

NO AWARD



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9

A Fanzine
by
Marty Cantor,
voted fandom's
Resident
Curmudgeon
in a poll
conducted in
Twink

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This fanzine is available for the faanish usual (which I tend to translate as my own whim, but I do honour trades, locs, artwork, written articles, and other contributions). If all else fails, send me US \$5.00 and I will send you a copy. NO AWARD is not pubbed on any regular schedule (even though I want to get it out at least twice a year). Mostly, issues will be put out when material and money decide to get together in a meaningful way.

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LETTERS OF COMMENT

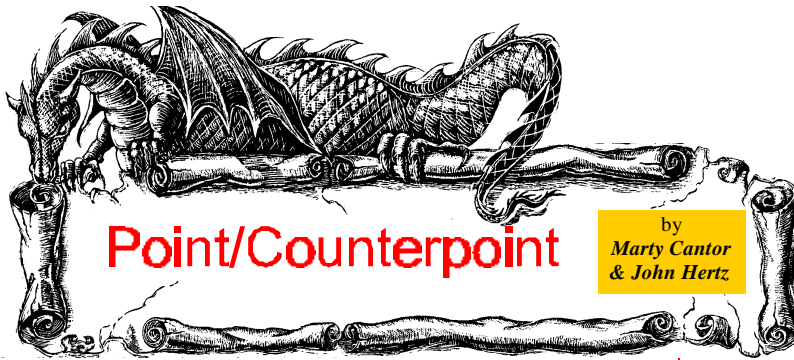
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In 1984 I ran the Fan Lounge at the Los Angeles Worldcon. This Lounge was a rather large affair, consisting of many rooms devoted to different things (a room for fanzine display and sales, a room for round table discussions, a room for the Daily Newszine, and even a room as a lounge) along a rather long corridor. I called all of this the Fan Lounge. John Hertz, though, gently objected to this designation, preferring that it should be called the Fanzine Lounge.

We have been discussing this (Fan Lounge/Fan Room vs. Fanzine Lounge/Fanzine Room), off and on, ever since then. We recently again brought up this discussion in APA-L and I decided that our positions should be explicated in NO AWARD.

(By the way, this has been a very sporadic discussion, often with years going by 'twixt the bits and pieces of it. This has all been gentlemanly and not at all contentious. And it has also been merely one item amongst many of the topics which we enjoy discussing.)

POINT: "Fan Lounge" by Marty Cantor

In the earlier days of "our" fandom, zines were our common currency. We may have all been brought into fandom by our love of science fiction, but we "gravitated" around zines. As media other than books became available (television and movies), we looked with interest at these peripheral items, but our interest in the printed word (sf books, promags, and fanzines) remained paramount. We reveled in being able to get together in small local clubs and at regional get-togethers (cons), but zines remained the main way we connected with each other.

With the advent of *Star Trek* (and what came to be known as "The Barbarian Invasion") and the resultant growth of commercial cons - plus more and more television shows and movies with science-fictional interest, eventually bringing into fandom more and more people with a primary interest in these non-print mediums, fandom moved more and more away from our grounding in the printed word. Those fans who were primarily interested in fanzines as our common currency became more and more a minority in our fandom.

In the late '60s and '70s, an explosive growth of APAs drew a lot of zine-oriented fans into this activity. This was a mixed blessing. The good was the continued emphasis in amateur writing as a primary means of fannish expression. The bad was that the large number of APAs (with their relatively small circulation) limited contact between the members of the various APAs as there were just too many of them for fans to be members of more than just a few of them. There remained multi-APAns, but it became impossible to become omni-APAns. General fanzines (genzines) grew to be the exception rather than the rule; and, as traditional fans began to spend more of their limited time in apac, ties between fanzine fans began to loosen and fanzine fandom began to fragment. Hey! It was fun! From the late '60s into the early '80s was an exciting time in fandom for most of us, and very few of us were worried that we were talking to smaller and smaller groups of other fans. After all, there were World and other cons where we could all get together, so those things were just getting better, right?

And then along came the internet (with newsgroups and e-lists and on-line zines and such), and many fans became so engrossed in these activities that they moved entirely away from paper activities.

Leaving the traditional fanzine fan who still produced genzines just a small remnant of traditional fandom.

One natural result of this "retrenchment" was a sort of defensive attitude in those who began to call themselves "trufen." "We are the inheritors of what fandom is all about" could easily be the motto of these fans; and, to the extent that a fannish emphasis on fanzines is (or is perceived to be) the main interest of fans, they are correct.

Now, how this bears on whether we should call our space at cons the "Fan Lounge" or the "Fanzine Lounge," should be obvious. Fans of this persuasion do not consider other fans to be "fake fans" so much as they consider them to be unaware of what fandom is all about; and, therefore, not fully developed fans.

So, therefore, we prefer to call our space at cons "Fan Lounge" rather than "Fanzine Lounge" because this is a place for Fans to hang out—our kind of fans.. Fanzines are just one of the things to be found in the lounge; mostly, one finds there fans of the "traditional" persuasion - it is a place where "fans" are to be found, a place where "real fans" hang out and, sometimes, talk about our prime interest in fandom.

There is another reason to call this area the "Fan Lounge" rather than "Fanzine Lounge," and that is one which could be termed "advertising" or "perception." With so many fans not knowing what it is we zine fans do, calling our space the "Fanzine Lounge." may just lead some of these non-zine fans to avoid the area because of a perception that it is just another one of the specialised areas to be found at cons, and an area in which their non-knowledge will lead them to avoid, thereby not giving us the opportunity to show these fans the pleasures in our part of our hobby. Hence, "Fan Lounge" as

Marty Cantor & John Hertz talk it over

an appellation general enough so that we can lead the lambs to slaughter.

COUNTERPOINT: "Fanzine Lounge" by John Hertz

We need, I believe, a space at conventions where fanzines and fanziners can be found. At best it should have historic fanzines to see, fanzines new and old for sale or trade or free, comfortable room for the likes of thee and me, refreshing food and drink which some say is the key.

It might even provide for publishing "one-shot" zines on the spot.

Historic zines means getting them to the con and safe home. Publishing means machinery and supplies. Sales means a cashbox, and record-keeping, and someone on duty. Refreshments means funds, and shopping. We can't always manage so much. Often we have, though, with happy results.

I believe this space should obviously be called the Fanzine Lounge. But obviousness is relative. One never knows what may become an issue in fandom. I have been asked why that name is any better than "Fan Lounge," "Fan Room," "Fannish Lounge," or "Arthur."

It says *fanzine*, you see. The thing we ought to point out. Toward which we ought to aim signposts. What we ought to, you should pardon the expression, trumpet.

"Lounge" has the right air. Perhaps in the 1940's we might have wanted a Fanzine Workroom.

Don Fitch and others have noted there is an outside to this space I am discussing a name for. What of those who don't know fanzines, but might like to? I believe we should be easy for them to discover.

Maybe it would be good for their muscle tone if they had to swim upstream, and why shouldn't they suffer as we had to -- FORTRAN wasn't even TWOTRAN when I was a boy -- but let's say that's hardly the courteous easy-going attitude which belongs in a kinder gentler zine like *NO AWARD*

Let us get along with names as farmers their crops. Let's feel the ground, maybe even taste it like Papa Schultz in Heinlein's *Farmer in the Sky*. Mmmm, peas better here, tomatoes there. As cooks get along with their ingredients. These apples will be good raw, those ought to be baked.

Humpty Dumpty told Alice, "The question is, which is to be master -- that's all," but he was only an egg.

What's in a name, you ask? Those are Juliet's words, begging that Romeo might quit being a Montague; ask her. I've already suggested you ask Alice. Or try the Ministry of Truth in Orwell's *1984*.

Abraham Lincoln, surely one of the finest artists of the English language, while he was U.S. President, answered a request with, "How many legs does a sheep have if you call the tail a leg?" When his petitioner replied, "Five," Lincoln said, "Wrong. Calling the tail a leg doesn't make it a leg."

Lincoln would have been the last person to make names a set of shackles to enslave people. I'm listening to him as an artist.

The National Fantasy Fan Federation is credited with trying the name "Fan Room." I respectfully submit this is an unecological name. I believe every room at a con is a fan room.

"Fan Lounge" and "Fannish Lounge" (tried at least once, by a friend of mine), I respectfully submit are also unhelpful. What do they tell people will be found there? I don't know about you, but I want people notified of where they can find fanzines.

I hear we shouldn't use "Fanzine Lounge" because newcomers don't understand what we mean by *fanzine* and might mistake us for Elvis Presley eyelash collectors, aiee.

But we have since Russell Chauvenet's day called these things fanzines. We use that name in the Hugo Awards and the Fan Activity Achievement Awards. I'll accept this risk.

Besides, if that's the trouble, what improvement is "Fan Lounge?"

Then I hear "Fanzine Lounge" is bad because it sounds like "Internet Lounge," and bolsters the misconception that we are a special-interest group instead of the truth that we are the heart of fandom.

When Marjorie Morgenstern went to an adult summer camp in Wouk's novel *Marjorie Morningstar*, she was told, about the director, "Max Greech doesn't look like Satan. Satan looks like Max Greech." Never mind, call it one of my obscure jokes.

Also I hear we should use "Fan Lounge" because, with fanzines present and our wondrous selves, this will subtly educate people that here is where the real fans are.

Much might be replied to each of these arguments. For instance, I can tell you "Internet Lounge" is at least a decade younger because I used "Fanzine Lounge" in the Program Book for L.A. con II, the 1984 Worldcon. Or I could write at length about what a teacher of mine called Propaganda by Redefinition of Terms.

I hold by the simplest, which is, again, that I believe we want an Arrow of Significance explicitly pointing "This way to the *fanzines*."

It is always a pleasure to find myself agreeing with Milt Stevens, who in a letter to *FOSFAX 202* takes less than seventy-five words to dispose of all this. "Fanzine Lounge," he concludes, "is a much more descriptive and accurate term." What a man. M