowest number in recent FAAn Award history. Fortunately, those 19 included many of the most knowledgeable members of our community. In awards voting, the quality of the voter has a big effect on the quality of the awards.

There were three main reasons for this year's low participation. First, of course, is the complexity of the ballot. A number of the subcategories were experiments, and in a later section of this report I'll analyze the test results. The ballot this year took time and energy to complete, more than the range of voters wished to do. Second, opposition to my awards approach caused several regular voters to boycott this year's process.

Third, there was insufficient publicity and marketing. As noted at the time, I got the flu, and ended up postponing the voting deadline twice, since I wasn't going to get to the ballots anyway. Each time I made an announcement or sent out an email, I got more votes. That tells me I could have increased the number of voters significantly if I had made a greater effort.

In retrospect, it's clear to me that to get a good number of voters, the FAAn Awards administrator needs to beat the drum loudly and widely. People need frequent reminders (I've received more than one email over the years reminding me I hadn't yet voted), and the publicity has to go far beyond the membership. I sent out notices to the membership, posted on the Corflu 36 and Faaned's Facebook sites, and posted on corflu.org. This was in no way sufficient to achieve high numbers.

But is a high voter turnout necessarily a good thing?

I've noted before that I'm personally not a very knowledgeable voter. I only read a handful of fanzines and my overall involvement in fandom is, compared to many of you, marginal at best. The wider we cast our net, the more people of limited knowledge end up voting. This leads to the occasional "Huh?" winner. At Toronto, for example, there were conversations arguing that a particular award winner had only gotten the award through bloc voting. That hardly raises respect for the FAAn Awards.

As far as I'm concerned, the quality of the voters means more than the quantity. Look at the names of the 19 who did vote. (Go ahead, it won't take long.)

Voters (sorted by first name)

Andy Hooper
Bill Burns
Claire Brialey
Curt Phillips
John D. Berry
John Hertz
John Nielsen Hall
John Purcell
Mark Plummer
Michael Dobson
Nigel Rowe
Pat Charnock
Pete Young
Rob Jackson
Robert Lichtman
Roy Kettle
Sandra Bond
Steve Jeffery
Steve Stiles

This list (except for me) represents some of the most knowledgeable people in fanzine fandom. I'd take their judgment any day over a much longer list of people I don't know.

Besides voting in advance, there's a sort of validation vote that takes place after award are given. "Oh, such-and-such won an award? It was really deserved." That's the reaction to this year's award winners. While people may criticize the number of categories and the complexity of the ballot, that's about me, not about the award winners.

This year we had worthy voters, worthy winners, and really nice trophies. Steve and Bill had the voters validate their well-deserved special awards. I'm very happy with the outcome.

Based on this, I hope that future FAAn Award administrators will consider adding at least some of the new categories permanently to make sure the members of our fandom are recognized properly for all the things they do.

The analysis that follows begins with detailed voting results, followed by analysis of the categories themselves, a discussion of tabulation methodology, my commentary and recommendations, and finally a discussion of the physical awards themselves.

Now, let's do the numbers.

Detailed Results

Votes in the Fanzine Category

There were seven categories under “Fanzines.”

1. Best Fanzine
2. Best Genzine
3. Best Perzine
4. Best Newszine
5. Best Apazine
6. Best Special Interest
7. Best Special Publication

The Best Fanzine Trophy was awarded to the publication with the highest cumulative vote. Votes in all seven categories counted toward the trophy. Fanzines also received votes if they published specific items named in the Art and Writing categories.

Cumulative Votes for the Best Fanzine Trophy

A total of 90 votes were registered across all categories. Trying to sort them by totals created numerous #REF errors, so the cumulative table is published here unsorted. Following is a summary table sorted by total votes.

	FANZINE	WRITING	ART	TOTALS	
Beam	6		5	11	3rd
Banana Wings	15	7	2	24	1st
SF Commentary	7	1		8	
Vibrator	5	1	1	7	
Trap Door	5	6	1	12	2nd
Inca	1			1	
Lofgeornost	6			6	
Mumblings from Munchkinland	2			2	
Flag	4			4	
Spartacus	1			1	

Rat Sass	1			1	
The White Notebooks	1		2	3	
Ansible	11			11	3rd
The Zine Dump	1			1	
File 770	1			1	
Vanamonde	1			1	
Necessity	1			1	
brg	2			2	
Wherever I Lay My Hat	4		1	5	
Baseball and Time Travel	1			1	
The Devil's Apprentice		1		1	
The White Notebooks		1	2	3	
iota	1		1	2	
Random Jottings	1			1	
Fadeaway	1			1	
True Rat	4			4	
Lake's Folly	5		2	7	
The Corflu 35 Bheer Tasting Guide	1		3	4	
Madison Foursquare	1			1	

Sorted by Total Votes in Rank Order

Rank	Fanzine	Total Votes
1	Banana Wings	24
2	Trap Door	12
3	Beam	11
3	Ansible	11
4	SF Commentary	8
5	Vibrator	7
5	Lake's Folly	7
6	Lofgeornost	6
7	Wherever I Lay My Hat	5
8	Flag	4

8	The Corflu 35 Bheer Tasting Guide	4
8	The White Notebooks	4
8	True Rat:The Beast of Roy Kettle	4
9	*brg*	2
9	iota	2
9	Mumblings from Munchkinland	2
9	Random Jottings	2
10	Baseball and Time Travel	1
10	Fadeaway	1
10	File 770	1
10	Inca	1
10	Madison Foursquare	1
10	Necessity	1
10	Random Jottings	1
10	Rat Sass	1
10	Spartacus	1
10	The Devil's Apprentice	1
10	The Zine Dump	1
10	Vanamonde	1

Votes in the Best Fanzine Category

While people could vote for best fanzine of the year in addition to voting for their favorites in each category, no certificate was given in this category. Instead, all votes went toward the Best Fanzine trophy. Eighteen people voted in this category.

Beam	2
Banana Wings	8
SF Commentary	5
Vibrator	1
Trap Door	1
Inca	1

Votes in the Best Genzine Category

Seventeen people voted in this category, and a certificate was awarded to *Banana Wings*.

SF Commentary	2
Trap Door	4
Banana Wings	7
Beam	4

Votes in the Best Perzine Category

Fourteen people voted in this category, and certificates were awarded to *Vibrator* and *Flag*.

Vibrator	4
Lofgeornost	2
Mumblings from Munchkinland	1
Flag	4
Spartacus	1
Rat Sass	1
The White Notebooks	1

Votes in the Best Newszine Category

Thirteen people voted in this category, and a certificate was awarded to *Ansible*. It was observed at Corflu that *Ansible* had never won a fan award. Part of the problem is that there was no good place to vote for it. That being said, if there's a regular Best Newszine category in the future, there's a good chance we'll have another perennial winner.

Ansible	11
The Zine Dump	1
File 770	1

Votes in the Best Apazine Category

Nine people voted in this category, and the certificate was awarded to *Lofgeornost*. It's been argued elsewhere that apazines may not be appropriate recipients of FAAn Awards, but clearly it's quite possible. (Note, however, that *Lofgeornost* also received a vote under Best Perzine.)

Lofgeornost	4
Madison Foursquare	1
Vanamonde	1
Necessity	1
brg	2

Votes in the Best Special Interest Zine Category

While many fanzines explore a wide range of topics, some focus on a specific area. Six people voted in the Special Interest category, but for six different fanzines. Given that no publication got more than a single vote, no certificate was awarded in this category.

Wherever I Lay My Hat	1
Baseball and Time Travel	1
iota	1
Random Jottings	1
Mumblings from Munchkinland	1
Fadeaway	1

Votes in the Best Special Publication Category

Thirteen people voted in this category, and it was a close race. The certificate went to *Lake's Folly*.

True Rat: The Beast of Roy Kettle	4
Lake's Folly	5
Wherever I Lay My Hat	3
The Corflu 35 Bheer Tasting Guide	1

Votes in the Fan Writing Category

There were five categories under “Fan Writing.”

1. Best Fan Writer
2. Best Article (Fannish)
3. Best Article (Sercon)
4. Best Series or Column
5. Harry Warner Jr. Memorial Letterhack

Like Best Fanzine, the Best Fan Writer Trophy was awarded to the person with the highest cumulative vote. The fanzines in which specific articles appeared received bonus points for publishing them.

Cumulative Votes for the Best Fan Writer Trophy

There were 45 cumulative votes. The trophy was awarded to **Mark Plummer**, with Andy Hooper in second place and Paul Skelton in third.

1	Mark Plummer	10
2	Andy Hooper	5
3	Paul Skelton	4
4	Claire Brialey	3
4	John-Henri Holmberg	3
4	Pete Young	3
5	D. S. Ketelby	2
5	Jerry Kaufman	2
5	Robert Lichtman	2
5	Taral Wayne	2
6	Christina Lake	1
6	Fred Smith	1
6	Greg Pickersgill	1
6	John Hertz	1
6	John Lichen	1
6	Joseph Nicholas	1
6	Leigh Edmonds	1

6	Nic Farey	1
6	Steve Jeffery	1
6	Terry Kemp	1

Votes in the Best Fan Writer Category

While people could vote for best fan writer of the year in addition to voting for their favorites in each category, no certificate was given in this category. Instead, all votes went toward the Best Fan Writer trophy. Fifteen people voted in this category.

Andy Hooper	2
Christina Lake	1
Claire Brialey	2
John Hertz	1
Mark Plummer	5
Pete Young	2
Tara Wayne	2

Votes in the Best Article (Fannish) Category

Eight people voted in this category. The certificate went to John-Henri Holmberg for “Worldcon Kaleidoscope,” from *Trap Door* #34.

A Thing Which Seemed Very Thingish (Claire Brialey, Banana Wings 72)	1
Dining on Mock Duck (D. S. Ketelby, Banana Wings 71)	1
The Devil's Apprentice (Terry Kemp)	1
The Wasp That Stung Twice (Fred Smith, Banana Wings 72)	1
Triptych (Greg Pickersgill, Banana Wings 70)	1
Worldcon Kaleidoscope (John-Henri Holmberg, Trap Door 34)	3

Votes in the Best Article (Sercon) Category

Five people voted in this category. The certificate went to Andy Hooper for “Weisinger’s Worldcon,” from *Trap Door* #34.

Dystopia Mon Amour (Pete Young, The White Notebooks 11)	1
Weisinger's Worldcon (Andy Hooper, Trap Door 34)	3
Fascinating Mars (John Litchen, SF Commentary 95)	1

Votes in the Best Series or Column Category

Six people voted in this category. The certificate went to Mark Plummer for “Roadrunner,” from *Banana Wings*.

Roadrunner (Mark Plummer, Banana Wings)	5
Tales of a Las Vegas Taxi Driver (Nic Farey, Vibrator)	1

Votes in the Harry Warner Jr. Memorial Letterhack Category

Fourteen people voted in this category. The certificate went to **Paul Skelton**.

D. S. Ketelby	1
Jerry Kaufman	2
Joseph Nicholas	1
Leigh Edmonds	1
Mark Plummer	1
Paul Skelton	4
Robert Lichtman	2
Steve Jeffrey	1
William Breiding	1

Votes in the Fan Art Category

There were eight categories under “Fan Art.”

1. Best Fan Artist
2. Best Cover (Illustration)

3. Best Cover (Digital or Photography)
4. Best Illustrator (Fannish)
5. Best Illustrator (Stfnal)
6. Best Portfolio
7. Best Photographer
8. Best Graphic Design

Like Best Fanzine and Fan Writer, the Fan Artist Trophy was awarded to the person with the highest cumulative vote. The fanzines in which specific pieces of art appeared, or who were cited for graphic design, received bonus points..

In addition, voters decided whether to give Steve Stiles a Special Award for Artistic Achievement and retire him permanently from the Best Fan Artist trophy category.

Special Award for Artistic Achievement for Steve Stiles

Fourteen people voted; eight “Yes” and three “No.” Steve received the award, and is from this point forward ineligible for the Best Fan Artist trophy.

Cumulative Votes for the Best Fan Artist Trophy

There were also 45 cumulative votes in this category. The trophy was awarded to **Alan White**, with Ditmar in second place and a tie between Brad Foster and Brian Parker for third. Votes for Steve Stiles were disqualified because he received the Special Award, but were counted toward his #1 Fan Face total.

Rank	Name	Total Votes
1	Alan White	6
2	Ditmar	5
3	Brad Foster	4
3	Brian Parker	4
4	Dale Speirs	3
4	Geri Sullivan	3
5	Pete Young	2
6	Alison Scott	1
6	Craig Smith	1
6	D. West	1
6	Dan Steffan	1

6	Michael Dobson	1
6	Nic Farey	1
6	Ulrika O'Brien	1
6	Unknown (Journey Planet 41)	1
NA	Steve Stiles	10

Votes in the Best Art Achievement Category

While people could vote for best fan artist of the year in addition to voting for their favorites in each category, no certificate was given in this category. Instead, all votes went toward the Best Fan Artist trophy. Five people voted in this category.

Steve Stiles	2
Alan White	2
Brad Foster	1

Votes in the Best Cover (Illustration) Category

Eight people voted in this category. The certificate was awarded to **Brian Parker** for the cover of *Beam 13*.

Steve Stiles, Banana Wings 71	2
Steve Stiles, Lake's Folly	2
Brian Parker, Beam 13	3
Alan White, Skyliner 4	2
Craig Smith, Trap Door 34	1
Alan White, Wherever I Lay My Hat	1

Votes in the Best Cover (Digital or Photography) Category

Eight people voted in this category. The certificate was awarded to **Geri Sullivan** for the cover of *The Corflu 35 Bheer Tasting Guide*.

Opuntia 418	1
Vibrator 48	1
Beam 13	1
The Corflu 35 Bheer Tasting Guide	2
Skyliner 4	1
Journey Planet 41	1

Votes in the Best Illustrator (Fannish) Category

Eight people voted in this category. The certificate was awarded to **Steve Stiles**.

Steve Stiles	4
Brad Foster	3
Dan Steffan	1

Votes in the Best Illustrator (Stfnal) Category

One person voted in this category (for Ditmar). No certificate was awarded, but the single vote was credited toward the Best Fan Artist trophy.

Votes in the Best Portfolio Category

One person voted in this category (for D. West). No certificate was awarded, but the single vote was credited toward the Best Fan Artist trophy.

Votes in the Best Photographer Category

Seven people voted in this category. The certificate was awarded to **Ditmar**.

Ditmar	4
Dale Speirs	2
Alison Scott	1

Votes in the Best Graphic Design Category

Six people voted in this category. The certificate was awarded to **Pete Young** for *The White Notebooks*.

Beam	1
Skyliner 4	1
The Corflu 35 Bheer Tasting Guide	1
The White Notebooks	2
Random Jottings	1

Votes in the Online Category

There were six categories under “Online Achivement.”

1. Best Online Achievement
2. Best Archive or Resource
3. Best News and Information Source
4. Best Group or List
5. Best Blogger
6. Best Online Presence

Like Best Fanzine and Fan Writer, the Online Achievement Trophy was awarded to the person or site with the highest cumulative vote.

In addition, voters decided whether to give efanzines.com (Bill Burns) a Special Award for Online Achievement and retire him permanently from the Best Online trophy category.

Special Award for Online Achievement for Bill Burns/efanzines.com

Ten people voted; nine “Yes” and one “No.” Bill received the award, and is now retired from Best Online Achievement Trophy consideration.

Cumulative Votes for the Best Online Achievement Trophy

There were 50 cumulative votes in this category. The trophy was awarded to **fanac.org**, with *In The Bar* in second place and a tie between the online versions of *File 770* and *Ansible* for third. Votes for efanazines.com were disqualified because of the Special Award, but were counted toward Bill Burns' #1 Fan Face total.

Rank	Name	Total Votes
1	fanac.org	9
2	inthebar.groups.io	8
3	file770.com	7
3	news.ansible.uk	7
4	fiawol.org	5
5	efanzines.com	2
6	Galactic Central	1
6	Fancyclopedia 3	1
6	University of Iowa Library School Special Collection	1
6	TAFF Free Ebooks	1
6	Time Goggles	1
6	Fmzfen	1
6	Don West Memorial (FB)	1
6	Galactic Journey	1
6	Nic Falkner	1
6	Pablo Vasquez	1
6	Chris Garcia	1
6	Graham Charnock	1

Votes in the Online Achievement Category

While people could vote for best online fanac of the year in addition to voting for their favorites in each category, no certificate was given in this category. Instead, all votes went toward the Online Achievement trophy. Nine people voted in this category.

Fiawol.org	1
fanac.org	6
File770.com	2

Votes in the Best Online Archive or Resource Category

Eleven people voted in this category. The certificate was awarded to **fanac.org**.

Fanac.org	3
Galactic Central	1
efanzines.com	2
Fancyclopedia 3	1
ansible.demon.co.uk	1
Fan Stuff (R. Hansen)	1
University of Iowa	1
TAFF Free Ebooks	1

Votes in the Best News and Information Source Category

Eleven people voted in this category. The certificate was awarded to **news.ansible.uk**.

news.ansible.uk	6
File770.com	5
Fan Stuff (Hansen)	1

Votes in the Best Online Group or List Category

Eleven people voted in this category. The certificate was awarded to **IntheBar**.

inthebar	8
Time Goggles	1
Fmzfen	1
Don West Memorial (FB)	1

Votes in the Best Blogger Category

Two people voted in this category (one for fiawol.org.uk and one for Galactic Journey). No certificate was awarded, but the votes were credited toward the Online Achievement trophy.

Votes in the Best Online Presence Category

Five people voted in this category for five different people. No certificate was awarded, but the votes were credited toward the Online Achievement trophy.

Nic Falkner	1
Rob Hansen	1
Pablo Vasquez	1
Chris Garcia	1
Graham Charnock	1

Votes in the In-Person Fanac Category

There were four categories under “In-Person Fanac.”

1. #1 Fan Face
2. SMOF of the Year
3. Services to the Hobby
4. Smoooooth Operator

Votes in the #1 Fan Face Category

Four people voted in this category. Note that people could vote directly for #1 Fan Face, but those votes were combined with others in the final tally for that trophy, so no certificate was awarded directly.

John Purcell	1
Bruce Gillespie	1

Sandra Bond	1
Ted White	1

Votes in the SMOF of the Year Category

This category was intended to recognize conrunning, though in practice there seems to have been some confusion and overlap with the Services to the Hobby category. Seven people voted in this category for seven different people. No certificate was awarded, but the votes were credited toward the #1 Fan Face trophy.

Claire Brialey	1
Moshe Feder	1
Geri Sullivan	1
Steve Lawson	1
Robert Lichtman	1
James Bacon	1
Curt Phillips	1

Votes in the Services to the Hobby Category

When it comes to fan charities and other fan services, a small group of people tend to shoulder the burden for the rest of us. Twelve people voted in this category, and the certificate went to **Andy Hooper**.

Joe Siclari	1
Andy Hooper	3
Michael Dobson	1
Bill Burns	2
Rob Hansen	1
Dave Langford	2
Curt Phillips	1
Claire Brialey	1

Votes in the Smoooth Operator Category

In homage to Bob Tucker, the Smoooth Operator category was designed to honor people who brighten up the room wherever they appear, whose presence makes every fannish situation better. Seven people voted in this category, and the certificate went to **Spike**.

Geri Sullivan	1
Spike	2
Michael Dobson	1
Ted White	1
Graham Charnock	1
Andy Hooper	1

Votes in the Unrecognized Fanac and #1 Fan Face Category

Two FAAn Awards remain:

1. Award for Unrecognized Achievement
2. #1 Fan Face

Votes in the Unrecognized Achievement Category

Sometimes, great work escapes the recognition of the FAAn Awards. This award was given to work done *before* 2018 that was not recognized by an award. Five people voted in this category, and the certificate went to **Taral Wayne**.

Corflu 50	2
Taral Wayne	3

Cumulative Votes for the #1 Fan Face Trophy

There were 315 cumulative votes in this category. The trophy was awarded to **Mark Plummer**, with Dave Langford in second and Claire Brialey third. Note

that the “Special Award” votes for Steve Stiles and Bill Burns were added to their #1 Fan Face totals.

Following this table is the list sorted by total points, so you can see where you fall on the egoboo totem pole.

	TOTALS	Best Fmz	Writing	Art	Online	Fan Face	Special Award	Rank
Alan White	6			6				
Alison Scott	1			1				
Andy Hooper	13	4	5			4		
Bill Burns	13				2	2	9	
Bill Plott	1	1						
Brad Foster	4			4				
Brian Parker	4			4				
Bruce Gillespie	10	9				1		
Chris Garcia	1				1			
Chris Nelson	2	2						
Christina Lake	6	5	1					
Claire Brialey	20	15	3			2		3rd
Craig Smith	1			1				
Curt Phillips	2					2		
Dave Langford	21	11			8	2		2nd
D. S. Ketelby	2		2					
D. West	2			1	1			
Dale Speirs	3			3				
Dan Steffan	1			1				
Ditmar	5			5				
Edie Stern	9				9			
Fred Lerner	6	6						
Fred Smith	1		1					
Geri Sullivan	6	1		3		2		
Gideon Marcus	1				1			
Graham Charnock	7	5			1	1		

Greg Pickersgill	2		1		1			
Guy Lillian III	2	2						
Harry Bell	8				8			
Jack Herman	1	1						
James Bacon	1					1		
Jeanne Gomoll	1	1						
Jerry Kaufman	2		2					
Jim Mowatt	4	4						
Joe Siclari	10				9	1		
John Hertz	2	1	1					
John-Henri Holmberg	3		3					
John Litchen	1		1					
John Purcell	1					1		
Joseph Nicholas	1		1					
Leigh Edmonds	2	1	1					
Linda Krawecke	1				1			
Mark Olson	1				1			
Mark Plummer	25	15	10					1st
Michael Dobson	4	1		1		2		
Mike Glyer	8	1			7			
Moshe Feder	1					1		
Nic Falkner	1				1			
Nic Farey	8	6	1	1				
Pablo Vasquez	1				1			
Paul Skelton	4		4					
Pete Young	6	1	3	2				
Phil Stephenson-Payne	1				1			
Rich Coad	2					2		
Rob Hansen	10	4			5	1		
Rob Jackson	1	1						
Robert Jennings	1	1						

Robert Lichtman	8	5	2			1		
Roy Kettle	4	4						
Sandra Bond	1					1		
Scott Custis	1	1						
Spike	2					2		
Steve Jeffery	1		1					
Steve Lawson	1					1		
Steve Stiles	18			10			8	
Tara Wayne	6	1	2			3		
Ted White	2					2		
Terry Kemp	1		1					
Ulrika O'Brien	7	6		1				

#1 FAN FACE BY TOTAL VOTES			
	NAME	VOTES	
1	Mark Plummer	25	
2	Dave Langford	21	
3	Claire Briailey	20	
4	Steve Stiles	18	
5	Andy Hooper	13	
5	Bill Burns	13	
6	Bruce Gillespie	10	
6	Joe Siclari	10	
6	Rob Hansen	10	
7	Edie Stern	9	
8	Harry Bell	8	
8	Mike Glyer	8	
8	Nic Farey	8	
8	Robert Lichtman	8	
9	Graham Charnock	7	
9	Ulrika O'Brien	7	

10	Alan White	6
10	Christina Lake	6
10	Fred Lerner	6
10	Geri Sullivan	6
10	Pete Young	6
10	Taral Wayne	6
11	Ditmar	5
12	Brad Foster	4
12	Brian Parker	4
12	Jim Mowatt	4
12	Michael Dobson	4
12	Paul Skelton	4
12	Roy Kettle	4
13	Dale Speirs	3
13	John-Henri Holmberg	3
14	Chris Nelson	2
14	Curt Phillips	2
14	D. S. Ketelby	2
14	D. West	2
14	Greg Pickersgill	2
14	Guy Lillian III	2
14	Jerry Kaufman	2
14	John Hertz	2
14	Leigh Edmonds	2
14	Rich Coad	2
14	Spike	2
14	Ted White	2
15	Alison Scott	1
15	Bill Plott	1
15	Chris Garcia	1
15	Craig Smith	1

15	Dan Steffan	1
15	Fred Smith	1
15	Gideon Marcus	1
15	Jack Herman	1
15	James Bacon	1
15	Jeanne Gomoll	1
15	John Lichen	1
15	John Purcell	1
15	Joseph Nicholas	1
15	Linda Krawecke	1
15	Mark Olson	1
15	Moshe Feder	1
15	Nic Falkner	1
15	Pablo Vasquez	1
15	Phil Stephenson-Payne	1
15	Rob Jackson	1
15	Robert Jennings	1
15	Sandra Bond	1
15	Scott Custis	1
15	Steve Jeffrey	1
15	Steve Lawson	1
15	Terry Kemp	1

Analysis of Ballot and Categories

The 2019 FAAn Awards ballot was available in two formats: a multi-page PDF and a single page Excel spreadsheet. The multi-page PDF drew the most negative response. While no more complex than the single-page version, the sheer bulk seemed to be intimidating to many. Several voters elected to bypass the official ballot altogether and sent their choices in an email.

2019 FAAn Awards Ballot (Excel Version)

Do not fill out shaded areas.

VOTER INFORMATION

Your name	
Your email	
Address	
City/State/Postal	
Country	
Date	

	Name	Editor
1. BEST FANZINE		
1a. Best Genzine		
1b. Best Personal Zine		
1c. Best Newszine		
1d. Best Apazine		
1e. Best Special Interest Fanzine		
1f. Best Special Publication		

	Author	Title	Where Published
2. BEST FAN WRITER			
2a. Best Article (Fannish)			
2b. Best Article (Sercon)			
2c. Best Series or Column			
2d. Best Letterhack			

SPECIAL AWARD FOR STEVE STILES FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN FAN ART		(Vote YES or NO)
3. BEST ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENT	Creator Name	Fanzine/Website Issue
3a. Best Cover (Illustration)		
3b. Best Cover (Design/Photography)		
3c. Best Illustrator (Fannish)		
3d. Best Illustrator (Stfnal or Sercon)		
3e. Best Portfolio		
3f. Best Photographer/Digital Artist		
3g. Best Graphic Design		

SPECIAL AWARD FOR EFANZINES/BILL BURNS FOR ACHIEVEMENT IN ONLINE FANDOM		(Vote YES or NO)
4. BEST ONLINE ACHIEVEMENT	Website	Creator Name(s)
4a. Best Online Archive or Resource		
4b. Best News/Information Resource		
4c. Best Online Group or List		
4d. Best Blogger		
4e. Best Online Presence		

	Name
5. NUMBER ONE FAN FACE	
5a. SMOF of the Year	
5b. Services to the Hobby	
5c. Smoooooth Operator	

	Who?	For What?
AWARD FOR UNRECOGNIZED FAN ACHIEVEMENT		

There seems to be a strong consensus that there were too many categories and subcategories. Voting results confirm that while some categories drew significant interest, others were ignored by the majority of voters. Here is the percentage of voters for each ballot item, along with some additional commentary.

FANZINE CATEGORY

1.	Best Fanzine	95%
1a.	Best Genzine	89%
1b.	Best Perzine	74%
1c.	Best Newszine	68%
1d.	Best Apazine	47%
1e.	Best Special Interest Fanzine	32%
1f.	Best Special Publication	68%

While this year there was only a single trophy for Best Fanzine, in other years there have been multiple trophies awarded in the category. Last year there were awards for Best Genzine, Best Personal Zine, and Best Special Publication. I believe that there should be a single overall trophy in that category, but wanted to recognize the many different types of fanzines. Someone observed that this was the first time Dave Langford had won a FAAn Award, but in the absence of a Best Newszine option, where would you vote for it?

“Best Apazine” was an experiment. I had been told that apazines could not be eligible for FAAn Awards because of their limited distribution, but as far as I know, the proposition had never been tested. While only half of the voters made a Best Apazine selection, there was a clear winner. It should be noted, though, that Best Apazine winner *Lofgeornost* also received a vote in the perzine category. If perzines include apazines (a reasonable accommodation), then there’s no need for a separate category.

By contrast, there was very little interest in “Best Special Interest Fanzine,” and there was absolutely no consensus: six fanzines each received one vote.

Having each major category spawn numerous subcategories, as was the case this year, is clearly excessive. However, the Fanzine category calls out for them. All kinds of different fanzines exist, and there’s no reason Best Fanzine should be restricted to genzines. To reduce category clutter, Perzine and Apazine could be easily combined. Special Interest Fanzine can be dropped, as most can be classified either as genzines or perzines. There’s an argument to be made for Best Newszine, but there’s a risk we’ll be right back in the perennial winners situation. I’d combine that with Best News & Information Source, with both print and online versions eligible.

Because the Best Fanzine FAAn Award is roughly equivalent to the Best Motion Picture Oscar, I would recommend calculating it in the same manner as #1 Fan Face. People would not vote directly for Best Fanzine, but rather for the subcategories. All votes would be totaled for the big award, along with other mentions (the Best Cover award under Art would gain points for the fanzines that published it) as appropriate.

FAN WRITING CATEGORY

2.	Best Fan Writer	79%
2a.	Best Article (Fannish)	42%
2b.	Best Article (Sercon)	26%
2c.	Best Series or Column	26%
2d.	Best Letterhack (Harry Warner Award)	74%

Traditionally, the Letterhack award has been a full trophy along with Best Fan Writer, but I chose this year to make it a subcategory along with other types of fanwriting. Voters focused on the two traditional categories, and most ignored the new options.

From the various opinions expressed, the problem with the three middle awards was they required far too much work and effort to make a meaningful choice. It's easy to remember that you like Jophan's fan writing, and less easy to remember any particular article Jophan published last year.

Eliminating the three subcategories makes most sense, though they could be made to work with a recommendations process. I understand that for various reasons a nominating round or a jury approach has been rejected, but recommendations are different. They don't restrict voter choice and they can be ignored. If a number of knowledgeable fans each wrote some recommendations that could be distributed alongside the FAAn Awards ballot, it would be much easier for lower-information voters. Personally, I would really value that kind of information. I won't go diving into last year's fanzines to pick the very best stuff, but if a few people whose opinions I respect suggest a particular article or issue, I might well go read them, and the quality of my vote would be much higher.

I did try to do this, but again, no takers for this year, possibly due to unhappiness with my overall approach.

FAN ART CATEGORY

3.	Best Fan Artist	26%
3a.	Best Cover (Illustration)	58%
3b.	Best Cover (Design/Photography)	42%
3c.	Best Illustrator (Fannish)	42%
3d.	Best Illustrator (Stfnal)	5%
3e.	Best Portfolio	5%
3f.	Best Photographer	37%
3g.	Graphic Design	32%

While Best Fan Artist drew unusually low response, it's easily explained by the 74% who voted for the Steve Stiles special award. The two Best Cover awards got much higher response, due primarily to Bill Burns' cover gallery. Best Illustrator (Fannish) was for a person, not a specific piece of art, so drew much more attention; Best Illustrator (Stfnal) and Best Portfolio drew only a single vote apiece, and no certificate was awarded. Best Photographer was another experiment; while it drew 37% of the voters, the winner evidently hasn't published photographs in fanzines for some time. Based on this, I'd keep a single Best Cover and an overall Best Illustrator category.

While Best Graphic Design only drew 32%, I thought it was an important category, and I'd recommend keeping it. A number of fanzines have made real efforts in this area, and it should be encouraged.

ONLINE FANAC CATEGORY

4.	Award for Online Achievement	47%
4a.	Best Archive or Resource	58%
4b.	Best News/Information Resource	63%
4c.	Best Group or List	58%
4d.	Best Blogger	11%
4e.	Best Online Presence	26%

As with the Best Fan Artist category, a lower than usual vote for the Online Achievement Award is explained by the Special Award for efanzines.com, in which 53% cast a vote.

I believe that part of the reason for efanzines' domination of the category was that Best Fan Website encompassed way too broad of a field, and people tended to default to the easy choice. The diversity of voting among the categories and the overall strong turnout in most of the Online categories supports this. I suggest

that future FAAn Awards should break the category into at least three (Archive or Resource, News and Information, Group or List). Best Blogger and Best Online Presence didn't get a lot of attention; if they continue, they should probably be lumped into an overall Best Online Presence category, or stretch the Group or List category to cover everything that isn't an archive or news site. The "Best News and Information Source" would be for both print and online, as most such publications offer both anyway.

IN-PERSON FANAC CATEGORY

5.	#1 Fan Face	26%
5a.	SMOF of the Year	42%
5b.	Award for Services to the Hobby	63%
5c.	Smoooth Operator	37%

I am no fan of #1 Fan Face, but kept it on the ballot for traditional reasons, and tabulated it in the traditional manner. I did give people an additional option to vote for #1 Fan Face in the In-Person category, though few did.

I strongly recommend keeping Services to the Hobby as a main FAAn Award category, and the voter turnout seems to agree. Conrunning could easily be combined into the category. If Services to the Hobby is kept, I'd recommend naming it in someone's honor, though I'm not sure who.

Although only 37% voted for the Smoooth Operator award, I think an award for being good company is a nice thing. Should it continue, I'd also recommend naming it the Bob Tucker Smoooth Operator Award, or just the Bob Tucker Smoooth Award.

Given the range of excellent candidates in this area, it's worth considering making the winners ineligible for 3-5 years to make sure recognition is given to all who have earned it. After that period, winners would return to eligibility.

UNRECOGNIZED ACHIEVEMENT

It doesn't happen every year, but occasionally some great work is overlooked by the FAAn Awards. I would have the category as an option on future FAAn Award ballots, though only award it when there's a clear consensus in favor of a particular winner. This year, 32% voted, so I awarded a certificate. Had there been a 60-70% turnout, I would have upgraded it to a trophy. I would keep this on the ballot for future years, but only award it if a winner achieved some

significant threshold, like 35% of the voter population. It wouldn't, therefore, be awarded most years, but when it was, it would only go to very popular choices.

Tabulation

I adapted the #1 Fan Face process for all trophy voting. All votes in all subcategories (whether a certificate resulted or not) were counted toward the award winner for that category. If you voted for something for the “Best Once-a-Year Fanzine Using CreateSpace” certificate, that vote also counted toward the Best Fanzine trophy.

In addition, relevant votes in other categories were also added to the award tally. A vote for “Best Cover” earned a Best Fanzine point for the fanzine that published it, as well as a vote for its creator as Best Fan Artist. And all of them counted as points toward #1 Fan Face.

The exceptions involved our two Special Award winners. Steve Stiles, for example, won the “Best Illustrator (Fannish)” certificate, and all those votes would normally add to his Best Fan Artist total. Because the Special Award made him ineligible, those votes weren't counted. However, those votes (and votes for the Special Award), were counted toward #1 Fan Face.

It sounds more complicated than it is. Since we didn't ask voters to tabulate their own ballots, in practice this had no impact on voters, although I could have been more clear that *all* votes would be counted, even though there might not be a certificate in every subcategory.

For those interested in the mechanics of vote-counting, I set up a multi-page Excel book, one page per category. (Available on request.) As ballots came in, I typed each vote in the appropriate column, regardless of whether it had been listed before. In the next column, I created a COUNTIF function for the first appearance of each nominee. The expression =COUNTIF(E7:E16, “Beam 13”), for example, looked at each entry in the range, and counted all the ones that contained the text string “Beam 13.” I could have sorted the column to group all the nominees by name and counted them by hand, but the likelihood of errors would have increased along with the number of voters. COUNTIF was safer. If there were only a handful of entries and only one or two candidates, I felt safe doing it manually.

Commentary and Recommendations

Why have FAAn Awards? What are they supposed to accomplish? Are the FAAn Awards there to provide a signpost for future historians to discover the very best of our field? Are they intended to be a definitive critical judgment of excellence? Or are they simply an opportunity to provide some cheerful egoboo to our fannish friends and colleagues?

There are fans who have very strong and passionate opinions on the subject, but not all those opinions agree. Even when they do, I'm not sure they represent the opinions of fanzine fandom as a whole, assuming fanzine fandom as a whole has much of an opinion.

Right now, of course, the decision for each year depends on who ends up as FAAn Awards Administrator. My position is clear: cheerful egoboo, and the more the merrier. When the supposed integrity of the awards trumps the feelings of recipients, and the major emotion expressed each year about the awards is unhappiness with some aspect or another, I have a hard time thinking of this as being in line with the spirit of fannishness, at least the way I understand it.

A substantial part of my experimental approach this year didn't work (too many categories, too complex a ballot), and I apologize for the upset that caused. We did have a high quality of winners (and voters) and spread around a lot of egoboo. I count that as a success. Plus, there's a great deal of new information here.

As always, the actions of future FAAn Awards Administrators are up to them, and nothing I say or do is binding on anyone else. I do hope future award committees will consider adding some of these categories; whether they are divided into trophies and certificates or all placed on the same level. In particular, the online options need expansion, and we should make sure that the full range of fanac is honored.

With that in mind, here's my list of suggested categories for next year's ballot.

1. **BEST FANZINE** (not voted on directly, but tabulated like #1 Fan Face from all categories that mention specific fanzines. The actual votes would be for:)
 2. **Best Genzine**
 3. **Best Perzine (includes apazines)**
 4. **Best Special Publication**
5. **BEST FAN WRITER**
6. **HARRY WARNER JR. AWARD FOR BEST LETTERHACK**

7. **BEST FAN ARTIST** (voted directly, not totaled from subcategories. I'd also add two more art awards:)
 8. **Best Cover, Illustration, or Portfolio**
 9. **Best Graphic Design** (awarded to a publication)
10. **BEST NEWS AND INFORMATION SOURCE** (print and/or online)
11. **BEST ONLINE ARCHIVE OR RESOURCE** (efanzines.com would not be eligible for this award.)
12. **BEST ONLINE FANAC** (groups or lists, bloggers, online presence, etc. Everything that isn't a news site or an archive/resource.)
13. **AWARD FOR SERVICES TO THE HOBBY** (fan charities, con running, etc. Includes the "SMOF" category from this year. This award should be named for someone, but I'm not sure who.)
15. **BOB TUCKER SMOOTH AWARD** (for someone whose presence brightens every con or every interaction, or who has great gossip. Considering the number of people who could be given this award, I'd make the winner ineligible for a period of five years, just so we could spread the egoboo around. No "Buggins' Turn" situation here; in terms of legitimate candidates, there's an embarrassment of riches.)
16. **#1 FAN FACE** (awarded using the traditional system, though as noted I'm not a fan of the category.)
17. **LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD** (chosen by a Sekrit Cabal of previous winners and Corflu chairs, as is traditional)
18. **SPECIAL AWARD FOR UNRECOGNIZED ACHIEVEMENT** (I still think this is an important option, but it shouldn't be awarded on a regular basis. I'd set a standard, such as "At least 35% of the total voter pool has to agree on a choice or else no award," which would ensure the trophy only went to really deserving candidates who had wide support.)

Of the 18 awards, voters would actually cast votes for only 15: Best Fanzine, #1 Fan Face, and the Lifetime Achievement Awards would not receive direct votes. Most years, only 17 awards would be.

While this is a lot fewer than this year, it's a significant increase over past years and (*pace* rich brown), that's not too many. It shouldn't be too difficult and too

time consuming to complete a ballot even with a larger number of categories, as all the categories that required significant research are gone.

If the goal of the Fan Activity Achievement Awards is to recognize the full range of fan activity (as opposed to focusing exclusively on *fanzine* activity), at least some of these categories are needed. I hope future FAAn Awards administrators will consider them.

Trophies and Certificates

The last item to discuss related to the FAAn Awards is trophies. No matter your philosophy about the FAAn Awards, trophies are good things. They add value. They look good on your bookshelf. Unfortunately, they tend to be pricey.

Early in the process, I set out to create what I hoped would be a permanent trophy for the awards. Working with John (Doc) Morgan of Toronto, we attempted to develop a trophy based on the Enchanted Duplicator, a two-part award consisting of a gold cube with a mimeograph on top.

Bill Burns directed me toward a site called Shapeways, which allows you to upload a 3-D model and have it printed in various materials. Looking at offerings on their website, I estimated that we could have a final printable trophy in the \$20-\$30 range. Most Corflus could afford this, or we could make trophies a fundraising target. (I budgeted the “Premium Member” income to pay for awards.)

Sadly, Doc Morgan had real-life issues interfere, and by the time he was able to finish, the only option that would meet our deadline was resin casting, at an approximate cost of \$90/trophy, way outside our price range.

I still believe it’s possible to get this done and made available a lower price, but it’s only worth pursuing if future awards committees want it. I understand from John Purcell that his wife will be designing next year’s awards, and I look forward to seeing them, so I’ll shut down the 3-D printing project and settle up with Doc.

Meanwhile, I still needed awards, and time was running out. The T-shirt vendor I used, Fully Promoted of Bethesda, also made awards. I published a mockup in *Random Jottings* 16, and there are also photos in the Corflu 36 group on Facebook. The all-in cost for eight trophies (including set-up and shipping) was \$488.59, or \$61.07 each. Certificates (including gold foil trimmed paper and certificate holders) cost \$50.47, or \$2.52 each.

Just about everything to do with the awards turned into trouble. The trophy style was known as the “Pierce Award,” presumably because you could pierce someone with it. It came in three sizes. The prices weren’t too far apart, so I ordered the large size, 8.75” tall. A week and a half before the convention, while I was teaching a seminar, I got an email. The trophies I ordered were out of stock. The alternative they suggested looked terrible. And we were out of time.

Our salesperson made some calls, and found some Pierce Awards...size small, 6.875” tall. (The mediums, also unavailable, were 7.75” tall.) It was go small or go home, so I took the small. I still think they look good, though.



Not the Actual Winner

And then they nearly didn’t arrive, but that story is told elsewhere. The good news is that we ended up with a duplicate set at no extra cost.

In investigating award options, I did find an inexpensive option that future Corflus can use. I got inscribed trophies for Just a Minac and fwa Past President for \$34.68 in total from Crown Trophies (<https://www.crownawards.com/StoreFront/TRP.Trophies.cat>). While I couldn’t find anything either stfnal or fannish, they make a range of trophies that allow you to create a semi-customized trophy by either printing a logo or making an insert that can be added to a number of designs. There are trophies available for under \$20, and the set-up for the insert is \$35. (A trophy like this would make a great Guest of Honor gift.)

And this ends the 2019 Fan Activity Achievement Awards. While I’m happy to discuss this with interested parties, the decision authority is now in the hands of John Purcell or whomever he designates for Corflu 37 Heatwave. See you all there!

Michael Dobson



"How did we do it—before we had the Mimeograph?" queries her boss. "It has cut down our operating staff and our office expense. But better still, it has saved great chunks of *precious time*—and that's what counts now." The Mimeograph prints *better letters, forms, blanks, etc.*—with diagrams and illustrations if you wish—*quicker* than ever before. Let us show you. **A word of caution:** The Edison-Dick Mimeograph and the supplies which we manufacture for it are made to *work together*. Upset this relationship, the work suffers, and our responsibility for its quality and output ceases. Substitute inferior supplies and the result is the sure waste of both valuable time and materials. You do not know what splendid work the Mimeograph can do unless you have seen the new Mimeograph operating under proper conditions. Write for booklet "V"—today. A. H. Dick Company, Chicago—and New York.



INTRODUCTION

Inca #16 (Notes for a Corflu Conrunner)

I'm indebted to Rob Jackson for organizing and developing a pile of additional information on Corflu convention management, and for giving me permission to reprint the appropriate section from *Inca* #16.

I'm a big believer in checklists. They make sins of omission less likely (the absence of a microphone for the main program) and reduce certain risks. They're relatively easy and quick to create, use, maintain, and update. While checklists aren't the be-all and end-all of project management, they're still very useful.

This brings my collection of the Corflu 36 Papers to a close. While I don't expect many to read this, I hope those of you who have persevered to this point have found useful tips and ideas, so that if you, too, are someday ~~curse~~ privileged to run a Corflu of your own, your course will be at least a bit smooooooooother for this information.

SIXTEENTH ISSUE
inca

THE
TRUTH
ABOUT
INTER-
GALACTIC
CATTLE
THEFT!



LOOK,
HAROLD,
ALIENS
ARE
STEALING
OUR
COW!

WHY DON'T
THEY JUST
GO BACK
TO THEIR
OWN
DAMNED
PLANET?

2019

Notes for a Corflu Conrunner **

Part 1 – an IntheBar Conversation

(with thanks to Bill Burns, Graham Charnock, Michael Dobson, Frank Lunney, Curt Phillips, John Purcell, Nigel Rowe and Ted White)

*** or other small con of your choice – other cons are available*

About next year, Corflu Heatwave:

Well, I have really stepped in it now. Next year's Corflu will be here in College Station, Texas. It is to be called Corflu Heatwave, in reference to it being the 37th Corflu and 37 deg C – and perhaps not all that much cooler than that in Texas in May.

I have the dates narrowed down to five potential weekends that do not conflict with any other conventions like EasterCon, Minicon, NorWesCon (all Easter weekend events) nor any Memorial Day cons, either. I will be sending off a polished up version of the Corflu 37 bid prospectus to Bill Burns so that all y'all can see the sordid details in there very soon.

My darling wife Valerie, being an artist, is probably going to design next year's FAAn Awards, in addition to overseeing the hospitality end of things. Plus my colleague in crime, Pablo Vasquez, is probably much better than I at designing the web page for Corflu 37. I hope that we can get that up and running fairly quickly (at the latest in early June). Stay tuned.

Prices at hotels here – and there are dozens of them, thanks to Texas A&M University being in the SEC makes it a major draw – are very reasonable as a result of the competition for customers. That's a good thing for me!

John Purcell

Ah. That explains your relaxed attitude to hotel contracts - a buyer's market is definitely a good thing here!

-- Rob J.

Good prices, but still slightly more than Michael was able to get for the Cambria in Rockville, MD. \$109 for a double, while the Marriott will be \$129? (\$109 for a single?)

- Frank

The introductory \$40 (£30) rate for attending membership ended at the end of May. As of June it is \$50 until end of August, \$75 through the end of 2019, \$100 until end of April 2020, \$125 at the door.

Bill

As for hotel room rates and parking, the room rates I listed (*on the flyer for Corflu Heatwave distributed at the Banquet during Corflu FIAWOL*) were the regular rates, not convention rates, which will be lower, and those were for singles, doubles and so on; parking is free even for visitors.

I will be asking questions from past Corflu chairs regarding things that went both right and wrong.

John Purcell

About this year's con, Corflu FIAWOL:

For con chairmanship, I score Michael 95% despite the fact this is the first con he has organised. Bloody superb job overall.

-- Rob J.

I agree. I probably saw more of the “behind the scenes” work than almost anyone else except Mike's wife and I can assure all that everything ran as smoothly as it did because Mike put in a hell of a lot of work up front on it all. He made much of Corflu 36 look effortless, but the effort was there, all right. I've worked on several conventions over the decades and nothing I've seen in the organization of any of them has ever impressed me as much as the work Mike did on this convention.

He had some unconventional ideas and was told several times by multiple people “that won't work” and “that's not the way we do it”, but I think the results speak for themselves. I saw him listening to advice from others, and I saw him weigh and balance that input and some of it did change his plans, but his concept remained strong throughout. Mike really does deserve quite a lot of respect for what he accomplished with Corflu 36. He certainly earned mine.

Curt

And Michael was generous. He is the first Corflu chair to donate the money raised from GoH Opt-Outs – at all, to anyone/thing, much less to the GoH him/herself. Renting that “overflow suite” was another example. (He offered it to me first, in case I didn't want to drive home. But with my own very nice bed so close by, I thanked him and passed on his offer.) And I can think of many other acts of generosity outside the purview of Corflu. He has a generous spirit.

And he knows how to manage things. Professionally.

--Ted White

Indeed. He told me he is using the con as a project management study for his students.

-- Rob J.

Michael believes there should be a checklist for Corflu chairs based on past experiences. I hope he can be persuaded to do it while the con is still fresh in his mind.

Bill

Michael's pre-bid zine was a huge help in developing what I put together. I agree: a checklist is a great idea.

John P.

About technical operations:

Michael produced a magnificent Corflu, but he made one mistake: No microphones. Some people speak softly and need amplification.

--Ted White

Watching proceedings on YouTube I could hear everything perfectly, but maybe that was because Rob had optimized his microphone placement. I heard people in the room asking speakers to speak up.

Graham

The webcam/mike was as close as I could get it to the speakers/panellists while still covering the required field of view; this was usually about 12 feet. Those at the back of the room were 50-60 feet away; the inverse square law means they had every right to grumble about inaudibility.

-- Rob J.

I just watched the auction video on YouTube and think you did a great job with it. The audio was perfectly adequate, and the improvement in the video quality over the old UStream set-up is remarkable.

Curt

Thanks, Curt! I was also using a proper webcam and laptop instead of an iPad.

-- Rob J.

Rendering both the panel/speaker and projected images at the same time is impossible, as the brightness difference between the two scenes is far beyond the ability of most cameras to cope with. If there are just a few slides it's probably best to focus on the speakers, but if the slide show is the main feature (as with Steve Stiles's art panel), that would have to be what was transmitted, with no views of the panel. Unless, of course, there's a device which would let Rob use two cameras and cut between them as needed.

Bill

Re the webcam and its brightness: once I got it close to the screen and with the slides in the centre, the visuals were pretty fair online. I think Steve's art show was mostly visible. Which of course means that no-one could see Steve or the other panellists, so I used the chat section on the right to say who was speaking.

-- Rob J.

Notes for a Corflu Conrunner – A Symposium

There was a delay in starting because Susan Graham's presentation about fanzine archiving was not on Michael's iPad, or otherwise able to be projected: there was no USB to VGA connection to link a Windows laptop to his elderly data projector. Michael had asked the presenters to send him their material in advance, but this didn't happen. On the day he relied on a Lightning cable between his iPad and having the presentations stored on that.

We tried to transfer the file via Dropbox on my laptop; but transferring Susan Graham's 125MB PowerPoint to any of Michael's email accounts via Dropbox or Google Drive proved too complex partly because of Google's finicky need to have permissions for every bit of data transfer. Ironically the presentation is still stored on my laptop, but I will only share it with Susan's permission.

The microphone couldn't be brought any closer without either losing sight of one of the panellists or fitting a separate microphone in ways which I have not yet technically mastered. After the con I bought a 12-foot USB-to-USB extension cable in Best Buy. So in future, the webcam can be wherever we want it to be, and my laptop can be near a socket where its cable won't risk tripping anyone up.

We are still only now getting the YouTube/online notification thing worked out. It may be better to have a separate Corflu Videos YouTube channel if we can do it without paying too much. Then, everyone could have plenty of advance notice where to look, via the e-lists, the Facebook group and the Corflu website itself. Bill and I as well as others can work on this.

-- Rob J.

Equipment compatibility should definitely be on the checklist. Ideally, someone on the committee or staff would have tested a laptop to use with the video projector for every program item, and anyone planning to run a slideshow would then be requested to provide it on a USB stick, which would also be tested before the program started.

A PA system should be on the checklist as a must-have.

Bill

About the hotel:

The (Cambria) hotel was incredibly cooperative, friendly and helpful. Maybe because it's new and trying to establish itself.

Parking in the hotel garage was \$12.00 a day, which – as a non-guest of the hotel – I was prepared to pay. But Michael suggested I find someone who had a room and get them to validate my parking so it would be free. Then someone else told me, Friday afternoon, that all I needed to do was be a member of the convention for free parking. So I went to the front desk, parking ticket in hand and wearing my convention badge, and they validated the ticket for the entire weekend. So I parked for free. And I could go in and out at will.

--Ted White

My phone call from my room phone in the hotel to Jay's cell phone (with a 415 San Francisco phone number), was \$000.00.

Michael managed to negotiate an incredible deal this year.

- Frank

About badges:

A word about the badges: Visually, they were perfect, large and with large-printed names, first bigger than last (on two rows). But they were "attached" via magnets -- a magnetic bar that went under your shirt and held the badge to your shirt.

But. I was wearing my black jean-jacket. I tried attaching the badge to my left breast-pocket flap. But my left arm kept pushing the badge loose and I almost lost the magnetic bar several times. Then I tried the area below my pocket. That way when the bar came loose it fell into my inside pocket. Ultimately I stopped wearing the badge and kept it in my pocket. Magnets are very skiffy, but lanyards work better.

--Ted White

As for name badges, I personally prefer lanyards.

John Purcell

Mary and I really liked the magnetic badges, which we hadn't seen before. I understand Ted's problem, but on lightweight clothing they were reliably attached and quite convenient.

Bill

Notes for a Corflu Conrunner – A Symposium

The magnets were superb – except if like Ted you have outerwear too thick for the magnet to work properly. Novacon offer people a choice of clips or lanyards, which is good. They also do what is traditional now for cons – double-sided printing.

-- Rob J.

We did have some lanyards available. I brought a box of them up with me. I hope I didn't forget and leave them in the truck...

Curt

About the consuite:

Home from Corflu now. Utterly exhausted. Will shower, then head for a bed that is not quite as comfortable as the one I slept in at the Cambria Hotel in Rockville, MD, but which is nonetheless mine own. Much to report, but no energy at present. Suffice to say, that all went not only well but far better than I or we had hoped. It was a very good Corflu.

Curt

Correct in every detail! Michael D says they ought to clone you and import you to run the con suite at every Corflu – but with the amount of non-stop work you put in I'm not surprised you need a rest – you deserve it!

-- Rob J.

Thanks. I had fun with it. And doing that work was my way of sort of paying fandom back – in some part – for my Corflu 50 trip in 2009, so thinking of it that way made the work seem effortless. But it really was fun to do the planning and implementation of the consuite. I can see why some fans make a sort of sub-fandom of that sort of work.

Curt

Room 711 was a possible alternate “Ted's room.” But that was unnecessary after the stroke of genius the hotel, or Michael, had in putting the Steffans into 709, the room between 708 (Curt's room, where the consuite supplies were stored) and 710 (the consuite itself). On Thursday night a grumpy old lady had emerged from 709 at around 9.30 and asked for the noise in the corridor to be shut up so she could sleep. Michael was giving out advanced registrations and con packs from the seating area in that corner, and several other conversations were taking place. But thankfully she moved out,

and 709, Dan and Lynn's room, became the de facto “Ted's room” for the whole of the rest of the con, so 711 was not required for that.

-- Rob J.

About the programme and scheduling:

Oh the fun we had! But really. Andy Hooper scheduled the rehearsal for the play – due to start after Sandra's item, for the 60 minutes between the end of the auction and Just a Minac starting. As I was in both items, it meant Saturday dinner was a non-event. Andy thoughtfully ordered some Indian food for take-away, which Carrie was dispatched to collect while we rehearsed, and rehearsed. Then the food turned up and I hadn't finished before Sandra's item started. I had to exit stage right and finish my dinner, because I was starving, and we had been trapped for five hours by the auction, play rehearsal and what not, without a break!

But it all worked out, even though I had to miss a relaxed dinner hanging out. Next time I won't be so quick to offer to participate in all the Saturday night activities. It's Corflu, we don't have programme item runners!

Nigel

Andy scheduled his play's final run-through for the two-hour dinner break, as he was given very little time otherwise between the auction (which was his responsibility) and the play (which was also his responsibility). It was the only way Andy could fit it in. Having a programme runner wouldn't have changed that.

-- Rob J.

About communication and information:

We should certainly use diverse means of making announcements. For real-time updates Facebook is probably the best overall, as it allows instant posting of photos from smartphones as well as immediate comments – it's not really a “lazy option,” but realistically the one that most people use these days. It's also easy enough to send emails to various lists as well as Facebook, as I did with Rob's YouTube links once each new one was established (also from my phone). Updating the

Notes for a Corflu Conrunner – A Symposium

website on the fly is rather more difficult, as I have to log on to my system at home via a remote access program on my laptop, then work with various programs on the small screen instead of my two big monitors.

I didn't know until we got to Rockville that there would be an on-site program book with the auction listings, and I assume that Michael could have let me have a PDF shortly before the con if he had thought about it. I could then have added it to the website. However, this would have helped only partially with the auction lots. The program book had the first sixty items, but about the same number of lots were added at the con, and only the auctioneer's list had all of them. Again, it's possible that I could have obtained a copy of this just before the auction and distributed it as above.

Bill

The auction catalogue was very last minute – Andy H and I both put a lot of work into compiling this during the last 10 days in the run-up to the con. It was a lot more detailed than usual; Andy wanted to speed the Auction up by not having to look through each fanzine as he (or any other auctioneer) picked it up off the table, so listed the significant external contributions and covers for each zine. You do get Andy's list in the final Programme Book which is in the packages for supporting members; but my supplementary list of Skel's zines was too late for inclusion. Andy compiled a final list for the Auction itself with the zines handed to him at the con.

-- Rob J.

The previous GoH list should be on the Corflu website as a single list. I think most of the history pages have the name of the GoH for that Corflu, and I'll do a compilation when I have a few minutes.

I was thinking I'd make a page of "Corflu Notables" which would show in one place the Chair, the GoH, and the Lifetime Achievement Award for each year. The Past Presidents of FWA already have their own page:

<http://corflu.org/history/fwa.html>

New page is now on the Corflu site:

<http://corflu.org/history/fans.html>

Bill

A final word:

I had absolutely no problems with any facet of the convention, and that's what I told Michael.

I couldn't think of anything to complain about. No single malts in the con suite? No big deal... I had Margaritas instead.

- Frank

Part 2 - Thoughts From Organisers

Various Corflu Chairs and other fans with wide experience of running, auctioneering, webmastering or otherwise steering Corflus were asked for their thoughts.

Michael Dobson, Chair of Corflu FIAWOL, 2019, Rockville, MD

The final Corflu Fiawol numbers were: total membership 85, including at-con signups. Sixty were registered as attending members and 25 supporting. Of the 60 attending, 50 actually came.

There's a trick to using the magnet on a thicker jacket. I did have lanyard and clip versions available on request; among other things, the

magnets are contraindicated for pacemaker wearers.

Ted's right about the microphones. Unfortunately, by the time that became clear, it was too late to do anything about it. There was limited AV support available on Saturday, and I thought it would take an hour or two to get a mike installed, by which

Notes for a Corflu Conrunner – A Symposium

time most of the panels would be over. My somewhat snappish remark, “That ship has sailed,” was aimed at an attendee who kept arguing when I was trying to get the panel underway. As a speaker, it would never have occurred to me to use a mike in a room that small — another reason a checklist would be handy. Certainly Corflu could have handled the additional expense.

On the presentations, I asked everyone who planned to use a PowerPoint send it to me via email or Dropbox, so I could load everything on my iPad, which has all the proper connectors, but nobody obliged. It also didn’t occur to me to worry about different laptop connectors, as I routinely work with older projectors at client sites and always have a VGA/SVGA converter for my device handy. I’ve now bought a Bluetooth remote control and an HDMI-to-VGA connector and added them to the projector bag, so if I should bring the projector again, those problems won’t reoccur. My biggest error (aside from the microphone) was not having a long enough cable to drag the iPad over to the panel table, which meant I had to sit and change slides by hand for two of the presentations, partially blocking your video feed at several points. My iPhone can double as a remote control for the iPad, so that’s what I’d planned to use, but for some reason the link between the two devices failed. All lessons learned for next time. I’m going to ask Susan for her presentation.

On Friday’s “grumpy old lady”: I thought about asking to move her to a different room, but of course the hotel was sold out. Several people offered to switch rooms with her, so first thing Saturday morning I went to the front desk to discuss it. Our hotel liaison, Katherine, showed up immediately to let me know (a) the woman had already checked out, and (b) she personally made sure that the new person in the room was one of ours. That’s service...the problem was solved before I could explain what it was.

The at-con program book was a last-minute add. I planned for RJ16 to double as the program book (in particular for details on the pre-Corflu activities and airport-to-hotel travel, but when Andy sent me his preliminary auction catalog, I decided to put one together at the last minute. For Facebook refuseniks, had I known in advance I could have easily set up a Blogspot page or something similar for at-con updates. Easy to fix in the future. To my knowledge, the Corflu.org website doesn’t support chat, though I may well be mistaken.

Curt and I could probably have found seats at one of the other banquet tables, but being up front

made it a bit easier to keep tabs on everything. We were in the largest function room the hotel had, so there really wasn’t an option for more space. There have been several complaints about lukewarm food. As neither Curt nor I had lots of time to eat, we didn’t notice.

On the GoH selection: I am of mixed minds about the whole GoH opt-out process. It seems unfair to demand a ransom from attendees who have already paid to get out of a responsibility they didn’t ask for. I know other Corflus have felt the same way and eliminated the \$20 opt-out fee altogether. I made the \$20 optional. If you wanted to opt out and didn’t want to pay the \$20, you didn’t have to, and a couple of people took that route. I thought that by telling people the money was going to the GoH, more would think it was a fun thing to do, and that part worked well, and Corflu 36 didn’t need the money. I’m delighted we got Jim Benford at GoH, and he did spend all his GoH money at the auction. I also think the GoH should get some sort of memento, which is why I got the Dave Kyle pillow.

In terms of staffing a Corflu, aside from volunteers who have specific functions (you on the online Corflu, Andy on auction, Geri and Spike on booze, etc.), my feeling is that we would ideally have four staffers: two for the consuite (Curt, mind you, did the work of at least three people, but next time Mere Mortals are in charge, it’s at least a two-person job), and two for the rest of the con. At several moments, I needed to focus on two things simultaneously, or be in two places at once.

Repeated distractions caused a few things to slip. I did indeed have a list of previous GoHs and was marking them off the registration list to make sure their names didn’t go in the box, but with various interruptions and everything else going on, I obviously missed a few. A second person would have fixed this.

I’ve been mentally sorting my mistakes into categories: things that could have avoided with more staff (e.g., that second person on the con-running side) and things that could have been avoided with better documentation (the lack of microphones). There are, of course, mistakes that were simply me being stupid or clumsy (not having a longer VGA cable to allow the iPad to be moved to the panellists’ table — I have plenty at home and I could easily have thrown one in the bag), but a second person or written procedures might have helped me catch them.

There are some things that didn’t work out as well as I had hoped that weren’t actually mistakes as such, but rather were deliberate choices on my

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part (the experimental aspects of my Corflu). Some turn out to have been simply bad ideas, while others might well have worked with a few tweaks. The lesson from the first group is not to do them again, but items in the second group may still be worth considering, regardless of the outcome of the first try.

Then there are choices and outcomes that simply reflected my values and desires as a Corflu chair. Part of the sloppiness of my program ops is that my feelings about Corflu programming parallel JDB's. He'd prefer something along the lines of the old Midwestcons (which I also remember with great fondness) and to hell with all the programming. I don't care for most Corflu programming myself; so much of it is about fannish trivia in which I have no interest whatsoever. I frequently skip most of the program, which is another reason I didn't notice some of the technical issues until too late.

I barely notice operational con-running mistakes myself; if I have a good time with the people I came to see, it's a great Corflu. Regardless of all the whinging, I had a very good time in Toronto (except for some airline issues that can hardly be blamed on C&C). I did take a more active role in developing the program at my Corflu than I'd originally intended; it was, after all, the only time I'd ever be in position to do so, and I wanted to see whether I could develop a program I myself would enjoy attending. (Result: mixed).

While a Corflu chair traditionally enjoys a fair degree of latitude, it's not absolute, and there were some things I ended up doing not because I wanted them, but because enough attendees did (e.g., t-shirts). One area of regret I have is that I really had no idea how much some people enjoy online Corflu until the ItB discussions that came up. I just figured you were going to take care of everything and I could safely ignore it, but in retrospect it seems clear that there was a lot more that could have been done to make that part of the con much better.

In reading the latest version, I'm struck again with how useful and productive Curt's questionnaire turned out to be. Had I thought of it, I would have done something similar for the rest of the con. What kind of programming (if any) do people want? What other activities would people have enjoyed? What are people's pet peeves or small

delights at a con? I can see the results of a questionnaire like this really improving the convention experience for its attendees.

The tendency in this kind of analysis is to focus on what went wrong with an idea to improving things in the future, but often we overlook things that worked well and should be repeated. I thought the pre- and post-Corflu activities (Baltimore, Gallery Place, Antietam) were a great success. I think attendance was boosted, and certainly more people came for an extended period. From a con-runner's perspective, it was easy and cheap to offer them. I put a lot of energy (and a fair amount of Corflu money) into helping people come to the convention, from free memberships to free room nights. Corflu 50 has an important role, but there are too many of us for whom a few hundred dollars stands in the way of attendance. My original hope with the Premium member option was to raise money for that purpose. We didn't get enough for that (though we did get enough for the awards), but I steered every dollar I could to that purpose. It's one of the accomplishments I'm proudest of.

My sense of this compilation is not in any way to impose requirements on future Corflu chairs (not that that's possible anyway), but to serve as an accumulated source of advice and ideas. I'd never run a con of any sort before, so found myself all too often having to "reinvent the wheel" because of a lack of information. While I might not have followed every suggestion (or felt pressure to do so), I would have found a resource like this enormously helpful.

PS from Pat Charnock, chair of Tynecon III: the Corflu, 2015:

Liaison with the duty hotel people over operational timings is essential. So, making sure they know when you're going to be needing the rooms, setting up, how keys will be available and who they will be available to, who to contact and how. Also, when they can/should clean rooms and when they should steer clear. When furniture needs to be moved around. That sort of thing. Oh, and giving organisers an induction into how lighting systems work.

Corflu Auctions

Notes from Nigel Rowe, Chair, Chiflu 2016

My two cents worth would be to weigh in on the auction. Some of these remarks are in the guide already.

It's obvious that Corflus benefit hugely from the auction these days, and this can make the difference between breaking even or suffering a loss.

1. The folks running the auction should not have to devote most of the Saturday (and the days beforehand) preparing, organizing, and on the day itself sorting out what happened afterwards. It should be made clear that any items previously unannounced, or brought along on the day (weekend) will not be live auctioned-off and will be sold on a "make your best offer" silent-auction type affair with bids written down on the accompanying bid-sheets and successful bids being the highest bid after the live auction has concluded.

2. Having a list of available items before the con is the best option. This can either be made available to all attendees as a PDF on the website or used as the basis for conducting the live auction. The list at Rockville was marvelous, but because of additions on the day and items being auctioned off out of sequence, it made for a disjointed experience for all involved and hard to follow along. The list should be focused on the critical things to know. The auctioneer/s can embellish this on the day as necessary. While the Rockville auction list had lots of great info, it makes the process of assembling much more tedious and cumbersome.

3. Keep things moving along quickly. An auction longer than two hours doesn't necessarily bring in more money, especially if too much time is spent on low-bid items, or things where there isn't any interest. Items should be prioritized as to likely interest, entertainment value and variety, to keep people's attention. Also, a time limit increases the likelihood that people will stick around.

4. All items should have a bid sheet that is attached to items sold in the live auction or used to gather bids in the silent auction. These should be handed in to the folks keeping track of who bought what and for how much. The biggest problem as I see it, is time spent figuring out which entity benefits from the funds (C50, Corflu, Taff, Duff, etc.) Pre-

completed bid sheets with this info solves this problem. The bid sheets should be downloadable from corflu.org ahead of the con so donors can provide all the details necessary for when they ship the items to the con or deliver them at the con. For items delivered at the con, the sheet details should be sent in ahead of time. This will make the whole process much easier to assemble on the day and the creation of the auction list.

5. Non-present auction bidders should be required to at least be a supporting member of the con or have someone in the room bidding on their behalf. I say this, because not only are things slowed down waiting for disjointed bids/webcam viewing to be accomplished, but it's not fair to those people that are attending in person. Again having a list of auction items before the auction starts is therefore a valuable thing to offer those bidding remotely and should help speed things along, as well as help attract bidders who might not get involved since they need to be glued to a computer to otherwise follow along in a disjointed fashion. It is also an added benefit of a supporting membership.

I'm offering all this as someone who has organized auctions at cons for 35+ years, spent lots of money bidding on things, and lots of time waiting for interesting/valuable items to come up, only to see time running out and the item not sold, yet lots of time was spent figuring out sizes for a t-shirt that sells for \$5, or reviewing other things of low value/interest. Yes, I'm an auction snob! But I truly believe auctions should be fun, successful, and inclusive, but not long-drawn-out affairs that outstay everyone's attention and patience.

Rare and most interesting items should be brought into play as quickly as possible; that's what raises money with the right people in the room. I'm also saying this as someone who has been caught up in other things happening at the con and having to make up the auction as it happens on the day. But having the time and ability to pre-organize things really does make everything run a lot smoother.

Andy has done sterling work for the onsite Corflu auctions, but it should be more than a one-person job, and it certainly shouldn't be more than a moderately stressful affair. I throw my hat in the ring to help with the auctions going forward where I can be of the most use.

The Corflu.org Website

Notes from Bill Burns, overall Corflu webmaster

The corflu.org domain name was registered in 2003 by Tracy Benton and transferred to Bill Burns in 2010. The domain registration fee (\$11 per year) is presently covered by a generous grant from the surplus funds of the 2015 Worldcon, Sasquan, and the site is hosted on my webserver at no cost.

For continuity of on-line presence (as well as permanent archiving and the preservation of links from archived sites to the main page), it is essential for each Corflu to host its site at corflu.org. Most of the Corflu websites created before corflu.org was registered are now permanently lost.

On request, I will act as webmaster for Corflu and create a clean and simple design for the main page, as exemplified by the ones for 2018 and 2019. I will then maintain the site until the final wrap-up of the convention, after which it will be permanently archived. Site maintenance includes creating and updating other pages as needed, updating the membership list, and adding news

items and publications, normally with a very short turnaround time.

Alternatively, I can set up secure FTP access to the server if the convention prefers to have its own webmaster, and in that case these simple requirements must be followed:

1. The main page can be of any design, but must include all the standard links to the permanent Corflu pages – History, FAAn Awards, Corflu Fifty, etc. The main page is located in the corflu.org top level directory and must be named index.html.
2. Webmasters are free to create other pages at will, but all site content for the current convention, including configuration files, images, documents, and additional HTML files, must be placed in the directory created for the convention. This directory is a sub of the top level and is named CorfluXX, where XX is the current number.
3. For server security, no scripts should be used.

Overall comment from Andy Hooper, auctioneer, quizmaster and playwright extraordinaire

The hospitality suite at Corflu FIAWOL really was a memorable success, but helped substantially by having the rooms on either side opened up for overflow use. If I am ever afflicted by Corflu Organization in the future, I intend to secure at least three rooms for hospitality – and ideally, a scanning nook in the hallway between. That was truly brilliant.

Nigel's dicta for running the auction are all very good. I look forward to attending his auction at some point.

Programming is one area where there is still relatively little guidance, issues regarding microphones excepted. It was evident that real planning went into this year's events – now if we could maybe incorporate one item with real potential for contribution from the audience, we might get back to where we were at Corflu 5 and 6.

Part 3 – Caring for a Consuite

Curt Phillips and Aileen Forman contribute their advice on the best possible consuite

(US-based advice of course – UK hotels don't let people do consuites in the same way. We in the UK can do bars though – Ed.)

The Checklist – Curt Phillips and Aileen Forman

1: A uniquely thorough checklist of questions Curt asked attendees before Corflu FIAWOL in 2019.

1) What kind of soft drink – if any – do you prefer?

2) What kind of beer – if any – do you prefer?

3) Shall I get other beverages for the consuite for you and if so, what kind? Water? Milk? Coffee? Tea? Please be specific. (There will be some of all of these, but stating your preferences will help me know what quantities to buy.) I will bring an electric kettle for boiling water, a teapot (a proper teapot, says Liz...) and the fixings for those beverages.

4) For coffee, all rooms at the Cambria have Keurig machines. They give you a couple of pods per day for free and sell others in the little shop by the front desk. We'll have a couple of boxes of Keurig pods on hand so you can drink as much coffee as you like.

5) What brand of tea do you prefer? Milk and sugar will be available. Do you want anything else with your tea? Do you want herbal teas?

6) I won't be buying any hard liquor with Corflu funds, but if any of you would like to bring some of your favourite to share around, the consuite will be happy to have you do that. We'll provide some of those classy cheap plastic "glasses" and ice. Need anything else? There will be a wine tasting hosted by Spike and a beer tasting hosted by Geri. Contact them for details. You are invited to bring contributions of spirits for both these events. I'll be bringing some of a local beer made here in my home town. No idea what it tastes like as I don't drink, but I'm bringing it anyway.

(Michael added: If someone is interested in organizing a hard liquor tasting to go along with the bheer and wine sessions, we might be persuaded to change our minds.)

7) Any other beverage related questions or issues?

8) There is a wide variety of restaurants surrounding the Corflu hotel and their number is legion. Even so I'm planning a pizza feeding in the consuite for Sunday afternoon/evening (time: TBA). Exactly what kind of pizza do *you* like? No guarantees, but I'll try to have something for everyone.

9) What do you normally eat for breakfast? I'm thinking that it would be good to have something basic available for a breakfast snack in the mornings, but what that will be depends on your answers. I'm not allowed to "cook" in the consuite, but let's see what I can come up with for those of us who'd like a little something in the morning and who don't want to go out that early.

10) Specific suggestions for those "breakfast snacks"?

11) What kind of general snacks do you like? Be as specific as possible, multiple suggestions welcome. I've got a shopping list of snacks already but I want to provide what *you* want provided. So tell me. What snacks would you like to see provided? What snacks are you sick of seeing in consuites?

12) Liz is sending some of her home made salsa, some cookies and maybe other things. Would *you* like to bring something in the realm of snack foods

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to donate to the consuite, homemade or otherwise? If so, what will you bring? Cakes? Pies? Crottled Greeps?

13) There is no Question 13.

14) This one is serious, and you should feel free to answer it privately to me. Do you have any food allergies of the kind that would impair your breathing? It would be a good idea to tell me if you do. I'm an RN and an EMT, Rob J. is a Doctor, and we may have others at the con with medical training who would help in an emergency, but we'd like to know about allergies in advance. Please respond by email to me at absarka_prime@comcast.net and your

response will be considered confidential. In that same vein, do you have any other medical conditions you'd like to tell me about? For example, do you have a heart condition that requires you to carry nitroglycerin, and if so where do you carry it? That sort of thing. Again, confidentiality will be maintained.

15) What other related questions should I have thought to ask as pertains to the consuite, and what are your answers?

*Curt Phillips, Head Fry Cook & Dishwasher
Corflu FIAWOL*

2: Aileen Forman's guide to actually running a consuite, once you have consulted the members. Reprinted and edited with permission from Random Jottings 13.

These suggestions are mostly for Corflu conventions but work with any smallish con.

As the person in charge of consuites, don't overextend yourself. If you're a night owl, ask a morning person to open consuites for you and detail how to do so, and vice-versa. You should have at least one reliable person to either open or close consuites while the person in charge does the reverse.

Hotel Rules

MOST IMPORTANT!!! Find out what the hotel allows and does not allow. Do not do anything that the hotel disallows or you will put the convention at risk. Some allow cooking. Others only allow a microwave. Some will allow a hot plate but not a tabletop convection oven. Others offer an entire kitchen at your disposal. Some require that you buy some of the food from catering while others don't care. Some have refrigerators and at others you'll have to use ice and an ice chest.

Once you've established the parameters, you can work from there. I am assuming for the purpose of this document that your hotel allows food in the suites and that no catering is required, outside of maybe a banquet, which doesn't concern consuites. If you don't live near the hotel, ask someone to take pictures of the suite they've

booked ASAP. That way you'll know what you have to work with. Find out if you'll have small tables, a big table, no tables, chairs, a kitchen, a bathroom, a tub, a sink, etc. as well as exactly what the hotel will allow food-wise.

Money

Find out how much the ConChair is willing to give you. Keep in mind that it's based on the money left over after the hotel & other expenses so you may not have as much to work with as you'd like but you can make a good consuite even on the cheap.

Ideally, each person would be allotted 4-5 cans of soda and/or bottles of water per day (budget \$.40 per for a total of \$6) and 3 beers (budget \$1 per for a total of \$9) as well as a bag of chips per 3 days (\$2.50), three candy bars (\$2.50), a meal (\$5) and another \$5 in misc. snacks. That's \$30 per person in food for three days. At 50 people, that's a budget of \$1,500. Obviously, not all cons are going to be able to afford that.

Personally, I've found that it's more helpful to plan any events at consuites, figure out what I have left over and spend the rest of the money on bottled water, coffee, tea and soda. Then let the chips fall where they may. Folks can always buy their own drinks in a hotel.

Events

Most people enjoy the following:

Beer tasting: It's time to show off your city. There are breweries in every one. Buy 3 bottles of at least 10 different kinds of specialty beers. Best to be held on Friday night. Have various cheeses and crackers. Now is the time for that cheap bag of pretzels. Plan for after dinner on Friday night and there will likely be around 1/3 of attendees there.

Sandwich Spectacular: Do not buy a platter from the grocery store. It's cheaper to buy a pound of ham, a pound of turkey, a pound of cheese and a tub of chicken salad from the deli (or from Costco) for each dozen people. Now's the time for chips, carrot sticks, a sliced watermelon and perhaps some cookies. Don't forget brown mustard, regular mayonnaise, and a smallish jar of sliced pickles.

Don't go cheap on the ingredients. Offer one loaf of white bread, one rye, one wheat, one bag of hoagie rolls for two dozen people. Best held on Saturday afternoon. Plan on 2/3 of the attendees. **Cookies and Milk with Storytime:** Homemade cookies are the best but not everyone has a baker handy. This can be a Friday night event (following or instead of the beer tasting) or a Saturday night event. Individual cartons of milk work best but you can get a gallon instead. This event requires a BNF who doesn't mind telling stories about other BNFs from the past. Don't forget tea and decaf coffee as not everyone likes milk. Plan on 1/3 of your attendees unless the BNF is exceptionally well-liked.

Cartooning Session: If there's a cartoonist coming to the con, ask them if they'll volunteer to hold a cartooning session. Provide them with paper of all shapes and colors and put a sign on him/her reading "Will cartoon for astounding compliments." Put a bunch of ideas in a bowl and allow the cartoonist to read them ahead of time so they'll have some ideas and won't be put on the spot. The time and day should be whenever it's most convenient for the cartoonist. An "out" for the cartoonist is to look at the idea and shake his/her head and offer them a Tootsie roll. (Don't forget to buy Tootsie Rolls if you plan on offering this event.)

Dead Dog Party: This is tradition and it's a reward for those folks who stuck with you all weekend. Break out the bottle of whiskey that you've held back. This is also a chance to finish off leftovers. Make them attractive. Put them in small bowls

around the room. If it's something perishable, though, that had too many hours out in the heat, toss it. Better safe than to be talked about as the person who poisoned the convention back in 2018.

Attractions: There should be a reason to be in the consuites. It should be a gathering spot. Bring people into the consuites with events and games. I've found that slot cars (if you have a large table) work very well as an attraction. People like the competition and it can be done quickly, in between panels. Remote controlled toys also work but don't forget spare batteries. Paper airplane contests can be held at regular intervals. Rubik's cubes and other fidget-type toys are always good and can often be found in dollar stores. So can crosswords.

Not everyone at SF cons feels comfortable socializing 100% of the time and the consuites can be a good respite if they have something that allows them to be in company without having to interact and these games give them an excuse.

Drinks

Put the lotion in the basket... Oops! I mean, put the sodas and bottled water in the tub with ice, set up the electric kettle and tea on the bathroom countertop (if you have a pump carafe, use it), along with the coffee maker and just keep an eye on things. Make the coffee a half-pot at a time.

Don't put the beer in the ice until around 2 p.m. each day. If folks need a beer earlier than that, they can take care of it themselves. Don't bother with iced tea or lemonade as it's a mess and not popular.

Food

Ah, the *raison d'être* of the consuites. Okay, here goes: If you cannot cook in the room and have no fridge, this is simple. Chips and salsa, cookies, M&Ms, pretzels, etc. are the only things that you'll be able to offer on a daily basis. (You may still be able to hold many of the events.) Do not buy anything that requires refrigeration, like dip.

If you can actually cook in the consuites, figure out how to do so. Microwave? Tabletop convection oven? Hot plate and/or slow cooker? If you can have a hot plate, then you can have a slow cooker

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in which you can offer meatballs in BBQ sauce (don't forget toothpicks, serve with celery sticks put into a glass of ice water), cheese dip (serve with corn chips or a Dorito-type chip) or chili (serve with quartered flour tortillas). Keep an eye on the slow cooker! It can go from yummy to disgusting in the blink of an eye. Stir frequently and be sure to time hot food carefully, never putting it on too early. Remember it takes time to heat, though. All slow-cooker foods should be served in bowls since hot food is frickin' dangerous on plates. Have spare serving spoons because people will drop them. All foods that are cooked will need refrigeration prior to the meal, though, with the exception of maybe a Velveeta dip. Remember what equipment you have to work with before you buy the food!

If you have a full-size fridge with freezer in consuites, shout hallelujah! Ice cream socials! Space for food storage! No need to go to the grocery store during the convention! This is rare, though, so plan accordingly. If you still want to have food events, plan on going to the store at least an hour before it's scheduled.

Housekeeping

AS SOON AS YOU GET CHECKED IN, CALL HOUSEKEEPING AND ASK THEM TO BRING A COMMERCIAL TRASH CAN TO THE ROOM! TIP THEM \$20 AND BE WONDERFUL TO THEM! (Can you tell that this is important?) Every time you need that trash can emptied, call housekeeping, give them a \$5 tip and a handful of candy.

Housekeeping is the hotel's eye. If you're doing something that you really shouldn't be doing, housekeeping is the one who will rat you out and being well-loved will keep that from happening.

Every interaction should start with a tip and a smile. And chocolate. Find out what time they will be coming in to clean and plan to close

consuites when this happens or decide that all you'll need is for them to pick up the trash and/or vacuum and tell them your decision clearly! They will also be able to help you with ice.

Cleaning

Wow, is this important! Unless the suite has a kitchen sink, buy a plastic dishpan at the dollar store and keep it filled with soapy water in some obscure corner or countertop. You will use it when you wring out a dishcloth and wipe down the tables as well as when you need to wash the slow cooker, the platters, etc. It will also be what you'll use to get fresh ice.

Serving

How are you serving every damn thing you've bought?! Once you've written down each food you're offering, write beside it the kind of plate, napkin or bowl that it will be served in as well as the utensil needed to eat it and then tally it up. You may only need a few plates but a buttload of bowls. Also keep in mind that they have to be served on something. Dollar stores offer large plastic platters. Also, you'll need about 25 or so 16-ounce plastic glasses, napkins, dishcloths and dish soap. If you're cooking anything, bring two hot pads, a sponge, several knives, a lightweight plastic cutting board (dollar store again) and tubs to store leftovers.

Packing

When you're packing up to head to the con, put the games and other entertainments in one box, the utensils and dishpan in another box, the cups and plates in another one, etc. before you leave for the convention. Label the boxes!

Part 4 – Corflu Organisers’ Checklist

Or, What have I Forgotten?

Adapted from Michael Dobson’s flowchart, Random Jottings 18

Committee Tasks

Chair/Organiser: Overall policy, oversight

Hotel liaison

Contract –

- Function rooms/facilities
- Bedrooms/block booking
- Banquet
- Consuite (US) or Bar (UK)

Treasurer/finance: costs of –

- Hotel
- Publications
- Fundraising, merchandise
- Consuite (US) or Bar (UK)

Ops/tech

- See Technical Checklist below
- Virtual Corflu

Consuite (if in US)

Local area info

- Travel/arrival
- Attractions/visits
- Restaurants

Communications

- Online publicity, website, outreach
- PRs
- Programme Book
- Pocket Programme
- Special publications
- Virtual Corflu

Materials

- Publications/printing
- Merchandise (T-shirts, mugs)
- Tech equipment
- Awards/certificates

Programme

- Pre/post-con local visits
- Opening Ceremony, GoH choice
- Talks, panels, games, dramatic productions
- Auction
- Banquet/Awards

Key personnel for continuity between Corflus

- Corflu website: Bill Burns
- Auction: Andy Hooper

Technical Checklist

Pre-Con – Hotel

Microphone _____
PA system _____
Projector _____
Screen _____
Other Technology _____

Pre-Con – Program Ops

Laptop/Tablet _____
Power strips _____
Extension cords _____

Cables/connectors _____
Remote controls _____

At Con – Program Ops

Set-up sound _____
Set-up computers _____
Set-up online Corflu _____
Sound check _____
Online Corflu check _____
Projector Test _____
Remote control test _____

Corflu FIAWOL Videos, May 2019

As this issue of *Inca* is being prepared (July 2019), these videos are as yet in their totally raw, unedited form, so you may have to sit – or more likely scroll fast-forward – through some boring preparatory manoeuvres by panellists, or even worse, videos of fans eating the Cambria Hotel's Banquet brunch. If you are a suitably avid historian, though, you may be a completist and find value in the unedited versions!

Here are the links. They have been checked and still work – and be warned – you can even still read the live chat on the right.

Opening Ceremony, Friday 3 May:

<https://youtu.be/GgfW7UcLxoA>

Saturday daytime panels, 4 May:

<https://youtu.be/RUstxvormRk>

(1) A Bheer Can Tower to the Moon and Other Fannish Memorials (Luis Ortiz, Joe Siclari, Susan Graham, Michael Dobson)

(2) The Void Boys Speak! (Greg Benford, Jim Benford, Ted White, Luis Ortiz)

(3) Fan Art Panel (Steve Stiles, Grant Canfield, Jay Kinney, Dan Steffan)

Saturday afternoon auction:

https://youtu.be/zLYKzOXk2_k

(Note, if you have to retype this, or the next link: the apparent gaps in the links are underlines.)

Saturday evening entertainment:

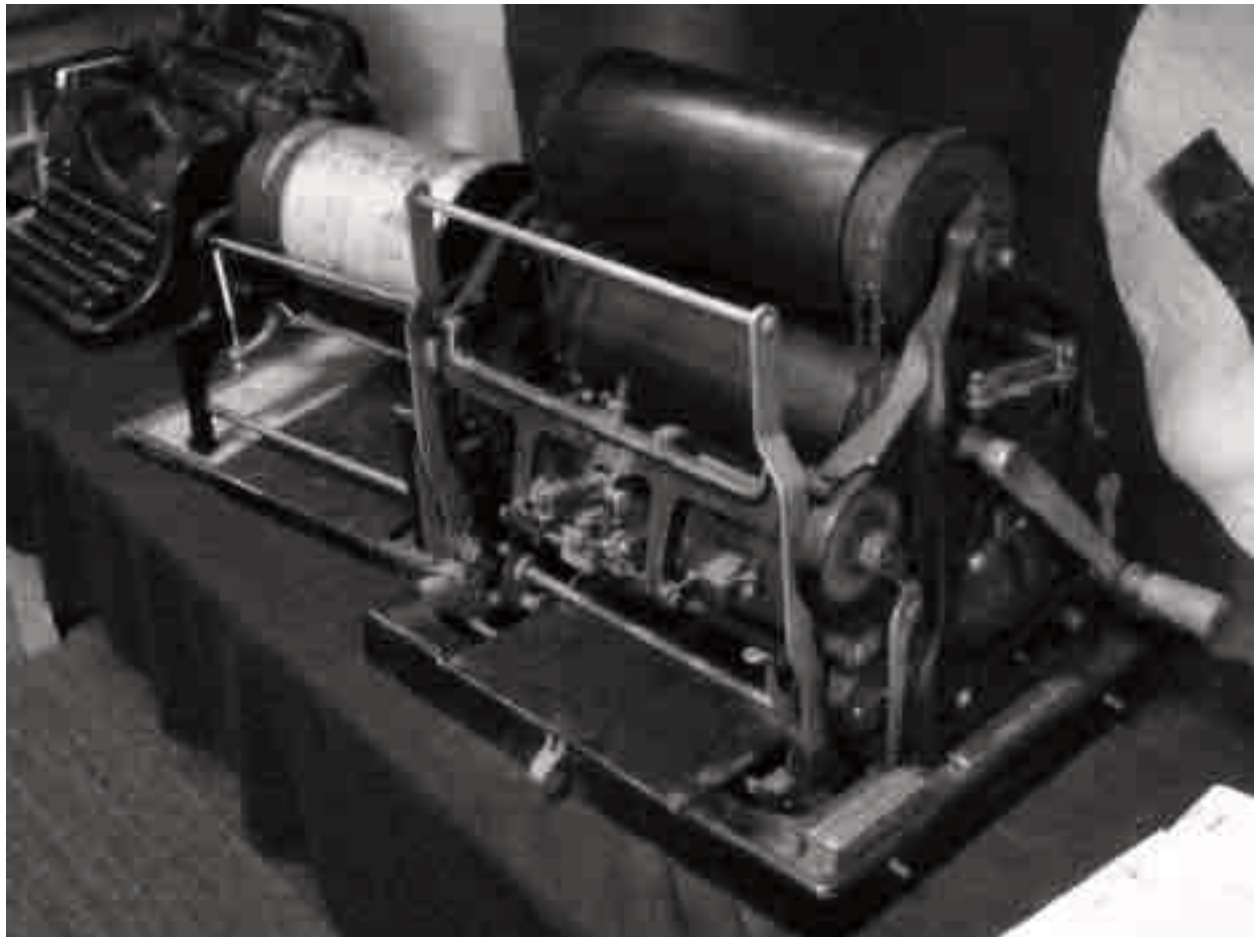
https://youtu.be/lMr8o6_kzMg

(1) Just a Minac, hosted by Sandra Bond (contestants Nigel Rowe, Rob Jackson, John D. Berry and Rich Coad)

(2) Time Chunnel, a play by Andy Hooper

Sunday Banquet and Awards Ceremony, 5 May:

<https://youtu.be/loyHFth6sFg>



Mimeograph machine used by the Belgian resistance to produce underground newspapers and pamphlets (Courtesy National Museum of the Resistance, Anderlecht, Belgium. Credit Brigade Piron, CC BY-SA 3.0)

