Progress Report #4  February 2020

We’re having a heatwave, a Corflu-ish heatwave...

We are now less than five weeks away (oy...) from the start of – wait for it - Corflu Heatwave! The College Station Hilton Hotel and Convention Center is the host site of Corflu 37, which will be over the weekend of March 13-15, 2020. Posted below is the link to make your room reservations. Room rates are $109 for both single and double rooms for Corflu 37 members. This rate will also apply on an “as available” basis for three days prior to and after Corflu 37 for attendee travel purposes. Just be sure to note that you are a member of the convention to maintain this convention room rate for any additional days. On page eight are directions for getting to the Hilton Hotel from the Houston airports (there are two), and from local Easterwood Field, which is serviced by a complimentary shuttle to and from the Hilton Hotel, site of Corflu Heatwave.

Link for reservations: Corflu 37 Hotel Reservations
If you prefer to call to make your reservation, use this info:
Group Name: Corflu 37
Group Code: CORF20
Check-in: 13-MAR-2020
Check-out: 15-MAR-2020
Hotel Name: Hilton College Station & Conference Center
Hotel Address: 801 University Drive East
- College Station, Texas
- 77840-2116
Phone Number: 940-231-9846

People are already reserving their rooms, so if we need to add more to the Corflu 37 room block that can be done as long I know ahead of time. Note that the convention attending rate changed on January 1, 2020. It will stay there until the final increase on March 1, 2020, which is also the at-the-door full weekend rate.

Membership Rates

### Attending

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### Supporting

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At the door attending one-day membership: $50
Attending membership is inclusive of the Sunday brunch banquet.
So you want to pay to join Corflu 37? Silly person. Here’s how:

**Membership Payments**

**US checks** should be made payable to John A. Purcell and sent to him at: John A. Purcell, 3744 Marielene Circle, College Station, TX 77845, USA.

**UK cheques** should be made payable to Rob Jackson and sent to him at: Corflu 37, c/o Rob Jackson, Chinthay, Nightingale Lane, Hambrook, Chichester, West Sussex PO18 8UH, UK.

**PayPal** may be used for memberships from any country, but if your account is in a foreign currency other than British pounds, please enter the payment amount in US dollars and let PayPal make the conversion to your home currency. [Use this link to open the PayPal website](#), and follow these instructions:

- Log in and click on "Send or request money," then "Send money."
- For payments in US dollars, enter the recipient as askance73@gmail.com
- For payments in British pounds, enter the recipient as jacksonshambrook@uwclub.net

According to the type of membership you want, enter the appropriate amount from the options above. At this point, please add a note which includes "Corflu 37". Choose “Sending to a friend,” then complete the payment.

**as of 9 February 2020 - Corflu 37 Members:**

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<td>Edie Stern</td>
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<td>Rich Coad</td>
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<td>Elaine Stiles</td>
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<td>Steve Stiles</td>
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Corflu 50 Guests

We will be having not one, but two (2!) Corflu 50 Guests at Corflu Heatwave. From across the Pond comes Northern Ireland fan, Tommy Ferguson. He has already pledged to provide one programming item – the history of fandom in Northern Ireland, which he presented at Eurocon/Titancon in Belfast this past August – and is looking forward to meeting fans from near and far at Corflu Heatwave. If all goes well, there are many local sf fans in the Bryan-College Station area, so mayhaps there will be a local meetup a couple days before Corflu, depending on Tommy’s schedule.

The second Corflu 50 guest is Howard Waldrop. This is a wonderful surprise, and I am very much looking forward to having Howard at the gathering. He won’t be traveling nearly as far as Tommy since Howard lives just over in Austin, Texas, but be sure to welcome him. Yes, he is a professional author, but so are many other sf fans, and some of these feelthy pros will be at Corflu Heatwave, too. So there.

Some History:

The Corflu 50 came into existence at Corflu Quire (the 24th in the series) in Austin, Texas, and has been running ever since. It acts much like the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund and Down Under Fan Fund in that it relies on donations from fans, plus proceeds from an auction held at each Corflu. To donate, send a donation of $25 (minimum) or more to Rich Coad via PayPal at richcoad@gmail.com, or a check in US dollars to him at 3243 Berkeley Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 96501. PayPal is preferred.

It is a proud and lonely thing to be a fan.
FAAn Awards

The official 2020 Fan Activity Achievement Awards (the FAAns) ballot is included with this Progress Report. (It is at the end of this Progress Report, so stop looking for it here on page 4.) Anyone who is interested in science fiction fandom and its fanzines is welcome to vote for in the FAAns, and there is no fee involved! Even better. So there is no reason not to vote. The best way to vote in most of these categories is to peruse good, old www.efanzines.com and review the fanzines published in 2019. The next PR will have a listing of 2019 zines, too. Since there is still one more month to go this year, it is guaranteed more zines will be posted to efanzines, to say nothing of elsewhere on the aetherwaves. So in the meantime, inform thyselfs and vote! Here are the categories:

- Best Fanzine
- Best Genzine
- Best Perzine
- Best Special Publication
- Best Whatchamacallit-zine
- Best Fan Writer
- Best Fanzine Cover
- Best Letterhack
- Best Fan Artist
- Best Fanzine Cover
- Best Online Achievement

Also presented will be the Number One Fan Face Award, which is a cumulative point total from the above categories, plus the annual Lifetime Achievement Award, selected and presented by a Sekret Committee. The voting deadline for the 2020 FAAn Awards has been extended to February 23, 2020. Here is the link to the PDF fill-in ballot:


From the Bureau of Redundancy Bureau, there is also a copy for downloading and printing for anyone to complete and mail in their ballot at the end of this Progress Report. So there.

Con Suite Hours

The Corflu Heatwave Hospitality Suite overlooks the pool of the Holiday Inn. If you have any food allergies and/or preferences – vegetarian, lactose intolerance, gluten free, etc. – please contact Valerie Purcell at mavendumordant@yahoo.com and let her know. We will be starting to accumulate goodies very soon, so do let either her or myself know. For that matter, Valerie’s partner in crime on the Corflu Comestibles Crew Research (a.k.a, the CCCR) is Pat Virzi, so you could also let Pat know at patvirzi@gmail.com what your dietary needs or preferences are. They encourage attendees to start letting either Valerie or Pat know ahead of time if there are any recommended food or drink items you would also like to see offered. Allow me to refer everybody to what Curt Phillips, the head fry cook and dishwasher at Corflu Fiawol last year, wrote on pages 8-11 in Random Jottings #16 (available on www.efanzines.com), which was the
last PR the month before that convention. Curt offered up a series of questions regarding any preferences for types of teas and/or coffees, foodstuffs, and so on. This is an excellent source of information for us to have good ideas on how to serve Corflu Heatwave attendees. At our last planning meeting, the idea of making a big ol’ pot of chili came up, also queso, and other palatables to tantalize everybody’s taste buds. We Have Ideas. Be very afraid.

We can guarantee there will be at least one coffee maker present, a hot water pot for tea drinkers, plus plenty of soft drinks, milk, juices, beer, and water. In the grand tradition of North American science fiction conventions, the prerequisite bathtub full of beer and ice will be in the consuite as per usual and customary. There is also an attached room to the consuite for attendees to use for conversation and other needs. No beer or ice will be in that bathtub. Lime jello? Bring your own. Projected hours for the Con Suite are as follows:

- Thursday, 6:00 PM to late
- Friday, 6:30 PM to late
- Saturday, 8:00 to 11:00 AM & 3:00 PM to late
- Sunday, 8:00 to 11:00 AM & 3:00 PM to late

By all means, if you have comments or suggestions for Valerie and Pat, contact them at mavendumordant@yahoo.com for Valerie, and pat.virzi@gmail.com for Pat. We thank you all for your encouragement, support, and help.

The Dreaded Program Schedule

As anybody who has ever attended a Corflu in the past knows, there actually is programming, sort of. Exactly what each panel will be about is up to the members. Based on ideas for panel discussion and/or debate sent to either Pablo or myself (contact information on the last page), we settled on what appears to be a consensus of important topics. Therefore, here is the general plan of attack as of now (February 9, 2020). All events, unless otherwise noted, are to be held in the Oakwood Ballroom, which is PowerPoint ready. After the schedule are notes on just two events happening over the weekend.

**Wednesday, March 11, 2020**

Depending on how many folks arrive a few days early, there might be a Fan Meet-Up at World of Beer Pub: Texas Ave. & University Ave., 1 mile west of Hilton Hotel (7 PM-ish). Let us know ahead of time if your plans are to arrive by Wednesday afternoon.

**Thursday, March 12, 2020**

- Museum of the American GI – early afternoon? Shopping run in town?
- Pre-con nattering, noshing, and imbibing – consuite, 6PM to late?
**Friday, March 13, 2020**

- Shuttles to TAMU for tour of the SF Collection  
  10:00 AM & 2:00 PM
- Corflu 37 auction items on display  
  3:00 - 6:00 PM
- Opening ceremony (in the bar or Oakwood Ballroom)  
  5:00 - 6:00 PM
- Tribute to Steve Stiles  
  6:00 – 7:00 PM
- Dinner time!  
- John Purcell vs. Audience: concert (if you want to call it that)  
  9:00 – 10:00 PM

**Saturday, March 14, 2020**

- Shuttles to TAMU for tour of the SF Collection  
  10:00 AM & 2:00 PM
- History of Texas Fandom & Fanzines  
  11:00 AM
- The Art of Steve Stiles  
  12:00 PM
- Tommy Ferguson, live and up close – but not too close!  
  1:00 PM
- Texas Beer Tasting & Create-a-Zine Playtime  
  2:00 – 4:00 PM
- Corflu 37 auction  
  4:00 – 6:00 PM
- The Annual Obligatory Andrew Hooper play  
  8:00 PM
- Just a Minac  
  9:00 PM

**Sunday, March 15, 2020**

- Banquet (luncheon)  
  11:00 AM-12:00 PM
- guest of honor  
  12:00 – 12:30 PM
- Presentation of Awards  
  12:30 - 1:00 PM
- 2021 site selection  
  1:00 PM
- Adjournment  
  2:00 PM

The way we figure it, there might be some people who are unfamiliar with one of the panel titles scheduled for Saturday night. Sandra Bond kindly offers the following description of the game that she will be hosting. From my understanding, it was quite popular at Corflu Fiawol last year, so why not play the game again? Take it away, Sandra!

**Just a Minac**

Welcome to *Just a Minac!* This panel game sees four fans challenged to speak for one minute without hesitation, repetition or deviation on a given topic -- which, as this is Corflu, is more likely than not to be suited to the occasion. Based on a BBC radio show, whose sheer simplicity has led to it enduring for more than fifty years and becoming entrenched in British culture, it lends itself very well to a fannish context, for words and wordplay are the very essence of fannish fandom's culture. Will Rich Coad succeed in defending his title from last year, or will a challenger triumph?

- Sandra Bond, moderator
Also returning to Corflu this year will be the FANAC Fanhistory Scanning Station. It will be located in the main programming room, the Oakwood Ballroom, during the day, and then likely will move to the Consuite during evening hours. For more information on this, Joe Siclari was kind enough to supply the following description of the FANAC Fanhistory Project for those who are unfamiliar with this most worthy endeavour to preserve our collective fannish heritage.

**FANAC FANHISTORY Scanning Station is Coming Back to Corflu!**

Most Corflu attendees are familiar with the FANAC Fanhistory Project. For over 25 years, we've been dedicated to preserving fan history. We digitize and archive publications at our [FANAC.org](http://fanac.org) site (almost 10,000 issues on site now!). We preserve and extend our knowledge of fandom through explanation and commentary at [Fancyclopedia.org](http://fancyclopedia.org) (incorporating and extending Fancy and Fancy 2 to make a modern Fancy 3). We make available audio and video recordings through the FANAC Fanhistory Youtube channel at [https://www.youtube.com/c/fanacfanhistory](https://www.youtube.com/c/fanacfanhistory). We have had over 73,000 views so far. These are ongoing projects, with more material available every week.

We are bringing a high speed scanner to Corflu 37. Last year, we scanned over 3,500 pages at Corflu, and were able to add many interesting and important zines to the archive. This year we plan to bring a flatbed scanner too, for those zines that are not suitable to take apart.

Preserving fan history has always been a community effort. Please help by bringing fanzines and photos for us to scan. Note: to use the high speed scanner, we have to take the staples out of the zine so the pages can feed through. We'll staple them back. You can see a list of the zines we're scanning to scan at [http://fanac.org/fanzines/desired_fanzine_list_to_scan.html](http://fanac.org/fanzines/desired_fanzine_list_to_scan.html).

Joe Siclari    jsiclari@gmail.com
Fan History Project, Chairman    [http://fanac.org](http://fanac.org)

**NOTE:** As stated above, the FANAC Fanhistory Scanning Station will be an on-going item. The Oakwood Ballroom is large enough to have one section of it devoted to the FANAC Scanning Station. [Other sections will have the Corflu Auction Display table, plus a Corflu quick sale table and there will likewise be a Freebie Zine Drop-Off table.] Joe tells me that the station is easily transportable, so do not be surprised if it materializes in the Con Suite.

**Registration for Corflu, being quite mobile due to the convention’s small size, will be in the following locations on these days and times:**

- **Thursday, March 12th** – Consuite, starting at 6:00 PM to approximately 10:00 PM
- **Friday, March 13th** - Oakwood Ballroom, noon to 6:00 PM; Consuite 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM
- **Saturday, March 14th** - Oakwood Ballroom, 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM; Consuite 8:00 - 10:00 PM
- **Sunday, March 15th** - Consuite, 8:00 AM to 11:00 AM
Traveling to Corflu 37

HOW TO GET HERE From the Airports

If you are flying into the local College Station airport (Easterwood Field) and renting a car, as you leave this thriving nexus of international commuters and visiting scholars, take the EAST exit onto UNIVERSITY DRIVE, and just keep going straight for 5 miles to the Hilton Hotel. It will be on your left; turn left on TARROW STREET to enter the parking lot of the Hilton Hotel. Parking is complimentary for Corflu members and their guests. The Hilton does provide a complimentary Courtesy Bus from Easterwood Field, which is highly recommended because, well, it’s free. A taxi to the Hilton will cost you approximately $12 in US moolah.

From George H. W. Bush International Airport (Houston)

If you do not wish to rent a car, your best bet is to take the Ground Shuttle directly to the Hilton Hotel and Convention Center in College Station, TX. Boarding the Ground Shuttle is just outside baggage claim. You can make reservations on their website: https://groundshuttle.com/ If enough people are arriving on the same flight or at approximately the same time, let me (JP) know and I will arrange for a chartered Ground Shuttle to bring the group directly to Corflu 37.

If, however, you are renting a car at Bush International, follow the signs out of the airport to go north on Interstate 45. Look for the exit for West on Highway 105 (in Conroe), and follow that to go North on Texas Highway 6 (in Navasota). From there it is 18 miles to the University Drive exit in College Station. Take a left on University Drive to go West for a couple minutes (1.5 miles) to the Hilton Hotel, which will be on your right.

If you are flying into William P. Hobby Airport in Houston and renting a car, follow the signs out of the airport lot to head North on Interstate 45; take Highway 610 Westbound to go North on Highway 290, which will run into Texas Highway 6 North (watch out for the signs, or trust Siri to guide you). Once again, just follow Highway 6 North to University Drive in College Station, go left (West), look for the Hilton on your right ~1.5 miles. In addition, https://groundshuttle.com also serves Hobby Airport.

CORFLU 37 IS HERE –

College Station is roughly halfway between Houston and Waco, Texas, and west of I-45. See above directions for details.
Steve Stiles
(1943-2020)

Since the last Progress Report, the science fiction fan community lost one of its brightest shining stars. Steve Stiles has been a tireless creator of artwork for fanzines, in addition to many of his own fanzines over the years. His work is legendary, distinctive, and creative. I believe we only met once, and even that was only in passing, when Corflu 6 was held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and I stopped by for only a few hours on Saturday afternoon/early evening.

In recent years Steve has been a generous contributor to my fanzines, for which I will be eternally grateful. His was a talent that is not likely to ever be forgotten. Therefore, the Corflu Heatwave committee unanimously decided to honor Steve’s longtime contribution to the science fiction fan community. Two program items have been set up for attendee participation:

Friday, March 13th: after opening ceremonies in the Oakwood Ballroom, Tribute to Steve Stiles
Saturday, March 14th: panel at 12:00 PM in the Oakwood Ballroom, The Art of Steve Stiles

For the Tribute panel, Corflu Heatwave members are encouraged to share their thoughts and stories about Steve. Since the meeting room for the weekend is PowerPoint ready, if anybody has any artwork of Steve’s they would like to include in the screen presentation during the Tribute on Friday, please send those ahead to me as either jpeg, gif, or tif files, or even on pdf or Word documents. The same goes for The Art of Steve Stiles panel on Saturday. We are looking for attending members to join this artistic appreciation of Steve’s work, so if you are willing to share your thoughts on his techniques, content, how his style developed over the years, and his great sense of humor as displayed in his artwork, let us know as soon as possible so that your names can be included in the program book.

The Program Book itself will contain a Tribute section to Steve. So far I have received contributions from Ted White and Michael Dobson; there is room for more. The length of these should be in the 150 to 200 word length; shorter is also fine.

Let us celebrate Steve’s fannish legacy next month. In advance, I thank you for your participation.

John Purcell
The Corflu 37 Committee (So Far):
- John Purcell: convention chair
  FAAAn Awards, program, publications
- Pablo Miguel Alberto Vasquez: con settee
  Program, publicity, valet
Pat Virzi & Valerie Purcell:
  Hospitality
- Bill Burns: Webmaster
- David Thayer & Brad Foster:
  Publications, artwork, & t-shirts
- Rob Jackson:
  British Agent & Online Corflu stuff
- FAAAn Award design: Valerie Purcell
- Other committee members to be announced, and a yet-to-be-determined cast of thousands! Maybe even you!

Special thanks to Brad Foster for the Corflu 37 logo

Contact Information:
John Purcell (con chair)
3744 Marielene Circle
College Station, TX 77845
askance73@gmail.com

Pablo Miguel Alberto Vazquez (con settee)
499 Eagle Brook Lane
Buda, TX 78610
Chepablo@gmail.com

Membership information is on page 2 of this sterling publication. Neat, huh?

Corflu website: www.corflu.org

Corflu 37 likewise has a Facebook page. One must have a Facebook account to access the Corflu 37 page, which is a public group.

art credits
Brad Foster, logo on page 1  Steve Stiles, page 9
Photo of Howard Waldrop from https://www.pinterest.at/pin/306455949616022634/
Photo of Tommy Ferguson, nicked from his Facebook page
Picture of Hilton Hotel and Convention Center, from their website
Picture of a mimeograph and the map of Texas, nicked off the Internet

Ed Cox Doodle Space below.
How this works

This year, the goal was to streamline the award voting procedure on any print or online fanzine or written and artistic online fan activity produced and published during the eligible calendar year of 2019. After reviewing the categories, voting procedures, and vote tabulation methodologies of the past few years, I decided that what needed to be done was to go a bit retro on the categories and such, plus essentially simplifying how the FAAn Award winners are determined. Thanks to excellent discussions in various fanzine lettercolumns, listservs, smof halls, and bars/pubs, the eventual result was a reasonable means of how to make voting this year a bit easier. Forthwith and toot suite, here is the voting and tabulation methodology for the 2020 Fan Activity Achievement Awards to be presented after the Sunday Buffet luncheon at Corflu 37 in College Station, Texas, over the March 13-15, 2020 weekend:

List up to four items in each of the categories below. **Voters do not need to vote in all categories or completely fill in each category.** To do so is each individual’s decision. Each time something or someone is mentioned, that will count as a single vote in that particular category. If you can’t think of four, that’s fine: just write down your choices. There is no need to rank your choices, either. Whichever zine or person gets the most votes in that category will obviously be the winner. However, for the NUMBER ONE FAN FACE award, that is a cumulative vote total across all other categories. For an example here, if a FAPAzine called Schtuppnavel, produced by Siggy Fried is listed by somebody in the BEST WHATCHAMACALLIT-ZINE category, that zine gets one (1) vote. Let us then say Siggy Fried also receives a vote for BEST FAN WRITER. That is a single vote (1) for that category; however, Siggy now has a total of two (2) votes towards the NUMBER ONE FAN FACE award. Simple, no? I sure as hell hope so!

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2020 Official FAAn Awards Ballot
Here be the category definitions:

*Best Over-all Fanzine.* Vote for the fanzine of your choice, regardless of the subcategory to which it belongs. You may also vote for the same fanzine in *one* subcategory.

*Best Genzine.* A fanzine that normally contains a significant amount of information by multiple authors and contributors other than the editor.

*Best Personal Zine.* A fanzine primarily written by a single person, typically shorter in length and often-times more frequent in publication.

*Best Whatchamacallit Zine:* This is a fanzine published during 2019 in an APA (Amateur Press Association), as a newszine, clubzine, or is about a special interest (comics, filking, gaming, cosplay, pulps, etc.). This is a catch-all category for fanzines that don't fall into any of the above named primary award categories.
2020 Official FAAAn Awards Ballot

*Best Special Publication.* A publication (produced during 2019) that is usually bigger and fancier and more special than a typical fanzine. TAFF reports and fanthologies certainly qualify, but this is a big field. NOTE: A special publication is typically a one-shot, but it can also be a numbered issue of a fanzine distinct from the regular issues. [Examples: *Warhoon 28* (special Walt Willis issue); *Thy Life’s a Miracle* (Randy Byers collection); *The Corflu Flawol Anthology*, *The Trans-Atlantic Hearing Aid*, etc.]

*Best Fan Writer.* A writer whose work appeared in an eligible (published in 2019) genzine, perzine, or special publication. NOTE: Fan writers can work in both print and online media.

*Best Letterhack.* A writer of letters of comment published in fanzines that appeared during 2019 (a.k.a., the Harry Warner, Jr. Award for Best Letterhack).

*Best Online Achievement:* On-line fannish activity committed during 2019 can include hosting archives, running news sites, participating or leading groups and lists, blogging, and general online presence.

*Best Fan Artist:* An artist whose work appeared in an eligible (published in 2019) genzine, perzine, or special publication. This includes work both in print and online fan publications.

*Best Fanzine Cover Art:* Best fanzine cover published during the year 2019. A gallery will be available at efanzines.com.

#1 Fan Face: This is a cumulative award based on the number of times a fan is mentioned in one way, shape, or form in any of the above listed categories. This category gets a bit dodgy in the case of multiple-editors of a fanzine or website. After experimenting with some of the methods used in the past, my decision is to follow the over-arching KISS principle driving the creation of this year’s FAAAn Ballot – Keep It Simple, Stupid! “Stupid” being me, of course.

Therefore, in the case of a fanzine having two or more editors, each person named as an editor will receive a single vote towards the #1 Fan Face category. To me that seems to be the most equitable way of doing this for this particular award.

**Special Note:**
But seriously, folks. Here is an area that needs clarification.

If any fan or group entity decides that he/she/it does not wish to be considered for any of the above award categories, that fan or group entity should let that year’s FAAn Award Administrator know ahead of time - at least a few months (3 or 4 months would really help) in advance of the next Corflu – that he/she/it does not wish to be included in the FAAn Awards for the current voting year. In light of recent discussions – e.g., since last Corflu – Bill Burns and Steve Stiles have expressed their preference for not being considered for the 2020 FAAn Awards.

All y’all -- *CONSIDER YOURSELVES INFORMED*

Complete this official-type stuff and send along with your completed ballot:

Your Name: ______________________________________

Your Email: ______________________________________(if not, write N/A)

Mailing Address: ______________________________________

____________________________________________________

____________________________________________________

Date: ______________________________________

Name of an active fan who knows you (if we might not):

______________________________________

Voting Deadline: February 23, 2020

Email completed ballot to John Purcell, askance73@gmail.com, or print out, fill out, and mail the completed ballot – these four pages - to the following address:

John A. Purcell
3744 Marielene Circle
College Station, TX 77845 USA

There is no voting fee required to participate in the FAAn Awards. Anyone who has been involved with science fiction fandom fanzines and their progeny (meaning blogs, comic zines, and other special interest fanzines) is welcome to vote. However, note the “name of active fan, etc.” line above for vote verification purposes.