

VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

Vegrants Launch Web Site!

Just when things seemed so serene and peaceful on the Internet, Las Vegrants has established a web site — www.lasvegrants.com.

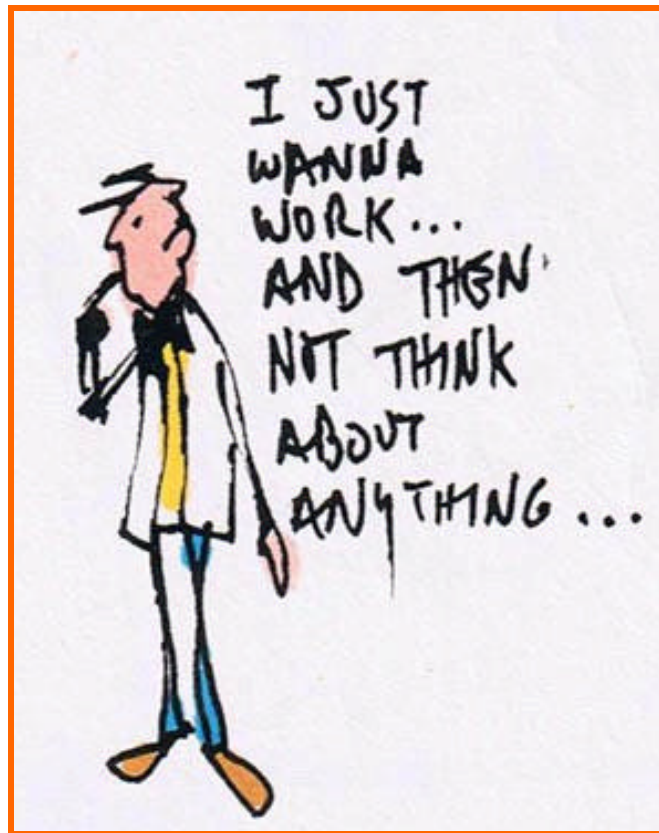
Established by Bill Mills with some behind-the-scenes support from Jean-Marie Stine, Vegrants Online is still very much in the construction stage. At the moment it has an archive of *Vegas Fandom Weekly*, but a lot more content is on the way, including both new and archival material. The goal is to create an online showcase for the invitational Core Fandom fan club's many talented folks..

Murray Moore to Conduct 2008 FAAn Awards!

Murray Moore, who has tabulated the ballots and announced the results of the last two Fan Achievement Awards, will perform the same function on behalf of Corflu Silver in 2008.

After some good dialog about the awards, Murray

and I have pretty much mapped out the conduct and format of next year's FAAn Awards. We'll be doing a little fine tuning, but the basic structure remains the same.



SNAFFU Sets 3/29 Work Session!

James Taylor, SNAFFU's amiable president, reports that the Library Committee will convene at 8:00 PM at the Launch Pad on Thursday, March 29. The session is expected to run about two hours and volunteers are urgently desired.

Almost all the books are now on the shelves in alphabetical order. The goal will be to put the last couple of cartoons onto the shelves and get started on the cataloguing.

SNAFFood Scarfs BBQ at Lucille's!

Although it probably wasn't ideal for a Saturday night SNAFFood gathering, Lucille's proved to be one

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Upcoming Vegas Fan Events

SNAFFU Library Work Session ::: Thursday, March 29 ::: 8:00 PM

VSFA Monthly Meeting ::: Saturday, April 7 ::: 11:00 AM

Las Vegrants Meeting ::: Saturday, April 7 ::: 7:30 PM

Inside Story Pilot Error

See the illo to the right? You might recognize it, because it was the cover of the gala Corflu Quire issue. I thought it was particularly apt for the purpose, for two reasons:

1. It embodies the New Gesture unveiled at Corflu Quire.
2. It was drawn by long-time fan friend Harry Bell and marked his return to my fanzines as a cartoonist.

So why is it here again? Well, I really like it a lot, but that's not the reason. If Harry wasn't such a terrific guy, that gesture would have been Just For Me — but with its original meaning.

As a result of some arcane thought process — or perhaps some arcane *non*-thought process — I typed "Brad Foster" into the credits as listed in the colophon. (That's the purple-tinted area below this one.)

So I am running the illo again, right here, along with an abject, and much deserved, apology to Harry, along with the hope that he will return to *Vegas Fandom Weekly* very soon, if only to give me a chance to credit his artistry as it deserves.

— Arnie



Vegas Fandom Weekly #93, Volume 3 Number 5, March 28, 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).

Reporters this issue: James Taylor, Joyce Katz, Taral Wayne, Murray Moore, Linda Bushyager and Joyce Katz

Art/Photo Credits: Bbob Stewart (1), Harry Bell (2), Ross Chamberlain (3), Bill Kunkel (4), Shelby Vick (6), Terry Kemp (8,9), Alan White (10), Taral Wayne (12), Lloyd Penney (16), Craig Smith (23).

Columnists This Issue: Joyce Katz, Shelby Vick, Terry Kemp

VFW is free by request — and you may get it anyway. It can be downloaded at efanzines.com and LasVegrants.com. No frustrated computerists were killed during the production of this fanzine.

Member: fwa

Supporter: AFAL

Corflu Silver in 2008!

INTRODUCING... The Faan Store

Katzenjammer

Joyce and I, with tremendous aid and support from Jean-Marie Stine and Bill Mills, are starting a little website that we think can provide a very important service for Core Fandom. It's called The Faan Store (www.thefaanstore.com). That's just for a sneak peek, because The Faan Store is not quite ready to open its doors.

The Faan Store is a new resource for Fandom, a website where fans can buy special fan publications in electronic form. It gives fans a way to distribute publications which, for various reasons, need to generate a monetary return.

It doesn't prevent the publication's owner from selling hard copy or CD versions, but rather represents a method for getting the material to fans at a reasonable price.

The Faan Store accepts PayPal payment with the money going to the producers of the volume and any fan charities they designate. The Faan Store collects a small fee on each download to defray expenses, including hosting and site upgrades.

I'd like to tell you about how it came to be and what it hopes to accomplish.

I don't charge for my fanzines. I don't even bother with the pretense of listing a subscription price in the colophon. I decided a long time ago that I just want to do my fanzines and give them to the fans that I hope will enjoy them (and maybe feed back a little to me). I've always sent copies to anyone who sent a note requesting one.

That's great for issues of current fanzines. Bill

Burns' efanzines.com is an excellent way to dispense such fannish treasures. It's the first place I send neofans, usually armed with a list of recommended titles.

Large and special publications, from the fan fund trip reports to *Ah! Sweet Laney!* are a different matter. The producers of some landmark fan publications, like Robert Lichtman's Willis collection and Brialey/Plummer's Pickersggill anthology, need to get at least expenses back in order to make the projects feasible. Yet the process of soliciting the money, packaging the copies and mailing them to purchasers is time-consuming and pretty dull. And I don't know about you, but I don't like to beg money from my friends, even for something as precious as one of my fan publications.

Every copy sold of a large anthology or other special pub costs a great deal extra due to postage. The delivery tag is \$6. on a copy of *Ah! Sweet Laney!* It's certainly worth that much, at least to me, but I'll bet a lot of fans would be very receptive to the idea an easily acquired electronic edition at a fair, lower price.

These days, special fan publications are generally printed in editions of 100 or 200. It makes economic sense, because replacing the mimeo in the den with the copy shop on the corner removes the benefit of do-it-yourself "sweat equity." Few

Continued on next page



fans want to pass up economies of scale, so the idea of periodically going “back to press” for additional copies as demand develops just isn’t practical. Since some copy shops have minimums for jobs like a fanzine, it may not even be *possible* in many cases. I haven’t heard of anyone going back for a second run of anything in a very long time; it maybe happening, but it’s obviously rare.

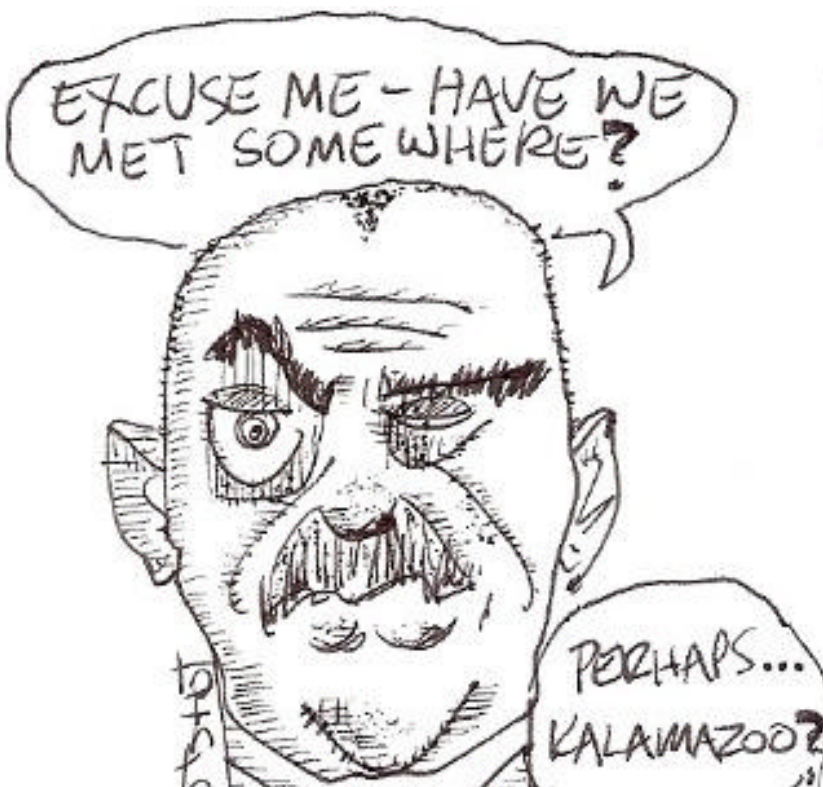
Today, the “sensible thing” is to print what can be sold in a short time, plus whatever is needed to get a price break (if one is within range). The upshot is that the first print run is exhausted and there is no second one.

The Faan Store offers an attractive alternative. Fans who want the paper version (if any) will buy the paper version until it’s exhausted. Until now, fans who come along later or don’t hear about the publication are out of luck. The Faan Store is a reliable, secure, easily-accessed source of the major works of fannish literature.

Fandom has a lot of great stuff as part of its rich culture. All of it might as well not exist, though, if fans can’t get hold of them. It’s nice that UC Riverside and one or two other universities have fanzine collections; I’m skeptical about how many fans will go to those schools to read fanzines — and about what kind of reception they’ll get if they do.

The Faan Store will be there, dispensing electronic copies of some of Fandom’s greatest treasures. If this works — and it needs your cooperation to succeed — we won’t have generations of fan who have not read *The Harp Stateside* or *The BNF of Iz* or the sheer brilliance of Calvin W. *Biff* Demmon.

The Faan Store also offers a fairly easy way for fannish charities to earn a lot of extra money with no appreciable expense. Corflu could earn extra money by selling electronic editions of publications distributed at the con to those who couldn’t be there and those old TAFF and DUFF reports are nothing but “plus money” for the travel funds.



The Faan Store can also provide an easy way to raise money for a Special Fund. A collection or anthology could raise a lot of money in a very efficient way, because there are no expenses to deduct from the revenue.

Another way it could be used is to generate funds for a project that includes both hard copy and digital editions. The publisher could sell the digital version through The Faan Store and earn enough cash to get the copy shop to run off the printed version.

There’s also a larger issue to consider. We’ve all gotten a lot from Fandom; I’m sure we all want to do what we can to give others the chance to enjoy the pleasures and satisfactions we have discovered in Fandom.

Anyone can go to a party or wrangle at a business meeting; it’s the subcultural context that distinguishes Fandom from “just messing around.”

A big part of that context is the literature of Fandom. Preserving as much of the good stuff as possible should be a group goal.

I was lucky; two kindly BNFs with huge fanzine collections, Ted White and rich brown, enabled me to read many old fanzines. The passage of time is the enemy of all collectibles, especially

You Can Help...

The Faan Store is currently under construction, but we hope to swing wide the digital doors very soon. Bill Mills has put together a very attractive and functional site (www.thefaanstore.com) and is preparing the system that allows fans to buy what they want through PayPal and download it quickly and easily from the site.

Since a store without anything on the shelves isn't much, our first goal is to start to fill it with fan-literary items for sale. So what we need before the site goes "live" is fans who have special publications they will let us offer in electronic form.

We're also looking for fans who want to put together such projects. If you have an idea, send me an email and we can discuss it. If you don't have an idea, but you wouldn't mind doing a whole pile of scanning or other helpful tasks, that would be much appreciated, too.

those printed on cheap mimeo paper. There's also an attrition over time that gradually removes copies from the mix. Do you think there are more than 10 copies of any Joe Kennedy fanzine in collections accessible to active fans. They *say* he's one of the best we've ever had, but his stuff is basically *gone*. I've read enough to be aware of how much I have missed by not being able to find issues of *Vampyre*. I don't want the fan publications I've loved to go the same way.

Fandom is currently making the transition from print to electronic media. This is not a discussion of whether that is good or bad; it's a simple fact that it is taking place, due to a myriad of causes.

Consider:

1. Two of the top three fanzines, as decided by the 2007 FAAn Awards, are electronic. (You can make that three of the top six, if you include *The Drink Tank*.)
2. More than half of all fanzines now distribute some or all of their copies electronically.
3. More than half of all fanzines now published in the US are electronic.

It adds up to this: Paper fanzines aren't dead, but the horizon is in sight. Most of the new (and returning) Core Fandomites of recent years have gravitated toward electronic fanac and that influx

has only enhanced the appeal of online and digital fan activity. Since the Internet is now the prime access point to our subculture, that is likely to become even more true in coming years.

There are a few repositories, both public and private, of large collections of paper fanzines. We can only hope that the various universities and collectors see the worth of those wilted sheets and not only preserve them from decay but also make them available to visiting fanhistorians.

The typical Core Fandomite of 2020 won't be making many pilgrimages to UC Riverside or similar citadels of knowledge. They'll find *The Enchanted Duplicator* and all the rest of Fandom's literary treasures electronically. Even today, when a likely Core Fandom prospect comes into view, we almost automatically direct him or her to efanzines.com, fanac.org, trufen.net and TheVoicesof-Fandom.com. Those are the best sources of current and past fanzines for the average fan.

TheFanStore.com hopes to add a new dimension to what those estimable sites provide. Because we have no money tied up in inventory, The Faan Store will be able to keep classics of fan-literature constantly available. And there's nothing to stop those who simply must have paper from printing out a reading copy. The cost will still come out considerably short of the price of a hard copy edition of such a volume — and its creators will get their reward a lot quicker, too.

— Arnie Katz

Now & Again SheIVy

I'm gonna hafta watch myself.

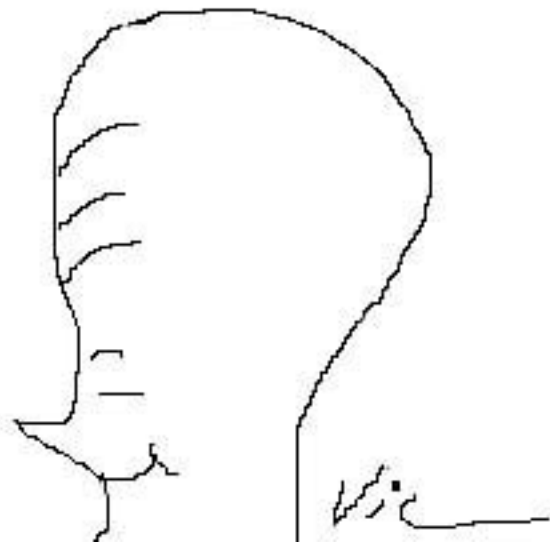
– No, I don't mean in the mirror; I mean in my writing. I find myself writing as if everyone is gonna be interested, regardless of what I'm saying or how I write it. Guess my continual exposure has given me the Big Head (not helped a bit by Arnie's flattery!) and I just Go On and On, without considering how it's coming across.

It was emphasized to me recently when I sent my granddaughter, Brittany, my memories of a wild hog my folks had raised when I was a kid. (Named Abby, for some long-forgotten reason.) It was, to me, an enjoyable story about our experiences raising a wild hog; how, no matter what my dad did to the pen, Abby would get out and come to us. She would follow me around when I walked thru the woods, like a dog – eventually, a four-hundred pound 'dog'! When my mom and I would walk to town, Abby would waddle along after us, sometimes grunting, until we got to the bridge that was where 'downtown' started, and Abby would always be there to greet us when we returned.

Later, I asked Brittany what she thought of the tale.

"Oh – that story about depression days? It was alright."

'Depression days'? It was the story about a hog! . . . Well, yeah; it took place in depression days, when a kid could take a quarter to the movies, get in, buy a



Coke and popcorn, and still have change leftover. But that was just the background! The adventures with Abby were the real focus – at least, as I saw it.

It taught me something: I can't write!

–Oh, yeah, I can put words down in proper order (sometimes even grammatically correct!) but there's more to writing than that.

I've never actually studied the writing craft.

Now, when I was a teenager, I met Lemuel deBra, who had written and sold a lot of stories about adventures in Chinatown. I'd say something to him about a story idea and he would, quickly, tell me: "Don't *talk* about it – write it down! You can talk a story to death, and lose it."

So I'd write it instead, and get his opinion – sometimes favorable

Later, in reading writer's magazines, I read something where John D MacDonald (my hero of writing!) said the first thing he learned about writing was you had to *write!* Even if it was nothing but an account of what you did that day, or a letter to a friend – *write!* That, he maintained, was the only way to be a successful author.

Oh, I read articles about writing. I read books about writing. But I never learned the *mechanics* of writing.

Which reminds me of something I ran across some years ago. A woman I knew was quite successfully selling True Confessions. After awhile, she developed a guilty conscience – thinking she should write better stuff than True Confessions. So she took a correspondence course in writing. Did all the exercises, passed with flying colors – but nothing she wrote would sell! Finally, she returned to True Confessions. . .and couldn't sell them, either! All the 'training' she had received had ruined her career!

So I've stayed away from writing courses. As a result, I know no rules or regulations concerning Getting Your Message Across. Guess I'm gonna hafta start (gasp!) Paying Attention to what I'm saying; maybe even (second gasp) REWRITING!

Oh, well; rewriting and I are old friends, when it comes to fiction. One thing I like about my huge memory (on my computer, fool; not in my head!) is there's plenty of room for the dozens and dozens of re-writes I've done on stories.

I've even rewritten this. Hope it shows!

— Shelby Vick

Whatever Happens to All THE HOBBITS?

Nobody walks in LA...yeah...right!

It was the beginning of 1988 and I had just moved my business to the LA area. Within the first week, I had not one, but two cars stolen from directly in front of my new apartment. This caused me to make a series of quick moves, so I could be within walking distance of my business, which brought me to the Culver City area, a few blocks away from the fabulous MGM studio lots.

Dealing with the various auto insurance companies had left a somewhat bitter taste in my mouth, so I had become a pedestrian. Something I was to remain for a number of years, before purchasing another vehicle. Getting around LA became a daily adventure. As a student in Berkeley, I had spent a lot of time using the AC (Alameda-Contra Costa—not what you're probably thinking) bus system to get around to Oakland and San Francisco, just as I had used the Chicago bus system as a kid, when my parents would schlep their brood around the windy city. So I thought I was an old hand at alternate modes of transportation, the always reliable shanks mare being my favorite.

Ah, but the LA bus system was truly a unique inner-urban experience. Each bus was a colorful display of hastily splashed graffiti, as “artistic” locals would dash off the bus and tag it as it pulled away. After the first few rides, I became convinced that the surly, rude, mono-syllabic bus drivers were hired because they did not speak English. They certainly did not give out directions. Since my initial LA bus encounters were quite a bit off putting, I found myself walking more and more.

Recently, I had become serious about collecting science fiction (read certifiably crazy). Infected with this incurable mania, I began to regularly receive catalogs from around the country. The day my second car was stolen, as a sop to my hurt feelings, I called Tom Whitmore, in Berkeley, at his store, The Other Change of Hobbit, and

bought a brilliant copy of Arkham's *Skullface*, as well as *House on the Borderland*. He had just listed them in his recent catalog and I eagerly snatched them up.

Tom and I go way back, to my student days. I remember back then when he was The Portable Bookstore, before he settled down and opened his store. We first met in the mid-1970's, when he was visiting my father in San Diego, and began selling off his immense book collection. In a recent conversation with Tom, I mentioned I had sold off my own Arkham collection a few years before as well. I turned it around and now live in the house that Arkham built.

After hanging up on Tom, back in 1988, I got to thinking about ways I could enhance my book “acquisition” project. Actually, I was jonezing. I was making a god-awful amount of money, didn't know anyone in LA, and had no real expenses. The need to acquire more books had possessed me. Buying out of catalogs just didn't have the zing. Tom had mentioned to me in passing that there was a local bookstore, the companion to his in LA, A Change of Hobbit. That weekend, while reading the LA Times, my eyes bugged-out as they focused on a small entry. There is was! A Change of Hobbit was going to have a book signing that upcoming weekend. (Okay, fact checking purists will note that the bookstore was really in Santa Monica, but I will always think of it as being in the huge metropolis of LA.)

Doing a quick double take, I knew I was hooked...count me in. It was clearly a case of “destiny” at work. I pulled out my brand new map of the streets of LA, and determined that I could easily walk there and back. For those that know LA, please don't laugh at my naivety, for those that don't know LA, I recommend that you never, ever, try it.

Early that Saturday morning, I geared up, taking only my wallet full of money and an empty

backpack. Later I was to find that I had selected the longest route to walk. But, hey, on the map it looked like the shortest. The map lied.

Exhausted, hours later, I arrived just in time that 27th of February, at the book signing. Kim Stanley Robinson was there. The line was long, the wait well worth it. When I left, more hours later, I was suffused with a warm glow of accomplishment. My backpack was bulging, over stuffed, full of books, and my wallet now empty of money. The gem being a copy of Shasta's *Who Goes There?* If you can detect a theme, I will admit that I'm drawn to the artwork of the inimitable Hannes Bok.

The long walk home followed. In spite of my best intentions, the long walk there and back again, although forever memorable, was never to be repeated. Next time I used the bus. Soon I knew the various schedules by heart and could whip across town in a flash. Over time, I even developed some bit of skill at mono-syllabic repartee with the regular taciturn bus drivers.

As the subsequent weeks clicked by, I became a steady customer at Sherry Gottlieb's bookstore. How was I, or anyone, to know that those halcyon days were numbered?

March 19th, Raymond Feist was there, signing his recently released *Fairie Tale*.



March 19, 1988—Raymond Feist with unknown fan.

April was a harvest month. Barbara Hambly and Joe Haldeman were there, sitting in The Seat. The Seat was in a special alcove, in front of a real Flash Gordon, Buster Crabbe, movie prop. For those of us who remember, or care, it was the fa-

mous radio signaling device from the series. It still looked just as cool as it did in all those old black and white films. Fans lined up in front of The Seat to pay homage to the various gods of science fiction writing, stacks of books in hand, camera's flashing.

It was such a stellar month, that I briefly relented, momentarily giving up my pedestrian status, and rented a car so that I could drive to a nearby book fair. I had to; both Robert Bloch and A.E. Van Vogt were there. How could any fanatic resist the double treat? Bob signed my Arkham copy of *Opener of the Way*, and Van Vogt signed my Arkham *Slan*.

I was on a roll.



April 9, 1988—Robert Bloch, Lydia and A.E. Van Vogt Pure Gold!

In May, Octavia Butler, Orson Scott Card and John Shirley all made their way to A Change of Hobbit. I was only slightly disappointed with Shirley. He wasn't wearing the mirror-shades he made notorious in his writing, only regular sunglasses, but his skillful writing more than made up for his fashion faux pas.'



May 14, 1988—John Shirley, replete with sunglasses.

Jack Vance made it there in June. It was a real thrill to see the great master, a chance of a lifetime. Jack has always been one of my favorites.



June 25, 1988—Jack Vance

July brought Harry Harrison to the bookstore, yet another great in the field.

At long last my work caught up with me, interrupting my regular visits to *A Change of Hobbit*. However, that August I took the first vacation I'd had in years, visiting my alma mater, UC Berkeley. I managed to slip in a quick visit to *The Other Change of Hobbit*, situated adjacent to the campus, and found a great copy of Ray Bradbury's *Dark Carnival* (yes, another Arkham).

Finally, it was November and Tim Powers, along with a six-pack at hand, and William Gibson rounded out a fantastic year for me. In a few short months I'd seen nearly the entire range of the very best science fiction writers ever, from the golden age of First Fandom to the hottest, newest members of the leading edge of cyberpunk.

I owe that wonderful, wonder filled year, to Sherry and *A Change of Hobbit*.

I was crushed when it closed down shortly

thereafter, forced to move across town. It was never the same again. Sherry and I ate lunch across the street on that occasion, and I commiserated with her on the ending of an era.

Book collecting has never been the same for me again. During the next few years, I witnessed



November 21, 1988—Tim Powers, with six pack. Behind is a clear view of the Flash Gordon radio prop!

the closing of one science fiction bookstore after the other. This was followed by the closing of other bookstores in general.

Auctions on eBay are just not the same thing.

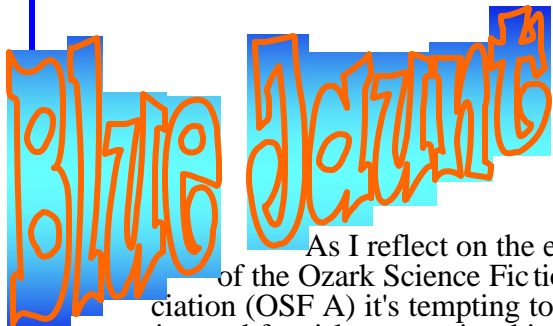
There are few of the old, classic, science fiction bookstores left now. I see that Tom's *The Other Change of Hobbit* is still going strong. But there are few places where writers and fans can gather in informal settings, against nostalgic movie set backdrops.

Most all of those places might be long gone now, but I'll always have my memories of LA and all of the times I made the long trek there and back again to *A Change of Hobbit*.

— Earl Terry Kemp

Corflu Silver, the 25th Core Fandom's Worldcon, will take place in Las Vegas in spring 2008. Membership is \$50 attending (£30), at least until we get a hotel. Send checks payable to Joyce Katz to 909 Eugene Cernan St., Las Vegas, NV, 89145, USA.

You can also submit funds via Paypal. It's a good idea to drop me a note to let me know you've done this. The name of the account is Joyce Marie Katz. Email for the account is JoyceWorley1@cox.net.



How I Found FANDOM

PART FIVE

As I reflect on the early days of the Ozark Science Fiction Association (OSFA) it's tempting to think of it as pure joy and fannish companionship. But actually, Ray was right when he said. "Fandom is full of bickering and backbiting."

Dave Hall and Hank Luttrell were clearly the leaders of the new group, and they started as friends. But their personalities were vastly different. Hank was quiet and almost studious in his devotion to science fiction. Dave on the other hand, was like fire in a bottle, with tumultuous changes in attitude and opinion every day. The two of them gradually developed antipathy toward one another.

Hank could be counted on for long quiet talks about the latest novella, or serious discussions of the future, but he was not very much interested in politics. Dave flamed out almost every day, furious at current events, angry at other fans, and indignant at perceived injustices.

OSFA was developing its schism even while the group planned for the first convention. Dave Hall and his closest friend, Paul Willis, came to visit our apartment a couple or three times a week. Paul was quiet and scholarly, and watched Dave's antics with amusement. Dave would hit our door railing against one fan or another, mercurial and dismissive of the worth of the zines he brought to show us.

Hank's friends were often the more mature and talented. Jim Reuss, for example, showed real zine skills. Paul Gilster had a light artistic touch. I believe it was Hank who brought comic fan Bob Schoenfeld to OSFA, although Bob quickly joined the group that hung at our house. Hank's own zines were a bit bland and not too exciting, but extremely workmanlike.

The apazines that drifted over the transom during those early days were also tumultuous. One avid fan, Ritchie Benyo, pumped

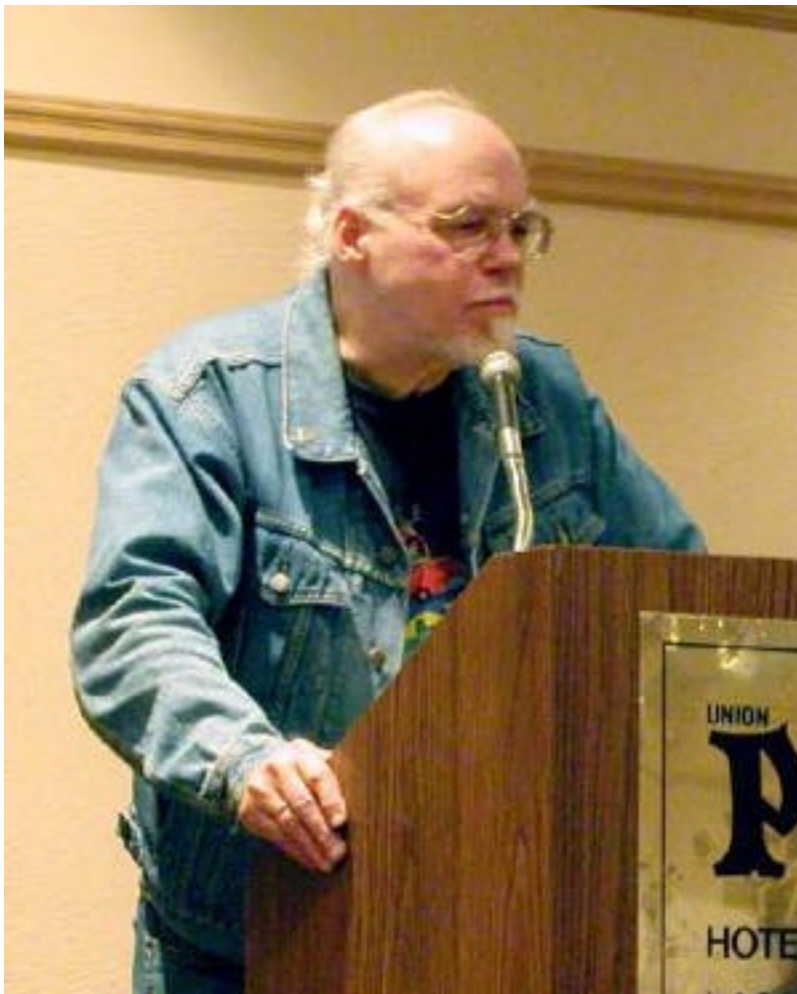
out a steady stream of badly reproduced personal zines which never failed to send Dave Hall into paroxysms.

Though Ray was dismayed by the quarreling, his eagerness to publish grew stronger daily. He cozened his cousin, Mickey Rhodes, a local well-known fine artist, into drawing a cover that depicted a headstone named "Odd", with a skeletal form rising from the grave. All we needed was a way to publish, and we'd be ready to begin.

Finally, we learned of an ancient multilith printer and Xerox camera/plate maker that we could purchase, so we obtained a bank loan for \$1,000 to make the buy. We rented a basement room in our apartment building for \$10 per month, and set up the printer there. The temperature-sensitive camera went into our bedroom, for lack of any other place to set it in our three room apartment.

The club continued to grow. Dave brought Ron Whittington, an almost surly reclusive youth who seldom spoke. I think it might have been Ron who found Chester Malon outside a movie theater. Chester was a skinny flame of undisciplined en-





Ted White, shown here speaking to Corflu 21 in Las Vegas, developed into a long-time friend.

thusiasm who jumped into every club activity with unbridled lust for experience. And Chester brought in Douglas O. "Doc" Clark, a hairy hobbit-like man who constantly talked about other days in fandom in an earlier era in St. Louis. As the convention grew near, plans for the weekend dominated every gathering. Dave made the invitation to Ted White to be the Guest of Honor. Chester volunteered to be the on-spot trouble-shooter, to make sure everything went smoothly at the hotel. I recall that Hank contacted the book dealers he knew. Along with a local mail-order dealer who agreed to bring some wares to the event, Hank was able to attract Camille Cassadesus to come from Denver.

It was planned as a one-room event: Podium at the front, conversation area in the middle, dealer tables at the rear. Local fan Rich Wannan would bring his movie projector, and showings of episodes of Flash Gordon serials would fill any gaps in the program. The convention also rented a good-sized suite for a party. We were set.

The appointed day arrived. Chester went early to the hotel, to handle emergencies. He promptly

disappeared, and wasn't seen until the convention was over. We asked why, and he explained he'd bumped into this girl... Later I learned crash-and-burns were not unusual in conworkers.

I remember little about the convention itself, just a happy buzz of excited local friends, and a hand-full of out of-town supporters. In addition to Camille bringing his wares from Colorado, Jerry Kaufman and Doug Lovenstein traveled all the way from Ohio. There were almost a hundred people in attendance, and we thought it was a jim-dandy little gathering.

Other than our worry over the missing Chester Malon, there was only one bad thing I remember: Jim Hall, after having a couple too many drinks, made aggressive passes at all the young girls. For the entire weekend, we kept someone with him every minute, to guard against unthinkable problems. And, when he became a bit drunker, and even more rash in his actions, Ray took him aside and told Jim he'd beat the shit out of him if he didn't behave. This cooled him out for the balance.

Ted was, predictably, a great guest. But he really didn't get his full due honors at that tiny convention. Other than the open convention party in the club's suite, there were no after hour events of any kind. The locals didn't bother to rent hotel rooms, and frankly, most of us were such novices, we didn't understand about room parties.

Ted was also short-changed at the ceremonials at the banquet. Ray agreed to make the introduction. But he knew nothing at all about Ted, and hadn't done his homework to learn more. He stood up and said, "This is a fan who needs no introduction" and gave none. Ted looked a bit surprised but went ahead and gave a nice speech about the joys of being a science fiction fan and a professional editor.

After the convention closed that Sunday late afternoon, many of us, including Ted and Robin White, jammed into cars and went to Mickey Rhodes' place for an unwind. Mickey's housemate Diana made supper - spaghetti and salad, as I recall- and we had the only really successful party of the weekend.

There I sat raptly, listening to Ted's tales of fandom, and I felt I was finally at the door to that society I'd craved since I learned about it reading Quandry, Opus/FanVariety, Odd, and the other old fanzines.

— Joyce Katz

Continued from p 1

of the best restaurants in the monthly series. The service was friendly, the portions were mammoth and Joyce pronounced it the best barbeque she had ever had except in her hometown of Poplar Bluff, MO.

Linda Bushyager, the coordinator of the monthly SNAFFood dinners, and her husband Ron didn't show, but the 10 who did weathered a one-hour wait (no reservations allowed) and a generally high noise level caused by unexpected live music. Dining together were Lubov, Merric Anderson, Teresa Cochran, James Taylor, Mindy Hutchings, James Willey, Belle Churchill, Eric Davis, Joyce Katz and me.

Cineholics Celebrate Lubov's Birthday!

A special Sunday night session of the Cineholics convened in honor of Lubov's birthday. Besides hosts Alan and DeDee White and Lubov's husband Merric Anderson, David Gordon, Joyce and I attended.

Highlight of the evening was a special slideshow starring Luba (and intermittently, Merric), complete with a charming audio music track. Merric and Lubov's attempt to share photos of their trip to Hawaii went awry due to inconsistent picture orientation. Merric will fix that minor problem once his job stops dispatching him to the far corners of the world. (Well, to Biloxi, MS, this coming week.)

The ever-lovely DeDee made a delicious pineapple upside down cake (and chocolate brownies as a tasty option).

SNAFFood Sets April & May Dinners!

After serving up the delectable ribs at Lucille's on Saturday, March 19, SNAFFood is setting up the next two gatherings. Linda Bushyager, coordinator of the successful series of dinner meetings, has booked the April and May meetings.

Here's the info:

April 14 (Sat) - 6:30 pm - Paymon's Mediterranean Grill, 4147 S. Maryland Parkway (at Flamingo),

The website: http://www.paymons.com/med_main.html,

The eatery serves Greek, Persian, Indian, Middle Eastern, Italian, and vegetarian specialties.

It is described as "very economical."

May 12 (Sat) - 6:30 pm - Artem Russian Restaurant - Decatur & Flamingo

"Please RSVP if you are planning to attend either event to Linda Bushyager (LindaBushyager@aol.com).



Brialey Nominated to Rotsler Committee!

Claire Brialey, co-editor of *Banana Wings* and the recently voted "Best Fanwriter of 2006," has been nominated to replace Maureen Kinkaid Speller on the Rotsler Awards committee. Mike Glycer, a current member of the committee, made the announcement in his fanzine *File 770*, that bestows the annual art award on behalf of SCIFI.

VSFA Shelves Sunday Socials!

Started with great optimism by Woody Bernardi and I in 2004, the Sunday Socials have languished since his departure from the club and Las Vegas. VSFA has now conceded to the inevitable and pulled the plug.

The Socials lost momentum when the sponsors proved unable to continue the concept that produced strong attendance for the first few. The original idea was to have a monthly, informal luncheon with some programming as a special lure. The Art Day, which featured talks by several artists including Lubov, represented the high-water mark for the Socials and was voted one of 2005's most popular Vegas Fan Events.

Now that VSFA has relinquished its claim to both the Social and its venue, perhaps another group will try something similar. The idea of a low-cost, entertaining monthly event still has considerable appeal.

Forry Ackerman Recovering from Fall!

A fall in his home left the 90-year-old "first fan" with a broken hip. He is now in a rehab hospital, where

I am sure he'd like to receive messages from fans.

His address is: Forrest J Ackerman, 4511 Russell Avenue, Hollywood CA 90027.

Checkpoint Archive Keeps Growing!

Thanks to a strong effort by British fans, most recently Claire Brialey and Peter Sullivan, the online archive of digitized issues of Peter Robert's *Checkpoint* continues to grow.

The 1970's newszine is both very interesting reading and a great fanhistorical resource for the micro-view of that era it gives.

Cruise over to <http://checkpoint.ansible.co.uk/index.html> and see for yourself.

Teresa Cochran Sings on YouTube!

Pat Virzi handed Teresa Cochran a Dulcimer at Corflu Quire. Tee played and sang while Graham Charnock captured the musical moment for YouTube. You can see it there at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mc0Gqz20gw0>.

The recently selected "Best New Fan of 2006" plays charmingly and then accompanies her rendition of *Aunt Rhody*.

Heard Around Fandom...

Bruce Gillespie, who visited the US (and Las Vegas) as the recipient of the Bring Bruce Bayside Fund in 2006, celebrated his 60th Birthday on February 16. Reports that the flames from the birthday cake burned down Melbourne are somewhat exaggerated...

Andy Porter is back in the hospital with a post-surgical infection that was starting to make him feel pretty puny. Doctors expect this to be a relatively short stay with every expectation of a strong recovery. We're all pullin' for ya, Andy...

Harry Bell says his trip to Corflu Quire revitalized his fanpublishing urges. He's currently working on the second issue of *Pie*, following hard on the heels of the first issue produced just 15 short years ago. A third issue — suddenly, everybody's a Publishing Giant! — will have Harry's much anticipated trip report...

Tara Wayne reports that he's putting the final touches on his *Energumen* CD. Mike Glicksohn and Susan Wood's 1970's fanzine has become increasingly rare, so this CD should introduce it to a lot of fans who weren't around for the original — and provide pleasant nostalgia for those who were...

Teresa Cochran is SNAFFU's new treasurer. She succeeds Roxanne Gibbs...

Alan White has been named to supervise publications for the '08 Westercon in Las Vegas. His outstanding graphics work, such as on Joyce's *Smokin'*

Rockets, promises some really great-looking con publications.

ChatBack: The VFW Letter Column

After a one-issue hiatus, the letter column returns in full force!

The honor of spinning out the first LoC goes to one of this fanzines entertaining recent additions...

Terry Kemp

Thanks to you, Arnie, I was brought up to speed and able to make an informed decision voting on the recent 2007 FAAn Awards. I took a look at all your suggestions. This required finding websites, and reading several eZines I'd never seen before. I really enjoyed "Pixel" and read some of the funniest articles I'd ever seen. I took a long look at *The Drink Tank* by Chris Garcia.

I was floored. It's about all that I can do to read one or two eZines a month. Upping my reading to one or two a week, as I've been doing, has filled my dance card. I don't know how Chris does it. His sheer volume of output is staggering. I was overwhelmed with sensory input. By the time I was done reading his last couple of issues, I was completely comatose, filled to capacity with fannish info.

Reading copies of those various eZines, *Pixel*, *The Drink Tank*, etc., reminded me of a conversation I had with my father about fanzines a long time ago. I had determined that they were all idiosyncratic, and without outside context. Without this outside, objective context, without some kind of interpretation, they were meaningless to the world at large, holding interest only to a very small sub-group. And more to the point, the older fanzines held meaning mostly to the very small sub-group that produced them, younger fans could avidly collect them, but would find large pieces so arcane as to seem to be written in a foreign language.

My father disagreed. I believe the debate to be still undecided.

At the time, I made a vainglorious attempt to press the issue. Back in the early 1970's, 1970 to be exact, as a young teenager, I'd gotten into my father's stack of fanzines. I spent a lot of time reading them, trying to figure out what was going on.

Back then, there was no lexicon for obscure slang. No primer for beginners. Dialogue was done in stream-of-consciousness. Much was interesting, much was also very difficult to follow. So I took notes. I conceived a project, annotating the FAPA and SAPS groups that my father had been a part of for so long.

I put together a series of questions, and wrote to

several contributors, mainly the Advent boys. I never heard back from Bob Briney or Ed Wood, or any of the others. A few years later, in 1973, at the LA World SF Con, I spent a drunken night with Ed Wood, in the First Fandom suite.

Booze flowed freely, and other smokier substances. Even though it was years later, and Ed had never answered my letters, he remembered them. Glass in hand, he leaned forward, and said, "Go ahead, ask your questions now."

I was unprepared to ask any. The FAPA/SAPS project had been placed aside, my studies at Berkeley taking precedence. I tried to ask those questions that I could remember. In the foggy discussion that followed, I couldn't say how much new information I gleaned, or how much insight I gained.

At the end of the night, I was as bemused as I originally had been, still convinced that I was right. Fanzines, and the info inside them is highly esoteric. I'm still looking for a road map.

Arnie: The fact that Fandom has a unique context that is separate from the mainstream society is exactly what I like best about it. I write and edit professionally for huge audiences; writing and publishing for Fandom is more like entertaining your friends at a virtual party.

Learning the context is part of becoming a citizen of Fandom. A neofan is an immigrant; the newcomer must learn the cultural context of his new homeland.

There were more resources of the type you mention available in 1970 than you might think. Fancyclopedia II, The Neofan's Guide and A Sense of FAPA had all been published. I assume they'd have been in your dad's collection, though they might have been hard to obtain if Earl didn't already have them. That's a problem with short runs of printed fanzines. They often become unavailable.

Fresh from his triumph in the 2007 FAAn Awards comes one of VFW's most illuminating Northern Lights...

Lloyd Penney

I wasn't in Austin, and I wish I had been, for I think we all would have had just the best time. Those who did go must be sleeping it off; there hasn't been much if anything said about Corflu on the fmzfen and Trufen lists. Sounds like Pat Virzi did a magnificent job of being organized from beginning to end. I have been consoling myself [for] not being there by getting back into letter writing, and I now have issues 91 and 92 of VFW on hand.

But first...the FAAn Awards were handed out, and I'm a happy guy...

Best Fanzine:	<i>Banana Wings</i>
Best Fan Writer:	Claire Brialey
Best Fan Artist:	Dan Steffan
Best Letterhack:	Lloyd Penney
Best New Fan:	Teresa Cochran

Good competition, and except for Best Fanzine, the winner in each of the categories won by less than ten points.

91...carries on with more on the FAAns. Looks like fewer and fewer people are voting...an LJ entry I saw said something about fewer than 50 submitting ballots. The official list of vote tallies is now resident on eFanzines.com, thanks to Bill Burns, and I hope these are the final tallies.

I'd like nothing better than to join you for one of your parties. Sounds like fannish carcasses litter the floor in various stages of repose after a good party. You're going to be hosting next year's Corflu!, so I'd

Snapshots Another Solid eMlg

The 54-page March eMailing of SNAPS continued the electronic's strong showing. Large contributions by Joyce Katz, Robert Lichtman, John Purcell, James Taylor and Teresa Cochran blended articles, terrific graphics and extensive eMailing Comments in the apa's friendly, urbane style.

The apa currently has 15 voting members, plus another five-to-ten fans who show up regularly in the eMailings, such as JoHn Hardin and Ross Chamberlain. There's plenty of room for more members, though. There are no dues and the activity requirement is minimal. If you'd like to know more, send me (Crossfire4@cox.net) an email and I'll tell you what's involved.

Deadline for Apr. eMailing: 4/15

New Podcast!

I wanted to let you all know that TheVoicesofFandom.com's "Corflu Special" is now posted for your listening pleasure. It includes interviews with and con reports from Arnie and Joyce Katz, John Purcell, James Taylor, Teresa Cochran and Lenny Bailes about their experiences and opinions of Corflu Quire and next year's event in Las Vegas). It's now available free at TheVoicesOfFandom.com as well as at several podcast directories online. I hope you'll have a listen. I'm eager to hear and read your comments on the results.

Again, my thanks to you all for your help. Without your cooperation and contributions there wouldn't have been a TVoF "Corflu Special" and it is sincerely appreciated. And hey... you just published your first 'Audio of Comment' to TVoF's little audio-zine. An AoC! AoC? Okay, it's not as nifty looking or sounding as LoC maybe... but you get what I meant, right?

Personally, I think the program turned out informative, entertaining and even (dare I say it..?) charming. But, the bigger picture is that, in my opinion, you have added 30 great minutes of wonderful new Fandom Oral History recordings to our collection to be archived, and made available to be heard there, for current fans and for future fan-historians.

I look forward to hearing from you at your convenience.

As Always,
Bill Mills

P.S. If you wish, you can stream the mp3 of the podcast by clicking the following link:
http://thevoicesoffandom.com/mp3/tvof_podcast.mp3

like to enjoy one of those parties. (I really doubt I'd be able to go, but I suspect that flights to Las Vegas might be cheaper than to Austin through sheer demand. If the flight's price is right, and the hotel is inexpensive, perhaps I could room with someone...no promises.

One club I know of that has a working club library is the club in Melbourne, Australia, the MSFC, which publishes Ethel the Aardvark. I'm pretty sure you either trade or correspond with them; maybe they could give you some tips on getting your library going.

Great story, Arnie...I wouldn't mind reading real stories about those mini-love affairs at conventions... memories of the cute femmefan who got away, or the bit of, shall we say, alternate programming, enjoyed at the con? Fond memories, anyone?

My loc...my getting to the ISDC in Dallas in May is looking more and more likely now. We still need to do some more saving, and I think we might swing it if we can grab a cheap flight, and take in a

roommate or two. Chris Garcia is right, too many surgeries.

Just a sign that we're not getting any younger.

John Purcell, by all means, contact Dr. Hall and confirm that he is the mysterious buyer of the Warner fanzine collection. Your researches would make for an excellent article, and would put many minds at ease over the loss of that collection. And, I think Peosu was supposed to be Pepsi. You are what you drink?

92...Columns are good, but that means you need something to talk about on a regular basis, and I might not be able to do that. I'll be doing a fanzine column for John Purcell's new fanzine, but I get lots of zines, and shouldn't want for lack of material.

Writings in File 770...I know several fans, including myself, have tweaked you about the number of titles you've used, and I've never meant any maliciousness. I think you're being tweaked again. I don't think anyone would take anything like the Great Fanzine Title Shortage as fact or critique. I'm looking forward to Joyce's new zine. In fact, I've heard word about several

new zines coming up soon...John Purcell's new title Askance, coming up shortly, and I did hear that Colin Hinz might resurrect Novoid. There are even more publications to look forward to.

Maybe it's just the file I have...Terry Kemp's essay is missing it's colour title. I think some of us thought that Jack Williamson would live forever. He'd been around so long, producing published work for eight decades, Perhaps he thought he might, too. I have a lot of Williamson on my shelf, all older works, and it's all been great. He's a part of my personal Golden Age.

Terry, I may have tried to do the impossible...I locked your dad's latest eI, namely the reprint of Who Killed SF? I think asking today's writers those same questions would be a valuable research tool for the entire industry. I'd said so in the loc. Could this be done? The results would be much more than mere navel-gazing, I think. I remember the decamps well; they gusted at a local convention years ago, and were genial to all, even to those who were evidentially not readers.

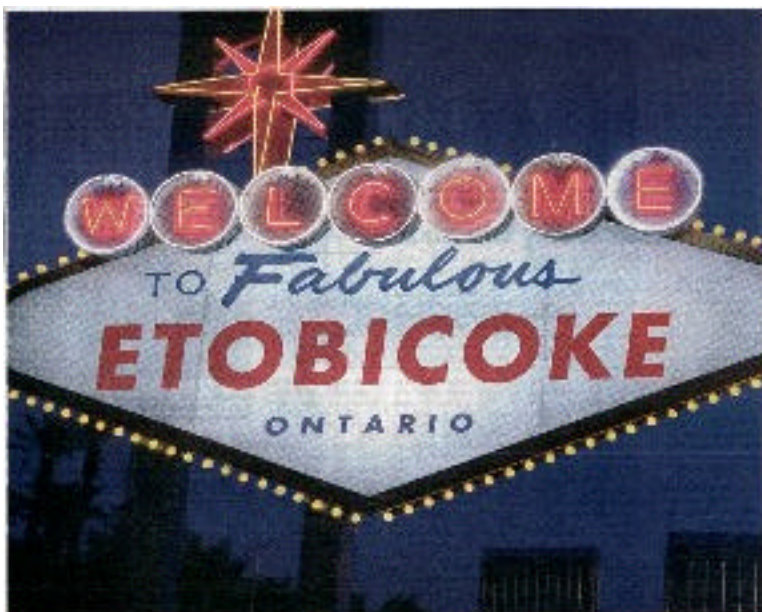
Oh, no, not more eye surgery! Shelby, were we in our respective hospitals around the same time? Ross Chamberlain and Andrew Porter are recovering from their own operations, too... this is a fannish tradition I don't want to follow any more. And Murray Moore will be having his own cataract surgery shortly...okay, you bunch, this isn't funny any more! Stay healthy, dammit!

The multi-issue conversation about a fanzine wiki... I found mention of a zine wiki, and started a conversation on the Fmzfen list. I don't know if we should start our own, or jump in to the existing wiki, and carve out a fannish niche.

My own eye surgery... I did have my appointment with my ophthalmologist on January 31, and she proclaimed me ocularly healthy. My right eye continues to heal. And my left eye is not showing any signs of deterioration at the moment. I got the go-ahead, so I saw my optometrist a few days ago, and as soon as I can put the cash together, new glasses and decent sight will be mine.

I have some measure of involvement in paper fanac and e-fanac, and while I prefer the former, I have some involvement in the latter. I have found it a little difficult to know where all the e-fanac is. I've talked with Chris Garcia on this idea, and it would be good have an e-fanac guide, but so much research would take away from Chris' publishing passions.

Well, it is the 13th of February today, and tomorrow



is the Day of Lurve. Somehow, people celebrate their love by gathering in unmanageable numbers at understaffed restaurants, and getting angry when their dinner takes too long to arrive. Yvonne and I have learned to avoid that kind of evening, and go out tonight when the restaurants will be mostly empty. Tomorrow is also my second anniversary of being hired to work at the Globe and Mail, so it's a party for two tonight.

Hello, Joyce! As soon as you can make it available, bring out all information you have on Corflu Silver. I won't make any promises, but I sure wanted to get to Austin this year. Maybe next year, my finances will be in order, and I can go with a roommate, who knows?

The current temperature outside is -16°C , or 2°F . That's cold on any scale, and the cool weather that Austin endured for Corflu is coming directly here, and there should be a massive snowstorm here within hours.

Arnie: Corflu can be very energizing, at least it often has been for me. I usually come back to Las Vegas full of fanwriting ideas and fan publishing projects. There's nothing like spending a weekend in close proximity to Fandom's finest to get the creative juices flowing.

This time, it had quite an effect on me, even though Joyce and I never left the Launch Pad. The knowledge that fans wanted us to host the next Corflu led to long and enthusiastic sessions of Fourth-Dimensional Mental Crifanac.

I don't mind you beating the drums for the FAAn Awards, which is why I didn't edit out your list of winners. I think it's important to remember, though, that the FAAn Awards is not just about who wins; it's about giving egoboo to all the folks who place in the poll.

Here's another reaction to the news that Las Vegas will again host Corflu in 2008.

Dick Lupoff

April 2008 -- I certainly can't complain about lack of advance notice. The only Corflu that Pat and I have ever attended was the one in San Francisco last year. Good fun, but a lot more like a traditional science fiction convention than I'd expected. I was anticipating something rather like a large Relaxicon but instead there were panel discussions, a business session and awards ceremony, huckster room (or at least a huckster table)....

What do you have in mind for '08?

Arnie: Each hosting group stamps its Corflu with its own personality. Similarities and traditions connect each Corflu to the others. I see Corflu as a cross between what cons were like when those who went to them were fans and a long gathering of the Vegrants, with lots of breaks for food and a few for sleep. And, of course, each fan has his or her own version of the con. Come to Vegas for Corflu Silver, Dick, (and Pat), and I'm pretty sure you'll enjoy yourselves.

Speaking of the FAAn Awards, here's the runner-up for "Best New Fan" with a response to something in the previous letter column...

Peter Sullivan

I just wanted to clear up a point Robert Litchman raised in his letter in 92. My comment in 91 about Worldcon committees never going on to run Worldcon more than once was really more of a joke, in that Worldcons are, almost by definition, large one-shot events.

But, as Robert notes, this doesn't stop concom members coming back for more. And even this ignores the concept of 'the floating Worldcon committee' which has evolved over the years - in that although the core committee changes every year along with the venue, many of the department heads and other assistants will be the same from year to year.

Arnie: Yes, there's a vast, on-going bureaucracy and I'll be very pleased if Core Fandom doesn't drift into something of that kind. Con-Running Fandom needs an abundance of titles and functions the way Core Fandom needs fanzines and LoCs. I don't want to take away that from them any more than Con-Runners want to take fanzines and LoCs away from us. By the same token, Con-Runners don't attach a lot of importance to fanzines and LoCs - and I don't want to be come enmeshed in tedious bureaucracy.

And that's why Core Fandom has all the big fan-

zines and Con-Running Fandom has all the "big tent" cons.

Ghu, we're positively rife with FAAn Awards notable! Here's the Perpetual Pubbing Machine.....

Chris Garcia

That front page is a slurry of good and bad news. There's the wonderful news that CorFlu will be arriving in Vegas in April 2008, which has me especially excited since I've already bought my membership, and there's the sad announcement of the death of LeeH. I never got to meet LeeH, but I knew her work from SFFY and Quandry. She'll certainly be missed.

I wish you'd been able to make it to CorFlu. It was a wonderful time that I wrote up in the latest issue of The Drink Tank. There was so much good comradery that you could see one-shots forming behind the eyes of the various attendees while they were sitting and talking in the ConSuit. Geri Sullivan did a great job of blogging the con for more folks to enjoy through livejournal.

I heard about Lloyd's visit to the LA Coroner's office at the WorldCon. It sounds like exactly the kind of attraction that I'd normally go to, but yet I've never made it out there. There's also the LA Museum of Death, though I understand that it's currently undergoing an overhaul. These are the places that keep me up at night, wondering how I'll ever be able to afford to go to all of them.

As soon as I wandered into the ConSuite, Peter Weston tried to get me to run next year's CorFlu. I'm certain not ready to do that, though when word of the Vegas bid got around, I was off the hook... for three extra years. Yes, I'm committed to a CorFlu in 2011. That gives me enough time to get myself together, plus there'll be Vegas and the UK most likely preceding me, giving me a better view of what's goin' on! Can't wait for Vegas.

Sad to hear that Joyce's ankle isn't as good as new. Always sending good thoughts her way that the pain will subside.

I really like the fact that we're seein' as much from ShelVy as we are. At times it's seemed that he's been discouraged, but he's come through and is puttin' out good stuff. Good on you, ShelVy!

Congrats to Teresa! She made a fine Best New Fan. I was 3rd in the voting the year after I won. That's odd.

Arnie: That front page was more than a little schizophrenic, a thought that also occurred to me when I executed the front-page layout. Yet life's often like that, isn't it? The Good News/Bad News aspect was definitely in my mind.

A few timely thoughts on an untimely passing – and a great exit line – come from a first-time contributor to VFW, but hardly a stranger to my fanzines...

Gregory Benford

I do read *VFW*, just don't have many comments.

This time tho--I think the satiric aspect of the old fannish fmz style is crucial, because it descends from the Insurgents. Since they were good writers, a natural convergence of such attitudes and talents propagated into zines far away, like *A BAS* – one of my alltime faves, & very hard to find copies. I wonder where I could buy some?

I want to get some *A Bas* issues & donate them to the Eaton Collection at UCRc -- & read them first!

I'm off to visit Clarke tonight, back in a month.

Arnie: I consider humor the most important element of fannish writing, though I've scrapped plans to restore it as a 2008 FAAn Awards category. I wish there was a way to take a larger poll without adversely affecting the total number of voters. I really liked those traditional Fan Polls with a greater variety of categories. I like the idea of recognizing a wider range of achievements.

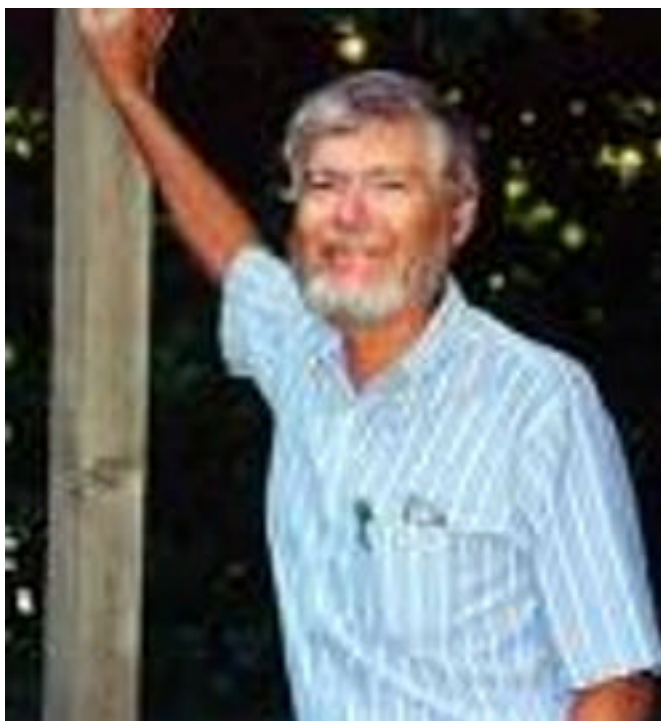
I don't mess much with the letters, though I usually snip exit lines. I couldn't resist yours, though, because it was the epitome of the type. Perhaps you'll share your experiences with VFW's readers.

LeeH's death unlocks some memories for a self-proclaimed (but much liked) fringe fan....

Hal Hughes

Ach, so now it's Lee to whom we bid adieu. I'd been delighted to see her name popping up here and there, knowing she was still around, and hoping that at some point we'd make contact. That in itself seems fairly remarkable, as I only met her a few times at the Fanoclads, but somehow I trusted she'd remember me. The fact that she did in those days was part of what impressed me about her. The fact that we'd spent only a matter of hours in the same room together took nothing away from the feeling that somehow we'd managed to form a real connection.

I couldn't begin to recall how that might have happened, what we may have talked about, but whenever we saw each other there was such a warm feeling that I felt we were good friends. She was one of very few Fanoclads whom I ever encountered outside those gatherings. We both lived in the East Village at the time, so did cross paths there a time or two, and again always with that same warm pleasure at seeing each other. Given her rep as the all-time greatest female fan,



Gregory Benford looks relaxed

I assume she had the same effect on most people she met. Well, met, Lee, well met.

As a mild antidote to the notion that great fans are being singled out for final departure, I have to say that I've been losing a lot of other good old friends over the past couple of years. I suppose part of it is just that we're all getting older, but that can't be all - the age range of those who've gone is too broad. Can it be that this world's deteriorated to the point where the best folks have decided to move elsewhere? There must be a few spots left on the globe that would be congenial, no? Can't they just move to Belize?

AfriCam is great. I've spent a fair amount of time there myself, though not lately. It was actually taken down briefly a couple of years ago, but it didn't take long before the protests forced its return. I think the project was originally only supposed to last for a month or so. There are quite a few realtime wildlife cams - EagleCam, WhaleCam, etc. A waterhole is best though - there's almost always some critter there. AfriCam also works well because the most activity there is when there's not a lot going on here.

Just what sort of special saute did the Faan Awards winners get? Bamama, perchance? Glad to hear the Complete Write-Up is - where would we be if it weren't?

Arnie: The Food Preparation Subcommittee of the FAAN Awards could not decide on the proper way to sauté the winners. That, plus the nasty incident at the

Open Hearing of the Ad Hoc Sub-Subcommittee on Garnishes, resulted in the abandonment of the entire project.

The Sage is here with one of his guaranteed-to-interest LoCs. This time, the subjects include Rotsler, Kunkel and more...

Robert Lichtman

On the front page of *VFW* No. 93 you write, “*Vegas Fandom Weekly* will have a Lee Hoffman Memorial issue within the next 2-3 weeks.” I look forward to it and was wondering how I might best contribute. It occurred to me that back in the fall of 1959 I published a rare article by Lee—“I Remember Keasler”—in the first and only issue of *Outworlds*. (When Bill Bowers used this title seven years later, he was completely unaware of my prior use, and it was always an additional bonding between us.) She was in fairly deep *gafia* at that time other than maintaining her FAPA membership. It’s never been reprinted, although Harry Warner Jr. quoted from it in *A Wealth of Fable*, and I thought it might fit into the special issue.

I remember the intense sense of fannish wonder I felt when Lee’s article showed up out of the blue in the mail one day. That I received not only the article but also a cartoon I could use as a heading was an incredible honor to my young fan self. I rushed to my typewriter and put it on ditto masters immediately, carefully and laboriously traced the cartoon in its place, and topped off the session by doing the title heading with one of my handful of letteringguides. I ran it off on my newly acquired second-hand ditto machine and set it aside.

That was all there was to *Outworlds* No. 1 for quite a while, but eventually I arranged for Bill Danner to write an article on letterpress printing—which he generously handset and printed in sufficient quantities for me on his ancient Chandler & Price press. The rest of the interiors of the issue—by Bob Leman, “Ted Johnstone” and Len Moffatt—were mimeographed on gray Fibretint on the church mimeograph of another high school friend, Bill Hughes, and only the front and rear covers (by Terry Carr and Anna Sinclare Moffatt, respectively) were also dittoed.

But I digress, and about time! I’ve scanned the article in PDF form and am sending it to you along with this letter. In case you want to retype it, I’ve also scanned LeeH’s heading cartoon as a high-resolution JPG and forward it for your delectation. If you can’t find anyone to transfer the text from the

PDF to a more readable form, please get back to me and I’ll do it for you. After all, I typed it the first time.

Congratulations to Las Vegas fandom on landing next year’s Corflu, and thanks to Joyce for filling the chairperson’s seat. (I also enjoyed her article about how it all went down.) I’ve already taken out my attending membership and look forward to seeing you all next April. Congratulations also to Teresa Cochran for winning the FAAn award for best new fan of 2006.

While I’m with you in not being fond of the use of emoticons in fanwriting (or any other, for that matter), the thing that caught my attention most in “Corflu Blues” was your writing that “My answer to the No Corflu Blues is to Pub My Mish.” Will this be a new fannish typo that sticks, like “filk,” or will it be overlooked, ignored and forgotten in the great wash of on-line fanac on the shores of our collective consciousness?

Watching elephants at the watering hole on AfriCam.com is certainly a safer way to interact with our friends in the animal kingdom than what Joyce went through in her recent unhappy encounter with Foggy. Several years ago Carol discovered a site that had a camera aimed at “Peter’s Pond” in Botswana. That site is still there, but it’s currently off-season for transmissions from the pond and one is referred to...

<http://magma.nationalgeographic.com/ngm/sealcam/index.html>

...for live animal action, where after a couple of short commercial messages you’re taken to a live camera at the Año Nuevo State Preserve—in San Mateo County maybe fifty miles from here—where huge quantities of giant elephant seals are currently (and *very* noisily) in residence.

In Lloyd Penney’s article I found it most interesting that the staff at the Los Angeles County Coroner’s Office gift shop was aware of and had a noticeable stream of visitors from Bouchercon when it’s held in the area.

In his revived column Shelby Vick writes: “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.)” Perhaps it’s not submitted because it isn’t due until the May mailing. Perhaps you could finish that next *confuSon* and put copies in the mailing, thus fulfilling two tasks with one. In the meantime, practice makes perfect in drawing puffins with your mouse!

In response to my noting the absence of Bill

Kunkel in the previous issue even though you announced his return, you write: "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." So in this issue's colophon you list a Bill Kunkel illustration on page 15, but it's *not there!* Are you toying with us, Meyer!?

Chris Garcia writes in reference to the Rotsler Awards for fan artists: "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." Who are the other three, Chris? As much as I agree that Mayhew and Gunn did decent work, I'd prefer the award to be given to *living* fan artists. (Besides, it might be difficult for them to collect the \$300 honorarium. I wonder how that worked when the 2000 award went to Arthur Thomson.)

Arnie: I believe you are the only person who caught this mention of the "Mish." Truthfully, I hadn't intended to let out the news of this revolutionary form of fanac until the Vegnants' FTL (Fannish Testing Laboratory) perfected the concept. Right now, they are attempting to combine it with other elements. For example, when you add live rock music and Plenty of Cheer, something develops called a "Mish-Mosh."

I'm thinking about hopping on the new trend with a cam site of my own. I can't decide whether it should be the CatCam and center on the herd of felines Joyce is raising just outside our back door or the FanCam centered on the buffet at the Vegrant meeting.

Back again before you've even had a chance to miss him is one of the most enjoyable contributors to ChatBack....

Dick Lupoff

What a blow -- to read of the death of Lee Hoffman. Not more than ten days ago a young woman who is researching the history of women in fandom came by the house to interview Pat (and myself).

She must have been at an early stage of her investigations, which she said had started with a list of past Hugo winners, because she'd never heard of Lee Hoffman or of Nan Gerding. I told her that Nan had disappeared from my world-view decades ago, but Lee Hoffman was still alive and at least marginally active in fandom, and suggested that she get in touch with her.

Bad, bad, bad news.

There's a further irony in the fact that I looked at

the address line on your cover email and found LeeH still there. Very saddening. She sent me one of the first LOCs I ever received, to the first fanzine I ever publisher -- in 1952! Let me know details and deadline for your special issue and I'll try to get something to you.

I also noticed Dan Hicks is one of your subscribers. Is this the musician who was once involved with a Bay Area band called the Charlatans, later performing as Dan Hicks and his Hot Licks? Or is this mere coincidence?

Arnie: Robert Lichtman could probably provide up-to-date information, but I believe Nan Gerding returned to SAPS some years ago. Don't know if she stuck. A female fan who knows not Lee Hoffman is like an African-American major league baseball player who doesn't know the name Jackie Robinson."

It turns out that Joyce isn't the only cannik . Here's another view through the glass eye...

Dian Crayne

If you think staring at an African watering hole smacks of zombification, take a look at any of the volcano cams. Mt. Saint Helens is especially nice. On a clear day you can watch wispy threads of smoke wafting their way to the skies from dawn until dusk. Of course, you *can* watch it at night too, but the wisps waft by unseen. It's rather like that eight hour film of someone sleeping, except that these guys never even turn over.

<http://www.volcanolive.com/volcanocams.html>

In between looking at volcanoes and staring out of the window, I am finishing a mystery and idly thinking of a sequel to Murder at the Worldcon.

Arnie: Maybe I should set up the ArnieCAM -- a 24/7 view of my office. "I can just see the comments in the Forum now: "I saw him eat a Hostess Cupcake!" "I think he fell asleep at the computer, because his head suddenly hit the screen!" "Isn't that reindeer sweater divine?"

A distinguished member of British Fandom makes a shocking admission about his very first time...

Mark Plummer

You know, I think that may have been the first time I've ever read through a full issue of VFW on-screen. Interesting experience, and I'm sure I'll be returning to hard-copy print-out next time. Rather too much up-and-down, back-and-forth scrolling for my liking, I'm afraid.

A pleasant sense of enigma about this issue. You have Joyce on page one, for instance, saying of the likely April date for next year's Corflu 'That's early enough for the weather to be quite' which is indeed a good thing as I'd hate to think there was a danger that it might be 'very'. And then, in a sidebar on page 11 you say of the FAAn Awards that 'A Complete Write-Up of the Results is'. Kinda existential, that.

Absolute solidarity with you in your 'Corflu Blues' piece about the use of smileys in email. I just received a message from somebody which contained two of the damn things in an email which only had two substantive paragraphs, and as a result I have just noticed that something -- presumably my email software -- now renders that colon/close-bracket configuration as a bright yellow, beaming face, something which is pretty much guaranteed to engender pretty much the reverse effect on me (red and scowling).

I've heard it argued that emoticons are actually *necessary* for online communication because the pace of interactions doesn't allow time for the choice of words to be properly crafted to reflect tone, and because most people are inadequately skilled prose stylists to do it anyway (the latter point at least probably being true). Personally, I'm inclined to the view that while emoticons are one solution to this problem, a better alternative might be to simply *try harder* to put the desired sentiments into words.

It also seems to be an excuse for almost gratuitous rudeness. You can say just about anything and not worry about how the recipient might interpret it because, hey, there's a little smiling face at the end of it, so obviously if I'm reading anything offensive into the message then that's *my* fault because the sender's flagging up that it's only a joke, whatever it is. Again a little more effort in using words to establish meaning wouldn't go amiss.

I'm waiting -- with some trepidation -- for the emoticon to find its way into work email correspondence. So far, it's kept away, but I've noticed an increasing use of text-messagese and somehow I sense that the emoticon will soon follow, and from there it will start to seep across into official printed documents.

But I will stop as I'm starting to make myself sound old. I am also in danger of drifting into the full range of my why-oh-why rants: golfing umbrellas, London telephone numbers, supermarket redesigns...

Arnie: Since Joyce proofread the issue and, therefore, her own quote, you'll have to ask her about the characterization of Las Vegas weather as "quite." Actually, our weather is just too marvelous, too mar-

velous for words. You might say that I was a little shook up as I rushed that issue to completion, at the sudden prospect of doing Corflu in 2008.

The Sage returns with his second LoC of the issue. This time, he looks at the art of letter-column-editing and other intriguing topics.

Robert Lichtman

It was a surprise that the new VFW was devoted to Corflu reports and your commentary on the FAAn awards, since I'd been expecting the Lee Hoffman memorial issue instead. You do know how to build up one's anticipation!

I liked having the opportunity to reread Randy Byers's account of the convention without having to interrupt myself constantly to figure out who the people he was writing about actually were behind their Live Journal handles.

In his coverage of the TAFF panel he writes that "Peter and Lillian immediately got into a vigorous debate about who should be eligible to vote in TAFF. Peter worried that we were in danger of losing our sense of community, while Lillian argued that the attempt to narrow the field of eligible voters was a form of elitism." David Bratman touches on this discussion in his article as well.

My view, formed during my own TAFF administration, is that each candidate tends to bring out his or her own special group of voters who might not participate in the process were it not for their support of that specific candidate. This may lead to administrators receiving votes from people not familiar to them personally, but the rules are pretty straightforward on this point: such voters can cite on the ballot "the name and address of an active fan...who is known to them and to whom you are known." In both the races in which I accepted votes there were a few of these, and I took it on face value that the fans given as reference *did* know the fannish bonafides of the voters not known to me and that it was *not* an attempt to pack the ballot box. And while it would be desirable for those fans drawn to vote by the presence of a favorite candidate to continue to participate in TAFF elections, it's certainly not mandatory and their failure to do so doesn't necessarily mean they're *not really* fans. (Of course there's a fine line here, beyond which lies bloc voting. So I hasten to add that in the elections I oversaw the number of people who were unknown to me was extremely small.)

Elsewhere in his report Randy writes, "Geri and I discussed the possibility of doing a Lee Hoffman collection, since there will be no further issues of *Science-Fiction Five-Yearly*." I think this is an excellent idea.

There's a lot of Lee's fine writing scattered through the many fanzines she produced for FAPA during her nearly quarter-century of membership.

In his article David Bratman writes in connection with Ted White's explaining that "letterhacking" used to mean writing to the prozines: "Large active conversational prozine letter columns have since pretty much disappeared." His inclusion of the words "pretty much" made me wonder if I've been missing something—that somewhere out there a science fiction magazine unknown to me continues to exist and to include a letter column of the sort Ted remembers. If so, I think we should be informed.

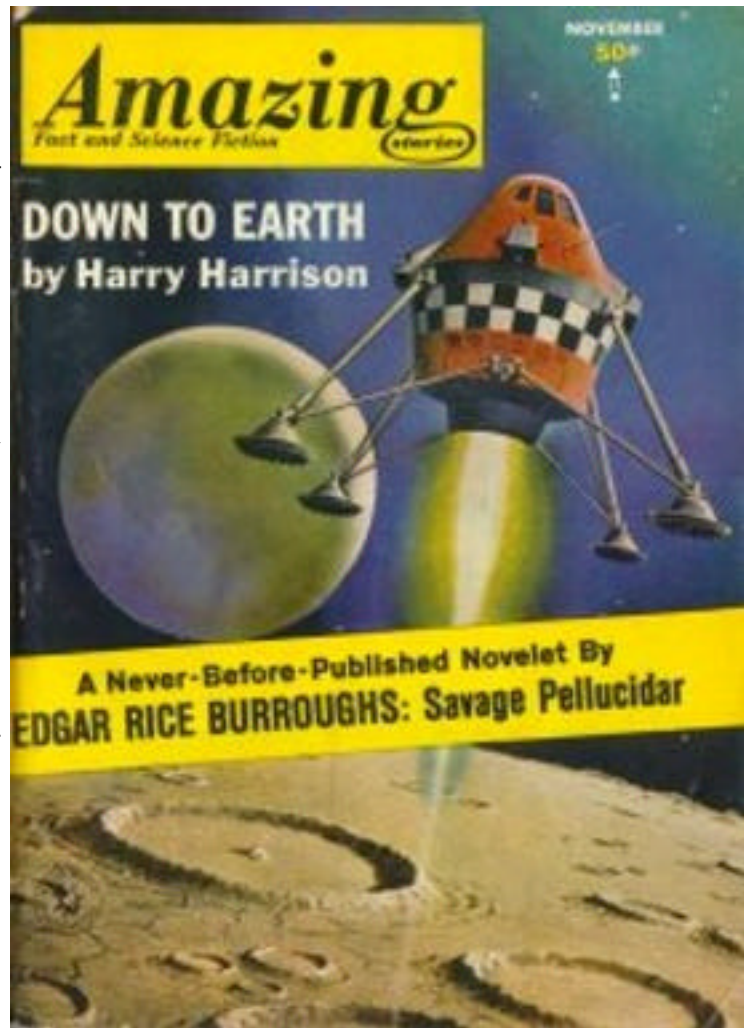
In his Corflu report James Taylor writes, "For some reason, the high points of 'the Fine Art of Letterhacking' escape me except for whether or not LoCs should appear strictly in the order received, be edited and grouped by subject or qualitatively, best LoCs first." I don't know what was concluded at the panel (if anything) but I've never considered order of receipt to be a valid criterion for how to assemble a lettercol, nor do I particularly like letter columns in which letters are chopped into bits by subject. My own method, which I may have detailed somewhere before, is to intersperse "general" letters in with ones from which a specific article in the previous issue is focused on and to have those presented roughly (often *very* roughly) in the order in which the contents of that issue were printed. I do tend to pick a favorite LoC to lead off, though.

Congratulations again to Teresa Cochran for being voted best new fanzine fan. I enjoyed her Corflu report, and am pleased to read that she'll be branching out into fanzine publishing beyond her enjoyable contributions to the SNAPS mailings.

Arnie: The Lee Hoffman Memorial and the David English issues of VFW are both still in the works, somewhat delayed by my scanner problems. And off in the distance, but rocketing in this direction, is the 100th issue.

Tee is mulling a genzine at the moment, weighing the pros and cons of various approaches. Right now, she seems to be favoring a personalzine. I'd expect to see something in the next few months.

I was a prozine letterhack, contributing regularly to Amazing and Fantastic before contact with Fandom in 1963. Like most fans, my reading of science fiction and fantasy gradually declined over the years and I soon directed my writing impulses toward my professional writing/editing career and to Fandom.



It's gilt-edged letterhacks back-to-back. Here, also for the second time, is the current Lord of Locs...

Lloyd Penney

Look away for but a second or two, and the zines rush in. I need a week of solid writing to catch up, and I may be able to do just that, seeing that I will be pretty well occupied for the whole month of April working on a trade show. So, frantic will be my middle name while I write locs like this one, on VFW 93 and 94.

93...My condolences to all her friends on the death of Lee Hoffman. We've lost so many giants we either fanned with, or grew up fanwise with. Please stay well, people, we don't want to lose more of you.

A Vegas Corflu...Corflu Quire was tempting, but I just couldn't swing the money. Will I be solvent next year? Who knows? I will try my best, folks, I cannot promise more. Just that I know that you will have a fine example to follow and challenge to meet with Pat Virzi's excellent convention this year. Joyce's article shows that with the right kind of politics, we can get together to do great things.

Toronto has no SF club to speak of, although there are several media clubs, and small writers' groups. We're lucky to have the two pubnights we have every month, and for the First Thursday, we now get about 25 people. LV has about one-quarter the population of Toronto and area, and already, you get more fannish participation than we do.

Well, what was the response to my essay on the gift shop at the Coroner's Office? I haven't heard anything myself. Often my writing seems to get mostly silence. Maybe I should stay in the local...

Hey, ShelVy, fans aren't lazy. We just have so much around us to divert our attention. Things like good food, good company, and a warm and comfortable bed. Besides, we talk a better project than we actually do. Some fans both talk the talk and walk the walk, but they are in the minority.

I notice that Andy Porter does show up to drop a line or two on the Trufen list, but not with the frequency he once did. I expect recovery from this – ectomy will take some time, but I hope he knows we're behind his speedy recovery. I have observed what's been happening because soon it will be Yvonne's turn for some surgery, both minor, but the latter will be to correct severe carpal tunnel syndrome.

Robert Lichtman mentions your using lotsnlotsa fanzine titles...in my last loc, I did say something

about affectionate tweaking, based on how you, with slight sarcasm, noted how people you thought were friends reversed themselves... You knew it was a Katz article, and so did I. I put my loc on my LiveJournal archive, and someone got upset with me, and said that Arnie was just kidding. That person had enough gump-tion to leave a message for me on my LJ, but not enough to actually identify themselves.

I checked online, and found that there is already a fanzine wiki on the Web. When I mentioned that online, some thought that it was not up to what we might want to see happen. Looks like Chris Garcia did not heed that warning; he jumped on the fanzine wiki and started mass entry of information. And thanks to Chris, Robert Lichtman and I, and others, have entries in the wiki. Chris, you're already toying with the idea of someday being done with fanzinery? Say it isn't so! Death shall not release you, so don't get the idea that we'll let up on you any time soon.

94...and egoboo y'all right back with bells on. Joyce, Yvonne and I retired from conrunning after a 25-year stint...no regrets, and while not everything worked all right, most things did. After saying we'd not work any more conventions, we might have the opportunity to help run a big space conference. It's never really over until no one wants you around. We were reluctant stay-at-homes the Corflu Quire weekend, too. And, with the next four years being so far away, staying at home may be what I'll have to get used to. Still, we just did receive our passports in the mail, so never say never...

I love the Earl the Merciless photo in Randy Byers' Corflu report. Wouldn't that look great on a t-shirt? I'm sure Earl would want the first one off the press. If I was to go to Corflu Silver, I don't think I'd spend \$20 on taking my name out of the hat. If three Canadians won the GoHship in a row, what would think the odds would be for a fourth? But then, Murphy is a mysterious fellow...

Sense of Wonder Stories? Ooo, I hope there's one flying my way soon...

The Canadian company that builds the regional jets James Taylor describes is Bombardier, which also builds subway cars for New York City, among other places. Who knows, they might also build the monorail trains in Vegas. Several local fans have worked for Bombardier in the past, and I know Yvonne has her resume to Bombardier. (Just in case, it looks like a bomb dropper position in a war plane, but



it is pronounced Bom-BAR-dee-ay.)

Ah, there's that nifty Brad Foster artwork on page 26! Murray Moore was good enough to deliver to me my own certificate at Ad Astra.

It is Sunday night, and I hear my bed calling me, so I think I will wrap this up. I'm on the third page, anyway...take care, folks, and if the money gods smile upon me, I might be able to join you for Corflu Silver. Might is a pretty big word, but we'll see what happens.

Arnie: Your best is all we can ask; we just hope it's enough to bring you all the way to Vegas for Corflu.

When people speak of a Fanzine wiki, I think — I hope — what is meant is a wiki for Core Fandom that embraces all forms of fan-literary effort and fan art as well. I think it would make sense to have this as separate and distinct from a wiki that would cover everything calling itself a fanzine.

FAAn Awards, electronic fanzines and other meaty topics are featured in a letter from the co-editor of this year's top fanzine...

Mark Plummer

You could have kept quiet about slipping up on your self-imposed target for publication. Personally, I'd have been entirely prepared to believe that the previous VFW had come along only a week ago, and if somebody had told me it had been published last Saturday I'd probably have believed that too. Time runs differently on-line, I swear it does.

As it must in Las Vegas, because surely the last Vegas Corflu was only a year ago, wasn't it? It *can't* have been longer than that, surely. This is why I was so startled when I first heard the rumour of a Vegas bid for 2008. So soon?

Up until then, most of my Corflu conversations on the subject had involved the British contingent suggesting that actually we were all quite keen to visit Seattle, while the Seattle-ites seemed to believe it was absolutely our turn to play host. I was reasonably convinced we were winning on this one, when Peter Weston broke ranks on Saturday and tried to convince Rob Jackson that he really wanted to run a Corflu next year. Ah, no, said Rob, it's all sown up: *Las Vegas* next year, Seattle the year after, *then* the UK. I was, I confess, thinking that Rob's born-again fannish enthusiasm was running away with him there because surely it had only been about six months since the last Vegas Corflu, but no, he was right, and thus we see that these old-time veterans are still plugged in to the right circuits while newcomers like me are out of the loop. Must make note to talk more with Ted next time.

Nice set of Corflu coverage in this VFW, especially Randy's personal view of the convention, but it was also good to see David Bratman's analysis of the programme panels. He talks about the letter-writing discussion and Ted's comment that the original letter-hacks were writing to the prozines, their correspondence 'full of fannish references and in-group jargon that he [Ted] was eager to learn the meaning of'. David was also

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:

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

VSFA:

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

Las Vegas Fan Events Calendar

SNAFFU Library Work Session Thursday, March 29 8:00 PM

This is the night to help set up the library. Volunteers are requested to report to the Launch Pad for duty. Phone 648-5677 for directions.

VSFA Monthly Meeting Saturday, April 7 11:00 AM

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

Las Vegrants Meeting Saturday, April 7 7:30 PM

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

SNAFFood April Dinner Saturday, April 14 6L30 PM

The monthly dinner meeting will take place at Paymon's Mediterranean Grill, 4147 S. Maryland Parkway (at Flamingo),

SNAPS Deadline Sunday, April 15

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

Las Vegrants Meeting Saturday, April 21 7:30 PM

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

SNAFFU Discussion Meeting Sunday, April 22 2:00 PM

Vegas' formal science fiction club meets for a lively discussion meeting once a month at the Clark County public library.

drawn to a later incarnation of the 'hermetic esoterica of fanzine fandom' and wonders what's changed, given that so many people find this sort of thing a turn-off in fanzine fandom as it is now and look on it as a manifestation of our 'elitist and unwelcoming' attitude. I don't doubt that there are still people who see our community vocabulary and in-jokes as a personal slight, a deliberate act to exclude them from our little clique, but I wonder whether, just as there have *always* been people who can somehow see through what's being said to the nature of the discourse -- who realize that they don't understand what's going on, yet who know that they *want* to understand -- there have also always been people who have been repelled by it from their first encounter. How many sf readers and potential fans were turned off fandom by the incomprehensibilities that they witnessed in the letter columns of Stupendous Squid Tales Quarterly back in 1941?

And if the new fans are turning to the on-line world then surely that's just as esoteric and in-groupish and jargon-ridden? But thanks to David for giving those panels some in-print attention, and thanks to Ted for organizing them.

Reading about Teresa's first Corflu -- it surprised me that it was her first given that the previous Vegas Corflu can only have been, what, the month before -- I worry that I may have been more than usually incoherent, or else that my British accent (not that I have an accent of course) must have confounded her somewhat. It's not so much that con-suite arrangement would be *prohibited* in a British hotel, but rather that it was likely to be prohibitively expensive to run given that the hotel would almost certainly charge a crippling corkage waiver which combined with usual British fan attitude to !free stuff! would probably mean that the stock of a typical Corflu beer bathroom would last

approximately 27.38 minutes. And god, did I really agree that British restaurant food is superior to US?

Personally, I feel increasingly like a poor cousin from the sticks when encountering American restaurant food, although perhaps not so poor now as the current exchange rates mean that I can get a really fine meal for about 37½p.

I saw Hope Leibowitz remarking in *The Drink Tank* that the hotel breakfast in the Doubletree was expensive. It probably cost half what you'd pay in the UK if you weren't on a breakfast-inclusive rate and, loathe as I am to admit this, I think every restaurant manager in the UK hotel industry should be forced to go to the US to learn how to cook breakfast bacon.

You say paper fanzines have the edge over digital in the top-five for the FAAns this year, but I guess it depends on how you look at it. After all, four of the five are available electronically, and only three exist in paper. And while I'm sure there are some people who won't look at or vote for those titles which exist in e-form only, I suspect that there are also voters who see relatively few if any paper fanzines, and confine their fanzine activity to the world that's visible through Bill Burns's window. So, swings and roundabouts maybe?

Arnie: Corflu Blackjack will have been four years ago by the time everyone gathers for Corflu Silver. I must also point out that Joyce and I put on Corflu Vegas, which will have been 13 years earlier by Corflu Silver; Ken & Aileen Forman and Ben & Cathi Wilson hosted Corflu Blackjack.

I've heard that BS about how the esoteric nature of

Fandom turns away potential fans for so long — and I don't buy it, either. The idea is not to just recruit people, but rather to add people to our subculture who will fit in and contribute. The kind of person most likely to do that is more likely to revel in the depth and variety of fannish culture.

Those who can't probably will find more enjoyment in another type of hobby.

— Arnie

The Kingfish Says...

I'm very pleased with this issue, but considerably less so with the arduous road that produced it. We electronic fanpublishers may not have show-through and set-off to bedevil us, but you can take my word that a combination of Internet, computer and scanner problems is that bad and worse. James Taylor and Bill & Roxie Mills are helping address the various glitches, but I'll work around the problems for now.

A few entertaining letters of comments, some funny cartoons and an inbox full of letters of comment would ease the pain.

— Arnie Katz

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