



# Taffluorescence! ninth issue



Lordy, lordy! It's August 2025, and that means it's WORLDCON time. Your TAFF administrators hasten to update you: we are

*Sandra Bond, 1B Chestnut House, Muckleston Rd, Loggerheads, Market Drayton TF9 1DA, UK  
and Sarah Gulde, 3244 SE 153rd Ave, Portland, OR 97236, USA*

Read on for hot details on what to expect from TAFF (and other fan funds) at Seattle!

EU TAFF email: [EUTaff@gmail.com](mailto:EUTaff@gmail.com) ~~ NA TAFF email: [n.a.Taff.2020@gmail.com](mailto:n.a.Taff.2020@gmail.com)

EU TAFF PayPal: [EUTaff@gmail.com](mailto:EUTaff@gmail.com) ~~ NA TAFF PayPal: [SarahMiyoko@gmail.com](mailto:SarahMiyoko@gmail.com)

TAFF website, history, free ebooks, many other good things: [taff.org.uk](http://taff.org.uk)

Especial thanks for hitherto unpublished William Rotsler cartoons to Bill Mallardi, to whose fanzine *Double:Bill* they were originally submitted in 1970 to support Rotsler's candidacy; and to Dave Langford, who saw Bill offering them up, claimed them, and passed them to us.



Let's commence with MONEY, because (like so much else in life) TAFF couldn't happen without money – in particular, the kind donations of cash and saleable items which permit TAFF to send a delegate half way around the planet most years. For this, I shall hand you over to Claire Brialey, who clutches the fund's purse-strings in a grip that is iron in its security but velvet in its gentleness:

*In Taffluorescence #4 (April 2024) we gave a snapshot of the financial status of both ends of the fund, which was all quite healthy and there was much rejoicing. Since then, there has been extensive fundraising, plus relevant spending on Sarah's trip last year (almost all from the North American treasury) and Mikołaj's travel costs this year (from the European side).*

*We remain very grateful for all donations of money, stuff, and time and effort. We hope to report in detail later this year on the funds raised and spent in the past three years. In the meantime, at the end of July 2025 the latest snapshot of European TAFF finances is just over £11,000 plus smaller euro and Swedish kronor balances: viz., £11,006.05, €543.42 and 724.31 kr.*

SHB here again: no matter how healthy those balances seem, we always need MORE to keep the fund thriving. To this end, at Eastercon I produced a booklet with all profits to TAFF, **GOOD BOOKS GONE WORSE**; it contains the first printed edition of the section of my TAFF report first heard on an episode of *Octothorpe*, as well as an exclusive short story, a chapter of my next novel (not out before 2026 at earliest), and other curious and interesting material. It was meant to be an Eastercon exclusive BUT there were four unsold copies left at the end of the con. One of them could be yours! **£5 post paid** anywhere in the world. This will *not* be reprinted, *ever*. Don't miss out! Email [eutaff@gmail.com](mailto:eutaff@gmail.com) for your copy.



**BUILDING YESTERDAY'S FUTURE FOR EVERYONE!:** (What does that *mean*? Should we all be bringing a suitcase of bricks to Seattle? – anyway:)

Worldcon is about to happen – may be happening by the time you read this. You may even be reading it there! Here are some fan fund-related highlights (all times PDT); see below for more items starring Mikołaj:

1) Thursday, August 14, 12pm to 1pm, room 343-344: **Worldwide Fandom: Fan Funds.**

Fan Fund delegates talk about the history of fan funds—the ups, the downs—and about the annual auction. *With Sarah Gulde (M), Mikołaj Kowalewski, Geri Sullivan, Janice Gelb, Paul Weimer*

2) Saturday, August 16, 1.30pm to 4pm (setup from 1pm), Terrace Suite (4F): **Fan Fund Auction.**

The TransAtlantic Fan Fun (TAFF) and Down Under Fan Fund (DUFF) jointly run an auction to raise money to send fans round the world. **Volunteers to assist with this (runners, cashiers) are sought; donations too!** With Geri Sullivan, Mikołaj Kowalewski, Paul Weimer, Sarah Gulde

Past TAFF (and other fan fund) winners may obtain a special badge-ribbon proclaiming such from Con Ops.

There will, sadly, be no Fan Fund Table this Worldcon. But there will *definitely* be a Fanzine Lounge, in the Exhibit Hall Lobby (2<sup>nd</sup> floor, convention centre), being run by Jerry Kaufman and 2005 TAFF winner Suzanne Tompkins. As well as displays of fanzines past and present, fanac.org will be there, pushing on with their mission to scan and make available fanzines dating back to the dawn of time nearly a century ago. They'd love to scan yours! Or if you have some spare time, help with removing staples and reassembling veteran fanzines would not go amiss. There will also be a box for fan fund auction donations (see above).

Well, that's a thin slice of Worldcon. But once it's done, you – and Mikołaj – have barely a month to catch your breath before it's time for another con. Take it away, 2019 TAFF delegate Geri Sullivan!

*Albacon (the one near Albany, New York) looks forward to welcoming TAFF Delegate Mikołaj Kowalewski and has scheduled a TAFF Auction for their Saturday night main event along with the Costume Contest. Auctioneer Joe Siclari will entertain all as he invites, cajoles, encourages, and persuades Albacon members to open their wallets in support of TAFF. Winning bidders will take home books, art, curiosities, and more that will be on offer.*

*Albacon is September 12–14, 2025 at the Clifton Park Marriott Courtyard; the auction is September 13. Albacon is a fully hybrid convention and the auction will be accepting bids from online members. Much as we hope several TAFF supporters will be there in-person, online membership is just \$15. We hope you'll come along and join in the fun! <https://albacon.org/2025/>*

**STALKING THE WILD TAFF DELEGATE:** if you're getting the impression that Mikołaj has a busy schedule during his TAFF trip, then buddy, you got that right. This is where he currently expects to be:

10-18 August: Seattle (Worldcon). 18-21 August: Portland. 21-27 August: San Francisco. 27 August-2 September: Atlanta (Dragoncon). 2-7 September: Chicago. 7-12 September: New York. 12-15 September: Albany (Albacon). 15-21 September: Boston and environs (IgNobel ceremony).

And as well as what's above, at Seattle you'll also find him at these panels and events:

1) Wednesday, August 13, 1.30 to 2.30pm, 4-Terrace Suite: **Improbable Research Dramatic Readings.** Moderator, with Liz Zitzow EA, Geri Sullivan, Mason A. Porter, David D. Levine, Janice Gelb, Kevin Roche, Seanan McGuire.

2) Friday, August 15, 3 to 4pm, Room 420-422: **Live Action Role-Playing Around the World.** Eleri Hamilton moderates Mikołaj, David D. Levine (again!), Terilee Edwards-Hewitt, Vivian Abraham.

It's also rumoured that he may be in the frame for presenting the **Hugo for Best Fan Writer.** (Saturday, August 16, 8.30 to 11pm, Ballroom 1)

Hope he's got a holiday booked to recover from all that, eh, kids? If you want further details from Mikołaj – especially, I would imagine, if you are willing to provide him with accommodation, hospitality, guided tours or meets-greets-and-partying with local fans – his email is [m.kowalewski@ava.waw.pl](mailto:m.kowalewski@ava.waw.pl).

**COMING UP:** Another bulletin from TAFF should follow once Mikołaj returns home – maybe even before then. See, it's not too soon to begin pondering the 2026 race, to bring a North American fan to Europe. Could that fan be you? Or a friend of yours? ... My own TAFF report continues; 1995 TAFF winner Dan Steffan will publish the next chapter in *Boonfark* before the end of the universe; another's earmarked for *Beam*.