

NOZ NOTES

by
Rob
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UFO BUSINESS

Well, at the time that I write these words (Sept. 14th), I still haven't heard if I have received a majority of votes to become **Chairman**. However, my understanding is that since I am the only candidate for the position, I will become Chairman even without a majority of votes. (Hmmm, perhaps that should have been spelled out in the revised Constitution I submitted for a vote last issue. Speaking of which, I haven't heard yet how that went either.)

I wasn't going to mention it, but it turns out that the version of my proposed **Constitution** that Steve mailed out last time was actually the next-to-last revision I made on it. I sent it out to Steve via email and then a few hours later sent him another, *final* revised version, where I had tweaked some of the language here and there. However, things must have gotten mixed up, and members saw the earlier version instead. But the differences aren't that big a deal, so I can live with it.

Next issue (#225) will be my first *T-Frags* as publisher of the zine, and as Chairman of this co-op. As such I should probably say a few words about the submission of columns to me. I'm not able to print out from Word documents that have file extensions ending in ".docx". I have an old computer, with an old version of Word on it that I've not been able to update. Even files that end in ".doc" might not be viewed on my computer in the same way that they look on your computer.

Therefore, my preference for emailed **columns** would be to receive them as either PDF files, or as JPEG (scanned images). (Note that JPEGs should be scanned at 300dpi or higher for best results.) I usually sent my columns to Steve as a jpeg (as I have done here). You see, I use an old software program to format my pages, which saves them in a file extension that ends in ".PSP" which I think most people (aside from those who have the program installed) are not able to open. I format the pages as PSP files and then print them out on paper. That's how I make them for my zines. If I need to send someone a copy of the page, I scan the page as a jpeg and then email it to them. When Don Ensign

recently asked for a copy of the current UFO Checklist, I emailed him both the original .PSP file (which I assume he probably couldn't open) and a jpeg of that page.

So-o-o, not sure how well all of this will work for each individual member. If there are concerns, let me know. Of course, I can also accept pages sent to me via regular postal mail. (I resist the term "snail-mail" because of the insult that may be inferred from it.) Actually, I've usually found actual **mailed** items to reproduce better on the printed pages of my zines, as they seem to lack any trace of pixellation, etc.

I laid out my plans for the co-op last issue, which is to basically keep things going as they have been under Steve Shipley's Chairmanship. I have spoken with two fanzine producers in the past few months about the prospect of **applying for membership** in our group and I'm hopeful that they'll go through with it. We'll see!

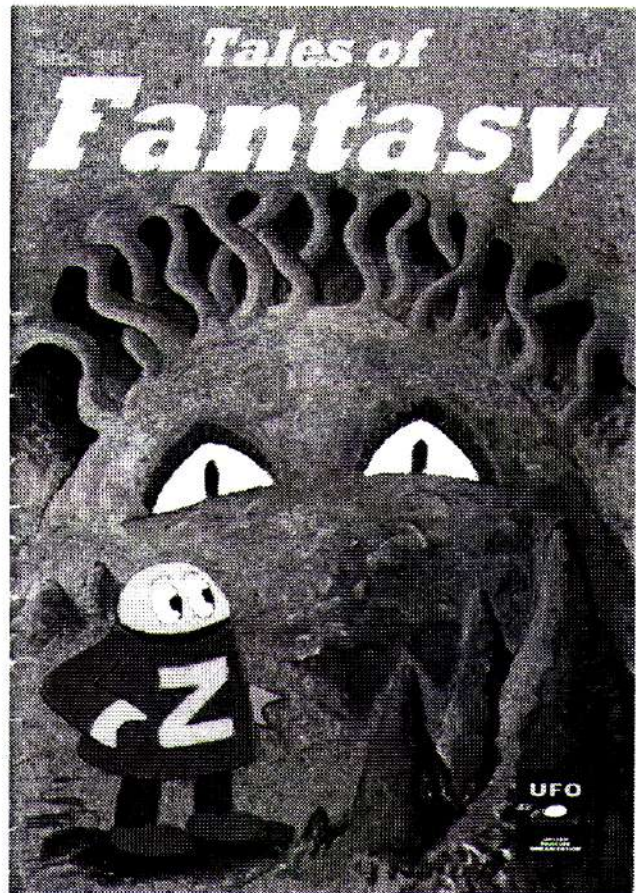
Honorary member Jim Main (and I wish he'd just be a regular member again) informed me on the "UFO Members Only" Facebook page that **Dan Burke** has decided to leave the group. I wish Dan well in his future endeavors.

REVIEWS OF MEMBER ZINES

By my count, there were only two member zines released since the previous issue of *T-Frags* (not counting TF #223 itself): my own *TUNE IN* #17 (which I hope that you all liked) and **TALES OF FANTASY** #58. I'm not going to review my own zine, so here are my thoughts on TOF #58.

As usual, I liked it a lot. For one thing, I was pleased to see the return of Larry's childhood creation *Zooy*. The little guy has his own feisty little personality and is very likable. (Boogala is feisty, too, but not as endearing as the cartoony *Zooy*.) I am a collector of Larry's comics (at present, I'm missing only eleven issues -- #6-8, 10, 16, 18, 21, 22, 27, 29 & 34 -- to have all 58 issues of TOF). (I do have a double of #12 if anyone would like to trade, by the way.) So for sentimental reasons alone, I was pleased to see *Zooy*'s return. However, I also like variety, especially in a rotating anthology series like this, so it was nice to

2009

the land of
the scarves

Above left is the cover of **TALES OF FANTASY #1** (Winter 1988), which featured the contents of the last homemade issue (#72) of **ZOOY**, completed in May 1982. Above right is the cover of the current issue (#58) of **TOF**, featuring Zooy's return. Copyright © 2012 Larry Johnson.

have something totally different, unrelated to the goings-on in the town of Brookston, to read about. (Although given Larry's world-building in **TOF**, I wouldn't be too surprised to find out later that this story's Zooy tale does relate to Boogala and Co. somehow.)

In the August 29th edition of the *Art Studio* podcast, Larry mentioned that he was going for a less detailed art style this time around, in case he'd like to have this story appear in color someday, and mentioned the simple cartooning of Harvey Comics' *Hot Stuff* as an influence. Believe it or not, I was able to pick up on this idea (not *Hot Stuff* particularly, but Harvey in general) and approved wholeheartedly, even though I have called for more detailed art in past **TOF** lettercols. The difference this time was that I think the cartoony nature of Zooy is a better fit for that simpler style than a dramatic strip. For example, if an Archie comic was drawn the same as a Spider-Man comic, it would distract from the pacing and humor of the strip. (And we'd also notice how weird-looking Archie's head is, not to mention Jughead, if drawn more realistically, with shading and cross-hatching.) A more realistically-rendered Zooy would make him look

freakish and monstrous rather than cute and cuddly. So, the style choice was a good one.

Although it wasn't mentioned in the issue, the Dan Burke one-pager "from about 100 years ago" originally appeared in *The Comet* #7 (Spring 1989). I notice that it looks a bit darker in **TOF** #58 than it did in the original, perhaps because the original artwork was no longer available to print from, so the reader was seeing a copy of a copy of the art. That issue had a new Zooy story in it, too, but drawn in a more cluttered style than Larry's pleasingly open (Harvey-influenced) style.

"Dream Diary" was entertaining as usual. I agree with Mike Tuz when he wrote in the lettercol that "The total absence of panel borders enhances the dreamlike atmosphere" which gives the strip its own unique look and identity. I thought the strip ended abruptly, but then dreams don't make narrative sense, do they? I can see something like this being not only a regular feature of the comic, but incidents from it making little appearances in the rest of the comic, too, in the same way that Chester Brown turned a short gag strip "The Man Who Couldn't Stop" into a major plot point in his series *Yummy Fur*.

All this and Space Cat, too! (Hmmm, that sounds like a cover blurb...) Another fine issue, Larry! Keep up the great work!