

**CHRIS
FOR
TAEFF**



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PrintZine Issue 3

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Well, the race is well and truly underway. I've been sending out notices to folks, writing these zines, and getting my name out. It's not easy, but I'm having fun. To me, that's the biggest deal.

So, what's this issue all about?

Well, I'm gonna write a little bit about wrestling and how it fits in with TAFF in a very strang way. I'll also have M Lloyd saying a few things about why I should head over to the UK and what you could expect from me. So, no more stalling, let's just get to the gettin'!



Wrestling with TAFF

When I was growing up, I loved wrestling more than anything. It wasn't unusual to find very young Chris on the floor, reading fanzines and watching TBS' classic World Championship Wrestling. I watched hundreds of hours of wrestling. During the summer, I'd tape the Noon shows on ESPN and watch them over and over. It was a bit of an obsession, but I still remember loving those days.

One of the things I remember was

reading issues of *Holier Than Thou* while watching Ric Flair and Terry Funk wrestle in Troy, New York in the match that changed wrestling forever. The greatest match ever on TBS, a brawl that made groups like ECW possible, and I watched it live.

And I'll forever associate it with Topic A.

Most folks know something about the TAFF Wars of the 1980s, and I was reading various zines my Dad had gathered and I read them. Now, this was several years after the events had taken place, but I was just reading about them for the first time. It sounded like a giant to-do even to a guy who was barely in his teens. I was reading pages and pages of stuff and it reminded me of the other zines Pops had from the 1960s when there was a big deal about some guy name of Breen. I went back into Dad's boxes and found a few of the ones from those days. It was interesting reading indeed.

Funk vs. Flair is my all-time favourite wrestling match. It never fails to make me think that there's greatness in wrestling, even if the stuff I've been watching on regular TV is just plain crap. It was a brawl and it was full of psychology and it seemed like a real contest and not the choreographed match that it really was.

And every time I watch it, I think of the TAFF Wars. Not fondly, but more with a sense of connection to a past that I mostly missed out on. It's not the best memory for fandom, but it's one of those strange connections that seem to populate my life as I know it.

There are other things that tie wrestling to fandom for me. The image of Freddie Blassie at a Westercon in the 1970s. The fact that The Fallen Angel Christopher Daniels was staying in the same hotel as World Fantasy this year and spent the entire night chatting with authors in the hotel bar. There's also the story of Mick Foley writing a science fiction novel when he was a kid and being told that it wasn't a respectable kind of endeavor.

Now how many of us have heard that same line from our teachers?

**The complete guide to the writing of
Christopher J. Garcia**

by Jay Crasdan

There are too many outlets for Chris to get his words seen. Not only are there the zines you find on efanazines.com, but there are actual honest-to-God magazines that are more than willing to publish his words. I don't understand why, fully, but there must be some reason behind the obvious madness.

And that leads me to the point of this article. Chris writes so much it's not easy to keep up and there's no need to read anything. You simply have to match your interest to the kind of articles he writes for the specific zine. It's all a scientific process, believe me. I spent nearly an hour working on the formula and then ran it by M and she said it sounded about right.

First, there's The Drink Tank. If you were to cut Chris open, spread his innards about on several pieces of paper, it would end up looking like The Drink Tank. If ever there was a zine that was the brain of its creator, it's The DrinkTank. Chris makes the writing of The Drink Tank fit his vision of the world. There's the art featuring busty women in corsets (Chris' libido), the articles about nothing at all (Chris' intellect) and there are those little bits and pieces of writing in **Bold Italic** that tell you what Chris is thinking (Chris' short attention span). It's all a wild mess, but it's fun. That's where you get the articles that Chris would never write for anyone else. There's the personal stuff, and no one writes personal stuff like the team Chris has assembled for The Drink Tank. Chris' articles dealing with his Dad, with his love life, even those talking about his take on fandom are all what The Drink Tank is about. If you don't like personal writing, I'd skip reading Chris' articles in The Drink Tank.

Claims Department is hit-or-miss. Usually, it's reportage and reviewage, but in reality, it's just like going to dinner with him and having a long conversation. That's his most conversational zine and it's the one that Chris does the most to produce solid



writing. Now that it's in FAPA, he seems to take it a little more seriously.

Then there's L*I*S*P*. I've only seen one issue and it was OK. It's basically a way for Chris to do a two page photocopier zine with some very short articles. It reminded me of Gimmickry and it's not great, but for a short thing, it'll do.

The Drink Tank Presents series always has a theme and can usually be counted on to be good. The Steampunk Issue was the best thing Chris put out in 2005. The issues about the London Bombing were suitably issue raising and the one about the Hurricane and the show on FX was actually eerie. It seems as if Chris has rolled these into The Drink Tank proper and is currently running what he would have called The Drink Tank Presents in The Drink Tank these days. Go figure, as Chris would say.

Chris is a hoaxer and his hoax zines have been the best outlet for his comedy. I thought that the one he and Cheryl Morgan did together were pretty good and Pacheco Progress was really funny if you knew what was going on. Chris' hoaxes are probably better than the writing he puts into them. It seems like it's not about to stop either since he just announced AhwahneeCon.

I've only gotten to take a look at a couple of Chris' other APA pieces. He used to do one for eAPA called Alternate Wildly that started out as a zine that dealt with alternate history and then just



became another APAZine. The replacement was called The Enchanted Placemat, which was more like The Drink Tank than anything else I've seen him write. I find it weird that his APAZines seem less personal than his GenZine...unless his GenZine is really a PerZine. The jury's still out on that one. I'm leaning towards Chris' thought that it's a GenZine that he treats like a PerZine.

While not just Chris' zine, SF/SF is the home of the blandest of Chris' writings. It's not that it's any worse than the other writing he does, but it's designed to be news-ish and not the devil-may-care visions that he tends towards in his other writings. Still, some of his con reviews are good (his reviews in The Drink Tank are better) but it's still fun reading. Luckily, he's surrounded by really strong writers in that one.

Chris writes so much stuff for other people that it isn't funny. The one that I think is actually pretty good is Found in Collection. It started out in Catchpenny Gazette and then moved to Pixel for some reason. (**Dave Burton changed CatchPenny into Pixel, that's why, you slacker!**) and it's still really good. It takes a look at Chris' work life and his fannish life and the ways in which they intersect. Chris loves his job and he loves his fandom so why wouldn't an intersection piece be entertaining? The ones where he's talking about people tend to be better than the ones where he's talking about the things he finds.

Chris has had several pieces in Other Magazine. It's a good rag that gets a fair amount of play in the Bay Area (they sponsor Writers With Drinks) and Chris has done well. It's also certainly the one where they've done the most editing because you seldom find a 'teh' or 'adn' in any of his articles. The quality of those works is directly proportional to the amount of comedy there is. His article about Samoans and Freddy Blassie: not great. His articles about Jaws: The Revenge and Why Monkeys are the New Zombies: downright perfect. It's the stuff that is the least fannish but the

most good.

His LoCs are strange. He can take the most interesting and obscure of topics and somehow make it about him. I don't know how he does it, but it's a function of his ego, I'm sure. The ones he does for In A Prior Lifetime are pretty good, as are the ones that show up in eI. I know he thinks highly of them both (and won't shut up about them!). Vegas Fandom Weekly gets a good number of his LoCs and most of them are pretty good.

So, that's where you go to look for the proper kinds of Chris Garcia's writings. I won't bring up his LJ. That's just wrong.



Hey, that's all for this ish (save for the TAFF Ballot) and I hope you enjoyed it. I'll try and get another one out next week, or maybe the week after that. I do gotta get back on the Drink Tank horse eventually.

Art this issue is from Jason Schachat, Frank Wu, Me and that one up there is from the Late Great Sean.

2007 TAFF Ballot — North America to Europe

What is TAFF? The Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund was created in 1953 for the purpose of providing funds to bring well-known and popular fans familiar to those on both sides of the ocean across the Atlantic. Since that time TAFF has regularly brought North American fans to European conventions and European fans to North American conventions. TAFF exists solely through the support of fandom. The candidates are voted on by interested fans all over the world, and each vote is accompanied by a donation of not less than \$3 or £2. These votes, and the continued generosity of fandom, are what make TAFF possible.

Who may vote? Voting in the 2007 race is open to anyone who was active in fandom prior to April 2005, and who contributes at least \$3 or £2 to the Fund. Larger contributions will be gratefully accepted. Voting is by secret ballot: only one vote per person, and you must sign your ballot. You may change your vote any time prior to the deadline.

Deadline: Votes in this race must reach the administrators by **Midnight, PST, Saturday 6 January 2007. This is 8 AM, GMT, Sunday 7 January 2007.**

Voting details: TAFF uses a preferential ballot system which guarantees automatic runoffs until a majority is obtained. You rank the candidates in the exact order of your preference for them. If the leading first-place candidate does not get a majority, the first-place votes for the lowest-ranking candidate are dropped, and the second-place votes on those ballots are counted as first-place votes. This process repeats itself until one candidate has a majority. Your votes for second and third place are important, but you may give your candidate only one ranking on your ballot. In order to win, a candidate must receive at least 20% of the first-ballot first-place votes on both sides of the Atlantic, separately. Any candidate failing to receive this minimum percentage on either side will be dropped, and the second-place votes on their ballots counted as first-place votes in the next ballot count. Thus candidates and their supporters will need to canvass fans on both sides of the pond. You may send your ballot to either administrator, but it will be tabulated with the other votes from the side of the Atlantic on which you reside. Votes from fans not resident in either Europe or North America will not count towards either 20% minimum, but are important to the outcome of the race.

Hold Over Funds: This choice, like "No Award" in Hugo balloting, gives you the chance to vote for no TAFF trip this year, if the candidates do not appeal. Hold Over Funds may be voted for in any position, and is exempt from the 20% requirement; thus, if it receives a majority of the votes on the final ballot, no TAFF trip will be held this year regardless of how many votes Hold Over Funds received on the first ballot.

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

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

Candidates: Each candidate has posted a bond, promising — barring Acts of God — to travel, if elected, to: Eastercon 2007, and has provided signed nominations and a platform (overleaf).

Please read both sides of this ballot before voting. Send entire sheet as your vote.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number or e-mail address: _____

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

Signature: _____

Enclosed is _____ as a contribution to TAFF.

Please make checks/cheques, etc., payable to:
'Suzanne Tompkins' for US dollar checks mailed to Suzanne.
'TAFF' for all UK (sterling) cheques posted to Bridget Bradshaw.

If you think your name may not be known to the administrators, then in order to qualify your vote, please give, in the space below, the name and address of an active fan (not a fan group, a candidate, or their nominator) who is known to them and to whom you are known:

Active fan known to the administrator: _____



2007 TAFF Ballot — North America to Europe

Chris Garcia

Christopher J. Garcia is a fan. That's probably the best way to put it. There are specifics, like the zines Chris edits (The Drink Tank, Claims Department, SF/SF) and the fact that he has made films and run fanzine lounges, that are just icing on the cake. Chris grew up with a fannish father who introduced him to cons and to zines like Granfalloon, Holier Than Thou and Niekas. Chris makes this one promise: if he wins, within 30 days of his plane touching down back home, he'll have a complete and beautiful trip report ready to circulate!

Nominators: Arnie & Joyce Katz (US), John Nielsen Hall (UK), John Purcell (US), Peter Sullivan (UK), Frank Wu (US)

Mary Kay Kare

After 30 years in fandom I've learned to be good at building bridges. I've done conrunning, zines, apas, dealing, and filking. I'm very active in online fandom these days too. I am, she said, modestly, renowned for the greatness of my parties.

Still, that's only half the battle, and there are reasons why I'd make an excellent administrator. I'm detail oriented, can balance checkbooks, and love playing with spreadsheets. I already have experience with TAFF auctions, and I travel to lots of cons at which to hold those auctions.

Nominators: Karen Babich (US), Moshe Feder & Lise Eisenberg (US), Sue Mason (UK), Andi Shechter & Stu Shiffman (US), Maureen Kincaid Speller (UK)

Please read and fill out both sides of this sheet. Send in entire sheet as your vote. Do not detach this portion!
I vote for (rank 1, 2, 3, etc.):

- Chris Garcia
- Mary Kay Kare
- Hold Over Funds
- No Preference

Send ballot & donation to:

Suzanne Tompkins, PO Box 25075, Seattle, WA 98165 USA (check made out to: Suzanne Tompkins)
-- suzlet@aol.com

Bridget Bradshaw, 103 Rustat Road, Cambridge, CB1 3QG UK (cheque made out to: TAFF)
-- taffbug@googlemail.com

For more information on TAFF, visit: <http://taff.org.uk>

Reproduction of this form is encouraged. It is the official voting vehicle and must be reproduced verbatim. Anyone doing so should substitute his or her name here: Christopher J. Garcia