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The Example 1 of the fanzine fan community

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february 9-11, 2007

doubletree hotel austin austin, texas

Progress Report #1



## Remove the wax, one character at a time

The time has come for me to stop fidgeting with graphics and layout — to lock down on the frequent alt-tab e-mail and search engine sidetrips — and to tell everyone what's happening with Corflu 24, *aka* Corflu Quire.

At this year's Corflu in Toronto, I was confronted with the appalling fact that I have been an intermittent ice-toting Corflu drone for 23 years. Buckle down and ante up — and host the Corflu in 2007, or all is lost. (OK, those may not have been Ted White's exact words, but I now know what that deer was thinking when I blinded it with my headlights.)

The good news is, I agreed to do it, and Corflu 24 will be held in Austin, Texas. The date has been set, the hotel contract has been signed, memberships have been sold — now all that remains is scutwork, publicity, progress reports, publications, planning, and the inevitable quest for volunteers.

## The typewriter has no F1 key

Your current committee-of-one needs help in two vital areas: Programming, and timeshare Con Suite hosts. No, make that three areas — art and writing for future progress reports and the program book. Well, maybe four areas, if anyone is interested in reviving the Fanthology project to the extent of actually finishing one without starting a war. (OK, let's say five, and somebody can think of the fifth thing for me.)

## **Stencil Cement**

Following the fine tradition established at the first Corflu, an attending membership includes the mandatory Sunday banquet. A supporting membership entitles you to all Corflu publications





plus that fine feeling of fellowship (i.e. you also stay on the mailing list for next year's Corflu).

Attending Memberships are \$50 US through December 31, 2006, and will go up to \$65 thereafter. Supporting memberships are \$20 US. Please make checks payable to Pat Virzi, and mail them to 618 Westridge, Duncanville TX 75116.

The Corflu 24 British agent is Ian Sorensen, 3 Portia Place, Motherwell, ML1 1EL, UK (*ian@soren.demon.co.uk*). UK rates are £30 for attending memberships; if you ask him, Ian will tell you how much he doesn't want you to give him for a supporting membership.

## Carriage Return

Corflu 24 will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel Austin, located at 6505 Interstate Highway 35 North, Austin TX 78752.

The DoubleTree Hotel Austin is no stranger to fans, having been the site for several ArmadilloCons and ConMisterios. We'll have a similar consuite arrangement as Armadillocon, but only one of the smaller function rooms for program events (so everyone will have to be extra-friendly then). The hotel, built in Spanish Colonial style, does have a marvelous inner courtyard with fountains, tables and chairs, plus a pool and hot tub which might be open in February depending on the weather. There is free wireless internet access in the hotel's public areas; I could spring for the wireless fee in the con suite if enough people are interested. (And I could also change the access code unexpectedly if people do nothing but whinge about softball deprivation on Livejournal.)

The convention room rate is available Thursday, February 8 through Sunday, February 11. A single room is \$109, and a double is \$129 plus state and city occupancy taxes (currently 15%). You can book over the internet (<a href="www.austin.doubletree.com">www.austin.doubletree.com</a>, internet code FAC), by calling toll-free (1-800-347-0330, mention the secret code words "Corflu" and "Fandom Association of Central Texas"), or by calling the hotel directly at 512-454-3737. Alas, we are blocked by quantity rather than proximity, but I will try to determine the con suite floor and room number ahead of time so you can get a suitable room at check-in. Ideally, I'd like to surround the con suite with Corflu-booked rooms, so let me know if you're willing to be a noise barrier solution.

Don't wait until the last minute — our room block closes on January 18th. You might be able to book at the con rate after that, but there are no guarantees; there are a lot of other things going on in Austin that weekend.

If you have a car, the hotel has given Corflu a discounted selfparking rate of \$5 for both day use and overnight guests. Your vehicle can rest in sheltered comfort in the multi-level parking garage while you meander outside and sneer at my dusty 4x4 pickup truck in the oversize-vehicle parking area.



## First Class or Media Mail?

Austin is fairly easy to get to by air — after all, it *is* the state capital. After much hoohaw several years ago (oh, geez, was that really in 1999?!), the airport was forcibly relocated to the former site of Bergstrom Air Force Base.

Austin Bergstrom International Airport features nonstop service to 35 destinations (the international one being Cancun, of course). The airport is 12 miles or 25 optimistic minutes from the hotel; average taxi fare is \$27.50, and Super Shuttle shared-ride service is available for roughly \$15.75 one-way. (The Super Shuttle toll-free number is 1-800-BLUEVAN; their Austin direct number is 512-258-3826.) There are also Capital Metro Line buses serving the airport; I'll do some more research and report later if anyone is interested.

If you're driving to the DoubleTree Austin, the hotel is located at the corner of La Posada Dr. and the Interstate 35 northbound service road, between the Pappadeaux and Papasito's restaurants. If you're driving I-35 northbound, you'll want to take the FM 2222 exit; for I-35 southbound, take the Hwy. 290/FM 2222 exit, U-turn under the interstate, and turn right at La Posada Dr. If you're coming in on Hwy 183 or Hwy 290, — oh, heck, just get the directions from the hotel's website or Google Maps.

You can walk to and from the hotel, but I don't recommend it. Texas is *not* a pedestrian-friendly state.

The hotel does offer a courtesy shuttle service to nearby Highland Mall, or any office, restaurant or store within a two-mile radius. You could use the shuttle service to hit a bus stop, and explore downtown or other areas from there. Capitol Metro does offer a free Dillo service in central Austin and the University of Texas area.

## Interlineos

I lived in Austin from 1982-1985, but saw the famous Congress Avenue Bridge Bats for the first time during Armadillocon this August. (I took photos, but they only show crowds of people watching peppercorn storms.) August was prime Bat Viewing Time; if you wanted to do a primitive recreation you could use a squadron of gas-powered leaf-blowers loaded with about 1.5 million teabags, primed to spew at dusk.

The bats will probably be on holiday in February, but there are lots of other things to do in their absence — visit the State Capitol, or wander down Sixth Street, see the O. Henry Museum, hit the hot



music spots like Threadgill's or Antone's... and the Broken Spoke is still a going concern if you want to experience a genuine Texas honkytonk. Other events going on the Corflu weekend in Austin include the Texas Computer Education Association Annual Convention and Exposition, and the Star of Texas Fair and Rodeo Gala.

Seriously, if anyone is interested in the traditional Thursday group expedition, let me know. I'll see what can be arranged.

## **Mutton Futures**

Weather in Texas is like a tired Alzheimers joke. (If you don't like it, wait five minutes.) It might rain, it might snow, it might be hot... The Farmer's Almanac (browsed at the grocery store, too cheap to buy it) predicts cold weather, possibly snow, in early February.

Internet research reveals that the average February temperature in Austin is about 54° F (ranges between 66° and 44°), with about 2″ of rain. The layered wardrobe is always a good choice during these uncertain times. Don't forget to pack your Hawaiian shirt with the removable quilted underlining.

## Color Change Kits Not Included

Badges, program books, and other kipple can be picked up in the con suite. For the early at heart, show up Thursday afternoon after 3:00. (Expect to be drafted.) Warning to walk-ins: I must give the hotel catering office a banquet headcount by 10:00 Friday morning. If you're not on the list by then, you might have to watch someone else snarf up your share of the guacamole and cheesecake on Sunday.

## **Shading Plates**

I have a couple of wildhair ideas for the stodgy to pooh at. One of the least logistically challenging combines peer incentives with a raffle, whereby Corflu members receive raffle tickets for worthy at-con fanac — pubbing your ish and handing it out at Corflu, showing up for the auction (or donating something for the auction, or buying something at the auction), voting in the Fan Awards, voting for TAFF or DUFF, publishing a one-shot at the con, or bringing a pile of fillos for general distribution. (Qualifying fannish activities will be defined by your Quire Director.) ... And of course there would have to be really nifty prizes to raffle off, or this will turn out to be one of those Monumentally Lame Non-Events that I will never live down.

Nifty Quire Raffle Prize #1 is an original Corflu 1985 "Fans In Ferment" t-shirt, hand-painted by yours truly back in the good old days when I could wear a size S, in pink, with no support and even less shame.

- Nof 'n' the Tears

Nifty Quire Raffle Prize #2 will foist off another of my reckless attempts at entertainment for the unruly masses, once the unruly masses are finished with it. I have an eclectic assortment of mundane "magnetic poetry" that is stuck to an even-more-eclectic assortment of fannish vocabulary. (The wad could use more words — any suggestions?) Rather than the lonely typer with the limp stencil, we'll have the magnetic one-shots going in the Con Suite until Sunday morning, when the lucky fan whose name is drawn can stuff it all into their luggage and degauss their laptop.

Any ideas for more Nifty Prizes? (And any donations?)

## Code Is Cool

Several punctuation marks ago, you figured out that I have finally learned the need to delegate. Well, I know that we must organize, coordinate, set up and implement a Most Excellent Program for Corflu — and that We is not *Me*. So don't delay — email me and volunteer today! Get those ideas in motion! Take those program ideas and do the Pamplona thing! (I'll trundle along afterwards with a big shovel and gardening plans.)

At Corflu's official opening on Friday night, there will be the quaintly traditional "drawing of the GoH's name out of a hat". The tandem tradition will also be observed — just introduce me to Andrew Jackson before opening ceremonies to remove your name from the GoH selection list.

On Saturday, plan to attend the obligatory auction held to raise money for TAFF and DUFF. If you have anything to donate but don't want to schlep it, you can ship it to the Duncanville address (to arrive by Monday, February 5th; remember to specify what fund you're supporting).

The Corflu Banquet will be at 11:00 on Sunday morning. If you miss it, you'll miss the Guest of Honor speech, the Fan Achievement Awards, the fajitas and the cheesecake. (Of course, if you have special dietary requirements you'll have to let me know well in advance so I can warn the catering staff.)

The Official Softball Game on Sunday afternoon is Officially Off. I'm not foolhardy enough to play softball any more, especially if I have to work, or drive, or function, any time for the rest of the year. So, instead, how about something like team trivia or fannish feud, where we try to aerobicize our stray neurons before the dead dog party?

## Cover Art

Yes, there will be Corflu 24 t-shirts, and you will definitely buy one. But it won't fit unless you let me know what size you want ahead of time.





## Just what is a Corflu, anyway?

"The Corflu convention is a gathering of the fanzine fan community. Fans have been keeping in touch in writing for decades — fanzines, magazine letter columns, electronic media.... But there has always been a need for fans who only know each other as a signature to meet in person... once upon a time these were the world cons! Since 1984, Corflu has offered a "home" for fanzine fans to put names to faces and exclaim things like "Oh, so you're...!" Even though entirely different committees have offered the con in more than a dozen states and on two continents, Corflu has continued to happen." (quoted from the Corflu.org website)

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|-----------|------------------------|---|
| Corflu 1  | Jan. 27-29, 1984       | The Claremont Hotel, Berkeley, CA<br>Guest of Honor: Pascal Thomas<br>ConCom included Shay Barsabe, Allyn Cadogan, and Lucy Huntzinger.   |
| Corflu 2  | ???, 1985              | Holiday lnn, Napa, CA<br>Guest of Honor: Allen Baum   |
| Corflu 3  | Feb. 14-17, 1986       | Westpark Hotel, Tysons Corner, VA<br>Guest of Honor: Teresa Nielsen Hayden<br>ConCom included rich brown (Chair), Ted White (Table), Dan Steffan (Lamp), and Lynn<br>Steffan (Blotter).   |
| Corflu 4  | April 3-5, 1987        | Cincinnati, OH (but was actually held across the Ohio River in Kentucky) Guest of Honor: Joel Zakem ConCom: Bill Bowers, with the help of Dave Locke, Bill Cavin, Larry Tucker, Leah Zeldes Smith, Pat (then-Mueller) Virzi, Richard Brandt, Fred Haskell, Edd Vick, Frank Johnson, Debbie Rigdon, Bill Cavin, and Linda Bushyager. |
| Corflu 5  | Apr. 29-May 1, 1988    | Nendel's University Plaza Hotel, Seattle, WA<br>Guest of Honor: Gary Farber (not chosen at random that year)<br>ConCom included Jane Hawkins, Jerry Kaufman, Suzle Tompkins, Kate Schaefer, and<br>Janice Murray.   |
| Corflu 6  | Apr. 29 - May 1, 1989  | Normandy Inn Best Western, Minneapolis, MN<br>Guest of Honor: Stu Shiffman<br>ConCom included Garth Danielson, Ken Fletcher, Fred Haskell, and Geri Sullivan.   |
| Corflu 7  | May 4 - 6, 1990        | The Roosevelt Hotel, New York, NY<br>Guest of Honor: Barnaby Rapoport<br>ConCom included Moshe Feder, Lise Eisenberg, Velma Bowen, Mark Richards, and Ruth<br>Sachter.  |
| Corflu 8  | May 3 - 5, 1991        | "Corflu Ocho" — Embassy Suites Hotel, El Paso, TX<br>Guest of Honor: Dick Smith<br>ConCom included Richard Brandt and Michelle Lyon.  |
| Corflu 9  | Feb. 28 - Mar. 1, 1992 | Cockatoo Inn - The Grand Hotel, Los Angeles, CA<br>(actually Inglewood, across the highway from LAX)<br>Guest of Honor: Linda Bushyager<br>ConCom included Marty Cantor, Don Fitch, Mike Glyer, Bruce Pelz, Robbie Cantor, and<br>Elayne Pelz.  |
| Corflu 10 | May 1993               | Best Western Inn on the Park, Madison, WI<br>Guest of Honor: Jae Leslie Adams<br>ConCom included Jeanne Gomoll, Scott Custis, Steve Swartz, Tracy Benton, Bill Bodden,<br>Ellen Franklin, Jim Hudson, and Andy Hooper.  |
| Corflu 11 | May 20 - 22, 1994      | "Corflu Nova" — Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA<br>Guest of Honor: John Bartelt<br>ConCom included Alexis Gilliland.  |
| Corflu 12 | April 7 - 9, 1995      | "Corflu Vegas" — Jackie Gaughan's Plaza Hotel, Las Vegas, NV<br>Guest of Honor: Gary Hubbard  |
| Corflu 13 | March 15 - 17, 1996    | "Corflu Nashville" — The Clubhouse Inn, Nashville TN<br>Guest of Honor: Gary Hunnewell<br>ConCom included Lucy Huntzinger, Deb Notkin, Donya White.   |

| Corflu 14 | March 13 - 17, 1997    | "Corflu Wave" — Marriot Hotel, Walnut Creek, CA<br>Guest of Honor: Victor Gonzalez<br>ConCom included Alan Rosenthal, Janice Murray, Rich McAllister, and Karen Schaffer.  |  |
|-----------|------------------------|--|--|
| Corflu 15 | March 13- 16, 1998     | "Corflu UK" — Griffin Hotel, Leeds, Yorkshire<br>Guest of Honor: John D. Rickett<br>ConCom included Lilian Edwards, Ian Sorensen, Alison Freebairn, Debbi Kerr, and<br>Christina Lake.   |  |
| Corflu 16 | April 30 - May 2, 1999 | "Corflu Sunsplash" — Best Western Bayside, Panama City, FL<br>Guest of Honor: Art Widner<br>ConCom included Shelby Vick.   |  |
| Corflu 17 | March 3 - 5, 2000      | "Corflatch" — University Plaza Hotel, Seattle, WA Guest of Honor: Ken Forman ConCom included Victor Gonzalez, Andrew Hooper, Jane Hawkins, Carrie Root, Suzanne Tompkins, Craig Smith, Stu Shiffman, Jerry Kaufman, Robert Lichtman, Tom Whitmore, Kate Schaefer, Valerie Jean.                  |  |
| Corflu 18 | Mar. 30 - Apr. 1, 2001 | "Corflu in New England" — The Midtown Hotel, Boston, MA<br>Guest of Honor: Nic Farey<br>ConCom included Bob Webber.  |  |
| Corflu 19 | Feb. 14 - 17, 2002     | "Corflu Valentine" — Radisson Hotel, Annapolis, MD<br>Guest of Honor: Moshe Feder<br>ConCom included Nic Farey, Tracy Benton, Sandra Bond, Bobbie Farey, Alison Freebairn,<br>Victor Gonzalez, Sheila Lightsey, Max, Greg Pickersgill, Steve Swartz, Ted White.                                  |  |
| Corflu 20 | April 25 - 27, 2003    | "Corflu Badger" — Best Western Inn Towner, Madison, WI<br>Guest of Honor: Dan Steffan<br>ConCom included Bill Bodden, Tracy Benton, Jim Hudson, Diane Martin, Jae Leslie<br>Adams, Julie Zachman, Spike Parsons, Karen Babich, Kim Nash, Kathi Nash, Hope Kiefer,<br>Karl Hailman, Yvonne Rowse. |  |
| Corflu 21 | March 19-21, 2004      | "Corflu Blackjack" — The Plaza Hotel, Las Vegas, NV<br>Guest of Honor: Ted White<br>ConCom included Ken Forman, Ben Wilson, Aileen Forman, Cathi Wilson, Karl Kreder,<br>and Tracy Benton.   |  |
| Corflu 22 | Feb. 25-27, 2005       | "Corflu Titanium" — Civic Center Holiday Inn, San Francisco, CA<br>Guest of Honor: Murray Moore<br>ConCom included Tom Becker, David Bratman, Lucy Huntzinger, Spike Parsons, Janice<br>Murray, Alan Rosenthal, Ian Sorensen, Rich Coad.   |  |
| Corflu 23 | May 5-7, 2006          | "Corflu Toronto" — Comfort Hotel Downtown, Toronto, ON<br>Guest of Honor: Hope Leibowitz<br>ConCom included Colin Hinz, Catherine Crockett, Murray Moore.  |  |

## Thanks!

- ... to Tracy Benton for maintaining the *Corflu.org* website.
- ... to Fred Duarte, Jr. for invaluable assistance with the hotel contract and hotel negotiations.
- ... to Bill Bodden, David Bratman, Ken Forman, and Murray Moore for answering my nosy questions about previous Corflus.
- ... to Kim Kofmel for the Corflu flyers at Worldcon (and for reminding me that Corflu 24 is a Texas convention, and deserved to have a poster up at the Friends of Texas party!).
- $\dots$  for proof reading and helpful suggestions: Tracy Benton, lan Sorensen, and Ted White.
- ... to Ian Sorensen for legwork in the UK.
- ... to FACT for their sponsorship.

Yes, there will be more progress reports; look for the second one in December. And yes, there will be art in *that* one.



## Line Dancing (Adjust Leading to Compensate)

| Tracy Benton       |
|--------------------|
| Bill Bodden        |
| David Bratman      |
| Claire Brialey     |
| Randy Byers        |
| Jack Calvert       |
| Janet Carrington   |
| Jim Caughran       |
| Teresa Cochran     |
| Earl Cooley III    |
| Catherine Crockett |
| Fred Duarte, Jr.   |
|                    |

Moshe Feder

Ken Forman

Chris Garcia

Colin Hinz

Arnie Katz

Joyce Katz

Jerry Kaufman

Aileen Forman

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Tom Becker

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**③** 

Α Hope Leibowitz S Robert Lichtman Α Frank Lunney urray Moore ike Parsons hn Purcell ark Plummer dy Porter rah Prince onne Rowse rt Shoemaker Sorensen ri Sullivan mes Taylor zle Tompkins t Virzi ter Weston d White t Widner

Earl Kemp

A = attendingS= supporting = mentioned they might show up (but I haven't seen the color of their money yet)

> "Corflu" is a fannish slang term for "Correction Fluid". A quire is a package of two dozen mimeo stencils.

# Corflu Quire

the 24th annual gathering of the fanzine fan community

February 9-11, 2007 • DoubleTree Hotel Austin • Austin, Texas

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

Attending Membership \$50 • Supporting Membership \$20 • through Dec. 31, 2006 checks payable to Pat Virzi, 618 Westridge Dr., Duncanville, TX 75116 corflu24@swbell.net

£30 UK attending memberships available from the Corflu 24 British agent lan Sorensen, 3 Portia Place, Motherwell, ML1 1EL, UK ian@soren.demon.co.uk

Corflu 24 is sponsored by FACT, the Fandom Association of Central Texas, a 501(c)3 nonprofit literary organization.

Sidebar apologies to Chuck Berry, Stevie Ray Vaughn, Sniff 'n' the Tears, ZZ Top, Willie Nelson, and Robert Earl Keen, Jr.

# Progress Report #1 LAST-MINUTE NETVS

Ted White has volunteered to handle Programming for Corflu Quire! rsn

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www.corflu.org