

VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

TAFF Extends Nomination Deadline!

With only one candidate announced for the US-to-UK 2008 TAFF trip, administrators Suzle Tomkins (US) and Bridget Bradshaw (UK) have announced that the nominations period has been extended to July 30.

Contact Suzle at: SuzleT@aol.com

Harrison Country Now Available!

A complete one-volume edition of Steve Stiles' TAFF report is now available for the first time. Randy Byers supplies some background — as well as ordering information:

“Earlier this year at Corflu Quire in Austin, Texas, one of the publications premiered was Steve Stiles' TAFF report, Harrison Country, chronicling his TAFF trip of 1968, where amongst other things and mysteriously enough he apparently ended up on the Goon Show as played by Neddie Seagoon. This is the first full-length North American TAFF report completed since Len and June Moffatt published The Moffatt House Abroad in 1974.

“Yes, friends, that's right, Harrison Country is the first completed North American TAFF report in over thirty years!!!!

“It's a thing of beauty, too, with cover and interior artwork by Steve, including his legendary two-page Crazy Kat pastiche, "TEFF TearawTales," plus Goon Show art by the resplendent Dave Hicks.

“The report opens a window on British fandom of almost forty years ago, only to splash cold sea water in their



THE FUNNY LETTERS · WR 93

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Corflu Silver Breaking News

- Six more fans have joined Corflu Silver since the last issue of *VFW*. See the names on page 17. Find out how to join on page 9.
- Stalwart fan and all-around Good Man Bruce Townley has bought membership in Corflu Silver (April 25-27, 2008) for Steve and Elaine Stiles. The popular Maryland fan couple are the first recipients of the Corflu Award sponsored by The Corflu Fifty. Members of this remarkably sensible fannish charity have pledged to underwrite the cost of getting Steve and Elaine to the con next year. Obviously, Bruce Townley's generous gesture will give them a little extra breathing room when budgeting for the trip.

Inside Story

Farewell to My Mom

My mother, Ann Katz, died on Wednesday, July 15. She apparently suffered a fatal coronary and died instantly at approximately age 92. Joyce and I flew to Phoenix for the Sunday funeral. I was asked to write down a few thoughts for my nephew Micah, a rabbi, who officiated at the graveside service. I was surprised when he actually read it at the service. I wanted to post it here as a tribute to a beloved mother whose support helped me become a professional writer and editor.

It is very easy to make sweeping statements about people, to say that someone was one way or another way. Yet when we look deeper, more subtle shades become visible and we see that what seemed so simple may have depths, levels and nuances beyond what we originally perceived. Those who knew my mother primarily in her later years may have seen her as timid, retiring, passive and inclined to shy away from engagements with life. She was a private person in many ways, an introvert like me, but she was also the person who went to school to learn how to work in an American factory so she could leave her Polish village for a faraway and strange country. And many years later, she again struck out for new and unfamiliar territory when she and dad moved from New York to Phoenix. In some ways, her later life reflects her tumultuous early life; a rest from onrushing change and upheaval.

When I think of my mother, one of the things that comes to mind most readily is her drive to understand. Even when my dreams were not ones she envisioned, mom supported them. I doubt that I would have lived my dream of being a writer if not for her unwavering support.

Mom had the special gift of connecting with people of all walks of life and so many will miss her. Her memories will linger in those whose lives she touched and made better.

— Arnie

Vegas Fandom Weekly #99, Volume 3 Number 11, July 22, 2007, is written and produced by Arnie Katz (909 Eugene Cernan St., Las Vegas, NV 89145; Email: crossfire4@cox.net; phone: 702-648-5677).

Special Thanks to Bill Burns (Posting), David Gordon (Mountaineering Consultant), Alan White (Arty Fella), Bill Mills (Technical Advisor), Joyce Katz (proofreading and So Much More).

Reporters this issue: James Taylor, Bruce Gillespie, Linda Bushyager and Joyce Katz

Art/Photo Credits : Bill Kunkel (3), Taral Wayne (4), Bill Wright (9,10,11, 12), Alan White (12, 13), David Russell (21) and all else by Bill Rotsler.

Columnists This Issue : Shelby Vick, Bill Wright, Bill Mills, James Taylor

VFW is free by request — and you may get it anyway. It can be downloaded at efanazines.com and LasVegrants.com. No steroids or FGH (Fannish Growth Hormone) were consumed during the production of this fanzine.

Member: fwa

Supporter: AFAL

Corflu Silver in 2008!

What Are the GREATEST FANZINES?

Katzenjammer

I wrote about the best all-time fans a couple of issues back and succeeded in touching off the discussion I wanted as preparation for taking a poll. The natural “go with” to such a survey is one that gives fans a chance to choose their all-time favorite fanzines.

Once again I caution that this isn't an all-inclusive catalogue of the good, or even the great, fanzines. Filling out the rolls will take your help. Meanwhile, here are the fanzines that seem to me to be the best candidates for that “Top Ten” list.

A Bas – Never as well-known as it should've been during the mid-1950's, Boyd Raeburn's fanzine was witty, sophisticated and insurgent. Among many highlights were the Derogations, insidious playlets crafted from real (usually fuggheaded) statements.

Algol – Andy Porter created one of the slickest and most graphically venturesome packages for the fine, stfnal material that dominated this title of the 1960's and 1970's. Andy was indefatigable when it came to finding prime material, often by well-known professionals.

Amra – George Scithers produced an offset fanzine jammed with professional quality sword and sorcery artwork surrounding articles about the genre. With excellent timing, *Amra* rode the wave of popularity for the genre and became a rallying point for S&S fans.

Ansible – Dave Langford packs a lot of news – and quite a bit of wit – into two pages with that microscopic type. If you want to know what's happening with UK pro-dom and the Fandom that surrounds it, there's no better place to get the information.

Aparatchik – Andy Hooper made this fast-paced weekly fanzine hugely popular the early 1990's and then, with the addition of co-editor Victor Gonzalez, kept it the forefront despite the slowed-down schedule. Terrific writing and a good sense of how to edit made this a “Must read” during its era.

Aparheta – Vincent Clarke, Joy Clarke and Sandy Sanderson, known as Inchmery Fandom, produced this lively and entertaining fanzine. The pseudonymous Penelope Fandergast (eventually revealed as FM Busy) was one of several outstanding contributors who led a strong supporting cast. Sanderson's “Inchmery Fan Diary,” a blog-like chronicle of his fanac, kept fans around the world up on the latest from this major slanshack.

Australian Science Fiction Review – John Bangsund produced a fanzine that took a serious attitude toward science fiction yet remained entertaining and lively. His own contributions helped elevate *ASFR* above the general level of review-oriented stfnal fanzines.

Banana Wings – When Claire Brialey and Mark Plummer combined their efforts, shelving separate zines in favor of this one, it set them on a course to producing the UK's foremost fanzine of the new century. Both editors write very well and there are plenty of others on hand to help.

Blat! – Ted White and Dan Steffan produced this lavish, graphically inspired fanzine in the 1990's. This is one of the few fanzines that rates at or near the top in



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Continued on next page

both appearance and content. The special sections, such as the one for *Syndrome*, add immeasurably to its appeal.

Checkpoint – Pete Roberts chronicled the doings of British Fandom with intelligence and a sense of humor. *Checkpoint* is a usefully accurate record of the important doings, personalities and events as fans who have recently encountered the online reprint can attest.

Chunga – Andy Hooper, Randy Byers and Carl Juarez produce an erudite fanzine in an impeccable format and fans' reaction can be gauged by how well *Chunga* has done in the FAAn Awards in recent years. Andy Hooper may be the single best essayist in contemporary Fandom.

Confusion – Shelby Vick has a golden personality and his charmingly informal fanzine looks and reads like a direct expression of that personality. It's not so much the individual pieces, but the overall effect. This was a pleasant, neighborly, friendly fanzine that could melt the hardest Insurgent heart with its Truffanish soul.

Cry – FM & Elinor Busby & Wally Weber kept the fanzine of Seattle's Nameless Ones crackling, abetted by the wildest, most devoted letterhacks of the late 1950's and early 1960's. There was also plenty of good material by the three editors and such gems from outside the Nameless Ones as Terry Carr ("Fandom Harvest").

Egoboo – Ted White & John D. Berry edited this fairly frequent and relatively small fanzine and wrote outstanding columns. The outside contributors were used sparingly but effectively. *Egoboo* carried on the series of annual fan polls after *Focal Point* folded.

eI – Earl Kemp returned to fanzine publishing with a cutting edge electronic format that has presented an almost unbelievable amount of top-class fanwriting since its inception. Not only is Earl a resourceful and energetic editor, but he is a terrific writer with a great store of anecdotes and adventures to recount.

Energumen – Mike Glicksohn & Susan Wood brought a lot of fresh talent into Fanzine Fandom, including the excellent Rosemary Ulliot. They also had plenty of material by the more established fans, once the excellent physical package and editors' winning personalities made *Nerg* one of the best fanzines in which to appear during the mid- and late-1970's.

ERBdom –



Camille Cazadessus caught lightning in a bottle when the republication of Edger Rice Burroughs in paperback form ignited a revival of interest in his voluminous writing.

Fanac – Ron Ellik and Terry Carr's chatty newszine was instrumental in reviving Fandom in the late 1950's and was the first place fans looked for news during that period when there were no web sites and listservs.

Fantasy Commentator – A. Langley Searles has piloted this serious and literate fanzine through two distinct periods: the 1940's and again beginning four decades later when he returned to activity. The fanzine is bigger – 100-plus pages is normal -- but its devotion to 1930's science fiction hasn't wavered. *Fantasy Commentator* also presented Sam Moskowitz's memoirs, later collected as *The Immortal Storm*.

Focal Point – Rich Brown and Mike McInerney started this newszine as a replacement for *Fanac*, which had petered out after Terry and Ronel moved on to other pursuits. Rich and I revived the fanzine in the late 1960's and elaborated on the original concept to make it an ensembled genzine with news. Ted White, Greg Benford, Bob Shaw, Jay Kinney and many others appeared regularly in its pages. It ended life as a genzine under my (Arnie's) sole editorship with an all-star array of writers and artists.

Flying Frog – Calvin Demmon & Andy Main made fanzine magic with this small, frequent fanzine about their good times and outrageous adventures. The pair alternated pages and, if Calvin was the more humorous of the two, Andy more than held up his end of the partnership.

Folly – The fanzine that signaled my (Arnie's) return to activity helped revive a burned out and depleted Fanzine Fandom. Chuch Harris, Bill Rotsler, Bill Kunkel, Joyce Katz and Shelby Vick led an all-star group of writers and artists – along with the all-too-prolific editor's effusions.

Frap – Robert Lichtman wove pop hipness and uncompromising fannishness into a delightful title that featured such major talents as Ray Nelson, Calvin Demmon and Jim Benford. More informal (and more frequent) than his later *Trap Door*, *Frap* was the fanzine other fanzine editors admired.

Grue – Dean Grennell's fanzine started as his FA-Pazine, but a lot of very talented fans soon began appearing in the fanzine's signature blue mimeo ink. Many in the 1950's and early 1960's considered Dean Bob Tucker's nearest rival as a fan humorist and the very best place to read his stuff was in his own fanzines.

Habbakuk – Bill Donaho pulled off the same feat

as Dick Geis by bringing *Hab* to the forefront of the fanzine field twice. Each time, Bill began with a small publication that quickly built into a mammoth publication due to fans' enthusiasm. The second incarnation also featured lavish multi-color artwork.

Horizons – Harry Warner produced one of the very few apazine that deserves serious consideration for any list of all-time great fanzines. Begun in 1937, *Horizons* became Warner's FAPAzine after the first few issues and kept to its quarterly schedule with scrupulous consistency.

Hyphen – Walt Willis and Chuch Harris co-edited this zine, which was supposed to fill in the gaps between issues of *Slant*, but it carved out its own legend over the next 30 years. Besides the editors' hilarious contributions, *Hyphen* relied on the Wheels of IF as its main writers – and had its pick of just about every other fanwriter in the world.

Honque – Norm Clark & Gina Ellis (Clark) edited a fanzine that made up in non-stop hilarity what it may have lacked in refined and slick appearance. Norm's lurid tales of skree-honking and the fine writing of both Gina and Boyd Raeburn guaranteed a good read, liberally punctuated by laughter.

Innuendo – For sheer quality and editorial excellent, it's hard to find a fanzine better than Terry Carr's fannish tour de force. Humor articles, great cartoons by Bjp Trimble and others and the faan fiction of Carl Joshua Brandon (mostly written by Terry) were just some of the fanzine's strong points. Jerry Kaufman produced a posthumous issue, based on material Terry gathered for one last *Innuendo*.

LeZombie – Bob Tucker practically invented fan humor and this fanzine has a treasure trove of Tucker at his finest. Short items and longer ones all shone with the wit of the man who was Fandom's answer to Will Rogers.

Lighthouse – Terry Carr and Peter Graham's collaboration vies with *Warhoon* and *Grue* as the best true gen-apazines. A very sophisticated visual presentation provided a framework for everything from ramblings and mailing comments to serious intellectual essays. Terry and Peter never bothered about consistency, except when it came to quality.

Masque – Bill Rotsler's "Gaudy Fanzine" was a fannish event every time it appeared. Few fans have had the combination of writing, artistic and editorial talents to do a fanzine of this magnitude. Rotsler's other fanzines were damn fine, but this title was his supreme fanpublishing achievement.

Metanoia – Greg Shaw inspired a vogue for small, personal fanzines in the mid-1970's with this zine, which remained tops in the boomlet it created. Greg

combined personal experience, fannishness and an intense interest in popular music into a wonderful editorial package.

Mimosa — Rich & Nikki Lynch's eclectic genzine blended first-hand fanhistory with a wide range of other topics, all showcased with art by some of Fandom's best cartoonists and illustrators.

Minac 00 Ted White and Les Gerber, at the heights of the friendship in the mid-1960's championed the cause of Walter Breen, but those legal-length pages were stuffed with entertaining fannishness, usually in Ted's famed micro-elite typeface.

Mota – Terry Hughes produced this friendly and fun fanzine in the 1970's, but it had a lot of the easy-going flavor of the Sixth Fandom titles of the early 1950's. A fairly quiet, pleasant and obliging person, Terry Hughes infused his zine with those qualities. The great support *Mota* got from Terry's many friends testifies as much to his stature as a person as his skill as an editor.

Niekas – Ed Meskys and, for most of its "glory period," Felice Rolfe, did this jumbo sized fanzine devoted to serious discussion of Tolkien and related fantasy literature. The editors' somewhat contrasting personalities added a lively element to a mix that included extremely detailed analysis of the zine's main topic.

Oopsla! – Columns were the strong suit of Greg Calkins' fanzine, which had strong runs in both the 1950's and again in the early 1960's. Among many great columns, Greg had two that rank at or near the top: Walt Willis' "The Harp That Once or Twice" and Harry Warner's "All Our Yesterdays."

Odd – A tween-aged Ray Fisher started the zine in the late 1940's and then gafiated in '53 until the middle of the next decade. The issues co-edited by him and Joyce Katz blended pop cultural and fannish content with eye-popping artwork, a formula many subsequent fanzines tried to follow with significantly less success. The Jack Gaughan-Vaughn Bode cartoon war was one of many highlights.

Outworlds – Bill Bowers developed a tasteful, Mondrian graphic style that highlighted each contribution and made all of them seem special. Bowers was one of those fine fans whose circle of friends transcended various cliques and faction, which enabled him to put together a dazzlingly varied assortment of writers and artists.

Pong – Ted White & Dan steffan helped spur the early 1980's boom with this tightly written and beautifully finished frequent fanzine. Funny, trenchant, informative and fearless, *Pong* was a great fanzine in a period somewhat dimmed by the Gergeron Wars.

Psychotic/Science Fiction Review – Dick Geis went

through substantially the same publishing cycle in the mid-1950's and late 1960's-early 1970's and hit the jackpot both times. I always preferred the 1960's version of *Psychotic*, but there's no denying that *SFR* turned Fanzine Fandom strongly in the direction of stfnal discussion, thanks to Geis' provocative writing, brilliant editing and knack for fo-menting arguments.

Quandry – Lee Hoffman's delightful monthly had an unshakable hold on Fandom in the early 1950's. Lee's relaxed, though precise, writing, her charming artwork and a fabulous cast of contributors led by Walt Willis riveted fans' attention at the time and made *Quandry* the most influential fanzine of all time.

Quip – No one knew what to expect when Lenny Bailes and I folded the somewhat sercon *Excalibur* and began "The Vulgar ad Ostentatious Fanzine" in 1965. Its multi-page cartoon covers, drawn by Ross Chamberlain, paid homage to *Void*, but the content showcases the young editors' take on fannishness. Writers included Willis, Carr, White, Benford, Warner, Busby, Cox, Lupoff and both John and John D. Berry.

Retribution – John Berry and Arthur Thomson co-edited the official magazine of the Goon Defec-tive Agency. John Berry himself wrote a lot of the adventures of Fandom's foremost detective, but other operatives also recounted their must challeng-ing cases. Atom's charming cartoon style set a rol-licking mood for the often-slapstick tales.

SF Commentary – Bruce Gillespie has continued, through changing times and fashions, to champion the cause of serious science fiction discussion and analysis. Bruce's personality, so well-balanced between fannish-ness and sercon, creates a forum for science fiction en-thusiasts that doesn't completely shut out those more interested in personalities and the ho0bby itself.

Science Fiction Five-Yearly – Perhaps no one ex-pected it to continue as long as it did when Lee Hoff-man did the first one in the early 1950's, but it ended up with more than enough issues to justify inclusion in this list. Harlan Ellison, Ted White, Bob Silverberg and many more of LeeH's talented friends and admirers joined her to make every *SFFY* a highly anticipated event.

Shangri-L'Affaires – The LASFS clubzine, sadly long dormant, had two fabulous periods: in the wartime 1950's under Charles Burbee and in the late 1950's-early 1960's when Bjo Trimble, Ron Ellik, Al Lewis and Redd Boggs reinvigorated its pages. *Shaggy* had many, many more fine writers and artists than could possibly be listed in this short entry.

SOME FANZINES
ACHIEVE GREATNESS!
SOME FANZINES
HAVE GREATNESS
THRUST UPON THEM!



Sky Hook -- Redd Boggs was a fannish colossus whose lack of self-promotion has unjustly dimmed his memory. Redd could write well about almost any sub-ject and he did more with serious Science Fiction analysis as interestingly and perceptively as it has ever been done. The fanzine, popular in the 1950's, was also one of the best-looking fan publications of its era, thanks toi Boggs' meticulous mimeography.

Skyrack – Ron Bennett edited this sprightly newsz-ine that was UK Fandom's equivalent of *Fanac*. Ron didn't imitate Terry and Ronel; his approach and writ-ing style were his own. Now that *Skyrack* is posted, let's hope a lot of fans will take a Bennett's-eye view of one of Fandom's most exciting periods.

Slant – Walt Willis, Bob Shaw and James White hand-set the type for this remarkable first effort from Irish Fandom. With multi-color wood cut covers, the half-size *Slant* gave Fanzine Fandom its first taste of the remarkable talents who would go on to do so much in Fandom and, in the case of White and Shaw, profes-sional SF.

Spacewarp – Art Rapp edited this zine over a 50-year span that saw it turn from the focal point fanzine

of the late 1940's into one of the best SAPSazines. Only his dispatch to Korea during the Police Action ended its reign. Francis Towner Laney and Charles Burbee, with aid from Bill Rotsler, produced the two "Insurgent Spacewarps" to make the end of the era with a couple of very impressive zines.

Spaceways – Harry Warner reacted to what many saw as excessive feuding and vitriol in late 1940's Fandom by producing this finely edited and written general interest fanzine that willfully evaded controversy. What it had was plenty of fine writing as it earned a reputation as the focal point fanzine of its era.

Speculation – Pete Weston's fanzine led a wave of SF-oriented fanzines that emanated from Great Britain in the mid-1960's, but he did so with a better spirit and a sunnier personality than some of his contemporaries. The New Wave swept through Fandom and *Spec* presented the best material by and about them.

Stellar – Ted White's first great fanzine established faan fiction (fiction about fans) as a genre and also explored new frontiers of multi-color mimeography. *Stellar* presented both classic reprints and new stories that attempted to bring the values of fiction to stories about fans and Fandom.

Triode —Eric Bentcliffe and Terry Jeeves made an appealing editorial tandem in a zine that had a more expansive look than most British fanzines of the period. Material was generally fannish and/or humorous, with the adventures of mythic hero Harrison often at the forefront.

Trap Door – Robert Lichtman is a meticulous craftsman who has produced a succession of outstanding issues of this title since his return to Fandom about 25 years ago. Issue for issue, *TD* is the best fanzine published in the last 15, brimming with resonant writing embellished with outstanding artwork. No one gets those old fans to crawl back to the keyboard for one more glorious effort like the Sage of Fandom.

Vampire – Joe Kennedy dominated Fanzine Fan-

dom with his wide-ranging excellence in the post-war 1950's more thoroughly than anyone has before or since. Fan polls of the era revealed him to be the consensus choice for best writer, best artist, best columnist, best humorist and best editor. *Vampire* would stand taller on this list if copies weren't almost impossible to find. Lee Hoffman credited it as the inspiration for *Quandry*.

Vegas Fandom Weekly – Arnie Katz loves you and thinks you are very beautiful and very smart.

Void – Started by Greg and Jim Benford, Ted White became co-editor after the first dozen or so issues. Terry Carr and Peter Graham eventually joined Greg and Ted and this quartet produced a fanzine that set a new standard for graphics and art while putting an inimitable and enduring stamp on fannishness. Bbob Stewarts multi-page covers on later issues have never been topped.

Warhoon – Richard Bergeron published a top serious discussion fanzine – and then turned it into an awesome fannish fanzine. His cast of writers included RAW Lowndes, Walter Breen, Walt Willis, Bob Shaw, Terry Carr and Ted White. *Warhoon* #28, the definitive Willis collection, may well be the greatest issue of a regular fanzine.

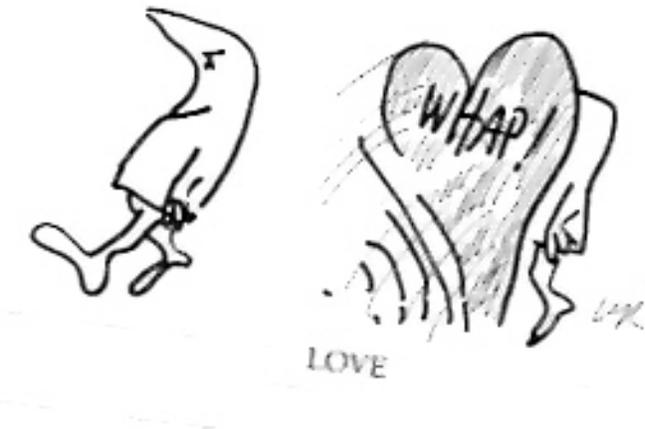
Wild Heirs – The Vegrants picked the title to honor the LA Insurgents and started the zine with a oneshot party concept. After the first couple of issues, it evolved into a large, heavily illustrated genzine with the best of Vegas' fanwriting, with plenty of support from non-Nevadans Chuch Harris, Shelby Vick, Rob Hansen and Ray Nelson.

Xero – Dick & Pat Lupoff led the transition from 1950's-style fannishness (jazz ad sports cars) to a more modern brand of pop culture (comic books, nostalgia and such) while maintaining a fun-loving, fannish atmosphere. Steve Stiles' eye-popping graphics enhanced great content.

Yandro – Consistency was a hallmark of Buck and Juanita Coulson's monthly fanzine, which delivered a dependable mix of solid content from the 1950's through the 1980's. The editorials, fanzine reviews and letter column were often the main attractions, but the Coulsons had plenty of quality fanwriters ready to fill the rest of the pages.

"Great Ghu! He left out [title of a wonderful fanzine]!" you are probably saying. I know there are huge holes — and I need your help to fill them. Please add your "nominations" to mine to help complete the list. (A few details about the fanzine(s) would be nice, too.)

— Arnie



Now & Again

A Personal Matter... CHANTRIX!

This is a personal matter.

–Now, I know lots of columnists have used personal matters in their columns, but they generally have some fannish connection – trip to a bookstore, redoing part of the house fans are familiar with, locating a stfnal treasure at a yard sale, etc. And my Close Call colyumn was personal, except that it revealed how close I had come to being worked out of fandom.

THIS has very little fannish connection – except to fans who smoke cigarettes and wanna stop.

CHANTRIX: Warnings and results.

I first heard of Chantrix from some friends of mine. Their doctor had said each of them needed to stop smoking and he recommended a new product, Chantrix. It differs from the usual in that it doesn't contain nicotine; instead, it has an ingredient that combats the urge to smoke.

Sounded like a good idea to me so, once I saw that it worked for them, I decided to try it, too.

Expensive decision! They said their insurance paid for it, so I just assumed (and you know the warning about 'assume') mine would too. So I got a BIG incentive to stop smoking when I found that MY insurance DIDN'T cover it, and I was out \$113! How's that an incentive??? 'Cause I didn't wanna see that many bucks down the tubes for nothing!

But it worked!

. . .It worked, but BOY, the side effects! The paperwork alerted you to the fact that it could affect your sleeping. What it DIDN'T say was that it MADE you sleep! I've gone to sleep as early as nine pm and slept past ten ayem! Not only that, but I might take a nap following that. Checked with my friends and they said yup, worked that way for them, too.

Well, you don't smoke whilst sleeping, so that was a good side-effect that way. Trouble is, you also don't FAN while you're sleeping! Oh, I'd keep up with my email. . .sorta. I'd pull it up, delete a lot, read some and – the few times I'd reply – reply briefly.

I didn't even do much on Planetary Stories – <http://www.planetarystories.com> – and only skimmed over VFW.

It's my MOTIVATION that seems to be laying idle. You know the old saying, 'My get-up-and-go just got-up-and-went'? Well, mine couldn't even manage the 'got-up' part of it! I can do minor things, I can do the usual routine things, but things that take creativity are, with me, crippled. Oh, I can finish a computer game – matter-of-fact, that's been the bulk of my computer time! But deciding to sit down and Do Something is a struggle. I'll look at the keyboard, then. . .play a game; much less required, there.

TRIED to write. Wanted a pun-ending short-short for the next issue of PS, which is dedicated to Forry Ackerman, and Forry liked pun-ending short-shorts in Famous Monsters. Not being a good punster, I fiddled around with several and, finally, decided to borrow from The Master and adapt a Willis pun to a short-short. Ended up with a not-quite-suitable short-short. BUT –

Becos of Chantrix, about three weeks passed by from concept to completion!

Not only that; I'm trying to do a LoC for the current Trap Door. Before I started on Chantrix, I had a little over a page written.

Trap Door is lying beside my computer, and the LoC is still only a little over one page.

Now, I must admit that my eye surgery might have had an effect. Becos I had to STOP reading for a while, then only read for brief bits thereafter, I developed the habit of not sticking with things very long. It was only a few weeks after feeling recovered from that when I started Chantrix. Which EVER is the cause, delay and postponement and lack of follow thru is the result.

SO –

If you wanna stop smoking, use Chantrix. I HAVE stopped. Trouble is, I've almost stopped fanning, as well!

But I won't take Chantrix forever. . . .

— Shelby Vick

A Convention Report

CONVERGENCE 4

The Wright Stuff

"Fanac is what fans do and tell each other about in print"

.. Bruce Gillespie

The 46th Australian National Science Fiction Convention, Convergence 4, was held in Melbourne's Rydges Hotel over the Queen's Birthday holiday weekend 8-11 June 2007. That this was a relatively low-key Aussie Natcon in no way detracted from the ambience that everyone enjoyed to greater or lesser degree - pre-planning by the con committee was exemplary but glitches occurred.

On the opening night, when everyone was happily renewing old acquaintances, the hotel management saw fit to close the bar early instead of the advertised time of midnight. Then, to add insult to injury, on the following night it closed down all but one of the room parties. So far as I was able to prise the facts from a defensive concom, it seems that there was a failure to clump Convergence 4 attendees on the same floors for the duration of the convention. Most stayed for all three nights but there were some broken stays. Also, it transpired that all the room parties were in a section of the hotel with a

heavy concentration of non-convention guests who, naturally enough, complained; whereupon the night manager immediately sided with them at the expense of fans. Those were the only glitches I saw in what was otherwise a superbly run event. The convention committee headed by Rose Mitchell can take a bow.



The Nova Mob

Festivities began two days earlier for me, on Wednesday June 9th, 2007, when I was principal speaker at the Nova Mob, SF's oldest literary discussion group. It meets every month in the comfy environs of the staff room of the North Carlton library. My topic was The Universes of Harry C Crosby (1922 -).

Harry C Crosby wrote his first two stories under his own name, the first 'Cinderella Inc' in *Imagination* Dec 1952 and the second 'Roll Out the Rolo!' in *Imagination* Nov 1953. Thereafter, under the pseudonym of Christopher Anvil and beginning in 1957, Crosby wrote short stories mostly for

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Corflu Silver Info

Corflu Silver will be held April 25, 26 and 27, 2008, at the Plaza Hotel, One Main Street, Las Vegas, NV 89101. Room rates are \$35 per midweek night (Monday-Thursday) and \$72 per Friday, Saturday & Sunday. Reservations must be made prior to **March 22, 2008** in order to obtain the special Corflu rate; after that date, the regular room rates will apply.

Membership is \$60 attending (£35). Send checks payable to Joyce Katz to 909 EUGENE CERNAN ST., Las Vegas, NV, 89145, USA. You can also submit funds via Paypal. It's a good idea to drop me a note to let me know you've done this. The name of the account is Joyce Marie Katz. Email for the account is JoyceWorley1@cox.net.

John W Campbell, editor of *Astounding Stories* and later *Analog* magazine. Campbell, who died in 1971, seems to have been Crosby's meal ticket, because Christopher Anvil stories in *Analog* ceased in 1972.

Anvil's early work features the star-spanning Centran empire that discovers and (sort of) conquers Earth. Two streams emerge, the first about Earth's conqueror, Centran general Klide Horsip and the second about Earth general John Towers who heads an autonomous military unit under the Centran General Staff. All stories from the first stream and only one story from the second stream were cobbled into the novel *Pandora's Planet*. If you are into gung ho space opera, you'll find *Pandora's Planet* a jolly good read.

His other universe was that of the Federation of Humanity whose institutions include

- * Stellar Scouts who pair up in small space-ships loaded to the gills with the latest experimental equipment to seek out new habitable worlds. A secondary objective is to field test new gadgets with often hilarious results;

- * The rule-bound Planetary Development Authority (PDA) that monitors the governance of new worlds brought into the Federation;

- * The Space Force, enforcement arm of the Federation, that backs the edicts of the PDA;

- * The shadowy and enigmatic Interstellar Patrol, otherwise known as The Court of Last Resort, whose function seems to be to straighten out dire situations created by the other three bodies.

Baen Books, under the editorship of Eric Flint, recently collated Anvil's stories into five volumes titled *The Trouble with Aliens*, *The Trouble with Humans*, *Interstellar Patrol*, *Interstellar Patrol II* and *Pandora's Legions*. Those books may be read on two levels. Superficially they consist of well-paced and absorbing yarns but additionally for astute readers Christopher Anvil comes across as a master satirist.

Prior to the Nova Mob moot Bruce Gillespie, John Davies, Frank Weisenbaum, Bruce Barnes and I went to dinner with Londoners Mark Plummer and Claire Brialey who were in Melbourne for the Natcon as part of a 'swing around the circle' encompassing Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria and NSW. The venue was the Oriental Bistro opposite the Convergence 4 hotel where the food is good and, for Chinese tucker nowadays, moderately priced.



The convention

Day 1

After registration and the opening ceremony, I spent the evening meeting fans from every Australian state and almost every continent. Only Africa and the Indian subcontinent appeared to be unrepresented.

The only programme item on the first day was 'The Great Debate' on a subject that was so uninteresting that I forget what it was. I had thoughtfully brought from home a couple of bottles of Galafrey Merlot 2002 (arguably the best wine of its class in the world) and Eric Lindsay and I lost no time in persuading Mark Plummer and Claire Brialey to lend us their hotel suite to polish them off. There is nothing like a rare vintage to get a good fannish conversation going. We squared the circle, solved the problems of the universe and the pity is that none of us can remember a thing about it.

Day 2

Day 2 was spent in sampling the convention's multi-streamed programme of events. Choosing which events to attend was hard as, due to superb planning by the concom, all the panellists were experts in their field and well prepared. Highlights for me included a session on 'Where are the new dangerous visions, the risky, edgy works in the fields of politics, sexuality, racism and other real-world issues?' The panellists were Jack Dann, Gillian Polack and Dena Taylor. Jack, the grand master of shtick, chucked 'smart lollies' at the audience whenever he thought we were being stupid.

Other highlights on day 2 were Isabelle Carmody's GoH speech, the auction of fannish memorabilia conducted by the inimitable Justin Ackroyd, the Fan Funds panel and the Ditmar Awards presentation.



Day 3

Day three was a bits & pieces day. I slept in and missed the morning Business Meeting, but I needn't have worried. Nothing exciting happened. There was the usual tinkering with the Ditmar rules and, predictably, Adelaide won the right to hold the 2009 Natcon. So, it's Perth next year and Adelaide the year after. Above is a snapshot of Mervyn Binns, surprisingly spry only weeks after triple heart bypass surgery. Merv is proudly wearing his MSFC Life Member badge on his left lapel and is deep in animated discourse with Jocko who is proudly wearing his blue convention badge distinguishing him as officially representing the MSFC. Three events captured my interest in the afternoon of day three. The first was Richard Harland interviewing GoH Isabelle Carmody. Sporting cat's ears, she concluded the session with a remarkable reading from the

The whiteboard was reserved for committee announcements but fans had other ideas



point of view of a cat, with interpolations by Richard making dog noises. Beforehand, she had explored themes such as telepathy, specifically a child's desire to communicate with animals. In an amusing aside, she recalled visiting a boys school where she addressed pupils in the class room on that very subject. Choosing a boy at random, she pointed to him and said, "Take this boy here ... let's call him Michael ...", whereupon there was a collective gasp. The boy's name was, in fact, Michael.

[As an adult of mature years with vast experience of human guilt and folly (my own and other people's), I reflected on the mercy of the Creator that ordains that we mortals must live alone in our own heads].

That was followed by an hour of readings by authors Dave Freer, Paul Haines and Joel Shepherd. Paul Haines (who wrote the first piece in 'The C0ck Anthology' reviewed in IRS October 2006) read his Auralis-nominated horror story called Douf Douf Douf about a Wolf in an apartment having erotic dreams about Little Red Riding Hood who lives in the top floor penthouse. Just as he is about to achieve the object of his desire, he keeps getting woken up by the douf douf douf of party music played by the Three Little Pigs who live on the floor above. When it all gets too much for Mr Wolf, he determines to do away with his tormentors. Killing the Littlest Pig on the way in, he is appalled to discover the other two Little Pigs having their way with Little Red Riding Hood who is tied to the bed.

A cautionary tale indeed!

The whiteboard was reserved for committee announcements but fans had other ideas...

This is the editor pointing out what the whiteboard looked like near the end of the convention...

Day three concluded with the Orb 7 launch by editor Sarah Endacott over complementary drinks. The book includes a review of a short movie The Limina, a low-budget effort involving twenty tentacles, a bucket of slime and a Handycam. Marshalling resources from Bunnings, Spotlight and eBay, Claire McKenna brought to Convergence 4 in gloriously grungy colour the first time screening ever of a man, a squid girl and technology gone wrong. In a heroic test of will power over exhaustion I stayed the course then hit the wall.

On the next page are editors Keith Stevenson and Sarah Endacott in the Dealers' Room. Keith co-edited the C0ck Anthology (reviewed in IRS October 2006) with Andrew Macrae. Sarah handles the launch of booklets in the Orb series at Natcons every

year.

Being totally zoned, I didn't notice there was an unadvertised concluding movie. Afterwards I was told by Robin Johnson that the ring-in was a classically fan-nish Buck Rogers-type adventure strip that I would have enjoyed immensely. Thanks a lot, Robin, for your sensible albeit abysmally mistimed advice.

Day 4

On the fourth and final day, I forewent the first programme item in favour of wandering through oriental emporia in Chinatown, arriving at the convention with a dozen or so Chinese paper fans of the fold-up-and-seal variety, making them suitable accoutrements for a lady's purse. If you were one of the femme fans who received one of those, know by these presents that you are well beloved by moi (in a chaste way, of course - in more than 5 decades of fannish experience I have observed that femme fans like to be chased)... which is the perfect lead in to the highlight of the convention, Cath Ortlieb's Fan Guest of Honour Speech. Cath Ortlieb (nee Catherine Circosta) had been introduced to Convergence 4 members via a full page article by Mark Ortlieb in the convention handbook, so even those in the audience who had not grown up in fandom with Cath already knew something of her background.

Listening to the story of her life, older fans such as myself were caught up in shared memories starting with Degraives Tavern in the 1960s where we imbibed Henri's vile vino. It was putrid stuff, fulminating acid of blisterglass being an apt description. But the wine we tasted now was of the gods. Names of power like John Bangsund and Lee Harding swirled in our consciousness like a heady draught. We relived the days of the Magic Pudding Club in Drummond Street, Carlton, inhabited by the brothers Ashby et al but haunted by the rest of Melbourne (and visiting) fandom, who turned it into a veritable crossroads of the universe. Buried fan feuds were exhumed by Cath and exposed to the critical mirth of sophisticated latter day fans. Along the way, we renewed acquaintanceship with a compassionate, unashamedly Christian lady with a lifelong passion for science fiction that she has translated into the very best of good works.

Take, for example, the black-board jungle in which she started work as a probationary teacher. Hers was a not untypical problem school where morale was so bad it was mentioned in Parliament. Teachers didn't stay long enough to monitor the progress of pupils and, prior to

her arriving on the scene, English teachers had been unqualified. Bravely, she began by trying to interest the budding intellects of her charges in science fiction and was rewarded by a hatchet job on her ego that reduced her to weeping hysterics. That she eventually won over her peers, her pupils and their parents and succeeded in integrating science fiction into the school curriculum is a tribute to her dedication.

After the closing ceremony, I recalled that this was the Queen's Birthday public holiday when the names of citizens elevated to various levels in the Order of Australia are announced in the daily newspapers. Such was the impact of Cath's GoH speech that I found myself turning to the list of OAMs (recipients of the Medal of the Order of Australia, which is the lowest rung in the award's hierarchy) half expecting Cath's name to appear therein. Alas, Cath's name was conspicuous by its absence. I draw comfort from the reflection that it probably doesn't matter a jot to Cath. When one is transmogrified by the adulation of fans mere civil honours pale into insignificance.

Then I went to a very pleasant lunch with London visitors Mark Plummer & Claire Brialey and local fan Irwin Hirsh. We lingered over coffee so much that I missed a rare public meeting of that mainspring of Aussie SF, the mysterious Australian Science Fiction Foundation (ASFF) run by - wouldn't you guess - Cath Ortlieb. I arrived at the conclusion of the meeting whereupon Cath generously offered to include me as an attendee so that I could get some essential information into the minutes. No, I will not say what it was. There are some things that it is not good for the general run of fans to know.

The photo at left is of fans manning the recruitment desk for Adromeda Spaceways Inflight Magazine that I visited before attending just one more panel discussion chaired by Jenny Blackford. She was supported by fantasy authors Glenda Larke, Joel Shepherd and Gillian Polack. The discussion, ominously titled 'Subvert the Dominant Paradigm' with the premise that

"Alternatives to Europe-derived fantasy can still be found. Which are the best and what can they teach us about breathing new life into the genre?" was utter nonsense, of course.

I was just about able to pay proper attention to convention chair Rose Mitchell's graceful tributes to a cast of thousands at the Closing Ceremony. Then home to bed, perchance to dream of the concom engaging in well-earned debauchery at a dead dog party - perhaps at Mr Wolf's apartment somewhere in the suburbs. — Bill Wright



A Birthday Blast!

Las Vegrants

The Vegrants meeting fell on what is allegedly the luckiest day of this year — 7-7-07 — so the town was unusually full of tourists and high spirits. My spirit was running pretty strong, too, since the celebration of my 61st birthday was scheduled to be part of the night's revels at The Launch Pad.

My joy was not unalloyed with an edge of apprehension. I feared that a combination of much heavier traffic and the searing 115-degree heat might persuade some of the other Vegrants to stay in their comfortable homes and be content with merely beaming pleasant thoughts in my direction. A few Vegrants were doing some summer traveling — Su Williams to Maryland and Ray & Marcy Waldie to Wisconsin — and Jolie LaChance was working the spotlight at the show at the Sahara, which reduced potential attendance by four.

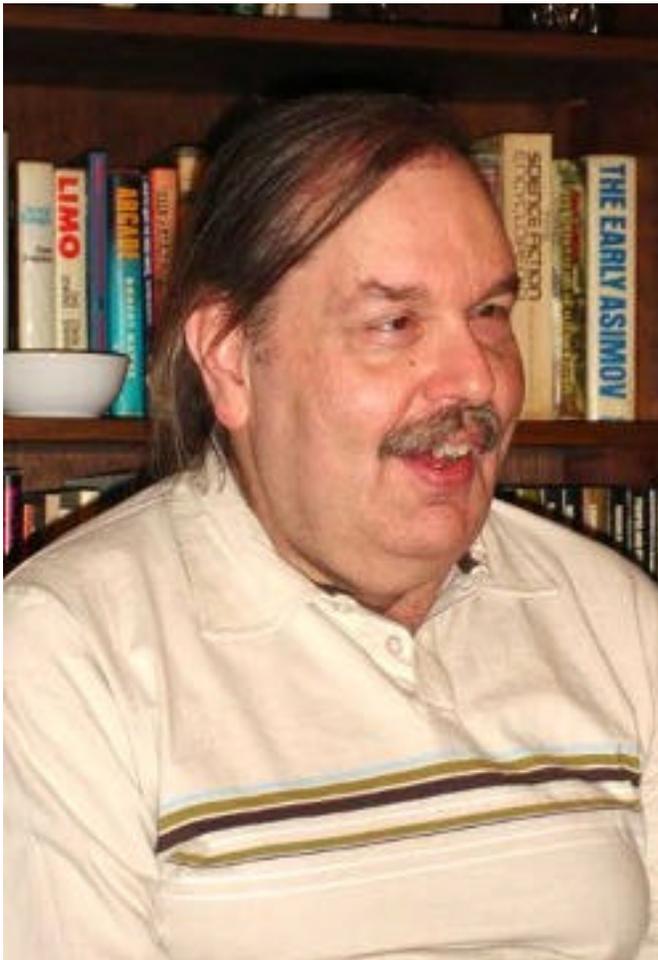
James Taylor and Teresa Cochran reclaimed their customary spot as First Arrivals and we soon had the square living room table crowded with food. It wasn't long before several Vegrants could be spotted hovering greedily over the dish of wasabi nuts.

Derek Stazenski brought up an unusual side effect of the "lucky date." He'd attended a wedding at one of the Strip's wedding chapels earlier in the day and learned that the chapel had broken its single-day record with over 130 marriages!

Bill and Roxanne Mills brought Joyce some somewhat fresh White Castle hamburgers, flown all the way from St. Louis. A plan to scrap the Corflu Silver banquet and instead give each fan a half-dozen Sliders was considered, adopted and then completely abandoned.

A curious entry in the night's buffet was a big bowl of marshmallows. Joyce al-

Continued on next page



The co-founders and hosts of Las Vegrants. Arnie is sitting in unexpected proximity to science fiction, while Joyce dishes up Arnie's super-chocolate birthday cake.



ways claims to hate the things, but it turned out that she had somehow developed a craving for them. (I hope this doesn't mean that we are going to have a little playmate for Chris Garcia or a future bride for David Gordon.)

A small crowd sitting in my office discussed the aesthetics and impact of the live-action *Batman* series starring Adam West. The consensus, voiced by Bill, Derek and I, was that despite the campiness, the show redirected attention to the character and paved the way for the comic book revival and subsequent movies and animated series. I pointed out that the stories running in *Batman* and *Detective* at the time of the series were no great shakes, either. Generally, *Batman* fought some kind of space alien and generally acted benign and jocular, like Superman. The whole franchise might've taken a header without something to spark renewed interest. We all paused for a moment to sign and contemplate the natural wonder that was Julie Newmar in her Catwoman suit.

The start of the third season of the revived *Dr. Who* elicited the thought from Bill Mills that David Tennant appeared to hit his stride and might become one of the more memorable Doctors. I praised Eccleston, who'd done the role for a year, but also agreed that Tennant has already surpassed all the lesser renditions of the time-space voyager.

Bill brought his latest purchase, a beautiful mandolin, with him. As Teresa strummed it experimentally, I told Bill about hearing a remarkable ukulele player on a 1943 episode of *Command Performance* named Ukulele Ike. Bill informed me that he had met Cliff Edwards, introduced by his mom who worked at Schwab's Drugstore in Hollywood. He also reminded me that Edwards had gone on to even greater fame — as the voice of Jiminy Cricket.

"I'm an angel," Merric Anderson said with some conviction. I have absolutely no idea why he would say that, but you read it here first. If he starts doing miracles or sprouts a halo, I want to be in on the ground floor. As someone who has known Merric for close to two years, I don't think he is in imminent danger of being mistaken for an angel.

Unangelically, Merric laid two bombs with one-liners, misfires so blatantly that ever he knew it had misfired twice. "I can't laugh at that," Derel Stazenski said as he gave Merric a truly Apologetic Look.

"If you can't laugh with him," I offered, helpfully, "laugh at him."



Merric Anderson, administrator of the CJGFSCD (Christopher J Garcia Fannish Sex Change Fund) is flanked by two of the loveliest Vegrants, Luba (left) and Roxie Mills.

Merric claimed that the stumbles resulted from the fact that he was now in a great mood, after a very trying day. "And so you're taking it out on us," Luba finished for her husband.

At about 9 o'clock, Joyce brought out a cake that looked both rich and chocolaty. Everyone gathered in the dining room and sang a rendition of "Happy Birthday" that brimmed with sincerity, gusto and approximated notes. (Normally we'd have celebrated Marcy Waldie's birthday as well, but as previously mentioned, she was visiting family in Wisconsin.)

"Merric looked at the cake and, noting the present of only three candles, pointed out that it was a wholly inadequate number. I cited fire regulations and the danger of melting the copious icing.

When I strolled back into the living room somewhat later, the denizens were engaged in an elevated discussion of *Magilla Gorilla*. I waited for this phrase of the conversation to end and the room to move along to a more intellectual topic, so at the first opportunity, I mentioned Tom Terrific and his dog Mighty Manfred.

Attending the revels at the Launch Pad were: James Taylor; Teresa Cochran; Ross Chamberlain; Lubov & Merric Anderson; Bill & Roc Mills; Lori Forbes; Bryan Follins; Alan White; Belle Churchill; Eric Davis; Derek Stazenski; Joyce Katz and me... -- Arnie Katz

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(SAVE MONEY!!)

Continued from p 1

faces, much to their surprise. So climb aboard the charred remains of the Cutty Sark and sail to Harrison Country. You'll laugh, you'll croggle, and, above all, you'll learn to avoid the VERGUZZ at all costs.

"Harrison Country is available in North America for \$7.00 (postage included) payable to Suzanne Tompkins, PO Box 25075, Seattle WA 98165, USA. E-mail: SuzleT@aol.com. It is available in Britain and Europe for 3 pounds (plus 55p P&P) payable to Bridget Bradshaw, 103 Rustat Road, Cambridge, CB1 3QG, UK. Email taffbug@googlemail.com. All proceeds go to TAFF, the TransAtlantic Fan Fund."

Stiles Responds to Corflu Award!

Steve Stiles, upon learning of the Corflu Award, sent the following words of gratitude to VFW.

"Elaine and I just want to thank the generous folks of Corflu 50 for selecting us as the first recipients of the fund. As some may know, we've been on kind of an economic roller coaster for much longer than we'd like, and, as a result, we've been forced to miss far too many Corflus in past years.

"Currently things are fairly comfortable with us, but roughly around the time of Corflu Silver we should know whether or not Elaine's contractual employment will be extended. If not, we would've been forced to give Vegas a pass. Thanks to the fund, even if worse comes to worse, we'll at least have the consolation of having a good time with our friends."

SNAFFU Meeting Will Discuss SF Books Turned into Movies

Books-into movies is the featured topic of the next SNAFFU Discussion Meeting. It's scheduled for Sunday July 22, at 2:00 PM at the Clark County Public Library, (Maryland at Tropicana).

The actual meeting, open to all interested fans, will take place in the Large Conference Room, downstairs, at the library. The main discussion topic this month is: "What is your favorite movie based on a science fiction book or story?"

Corflu Fifty Start Collection Phase!

The Corflu Fifty has now begun to rake in the loot members have pledged in support of the charity. The current money is being collected to bring Steve and Elaine Stiles to Corflu Silver. (See article in VFW #98).

Knowing that some of you may wish to either join The Corflu Fifty or just make a donation for such a delightful cause, here is the contact information:

US

Rich Coad
124 Cottage Avenue
Richmond, CA 94801
(before 8/1)
2132 Berkeley Drive
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
(after 8/1)
PayPal: richcoad@comcast.net

UK

Rob Jackson
Chinthey,
Nightingale Ln,
Hambrook,
nr Chichester,
PO18 8UH
PayPal: jacksonshambrook@tiscali.co.uk

Corflu Wants the Music-Makers!

Teresa Cochran (flyingfox692003@yahoo.com) is continuing to plan the musical festivities, scheduled for Friday evening after the welcome session. If you play an instrument and/or sing, and plan to be at Corflu, drop Teresa a note and tell her what you play and what kinds of music you like.

SNAFFood, Mexican Style!

I arrived at Agave late, but that didn't interfere with things getting started on time. Typically for SNAFFU, those attending only partly matched those who were expected. April Reckling but no Lee, Lori Forbes, Lubov & Merric, Jolie LaChance and David Gordon. Teresa got back from her harp teacher's wedding at 6:30pm but I had left at 6:15pm to get to dinner as close to the starting time as I could.

The Margaritas definitely got thumbs up from all who tried them and my black bean & cheddar cheese soup was outstanding. David who had actually only drunk water at the last SNAFFood was seen to eat chips and salsa and wash them down with ice tea. By September we're hopeful of having him up to eating adult entree's.

A number of topics were touched on including the just past Westercon 60 and the joys of camera bag buying. Also mentioned were Lori's recent increase in coffee consumption, Merric's upcoming trip to the wilds of Temecula and just what a movie director has to do to get the nickname "Jabba the Hut" from his crew.

It was a very enjoyable dinner. Hopefully, all those who could've attended, but didn't, will try a little harder when SNAFFood rolls around again in August. — James Taylor

SNAFFU Central

The Vegrants are allegedly working up a little something and hope others will join in, too.

August SNAFFood Returns to a Favorite!!

August SNAFFood will be on a Friday for a change - Aug. 10 - a return to the excellent Chinese restaurant in Chinatown, Emperor's Garden, 7pm. If we have enough people they will put us in the private area again. I don't know if I will be well enough to attend or not. But you can now RSVP to me. As usual - suggestions for future dinners are always welcome. All are invited, you don't have to be a SNAFFU member.

RSVP to LindaBushyager@aol.com
Emperor's Garden - Chinese (Szechwan) - 4215 Spring Mountain Rd. (near Arville)
phone 702-889-6777

Recommended by: Bridgett Westerner
Cost - \$\$ - entrees range from \$7.95 up
Has semi-private area
Gratuuity - 18% added

Website with menu: <http://www.sichuangarden.com/dinner.htm>. (by Linda Bushyager)

Heard Around Fandom...

Bruce Gillespie and Jan Stinson have collaborated on a 44-page issue of *Steam Engine Time*. It's now available at <http://efanzines.com/SFC/SteamEngineTime/SET06.pdf> as a free download...

Celebrating birthdays during the first week of July were Marcy Waldie, Steve Stiles and me (Arnie). And let's not forget Guy Lillian on 7/19 and Bill Kunkel on 7/21!

Richard Coad will move into a new (to him) BArea home on August 1. Apparently, closer examination of the home has disclosed a Hidden Room with a Strange Painting on the wall...

Las Vegas fan Bryan Follins is keeping a low fannish profile this week. He's studying for a big test as he continues to work towards his Masters...

Ulrika O'Brien has a new email address: ulrika.obrien@comcast.net...

Linda Bushyager is recuperating nicely from her knee replacement. She reports pain and stiffness, but she is diligently doing her rehab.

ChatBack: The VFW Lettercolumn

We're Fully Loaded and ready to rock, so here come the letters!

He's become a fixture in VFW over the last year or so and here he is, leading off the letter column with comments on issue #96,

Bill Mills

Lots of great stuff in the VFW 96! The Renaissance eBooks site woes (since it's a publishing company would that be 'prose woes'?) took quite awhile to resolve. As Arnie mentioned part of the 'fix' was sheer mindless grunt work in uploading several hundred text files in various formats, but it could have been literally *thousands* if we had been unable to utilize the back-up file which was supposed to include our entire inventory of over a thousand

titles (multiplied by five as each is available in five different text file formats). That backup file was corrupted and we could not save it's total contents. Fortunately we were able to pull all but about 100 or 150 books from the backup, but it took days to accomplish this and about 10 days total for the server and the store to be back to its previous state.

We have a good web site and ecommerce store at REB. I literally designed and built every square virtual inch of it (and now co-manage the business and site with my friend and partner Jean Marie Stine), and I am very proud of the work we've done. It's a secure and very painlessly functional web site for our customers and we rarely have user issues or software glitches. But, Meyer, when we do, we do it BIG! Resolving the disaster with the current server doesn't actually end the issue or the work created by it. We obviously will need to find a more reliable host from whom to lease dedicated server space and that's a pretty intense bunch of research to be done leading to a huge and frightening process of then moving all of our data to yet another computer at another host company. Cross yer fingers, eyes, legs or tentacles for us, eh?

I suspect John Hall himself may have written to you on this, but the tentative title you gave for their possible podcast production was skewed a bit. What John said to me in an audio message was, "Wonderful Radio Fandom." This title, I might add, at first glance or hearing seems right... but, at least in these here parts, that would sound more like a show focusing on old radios, old radio receivers or possibly for Old Time Radio program enthusiasts. It sounds to me more like a fandom for radios, but maybe that's just me, eh?

Arnie, I love your "Lifetime Fannish Achievement" award idea and would be interested in the results of such a poll to compare to the one you and rich did in 1951.

I enjoyed Shelby Vick getting 'opinionated' so much that I read it as an audio piece which I have now posted at The Voices Of Fandom on Page Three of the Misc. Audio Clips section. It runs about 4 minutes. I didn't ask Shelby before doing this and I can only hope he will not be offended by my reading of his work. It made me laff and couldn't resist trying it as an audio. A direct link to that audio would be: http://www.thevoicesoffandom.com/mp3/shelby_vick_nowandagain_gets_opinionated-2.mp3

Shelby made good points about global warming and about marijuana. He even had questions about how to smuggle pot on an airliner which I wish I could help him with... but gee... it's just not a subject I have ANY personal experience with, he said with a sly wink.

In the midst of what was ostensibly a memorial for Frank Robinson, Terry Kemp has again written a wonderful personal account, this time of the 28th Annual Paperback show, exhibiting his usual warmth and charming personality in every line. I could almost smell the old books and sweaty fans as I read. Terry's fannish lineage gives him such a unique p.o.v. on fannish stuff, past and present, that it's always an entertaining read no matter what the topic. I really thought it was delightfully delicate and masterful writing to manage to weave both the touching tribute to Robinson and the show report together in one piece. I think Terry is a talented writer and seems like a terrific guy. I take the time to say this now because as Terry points out all too well, we all seem to forever think that there will be another time, a 'next time' to get around to stuff like this. And all too often we are mistaken.

There have been way too many passings of late, and far fewer 'next times' available because of it

On a similar note, losing old friend, L.A. fandom stalwart and master filker, Frank Gasperik on May 3rd has given me cause to stop and remember and reflect. My connections to Frank are classically faanish in that not only were he and I fellow LASFSians and friends (even collaborators, if you count his filk "My Turn To Sit In The Hot Tub, which is to my melody for "My Turn To Sleep In The

Here Come the Vegnants!

TVoFacts

The 9th TVoF Podcast is up and it's a 'Very Vegnants Episode'. It includes a fan-history of Las Vegnants, Corflu News and an interview with Las Vegnant Ross Chamberlain about his new book "Angel Without Wings" due to be released in the next few weeks by PageTurner Editions eBooks (<http://pageturnereditions.com>). There's a tad of music and a smidgen of humor and it all comes in at just over 30 minutes. Check it out in the Blu-Brry player here: <http://www.blubrri.com/player/?p=1812> or the mp3 here: http://thevoicesoffandom.com/mp3/tvof_podcast.mp3

The most exciting news for TVoF this month is the expected arrival of a cassette tape from John Purcell of his interview with James Halperin. Upon receiving it I will transfer the tape to digital form and encode as an mp3 to be included in TVoF's 'Oral History' pages. So, be sure to check in at The Voices Of Fandom from time to time. Ya' never know what ya' might hear!
— Bill Mills

Middle”), but my darlin’ wify Roxanne is a second generation fan, the daughter of Leonard “Tex” Smith and Ginger Waugh who were both LASFS members. Ginger was a familiar face (and other parts) around L.A. fandom and conventions in the early 1960's. When she and Tex divorced and Ginger worked to support her and Roxie, trustworthy surrogate parental units and/or babysitters were required during Ginger’s work day to watch over the kid. Of course she picked from her friends in the community, mostly from LASFS, and Frank Gasperik was among them. So, he had been among Roc’s favorite babysitters in the mid 60's when she was a toddler and he was a partying/playing bud of mine in the 70's and 80's. Now... That’s Fandom!

It pained me to know he’d been so ill of late that he was unable to play his beloved guitars. Man, can I relate to that. I was heartened to learn that he’d gotten married late in life and for a few years, at least, had the affection and companionship of (what must have been a saint of a woman... to be Mrs. Gasperik) a loving wife. I had just found this old vhs video tape recorded at the Westercon in 1980 of Frank performing which he had never seen. I imagined that now through the power of computers and the internet he would finally see them for the first time. It broke my heart to find out that almost exactly the time I was uploading those vids to my TVoF web site, Frank died in an Arizona hospital. Another ‘next time’ I’ve lost. And it saddens me. I recorded a little memorial audio thang and posted it to TvoF, of course. The direct link to that audio is: http://www.thevoicesoffandom.com/mp3/frank_gasperik_memorium_by_bill_mills.mp3

Reading Greg Benford’s report of visiting Arthur Clarke was riveting. What a thrill it must have been to hang out with such a historic notable... one, who at 90, many people must already believe is long dead. And though the report tells us he is ill, lacking memory and energy... it also says that daily he got his famous behind out of bed in the morning and ate breakfast with a visitor on the veranda. I’m not so sure I could be counted on that now, at a mere 55! It was enlightening and entertaining. A great contribution to the issue.

Great news that John Purcell and company tracked down the new owner of the Warner collection, James Halperin. Here are two links you might find interesting, one is his bio, the other a page where you can get a free MS copy of his book “Truth Machine”. Bio: <http://www.randomhouse.com/features/firstimmortal/bio.html> Truth Machine: <http://coins.ha.com/ttm/>

Oh and thank you, John, for the supportive encouragement you offered up in your LOC. Vegas Genie of the Ether, indeed. Except for that crack I ju...huh, what? It wasn’t a crack it was a compliment? Oh, Oh that’s very different then. NEVERMIND. But, you’re right. It has been fun, can be fun and I hope for it to get even funner yet. But, that’s only if other people start seeing the value of audio

and/or oral history within the faanish community and contributing material or producing audios themselves.

Even better is the news that Corflu Silver has a hotel and the official announcement is out. Yaaaaaaaay! Now, If we can just get away to get to Vegas we ca... uh, er... sorry I forgot. We live here! NEVERMIND.

Cool that Snaffu is getting involved in local events. That must be that faanish hot shot and wiz-kid and recently elected Snaffu president Jumpin’ Jimmy Taylor, eh? Sounds like a good way to promote Vegas fandom and a lot of fun too. Good stuff.

Roxie did indeed get rear-ended recently. And our car was too. Badum dum dumb. She sustained a whiplash and required some therapy and TLC for a few weeks. There are still lingering twinges and may always be, but overall she has mended and recuperated well.

There were so many more things about which I wanted to comment in VFW 96, but I see I have eaten up a lot of space as it is... no wonder I’m feeling a bit gassy!

Arnie: I understand your comment about the possible confusion that “Wonderful Radio Fandom,” but they’d probably counter by saying that it doesn’t matter. The people who want to hear their program will know the name and everyone else doesn’t matter, since it’s not addressed to them.

I highly recommend your reading of Shelby’s column, though it’s hard to match the Sunshine Fan’s mellifluous southern drawl.

“Jumpin’ Jimmy? Jumpin’ Jimmy?? James tends more toward calm, even somewhat stately, movement He is a good deal less lazy than me, but like Joe DiMaggio in his prime, James makes all that locomotion look effortless. Still, I support your underlying thought, that James needs a nickname.

The Trufan from the Sunshine State appears in almost every issue, but his letters of comment are not quite as frequent as his columns. He’s got plenty of thoughts to share this time, though...

Shelby Vick

Eureka!!! After weeks of trying to get a good PDF reader, I finally have one! The way it goes is I had Adobe Acrobat 6 and loved it -- but then I did my last Microsoft Update and it changed it. Thinking I could always find a replacement, I uninstalled Acrobat... and couldn't find it online! I found lots of PDF programs (was even surprised to find that my OpenOffice program had one!) but, still, when I downloaded VFW the print was s-m-a-l-l and hard to read.

Then, yesterday, while opening another program to download, it had that famous notice, 'Download AdobeReader5 to read'. Well, it wasn't Acrobat, but still. . . I downloaded it and, now, I get VFW in all its glory!

Good to read that all plans for Corflu Silver are going smoothly. I'm gonna put it on my calendar and HOPE things will work out, 'cause I sure wanna be there.

Great news that Robbie the Chair has been tenderly and lovingly revitalized.

Was great to read that Harry Warner, Jr's fanzine collection is In Good Hands. It is a true treasure trove of fandom. More power to Jim Halperin, and many thanks to John Purcell for telling us all about it.

Arnie, you compared humongous globs of stuff in electronic zines to some of the probs with paper zines. Yeah, it *is* a problem. When doing a PDF, I try to keep its size down. I have sometimes had luck (once found a way to shrink the size, then lost it!), but, often, try as I may, the PDF is bulky which makes it hard to download on dialup connections. I will hack and hack, but still have troubles.

--HEY! You nominated me for a Famous Fan??? Well, thankee kindly. But what you said about me reflected me so well. . .light, amusing, leaves you feeling good. . . but, to me, that says something I'm sure you didn't mean: That my stuff was fluff. Thing is, it's true!

I was doing *cf.* (the Official Abbreviation for *confusion* and about the only time I put a period on an abbreviation) back when LeeH was doing *Quandry*. *Q* was light and funny, too -- but LeeH's editorship was magic; *Q* would practically wiggle in your hands. *cf.* just lay there, smiling. But I muchly appreciate the good thoughts from you.

Back to John Purcell; in his LoC he talked about me talking about writing, and he stressed the importance of REwriting. So true. But rich brown was the re-writing champ. When I met him as a teenager he was rewriting a book he had written. Years later, after he was out of the military, he was *still* rewriting it. I never got to read it, so can't judge the results.

These days, word processing programs make rewriting a breeze; delete words, paragraphs, even entire chapters. Shift them about as you desire. My trouble, John, is backing away to get a look at The Whole Thing; words and sentences and such I change at will, but I have problems with The Big Picture.

Okay, I feel better now; I have paid for my next ish of VFW with this LoC.

Arnie: I think I should point out, since I don't want to inadvertently gaslight you, that I have actually decreased the point size I use for text in VFW. At one time it was almost all 12 point; now it's mostly 10 pt with some 11 pt. and some 9 pt.

I agree with you about the vibrance of Quandry, but you under-estimate your own ability to create a warm and friendly ambience that few other fanzines have ever achieved.

I am glad to be able to offer you such fannish absolution. I hope your example will be as a beacon to those who sit in the shadows, un-loccing, and know not the warming light of trufannish joy.

A VFW columnist – see elsewhere in This Very Issue – shares some thoughts about the late Frank Gasperik,,

Bill Wright

Thanks for VFW #97. I was saddened to learn of the passing of Frank Gasperik. He was a good friend to a small group of Little Lost Aussies who, in the aftermath of LACon 1972 (where we showed our 1975 Worldcon bid promoting Antifan film in a pool-side cabana), found ourselves at a Larry Niven party.

In those days, Larry's entertaining consisted of sloping off to his den with a few cronies to play poker. It mattered not that he had tossed us the keys to the liquor cabinet; we were totally zonked. Suddenly Frank Gasperik entered through a French window and it was as if the magic had never gone away. He sang all the Aussie

ballads like *Waltzing Matilda* and *Click Go the Shears* and the shame of it was we couldn't remember all the words. It was one of the happiest times of my life. Vale, Frank. You will be missed.

Arnie: Thanks for the personal reminiscence of Frank Gasperik. It's a tribute to him that I have never heard anyone say a single bad thing about him.

If this is a trend, I like it; another contributor weighs in with a fascinating LoC between columns...

Terry Kemp

I really enjoyed the cover scan for *Le Zombie*, I didn't know that Frank Robinson also did some artwork.

Now where to start...I hope you don't mind a little rambling back and forth between your last two issues, and a few references to my Dad's ongoing *el*.

First, here's a great opportunity for Shelby Vick. Reading Shelby's latest article about faking out artwork, etc. Recently, I was reading *Amazing Stories*, January 1953, and that month's installment of "The Club House," only to find the following mention: "*OOPSLA* by Gregg Calkins. The sixth issue, and each has been right on time, six weeks apart. Good solid articles of fannish interest, fan fiction and fan articles with a definite fannish slant.

"Included: 'Dear Alice' by Shelby Vick is still going strong. It's a pleasingly absurd take-off of stf."

Well, here's a suggestion for Shelby... why not revisit "Dear Alice" and perhaps continue the series?

Next: This one is a little convoluted. I wrote a short biography about my godfather, Rog Phillips, for *el*, and posted a bibliography-in-work as well. Dick Jessen (aka Ditmar) was quick to point out a mistake. I erroneously attributed a first Oxford English Dictionary cite to Rog for first use of the word "actifan."

Ditmar pointed out to me that Jack Speer might have a better claim for first cite in his 1944 *Fancylopedia*. So, I wrote to Jack, who graciously supplied a photocopy of the page in question, where he attributes the coining of the word "actifan" to Forry Ackerman. Another mystery solved.

Thanks to Ditmar for pointing me in the right direction. Thanks to Gregory Pickersgill who supplied me with a photocopy of the *Starling Stories*, January 1947 issue in which appeared the attribution which I wrongly attributed to Rog. And of course, a warm thanks to Jack Speer. I include a photo of myself along with both Rog and Jack. It was taken at the Boise Midwestercon on July 4, 1960. It was the last time I ever saw my godfather, Rog.

In passing, I was struck by a brief comment you made, Arnie, about Jack Speer, in VFW96. You referred to Jack as an indomitable foe of Claude Degler.

Chalker and Owings, in the second edition of their fabulous *Index to the Science-Fantasy Publishers* (circa 1960), made a brief reference to Claude Degler and a couple of books he was supposed to have written about science fiction fandom. In thirty years of collecting science fiction, I had never run across anything written by Degler.

In a series of e-mails with Mark Owings, I asked about the Degler books. Mark told me that there were none, that they both had been misled at the time by a flyer Claude had circulated, about possible books, which never appeared. It is too bad, the description of the books made me want to read them.

RE: VFW97: Corflu exposed by Arnie Katz: Loved it -- funny as hell. Went a long way to convince me that Las Vegas is the place to be. Is the Moonlight Bunny Ranch nearby? Have you worked out a Corflu Silver discount with management yet?

I can't pass by a couple of comments by Robert Lichtman, without responding. In my article about Los Angeles and the Change of Hobbit, I mentioned that I sold my Arkham House col-

Conflu Silver

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All others are attending

lection for the house I live in. Robert, I do live in Kingman, Arizona, near my father, but not with him. My brother lives with him in the mobile home you mentioned. I left home when I turned sixteen, and began attending UC Berkeley in 1971. I have never lived with my father since that time. I own my house, along with several adjoining house lots, all on Route 66, all of which those Arkham books paid for.

Next, both Robert and Arnie mentioned the various road maps, available in the early seventies, to the inside of fandom. The early seventies were not the best times for science fiction fandom and my family. In 1965 my father pretty much gafiated from fandom when we moved from Chicago to San Diego, where he became the Fourth King of Porn.

Those years, from 1965 to 1971, were formative for me. But a sea change had overcome my father, and instead of being surrounded by science fiction we had entered into a more lucrative world of film.

All of his fanzine collection had been placed in boxes, stuffed inside our garage. I only became aware of them when the washing machine overflowed and damaged many of them. And then Frank Robinson turned up and cherry picked the collection.

My interest in science fiction fandom at that time was based on curiosity. I was curious as to why my father had left it. The road map I was following at that time was into the family business, along with Hamling and his sons. But that was not to be, either, as subsequent events developed.

Now all the above leads me to Gregory Benford's delightful article, "Happy Benford Chatter." I especially enjoyed his anecdote about Edward Teller.

Greg was at Berkeley a year before I arrived there. I started attending the university in 1971. After a battery of tests, I qualified for the Honors Physics program and began work on a double major, physics and philosophy.

As I progressed in my academic career, I found my family torn apart by the Nixon administration. My father has written extensively about these times in his eZine. As the indictments appeared and the court trial progressed, I became more and more disenchanted with "the System."

Eventually, I even took a year off from my studies in order to be with my father one more time down in Mexico. It was the finest time of my life. When it ended, an entire chapter ended as well. I've never been back to our old haunts.

The trial had a direct effect on my time at Berkeley. There was no family money to pay my way. So I did. I worked and took out student loans and tried to keep up with my studies. This wasn't as easy as it sounds, I was sixteen when I began.

After the verdict came in and my father faced serious prison time, I was ready to leave the United States permanently. However, I was nearly done with my initial studies at Berkeley, my degree within my grasp, so I returned to complete my work.

That year (1975-1976) I worked harder than ever, taking on a maximum load of study and work. The job I landed was working at the Faculty Club on campus, full-time.

One weekend, at the beginning of the school year, one of my regular cigar-buying customers (one of the many professors who kept special batches of smokes at the front desk), needed to use our Xerox machine for a project. While helping him to copy his notes, I noticed a mistake in one of his calculations, so I brought it to his attention. He was so impressed that he took me under his wing. That was how I first met Paul Lieber, the head of the Mechanical Engineering department, and he became my mentor. He invited me into his graduate seminar in physics, and pulled the strings to make it happen. So I began work on my doctorate under his tutelage, while still an undergraduate.

Over the course of that year, I spent a great deal of time with Paul. I helped him with some of his experiments. At that time he was using the nuclear reactor on campus to bombard fruit flies, tracking the enforced mutations. Paul was one of those wild genius-types, and had a theory about everything, including biology and genetics.

That year I had also continued my work in philosophy, primarily on Karl Popper and the philosophy of science. For Paul's graduate seminar I wrote a paper, loosely based on Heidegger's *Discourse on Thinking*. Paul must have liked it, because he gave a copy to Teller. Teller also must have liked it, because he asked to meet me.

Meeting Teller was heady stuff for this twenty-year-old undergraduate.

Among other things we discussed the future course of my academic career at Berkeley, what direction my further graduate work would take me.

However, all the plans we laid were not to be. In the middle of that year, my life changed. My father had been sent to prison on bogus charges. I was filled with an overwhelming bitterness.

At a crossroad, I made the most fateful decision of my young life, I decided to discontinue any further studies, anywhere. The disappointment that Paul felt was obvious, and he let me know, as we discussed my decision over a cup of Earl Grey tea. When all was said and done, I was certain that I hadn't clearly elucidated to him all of my reasons for leaving. I never was able to do so before he died, and Paul and I were never reconciled, and never spoke again.

In the spring, I took my degree. Paul did not attend the ceremony, even after a personal invite (to which he did not respond).

I left the academic world, and any and all worlds of achievement recognized by a society toward which I had become disenfranchised.

For the rest of my adult life I avoided it, hiding whenever possible, finding alternative ways to survive without contributing. I've spent my life tending my own garden, improving the buds while I work out my own theories on biology and genetics.

When I look at the state the world is in, I know that I made the right choice for myself, by traveling the road less traveled. It is not a pessimistic view, but a realistic one. Take any issue, global warming, global extinction, genocide, or war; society as a whole has created a world that surpasses any worse-case scenario ever developed by any writer, surpasses because it is fact, and true, not fantasy.

Helpless to stop the decline and fall of our civilization, I decided to not participate in the events leading to these disasters.

As is the case, always, it was a purely personal decision. I've never tried to persuade anyone that it was a correct view or course of action. I've taken the time, here, to merely point out that it was a viable alternative to the one that most have "normally" taken. And even now, it is not too late for anyone to take an alternative course, rather than participate. As always, you make your choice, and pay the price.

Re-reading the above, I realize that it does not seem very fanish. However, I was struck by the similarities between my early academic career and Benford's. In some ways I see a distinct parallel between our courses of action. I've read many such stories like his before, but I've seldom seen one that tries to show the other side of the coin. So, here's mine, a short tale of my decisive shrug.

Arnie: One of the first, if not the first, Shelby Vick piece I published was a "Dear Alice." Then he switched emphasis to a column-type contribution and I've been delighted to publish those, too.

Degler (Don Rogers) has been nearly as enigmatic in his supposed gaffa as he was controversial during his brief period of frenetic activity. Reports of his activities have taken on something of the character of Elvis sightings.

The reason for so much interest in Degler's fate is because everyone wants to know How It Turns Out. We all know the beginning of the story well enough, but the last half is missing. Did he grow out of most of his weirdness and become a productive person? Did he go completely nutso and end up in a rubber room?

Lloyd Penney

Like for most faneds these days, I am at least two issues behind. Well, Chris Garcia and John Purcell seem to like my multiple-issue locs, so I hope you will, too. Here are some comments on VFW 96 and 97.

96...I haven't had the chance to peruse the audiofiles on TheVoicesOfFandom.com, but I hope to soon. You don't have to

have iPods to listen to podcasts, right? Perhaps a small primer on what you do need to listen to these files might be helpful.

Hi, Joyce...there is a slight chance I or we might be able to get to Corflu. Again, no promises, but we might like to get to Vegas to visit with you all. Depends on what the money says, and whether or not I can get decent employment shortly. There's actually a good chance I can get a job at an advertising agency; wish me luck!

A fandom Hall of Fame might be as subjective as any other kind of award fans hand out, but I've never thought there's been a serious egoboo shortage, so why not? Chaz Boston-Baden's Fan Gallery, usually shown at Worldcon, has certainly served as one up to this point, although it was never set up at LAcon IV, and its online presence is in need of updating, at least, the last time I saw it. No arguments on anyone you list; any additions I might make... Mike Glicksohn, perhaps? Nils Helmer Frome? Les Crouch? I'd need time to think of some more...

I met Frank R. Robinson only once, and it was not in an SFnal setting. Yvonne and I were working the first of two Bouchercons that graced our fair city of Toronto in 1992, and while scooting about here and there getting things done, I meet up with Frank R. Robinson, and I volunteer the fact I've enjoyed his science fiction. He didn't seem too happy with this fact, seeing this was a mystery convention, but he took all the complements I was willing to give. I also met fantasy writer Carole Nelson Douglas that weekend, a nice lady, even though I thought what fantasy of hers I've read gave me the impression that she also wrote cheap romances to pay the bills...

I would like to meet Fred Pohl one last time... he's been to Toronto for conventions several times, and he must be awfully proud of his granddaughter, Emily Pohl-Weary, who lives here and is making her own name with her fine SF (and other) writing.

A couple of weeks ago, Yvonne and I were in Dallas, Texas, for the International Space Development Conference, a space con for the advocates, but run by local fans, as always. I got to meet Rusty Schweickart, former astronaut, Dr. Steven Squyers, head scientist in charge of the Martian rovers, and for the first time in a long time, Ben Bova, who is a past president of the National Space Society, which is the supporting body for the ISDC. Great time, in spite of the fact we were volunteering to get our memberships, and that we were in suit and tie for the grand gala dinner and award ceremony. Aw heck, that was fun, too. Steve Squyers is a hoot. Larry Niven was supposed to be there, but cancelled, and Ben was his replacement.

(I must dig up some photos...the Moffatts would love to see Yvonne and me in our own matching SFnal Hawaiians. Those shirts the Moffatts are wearing must be home made... those are SW bed-sheets.)

Greg, I hope you were able to tell Sir Arthur that even if he has few friends left in Columbo, he has so many friends worldwide, and we wish we could see him again. Our local convention was in touch with him some years ago; he said he had fond memories of Toronto from years long past, and wished a certain chief engineer could get those pasky transporters up and running again...until then, he thanked us for thinking of him.

Yup, during our time in Dallas, we did have dinner with John Purcell, and he told us about Jim Halperin and his purchase of the Warner fanzine collection. I think the collection is in safe and loving hands, and I think we've all breathed a sigh of relief. We had a great time with you, John, and I'm glad that your long trip up from College Station proved so fruitful. Sorry Valerie wasn't able to come up with you, but giving her my best Scottish burr on the cellphone was a lark. And, giving you the good excuse to come up to Dallas is our pleasure. I was on the mailing list for the last six or seven issues of Rune, and I was sorry to see it peter out. Wish a rebirth was in the offing... (By the way, John, recently found my

Woscar for President poster from that silly bunch in Mpls.)

Casinos in "Fabulous Etobicoke"? Nope, but there are large casinos in Ontario to the north and south, in case I ever get that urge to divest myself on that filthy lucre that occasionally finds its way into my pockets. There's an alternate surreality.

97...Ah, TAFF again! I hope Mr. Garcia has the energy to go for it again, and I think we all know the answer to that one... He'll have my support...not to see if I can come up with a vote.

Congrats on your 36th! Yvonne and I just celebrated our 24th, and myself, my 48th. Married half of my life, if I've done the math properly.

Has anyone thought to stage a Benfordcon, with both Benfords as the twin GoHs? I have not read enough Benford, and I hope I can rectify that soon. Can you persuade either twin to come to Corflu Silver?

Trans Atlantic Fan Food? You must have been hungry when you typed this one up, Arnie... I'll take a big bag of TAFF, in the 50-pound bag. Pour water on it, and it makes its own gravy.

Les Nirenberg in a fandom HoF... I'll go for that. A Dr. Henry Nirenberg has his dental practice not far from where I live, but I don't know if the dentist is a relation. Les is probably Canada's least-known WKF. Dale Spiers? I'm not sure he'd go for that, but he'd get my vote. Right now, he publishes what approximates the only regular zine in Canada, and even Dale would say it's not really a science fiction fanzine. Still, it's a regular publication, and Dale has won an Aurora Award for his efforts.

I'm getting lunchy, so I'm winding this up and firing it off into the ether in a general down-by-south-out direction. Take care, and I hope I can firm up our Corflu status (coming or not) RSN.

Arnie: I know Bill Mills would want me clarify that you don't need an ipod or any other similar player to listen to the audio files

on your computer. Bill has iPod-compatible versions of his podcasts available, too, but that's just another option.

There are so many good fans that we could fill an entire issue listing them. The number of great fans is understandably much shorter. I think it implies a high level of fannish achievement.

Our rising star from the Sceptred Isle spins a theory about trufans and fakefans...

Peter Sullivan

Apologies for not writing sooner. It was quite a strange fannish spring. Although I wasn't quite slipping into the glades of gafia, I was at least beginning to sniff at the pretty flowers around the edges.

And this was notwithstanding my performance in the FAAn Awards as the second-best new fan of 2005 and 2006. (I'm still not quite sure how that works out, by the way. Does this mean that, in the event of the winner being caught in some great fannish scandal – another Tucker death hoax, or attending a WSFS Business Meeting – I am expected to step forward and fulfill the duties of Best New Fan for what remains of the year? Of course, fannish scandal was always more likely to engulf the licentious Chris "for TAFF" Garcia rather than the saintly Theresa in any case.)

Indeed, such was the depths of my despair, that I even began to wonder if I had ever been a true fan at all. Was I not, instead, just another example of a johnny-come-lately fake fan? Was my fannish career over before it had even barely begun?

Then it struck me. Not literally, you understand. But it was an epiphany of sorts.

Only true fans worry about being fake fans.

Anyone who worries about being a fake fan is therefore, by definition, not one.

Someone who worries about being unmasked as a fake fan is, not necessarily a true fan, but definitely has the makings of one, and is allowed to consider themselves a true fan in any case.

In the meantime, I fully endorse your comments on "Chris for TAFF," especially your remarks about Curt Phillips. One of the joys of TAFF is that, for a really good race like this one is promising to be, all the tension in the race goes out of it as soon as you get to see the ballot – well, for everyone except the candidates themselves, that is. The great and the good of fandom peruse the names on the ballot, and realise that, notwithstanding any personal they may have, any of the candidates would make a Damn Fine Delegate. I'll be running the Chris for TAFF website at www.chrisfortaff.org, where we'll be keeping a TAFF-hungry public up to date with all the details of Chris's campaign and what he's up to. Or, more realistically (since I think that claiming that there is a TAFF-hungry public out there is probably stretching things just a tad), just having some

Arnie: Perhaps FAAn Awards voters feel that you should place in the "Best New Fan Category" until you get it right. Until then, they'll keep voting you into second place as a show of encouragement.

Kidding aside, I think the category is very difficult to define, which leads to strange results

The management would like to apologise for the graphic nature of the graphic on the next page.



like your second-place repeat. Teresa Cochran, 2007 Best Neofan, actually did a lot of activity on the local level and in SNAPS, during 2005. A lot of fans didn't encounter her until the following year, though, and voted for her since she was "new to them."

Here, with thoughts on Corflu and more, is Fandom's beloved Prolific...

Chris Garcia

Another issue hits the rails and I'm on board! Always good to read VFW, especially on a day when I've had to move so many tons of computer stuff around the warehouse. It's always nice to get a fannish break from things.

Yep, TAFF is back and in business. I'm hoping Curt runs. He's got a ton of cred, did pretty well last race and I'd even vote for him. There's a possibility of others running, but no word on anything solid.

You sold me on Vegas for CorFLU long ago. But like discovering a lover who lives in Australia while you're stuck in Sheboygan, it's a wonder that will live far away. I'm going to figure out a way to remain a presence at the con, but I'm not sure how I'm going to do it. Maybe a series of speakers that say Chrisisms whenever anyone walks by. That would be eerie.

I love that Rotsler. I got a batch of them recently from Jerry Kaufman and Suzle and have scanned them and am ready to pass them on to John Purcell. Gotta keep these things circulating.

I never met Frank Gasperik, but I know the Fan Cabaret that Bill speaks of. There are the pieces up on YouTube and I've found two other pieces of audio on one of the Torrent sites. Good stuff.

You see, the Benfords are much smarter than I could ever dream of being. While I might be able to tell you the total lineage of the WWWF/WWF/WWE Heavyweight Championship in song (Buddy won it in Rio, Bruno beat him, bearhug hold...), I have no idea how things like Alpha particles or stuff work. I'm just not that smart. That said, I know Livermore and Livermore history and he was one of the most respected of employees there. I met Edward Teller myself about a year before he passed away. We spoke briefly (he liked my shirt) and that was that. He was the only one of the Big Threes (Teller, Von Neumann and Einstein or Teller, Metropolis and Ulam) who I ever got to meet. To have worked with him in any form would have been amazing.

I got my vote for OE in too late. I had you as my vote, though, so that should count for something!

Askance is a great zine, though I miss the regularity of his In A Prior Lifetime and And Furthermore. Still, I'll take a great zine anyway I can get it.

The Vonnegut Issue was actually of *The Drink Tank*, not *SF/SF*. I did write a little thing for *SF/SF* right after KV passed. I've received two more articles dealing with Kurt, and a third specifically on Kilgore Trout from James Bacon will populate issue 131!

Glad to hear James is back in the Social Security paying mode!

I'll have to listen to your radio stint. I don't listen to many of the wrestling podcasts, though I do talk wrestling on the FanboyPlanet.com podcast once in a while. True, I often am more there to simply mock those around me, but still, it's part of my thing.

Lots of folks seem to have Degler on their lists. I certainly thought of him early in my thinking on the subject of the Hall of Fame. The Coulsons are a pair I can't believe didn't come to mind!

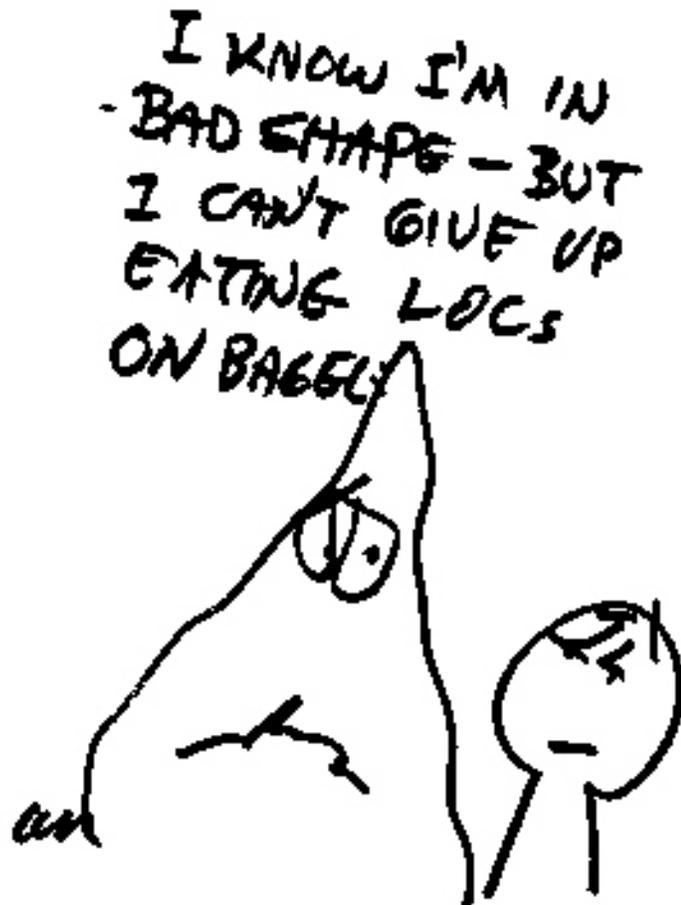
OK, here's my idea to do with "Everything You Wanted to Do with Your Girlfriend But Didn't" - Cary Grant's tires -

shoes in trees - Sandra on roof- ladder. A guy is about to get married, he's discovered that Cary Grant used to live in the house he just bought that he's going to move into once they tie the knot. It turns out that Cary's old Buick is still parked in the little garage in the far back of the property, and the tires are haunted by his spirit. Sandra, the guy's wife to be, and her family are ultra-revisionist and throw shoes at the wedding, held in the new backyard near the garage, that get caught in the trees. One pair happens to be the lucky pair of Converse she's worn since High School. Sandra climbs onto the roof and falls through, landing on a ladder which becomes jammed making it impossible for anyone to open the door. She discovers that car with the haunted tires, and through his voice alone, the Tires seduce her and she leaves her new husband for the car. And folks wonder why I never made it in Hollywood!

Arnie: You can bet we'll miss you at Corflu Silver, Chris, though I suspect that you will miss Corflu even more as you romp among the Costumed Ones. After all, we'll have each other to salve the separation pangs.

Robert Lichtman

The Harry Bell creature's plaint on the first page of VFW No. 98 summarizes one of the problems with this issue. Quite a few of the photographs in your article on Vegas fandom are pixelated, making me wonder if they were taken with a camera phone or something similarly low-resolution. Not all the photos and graphics in this and other issues are so blurry—and over the long run you've improved dramatically in electronic graphics presentation—but for those of us (me and Mark Plummer) who print out each issue it would be nice if some resolution could be found (ahahahahaha). I do notice that most of the photos look just fine when I'm viewing



the issue on-screen, leading me to think that it's electronic display that concerns you rather than the quality of the printed copies.

It's good to read that Shelby Vick is working on an electronic collection of the best from his '50s fanzine, *confusion*. It's true that at some time in the past I sent him photocopies of some of the issues, and the tenth and twelfth issues are available at efanazines.com due to his hard work in turning them into PDFs. Shelby informs me that I've sent him half a dozen issues altogether, and as of this writing no one else has come through offering more. Such a collection would be pretty good, since for one thing Walt Willis had a regular column, "Plinth," in Shelby's zine. But considering that he told me once that the total circulation of *Confusion* was, at best, maybe 75 copies, it's going to be challenging to come up with more. I got the ones I have in one lot when I spotted them in a listing at Lloyd Currey's Website.

Your riff "The Perfect TAFFan?" made me smile, but fortunately for Chris (unless he harbors a secret desire into which you've unwittingly tapped) the special fund you've launched is apparently not going to be necessary. As of Friday the 13th TAFF administrator Suzanne Tompkins is reporting that there are now three candidates firmly in the race and another couple in the wings. The filing deadline was extended to July 30th so these out-of-the-blue candidates can get their paperwork and nominators in order. No doubt by the time you publish again we'll know who they are besides Our Chris.

Regarding your history of Las Vegas fandom, I wish I remembered the name of the fanzine fan who was publishing a zine out of Vegas when I first came on the scene myself in the late '50s. I've looked through some fanzine review columns in zines of that period and come up blank. I have no idea if he was one of that "group of high school students" you refer to. Overall this was an interesting and informative article, and I'm looking forward to meeting the newer generation of Vegas fans at Corflu Silver. But I can't move on to the rest of the issue without first wondering what the significance and context is for the drawing of the mini-skirted woman at the bottom of page 3. I think we should be told.

I'd just finished reading John Nielsen Hall's lengthy and very interesting article on Buddhism in the latest issue of his fanzine, *Motorway Dreamer*, when I came across Shelby's "Story of My Close Call," which leads off with "Remember the old saying that you should never bring up religion or politics in public discussions? Well, I'm about to flaunt *both* those prohibitions, by God! I'm doing that by revealing a Close Call that I recently had." John had also noted that religion is seldom discussed in fanzines because it's such a hot button topic, and of course Shelby's religious component in his piece is minimal—and perhaps it's only because I read John first that I even noticed.

His political commentary is interesting, though, especially the coupling of how property is supposed to be appraised using "recent sales as a guideline for values," leading to those lots near the luxury subdivision increasing thirty-fold in assessed valuation. Add to that his side-note that in the course of an investigation of the county assessor it was learned that "some rich folks had their properties REDUCED in value," and you definitely have the makings for a great scandal. I think Shelby missed the boat in not taking that job. He could have arranged to work from home, citing his "handicap" of no longer driving and requesting a "reasonable accommodation" under the Americans With Disabilities Act. And then, once they set him up with a computer networked to the county property tax rolls he could have gone and done what he envisioned: relabeling all "exceptional" properties as "average" to give everyone a nice reduction in their property taxes. This would probably lead to another scandal, but perhaps not immediately, and after Shelby was replaced he would still have that bump-up in his retirement income because of the high pay he would have received during his brief

tenure.

As one of the charter members of The Corflu Fifty, I'm happy to see that information about its existence and goals has leapt off the Yahoogroups list into the fannish mainstream. Rich Coad did his usual excellent job here in presenting the group and its goals, and a few more people have already signed on as a result. I'm looking forward to seeing Steve and Elaine Stiles at Corflu Silver.

Rob Jackson's piece about the Astra Leauge still leaves one wondering what it's all about. The description of doing the Astral Pole written by Dave Langford is excellent, but I still didn't feel I really knew the deeper significance of the Leauge (for one thing, it came into existence when I was away from fandom). Accordingly, I went on-line and did a Google search. After a number of unsatisfactory explanations I found this one, also by that nice Mr. Langford: "The Astral Leauge [sic]: dubious cosmic cult invented by Leeds Group fan D. West in the mid-1970s. All rituals, initiations and hymns are strictly optional, the central dogma being that neophytes must give 50p to D. West. Exerts vast yet mythical influence over practically everything." Now I feel I *really* know.

In the lead-in to my LoC in this issue you write that I've "been part of *VFW* from the very beginning." This didn't sound quite right to me, so of course I donned my Fannish Researcher Beanie and dove into my files. The first mention of me in *VFW*'s pages doesn't occur until the eighth issue, where in a short piece on electronic fandom you mention me as one of the participants at the Trufen list. My name doesn't appear again until lucky issue 13, where you finally got around to launching a letter column. Guess who's first—and also third, with a letter from (who else?) Lloyd Penney sandwiched between mine. I guess that puts the lie to my impression that I hadn't been involved when you began this fanzine, but even so I didn't gear up to regular appearances for many issues to come. Poking further in my files, I see I appear in 18, 21, 25, 31 and 40. I took a long hiatus then, and when I returned with a letter in the 50th issue it marked the beginning of my current mostly uninterrupted run (I missed an issue or two in the 50s, but not since). It would appear that I've probably had letters in more issues of *VFW* than anyone else. It was interesting to see that in those really early issues the main letterhack was none other than Chris Garcia.

I smiled at your reference to me as "Keeper of the Deli Flame." I would never have anticipated I'd achieve such acclaim back during my fifteen years as a vegan (roughly 1966 to 1990). Perhaps we can mount an expedition to that deli you and Joyce introduced to me on my last visit to Las Vegas (for Corflu Black-jack). It's no Canter's in the Los Angeles sense, but as I recall it wasn't bad.

With the exception of Dave Kyle, all the potential Hall of Famers Chris Garcia mentions were also noted by me in my long letter of the subject a couple issues ago. I agree with you that Claude Degler (also D. Bruce Berry and George Wetzel, as you note) definitely do not belong on such a list. There needs to be a Special List for the likes of them.

It was amusing to read of Claire Brialey's concerns about your existence: "And of course, Arnie, despite Mark's regular invitations to you to attend the London Circle pub meetings, I've never actually met you myself: one of the reasons we're hoping to get to Corflu Silver. Indeed, I'd begun to think that another reason would be to try to spot both you and Chris in the same place at once – although I guess at least one of you could be a hired actor – but then I saw in Chris's letter column comments in #127 and then in your letter column comments in *VFW* #97 that he isn't going to be at next year's Corflu because he's going to be helping out at Costume-Con. Aha, I say." As we all know, your existence has been suspect for many years. I refer Claire and the rest of *VFW*'s readers to Gordon Eklund's "The Katz Kontroversy: A Document," which

I'M BLEEP,
GOD OF FANDOM'S
FUTURE!



appeared in my own fanzine, *Trap Door*, in the 21st issue. Fortunately, this is one of the issues available at Bill Burns's Website...

<http://efanzines.com/TrapDoor/TD21.pdf>

...and I strongly urge everyone to go there and read about Gordon's research. After all, "all knowledge is contained in fanzines."

Elsewhere Claire asserts that Joe Kennedy is among those vintage fan writers whose work is "difficult to get hold of." Counter to this, I recommend going to...

<http://fanac.org/names-ke.html>

...where quite a few links to articles by JoKe are listed and can be conveniently accessed. They include perhaps his most famous pieces, "Before the Bomb" and "After the Atom," about New York fandom of the late '40s, as well as some other articles of his from places as diverse as *Masque* and *Quandry*.

Arnie: Sorry for any excessive pixilation. The oppressive need to keep memory as small as possible sometimes leads to photos that don't have the best resolution. And the on-screen look does weigh heavily, because that's the only way I ever see the fanzine. I don't print it out; I store back issues electronically.

We North Americans will have to wait for the Astra League ceremony at Corflu Silver to find out what it's really like.

A notable Australian fan is incredulous...

Bruce Gillespie

Okay, I've been very lax about sending letters of comment and articles to *VFW* through the last couple of years. I still greatly appreciate receiving it. I haven't exactly been deluging the rest of fandom with letters either; I hang my head in shame but probably won't reform.

But I still can't see what I've done to be left off your List of Favourite Fans a couple of issues ago. As Robert Lichtman said an issue later, why did you go to so much trouble about the BBB Fund if you of all people did not have some idea of what I've been doing all this time? 40 years, indeed, which I can pinpoint to an exact date -- the second weekend of December 1967 -- when I met the rest of

the people then running Australian Science Fiction Review.

And how could your list leave out John Bangsund and John Foyster, or even Merv Binns, Melbourne's 'Mr Science Fiction' for over 50 years? I detect some parochialism in your list. John Bangsund is one of those very few fans who can be credited with creating an entire new fandom with one fanzine. Before ASFR began in 1966, there were a small number of fans, perhaps a couple of dozen, spread throughout our wide brown land. After two years of publication of ASFR, we had a fandom strong enough (several hundred) to think about bidding for a worldcon, which we did in 1973, and won. Much of this was the result of John Bangsund's efforts, as well as those of John Foyster. Foyster can be credited with many achievements here, including the actual physical production of ASFR: the launching of ANZAPA, the Nova Mob and (with Leigh Edmonds) DUFF; and in 1979, the launching of GUFF. He led the Worldcon bid through the mid 1970s, and had much to do with the bids that gained us worldcons in both 1985 and 1999.

Sorry for the complaints -- but I was waiting with bated breath for you to mention American Kindness: the BBB Trip Report. After all, it is a direct result of your own efforts in running the trip from your end. I know I'm a bit late with the report, but it does exist -- with lots of photos, 32,000 words, etc -- as a thank-you to all the people who supported the trip. I'm sure Robert Lichtman sent you the details of buying a copy i.e. \$10 to Robert, or 5 pounds to Claire and Mark.

One bit of news you might not have heard: the Australian SF Foundation, representing Australian fandom, was kind enough to award me at ConVergence 2 (this year's national Australian convention, held in Melbourne 8-11 June 2007) the A. Bertram Chandler Award for Lifetime Achievement in Australian SF. The Chandler Award is a big blue bowl, and a plaque and citation, and has been awarded nearly every year since 1991. Fans who have won have included Merv Binns, John Foyster, John Bangsund and Van Ikin, and pro writers such as Lee Harding, Lucy Sussex and George Turner. It's nice to know that, after forty years, somebody notices what one has done.

I'm not going to promise to report regularly on Melbourne happenings, especially as Bill Wright does it much better than I do. I get to Nova Mob once a month, and an informal Friday night group. I don't get to the Melbourne SF Club, which is undergoing a renaissance thanks to transplanted New Zealand fan Murray MacLachlan (he's been here about six years), because of the difficulties of getting home by public transport. The Melbourne bid for 2010 continues, with room parties being held wherever possible at conventions.

No matter what success one has in fandom, it doesn't pay the bills, as you know. I'm trying to work out how to go online without insulting too many people by dropping them from the paper fanzine list. *Steam Engine Time 6 and 7* are nearly finished, and they will go a much-cut list. The only way I can revive *SFC* and *TMR* is by not printing any copies at all. Big plans ahead, but believe that something is happening when the issues appear.

Arnie: In the actual column, I confessed to omissions when I presented my survey and that has had the desired effect of sparking discussion.

Your standing among the all-time great fans had nearly nothing to do with the Bring Bruce Bayside Fund. A groundswell of fannish enthusiasm for bringing you to Corflu developed and I did my bit to help realize the dream. While it certainly reflected admiration for your fanzines such as *SFC*, it was based on the desire to see you in person and spend time with you. It was a pure and spontaneous outpouring of fannish love.

It's a mistake to see the situation as print *versus* pixels. If everything was equal, I imagine most of us older fans would pick hard copy fanzines. As you suggest, Bruce, it's more like to be a

choice between pixels and fafia. I love doing fanzines and have no plans to stop; I chose electronic fanzines over doing nothing, a choice that has made me very happy for the last few years.

Our stalwart from the Lone Star State talks of collections and other pertinent fannish topic...

John Purcell

Speaking of the James Halperin interview, the feedback that I have already been receiving has been overwhelmingly positive. It sure seems like everyone is very happy that James Halperin bought Harry Warner's fanzine collection. When I shared this information with him earlier today, he said that he was glad to be of service. Eventually, as he said during our conversation - and the tape recorder was right out in the open; no hidden microphones! - he would probably like to donate it to a university someday, but just has no idea right now which one. As Melissa Cowan informed me in an e-mail, UC-Riverside's Eaton Collection would be honored to incorporate Harry's stash of zines. I also know that Hal Hall here in town at Texas A&M University would love to have it housed in Cushing Library's SF and Fanzine collection. No matter how you look at it, the long-term care and feeding of Harry's zines is secured. Rest easy, citizens.

All of this also has me thinking about what I'm going to do with my SF & Fanzine Collection. At the moment I am leaning towards bequeathing it to my alma mater, Iowa State University, or to TAMU. Some day I'll make up my mind.

Getting more into this 98th issue of *Vegas Fandom Whenever*, I really like the idea of the Corflu 50 Award. I think this is something that I would very much like to do. Now that I have been hired on full-time at Blinn College - yes, it is true: I have been officially offered and accepted a faculty position in their English & Humanities Department beginning this coming fall semester - I will finally be able to not only ship off my attending membership to Corflu Silver, but to also participate in the Corflu Award, which sounds like a fantastic idea. Great idea, Rich! And what a worthy pair of initial recipients in Steve and Elaine Stiles. Awesome news, indeed.

I also really enjoyed the "Meet the Vegrans" article. This was

not only very helpful, but quite historically interesting. There has been a lot more fannish activity going on out there than I've ever known. This is a wonderful fannish service you have provided, kind sir, and the brief biographies of the various members were appreciated. Now if you can gently coerce some more contributions out of them - or get some of these fine folks to produce their own zines - that would be just peachy.

Walt Daugherty was one of those folks I never met, but man, what a legacy he left behind. He will be missed, that is definite. My condolences to his widow and family.

Solid issue, sir, even though the loccol is a bit truncated. Next issue should be a bit thicker on that end, I am sure.

Arnie: Joyce and I have already disposed of the bulk of our science fiction collection by donating it to SNAFFU and melding it into their library. We haven't yet made similar provision for the fanzines and, as you suggest, it's also on my mind. I lean toward willing it to some younger fan, one who has proved some staying power.

ChatBack... what a chunk of locs? I'm Arnie Katz, not Arnie Stang.

It's warming up for summer in Canada and the next writer gets right to his very interesting point...

Taral Wayne

Well, certainly making lists is a game, and one I used to play a lot more (before I ran out of things to list). Largest battleships, most desirable trading cards, best classic 50's car, my favourite TV cartoon shows... but I've never known a '56 Chevy Nomad to have hurt feelings because it was left off the list in favour of the '59 Impala

Arnie: I doubt that fans are that fragile. After all, they survive not placing in the Fan Achievement Awards, falling short of a Hugo nomination, failing to get nominated for a fan fund and finishing in the bottom half of the FAPA egoboo poll. For that matter, they've survived compilation of exactly the kind of list we're discussing.

I pity the fan who takes this as more than a romp down an history Lane and a way of recalling our best and brightest. Want some reasons? Here they are, anyway:

First, it's a hobby. You don't have to be the best bowler or the best model railroader or the greatest fan to enjoy those leisure-time pursuits or to be a worthy participant.

Second, the only person you have to please is yourself and any reasonably intelligent fan should know more or less where they stand in the pantheon of all-time great fans.

Third, there are so damn many great fans that no one has to feel bad about not making the Top Ten or whatever. Finishing behind Willis, Burbee, Carr, White, Rotsler, Atom, Hoffman, Tucker, Ackerman, Shaw, Harris, Clarke, Stiles, Laney, Nelson, Warner et al is certainly no shame.

The plaintive cry of a wounded fan resounds from a southerly direction...

When the Sage turns fanhistorian, the results are always well worth reading. This one just hit the inbox in time to close this Chat-Back on an exciting note...

Robert Lichtman

In my letter of comment on VFW No. 98 the other day I wrote, "Regarding your history of Las Vegas fandom, I wish I remembered the name of the fanzine fan who was publishing a zine out of Vegas when I first came on the scene myself in the late '50s. I've looked through some fanzine review columns in zines of that period and come up blank. I have no idea if he was one of that 'group of high



school students' you refer to." The answer came out of the blue in today's mail in the form of *Meade No. 2*, a badly dittoed fanzine dated October 1957. The editor was David M. McCarroll, who was living at the time at 644 Avenue C, Boulder City. The cover is by one Ronnie Martin, while interior art is by Stony Barnes, Lars Bourne and the editor. Contributions are heavy on poetry, with Stony Barnes, Donald Simpson (presumably the same Don Simpson who I knew at LASFS in the '50s and '60s and who I occasionally see wandering the streets of Berkeley and environs these days), Robert Scott, R.D. Oliver and Marion Zimmer Bradley. Other contributions are from Rich Brown (before he went lowercase), K. Martin Carlson and Marvin Bryer. The lettercol has appearances by Larry Sokol, Robin Wood, Marty Fleishman, Kent Moomaw and again Rich Brown. McCarroll's fanzine review column covers Lars Bourne's *Brillig*, John Champion's *FAN-attic*, Bob Leman's *The American Journal of Oculenteratology* (aka the first issue of *The Vinegar Worm*), Bill Meyers's *Spectre* and an issue of *Yandro*. Some of the pages were done on green ditto masters and are pretty faded. This copy originally went to Honey Wood, who you will recognize as the wife of Rog Phillips.

I wonder if this was the second *ever* fanzine to come out of the Las Vegas area....

Arnie: Thank you for the fascinating info, Robert, which definitely fits with my hazy recollection. Isn't it interesting that McCarroll was very well connected with many of the leading neofan of the period, yet Las Vegas Fandom didn't develop any continuity.

Back with another fine letter is our perpetual TAFF candidate....

Chris Garcia

Harry Bell opens things up with a fine piece of work. One of the happiest moments I had was opening an email and seeing that there were two pieces from Harry living in there.

Congrats to the Stiles for their CorFlu fund award. I'll be happy to support the cause. I'm a big fan of fan funds (which I'll talk about more in a minute)

I saw that a copy of confusion was on sale on eBay not but a couple of weeks ago. I would have bought it, but the cost was slightly too high for me to get both The Loyal Opposition and the issue. I tried, though.

I actually blush a little reading the praise that you've heaped on me, Arnie. I think I'd be a good candidate, but I don't think I'm even the best candidate of the people that I know. Geri Sullivan, Frank Wu, Tadao Tomamatsu, Tom Whitmore, Christian McGuire, Art Widner, Curt Phillips, Chaz Boston-Baden and Lloyd Penney would all easily make better delegates and could easily beat me in any race. There are a lot of folks that I don't know who would also surely hand me my head. There has been talk about a few of these folks running, but sadly it's not happened yet. Frank Wu is actively working on getting someone to run and I'm betting he can do it. Sadly, Tom Whitmore, a former WorldCon Chair and an all-around good guy, would have been a great choice, but he decided to step aside from running because he's the WorldCon Fan Guest of Honor next year. Personally, I'd love to see Lloyd or Geri run. They're both great folks who would represent the Fund properly. I hope someone runs, and if my sources are right, there should be someone announcing in the next week or so, and then the race begins and I lose my mind one more time!

I can't get a sex change! That's an operation and I'm saving that for the day I decide to get my nose fixed! No...no operations for me. (if it's just a fund to get me a new, feminine wardrobe, well, I DO enjoy some of today's modern designers...)

I love that Bill Mills piece on Page Four. I had no idea he was an artist. I must get pieces. That stuff is exactly my style!

Excellent guide to Vegas fandom. I love the Vegrants and hearing the full story (and getting the lovely introductions, even if they were to folks I already knew) was wonderful. Merric, my partner in crime whenever we manage to be in the same place, was at Westercon last week and I got a chance to catch up a bit with him while I was running around busy making the Fanzine Lounge work (and doing a skit about site selection, and running the game show for Masquerade's half-time, and...). Sadly, Lubov wasn't there. I hope to run into the Vegas gang at Loscon, like I have the last couple of years. Always good to see so many of my desert-dwelling pals.

The CorFlu 50 sounds like a wonderful idea and I'm all-in!

I witnessed the Pole ritual at CorFlu this year performed by Catherine Crockett. I was shocked that humans could do that. That and Knurdling are two abilities I doubt I will ever possess.

Walt Daugherty. A while back, I think while I was visiting LASFS around New Years, I was in a conversation with someone

Contact! Las Vegas Club Directory

Looking for a local group? These are the major ones.

Las Vegrants

Arnie & Joyce Katz,
909 Eugene Cernan St., Las Vegas, NV 89145
Email: JoyceWorley1@cox.net
Phone: 702-648-5677

SNAFFU:

James Taylor
Email: dfh1@cox.net
Phone: 702-434-5784

Las Vegas Fan Events Calendar

VSFA Monthly Meeting Saturday, August 4 11:00 AM

The small, but active formal club meets at Dead Poet Books (937 South Rainbow Blvd.). The meeting usually focuses on club business, followed by a socially oriented after-meeting meal or snack.

Las Vegrants Meeting Saturday, August 4 7:30 PM

The informal invitational Core Fandom club meets on the first and third Saturdays at the Launch Pad.

SNAFFood Aug. Dinner Friday, Aug. 10 7:00 PM

The dinner meeting will take place at Emperor's Garden. Contact LindaBushyager@aol.com for details.

Las Vegrants Meeting Saturday, August 18 7:30 PM

The informal invitational Core Fandom club meets on the first and third Saturdays at the Launch Pad.

SNAPS Deadline Sunday, August 19

Contributions should be sent to Official Editor Arnie Katz (crossfire4@cox.net). Everyone is invited to participate in this popular and enjoyable fan activity.

SNAFFU Discussion Meeting Sunday, August 26 2:00 PM

Vegas' formal science fiction club meets for a lively discussion meeting once a month at the Clark County public library on Flamingo (near Maryland.)

(probably John Hertz) and I was compared to Walt due to my strange number of fascinations. I took it as the highest of compliments. He was a quick draw champion too! That's a rare feat. I am saddened that I never got to meet the guy. He founded the Western and wrote and edited and did just about everything he could. My kind of guy.

I'd totally put Hal Chase into the baseball Hall of Fame. He was from Los Gatos, the city that produced Genevieve, the mother of Evelyn, the Little One I'm so often writing about. He hit well in the dead ball era and was a bad, bad man.

Great issue as always. I must say that all the folks who come across for CorFlu Silver should take a little extra time and head up to San Francisco for a bit afterwards so that we can visit! I'll buy y'all lunch!

Arnie: You may not be the best of all possible TAFF candidates, but neither are the folks you list as possibilities. While a couple of them are reasonable choices, I don't contribute to TAFF trips for paper-shufflers. I believe that the TAFF delegate should be a currently active fan who is at least somewhat known to similarly active fans in the host country. Some of the very nice people you propose simply don't have those credentials.

And here, with this ChatBack's Grand Finale, is the current FAAN Awards champion letterhack with one of his signature contributions...

Lloyd Penney

Many thanks for Vegas Fandom Weekly 98, a single-issue loc this time. I did not see the original e-mail, but did catch a hint of it in a Trufen message from Bruce Gillespie...our condolences on the loss of your mother. This is a hard time we must all go through at

some point...I'm not there yet, but I know it must come soon. Yvonne's mother lives just up the street, and we've already had a couple of scares.

Also didn't know about the Corflu Fifty charity or Yahoo! Group. It's a good idea, and perhaps when I have some full-time employment again, I can join up and send in my cash. Congratulations to Steve and Elaine! I am very much looking forward to the 2008 Corflu to see everyone there. There's been various news bulletins and updates here and there...will they all be gathered up and placed on the Corflu.org website? Or perhaps all into the first Corflu Silver PR1?

(I'm trying something a little different here...instead of looking at the .pdfed version, I took advantage of the new colour photocopy at work, and printed out a full-colour copy of issue 98. Looks spiff, and is my first paper copy of VFW.)

A sex change for Chris Garcia? Well, he's got the cheerleader costume already... see past Drink Tanks. I'm not sure every will be healed in time, but I am hopeful that we can send Christina Garcia off to Britain to knock it back with the best of them. (Why does Christina Garcia sound like a cheap wine? ☺)

Some valuable fanhistory articles here, and many thanks. With all these mugshots, I was expecting to see front and side views. I miss the fanzines from these earlier periods, especially Folly, which I think may have been the first fanzine you sent to me. This issue would be a good one to hold onto as a Vagrant Who's Who when we come visit next April.

I keep seeing mentions of Pahrump, and recall that Heidi Fleiss has opened a Laundromat there called Dirty Laundry. Gotta air it somewhere, I guess. I think she's also opening up another kind of business in Pahrump, and no points for guessing...

Walt Daugherty was always a big name to me, but I knew next

to nothing about him. Now that he is gone and his biography is up for all to see, it's hard to believe he packed as much as he did into a lifetime. Not only did he do these things, he excelled at them all. These days, he might be criticized as an over-achiever, but no... what a fan, what a man.

If Curt Philips can invite people to check out his new movie, I can invite everyone to check out my new CD. I've been nattering on about Sectarian Wave for ages, but now it is reality. Volume 1, the first three episodes of the nine-episode series, is available online at www.VirtuallyAudio.com. I've been told that I do have some lines in Episode 3. To Bill Mills...there is an audio contest you might be interested in! Bill, I hope you'll enjoy this CD, and samples are available on the website. Volume 2 comes out in September, and Volume 3 in November.

A message to Joyce...one thing Yvonne and I have always tried to do for the conventions we've worked is provide what we call a restaurant and services guide. It's a map of the area with restaurants, ATMs, photocopy places, drug stores and anything that's open 24 hours in case of emergency. If you can provide this, all of your out-of-towners would be very grateful. If the hotel can provide something like that, less work for you.

Hiya, Chris...of course, you realize that we are cavorting in Joyce's choice con suite, and you are Tming at CostumeCon, You Will Be A Target. If your ears burn when others are talking about you, we'll make sure they singe right off your head. Give us some more to gossip about, okay?

Ah, Corflu Silver continues to beckon, and We Will Be There. Based on the membership list, six are coming from Toronto, and I dare say with others coming from Britain and Australia, there will be one of the most international Corflus in some time. We'll keep looking for information, and we can't wait for PR1. Take care, and see you next issue, whenever that will be. Look after things, and see you soon.

Arnie: You may be unnecessarily alarming Chris about the repercussions of his absence from Corflu Silver We won't necessarily spend the entire weekend dishing, dissecting and demonizing the absent Garcia. Heck no. We're fanzine fans... we'll publish that stuff so everyone can read it!

And that's Chatback for this issue. If you send 'em, I'll be delighted to print 'em, — Arnie

LAS VEGAS FANS
ARE JUST ONE
BIG HAPPY
FAMILY!



THE KINGFISH SAYS

Much as I enjoyed doing this issue and recommend it for your reading pleasure, I can hardly wait for #100, I never expected to publish one hundred of anything, so I'm inclined to make a *magilla* out of it.

I hope you'll respond to this issue with letters of comment, articles and cartoons so that you can be represented in this emilestone — or is that millstone? — VFW. That's what'll make it special.

— Arnue Katz

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