

VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

Next Corflu Will Be... Las Vegas!!!

The exact circumstances are still a little murky to me — I wouldn't entirely believe what Joyce says in her *Blue Jaunt* column later in this issue — but the Vegrants are going to put on Corflu in 2008.

Corflu Silver, the 25th anniversary event and the third to be held in the *Silver State*, is tentatively scheduled for the weekend of April 25. A survey of available hotels will determine the exact location and dates.

Joyce Katz is the chairman. She has appointed James Taylor as her Right-hand Man and me (Arnie) as her Left-hand Man. "We're not much on titles," Joyce admitted as she gazed benignly upon me from her newly erected Throne. "I hope all of the Vegrants will be involved.

Here some more from Joyce:

"This is early-bird information for everyone

who's asked. I hope to have a hotel deal and the dates of Corflu Silver by the end of this month. Right now, we are looking at the last weekend in-

April 2008, depending on hotel availability.

"That's early enough for the weather to be quite April weather in Nevada is sunny and bright, warm in the daytime (maybe even warm enough to swim, especially if you are from the colder climes) and sweater-cool in the evening. Can't promise it won't rain -- but this is the Mo-

jave Desert, so don't bother with rain gear.

"Meanwhile, I hope not to have to increase the fees over the past several years' rates, but it will depend on the hotel deal I make. By joining now, you don't risk the increase... so send me \$50 (£30 for UK fans) for attending or \$20 for supporting

Lee Hoffman, Great BNF, Passes at 74

The world of Fandom shrank a little with the death of Lee Hoffman. The 74-year-old fan, living in retirement in Florida, suffered a massive heart attack on February 5. She had been in declining health for many years, which kept her fannish contact to a minimum for most of this decade.

Lee Hoffman was the greatest female fan of all time and one of a handful of BNFs who truly shaped our Core Fandom as we know it today. Her towering contributions as Fanwriter, fanzine publisher, cartoonist, leader and mythmaker put LeeH in some very select company.

Lee will be profoundly missed by all and I want to extend condolences to her family and friends.

Vegas Fandom Weekly will have a Lee Hoffman Memorial issue within the next two-three weeks.

Vegas Fan Events

Cineholics Meeting Friday (2/16) 7:30 PM

SNAFFood, Saturday (2/17) 11:00 AM

Vegrants Meeting Saturday (2/17) 7:30 PM

SNAPS Deadline Sunday (2/18)

Continued on page 12

Inside Story Corflu Blues

As someone who has been online since 1983-4, I was witness, if not mid-wife, to the genesis of Smileys, LoL, ROTF and other humor indicators invented on the Internet. I have always quietly — well, quietly for *me* — despised that stuff.

I've always felt that if I can't write the joke well enough to make you laugh, putting a little sign-post at the end of it is an implied insult of some severity. It says: "You should have been laughing at that last sentence and I think so little of your powers of perception and sense of humor that I am flagging this line so that even a dolt like you can't miss it."



Saying something you think is funny and then slapping a Smiley face at the end of it is the written equivalent of people who say things like, "Pardon the pun" after making one.

I like to let the contributors to "ChatBack" — and consider this an invitation for the rest of you to send an occasional letter of comment — have as much space as they need to say what they want to say, I do try to expunge those Internet humor indicators whenever they occur.

Nonetheless, I am going to use one right here in "Inside Story," because that's how I look as I write about staying home while *Tout Le Beaux Fannish Monde* congregates in Austin, TX, for Corflu Quire. I don't envy Pat Pirzi her weekend of work, but I am jealous of a weekend spent with so many good people and friends.

My answer to the No Corflu Blues is to Pub My Mish. I guess it's the next best thing to being there, but I still miss you.

— Arnie

Even an electronic fanzine can't always keep up with the rush of events. I wrote this Saturday morning, little knowing what lay in store later in the day.

Vegas Fandom Weekly #93, Volume 3 Number 5, February 15, 2007, is written and produced by Arnie Katz (909 Eugene Cernan St., Las Vegas, NV 89145; Email: crossfire4@cox.net; phone: 702-648-5677).

Special Thanks to Roxanne Gibbs (many things), Bill Burns (posting), David Gordon (Mountaineering Consultant), Alan White (arty fella), Bill Mills (technical advisor), Joyce Katz (proofreading and So Much More) and Murray Moore (FAAn Awards ballot)

Reporters this issue: James Taylor, Teresa Cochran, Murray Moore, Linda Bushyager and Joyce Katz

Art/Photo Credits: Linda Bushyager (5), Lloyd Penney (6,7), Alan White (9), Shelby Vick (10,11), Bill Kunkel (15), all other cartoons by Bill Rotsler.

Columnists This Issue: Lloyd Penney, Joyce Katz, Shelby Vick

VFW is free by request — and you may get it anyway. It can be downloaded at SNAFFU.org and efan-zines.com. No stau-at-home trufen were harmed during the production of this fanzine.

Member: fwa

Supporter: AFAL

Corflu Silver in 2008!

When Animals ATTACK! Katzenjammer

I never thought it would be like this.

One day, Las Vegrants is the elite fan organization of Las Vegas and the next – *poof!*

Oh, I have considered the possibility that Vegrants will someday take its place in fanhistory. All good things come to an end and I can certainly imagine circumstances in which Las Vegrants ceased to exist. Though it's Vegas' largest club, it's small enough to really feel the impact if even a few key fans leave, whatever the reason.

The twin models for the fans that started Las Vegrants were the LA Insurgents and the Fanoclasts of hallowed fannish memory. There's no conscious emulation, but you know a fan club by its Ghods. Las Vegrants' totems are Charles Burbee, Bob Tucker and Ted White (with Walt Willis for extra melowness).

We are a rambunctious crew, full of Insurgents-in-training who have not yet located specific targets and sometimes like to spar with each other. Vegrants speak their minds and defend their opinions.

So, yes, I can see Las Vegrants explode into non-viable splinters.

But... *this?*



Ironically, the rot set in just as I'd begun to nurture the hope that Las Vegrants had fully rebounded from the post-exodus slump triggered when Tom and Tammy Springer, Ken and Aileen Forman and Ben and Cathy Wilson all moved away from Glitter City.

I have always had a special feeling for Las Vegas Fandom. When the Fanoclasts took me, the club's fabulous fannish fans had already carved legends; I joined a Successful Outfit. When I encountered Las Vegas Fandom in 1991, it was in process of being born and still unconnected to Fandom. I feel like there's a part of me in its development.

As you'd expect, Vegrants means a lot to me. I'm one of its founders and the co-host of the "home" club for just about all my fan friends in Las Vegas.

All local clubs have an ebb and flow about

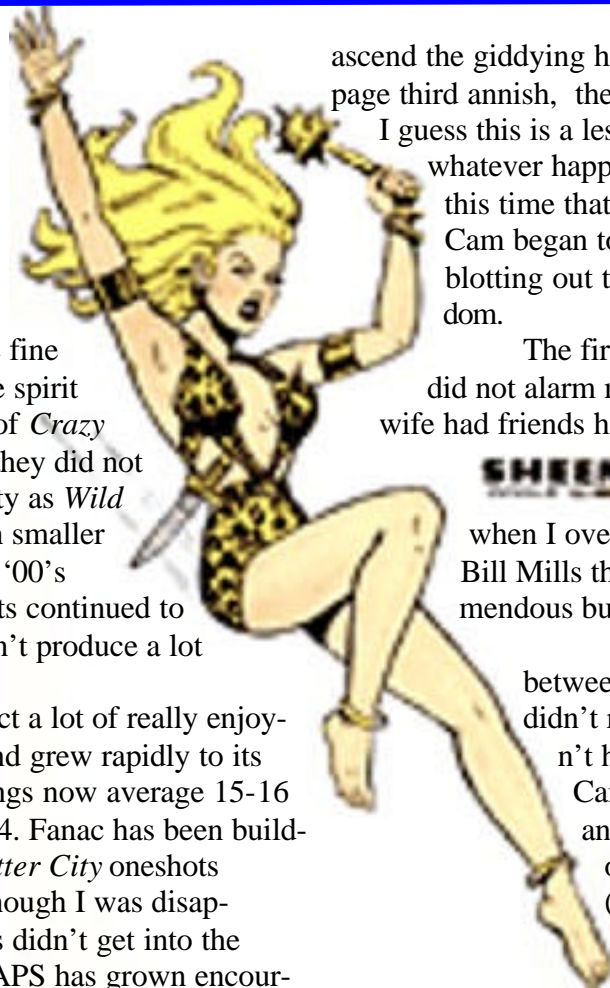


them and Vegrants is no exception. The *Wild Heirs* period stands as a “Golden Age,” a fabulous fannish scene as good as any I’ve encountered.

Then came the Vast Migration. Las Vegrants weathered the loss of some fine fans in a short time, but the spirit sputtered. I like the issues of *Crazy from the Heat* we did, but they did not generate the same electricity as *Wild Heirs*. The group was both smaller and less active in the early ‘00’s than in the 1990’s. Vegrants continued to meet regularly, but we didn’t produce a lot of tangible fanac.

The club began to attract a lot of really enjoyable newcomers in 2004 and grew rapidly to its current, robust size. Meetings now average 15-16 with some as large as 22-24. Fanac has been building up nicely, too. The *Glitter City* oneshots showed some promise, although I was disappointed that more Vegrants didn’t get into the spirit of the thing, and SNAPS has grown encouragingly, too.

I began to wonder if Las Vegrants would again



ascend the giddy heights of *Wild Heirs*’ 100-page third annish, the two Corflus and Toner.

I guess this is a lesson to me to be content with whatever happens, because it was just at this time that the grim spectre of the Afri Cam began to loom over Las Vegrants, blotting out the vitalizing rays of Trufandom.

The first mentions of the AfriCam did not alarm me. Frankly, I thought my wife had friends had been captivated by soe

SHEENA kind of porn site. I think I got that idea when I overheard Joyce excitedly tell Bill Mills that she had seen some tremendous butts.

I figured I’d check it out between editing assignments and didn’t rush to the URL. Yet I couldn’t help noticing that the AfriCam seemed to command more and more of the attention previously given to Core Fandom (and other porn sites). Avid conversations, posts on the local listservs and whispered late-night phone calls replaced fanwriting, fanzines, and all the other familiar topics.

At the February 3rd Vegrants meeting, there were little huddles of fans saying things like, “Did you see it?” and “I never thought it would be like *that!*” I was trying to bring home *VF* #92 at the time, so I did no more than observe this groundswell of interest. Apparently, AfriCam has a forum, because several Vegrants spoke about reading it and even writing for it; meanwhile, the two local fannish listservs languished for any fresh content besides announcements about the SNAFFU Dinner Meeting.

It worried me a lot more when I realized that Joyce had abandoned both her beloved Omnichord and her marathon assault on computer solitaire. Now she sat in the dark with the light of the monitor throwing her sensitive fannish face into stark relief. Strange, animalistic noises issued from her machine.

When I finally looked at the site, by simply looking over Joyce’s shoulder, I was more pro-



foundly disappointed than any time since I found out that Kino's is a copy shop. I found anything but naked butts. Well, not human butts, anyway.

The animalistic noises, you see, came from... well, *animals*.

As Joyce, who discovered this malignancy to Fandom, explained, AfriCam.com is a constructed around a set of video cameras trained on a watering hole in South Africa. A human cameraman is devoted to this arrangement and frequently points the camera by hand.

Joyce says that the idea is to watch the site to see if any animals show up to drink and eat. She also let it slip that sometimes she stares at the clearing for hours with nothing in view.

"That's amazing," I marveled, somewhat awestruck. "I think you've discovered a more zombie-like hobby than compulsively watching the Weather Channel."

"It's such an original concept," Joyce replied.

"I'm not sure about that," I wtemporized. "I think there's a Sorority House Dorn site that is sort of the same thing, except you watch until horny naked college girls show up. Same principle, though."

She protested that these animals are so cute. I defended the cuteness of the college girls and even pointed out that a coed often looks better in a thong than a wildebeest.

"I don't think you can get a coed into a wildebeest," she replied, effectively ending the dialogue.

Things have gone down hill since then. Others, like Linda Bushyager, have climbed on the AfriCam bandwagon. Instead of burning with excitement about the upcoming Laney reprint projects, they only rev up for rare sightings. Only a few days ago, Las Vegrants was able with the news that elephants had appeared at the watering hole. I think

Joyce dropped everything and signed onto the site. She spent the rest of the evening staring, with a delirious expression of rapture on her

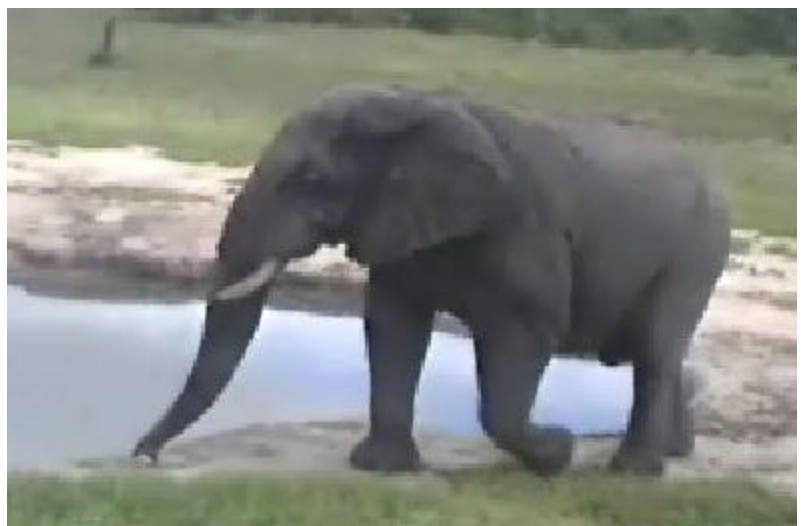


Here we see the star of the AfriCam, as photographed by Linda Bushyager, now a member of Waterhole Fandom.

face, at an elephant's butt. The beast didn't even acknowledge the camera and, of course, knew nothing about the virtual audience minutely studying every wrinkle and contour of its mammoth rump. I'm a breast man, myself, so maybe I'm missing something, but that's a lot of time to give to an elephant's butt, even if you were another elephant. For a fan, it's ridiculous.

So I'm publishing some of Linda Bushyager's pictures from the site in an effort to woo them back to Mother Fandom before they disappear into the Audobon Society or some other Mundane group.

— Arnie Katz



Canadians

The Gift Shop

The 2006 Worldcon in Los Angeles was not a cheap event, but it sure was a memorable one.

Through a little extra wallet-squeezing, we decided we could go to LA a few days early, so we thought about where we might go.

We don't travel often, but when we do, we prepare ourselves. We research what's open, what's interesting, how much it is to get in, and how do we get there from where we'll be. All hail the Internet, and especially Mapquest!

So research we did, made a list of interesting spots to visit, eliminated a few because they were distant, or not open at the time we'd be in California, or not open to the public at all, or even closed for the season or for renovations. Our list boiled down to two places...our first was the California Science Centre. A fun trip, a great place to visit and do and see things, with a great Omnimax theatre, and right next to an enormous rose garden. But...our second destination, the day before Worldcon started, was a place we'd read about and seen on television, and when we stopped gaping in amazement, we declared we'd go there if we ever got back to LA. We did, so off we went. The

place?

It's the gift shop at the Los Angeles County Coroners' Department.

It's called Skeletons in the Closet. It's not exactly the most fun-filled place in the world, but if the combination of macabre and funny gives you an evil grin, it's a place to look into.

With our Mapquest directions in hand, we drove our rental car into LA's labyrinth of Interstates from the Anaheim Hilton, and dropped off the I-5 at Mission Road, and the coroner's offices were but a short distance from the highway. We did our research, so we knew that we'd need a parking pass and two personal passes, but once the issuing office was found, and the ladies in the office persuaded, we buzzed to be let into 1105 Mission Road.

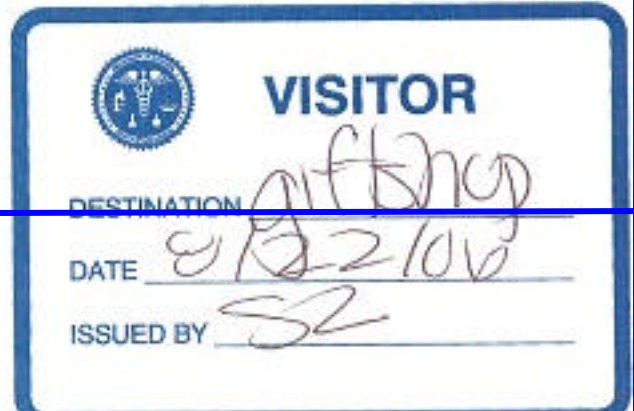
"Excuse me...we'd like to visit the gift shop, please?"

The surprised and weirded-out looks we got from some of the staff might have come from "Excuse me" and "please", or it might have been from our request, but they did let us in the building, and we got to room 206.

This room looks like it had been a large office



**L.A. COUNTY
CORONER**



at one time, but it's now jammed with shelves of t-shirts, sweats, polo shirts, tank tops, coats, garment bags (each tartly labeled "Body Bag"), caps, toques, sweatpants, welcome mats, pens, pencils, paper pads, Post-Its, cloisonné pins, cards and more with the Coroner's office logo or a chalk outline, or in the case of their most popular t-shirt, CORONER in big yellow letters on the back. I bought the CORONER t-shirt and a polo, and Yvonne bought the t-shirt, plus some pads and Post-Its, and we bought a t-shirt and tank top for a friend, and a few other things for Christmas presents. (Well received they were, too.)

We had a great time chatting with the ladies running the store, and they commented on the busloads of people they get when the Bouchercon is in town. (We were surprised they knew what a Bouchercon was, but in some ways, perhaps we

shouldn't have been.) The biggest question is why a gift shop at a coroner's office? The proceeds from the shop fund outreach programmes to get teenaged drivers to stop drinking and driving by taking them to the morgue to see how drinking drivers end up. This little field trip usually cures them of their twin habits.

If you found catalogues from Skeletons in the Closet on the freebie tables at LAcon IV, now you know who put them there. If you didn't, check out their website at www.lacoroner.com, and you'll smile at what you see. You'll be able to purchase some conversation pieces, and the Coroner's Department gets some more cash to keep drinking and driving kids off the streets, definitely a win-win-win situation.

- Lloyd Penney

County of Los Angeles

Department of Coroner



GUEST PARKING PERMIT

DISPLAY INSIDE ON DASH BOARD



LOT # VISITORS

LICENSE # Dodge

DATE ISSUED: 8/22/00

VALID ON DATE ISSUED ONLY

ISSUED BY: [Signature]

This parking permit licenses the holder to park one vehicle in this area solely at the holder's risk. County and Coroner's Office as a licensor, hereby declare themselves not responsible for personal injuries, fire, theft, damage to, or loss of such vehicle or contents thereof or of any article left therein, only a license is granted hereby and no bailment is created.

Blitz Journal's Corflu Fever!

Any way I looked at it, it was a rough day... a gloomy morning following a woe-filled week, without a lot of joy in sight. The news that LeeH was gone rocked fandom, and plunged me into a bog of grim despair that I couldn't seem to cast aside.

I'd commiserated with some others who felt the loss equally. Then I dusted off the piece I wrote for Geri Sullivan to publish a couple of years ago in tribute to the greatest female fan who ever lived, and Arnie agreed to rerun it in the special issue he is planning in tribute to Lee's honor.

Yet to tell the truth, I felt like my heart was filled with dust and broken shards of glass. The last 12 months have been a bad year; I can't even bring myself to name the losses of people I loved – that we all loved. It really doesn't suffice to say that the face of fandom has changed too much, through these absences.

And it has not been too nifty for me, on the personal front, either. My recovery from the double ankle accident (April 2004) has been disappointingly slow. The last 12 months got me on my feet, walking, driving the car, and able to live a more normal life. Unfortunately, the pain level has not receded as I might have hoped. Sometimes my spirits really sag.

Saturday, February 10 – fandom was gathered in Austin now. Everyone would be waking up after

the night of parties, stumbling down to the con suite for coffee-and. I signed online, hoping to get a glimpse of the gathering through the murky screen, as I sent a thought of thanks toward Geri for having set up a feed.

It was depression on top of a case of blues. I was glad to read of the arrivals, glad to know that Corflu was underway.

Reading the notices made me even sorer not to be there, and made me miss my good buddies even more.

Not much happening. No offers yet to host next year's Corflu. There's been some arm-twisting, but resistance seems firm.

Arnie and I sat down to have a bowl. I gave him what news from Austin I'd gleaned online. And gradually, as we enjoyed our morning together, a warm flush started to come over me. "You know," I said to him, "someone really ought to step forward."

"Pity Ken and Aileen, and Ben and Cathy didn't feel up to it."

"Yes. But Ken wrote that Flippin is too far out of the way." I had written to Ken a day earlier, to let him know there wasn't anyone volunteering for the job. I wasn't quite reconciled to their decision: "Of course, they could do it in Springfield Missouri, or in Little Rock."

Arnie agreed that was possible, but, "It was better when they talked about having another one

CORFLU SILVER



here. It wouldn't be that much trouble to set it up from Arkansas, then come in a day ahead to set up the con suite and...." We both mulled the thought in silence.

"You know," I ventured, "we should do it. We should get James and Teresa to make the offer...." I thought of some of the problems. "But I'd have to have help with the lifting and carrying...."

"Course, fans are really good about pitching in when it's needed..." Arnie warmed to the thought.

"Vegas really is an easy place to give a convention," I pointed out. I was convincing myself, thinking about the good relationships we'd built with the hotels in town. "And the Vegants would help...."

Then Arnie said the words. "Why don't you call James and Teresa in Austin, and tell them to do it..."

I actually never got to speak to them about it. I called their room, but they were out, so I tried the con suite.

Jerry Kaufman answered the phone and he seemed so glad to hear from me, I took it as a good sign. I've known Jerry almost forever – he was one

of the first out-of-town fans to take an interest in the St. Louis club, when we formed it in the mid-'60's. He actually attended Ozarkon I, and he was good friends with Hank Luttrell and, later, the Couch kids. Then we'd been friends when he was in New York. We were never really close, but he's been a solid pal for over 40 years, with never a cross word between us. I felt like the warm greeting I got from him on Saturday morning was a good auspice from someone who'd known me a very long time.

James and Teresa weren't in the con suite, so I asked for either Ted White or Frank Lunney . Turned out Frank was the closest to the phone, so I told him what was on my mind. "Has anyone come forward to host it next year?" When he was enthusiastic, I asked that he and Ted talk with James, and have James call me to work out any details.

Afterward, I went off to do the grocery shopping. And, I felt very good about it – I felt it was a happy decision.

An hour or so later, a clutch of Vegas fans showed up for a Library Day, to finish alphabetizing the club's collection and install them on the handsome shelves Lori Forbes snagged from Borders when the store redecorated. When we told the news, they were happy, too, And Belle Churchill immediately said she'd help with the food. Our first recruit! When Ross arrived, he gave me a big kiss and laughed at me for being slightly nuts, but then expressed glee that fanzine fandom would be coming to visit.

By the time James and Teresa finally talked with Arnie and me, it really was all over. I think James is getting kinda used to being steamrolled by fannish enthusiasm; he was completely unruffled and ready to get practical about taking pre-registrations. And Teresa was her normal self, eager and excited about any fan project.

So. That's the story of how I came to be chairman of Corflu Silver (for the Silver State, and for the Silver Anniversary of the convention, and for all that Silver you've got a chance to win in Vegas.)

Now I really do have a lot to keep me busy, and something big to look forward to. And, on some level, somewhere, I believe LeeH would be happy, too. — Joyce Katz

NOW & Again Return of a Fan

It occurs to me that I should be bragging. I live what many fans would consider The Perfect Life! My time is my own; twenty-four hours each day to do whatever I want!

I have a powerful computer – 120 gigs of harddrive, over one gig of RAM, a PhotoShop program for capturing and transforming illos, a cable modem, an online site (you know – <http://www.planetarystories.com>) a comfortable place to live complete with an office for my computer, get fed regularly, and – despite my 78 years of age and glaucoma, am in close-to-perfect health (no heart trouble, no arthritis, no allergies) thanks to inherited genes. My daughter Diane keeps the house clean – in fact, she recently brought in another set of shelves and reorganized stuff, throwing away junk with my approval, and putting things where I can FIND them! All my floppies are in the same place and I can now find Scotch tape when I need it!

So . . .

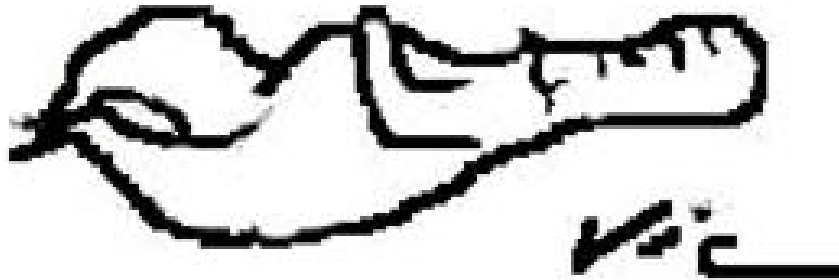
Why don't you see more from Shelby Vick? Why isn't the much-overdue issue of *confuSon* not out???

Why have I missed turning in columns for Arnie lately? For that matter, why is my FAPAzine not submitted? (I slipped that in for you, Robert Lichtman.)

I'm lazy.

I procrastinate. (Why not? Time is the one thing I have an abundance of. After all, Time is the one thing the government hasn't yet found a way to tax!)

And then there's the classic NWIGGO – Next Week I've Gotta Get Organized! . . .I've only been saying that for about sixty years, but the key is 'Next'; manana. 'Tomorrow, tomorrow, I love you, tomorrow. . . .' You know.



Not that I haven't done a lot. I email lotsa fans, I belong to several listservs, I get lotsa ezines, and (now that my eyesight is better) I read lotsa books – most of 'em sf, in fact. Also, I do daily work on Planetary Stories. . .and get picky about sometimes minor things on it. Like, I have spent HOURS working on the last covers. (That's plural becous I now have Wonderlust, A Magazine of Speculative Fiction, as part of Planetary Stories.) A cover will look great – and then I look at it again and say, "That ain't what I want. Too blurry. Too small/large. The text needs changing.

VEGAS
fans
AREN'T
LAZY!



The picture needs sharpening. Why isn't...?

YOU get the idea. And then I find out how to use the drop cap effect, and hafta go back and redo stories. Or I find another way to use 'body background' and play around with it. Or someone tells me I missed something, or suggests something else, or. . . .

—And now I've been giving a new alphabet I can use, and I downloaded another font from online, copied them both into PhotoShop – first, to use for DropCaps, then decided I would do one title from them, meaning I had to go into *PhotoShop*, cut'n'paste one letter at a time and arrange them on a new screen, then put in the right background – didn't like it, had to enlarge it and do it again... but you get the idea.

I'm not a perfectionist, Ghu knows, but I get fussy about the strangest things.

And, speaking of *PhotoShop*, I'm even learning to draw puffins with my mouse! And other cartoons. If they get to Arnie in usable condition, you'll see how they came out. —It's MESSY, drawing with a mouse! Now, I had bought a computer pad and stylus to draw with/on, but I soon decided I'd just as soon do it in PhotoShop.

Also, I take a daily walk. And I sit on the front porch and smoke. And I play computer games. And, oh yeah, I write! Not just this column and stuff for Planetary Stories, but fiction, as well. And I'm involved in a writer's group where we try to help each other. And I watch TV – right now, Spike TV is rerunning Voyager and the scifi channel is rerunning Enterprise. And I watch Walker, Texas Ranger. (Now, THERE'S a fantasy for you!) And the Discovery Channel and the History Channel. And action cartoons, like Ben 10.

Yeah, yeah; I can see it now: ALL of you are faunching about how much time I waste. Instead of watching TV or playing computer games, I should be FANNING.

And you're right.
NWIGGO!

— Shelby Vick



To Everyone Who Placed in the

2007

FAAn Awards

And a Special Saute to

All the Winners

Best Fanzine
Banana Wings

Best Fan Writer
Claire Brialey

Best Fan Artist
Dan Steffan

Best Letterhack
Lloyd Penney

Best New Fan
Teresa Cochran

A Complete Write-Up
of the Results is

Continued from p 1

(you can switch to attending later, if you wish, at whatever the rate is at the time you change.) Do it now.....

"I'm acting as chairman this year. Arnie will be my left-hand-man, and James Taylor will be my right-hand-man. Arnie will be in charge of publications. There'll be a steady flow of information, through Vegas Fan Weekly, other Vegas fanzines, online, and progress reports. Other positions will be announced as we figure it all out.

"I already have a paypal account. The information is below -- I think this is everything you'll need.

"Name: Joyce Marie Katz

"Email: JoyceWorley1@cox.net."

Teresa Cochran Elected Best New Fan!

Las Vegas' Very Own Teresa Cochran has been voted the Best New Fan of 2006 in the 2007 FAAn Achievement Awards. The poll is conducted annually among Core Fandomites, under the supervision of Murray Moore this time, and announced at the annual Corflu banquet.

Picking the "Best New Fan" may appear to be a crapshoot, but the list of winners includes many who subsequently developed into outstanding fans. The two most recent winners, Chris Garcia ('05) and Pete Young ('04) are prime examples.

Tee earned her laurels with a varied range of fanac (fan activity) that includes fanzines, listservs, local clubs and SNAPS (the electronic apa). Fittingly, Tee was in Austin (with James Taylor) attending her first Corflu, so she was there to accept her certificate and pin in person.

I'll have full results of the 2007 FAAn Achievement Awards in the next VFW.

Westercon '08 Sets Tour & Meeting!

James Stanley Daugherty, chairman of the 2008 Westercon has invited Las Vegas fans to attend a meeting to find out about the convention coming to Glitter City over the July 4th weekend of 2008.

Interested fans will gather in the MainLobby of the JW Marriott Las Vegas Resort (211 North Rampart Blvd.) at 1:00 PM

They'll inspect the setting and meet with the

Westercon's planners to get an update. The meeting will take place at 2:00 PM in room 3200.

The SNAFFU Library Committee Makes Major Progress

Lori Forbes, SNAFFU Library Committee chairman, supervised a productive (and enjoyable) work session at the Launch Pad on Saturday, February 10. All the books are on shelves, minus two cartons discovered only after they cleared away the debris. It won't take more than one more work session to get everything onto the shelves and ready for cataloguing.

Things looked a little dubious for the work detail before the fact, since only one person notified Lori that he was going to help. When Saturday arrived, however, eight fans gathered to sort books, get them onto the shelves and similar tasks. On hand were Lori Forbes, Belle Churchill, Eric Davis, Ross Chamberlain, April Reckling, Bryan Follinsm Joyce and me.

Andy Porter Now Walking Long Recovery Road

Andy Porter, long-time stalwart of New York Fandom and a man who survived two years of me as a roommate, has gotten over the first hurdle (extensive surgery) and is now embarked on a long-range recuperations.

Here's what Andy had to say:

"I'm getting better, day by day, and went in to the hospital to see a doctor about chemo-therapy. It was start 6 weeks after the Whipple -- by Beginning of March. Three weeks on, one week off, for perhaps 6 months. Yes, side effects and other shitty stuff. But do I have a choice? Well, yeah, but a choice between not fighting it and fighting it.

"50 percent chance of developing more cancer. Wiped out by trip home. Took the subway back home, a 30-45 minute trip that took two damned hours, and pushed me to the limits. Fortunately I took a percocet, had some juice and ate a snack-bar at the hospital before I left, otherwise might have collapsed. But it was close. Hauling myself up the stairs at the end, hand over hand. Two hours. Damnit!!!"

SNAFFood Tries a Brunch!

Dim Sum — Harbor Palace (4275 Spring

Mountain Road; 702-253-1688) is the site of the February 17 gathering of SNAFFood. This time, it's brunch with an 11:00 AM start time.

Linda Bushyager, who coordinates the monthly food fests, says it's too late to RSVP, but there's usually room for latecomers. Contact her at: LindaBushyager@aol.com.

SNAFFU Stars Election!

Michael Bernstein has sent a letter that announces the start of the annual SNAFFU election for President and Vice President. James Taylor is running unopposed for his first try at the presidency, while Joyce Katz has no opposition in her bid for a second term as Vice President.



Anyone who has paid the club's \$20 annual dues is eligible to vote.

Heard Around Fandom...

The 20th (and final) issue of John Purcell's *In a Prior Lifetime* is now available for free download at efanazines.com. John is moving into the final phase of a doctoral program and has chosen the wise course of opting out of the monthly schedule while he can still do so gracefully. I'm trying to entice him into a *VFW* column...

Ross Chamberlain is still a little frail from his recent operation, but don't bet against him resuming his participation in Vegas' Corporate Games (where he has won a variety of medals) next year if not this one...

James Taylor has a new email address: white-dwarf@cox.net. Fanzine editors take note...

ChatBack: The CFW Letter Column

The stories keep changing faster than I can get them emailed, so let's adjourn to the (relative) sanity of the letter column.

Batting Lead-off, Writing Right, Pubbing Right is the knitter of the ChatBack letter column... (Note: It's a baseball allusion; don't worry.)

Robert Lichtman

In fairness to those few people reading *VFW* No. 92 who might not be aware that complete ordering information and a sample article from *Ah! Sweet Laney!* are available at <http://efanazines.com/ASL/index.htm>, on behalf of myself as editor and Pat Virzi as designer and publisher, it would be good to include this information in the next issue. I'm writing this letter a couple days before Corflu, where copies will be readily available, and already I've been hearing from Pat that quite a few people have placed orders. This could be a fannish best-seller!

Other ones will probably be Taral's CDs of *Energumen* and of Laney's *Ah! Sweet Idiocy!* The latter will likely include Harry Warner Jr.'s lengthy article on Laney from *Stormy Petrel* (the oneshot published in 1959 by Terry Carr that includes the articles by Robert Bloch, Charles Burbee and Jack Speer that are reprinted in *Ah! Sweet Laney!*) as well as Alva Rogers's "FTL & ASI," a

30-page article about Laney and *ASI* written and published in 1963.

In “Forever Changes” you discuss the format alterations you make with every tenth issue and then go on to say, “What I hadn’t considered was the cumulative effect of all that editorial fine-tuning. It becomes progressively harder to make meaningful changes. Worse, the more changes I make, the less likely I am to come up with new changes that strike me as positive. For example, I changed the logo last issue—and this issue reverted to a variation of what I’ve used for some time.” Assuming that by this you mean the dark background behind the zine’s title that I admired in No. 91, I have to admit to some disappointment that you didn’t like it—because I did. It gave the title lettering a strength and authority that’s lacking in the pink-backgrounded version in this issue and the pale yellow in No. 90. But it’s *your* fanzine—I’m only an egg...oops, I mean reader.

Further in “Forever Changes” you mention that “Shelby Vick and Bill Kunkel are back.” I see (and enjoyed) ShelVy’s column but that nice Mr. Kunkel is absent in this issue’s pages. Could he be a victim of what you write on the back page: “This issue is 22 pages, because otherwise it might’ve been 40.”

Your having access to Ted’s and rich’s fanzine collections when you were a newly minted neofan is parallel to my own good luck in having Rick Sneary as a fannish mentor when I was in a similar position back in 1959. I used to ride my four-speed “English racer” from my parents’ home not

far from the L.A. airport over to South Gate and spend afternoons with Rick in his small house crammed full of science fiction books and magazines and many fanzines. As I’ve written any number of times in the past, I would find myself riding home with complete runs of such fanzines as *Spacewarp* and *Quandry*, the shopping bags holding them secured to the tiny wire parcel carrier over the back wheel of my bike.

Having predated you, I of course got to read *Void*, *Innuendo* and *Hyphen* in the latter parts of their respective runs, and Gregg Calkins’s *Oopsla!* was the very first fanzine I ever received. Who could not fall in love with fandom when these were among the first words ever cast eyetracks upon: “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 trouser. What cruel fate has exiled me to this Siberia, you may well ask. Since you do, I’ll tell you.” What a great column to get hooked on as one embarks on a lifetime in fandom!

My own early fanzines relied on columns, too. The first one, *Psi-Phi*, had Roger Ebert’s “Reverberations,” nominally a book review column although Roger would stray, and also “The Greatest Movie Ever Made,” technically not a column but a serial article by “Ted Johnstone” fantasizing on who might be cast in a movie of *The Lord of the Rings*. I was also lucky to get from Willis a final installment of “Fanorama,” his col-

Snapshots Lookin' Good!

The Adorable Official Editor of SNAPS (still me) decided that it sn’t a good idea to have the February eMlg. Deadline fall on the same weekend as Corflu. And I didn’t even know that the weekend would be so eventful for me personally.

So there’s still time to do a contribution for this lively electronic monthly amateur press association. There are no dues, the activity requirement is a measly contribution every other eMailing and the members are a varied and interesting lot (well, maybe with some exceptions).

The material is pouring in for the February eMailing, so it looks like SNAPS’ current successful run will continue for at least another month. If you want to see a sample eMailing, drop me a note.

— Arnie

Deadline for Feb. eMailing: 2/18

New Podcast!

The rare audio tape of Dr. Donald Reed, donated to TVoF by Alan White, has yet to be transferred from reel-to-reel tape to digital form. The tape is so old and fragile that simply attempting to unspool it from the reel to thread onto a tape player caused the plastic tape to snap and break repeatedly. To complicate matters TVoF's 30 year old reel-to-reel machines have both finally become unusable and we are on the hunt for a vintage functional reel-to-reel tape player to replace them and become TVoF's new transfer machine. But we are persevering and we will have the audio of Dr. Don up on TVoF eventually, if it's at all possible.

We've added an archive page to the web site for previous TVoF Podcasts. Now you can find, should you wish to, mp3 files of all the previous podcasts with brief descriptions of the program contents and even links to websites mentioned in the program (starting with the January show). You can stream them to your mp3 player or save them to your computer for later listening. That's at <http://thevoicesoffandom.com/podcast-archive.html>

On the Oral History page we've added an mp3 of a special edition of the "EscapePod" podcasts recorded at the 2006 Worldcon surveying fans on the subject of 'How Did You Become An SF Fan?', as well as links to the YouTube.com videos of Vegas' own Teresa Cochran and James Taylor at Corflu 24 with Ted White and others. That page is: <http://www.thevoicesoffandom.com/history.html>

On the February TVoF Podcast: Our Faanish News segment, plus Jean Stine remembers David McDaniel in his filking days, a recording of David performing 'Shottle Bop', Arnie Katz recalls the con that inspired the classic filk song 'Bouncing Potatoes' followed by a new performance of the song by Bill and Roxie Mills. Click on the following link to stream or download this podcast: http://thevoicesoffandom.com/mp3/tvof_podcast.mp3

— Bill Mills

umn in *Nebula*, which had become orphaned when that magazine folded. My other early fanzine, *Frap*, had a steady stream of Greg's "Happy Benford Chatter," a single installment of Calvin Demmon's "Grunt," and Rich Alex Kirs's "How The Other Half," this latter inherited from Boyd Raeburn's *À Bas*. My current fanzine, *Trap Door*, has been less column-driven. Early issues had Paul Williams's "We Never Sleep" and Redd Boggs's "Penseroso," the latter a selection of material from Redd's SAPSzine. More recently most issues have had an installment of Carol's "Stuff," a column that previously appeared in *Lighthouse* and the posthumous *Innuendo*.

I enjoyed your response to Mike Glycer's tongue in cheek assertion in *File 770* that you've "produced 88 fanzines since 2004 without giving them at least 37 different titles." There are some titles in your alphabetical list that are unfamiliar to me: *DamnYankee* (for SFPA?), *La Merde*, *Neme-*

sis, *Polaris* (channeling Paul Freehafer?), *Umpyre* (for your fantasy sports fetish?) and *Zup*. Where did these appear and, more important, why aren't copies of them in *my* collection? Of the example of *Folly* for your "F"-titled zine you note that "some letters have several titles, such as 'F'— with *Focal Point* and *FIAWOL* as well as *Folly*." When it comes to your titles beginning with that letter, the first one that comes to mind for me is always the memorable *Filk*, the second issue of which is now over forty years past due. You mention that you still haven't published fanzines beginning with K, R and Y. May I humbly suggest that if you rejoined SAPS you could perhaps chase away the fellow already there whose presence has been keeping you from doing so with a SAPSzine titled with a very specific word beginning with "K." I'm sure you know which word I mean, so I won't mention it here.

I also enjoyed your lengthy essay on Laney

and wondered if this was some version of the introduction you wrote to Damien Warman's long-delayed reissue of *Ah! Sweet Idiocy!* Whether or not it is, it's a fine job. You note that Laney "did a regular column for the number one fanzine of the late 1940's, *Spacewarp*," but don't mention that this was "Fanzine Scope," a review column presaging indirectly the KTF reviews of much later. It actually didn't begin appearing until the 37th issue, near the end of the genzine run. (It was only in two of the four issues that appeared before Rapp got drafted and sent to Korea and turned *Warp* over to Laney and Burbee for the two magnificent "Insurgent issues" before resuming its publication himself as a long-lived SAPSzine.)

Terry Kemp writes: "Having grown up in the science fiction world, underfoot most of the time, hidden inside my cloak of invisibility, recording events unobserved and unknown, my interaction has for decades gone unnoticed. At most my activity has been viewed as an afterthought, a ripple around the shakers and movers, but there have been a few times when I was in the right time and place." This reminds me so much of what Johnny Burbee has written to me about being a very young fly on the wall back in the '40s when FAPA collating sessions and oneshots would take place around him in Southern California. I really enjoyed Terry's piece.

In response to Lloyd Penney's musing about whether or not a "fanzine wiki" would be possible, you write: "Of course we could have a fanzine wiki. All it takes is one-to-three fans willing to put up the site, solicit entries and go over them for accuracy. A lot of fans (too many) seem to be afraid to make qualitative judgments. Some others don't suffer this impediment and would be able to handle this very well." Although I might be one of the latter, I am running (fast) the other way. That said, I could be useful for the last of your three-part "all it takes" but not the first two.

Bill Mills's note in his short piece concerning your 23-minute conversation with him "on the subject of Core Fandom and Vegas Fandom in 2006 and his projections for 2007" reminds me that I have yet to find time to listen to your discussion. I started one time and got a couple minutes into it before something pulled me away. Perhaps you should consider publishing a transcript some-

where. It would be easier to read in pieces than to have to try to find my place in the recording.

In response to me you write, "I think this year or next, an electronic fanzine will actually win the poll." I'm not making any predictions about it, but will freely concede that there *are* a number of strong contenders.

About fanzine collections in university libraries you say, "It would be very good if anyone who went there could gain access. It would be even better if some university decided to digitize their collection and made it universally available." Given the fragile nature of many fanzines, especially the older ones, providing universal access to them might be a problem for the collections' longevity. So I agree more with your latter statement concerning digitizing, and hope that the Eaton at UC Riverside or one of the others with a sizable collection can someday get funding to do just that. It occurs to me that this would be a worthy request to be made by one or more of our number who've achieved substantial financial success.

Arnie: Ah! Sweet Laney! Is the most impressive piece of fanpublishing of recent years. You as editor and Pat Virzi as publisher deserve great praise for a superlative piece of fannish craftsmanship.

The black background of the logo on #91 was not the change that I changed again. Truth to tell, the black background was some kind of aberration caused I think, by making the outline too thick. It was yellow in the Microsoft Publisher file, but the background of the logo turned black when I converted the issue to a .PDF.

I sense you want a sinister look to the logo, something to strike fear in the hearts of the Unwashed and the Unworthy. As I explained in my '06 Banana Wings article, I am not inherently lovable, like a Shelby Vick, a Chris Garcia, a Joyce Katz. I feel like a mild-mannered logo is less inflammatory to readers who might yet be charmed. (I improve on acquaintance... I think.)

Bill Kunkel's absence from the issue was definitely unplanned. I like to see a Kunkel cartoon, but space for illos dried up when I cut back on the pages and decreased the size of the text in the news and ChatBack sections.

Nemesis was the title of my first SFPAzine when I joined in the mid-1960's. After one issue, I

switched to the more self-effacing DamnYankee for the rest of my approximately five-year run. When I returned to SFPA in the 1990's, I called my apazine Polaris. Le Merde was my fanzine in N'APA, the N3F's apa. Judi Sephton and I did a oneshot called Zup, Son of Zap. I recall thinking at the time that we had more fun doing that one than N'A-PAns probably had reading it.

And now a charming LoC from a Charming Reader from the Antipodes (Bless me T O'Connor Sloane...

Clare McDonald

My own school days were a mixture of hell and rounds of parties, often the parties being the site of the current hell I was in. Some of my worst experiences were at those very parties, but I learned and grew with the learning, and remember never to drink Southern Comfort again. Mostly it was fun for me, though I don't think I've ever ridden in a 'jalopy'! Not even sure what it is to be honest. Wait, let me google that... oh, so it's either some kind of computer source code, or a beat up old car (a paddock basher!). I'm going with the car theory - so I have ridden in one after all. In fact, come to think of it, my Kingswood could be described as a jalopy. Interesting.

I really like the idea of the Grove of Fandom. I would be happy to make a small donation occasionally to honour those who have, as you say "caused so many [trees] to be cut down in the service of Science Fiction". My own opinion is that a posthumous memorial would be the most appropriate, but I'm open to persuasion. As to the question of who should be honoured thus - I am way too much of a neo to put forward my opinion! I do tend to lean in the same direction as you Arnie, in that I think it would be appropriate to honour both fans and pros, and give special mention to those who contributed to both - they could be identified as such by something on the plaque quite easily.

Arnie A new administration is about to take office for SNAFFU. Once that's past, I assume the club will decide whether it wants to take on the project. Should it pass, then it will be up to Fandom as a whole whether the SF Groce ever materializes.

His reign as Fandom's top neofan has ended, but he's still number-one with s...

Chris Garcia

It hits on a Tuesday Morning and I'm too busy getting ready for CorFlu to respond until 9:30 in the PM. I feel like I've let you down but so it goes!

I can't wait to read *Ah! Sweet Laney!*. I've never read any Laney save for a few pages of **Ah! Sweet Idiocy!** and it was damn good stuff. I'm gonna buy it at CorFlu and read it on the flight back home. Must get! Must get!

It's official I'll be out in Vegas in April! Perhaps there'll be a Cineholics gathering that I can join in on. It's lookin' like the first weekend of April, so I'm hoping there'll be a Vegrants party. I mean meeting, for me to drop in on! Everything's coming up Garcia!!!

I was at LosCon and got to see the little exhibit they did for Alexis' Rotsler Award win. One of the issues of KTEIC I got from Don Simpson had a bunch of collaborations between Alexis and Rotsler that were just great. The group of winners of the Rotsler is very impressive. I'd say that there's a list of about five artists that I could come up with that need to get it (two of them being Joe Mayhew and Ian Gunn who are sadly passed from this world) but I'm sure they'll give it to them eventually.

Glad to hear that Andy's getting better. I always worry when I hear fans are going in to the hospital for surgery. I better get used to it, I think.

Can't wait for the full run of Energumen on CD. I've got a few issues in my collection, and I've read one or two on eFanzines, but having a full run is always wonderful.

I'm still loving VFW, and I'll still love it if you change the name! I've noticed something doing The Drink Tank. You make a change and you realize the previous version hardly exists anymore. Every issue is some reader's first exposure, and they think 'Hey, this is how it's always been'. I've had a few people who were shocked to look back at earlier issues. I always just assumed that's the way it'd always been'. I then point out the various points where I got a slightly better idea of what I'm doing. Still, VFW has kept getting better.

You talk a little about learning at the knee of Ted White. I'll finally get a chance to chat with

him at CorFlu Quire this weekend and I'm hoping that I can get some of that good stuff out of him in my short time around the con.

I like *File770*, partly because it manages to cover news that I don't hear about (and I'm always wondering if I'll ever get mentioned and I haven't!). I met Mike not too long ago at WorldCon on a panel about fan hoaxes and he was a good guy and a member of the Bearded Men of Fandom (honorary chairman: Art Widner). You've obviously done a bunch of different titles, but when am I getting a new issue of *Flicker*?

I've got a list of titles that I'm going to use before I start thinking of new ones. They are (and feel free to steal them) -- *The Drink Tank* (done), *Claims Department* (done), *The Christopher J. Garcia Show Starring Christopher J. Garcia* (done), *Little Passport* (done, for ANZAPA), *The Enchanted Placemat* (Done), *Yon Tumblers* (not yet started), *Crowded Plate* (Totally using it for my Con Food Review Column for WesterCon), *The Beering House* (Done), *Death to the Infidels* (available), *They Died with Their Boots on Golden Pond* (My soon to hit the streets Movie Mash-Up zine), *Now With Less Content* (a Perzine for my 40s), *Junta Virus* (Someday), *Raise Your Shade*, *Elmer Purdue* (my LA Fannish History Zine), and

PrintZine (my TAFF Race zine, and if I win, my TAFF Reports will be *WebZine*). Once I'm done with those, I may be done with fanzinery.

I'm happy that Laney's getting a comeback. I can't wait until you give us the article on him. This little article is really solid as it is. It's always the flawed individuals that are the most interesting to read about.

I loved Jack Williamson's stuff. The first adaptation I ever did of an SF story was of a Williamson story. That was a long time ago. I'm sad that I never got a chance to talk to him. Terry Kemp's got a similar respect for the man that my Dad did. Same for L. Sprague de Camp.

I love the way ShelVy writes. It's what I'd love to write like if I thought about it instead of writing off the top of my head.

Arnie: Having sung the praises of Lichtman and Virzi about ASL, I should add that I think Taral Wayne is doing a real service by putting together his CD with Ah! Sweet Idiocy! and other goodies. Laney, with all his good and bad points, richly deserves a fannish revival and it seems that it will now occur, largely through the efforts of those three.

Joyce and I keep a running list of potential fanzine titles. Sometimes we even use one of the ones

Contact! Las Vegas Club Directory

Las Vegrants

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

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

Las Vegas Fan Events Calendar

SNAPS Deadline Sunday, February 18

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

Cineholics Friday, February 23 7:30 PM

The invitational film circle meets weekly at the home of Alan and DeDee White

Westercon 2008 Tour & Meeting Saturday, February 24 1:00 PM

The city's oldest formal SF club will be breakfasting together on Dim Sum.

Cineholics Friday, March 2 7:30 PM

The invitational film circle meets weekly at the home of Alan and DeDee White

VSFA Monthly Meeting Saturday, March 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 Saturday, March 3, 7:30 PM

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

Cineholics Friday, March 9 7:30 PM

The invitational film circle meets weekly at the home of Alan and DeDee White

Cineholics Friday, March 16 7:30 PM

The invitational film circle meets weekly at the home of Alan and DeDee White

Las Vegrants Meeting Saturday, March 17 7:30 PM

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

on the list, but it's more common for us to think up a new title that dovetails with the purpose of the new fanzine. I suspect you'll come up with a new one when you find something you really want to publish after you're ready to end your current fanzine.

Returning after an absence of some issues is one of Seattle's finest fans with some intriguing comments about the FAAn Awards...

Randy Byers

Hi, Arnie. I know, I know, long time no write - and this is going to be a quickie, too.

Robert Lichtman questions the decision not to

accept FAAn Award ballots

at Corflu itself this year and wonders about the reasoning. I'm not privy to Murray Moore's thinking on this, but I can think of a couple of reasons for the decision, apart from any understandable gunshyness Murray may be feeling after the counting error he made last year. (I really loved the Banana Wings cover with its wry comment on that!)

One reason is that it breaks the tendency of votes cast at the convention to be cast for people who also happen to be at the convention. It really seems to be the case that when people are straining their memories to remember which fan writing or fanzine or fan art they saw and liked in the past year, their memory is likely to be influenced by

what or who is right in front of their faces. This is notoriously the case with Best New Fan, too, although Chris Garcia managed to overcome the liability of his absence from Corflu last year. I believe that previous winners at the other Corflus I've been too have all been in attendance at the con.

The second reason I can think of is that it allows the award certificates to be prepared in advance and handed out at the convention. I'm not completely sure, but I think Murray had to mail them out later last year. At Corflu Titanium, they were handed out at the con, I guess because Jae Leslie Adams was on hand to do the honors on the calligraphy. Where she found the time (let alone the sobriety), I'm not sure, because we were counting ballots until two in the morning on Sunday and the banquet wasn't so long after that.

It'll be interesting to see what kind of voting turnout we get this year -- or got, I guess, since the voting is completed at this point. It's certainly true that in past years quite a number of votes were wrung out of people at the last minute at the convention.

But I'm not sure Murray has the pure menace that Andy Hooper brought to bear in the collection effort during his years as administrator of the award. "Vote or die," I heard Andy mutter many a time.

Anyway, just a few thoughts on the topic. Guess this wasn't such a quickie after all. Hope it was good for you too!

Arnie: Now that we've planning Corflu Silver, I'm looking into the current state of the FAAn Awards more seriously. I'll have more to say in a couple of issues, once I've gathered a few opinions from other fans about the 2008 FAAn Achievement Awards.

The Kingfish Says...

"So," I thought to myself as I settled in on Saturday morning for the Big Push to finish this issue by 2/11, "I'll cure my Corflu Blues with some fanac." I wrote the news and locked down *Inside Story* when Things Started to Happen.

The news kept coming in, the emails kept coming in, the phone calls kept coming in,, and here I am trying to finish this up on 2/15.

Thanks to all who voted for me and *VFW* in the FAAn Awards. I sure would like to hear from some of you dear, silent readers.

I'll be back in a brief time than you might imagine. — Arnie Katz

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... and a ton of news.