

# VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

## Death Claims rich brown

**Rich brown died on Thursday, July 6 as a result of complications from a lengthy illness.**

**Rich entered the hospital on Memorial Day with a bowel blockage that required surgery. Unfortunately, he developed some infections and, together with his existing heart and lung problems, this proved too much for his fighting spirit.**

### Fandom Reacts to the Sad, Shocking News...

#### Comments

Ted White

I just got off the phone with Alicia. Rich died this afternoon at about 1:00 p.m. Neither of us expected this. We are both in shock. Alicia will have his body cremated. We hope to have two services for him, as we did for Terry Hughes -- one more formal (but not religious -- we may use the Washington Ethical Society), and one for his friends. Details to be announced later.

Curt Phillips

I've been sitting here staring at the computer for several long moments now, not accepting what I've just read. I feel numb. I think I must be in shock.

I understood how serious rich's condition was and I knew the odds were stacked against him. I expected him to beat those odds anyway. Damn it. I never even got to meet him. How can I feel such loss over a friend I've never met?

I feel like I'm about to become incoherent now, so I'm going to go and take a long walk and think about rich.

My sincerest condolences to his family; which is to say, my condolences to us all.

#### A Message from Arnie

I was well on my way to finishing an issue of *VFW* when I got the dreadful news. I just don't have it in me to be frivolous and fannish right now. So I'm doing this issue now and, in a week, I hope to have a substantial tribute to my late friend. After that, I'll get back to fanac as usual. If you'd like to write a piece about rich, please send it here.

Randy Byers

I've been dreading that we'd hear this news since yesterday. Farewell, rich. Sorry we didn't get a chance to say a proper, personal goodbye.

Ross Chamberlain

I hear you and I share much of what you are saying, with the difference that I did know him in days gone by. But it hasn't hit me quite yet. It will, but –

The thought crossed my my mind, earlier today, that despite his nickname, Dr. Gafia, I've always kinda thought of him as an embodiment of Jophan, in spirit if not in form. If I were to attempt to eulogize at this moment, I'd probably play with terms like glades of fafia or something, but that -- while he might appreciate the word play -- is not satisfactory, and maybe nothing can be for the moment.

So long for now, rich, and thanks for all the Buffy quotes.

Earl Kemp

I am so sorry to hear this, Ted. It's been since 1958 for me and rich. Now there'll be no one to use up all those words for him. I miss him already.

Lenny Bailes

I share your grief and will miss him. Each time I've been out to DC in the last few years, I've tried to spend as much time as I could with rich, out of a foreboding that I might not be able to the next year. But I'm really hurt and sorry that this has happened \*now.\*

He's been my friend (and part of my gang in fandom) since I was 17 years old. Please convey my sympathy and condolences to Alicia.

Robert Lichtman

Although a part of me \*did\* expect this, the other (& larger) part hoped for some medical or other miracle that would save rich's life. I'm going to miss him a lot -- he was one of the best ever for the back and forth of four-dimensional mental crifanac. We did a lot of that at time, most recently over his ongoing explications of fandom with George Slusser of the Eaton Collection at UC Riverside.

Hey, rich, say hi to both Terrys, Walt, Chuch, Vinc, Burb, Elmer, Rotsler, and all the others. See you up there someday.

Bill Burns

Oh, no, I'm so sorry to hear that. I don't know how our paths never crossed in all these years I've been living in New York, as I never met rich, but like everyone else I felt I knew him well from his posts on the lists. And now there won't be any more of them.

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Dedicated to the memory of rich brown.

**Special Thanks to** Joyce Katz (proofreading and So Much More).

*VFW* is free by request. Only my heart was broken in the production of this issue.

Member: fwa

Supporter: AFAL

Believer: United Fans of Vegas

Bud Webster

Oh, God, Ted, this is one of those messages I never want to see. May the Earth rest lightly on him.

Shelby Vick

I was afraid of that happening. Please give Alicia my deepest sympathies

Joyce Katz

I join with you all in our shared grief.

More appropriate eulogies can follow on another day, but now my heart joins others in pain,

Tom Becker

I am sorry Rich is gone. He leaves a huge hole in the fannish ether. He had such a gigantic and magnificent wit and personality. I am missing him already. The best I can say is that he will not be forgotten.

Michael J. Lowry

It just seems so incomprehensible that a friend like that (though we never met in the flesh) could just be gone so quickly.

Linda Blanchard

You just think you'll have years and years in which to see someone again. Maybe Corflu in 2007 is what I thought. Rich was a wonderful man, funny and kind and thoughtful. I wish I'd had the chance to say good-bye or, better yet, hello just one more time.

Hope Leibowitz

Although I was afraid of finding just this subject when I logged on, expecting it doesn't make it any easier to bear. I too was hoping for the best. I've hung out with him many times at cons, and when I was wandering alone at the Corflu in Panama City, wondering where everyone was, he found me and brought me to the room where everyone was (toking up of course).

At one Ditto Linda Bushyager, Rich and I were the last three people left on Sunday night, and we played Oh Hell (card game) in our room. He was a very fun person to be with, always.

Just got home in a very up mood, having seen a preview of "A Scanner Darkly" for free. Oh well. More on that at some point, if anyone cares.

Looks like it is going to be awhile before I stop crying.

Teresa Cochran

Oh, damn! Maybe I'll meet him in some great fannish place, but if not, my life has been better for knowing him through his words. I know he means a lot to so many. Ted and all, my condolences

Jack Calvert

I was afraid of this when I saw the note from Alicia yesterday, but was hoping that he's bounce back. I had hoped that one day I would meet him in reality, he seemed to me to represent the best of fandom. My condolences to you and Alicia and to all of us. It's going to take a long time to take in the idea that he is gone.

Marty Cantor

When I got yesterday's update, I wrote that I would be reading it at LASFS. I got the above posting just before I left for the club - and everything slowed down.

At LASFS I announced Rich's death and several of the members who knew Rich - Len Moffatt, Milt

Stevens, Karen Anderson, especially Milt and Len - said some words about rich. I think that some of the newer members had a slightly better idea of a bit of club history after Len and Milt talked a bit about rich, giving both some history and some anecdotes. I told some of what rich had been doing in recent years - and we had a moment of silence in his memory.

Jukka Halme

Sad news. I never met rich in person, but he seemed to me like the Wise old man, who knew pretty much everything and cherished the opportunity to pass on his knowledge of things.

And I cannot imagine posting a farewell notice to rich without an (hopefully) appropriate Buffy-quote. This one is from episode "The Body", where Buffy's mother Joyce has just died and the Scooby-gang are trying to deal with the loss, especially Anya.

Anya: Are they gonna cut the body open? Willow: Oh my God! Would you just s-stop talking? Just shut your mouth! Please!

Anya: What am I doing? Willow: How can you act like that?

Anya: Am I supposed to be changing my clothes a lot? I-is that the helpful thing to do? Xander: Guys

Willow: The way you behave

Anya: Nobody will tell me.

Willow: Because it's not okay for you to be asking these things!

Anya: But I don't understand! I don't understand how this all happens. How we go through this. I knew her, and then she's there's just a body, and I don't understand why she just can't get back in it and not be dead anymore! It's stupid! It's mortal and stupid! And and Xander's crying and not talking, and and I was having fruit punch, and I thought, well, Joyce will never have any more fruit punch, ever, and she'll never have eggs, or yawn, or brush her hair, not ever, and no one will explain to me why! [She begins to cry.]

Willow: [long pause] We don't know. How it works. Why.

So long, rich.

John-Henry Holmberg

I am at a loss for words. rich, to me, was one of the embodiments of the fandom I've loved and strived to belong to since before my teens. Our microverse is still more diminished.

Joyce Scrivner

I'll miss his electronic words. I've been thinking of all the good he has done.

My thoughts are with his family and friends.

Arnie Katz

The blow falls hard, even when you know it's coming. Fandom has lost a fine mind, truth has lost an ardent defender and I have lost a great friend. The words will come as they always do. Now is the time for tears.