

Fall!

And so here we are in the final quarter of the Pegasus year, as we've left meteorological summer and slipped into fall. Although the leaves on the trees have yet to change colors, our hard-working Pegasus crew has assembled the Final Ballot which is now available to you online at the Pegasus website at:

<http://www.ovff.org/pegasus>

When you go there, you'll get to see the lyrics and hear a sample of each of the nominated songs, along with selected samples of the works of each of our nominees for Best Performer and Best Writer/Composer. If there's someone or something that you're not familiar with, here's your chance to learn a bit about them.

If you're going to be at OVFF, you may want to wait to cast your vote until after the Pegasus Nominees Concert on Friday night. (I know that's what I like to do.) But if you're not going to be at the con, you can cast your ballot on-line up until midnight, Monday, October 19th. If you want to mail in your ballot, we'll need to have it in hand by that time in order to count it.

So remember to vote early (or late), vote **once**. Because not all of us are from Chicago.

That Interesting Issue of Campaigning

When the Final Ballot comes out, we also find ourselves pondering the subject of campaigning for a Pegasus Award. Now our expectation is that **everyone** who is on the Final Ballot would **like** to win – otherwise, they wouldn't have accepted the nomination. And when there's a vote that you'd like to win, there's a certain natural urge to campaign – or to campaign for your friends who've been nominated!

There's that lingering question though: how much campaigning is actually appropriate? And because we're fairly well convinced that we don't have all of the answers, we threw the



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question to the various filkers on LiveJournal to see what they had to say as we posted the following poll. The number of responses for each choice appears in parentheses.

Your song has been nominated for a Pegasus Award. Do you:

- (4) Accept the nomination, but don't talk about it.
- (16) Mention the nomination once on your blog.
- (2) Not mention it, but play the song at every opportunity.
- (16) Play the song and announce that it was nominated.
- (0) Play the song and mention the nomination frequently on my blog.
- (1) Call all my friends at 3 AM and tell them to vote for me, dammit!

Well, **there's** a fairly bimodal distribution. About half of the respondents would mention it once, while the other half will play the song and mention that it was nominated.

Ok, what if a **friend's** song was nominated for a Pegasus Award? Do you:

- (6) Privately congratulate them, but don't mention it otherwise.
- (12) Mention the nomination once on your blog.

- (1) Not mention it, but play/request the song at every opportunity.
- (18) Play/request the song and announce that it was nominated.
- (2) Play/request the song and mention the nomination frequently on my blog.
- (0) Accost random strangers at the next con and tell them to vote for the song, dammit!

Well, that's a little bit different from the last case. It looks like some folks think it's a little more acceptable to do some campaigning for a friend's song than for their own, while others would do less than the minimal amount of mentioning that the song had been nominated. Of course, if you can't mention that your **own** song was nominated, whose can you mention, I suppose.

And what if you didn't know the composer, but a song that you like was nominated for a Pegasus Award? Do you:

- (11) Quietly plan to vote for it.
- (9) Mention the nomination once on your blog.
- (1) Not mention it, but play/request the song at every opportunity.
- (16) Play/request the song and announce that it was nominated.
- (2) Play/request the song and mention the nomination frequently on my blog.
- (0) Tweet "Vote for my favorite song" daily until OVFF.

So, on average, we appear to be more likely to at least mention a song that belongs to a friend, but otherwise pretty much equally willing to campaign for **any** song that we like.

Of course, we solicited more information on the subject and some of the folks were willing to let us quote them. Such as:

Rebecca: I might or might not mention the nomination of a friend's song on my blog. It would depend on how close of a friend, what else was going on in my life, and whether I thought it needed the mention. Also, possibly,

on how many of my friends were nominated in the same category. That said, I wouldn't be upset or offended by any but the last options on those lists. I honestly sort of expect people to play their songs which have been nominated.

Gary: Nominees should be proud that their songs were nominated, and people who like the nominated songs should let others know about them, but it should stop short of aggressive promotion.

Lissa: I can imagine myself falling into the 'shameless promotion' camp if I felt really strongly about a particular song, because if nothing else I know that I can get carried away and have a blast doing shameless promotion. In general I believe that a song should win on its own merits, not because of shameless promotion, but the lines on that are drawn in wet sand.

Rachel: In general, I tend to pimp songs I like as much as possible, so if they're also Pegasus-nominated, that's just a sign that other people also have good taste. :)

Michelle Dockrey made a thoughtful post on the subject on her LiveJournal which she's allowed us to excerpt here:

"...campaigning is likely to result in ballot-stuffing; not maliciously, but just by people who won't know it's a community award (they can't know if nobody **tells** them, after all), who see just a name and a URL and say "oh I'm a fan of X and they're up for some award I've never heard of, I'll vote for 'em, sure!""

And Michelle had much more to say, but – sadly – we're out of space!

Write To Us

Anything you'd like us to talk about? Let us know at:

wingwords@ovff.org