

VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

Vegas Fan Events

VSFA Dinner & a Movie
Saturday (5/20) 4:25 PM

Las Vegrants Meeting
Saturday (5/20) 7:30 PM

VSFA May Sunday Social
Sunday (5/21) 2:00 PM

SNAPS May Distribution Deadline
Sunday (5/21)

SNAFFU Movie Outing
Sunday (5/21) 11:25 AM

GayLesBiTrans SF Club Gathering
Monday (5/22) 7:30 PM

Check out the Calendar and preview stories

Corflu 23 Draws 26 Fans!

Corflu 23 took place in Toronto over the May 5-7 weekend. The event, chaired by [Catherine Crockett](#), and [Colin Hinz](#) was the first Corflu held in Canada.

Fandom has always been more about quality than quantity, so it is possible to say that Corflu Toronto was the smallest in the history of the Core Fandom Worldcon — and that everyone who has commented to me about it had a very fine time.

The reported attendance was 26, a little over 20% of the event's average attendance over the last few

years. You'll read a lot of opinions about alleged failings of this or that fan, but I'm not so eager to point fingers when there are such powerful macro-factors in play. The cost of travel rose significantly this year and travel to Canada is fraught with personal privacy invasion and inconvenience.

It seems more important to look to the future. Whatever the complex reasons for the low turn-out in Toronto, a more assertive attitude on the part of future Corflu committees to lock in the hotel and get the word out to Fandom might mitigate whatever caused fans to stay home.

Let's be cautious about making sweeping changes in Corflu. Attendance rebounded after the 28-fan Corflu Sunsplash without much intervention.

Adhering to Corflu tradition, the name of this year's Guest of Honor was chosen randomly. The fanish ghods smiled, however, when the name selected turned out to be long-time popular fan [Hope Liebowitz](#).

The Fan Writers of America (fwa) bestowed what I consider Core Fandom's most prestigious award when they acclaimed [Mike Glicksohn](#) Past President of fwa for 2005.

Continued on page 16

YIKES!

A DAILY FANZINE?



Inside Story Warning: MCO's!

I've always prided myself on doing as much as possible with what I have. To an extent, this is probably the wellspring of my reputation as a humorist. I am not the handsomest of men (though incredibly well hung and awesomely virile) nor am I the smartest person I know (that would be Joyce or maybe rich brown).

Fortunately, I realized that if I wanted to use that virility, I would have to depend on something other than my profile or profundity. Everyone's different, but what has worked best for me is humor.

I've studied the masters from Gracie Allen to Walt Willis. I've honed my craft, eschewing both the bombardment and *spritz* approaches in favor of well-timed verbal quips and an assortment of writing techniques designed to provoke amusement.

My comedic strategy depends on identifying Comedic Opportunities (CO's) and generating a laughter-inducing comment. I rarely tell "set jokes" or quote someone else's humor. It's spontaneous.

Sadly, the strength of my humor, the ad lib, gives rise to one of my life's most vexing frustrations: MCO's.

Missed Comedic Opportunities haunt my soul. Sometimes my mind returns to times that seemed ripe for a trenchantly funny epigram or appropriately whimsical anecdote — times when I failed to say anything remotely humorous or even glib.

A bad MCO can stay with me, punishing my ego, until I figure out what I should've said. Usually, this takes a minute or two, but sometimes the MCO hangs on like a leech for years.

One particularly horrible MCO involved Greg Benford, my old friend and one-time (literally) co-editor. Greg likes to push people's buttons, jab the needle. I don't know if it's because he was already a fannish legend when I was a neofan or what, but I've been on the wrong end of that "gotcha!" feeling. He knows it — and he loves doing it.

A few years back, Joyce and I were having breakfast when he turned to me and said, "You know, Arnie, Hitler really had some good ideas." I was six words into a blanket condemnation of Nazism when I realized he'd successfully baited me again. I stopped in mid-rant and took my defeat like a man.

Well, if you don't count that I've thought about this "memory bite" of conversation every day since it happened. It doesn't make me love Greg less, you understand, but I also wasn't going to give up until I addressed this monumental MCO. I couldn't let it go until I thought of what I should have said (with a suitably diffident air): "You're right Greg. For instance, they did all those great experiments on twins."

A well-meaning person named Jennifer Milton posted this on the VSFA listserv:

The [*DaVinci Code*] may be excellent but I would like everyone to keep in mind that there is no actual basis for the theory put forth in the book and/or movie.

If one wishes to view it as fictional that is fine but do not assume that it is anything else.

Several fans, including me, wrote to the effect that freedom of thought and freedom of speech are paramount in Fandom. Each in his own way told Jen that she's entitled to express her opinion, but that we prefer to analyze things for ourselves.

While I was pleased with my measured, reasonable answer, I couldn't shake the feeling that there'd been an MCO.

About five seconds after I hit "send" on my post, I realized that I should have added a comment reminding Jen that when she reads Scriptures, some of it may contradict *The Lord of the Rings*, which is a Devine Revelation of Ultimate Truth. Well, it might've given her something to think about. Maybe. — Arnie.

Vegas Fandom Weekly #75, Volume 2 Number 22, May 15, 2006, 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 Roxanne Gibbs (many things), Bill Burns (posting), David Gordon (Futurists liaison), Alan White (arty fella), Bill Mills (technical advisor) and Joyce Katz (proofreading and So Much More).

Reporters this issue: Linda Bushyager, Don Fitch, Roxanne Gibbs and Joyce Katz

Art/Photo Credits: Phyrne Bacon (after WR) (1), Ross Chamberlain (3, 19), Steve Stiles (7), Atom (16), Tom Byro (17), Ray Nelson (21), Alan White (5), Ian Sorensen (10-13), all else by Bill Rotsler.

Columnists This Issue: Richard Lupoff, Lloyd Penney

VFW is free by request — and you may get it anyway. It can be downloaded at the SNAFFU site and at efanzines.com. No cycle-riding sirens were harmed during the production of this fanzine.

Member: fwa. Supporter: AFAL. Believer: United Fans of Vegas; Vegas Westercon in '08!

The 2006 FAAn Awards *Katzenjammer*

The results of the 2006 Fan Achievement Awards (FAAn Awards) are in and, thanks to Murray Moore, I've got the rankings in all the categories. The Toronto Corflu committee announced the results at the banquet, but

there are surely many who'll see them here for the first time. Naturally, part of the reason for printing them as part of "Katzenjammer" is to give me a chance to comment on the winners and esteemed runners-up.

Before I get into the actual results, I want to thank everyone who voted for me and for *Vegas Fandom Weekly*. It is always satisfying to see evidence that you enjoy what I do as a fanwriter and publisher.



Best Fanzine

1. 46 Chunga 651
2. 44 Banana Wings 642
3. 25 Catchpenny Gazette 412
4. 19 Vegas Fandom Weekly 223
5. 16 eI 132

Other placers: 06 Alexiad 020; 05 Can't Get Off The Island 100; 05 Challenger 100; 05 File 770 100; 05 Right Up There! 100; 03 Knarley Knews 010; 03 Meta 010; 03 Nice Distinctions 010; 03 Peregrine Nations 010; 03 The Drink Tank; 010
03 Zoo Nation 003; 02 PLOKTA 002; 01 Alternative Mysteries 001; 01 Ansible 001; 01 In a Prior Lifetime 001; 01 Littlebrook 001; 01 Tortoise 001; 01 Trap Door 001; 01 Vana-monde 001

Arnie's comment: When Corflu Toronto announced *Banana Wings* (Claire Brialey & Mark Plummer) as the winner, I thought the voters had done a very good job. When Murray Moore rectified the miss-count to make *Chunga* (Andy Hooper, Randy Byers & Carl Juarez) the winner, I thought the voters had done a very good job.

They're the best paper fanzines and the close point totals testify to the difficulty of choosing between them. If they took the poll again, it could easily gone the other way — or the same way again.

The "top five" reflects the current split in the fanzine field. Two titles are primarily hard copy, while the other three are exclusively electronic. The strong finish by *Catchpenny Gazette* is a huge triumph for David Burton, who only returned to activity a couple of years ago after decades of gafia.

I voted for *eI* in the top spot, so I was glad to see it round out the "top five." Earl Kemp does a highly entertaining fanzine (even if the s.o.b. has

Decoding the Results

The Rank column is the total of points. A first place vote is 5 points, a second place vote is three points, and a third place vote is one point.

In the line -- 46 Chunga 651 -- 651 is the number of first, second, and third place votes. (First place votes, 6; second place votes, 5; third place votes, 1.) Six first place votes x 5 points = 30; five second place votes x three points = 15; one third place vote x 1 point = 1; total 45. I mean 46.

— Murray Moore

Continued on next page



Claire Brialey poses with her Nova Award.

never sent so much as a loc, while I have contributed to eI).

Best Fan Writer

1. 29 Brialey, Claire 504
2. 15 Katz, Arnie 212
3. 13 Locke, Dave 210
4. 12 Hooper, Andy 121

Who Voted?

Sometimes, knowing who cast the votes puts the results in perspective. Here's Murray Moore's report:

Online: In order of receipt, Bruce Townley, Chris Garcia, Eric Mayer, Jim Linwood, Peter Sullivan, Robert Lichtman, Lloyd Penney, Dave Locke, Randy Byers, Jan Stinson, Lee Anne "I'm back!!!" Lavell, Niall Harrison, David Burton, Claire Brialey, Arnie Katz, Joyce Katz, Mark Plummer.

Paper: John Hertz by mail. During Corflu, I believe (I did not ask for signatures) Ted White, Frank Lunney, Colin Hinz, Ian Sorenson, Art Widner, and a Sixth Voter.

5. 11 Lichtman, Robert 201
6. 10 Cartledge, Philip K. 200
7. 09 Byers, Randy 030
8. 08 Garcia, Chris 110
- 08 Hertz, John 110
- 08 Langford, Dave 110
- 08 Pickersgill, Greg 110

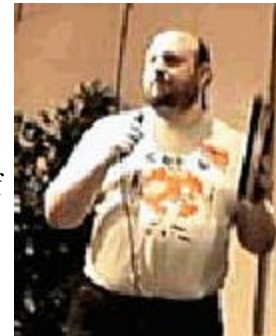
Other placers: 06 Katz, Joyce 101; 05 Lloyd, M 100; 05 Mayer, Eric 100; 05 Plummer, Mark 100; 04 Charnock, Graham 011; 04 Hlavaty, Arthur 011; 04 Kemp, Earl 011; 03 Gonzales, Victor 010 03 Grady, D. Gary 010; 03 Juarez, Carl 010; 03 Kaufman, Jerry 010; 03 Lunney, Frank 010; 03 Lupoff, Dick 010; 03 Nussbaum, Abigail 010; 03 Stevens, Milt 010; 02 Bacon, James 002; 02 Hall, John (Uncle Johnny) 002; 01 Coad, Rich 001; 01 Major, Joseph 001; 01 Melzack, Geneva 001; 01 Porter, Andy 001; 01 White, Ted 001.

Arnie's comment: Claire Brialey has now solidified her position as Britain's most popular fan writer with a second consecutive win in this category. I tend to agree with that assessment, though I would like to see Claire stretch herself a little in terms of subject matter.

This category is so talent-laden that I wished for five, if not 10, blanks to assign egoboo. I agree with the general philosophy of keeping the FAAN Awards poll ballot as simple as possible, so I'm not suggesting that many slots for the next poll; just saying that the choice was very hard due to an abundance of fine writers.

I'm not sure what this means, but listserv contributors did extremely well in this category. There are several names in the "top 10" who do little or no other written fanac (like Phil Cartledge, Dave Locke and Graham Charnock).

Clearly, Core Fandom has now accepted listservs as legitimate fan-literary fanac. Yes, I think this is a Good Thing, though I hope more fans will give the electronic fanzine writers their due next time.



Andy Hooper accepts the "Best Fan Writer" award at Corflu Wave.



Alan White cover for the popular *Challenger* (Guy Lillian) shows his serious, artistic side.

When I see a list of nominees for the Fan Writer Hugo, my first thought is often, “Geez, I wouldn’t let a lot of these guys near my fanzine.” My feeling about the leading finishers in the FAAn Awards poll is exactly the opposite. I’d love to have any or all of these folks in *VFW*.

I have to admit there are names lower on the list I don’t recognize. Someone thought enough of them to give them a vote, so I am hoping to make their acquaintance soon.

Best Fan Artist

1. 56 Stiles, Steve 932
2. 28 Steffan, Dan 341
3. 20 White, Alan 400
20 Wu, Frank 400
5. 18 Foster, Brad 222
6. 09 Smith, Craig 023
7. 08 Taral 022

Other Placers: 05 Birkhead, Sheryl 100; 05 Chamberlain, Ross 012; 05 Schirmeister,

Marc 012; 03 Gilliland, Alexis 010; 03 Scott, Alison 010; 03 Sprinkles, Steve 010; 03 West, D. 010; 03 Young, Pete 010; 01 Barker, Jim 001; 01 Gadzikowski, Paul 001; 01 Mason, Sue 001; 01 Schachat, Jason 001.

Arnie’s comments: Steve Stiles and Dan Steffan have been fixtures at the top of this category and deservedly so. Even in a relatively quiet fan-year for both, they remain the best. Frankly, I’m delighted to be able to feature Steve’s writing — and Dan will be enthusiastically welcomed any time he wants to contribute.

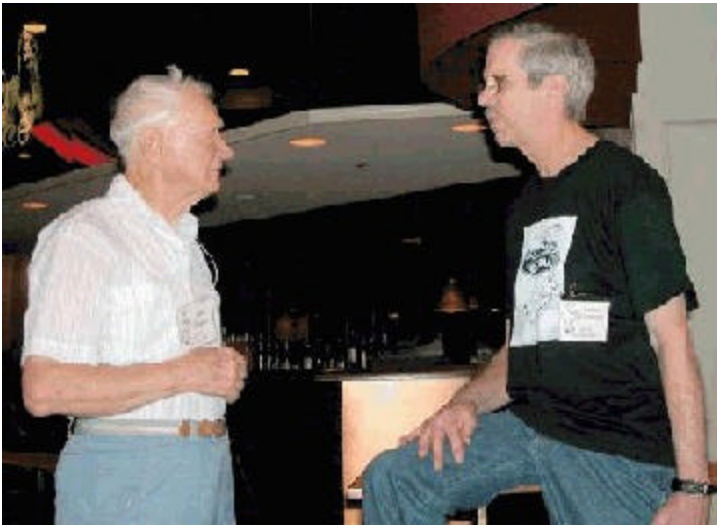
Alan White’s strong third place finish is a long-overdue recognition for one of Fandom’s best, and most generous, artists. Frank Wu, who tied with Alan, should also feel very good about the growing appreciation of his fan work.

Harry Warner Jr. Memorial Award (Best Fan Correspondent)

1. 35 Lichtman, Robert 531
2. 28 Penney, Lloyd 341
3. 15 Sullivan, Peter 131
4. 14 Stevens, Milt 211
5. 10 Mayer, Eric 112

Other placers: 08 Brialey, Claire 110; 08 Kaufman, Jerry 110; 07 Charnock, Graham 202; 07 Garcia, Chris 102; 06 Moore, Murray 020; 05 Byers, Randy 100; 04 Purcell, John 011; 03 Gilliland, Alexis 010; 03 Melzack, Geneva 010; 03





Jack Speer (left) chats with Robert Lichtman at 2005's Corflu Blackjack.

White, Ted 010; 01 Bennett, Ron 001; 01 Chamberlain, Ross 001; 01 Gonzalez, Victor 001; 01 Green Steve 001; 01 Khadro, Trinlay 001; 01 Leighton, Rodney 001; 01 Plummer, Mark 001.

Arnie's comments: VFW has been blessed with contributions from almost all the top lockers, so I hope the letterhacks won't take praise for one as an unspoken indictment of any or all of the others.

Robert Lichtman is not only the 2006 FAAn Awards winner, he is one of the very best letter of comment writers in fanhistory.

Peter Sullivan's well-earned third-place finish is good news for fanzine editors. This was his first full year of activity and he is already one of the mainstays of leading letter columns. The return of

Eric Mayer was also a big plus, as his point total in this category shows.

And let us not forget Lloyd Penney, originator of the Lloyd Penney-style loc. He's today's most dependable letterhack, the inheritor of Harry Warner's mantle as a fan who always rewards faneds who send their fanzines his way. The Ideal Fandom would have at least five more Lloyd Penney's; meanwhile, let's cherish the one we've got.

As is all too often the case, the attempt to come up with an impressive-sounding and high falutin' title results in a murky result. This category was, essentially, "Best Letterhack," which made naming it after Harry Warner acceptable if slightly inflated.

Now the category is subtitled "Best Correspondent" and I doubt I'm the only fan who isn't sure what it is supposed to cover. Voters apparently lumped listserv posters in with letterhacks, though the two types of written fanac have substantial differences. And, besides, "The Harry Warner Jr. Memorial Award" might not be the right degree of respect for posters, since Harry had no truck with listservs while he was alive.

Including listserv posters is fine with me, but if the idea is to honor those who write LoCs, then maybe the subhead should use a more down-to-earth term, like "Letterhack."

If this category were to be more tightly defined, Listserv writers would continue to be included in the "Best Fan Writer" category and could even get a special category for listserv partici-

What about Next Year?

The 2005 Fan Achievement Awards didn't get as much advance push as it probably needs and also suffered from the low attendance at Corflu Toronto. (Normally, quite a few fans vote at the con itself, but this was not possible this time. I would like to see the Corflu 24 committee either put more effort into the FAAn Awards or else appoint some reputable fan to get the ballots into circulation and nag the rest of us into doing what we know deep in our hearts we ought to do.

I'd also like to see a revival of the "Best Humorist" category. Humor is one of the cornerstones of our subculture and it is as reasonable to honor its purveyors as it is to salute letterhacks. I think we could have "Best Humorist" as a sixth category without causing many fans to stop filling out ballots.

And on a personal note, I hope that my fanac in 2006 will show my gratitude for giving me all those votes for my 2005 fan writing and publishing.

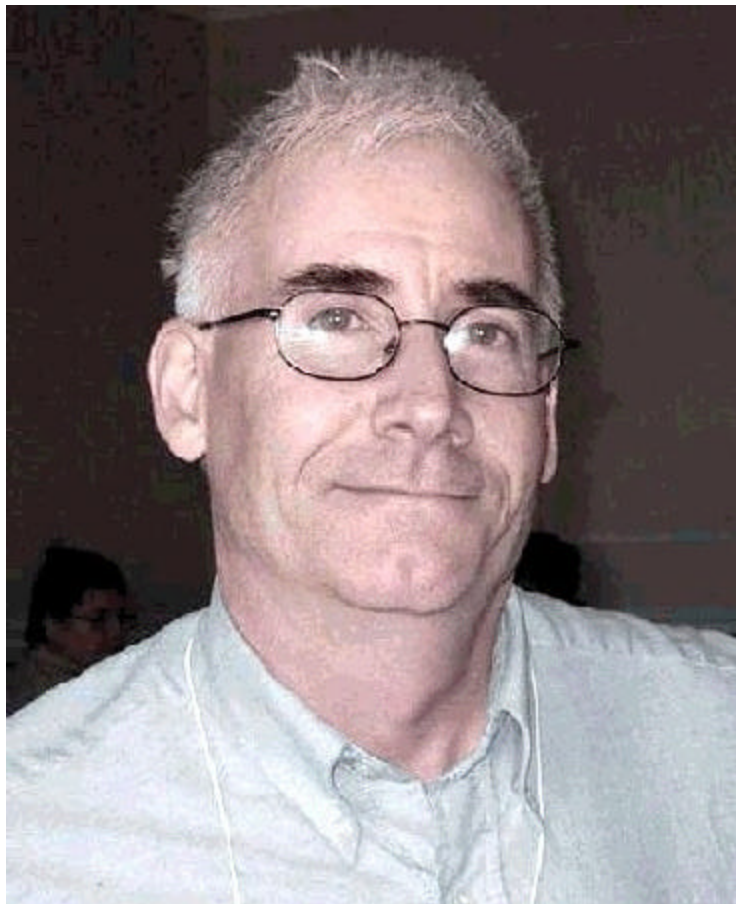
pants, but if the idea is to salute Harry Warner, maybe the award should stick closer to the original intent.

Best New Fan

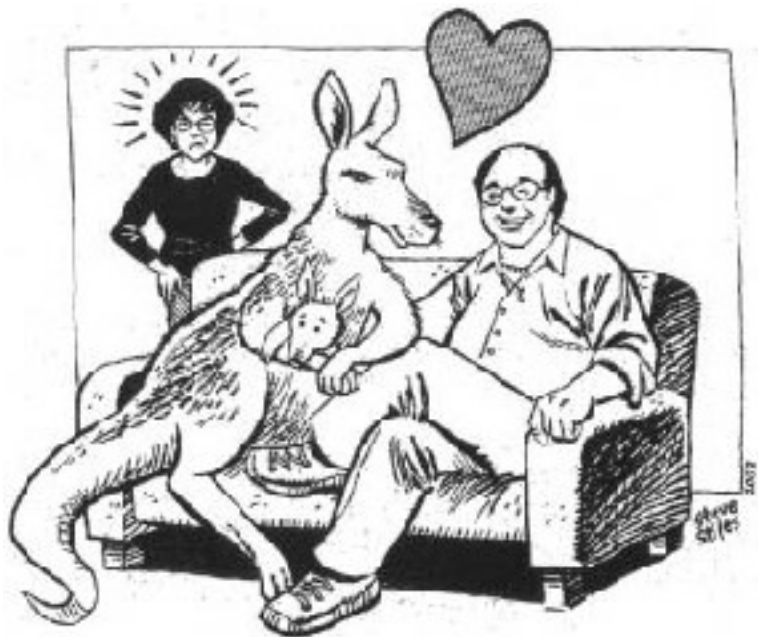
1. 41 Garcia, Chris 632
2. 21 Harrison, Niall 320
3. 20 Melzack, Geneva 231
4. 19 Sullivan, Peter 304
5. 16 Cochran, Teresa 132

Other placers: 06 MacDonald, Claire/Clare 101; 05 Bacon, James 100; 05 Nussbaum, Abigail 100; 04 Porter, Andrew 011; 03 Batty, Liz 010; 03 Hardin, John Wesley 010; 01 Gordon, David 001; 01 Trend, Audrey 001

Arnie's comment: Suddenly, there is an unusually large crop of very promising neofans. It is yet to be scene whether this is an extraordinary



Murray Moore provided the tabulations that formed the basis of this column and deserves copious thanks.



windfall or the first fruits of a Core Fandom population boom.

I tend to see it as the latter, even though there are a couple of suspiciously familiar names —

Andy Hooper and JoHn Wesley Hardin — in the rankings. Welcomeback, Andy! Finish the damn article, JoHn!

As a one-time “Best Neofan” (The 1964 poll, based on ‘63 fanac), I must say that Chris Garcia is a whole lot better in his first full year of Core Fandom activity than I was. He’s a fine fan and a terrific guy.

I have not yet had contact with Niall Harrison or Geneva Melzack, but I Hear Good Things. They’re both on the list for VFW and I’m hopeful that they’ll get in touch when the spirit moves.

Peter Sullivan, I think, is going to be an outstanding fan and is already a highly enjoyable writer with a surprisingly good grasp of Core Fandom for such a newcomer.

There’s very little I can say in praise of Teresa Cochran that I have not already said. She is a gallant young woman whose skill and will have enabled her to transcend the supposedly limitations of her blindness. She’s a lot more intrepid than me, I can tell you that. I think that Teresa, like several names on the “Other placers” list, may be a more fitting nominee for the next set of FAAn Awards. — Arnie

Dese Days The Horror (con)!

Hope you're getting in as a *pro* and not having to pay the \$140 admission fee I saw mentioned in an article on this convention in Saturday's Chronicle. What sort of stuff is in that "truly astounding dealers' room"? Con report, plz!

-- Robert Lichtman

I don't think they comped pro's automatically at the World Horror Convention 2006), but Elder Signs Press got memberships for Pat and me. So thanks to the generosity of ESP's William and Deborah Jones, we headed to the Holiday Inn Gateway in San Francisco on May 11-14 for the con.

I signed a good many copies of *Terrors*, some for collectors and some for resellers who bought them from ESP on the spot, but wanted signed copies to sell. I also had to (well....) sign something like 350 "limitation sheets" for a forthcoming anthology in which I have a story. At one



Richard A. Lupoff

point I found myself sitting next to John Shirley as we signed, and signed, and signed, and.... Oh, this is a glamorous existence!

BTW (stop me if I've already told you this) until recently I thought the second volume of the planned three was finished, but it isn't -- quite. Publisher wants all three volumes to be of uniform length. Spec'd out *Visions* and discovered it was 8,000 words short.

I told him not to worry, I'll do another story for the book to bring it up to specs.

Somewhere along the line you'll come across a South Seas adventure tale in *Terrors*, called "Treasure of the Red Robe Men." Introduces a calculatedly pulpish character called Seamus "Splash" Shanahan. The new story is another Splash Shanahan yarn called "Tangaroa's Eye." I've got about 1,500 words done, 5,500 to go.

Then the book will be done. Oh, but I promised to do an "Afterword" or set of story notes. Well, then, then the book will be done. Jeez, I've got a novel in the works, 50,000 words written and 15,000 to go (as projected) that I put aside to do this baby. I really need to get back to it. I also need to figure out where the hell it's going and who killed Uncle Walter and why.

Oh, this is a glamorous existence!

Steven Gilberts, the artist who did the jacket painting for *Terrors* was there, as was his wife Becky. Liked 'em both immensely. Becky's a psychiatric social worker and really, really an interesting person. ESP gave me a terrific oversize print of that painting. Well, actually same size as the original, it's only oversize compared to the book jacket. Same artist, Steven Gilberts, is doing the jacket for *Visions* as well, and I'm really eager to see it.

Anyway, back to WHC. I think the most im-

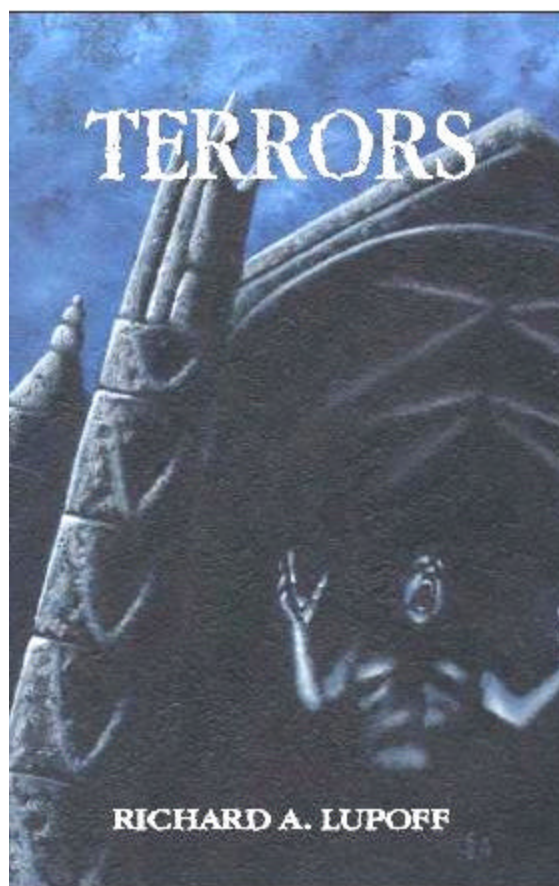


portant aspect of the convention was the dealers' room. I was knocked out by the variety and quality of small-press publishing in the horror field. Far more than in mystery or SF/fantasy. Apparently the commercial houses have abandoned horror except for a few headline authors and the specialty publishers have rushed in to fill the vacuum. Of course, when I speak of quality, I'm referring to the design and production of these books. Their literary quality is an area whereof I hesitate to speak, not having read very many of their books and not even recognizing many of the bylines I saw at the con. Probably Sturgeon's Law applies.

The art show was of modest proportions and uneven quality, but overall I liked it a lot. At this time the horror field seems to include grotesque and gory images predominantly. *Texas Chain Saw Massacre* kind of stuff. I don't think this is the Clive Barker influence primarily, but I believe he's provided part of the impetus in this direction. I won't say this is "bad" but I will say that it is not to my taste. I'm much more Old School, preferring atmospherics and character over scattered guts and helpless victims screaming in agony as they are tortured, humiliated, and dismembered.

There was a severe communication problem within the convention committee and subcommittees, leading to dropped program items and confusion as to who was to appear where and when. E.g., I was asked to do a reading Sunday afternoon at 2:00. Nowhere in the program book, pocket program, or posted schedule of events is this mentioned. At the last minute I got somebody from the committee to add my name to the posted schedule, but it was really much too late to do any good. I arrived about ten minutes before my scheduled start-time and caught the end of the previous reading. There was a small audience there -- eight or ten people -- and they seemed to think that the reader was hilarious. They were almost as enthusiastic about her as she clearly was, about herself.

When she finished they all clustered around her and trooped out together, and I realized that they were her private posse. There wasn't a soul present who wasn't part of the reader's personal entourage. As for Yours Truly -- you know the old one about, "What if they gave a war and nobody came" -- well, that was me this afternoon. Might have been a crushing experience for me once upon



a time, but today I just laughed and figured, it was a half hour's work I didn't have to do.

Anyway, it wasn't a hell of a great convention by a long shot, but I had plenty of fun and sold a fair number of books. Also got to meet the two people who run Elder Signs Press (they're a husband-and-wife-team) and found them both absolutely delightful. And I met a few other people I'd either had business dealings with but never encountered in person, or whose works I knew (and vice versa) but never actually met.

The only parts of the program I saw were two panels, one that I wanted to be on (and was, and enjoyed) and one that I was drafted onto (and also enjoyed, but not as much). One comment I heard over and over went like this: This year's convention is a mangled shambles but it's miles better than last year's. Think about that. Next year in Toronto.

I would give the convention an honest "B" -- mebbe "B-" and mebbe "B+" but altogether, a "B".

— Richard Lupoff

Canadians

A Short Trip To (and Through) Corflu 23

Corflu 23 was the third fanzine convention to come to Toronto, the others being the first Ditto, and Ditto 15 a few years ago. This was the first Corflu to come here, and perhaps it was an indication of how difficult it is for people to travel these expensive days. More on that later.

I was a complete Corflu virgin when the announcement went out that it would be

in Toronto. I was eager to go to a convention I could take the subway to, and I had no real expectations at all. As time went on, information was a little sparse, and some of us had some doubts



Catherine Crockett (top) and Colin Hinz co-chaired Corflu Toronto., May 5-7, 2006.

about what would happen, but those doubts were needless. There was a hotel; there was a convention, and I had a great time.

My involvement with Corflu came about a little early with Catherine Crockett and Colin Hinz asking me if I would create the badges for the convention the way I did for the second Toronto Ditto. Took some creative consideration, had to get my colour printer to behave, and got some artwork from Taral, but eventually, all the badges were done, for attending and supporting alike.

The convention itself came about a little early as well, with some Corflu attendees coming to the First Thursday pubnight, conveniently held the day before the con. While those who were both con members and pubnight regulars were there, so were Ted White and Ben Zuhl. As is my unfortunate habit, I headed off to work at 8pm, but not before Catherine and Colin issued the gracious invitation to all attending the pubnight to come to the Corflu consuite for some extra hospitality gratis. Once work was done, I headed off to the Corflu hotel to see who would be there. I met a departing Diane Lacey as I arrived, and I gathered some of the local pubnighters had been there and left.

Ian Sorensen, a fan of consummate skill and perception, took all the photos for this Corflu 23 report.



Randy Byers, Frank Lunney, Ted White and Paul Wilson (left to right) seated at a table with a lot of cans and bottles.

Friday was mercifully programme-free, which left us to arrive and gather, and for me to issue badges. For the record, 26 warm bodies arrived to pick up their official identification, and also for the record, they were myself, Colin Hinz, Catherine Crockett, Murray Moore, Don and Sue Anderson from Rochester, Gregg and Audrey Trend, Hope Leibowitz, Ben Zuhl, Jim Caughran, Janet Carrington, Mike Glicksohn, Geri Sullivan, Randy Byers, Phil Paine, Janet Wilson, Paul Wilson, Ian Sorensen, Yvonne Rowse, Ted White, Art



The Corflu Toronto mimeograph.



Hope Leibowitz, the Toronto Corflu Guest of Honor chats with the ebullient Art Widner.

Widner, Pat Virzi, Frank Lunney and Andrew Porter. Taral Wayne arrived the next day, and my registration work was done. I gather 26 is the smallest Corflu gathering since Shelby Vick's Corflu in Panama City. There were a number more people who were scheduled to arrive, but couldn't, like Chris Garcia, and a large number of supporting members who couldn't go, plus those on a virtual Corflu website.



Don & Sue Anderson attended their first Corflu this year.

Saturday...Janet Wilson offered up an interesting panel on A Women's APA, probably the best kept secret of local fandom. With a little local exposure, I think she might get a few new members on a depleted list.

At 4pm, the Fan Fund Auction took place. Murray Moore was our friendly auctioneer, aided and goaded by Andrew Porter, and my job was to keep track of what was auctioned, what the winning bid was and who won it. Approximately \$270 was raised (US and Canadian mixed), and Murray Moore and Randy Byers would be able to give you a more specific total.

Mike Glicksohn was chosen as past-president of fwa, and Hope Leibowitz was chosen as GoH, giving C23 a lot of local content. At one point, Steve Baldassarra arrived at the invite of Colin, Catherine and Taral. Steve's also an old friend of mine, one of the last people I expected to see there, and we had a fine time. After came the dinner break, and it's amazing how quickly hungry fans can disappear. I wound up by myself, so I held the fort in the con suite while Colin and Catherine finally took some leisure and a good meal off-site, and that gave me the chance to make some notes for this article.

Saturday evening saw a fannish



Some familiar fan faces sit in the Corflu audience. Front row (left to right): Andy Porter and Art Widner. Second row (left to right): Mike Glicksohn and Jim & Sue Caughran.

slideshow, especially of fandom in Toronto in the 1970s, including a very young Rob Sawyer. Once the slide projector decided it would malfunction, and try to eat a slide or two, Ian Sorensen followed that up with his Hugo-nominated DVD from the Glasgow Worldcon called “Lucas Back in Anger”, how to involve an audience of thousands in a Star Wars pastiche, with mixed results.



Newly elected 2005 Past President of fwa Mike Glicksohn (center) is flanked by Janet Wilson and the author of this report, Lloyd Penney.

Sunday saw a great Japanese dinner in the restaurant in the hotel, and Hope’s nervous GoH speech and the closing ceremonies in the hotel itself. It was a little chilly for the traditional baseball game, and those assembled decided they’re rather stay warm, so the slide projector was finally disciplined, and the slides that weren’t shown Saturday were shown Sunday.

The FAAn Awards were announced (and as I saw on Trufen.net) corrected after the con was done. That’s probably the best place to see who won. (I came in second for Best Letterhack, so I am pleased.) My Saturday on-site stint for dinner was repeated for Sunday evening, but there was usually somebody to chat with. I think the dead dog may have gone on until the next



Pat Virzi went home from Corflu Toronto with something she didn’t bring to Canada: custody of Corflu Lone Star in Austin, TX, next year.

day, not sure. All this time, while I was at Corflu, Yvonne was at the 2006 International Space Development Conference in Los Angeles, so I finally left the con to grab a short nap and meet Yvonne as she arrived at home early Monday morning.

A small convention? Yes, one of the smallest Corflus. Enjoyable? Most definitely. I always enjoy finally placing faces to names I’d only read about in zines. Go to another? The money would have to be right, but I’d sure like to go. Based on a little bit of discussion and a little coercion, the 24th Corflu will be held in Austin, Texas under the chairmanship of Pat Virzi. Thanks to the Hinz/Crockett committee for a most enjoyable weekend.

— Lloyd Penney

Las Vegrants Greetings to Corflu!

The Vegrants partied in Vegas while Corflu raged in Toronto. They asked fans to send messages — and this is what we dispatched to them after a long night in Glitter City.

Arnie Katz

“Are you going to send a message to Corflu in Toronto?” Joyce asked me last night. I told her that I hadn’t really thought about it. I hadn’t known that someone in Canada had arranged to receive, and presumably disseminate, messages from fans to Corflu.

I also hadn’t thought about the fact that the Vegrants meeting tonight (Saturday, May 6, 2006) was probably the biggest gathering of Core Fandomites outside Corflu itself. So, from a place we’re happy to be to a place we’d all love to be, this is a “group message” from the Vegrants.

I had a hunch right from the start that I would not get to go to Corflu this year. Joyce continues to recover from her various maladies, but she is still in no shape to make a trip like this, nor is our bank account.

Strangely enough, those factors weren’t uppermost in my mind when I had that aforementioned hunch. What made me think I wouldn’t be at Corflu is that circumstances always seem to prevent me from going to Toronto. I’ve had many opportunities to go to Toronto and many reasons for making the trip, but somehow I have yet to cross the border.

I attended the State University of New York at Buffalo for four years (BA in English Literature). For most of that time, I lived within a block of Niagara Falls Blvd., but I never quite managed to go down that road and cross into Canada. Reasons? Well, it was the 1960’s. Meyer, and there were Other Things to do. Also, it seemed almost disloyal to fellow war protesters to go to Canada when I had a student draft exemption. Enough people I knew were making that journey with no immediate prospect for return. And I didn’t have a car. That was reasonable, since I don’t know how to drive, but it did cut down on travel options.

The closest I got was an invitation to spend the weekend with Norm Clarke, Boyd Raeburn and Georgina Ellis. Skree-honking and a Queebshot were promised. Even better, they’d also invited fan friend John Koning to attend and he’d offered to swing by Buffalo and pick me up for the trip.

I was so excited I could hardly sleep Thursday night as I thought about the fine fannish weekend to come. Now, surely, I would get to Canada!

Then I got a call from John Koning. Never robust, John was feeling very bad, so bad he had decided to cancel the trip. Within days, John Koning was dead.

I’ve never forgotten John or his friendship, but time is the enemy of grief. The passage of six or seven years found me married, living in Brooklyn and ready to visit Canada. Yet when the Torcon II came ‘round, Joyce and I found ourselves unable to go. We couldn’t get the time off and a

worldcon represented a considerable expense to a couple that was still getting used to married life and the struggle to acquire domestic necessities like a mimeograph, furniture and the accessories of the literate bohemian life.

I wanted to go to Torcon II so much that I actually wrote a bogus con report, under the name Reverend Silas Hitchpocket, which I printed in *Wooden Nickel*. I wove information from letters – you remember snail mail, don’t you? – and phone calls into a report about a nonfan who got sucked into a lost weekend with quite a few of my fan friends.

I gaffed before I could try again. I traveled extensively during the 1970’s and 1980’s, including to England, but there just wasn’t any particular reason to go to Canada. I still had good feelings toward the Neighbor to the North, but felt no compulsion to go there.

And yet it was a Toronto fan who played midwife to Las Vegas Fandom. Joyce and I had canvassed local bookstores, combed the fanzines and everything else we could think of to locate fans in Las Vegas when we moved there and returned to fan activity.

None of it worked. It seemed that, just as our interest in Fandom had returned, we’d relocated to a fannish wasteland.

Unknown to us, Las Vegas Fandom was being born. Alas, when a few local science fiction enthusiasts banded together as SNAFFU. I was homebound and incapable of seeing their flyers and notices due to a cataract and its after-effects. As we later learned, a member of SNAFFU had actually stumbled across our names and written to us after the club’s second meeting to invite us to one in February 1991, but I was temporarily blind when it arrived and my assistant Becky dutifully filed it for eventual action. It surfaced a couple of years later, by which time Las Vegas Fandom was in full flower.

Then came a note from Mike Glicksohn. I’d known Mike fairly well during my first stint in Fandom and contributed several pieces to *Energumen*, so I was delighted to hear from him. His letter asked about a con that he’d seen mentioned in *Locus*. He wondered if we were the ones behind something called VegasCon.

We weren’t, but I got contact info from *Locus* and talked to the co-chairman of the convention, Sean White. Much to my disappointment, Sean was basically a gamer and professed to know little of the science fiction fans.

Unwilling to quit with my goal so close, I pressed Sean for any bit of information that might help. He seemed bent on thwarting my attempt to make contact, but I would not desist. Finally, in an obvious attempt to terminate the phone call and get rid of me, Sean divulged the phone number of a couple named Ken and Aileen Forman who, he said, might know about the SF club.

I called them the next day, Joyce and I arranged to come to a meeting of SNAFFU and Las Vegas Fandom had

taken its first step out of isolation and into the worldwide sub-culture of Fandom.

And now, it's time for me to surrender the keyboard to some of my fellow reprobates...

JoHn Hardin

Reprobate? I never touch myself down there.

I send greetings to my fannish brethren in the frozen wastes of far off Toronto. Here's where I lodge my sincere lament and regrets that I'm not in Canada. I could use some free health care and gay marriage right about now.

Hold that thought. Arnie has just informed me those are not actual Corflu program items this year. I say, what's the point of having Corflu in a socialist hellhole if you're not going to get any of the perks? Well, at least lucky Corflu attendees will have the chance to frolic with the polar bears and Inuit tribes-people that add so much to the bucolic splendor of quaint Toronto, the famed City of Ice.

What? Arnie says it's 46 degrees Fahrenheit in Toronto right now. Sure, that's not the 82 degrees we're enjoying here, but still way too warm for the North Pole.

Oh. Hmm. Nowhere near the North Pole you say? No bears *and* no ice? I need to learn more about Canada, because I obviously know nothing about European geography. Well, maybe they'll have a Corflu there, and I can go. What? Right. Never mind.

Ross Chamberlain

Ah, so young, and so much to learn. That could be said of many of us, though. Fewer as time goes on, but... Let's not go there. I've never made it to Toronto, either, sad to say, though there are people I like who live there, so they say. If they'd stop interrupting... No, I got as far as Montreal and Quebec City long ago, in my salad days when I was green in judgment – or, more accurately, in high school. Sorta. This was in the mid 1950s. That, folks, was the only time I ... no, wait, in 1983, my wife and I crossed the border and stayed a couple of nights at Niagara Falls to celebrate our first anniversary. (The year before, we honeymooned in Cleveland. What can I tell you?) Well, enjoy, enjoy. I feel like I know Toronto after all those movies filmed there, and even sometimes set there instead of it standing in for New York or other urban centers.

Alan White

Another gathering of the hallowed horde here at the Launch Pad, which seems very much like a Corflu. Fly across the country/drive across the neighborhood, Con Suite/Living Room, table full of goodies/table full of goodies, Smoking Room/Non-Smoking Room, Fans from here and there/Fans from to and fro, Fanzine Room/Fanzine Collection, mini-bar/full size refrigerator, Pay TV/Free DVD, Magic Fingers/DeDee's magic fingers, Toronto/Otronto, Waking in a foreign land/Waking in my own bed. . . . mmmmmmm, I'm glad I'm here.

DeDee White

Party on cool dudes. Speaking from the Launch Pad in

Vegas. We are here in our small clan eating, talking and having a generally swell night. Hope you are all having a great convention. Send us feed back on all the top items of the con.

James Taylor

I really regret that I was unable to get to Corflu this year, not just to widen my fannish knowledge and meet the people behind the names, but because my experiment must wait for another time.

I was going to go with Teresa Cochran and Teresa had been to Canada before, Vancouver to be exact. She still tells fond stories of outwitting seagulls in the struggle for her fish and chips sitting in a park there. She is that most rare of creatures, a Canadaphile. How would she react to Toronto? Better? Worse? Different? But now this important research is delayed with untold consequences to democracy and core fandom. *Sigh*

Joyce Katz

Like Arnie, my destiny seems to be to often plan for Canada, but never actually go. Oh, I crossed the border when I was about 10 in Detroit visiting my sister, and she drove across the bridge "just so you can say you've been there," and again when I was 15, near Glacier National Park, with my Montana aunt who also said "just so you can say" And, Arnie and I wanted to go to the Toronto Worldcon so badly in the early 1970s, as he described above, that it was like a bitter taste we couldn't wash from our mouths.

It seems particularly Unjust that I didn't get to go to Canada this time. In the past couple of years, I've written Travel Canada articles three separate times, each with long segments describing the amusements and attractions to be seen in Toronto. Not that I would have seen any of them, you understand. I'd be in some smoky room, probably not budging from the hotel for the entire weekend, as always, except to go out for some fatback and flapjacks or perhaps a slab of dried whale blubber.

Actually, that pretty well describes what's going on here, too, 'cept we're kinda short on whale hide.

Somehow this just seems Wrong for a girl who read Mrs. Mike twelve times before I hit puberty. I was supposed to be there among the tall trees, the lumberjacks, red-coated Mounties and gold hunters, hanging out on the shores of the Greater and Lesser Slave Lakes, seeking the Northwest Passage (and, due to Global Warming, actually finding it.)

But once again, Fate conspired.

So tonight the Vegranti are gathered to send greetings to the Frozen North from the Burning Desert. I'd gladly be a Good Neighbor, and trade you a cup of Neon Glitter for a cup of Canadian Charm, if I could. And I'd be pleased to send a satchel of fumes from our smoke-filled room in exchange for a packet of the same from yours. But failing that, we'll just say "Have a great time! We wish we were there! G'night, Corflu!"

- — Las Vegrants

Continued from p 1

Pat Virzi won the privilege of hosting the next Corflu in Austin, TX. She promises quick action on a hotel and date — and I'll report it here.

Check out Lloyd Penney's Corflu 23 report. And I'm expecting to have another one next week by one of Core Fandom's finest.

Chunga, Brialey, Stiles, Lichtman, Garcia Win 2006 Fan Achievement Awards!

The 2006 Fan Achievement Awards (FAAn Awards) were given out at the banquet on Sunday at Corflu Toronto. (The awards, revived by Corflu Vegas in 1994, are voted on by Core Fandom fans and distributed at Corflu.)

As a result of a counting mistake, they presented the "Best Fanzine" FAAn Award to *Banana Wings*. A subsequent recount belated transferred the honor to the actual winner, *Chunga*.

The winners were: Best Fanzines — *Chunga*; Best Fan Writer — Claire Brialey; Best Fan Artist — Steve Stiles; Best Letterhack (Harry Warner Jr. Memorial Award for Best Correspondent) — Robert Lichtman and Best New Fan — Chris Garcia. (See *Katzenjammer* on page 3 for more results and my comments.)

VSFA Sets Sunday Social for May 21!

The Blue Ox Inn is again the venue for the monthly

informal dinner gathering sponsored by VSFA. The group invites all Vegas fans — and any fannish visitors to Las Vegas — to a couple of hours of reasonably priced (and good) food and fine fannish conversation.

Festivities start at 2 PM. Joyce's health kept us from going last month, but we hope to join the group for what is always a relaxed good time.

VSFA, SNAFFU Go to the Movies This Weekend!

Both VSFA and SNAFFU are sponsoring movie outings this coming weekend. VSFA Dinner and a Movie will go see *Over the Hedge* at the Crown Theater in Neonopolis (450 E. Fremont St).

SNAFFU will go to see *DaVinci Code* at the Orleans on Sunday. The starting time for the film is 11:25 AM, but those who meet Ron & Linda Bushyager at the theater by 11:15 will be able to save 20% on tickets. You can get more information — sorry, no religious counseling — by writing to Linda at: LindaBushyager@aol.com

GayLesBiTrans SF Club Flies Again!

Joshua Andrews (andrews1701@gmail.com) reports that the GayLesBiTrans SF Club, shorn of that "Neon Rainbow" moniker, is active and meeting again. The GLBT SF Club meets at The Center (953 E. Sahara Ave., Suite B-25) on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:30 PM.

All fans are invited, says Josh. Now, if one of those fine folks would do a monthly report for VFW to tell the rest of us about the group's activities.

Hooper Launches TAFF Auction!

Andy Hooper has announced that he'll be conducting a fanzine auction for the benefit of TAFF (Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund) on eBay. Here's what the always-eloquent Mr. Hooper has to say:

"Acting on behalf of North American TAFF Administrator Suzle Tompkins, I have once again begun auctioning items for the benefit of the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund on eBay. TAFF is still reasonably well-off, but another North America to the UK trip looms less than a year from now, and that will probably spend down much of the current fund. Also, we've now just two weeks to register votes in the current UK to North America TAFF race, between Bridget "Bug" Bradshaw, Arthur "1/2er" Cruttenden and Michael "Sparks" Rennie, so it seems like a good time to bang the drum a bit.

"I've only posted a half-dozen minor items so far, but you can find them by searching eBay for the phrase (TAFF Race), and I plan to put a few more up by the end of the weekend. In addition to various items collected by the past four North American TAFF administrators, I have a few treasures from the late Anna Vargo's fanzine collection to offer, and I'll post them a few at a time over the coming weeks."



This should be a good way to help a fannish charity and improve your fanzine library.

Heard Around Fandom...

Sympathy and condolences to Chris Garcia on the death of his dad...

Roxanne Mills has been in severe pain over the last week or so, battling what turned out to be a major sinus infection that had her on the ropes for a painful week...

Bill Mills, not to be outdone by his wife, also had a stretch of bad health, most neck and back woes. He's working hard on a new project, so that is probably slowing the healing process...

Dave O'Neil sent a very nice note to explain that airplane trouble caused a major delay in his flight that got him to Las Vegas much too late to follow through on his original plan to visit fans here. Dave vows to return — and we'll be delighted to see him when he does...

Clare McDonald, the new Australian fan, wrote to say that she expects to come through Las Vegas in August. We're hoping to have a chance to introduce her to the Vegrants.

ChatBack: The VFW Letter Column

It's a jam-packed issue, but there's always enough room for the liveliest cast of commentators in Core Fandom. Let's do it!

He's a Publishing Giant, a friend of Vegas Fandom (and a friend of mine) and the Best New Fan of the Year as determined by the FAAn Awards poll — and he gets to start off this issue's edition of ChatBack...

Chris Garcia

It's been a rough week in San Jose for the Garcia clan, but I'm hardly willing to let the little things (or even the big things) get in the way of LoCing VFW. It'd nearly be a sin!

Ah, John DeChancie returns! That's excellent news. I quite enjoyed chatting with him on my last visit and at LosCon last year. I was actually even just reading one of his books at the hospital (Castle For Rent).

Steve Stiles' Polly's Cracker cartoon is wrong and I wouldn't be surprised if the Redneck Anti-

Defamation League came after him for it. Still, I laughed hard.

Another Vegas CorFlu? I'm all in for it (Just don't put me on the committee). Looking over the list of CorFlu, there've been two in Vegas, four in the BArea (we've done Oakland, SF, Napa and Walnut freakin' Creek, which means the next one has to either be in San Jose (No, I will NOT chair it!) or Sonoma (OK...I MIGHT be convinced to chair that one). I'm gonna try to make Austin because I've got family there and there's nothing more Mexican than Texas, and as I've been thoroughly reminded recently, I happen to be a Mexican.

That's a wonderful piece on Brian Burley. I recognize his face and am fairly certain that I met him in the early days after my return to fandom. He sounds like an interesting guy. Columbus bids seem to be cursed, as this current one for 2008 seems to have come apart at the seams. But I must disagree with you on one point: any committee that wore shiny green bowling shirts deserved to be awarded the WorldCon! And you bring up John Holmes and my all-time favorite pornstress Seka! There's another woman who had a tremendous effect on my sexual awakening.

I've got a panel at BayCon with Dick Lupoff! I'm quite excited. His radio show is fairly well-known from what I understand. I don't get KPFA, but I've heard folks talk about it. I've met a lot of former Giants and

BPLF Burley Memorial

Very nice memorial article of yours re Brian Burley in *Vegas Fandom Weekly* #74. I thought that I would send you a picture I took at last night's BPLF (Beaker People Liberation Front) Brian Burley memorial wake at the Tribeca Tavern here in Manhattan.

Some of the attendees, such as Mark Glasser, had to leave early and are not in the picture. John Boardman is barely visible at the right rear. Perdita is in profile next to Maggie Montgomery.

We expect much of the same gang at FISTFA next week (Thom Anderson and I revived FISTFA over a year ago).

— Tom Byro



As who live in the BArea still. One, Wilham Van Landingham, only pitched for a year or two and then left the game. He was a lot of fun to chat with. I also got to meet the greatest insane pitcher ever, Mark The Bird Fydrich. There's a guy I could claim to be due to my hair style. Bill Mazerowski is a previous generation's JT Snow: both wizards of Defense and true clutch hitters who aren't nearly as impressive when the game's not on the line. That's the one thing Bill James is wrong on, and those two guys are by far the best examples.

I'm really glad that John Purcell got back into the swing of things, but if he does another thing like that DOOFUS gag, I'll have to see that he's strung up and forced to listen to the soundtrack from The Third Man accompanied by the atonal screeching of Miss Yoko Ono.

Arnie: We Vegrants are counting the days until John DeC returns to us. He fit right in with the rest of our merry band and I think he found the Vegrants a refreshing change from his previous fan experiences. He's still a little shy and retiring, but we figure he'll come out of his shell soon.

As the future chairman of Core Fandom Worldcon, you should know it is spelled "Corflu," without the capital "F" in the middle. You may have thought that, since the word mergers two other words, "correction" and "fluid," the resulting word should have two capital letters. Besides citing all other similar words in which the second capital is dropped, "correction fluid" is generic and would be all lower case. The convention capitalizes the "C," because it is the first letter of a proper noun.

The next commenter shakes off 20 years of fannish rust, settles in front of the keyboard and writes...

Ian Maule

Ted White says I'm a fan. Robert Lichtman says I'm a fan but hey, I don't feel like a fan. I'm someone who was a fan once, gafiated/fafiated for 20 years and then almost accidentally discovered Inthebar just over a year ago, soon after getting early retirement and achieving my life-long ambition of becoming a kept man. I surfaced, briefly, at John Brosnan's funeral to pay my last respects and say "Hi" to a few people I knew way back when and I've even met a couple of them since. But conventions, fanzines, the cut and thrust of fandom - that's not for me any more. I used to think that fandom was a way of life, now I'm sure it's just a hobby.

Arnie: I don't mean to infringe on this lovely bit of posturing, but if Lichtman and White decree that you are a fan, you must surrender to the inevitable. There

are simply forces that are bigger than you and me, Ian, and we can but humble acquiesce when they are in play.

I've noticed this charmingly ingenuous pose of non-fannishness before in other de-gafiates, but it passes in time, Ian. I gafiated for about 16 years and, almost 17 years after returning, here I am. Meanwhile, though, I hope you'll find time amid your non-fan pursuits to send the occasional non-local. It's always a pleasure to hear from such a charming ex-fan.

This fan not only is not only debuting as a VFW letterhack, but also as a cartoonist...

Phyrne Bacon

Thank you for the many Vegas Fandom Weekly's you've sent me since January. I know that I am getting a Vegas Fandom Weekly when an email takes more than a minute to download.

I don't write as many Letters of Comment as I used to, but something came over me when I was reading VFW #73. I had this sudden vision of a Rotsler cartoon. Today, I got out my drawing tools, and produced my very first cartoon. It is attached as Yikes#6.jpg. The file seems too large at 92 kilobytes, but I don't know how to make it smaller. I submitted two drawings to fanzines was over thirty years ago: the first drawing was rejected, and the second was published.

I am feeling somewhat reckless now that I am seventy, and I have decided to submit my first cartoon to a fanzine. It is actually an imitation Rotsler cartoon. I did mention that I love Rotsler's cartoons didn't I?

Arnie: Fans and friends of Rotsler never get a cold welcome around these parts/ Vegas Fandom was fortunate enough to have a lot of Bill's time and effort in his last decade.

The Sage of Fandom – and Best Letterhack of 2005 – takes the virtual microphone and takes the stage (as only he can)...

Robert Lichtman

Although looking forward to your full report on the Corflu NonCon held in Vegas, I'm more curious about your second news item in VFW No. 74—does John DeChancie's return to Las Vegas, from which he was "compelled by financial circumstances" to leave, mean that now Vegas has the money chops lacking in Los Angeles? Or is there something more to this story still to be revealed? In any event, it's good that he's returning to further enliven Vegas fandom. Along the same lines, it's good to read that JoHn Hardin will be making

more frequent visits to Sin City. Both these fans' departures are an unwelcome leakage from the slogan, "What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas."

It's welcome news to me in "Inside Story" that "Andy Hooper has already mentioned his desire to put on the next West Coast Corflu" (in 2008?), since so far I've made it to every Seattle Corflu and can't imagine not attending this one, too. It's also conveniently close to Las Vegas so the second part of your statement, "the New Generation of Vegas Fandom really needs to attend a Corflu before they try to stage one," will be easy to fulfill. Checking out driving distances on-line, I learned that Austin is only a little further away (1,390 miles) from Las Vegas than Seattle (1,250 miles). That's two opportunities for Vegas fans to attend a Corflu before trying for one of their own. I'm mentally penciling in a Vegas Corflu for 2011.

I never knew or had any contact with Brian Burley, but reading your "Farewell to a Fan Friend" I feel like I've belatedly come to know quite a bit about him—and can understand your liking and missing him.

In "Three Teachers" Dick Lupoff writes, "Most American males play baseball in one form and at one level sometime in their lives." That's only minimally true for me. It was one of the seasonal sports one had to engage in during high school P.E. classes, and I never worked up much interest in *any* of them. I got to be a fairly decent hitter, though, even getting in the occasional home run. But I was hopeless in any defensive position (which was usually right field). It just wasn't in my personal cards to be a good catcher of fly balls, and if I did manage to retrieve one that landed near me I wasn't much good at throwing it accurately to a fellow player in the infield. I never attended many ball games, either, and all the ones I did go to were when I was around eleven or twelve years old, back in the days of the original Pacific Coast League. With my father I went to a game or two apiece for the old L.A. Angels and the Hollywood Stars. It was supposed to be one of those father-son bonding experiences, but mostly I remember being bored out of my mind.

As for Dick's teacher (and wannabe major leaguer) Jake Eisenhart being a racist and anti-Semite, there seems to be a strain of that in baseball players—as witness Ty Cobb, John Rocker and Enos Slaughter, among others. But to be fair, racism and anti-Semitism are hardly confined to sports figures. For instance, there's Robert Glenn Briggs of SAPS.

John Purcell's redefinition of "doofus" gave me a laugh, but the photo of him with Steve Brust accompanying the article is totally unlike my mental image of him, in which he was short and had more hair. Well, at least he fulfills one part of my now-dissolved mental image: he's wearing glasses.

Lloyd Penney writes, concerning Joyce's article in *VFW* No. 71, "There's a topic for discussion. What was the first fanzine you ever received?" I see that when I responded to that issue I didn't answer her question specifically but instead listed a group of fanzines received early on. My first fanzine was Gregg Calkins's *Oopsla!* No. 24, an auspicious start since it embodied so much of what was really wonderful about fandom in a single issue. Starting with the cover by both ATom and Rotsler, Gregg's editorial column (and a two-page loose poem by him on "*Oopsla: Thoughts After Six Years*"), there were contributions from Bob Tucker, John Berry, and Walt Willis.

The latter was one of Walt's "Harp" columns, and not just any one of those but one that reprises in its opening the way he started his very first "Harp" back in *Quandry*'s eighth issue. In *Q* he began, "Romantic Ireland is covered with a soft mantle of slush, and peace reigns over the whole land—except, of course, for the muffled sound of Nationalist knocking the Partition—as I sit here wondering what I can say that would be suitable for a magazine published in Savanna, Ga." And in *Oopsla!* No. 24 he commenced with, "It is Christmas morning and Ireland is covered with a soft



mantle of mud as I sit here in the Oblique House attic, shivering over an inadequate electric fire. The quiet morning air is filled with the sound of distant church bells and the smell of singeing trousers."

Of course at the time I read the above words, I didn't know about the soft strains of an earlier "Harp." My nearly sixteen-year-old self was simply fantisted with the notion that someone in Ireland would write a marvelous column for a fanzine published in Salt Lake City, Utah, and write so engagingly. But I was hooked, and I remain hooked.

Chris Garcia writes that in 2011 he expects to see "the Blockbuster fanzines that exist as full atoms (*Chunga, Plokta, Banana Wings, Tortoise, Trap Door*, etc.) stick around." And indeed such is my plan, for I must reach at least the thirtieth issue so as to tie with famous fanzines such as the above-mentioned *Quandry* and *Oopsla!* for a thirty-issue run. And at that point I'll have to ponder whether I should go Just One More Issue and match the run of Terry Hughes's estimable *Mota*. Given the meaning of the title of the latter, perhaps it will be appropriate for me, at that time, to have a little chat with Ted White on the subject.

Bill Kunkel writes "I don't *feel* like a fan. None of the fan values resonate with me." And then a few sentences later he says, in connection with reading fanzines from your collection, "Much preferred the *Void, Innuendo* type of stuff." To me this says that Bill is much more than the "Ted White-Designated Fakefan" he proclaims himself to be, and is in some sort of denial.

Well, Art Widner may have failed to connect with you and Joyce on his recent trip through Las Vegas, but at least you got this wonderful letter. It contains a teaser I hope Art follows up on, and that's his promise to "do an artikl later on the improvement of fastfood in the US." As for the "Chorp Dimension," I'm not able to offer much assistance to Art in his quest for knowledge about it. All I know about it is what I read in fanzines—and in this case all knowledge seems pretty limited. Your understanding that it's "a generic Other Plane of Existence" corresponds with my own, but I'll be interested to see if rich or Ted has additional information. I believe (but am not certain) that it may have originated in SAPS and that Lee Jacobs or Art Rapp could be its creator.

Arnie: Austin isn't around the corner, but it still is a lot closer to Las Vegas than Madison, WI, and Toronto, Canada. I'm hoping that some folks will drive, though I believe Joyce's health will require us to fly if we are to attend at all.

I don't know if Andy Hooper's casual mention

of wanting to do another Corflu during a conversation at Corflu Blackjack counts as a Binding Promise. I hope he does decide to give it a whirl, because few fans combine a better grasp of the Corflu with greater ability to actually put on such an event.

Reading Dick's article made me want to write one about baseball, which I will do once a decent interval has passed. So I'll save you the story of my lifelong obsession with baseball in general and the Brooklyn Dodgers. BTW, I am still looking for members for a computer baseball simulation league. We've got several fans lined up and if I can get a couple more, we'll probably try it.

Of course Bill Kunkel is in denial about being a fan. We love him anyway and accept that little foible as part of the price of enjoying his many wonderful qualities. I imagine he and Ian Maule are secretly readying their new genzine, which will be a vehicle for their bold bid for the first two-city simultaneous Corflu.

It's always great to welcome a letter-writer for the first time...

Deb Wunder

I was pointed to your zine by Mark Blackman, because of your eulogy for Brian Burley. While Brian and I were not "close" friends, I did get to know him a bit over the years (courtesy of both Marc Glasser and Robert Sacks), and we were fairly friendly,





I loved your eulogy, and I loved the zine as a whole. Can you put me on your email list for it? I don't promise to write a lot (my schedule is pretty weird these days), but I do promise to read it.

Arnie: Glad you enjoyed your first exposure to Vegas Fandom Weekly. For the record, I'm delighted to add anyone who asks – and quite a few who haven't – to the direct email list. The only "cost," is that I would very much like to hear from fans who get VFW every so often. The two-way communication gives this publishing stuff a good measure of its spice for me.

The eyes of Texas are upon us – and so is this excellent letter of comment from one of 2005's outstanding returnees...

John Purcell

Better hide the kinfolk, Arnie, because I just turned in my last grades for the semester and now I have nothing else to do for a couple weeks except cyberfanac. You Have Been Warned.

Very nice write-up about your friend Brian Burley. I don't think I ever knew him from my earlier fannish incarnation, but he sure sounded like *ahem* an interesting fellow. Your re-telling of that FIFSA party's events had me giggling uncontrollably. Seems to me that your friend created subculture shock there. Definitely an eye-opener. But I thank you for sharing your thoughts with us about your friend.

Like Dick Lupoff, I am a big baseball fan. Interestingly enough, I had a professional baseball player as my little league team's coach when I was 11 years old. His name was Cal Welch, and he was in the Washington Senators/Minnesota Twins farm system, making it all the way to Triple-A ball as a left-handed pitcher

until he blew his elbow out. So, he then taught himself how to throw right-handed! Keen trick, that. In any event, Cal Welch taught me how to pitch side-arm. Thanks to his coaching, I got to be pretty good at it; developed a bit of a side-arm curve and screwball when I threw it right. His son, Ricky, was on that little league team with me, and we had ourselves a good team. Didn't win the league title, but we still had a winning record that year.

Oh, my! Look at those handsome mugs on page 10. 'Nuff said.

"Brokeback Film Night" sounds interesting. I have no desire to see that movie. All it does is remind me of that one-liner "Visit New Zealand, where the men are men and the sheep are skittish."

Onward into the letter column, where I have to say I really like the connotation of Lloyd Penney's take on Roots Fandom. We should all get tee-shirts saying that just to tweak some people's minds out of shape a wee bit.

I think Chris Garcia is right about e-fanzines in that they are going to grow, especially as websites. As much as I thoroughly enjoy Bill Burns' site, efan-zines.com, it really doesn't get much play. Trufen is a fine site, and fanac.org has been a source of fine historical and cross-referential information.

I am positive that more is on the way along the lines of *Emerald City*, which is just mind-blowing. I don't think that's the direction I'd take with my fanzine activity, which once again brings the whole discussion back around to whatever the faneditor/fanwriter wants to do. Back in the first issue of *In A Prior Lifetime* I said that all fanzines are personal in nature, and I still feel that way. As the old saying goes, you only get out what you put into something, and if a fan wants to go full-tech gung-ho with an online fanzine/webzine or whatever-the-heck-it's-called zine, that is his or her decision. Either way, that faned's personal sense of satisfaction is what matters.

Art Widner's locs make my eyes cross. I just thought I'd mention that. They're fun and informative, once you've deciphered them. Thank you, Art - I think.

And with that, I wrap this up. Thanks again for a most enjoyable issue, kind sir, and I'll see you definitely at the next Corflu; heck, it's only two and a half hours away! I am *so there*.

Arnie: The group was actually called FISTFA – Fannish and Insurgent Scientifiction Association. Mike McInerney, Earl Evers and rich brown were the founders of this informal, open group that met on alternate Fridays to the Fanoclasts. New York fan Tom Byro wrote to give me the glad news that FISTFA has risen from the grave and has met four about the last year.

He promises photos and maybe even some reports on the revival of one of NYC's most lovable fan clubs.

My closest brush with major league baseball players is that my cousin Gloria dated Sandy Koufax at least once when they went to the same high school. Oh, and the eye doctor who did cataract surgery on both Joyce and me made it to Double A as a second baseman in the Dodger organization.

I agree that sercon fanzines like Emerald City will become more common, but I also believe that more personable, interactive and fannish fanzines will increase in number, too. Core Fandom is less centered on science fiction than All Known Fandom, because its participants generally develop wider interests.

And now the first letter of comment from one of the year's most popular newcomers...

Clare McDonald

Just wanted to say thanks for sending this to me. I



have now officially received my first fanzine!

I have to confess that as it's the first actual fanzine I've ever received I didn't know quite what to expect, but I thoroughly enjoyed reading it all. Very interesting, especially as I'm soon to take my first trip to America, and will be in Las Vegas briefly in August. It would be great to have a chance to meet a few of the people I'm now reading about!

Arnie: Glad you enjoyed your first exposure to fanzines and the fact that you immediately wrote a letter of comment is certainly a sign of Good Fannish Instincts. Hope you'll keep reading, take some of the recommendations that I make in VFW about other fanzines and participate in ChatBack again soon.

He carries the mantle of Fandom's most prolific letterhack and it's a pleasure to give him the honor of bringing it all home...

Lloyd Penney

Two issues of VFW, 73 and 74 have I, free time have I too, loc on issues have you now. Same grammar

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: 648-5677

SNAFFU:

Michael Bernstein
Email: webmaven@cox.net
Phone: 765-7279

VSFA:

Rebecca Hardin
Email: hardin673@aol.com
Phone: 453-2989

GayLesBiTrans SF Club

Joshua Andrews
Email: andrews1701@gmail.com
Phone: 759-9303

Las Vegas Fan Events Calendar

Las Vegrants Meeting May 20 7:30 PM

The informal invitational Core Fandom club meets on the first and third Saturdays of every month.

Sunday Social May 21 2 PM

One of Vegas' most convivial groups gets together at the Blue Ox for food and chatter.

SNAPS Deadline Sunday, May 21

Las Vegas Fandom's own electronic amateur press association has its deadline for contributions to the May distribution. Send your file to Joyce Katz (Joyceworley1@cox.net).

GayLesBiTrans SF Club Gathe Monday, May 22 7:30 PM

This alternative lifestyles group meets on the fourth Monday of the month at The Center (953 East Sahara Ave., Suite B-25).

First Friday Video Group June 2 6:00

James Willey hosts this monthly get-together. They are currently doing *Farscape*. More info from Mindy Hutchings (204-4332).

VSFA Monthly Meeting June 3 11 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 June 2 7:30 PM

The informal invitational Core Fandom club meets on the first and third Saturdays of the month at the Launch Pad, the home of Arnie & Joyce Katz.

SNAFFU Discussion Meeting June 9 8:00 PM

This formal SF club meets the second and fourth Friday's of each month. This time, it will be held at Borders bookstore on Sahara. Topic: Why Are You a Fan?

Second Sunday Movie Screening June 11 6:00 OM

James Willey hosts this monthly get-together. They watch genre movies. More info from Mindy Hutchings (204-4332).

teacher as Yoda had I...

73...Hey, did I just read about this guy? I just finished catching up with Chris Garcia's hyperfrequent zines, and he wrote at length about his latest trip to Vegas. I only wish Vegas was 8 hours away from us here...

Future fanzines will be almost totally electronic, ready for storage on CDs/DVDs. The paper fanzine will be rare and even more treasured. APAs have been disappearing for a long time now, but unfortunately, it'll be done wholesale as photocopying costs go out of control, and postage costs get ridiculous. You said a magic word there, Arnie, webring. The only way we're going to be cohesive in the electronic age is to group ourselves in a webring so we can be easily found by

those who might seek us out. If we change over the years, I hope it will be because both editors and readers want to change, not because we feel we have to.

Ah, there's that Garcia guy hamming it up for the camera on page 10. Yes, we cared to send the hairy beast. And, that's Chris.

Yes, I'd like to see a matter replicator. Waste materials could be broken down into its component parts and used by the replicator to build, atom by atom, useful products. It would be the ultimate recycler. No one would do without, so poverty would be eliminated, or at least greatly reduced. I expect a large corporation would try to brad the monopoly on those replicators.

Art Widner was spotted up this way as well. As detailed in my recent Corflu report, Art made it up to

ronto, in spite of getting poor directions from transit drivers, and held up a party standard us young'uns would do well to emulate.

It would probably be a good idea to run the FAAn Award results as produced on Trufen. net, as the results announced at Corflu itself, and possibly initially on Trufen.net were incorrect. Murray Moore found his mistakes, and made the important announcement. I can in second for Best Letterhack behind Robert Lichtman, so pleased I am. (Yodaspeak again.)

Welcome back to Tim Kyger. So many names from the past becoming names of the present again, and it's great.

74...It looks like there were more fans who wanted to get to Corflu than those who actually did make. Add the two groups together, and we could have had about 60 people. Joyce, if you want another Corflu, take all this time to plan it, and all will be ready well in advance to make your next Corflu the best ever.

I am sure someone will make the observation that in my loc, my memories are so hazy as to mistake who produced the fanzine Q36. I am better rested, sufficiently to know that Eric Lindsay did not produce Q36, but Marc Ortlieb did. In that Widnerian version of Ingridj, I can hardly wait for Art's Corflu report. I told John Purcell about the upcoming Austin Corflu, and he's there already.

Arnie: I think there will be one or more webring of fan sites once there are enough of them to make the idea worthwhile. A little further down the road, I expect to see webring devoted to certain types of fan-sites. For instance, it's inevitable that the Group Mind/Virtual Fanclub will do something of this sort and I

VEGAS FANS ARE
NUMBER ONE
WITH ME. /



OR IS IT
NO. 2
WHERE
YOU SIT
DOWN? /

wouldn't be surprised to see a webring of serious SF sites, too.

We Also Heard From: Jan Stinson, Mike Legg, John Purcell

Hey Ho.. I Gotta Go !

I'll be back next hursday with an all-star line-up — if you send a letter, art or article.

— Arnie Katz

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... *and a ton of news.*