

# VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY



## Steve & Elaine stiles Win First Corflu Award!

Steve & Elaine Stiles will be coming to Corflu Silver next year in Las Vegas (April 25-27) thanks to the generosity of The Corflu Fifty. The recently formed fannish charity has designated the celebrated fan artist and his wife as the first recipients of what is hoped to be an annual award.

*You can learn more about the Corflu Award in Richard Coad's article elsewhere in this issue.*

## Help Shelby Vick!

Shelby Vick is working on a project and needs some assistance. He wants to produce an electronic anthology of his legendary early 1950's fanzine *confusion*. Alas, Shelby and his file of the memorable Sixth Fandom fanzine somehow became parted and he needs photocopies of some of the pieces he'd like to reprint.

Shelby reports that Robert Lichtman furnished a few of the needed issues, but he is still looking for most of them.

This is a chance to help someone who has helped all of Fandom in so many ways. It won't even be necessary to photocopy more than a few pages in any one issue. If you have access to issues of *confusion*, please contact Shelby Vick ([shelvy20012000@yahoo.com](mailto:shelvy20012000@yahoo.com)).

*Continued on page 20*

## Corflu Silver Breaking News

- FACA (Fannish Arm Combat Association), the self-appointed ruling body of Fan Arm Wrestling, is pleased to announce its next officially sanctioned tournament. Bowing to widespread interest, Corflu Silver will host a FACA-sponsored event. The World Fannish Arm Wrestling Championship, currently held by Great Britain's Peter Weston, will be on the line during the April 25-27 weekend in Las Vegas.
- Teresa Cochran ([flyingfox692003@yahoo.com](mailto:flyingfox692003@yahoo.com)) is organizing some light-hearted musical fun at Corflu Silver. If you play an instrument and/or sing, and plan to be at Corflu, drop Teresa a note and tell her what you play and what kinds of music you like. There'll be a lot more details down the line, but for now, Teresa needs to find out about who'll be there to participate. Already on board are Teresa herself, Bill Mills and John DeChancie.

## Inside Story

# The Perfect TAFFan?

In most elections, the supporters of a Taff candidate greet with elation the news that the other candidate won't run. Word that the estimable Curt Phillips has decided not to stand for TAFF is anything but good news to me. Not only is Curt a really fine person and solid acti-fan, but the announcement imperils the 2007 US-to-UK race. There won't be one unless another fan steps forward, because TAFF doesn't hold unopposed elections.

The problem is that Chris Garcia is such a terrific candidate that no other Core Fandomite seems to want to stand for TAFF in opposition. The consensus for Chris seems so strong that everyone can predict how they'd do in an election in which Chris is the other candidate. Lot of fans won't run, because they're sure they would lose. Yet to this point, none of the relatively few fans who could definitely out-poll Chris Garcia *wants* defeat him.

In this time and place, is Chris Garcia the perfect TAFF candidate? He is a highly active, and productive fan, his writings and fanzines are somewhat known in the prospective host country, he is well-spoken and convivial in person and will make a gracious guest, he is honest and hard-working and will surely be a conscientious administrator and he is highly likely to write a trip report.

Whew. Even I'm impressed.

Yet one thing nags at me. Even as I type this hymn of praise: I believe I detect a way in which Chris Garcia may not be the perfect TAFF candidate. A wonderful candidate? Yes. An outstanding candidate? Absolutely. I know Chris and to come so close to the golden ideal of TAFFness and yet fall just short will eat at his innards, put bees in his head and possibly make him run for N3F President, again.

Looking over the last decade of TAFF winners, it is crystal clear that the perfect TAFF candidate must be a woman. Chris Garcia is many things, some of them printable, but one thing he is not is... a woman. So even though he is such a worthy candidate that no sane fan will run against him, Chris is an imperfect TAFF candidate. As I sit here, weeping quietly onto my keyboard for what might have been, I yearn for something we could do to help our friend Chris Garcia attain that perfection which is his goal and his commitment.

I think I've got it.

It is with Great Pride that I announce the launch of the CJGFSCF, the Christopher J. Garcia Fannish Sex Change Fund. Since I only just had this brainstorm, the details are yet to be worked out. But write to Chris' great and good friend Merric Anderson (merriclubov@hotmail.com), who I know will be delighted to head up this momentous campaign. Just send him an Enthusiastic Email about the project and I'm sure he'll keep you abreast of future developments.

— Arnie

**Vegas Fandom Weekly #98, Volume 3 Number 10, July 7, 2007**, is written and produced by Arnie Katz (909 Eugene Cernan St., Las Vegas, NV 89145; Email: crossfire4@cox.net; phone: 702-648-5677).

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**Columnists This Issue:** Shelby Vick, Linda Bushyager, Bill Mills

VFW is free by request — and you may get it anyway. It can be downloaded at efanazines.com and LasVegrants.com. No birthday-celebrating editors were harmed during the production of this fanzine.

Member: fwa

Supporter: AFAL

Corflu Silver in 2008!

# Meet The VEGRANTS!

# Katzenjammer

Las Vegrants, Las Vegas' informal, invitational Core Fandom fan club, is the merry band that stands behind Iron-fisted Chairman Joyce, especially when there's Corflu work to do. Yes, they stand behind Joyce – and as far away as they can get to reduce the odds that Joyce will “volunteer” them for drudgery.

You'll meet them, some for the first time, at Corflu Silver. At the risk of convincing you to cancel those reservations, I thought I'd tell you about Glitter City's largest and most active club and the local Fandom that surrounds it.

Let's start with a small dose of fanhistory:

## A Brief Fanhistory of Las Vegas

There were at least two efforts to start Fandom in Las Vegas, but neither took hold.

A group of high school students in the mid-1950's put on something they called a convention, but which was more what we might call a club meeting (and a small one, at that). They published a couple of fanzines, but the onset of college dispersed the club. They drifted away from Fandom, not to be seen again.

The second attempt succeeded in one way that the first did not: it produced a well known fan, Dwain Kaiser. His *Galaxy Reporter* spearheaded national fanac that included illustrations by local artist Lynn Pederson. Had Dwain's family stayed in Las Vegas another couple of years, Fandom might have clicked. When the affable Kaiser moved to southern California, however, mafia made sure there were no survivors.

Pederson owned the city's largest comic book/pop culture store, Page After Page. but he never made himself known to any of the “third wave” fans who regularly visited the store.



The current, third wave of Las Vegas Fandom began with another failure. Neon Galaxy, a UNLV club, operated with variable success for a couple of years, but it had already died by 1990 when Alex Borders tacked up flyers to find people who wanted to start a science fiction club. Alex provided the spark, but the actual group quickly acclaimed Ken and Aileen Forman as their leaders. A few Neon Galaxy survivors, most prominently Woody Bernardi and Laurie Yates, swelled the charter membership. The club was soon holding regular meetings at the Forman's' newly purchased home on Nordic Lights Avenue.

Joyce and I moved to Las Vegas in 1989. I edged back into Fanzine Fandom shortly after settling in Glitter City and Joyce followed suit. My cataract, which left me virtually blind for a little while, kept me from finding SNAFFU (Southern Nevada Fantasy Fiction Union) until late spring 1990.

We introduced SNAFFU to Fandom at large and vice versa. The club put on four, increasingly successful regionals, the Silvercons in 1991- 1994. Silvercon III turned out to be an especially memorable event that Ted White, among others, identified as the springboard to a more active and entertaining period of Fanzine Fandom.



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## Las Vegas Fandom Today

Las Vegas Fandom boomed in 2005 and 2006, but the scene has quieted noticeably in the last six months. The unprecedented influx of neofan has slowed, as we all knew it would, but the number and variety of local fan events has markedly decreased as well. SNAFFU and VSFA haven't hosted much and Las Vegrants has slacked off on open parties (mostly because non-Vegrants are scarce at all events).

I've pondered the irony of an invitational club being the biggest. As best I can figure, the key to this riddle may lie in the composition of what we laughingly call Las Vegas Fandom.

There are many passive semi-fans in Las Vegas. They want to attend an occasional holiday party and might attend the 2008 Westercon here, but they have only the most tenuous connection with Science Fiction Fandom.

Two formal SF clubs, SNAFFU and VSFA, court the casual fans.

The Vegas Science Fiction Association has become a small circle of friends who watch videos together since Woody Bernardi left for Boston. It recruits few newcomers and none has advanced to any true contact with Fandom, at least to this point. VSFA dropped the monthly Sunday Socials last year, mostly because they couldn't seem to run them effectively.

The genesis of modern Las Vegas Fandom is the Southern Area Fantasy Fiction Union, Founded in 1990, SNAFFU is still trying to recover from a turn-of-the-century slump and several years of meeting in a bookstore. For a variety of reasons, the club has not yet struck the formula for enticing the casual fans.

Las Vegrants is held together by friendship as much as by Fandom. The group has lost many valued members through relocation and shed a few due to disaffection, but members seem to find reasons to keep coming to the twice-a-month meetings.

Cineholics is currently on a short hiatus, but the movie viewing and discussion group is expected to rise from the ashes with a new series of get-togethers within the next month or so. The Gay/Les/Bi/Trans SF Club may, or may not, still be holding its small, socially oriented meetings, but none of us knows for sure. It's a small group and tends to circle the wagons even when there are no Indians.

The net effect is that Las Vegas Fandom



has about five events per month. There's also a lot of visiting among various Vegrants.

### A Short Fanhistory of Las Vegrants

Joyce and I started the Vegrants as part of our campaign to win over the more interesting locals to Fandom. In the early 1990's, SNAFFU was holding meet-

The Vegrants assemble on the first and third Saturdays at the Launch Pad. (Photo by Bill Mills)





The SNAFFU Library, with more than 10,000 SF books, resides in the Launch Pad's garage. Lori Forbes (*right*), chairman of the Library Committee, beams proudly as an impressed Luba Anderson surveys the shelves. (Photo by Alan White)

ings with 20-30 people and the monthly Socials at Toner Hall attracted as many as 100 for parties that sometimes started in the afternoon and ran to the small hours of the next morning.

We wanted to give those who showed the most fannish promise a chance to get to know each other better and experience the pleasures of cooperative fanac. SNAFFU met on the second and fourth weekend of the month and the Socials had the first Saturday, so we set Vegrants for the third Saturday of the month.

The format of Las Vegrants was in no way revolutionary. It derives, ultimately, from New York's Fanoclasts of the 1960's. Joyce had hosted a similar club in St Louis (The Saturday People) and we'd hosted the Brooklyn Insurgents for more than half a decade in the 1970's, so it was natural to bring this tradition to Las Vegas.

When we stopped the Socials after we'd hosted 60 of them, we put a Vegrants meeting on the first Saturday of the month, too. By that point, the group had reached some sort of critical mass and begun to do a lot of writing, drawing and publishing.

The Vegrants' fanhistory divides into two distinct periods, the Toner Hall Era and the Launch Pad Era. There's a transitional period of a couple of years between them, but the eras are surprisingly separate and

distinct.

### **Vegrants: The Toner Hall Era**

The backbone of Las Vegrants was a quartet of active fan couples who became very close friends: Ken & Aileen Forman, Ben & Cathy Wilson, Tom and Tammy Springer and Joyce and me. Fleshing out the core group were artists Ross Chamberlain, Alan White and Bill Kunkel, Ray and Marcy Waldie and JoHn Hardin. Other prominent members included Marcy McDowell, Roxanne Gibbs, Don Miller, Su Williams and Marc Cram.

The Vegrants of this era hosted two Corflus, put on an informal con called Toner and produced a lot of fanzine fanac. Most of the less experienced Vegrants made their writing debuts in *The Vegas All-Stars*, a monthly oneshot that provided a low-pressure environment for neofan. We did 60 issues, generally running four-to-six pages, one issue at each monthly Social.

We also had a monthly amateur press asso-



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ciation, Apa V that we assembled at the Vegrants meeting. Participation was good for a couple of years and then wound down as other fannish interests replaced it. Besides, we spent so much time together that it became hard to write, because topics tended to burn up in conversation.

*Wild Heirs* began as an oneshot series, but it quickly became the focus of Vegrants fanzine fanac. It reflected our growing identification with the LA Insurgents of the early 1940's and contemporary friendships with Bill Rotsler and Charles Burbee.

We stalled after the first two oneshots and then produced another 18 of what proved to be a very popular fanzine. The lovely anthology *How Green Was My Vegrant*, edited by Andy Hooper and available at efanzines.com, offers a sampling of *Wild Heir's* content.

Other notable fanzines from this group were *Smoking' Rockets*, *Glamour and crifanac*

### Las Vegrants in Transition

The first great era had passed into history before Joyce and I relocated to the house at 909 Eugene Cernan Street known as The Launch Pad. Although Las Vegrants was always a harmonious and friendly group, relocations spun three of the four "backbone" couples out of town within a fairly short period of time.

No group could survive that kind of loss unchanged and Las Vegrants had no special immunity to the effects of such change. Although Las Vegrants continued to meet, attendance fell to the eight-12 range and only Joyce and I produced regularly fanzines during the transition.



Aileen Forman, shown here at Corflu Blackjack, was one of Las Vegas Fandom's leaders during the 1990's.

### Vegrants: The Launch Pad Era

The turning point came in fall 2004. I wanted to do something new – I'd done *Jackpot* and *Xtreme* during that Transition Era – and I'd grown alarmed at the shocking deterioration of Las Vegas Fandom. I started *Vegas Fandom Weekly* to boost local activity and educate potential Vegas fans about Core Fandom in a reasonably painless manner.

I thought it would be two-to-six pages and come out several times a month. The slogan, "Las Vegas Fandom's Sorta Weekly Newszine" was supposed to prepare readers for the fact that it wouldn't really be weekly.

*VFW* succeeded beyond my wildest expectations. Local activity began to boom and my enthusiasm soared with it. Bill Burns posted it on efanzines.com and Michael Bernstein and Roxanne Gibbs put it on SNAFFU.org. I also began sending it to some friends via direct email distribution.

*Vegas Fandom Weekly*, which lived up to the name for about 15 months, caught on outside Las Vegas, too. This led to more diverse content, large issues and, eventually, the "ChatBack: letter column.

Whatever the reason, Las Vegas Fandom began to boom. Las Vegrants recruited a new generation of



Ken Forman, in The White suit, acquired the nickname "The Mainspring," because of his contributions to Vegas Fandom.



Tom Springer was a highly active Fanwriter and publisher (and party animal) in the 1990's; he still lurks out there somewhere. Come back, Tom.

members from among people met at SNAFFU events and VSFA Sunday Socials. Although a lot of the newcomers are in the earliest stages of fan activity, the group is extremely lively and shows promise of generating more fanac in the future.

The “next generation” Vegrants have published a

Joyce Katz is both vice president of SNAFFU and, even more importantly, co-founder and cohost of Las Vegrants.



couple of oneshots under the *TCGC* banner and, in April 2005, started a monthly amateur press association called SNAPS (Southern Nevada Amateur Press Society). Originally a purely local apa, SNAPS started as a conventional, hard copy group with mailings collated at SNAFFU meetings. Within a year, though, it had become Core Fandom's second electronic apa and, soon after that, began accepting members from outside Las Vegas.

### Meet Today's Vegrants

Las Vegrants still meets on the first and third Saturdays, but the group's roster has changed since Toner Hall days. Today's Vegrants and those of the 1990's could co-exist happily, but the two groups have plenty of differences, too.

The current Vegrants are still relatively new to Fandom and, indeed, to each other. There are some very strong friendships and no factionalism, though this is a feisty crew.

The sub-categories for these individual back-grounders are purely for purposes of organizing the material. Las Vegrants doesn't segment along those (or any other) lines. For a bunch of loonies, we get along pretty good.

### The Actifans

*These are the Vegrants most heavily engaged in Core Fandom fanac and, therefore, the best-known fans in the area to those outside southern Nevada.*

Ross Chamberlain -- Like Arnie & Joyce Katz, Ross is a veteran of New York's Fanoclats and the Brooklyn Insurgents who moved to Las Vegas. One of the great fan artists, Ross is also active in SNAPS and this year produced the long-delayed issue of his gen-zine *Fangle*.

Teresa Cochran -- She contacted Fandom for the first time shortly after moving here from the BArea. Characteristically, she sampled all the groups before threw in her lot with Las Vegrants. Tee has overcome her lack of eyesight in such spectacular fashion that she was selected as the Best New Fan in the 2007 Fan Achievement Awards poll.

Arnie Katz -- What can you say about Arnie Katz? No prizes will be awarded for the best answer; a prize for the most *flattering* answer may be negotiated.

Joyce Katz -- The Sweetheart of Fanac Falls and the High Priestess of Fandom continues to be among our best fanwriters and editors. She was co-chairman of



Bill Mills is the Vegnants' best musician and also the our audio/video guru.

the 1969 St. Louiscon and Corflu Vegas.

Bill Mills -- The California transplant has been around Fandom for over 30 years, but he has only become part of Core Fandom in the last couple of years. He has applied his wide-ranging technical skill to fannish podcasts and TheVoicesofFandom.com and LasVegnants.com websites. He's a terrific musician and singer who often leads the musical entertainment at Vegnants get-togethers.

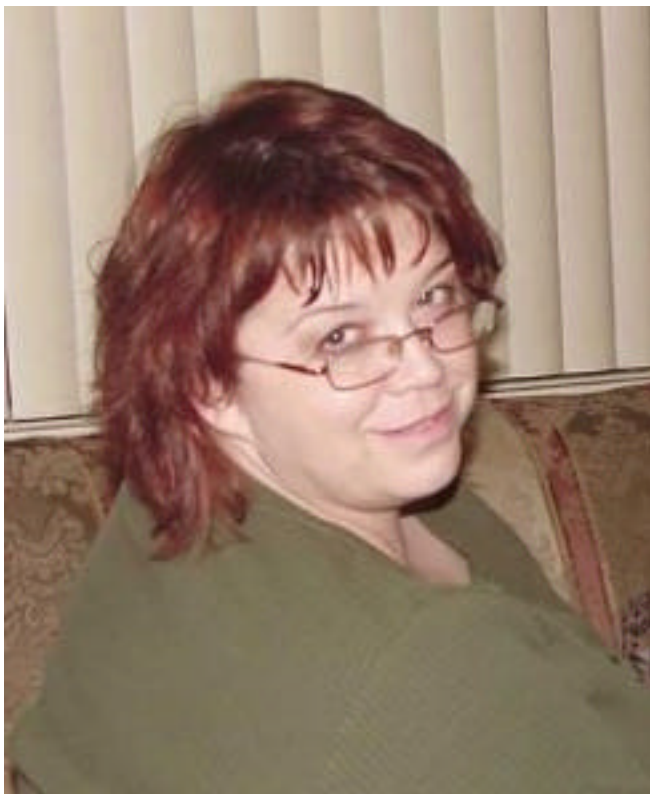
Roxanne Mills – The second-generation fan was



Alan & DeDee White have been a major Vegas fan couple since they arrived from Los Angeles. (Photo by Bill Mills)

one of the first to create a fannish website in the 1990s and, after a period of gafia, has returned to activity in her new hometown of Las Vegas. She's an excellent writer whose articles are just starting to make a dent outside SNAPS. Roxanne is an ardent animal lover

Lori Forbes and Ross Chamberlain help bridge the gap between the Vegnants of the 1990's and the group as it exists today.







Ross Chamberlain (*left*), who has been a Vegrants through most of its fanhistory, chats with Bryan Follins, the newest addition to the group.

does much more than his share of any work and is absolutely dependable. He has the best fannish instincts of any of the Vegas fans who've come forward in the last few years and the person I am most likely to ask for advice (apart from Joyce, naturally).

Alan White – A fine artist, graphics designer and writer, Alan served as Art Editor of *Smokin' Rockets* and, in more recent times, has done the always fascinating *Black Cat*. He

and wife Dedee hosted the Cinaholics in 2006 and the early part of 2007. Alan entered Fandom in the mid-1960's in Los Angeles, but he has been a major Las Vegas fan since moving here in the early 1990's.

who often brings her remarkable benign ferret Candy Madson to Vegrants meetings.

James Taylor – Soft-spoken and sensible, James is active in SNAPS, has written for *VFW*, is the Left-Hand Man on the Corflu Silver committee and is currently president of SNAFFU. He and Teresa form one of the town's most active fan couples. James always

#### The Survivors

*Vegrants who participated in both eras help preserve the continuity between them. Most have done some Core Fandom fanac, though not as prolifically as the Actifan group.*

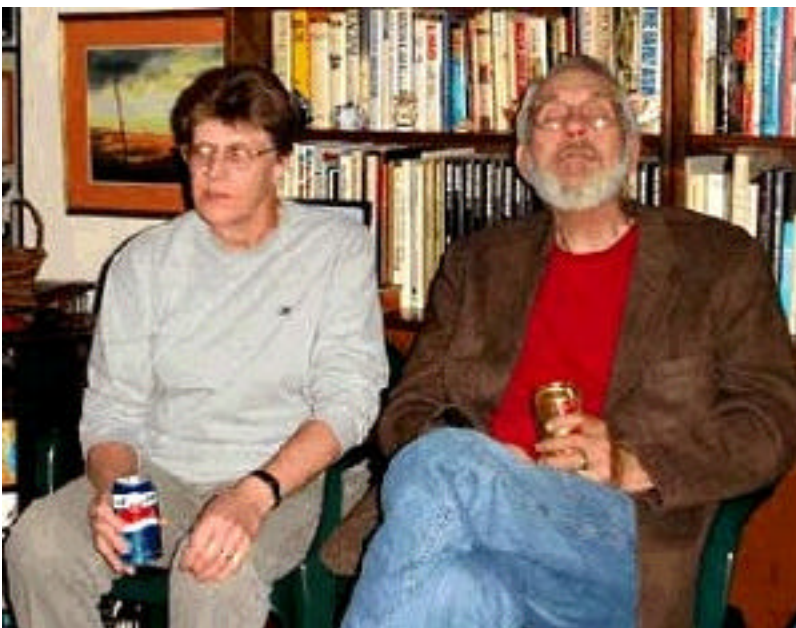


James Taylor and Teresa Cochran are Las Vegrants' newest power fan couple.

The charming pair met and fell in love at Vegrants.

Lori Forbes – Many years after the fact, Lori confessed to us that she joined SNAFFU primarily because she fancied one of the guys in the group. She was primarily a social fan on the local level during the Toner Hall Era and became a Vegrants primarily due to her charming, yet spicy, personality. She kept SNAFFU afloat as director in the perilous period after Ken and Aileen Forman moved to California at the turn of the Century. The arrival of the New Generation, however, seemed to stir some fannish spirit in her and she is now much more aware of, and interested in, Fandom outside Las Vegas. Lori generally works two jobs and attends college, but she still manages to be a regular at Vegrants meetings and a strong supporter of other local fan events.

Don Miller – Quiet and sometimes reclusive, Don has been an important fan in Las Vegas as long as Fandom has existed in its current incarnation. Don is a professional-caliber video graphics designer and has done some very effective pieces for vari-



Ray & Marcy Waldie have been an important fan couple through the entire fanhistory of Las Vegrants.

ous LV fan projects, including the logo for Corflu Blackjack. Don's a fanatic film buff with a huge movie collection.

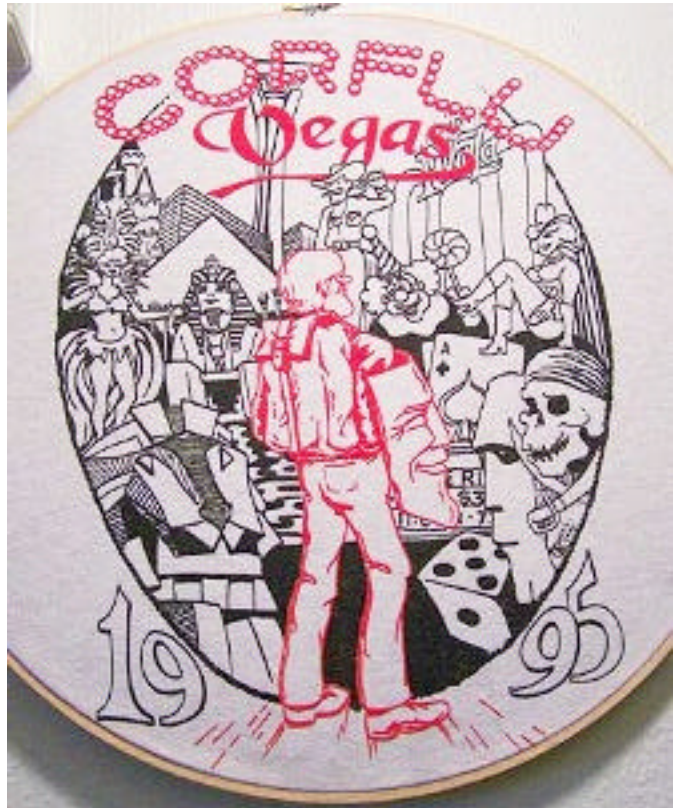
Derek Stazenski — Derek is a Fakefan — and I say that only in the kindest possible name. He arrived as a drag-along spouse and has stayed to become one of the best-liked people in the group. In the process, he has revealed himself to be an ardent fan of electronic science fiction and fantasy. Derek is one of several film experts among the Vegrants, so you can almost always get an enjoyable and informative conversation about movies going.

Marcy Waldie — Her work as a professor and head of the English Department at Las Vegas College doesn't leave as much time for writing and publishing for Fandom as she had during the Toner Hall Era, but she still produces excellent material when she has the time. Marcy's easy-going intelligence and considerable wisdom have earned the respect of every Vegrant and she is often a steadying influence upon our flighty bunch.

Ray Waldie — Calm, intelligent and articulate, Ray may not be as loud as some of us, but his opinions are always well worth hearing. He's well-read and writes excellent stuff when we can talk him into it.

DeDee White — The beautiful beautician, a chic hair stylus at a major hotel is primarily a social fan. She is a wonderful hostess who always provides delicious

Lubov (*right*) and Merric Anderson (*below*) have attended cons for a decade, but they'd never encountered Core Fandom until their move to Vegas. (Photos by Alan White)



Bill Mills took this photo of a Corflu Vegas tee-shirt (art by Ross Chamberlain) that's on the Launch Pad's wall.





Derek Stazenski has recently begun attending regularly after a hiatus of a couple of years — and has proven highly popular with the “New Generation”

goodies at Cineholics meetings and other such occasions. DeDee is smart, pretty and able to converse on a wide range of subjects.

Su Williams – A convention fan in the 1980’s, Su is one of the warmest, and best-liked, fans in Las Vegas. Extremely shy for someone who likes to think of herself as so bold, Su often steers clear of the big events to avoid crowd, but the warm-hearted librarian is an asset to any gathering. She has done some writing and displays the same good-humored personality in print that she does in person.

#### The New Generation

*Las Vegrants had had a major influx of new members in the last 30 months. This is a group of relatively new fans that haven’t yet made an impact in Core Fandom as a whole.*

Ayesha Ashley – Her grueling work schedule – she teaches school at a women’s prison – relocation to the extreme southeast of town and a frenetic social life have kept her from attending very regularly in recent times or learning much about Fandom. She is lively and charming and is a fairly entertaining singer-guitarist.

Merric Anderson – Merric – his real name is “Scott” but only Tony calls him that – has about 10 years’ experience as a convention goer, but is only now becoming aware of Core Fandom. He is the husband of Lubov, the fantasy artist. Merric aspires to be the Vegrants’ resident Wild Man, despite the stiff competition, but the Unpredictable One stubbornly refuses to write even though his letters show much talent. Merric’s job sends him to hotels all over the western US to implement room security systems, which keeps him out of nagging range most weeks. There’s a rumor he is working on The Great Fannish Novel. You could write and ask him about it.

Luba Anderson – The only thing not to like about this gorgeous, charming and talented woman is that she’s finicky about her name without providing an easy way to refer to her and Merric in their aspect as a couple. The Russian-born artist now concentrates on her much-in-demand painting, having left a career as a successful commercial artist and illustrator. The diminu-



Ayesha Ashley (*left, center*) is another musically inclined Vegrants. Don Miller (*left, bottom*) is a welcome returnee this year.

tive (4'10") redhead is exceptionally articulate and has the courage of her opinions. Unfamiliar with "real" Fandom until her move to Las Vegas, Luba has not yet found a way to participate in Vegrants activities beyond the social, but she is likely to be the most exciting fan you meet at Corflu (or Westercon '08, where she is Art Guest of Honor).

David Gordon – He is the Vegrants Fan of Mystery, a fellow with a shadowy personal fanhistory and some surprising contacts in the field. He has only become aware of our brand of craziness in the last couple of years, though he is starting to adjust to our more insurgent view of the faniverse. David is a respected Wall Street Investor and Advisor whose sharp mind and cutting wit enliven any fan party. Although Dave is an excellent writer with a much-read blog, he has made only a couple of appearances in Core Fandom so far. He even puts up with Alan White and others calling him "Tony," a nickname that emerged when Alan misidentified David in a couple of batches of photos.

Bryan Follins – The newest Vegrant is a married

Jolie LaChance often works on Saturday nights, but is always a nice addition to the gang when her schedule permits.



## MEET the FANIMALS

Las Vegrants has two animal members, Foggy (*lower left*) and Candy Matson (*lower right*) at the present time. Naturally, both were invited only after several guest appearances and a lot of discussion among the Vegrants.

The admission of the cat and the ferret have sparked a lot of interest in the group among other Las Vegas animals. Foggy and Candy are shown here interviewing applicants at the sliding glass door to the Launch Pad's living room.

Uncle Gray, like several human applicants, did not measure up to Vegrants standards. Schmendrick (*upper right*) would probably be a member, except that his travels take him far from the Launch Pad for extended periods of time.

Some may find it interesting that the Vegrants accepted two animals while turning down several humans.

Hey... these are *good* animals.

Photo by Bill Mills



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Las Vegas teacher who impressed everyone at several SNAFFU meetings, got an invitation to a couple of Vegrants meetings and is rapidly acclimating to our weirdness. Although he became a Vegrant without benefit of previous fannish experience, he has already produced two issues of a SNAPSzine and seems likely to expand that aspect of his fanac as he becomes more used to our strange ways.

Jolie LaChance – She has been coming to local events since mid-2006 and is very much part of Las Vegrants. She works for the school system as a carpenter, but Jolie also works as a stagehand on the Vegas Strip, which sometimes causes her to miss Vegrants when she (and we) would much rather have her here. She hasn't yet worked up the courage to try a little writing, but she is an excellent conversationalist with a good sense of humor. Even though long work hours limit her free time, Jolie has been tremendous in helping build the physical setting for the library, and is always ready to lend a hand. It may interest some to know that Jolie is single and devastatingly pretty with the body of a goddess.

### The Vagabonds

*Sometimes circumstances cause Vegrants to wander from Glitter City. This group consists of fans who, while they are not regular attendees of Las Vegrants due to varying amounts of distance, are very much a part of the group.*

John DeChancie – Currently living in exile in Los Angeles, John is expected to be a Vegas resident once more by the end of the year. John is one of those Good Pros who knows how to act like a fan. He has done many Apa L-zines and several articles for VFW and served as LASFS Secretary (and proprietor of *De Profundus*). John became an “instant Vegrant” during his first visit; few newcomers have fit in so completely so quickly.

JoHn Hardin – JoHn currently lives in Kingman, AZ, with his son Lucas. A lot of uproar has kept his fanzine appearances to a minimum this year, but he has contributed to SNAPS and attended quite a few Vegrants meeting, despite the distance. He remains a terrific writer with a great sense of humor.

Kent Hastings – Kent lives in Pahrump, but has spent a lot of time in Los Angeles working himself to death on Neil Shulman's *Lady Magdalene* movie. He's one of our most knowledgeable techies and is such a nice, generous guy that we even let him talk Libertarian to us occasionally. Kent has done quite a bit of professional writing, including co-authorship of an alternative

history novel keyed to the Spanish Civil War, but he's a good fannish pro, too, who writes for zines including VFW.

### The Indolent Fringe

*These folks are all nominally members of Las Vegrants, but they only come around sporadically for one reason or another.*

Linda Bushyager — Though her appearances on the national/international fan scene are primarily appearances at cons, Linda is still very active in Las Vegas Fandom, where she tries to nudge SNAFFU into a semblance of order. She's also active in SNAPS and, when she and Ron aren't exploring the night life, comes to Vegrants.

Ron Bushyager — His wife has been so well known in Fandom for so long that sometimes Ron may be unfairly overlooked. He's one of those guys who always says something intelligent when moved to speak.

April Reckling — A long-time local fan, April is Lori Forbes' sister. She (and husband Lee) are always welcome, but are usually too pooped to go out Saturday night. She does tend to come to large events and is primarily a social fan. April is a very good conversationalist and quite charming, as well.

Lee Reckling — He is definitely the quieter half of the couple, a somewhat shy guy who needs to be drawn out a little before you discover that he has a lot of smarts. Leigh is a little less involved with Fandom than either his sister-in-law or his wife, but he does enjoy a good fan party. — Arnie



# NOW & AGAIN

## The Story of My CLOSE CALL

Remember the old saying that you should never bring up religion or politics in public discussions? Well, I'm about to flaunt BOTH those prohibitions, by God! I'm doing that by revealing a Close Call that I recently had.

A little background, first. I am retired from the Bay County Property Appraiser's Office. Recently, the Property Appraiser became a real center of controversy as property values skyrocketed. (Let me mention that he was unpopular with most employees from the beginning; he would eavesdrop on conversations and rumor even went around that phone calls were tapped and that there could be a microphone hidden outside where smokers took their breaks.) His unpopularity with property owners came about because Florida law says that the Ap-



praiser has to use recent sales as a guideline for values – and, because of the local condo boom, plus several super-expensive subdivisions, sales had been skyrocketing.

To give you an idea of how much, there is a cluster of five-acre lots at the west end of the county that have no streets platted on them, and are only accessible by a dirt road. (They ARE near one of those super-expensive subdivisions, but the subs have lots of platted streets.) BEFORE all this explosive expansion in value, those lots were appraised at twenty thou.

NOW, five years later, they are taxed at SIX HUNDRED THOU – thirty times their original value.

The tax bill for the vacant land is *over* eleven thou apiece!

What's this got to do with my close call??? What's this got to do with fandom? Hang on; I'm still Building Up.

Anyway, these outer-space values (see, I'm bringing sf into things) caused our Property Appraiser much ire from the populace. He was investigated by the State and – surprise, surprise! – they found that some rich folks had their properties REDUCED in value. On top of that, there were two handwritten letters submitted to the board by female employees, letters said to be written by the Appraiser and Sexually Graphic.



The long and the short of it is, the Appraiser submitted his resignation, stating that said resignation was sent in because

of (coff! coff!) 'Health problems' brought on by the stress of his job..

NOW we're coming to my Close Call. Y'see, they had to have someone finish the PA's term and went the typical way – the governor would appoint a replacement. It is a job that pays about two hundred thou a year and the Appointee would hold the job for about a year and a half. Not only would be Appointee receive good pay but – if Shelby Vick were the Ap-

*Continued on next page*

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pointee – my retirement income would get a great boost.

I had lots of things going for me: I had worked there from 1987 until 2004. I had attended special schools and, after four years and lots of study, was awarded the coveted title of Certified Florida Evaluator. I still have that plaque. . .somewhere. Beside that, one question asked on the Governor’s Application for Appointment, was had I ever been appointed to any other office.

Well, I had; back in the fifties, I was appointed to the Lynn Haven Zoning Board. Further, I was born and raised in Bay County (renamed, by some, ‘Pay County’ after property taxes zoomed.)

So I downloaded the Application, and studied it, and seriously thot of filling it out and sending it in. Not only that, but I was also thinking of people I could get to send the governor a letter suggesting me for the position. I know several successful at-



torneys, realtors, bankers and politicians, so I thot I could come up with a sizable list.

I also spent time trying to figure out how I could go about reducing valuations, thus taxes. One way that was obvious to me was to check all houses that were labeled ‘Exceptional’. I remember that, when I worked

there, appraisers would often label a house ‘Exceptional’ just in order to add to the required value increase brought about by sales. Changing ‘Exceptional’ to ‘Average’ would result in a hefty reduction.

Besides that, I could also --

Then it hit me:

1) I no longer drive or have a car, and live about twenty miles away from the office.

2) I have no wardrobe, no suits of any type. These days, my clothes consist of jeans, dockers and sports shirts.

3) Most important, I’d have to give up *PLANETARY STORIES!* (<http://www.planetarystories.com>) as well as this column becos I’d be working ten hours a day, six days a week, PLUS at least an hour each day for getting back-and-forth. I’ve gotten used to all my free time.

But I was really close; I could clearly see myself in office, making those big bucks!

You say, ‘Where’s the religion?’ Hey, weren’t you reading wot I wrote? I said, up there at the start, ‘By God’!

–Oh, and a PS: Later news carried complaints from the PA that he wasn’t paid for his accumulated sick leave – about twenty-five thou! Interesting thing about that is – he did it to himself! While I was still working there, he rewrote sick leave policy (which had, up until then, been quite liberal.) Among other rules he set up was one that said: You Can’t Take It With You! So now, he’s paying for his own rule changes.

That gets me, Right Here. .

— Shelby Vick



# Core Fandom's New Charity: The Corflu Fifty

We're looking for a few good fen.... to join the Corflu Fifty.

The Corflu Fifty is a Yahoo news group that exists for the purpose of selecting the recipient of the Corflu Award and providing the contributions to make it possible.

The Corflu Award is an outgrowth of the successful one-off funds to bring Bruce Gillespie and William Breiding to Corflu Titanium in 2004 and to bring Harry Bell to Corflu Quire in 2006. Fanzine fandom has proved itself quite generous in these fund raising efforts and Other Names were mentioned as people who would be very welcome at a Corflu but who were unlikely to attend left to their own devices. After a bit of mulling about what to do in some e-lists, Andy Porter came up with the excellent suggestion of getting a group of fifty fans, each willing to donate 25 dollars or 15 pounds, to be the fund-raisers. This has an elegant simplicity - no one person has to donate a very large amount and there is no constant pressure to do auctions or create saleable goodies. People simply sign up, send their check when requested, and voila, we have \$1250 to pay for transportation and lodging which may not cover everything but will cover a lot.

To join in, just visit [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/the\\_corflu\\_fifty](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/the_corflu_fifty) and click "Join This Group!"

If you don't want to join the group but would like to contribute, donations can be sent to to

Rich Coad  
124 Cottage Ave.  
Richmond, CA 94801  
e-mail: richcoad at comcast dot net

or

Rob Jackson  
Chinthey,  
Nightingale Ln,  
Hambrook,  
nr Chichester,  
PO18 8UH  
e-mail: jacksonshambrook at tiscali co uk

The charter for the Corflu Award is below.

1. The Corflu Award is an annual cash award provided by members of the Corflu Fifty to one fan or fan couple known for their fanzine activity for the express purpose of assisting in defraying travel and lodging expenses ac-

*Continued on next page*



Rich Coad, shown at the HPL Memorial, is one of the founders and the North American administrator of the Corflu Fifty fund "Steve Stiles".



Steve Stiles' self-portrait is the focus of the welcoming art at [stevestiles.com](http://stevestiles.com). Steve is the first winner of the Corflu Award and will attend Corflu Silver.



crued in attending the next Corflu after the award is given.

2. Members of The Corflu Fifty each agree to donate \$25 or £15 to the Corflu Award within 90 days of the call for donations. The call for donations will be made no later than 180 days before Corflu.

3. Membership in the Corflu Fifty is open to anyone who cares to join the Yahoo Groups mailing list known as the\_corflu\_fifty. This group is not limited to 50 members. If more than 50 members are active in a given year, the membership may decide at its discretion to increase the size of the award or to lower the required donation amount.

To sign up visit [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/the\\_corflu\\_fifty](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/the_corflu_fifty)

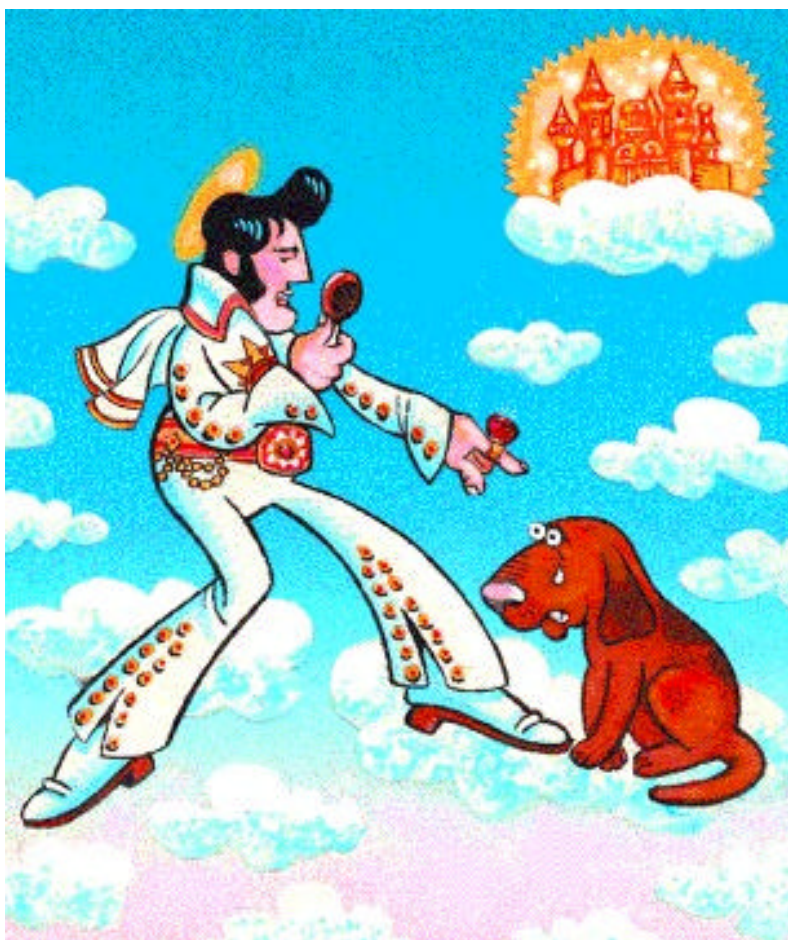
4. In addition to the obligation to donate when called upon, membership in the Corflu Fifty confers the right to nominate potential recipients of the Corflu Award. Selection of the recipient will be made by the list membership. In the event that a consensus agreement cannot be reached by the membership a vote will be taken. No more than three nominees will be considered for a given year.

5. Previous fan fund awards and membership in any fan organization, including the Corflu Fifty, do not disqualify a potential recipient. Similarly, a nominee being passed over in one year does not preclude them from being nominated again the following year.

6. Non-members of the Corflu Fifty are eligible to donate money if they wish to.

7. The recipient of the Corflu Award agrees to attend the next Corflu after the award is given and to have a good time. No further obligations are attached to the award.

8. Simple arithmetic shows that the Corflu Award will be in the amount of \$1250.00. In the event that more is raised in any single year, the membership of the Corflu Fifty will decide whether the additional funds shall be held over or awarded to the recipient. In



the event less than that amount is raised in any single year, the recipient shall be allowed to decide whether the fund should be held over or to accept the amount raised. When accepting the amount raised it is understood that the recipient intends to use the money to defray expenses for attending Corflu.

9. If the Corflu Fifty decides that the Award has served its purpose and is not longer needed, or that there are no suitable recipients foreseeable in the immediate or near future, the group shall be disbanded and all existing unused funds returned to their donors. However, if there is no immediate suitable recipient, but future needs are anticipated, the Award may skip a year, holding over funds to a following year.

— Richard Coad

## Corflu Silver Info

Corflu Silver will be held April 25, 26 and 27, 2008, at the Plaza Hotel, One Main Street, Las Vegas, NV 89101. Room rates are \$35 per midweek night (Monday-Thursday) and \$72 per Friday, Saturday & Sunday. Reservations must be made prior to **March 22, 2008** in order to obtain the special Corflu rate; after that date, the regular room rates will apply.

Membership is \$60 attending (£35). 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](mailto:JoyceWorley1@cox.net).

# The Astral League

**Rob Jackson Featuring Dave Langford,  
plus a cameo appearance by Joyce Katz.**

*Hi!*

*What is the Astral League? And why do they need a pole at Corflu? What kind of pole  
-- Joyce Katz*

Dear Joyce,

The Astral League (spelt like that, not as you will find in Webster's!) was started in 1976 by D. (for Don) West, who was at the time a notoriously impecunious and socially rather strange, tall fan with a tendency to lean overly closely at people and do his best to win money off them at dominoes. Don was/is also an amazingly funny fanartist, as you will see from many fanzines; and an intermittently quite brilliant if acerbic writer. The League involved paying 50p to D., for which you were promised cosmic harmony. Hazel Ashworth, with whom he is now happily living, was briefly an inthebar member about a year ago.

The League was commemorated in song by Graham Charnock, in a series of very funny songs, in an eclectic mix of rock styles. His groups which he brought to various UK Eastercons in the late 70s and early 80s, were called the Burlingtons and then Eric and the Maggots. As you may have gathered, Graham was one of the three members of Mike Moorcock's group Deep Fix, featured on The New World's Fair LP which was released sometime around 1980. A later anthology of Deep Fix stuff, called Roller Coaster Holiday, is the one I referred to in yesterday's ItB correspondence - I'd tried and failed to order it, and Graham kindly said he'd see if he could find one lying around the house in thanks for my work distributing the Astral League CDs as and when Ted creates the .wav files.

The two CDs I have, The Astral League's Golden Greats and The New Astral League Album, are two of three collections of Graham's songs that will be converted to CD. A good (no, marvellous) introduction to the songs is the one Graham dug out to perform at Corflu Quire, and which happened to be on the one side of one of the tapes I have already converted to MP3 - Astral's Just Another Word. I am attaching it for your enlightenment and delectation. Check with Teresa and James, who I'm sure were in the audience.

Now to the pole. This is called the Astral League Initiation Test. One of the things D did was to get people to pass an initiation test involving a pole - a long broomstick handle made of inch-thick cylindrical wooden dowel is ideal, at least 5 feet long and preferably 6 feet. Here is Dave Langford's superb description, from pages 33/34 of "The Transatlantic Hearing Aid", his 1980 TAFF report. (I have it available because it was typed and published by me, only 5 years later.)

"Take a five-foot broompole. Take several drinks. Stand. Hold the pole horizontally before you, in both hands - hands a couple of feet apart, palms up, fingers curled around pole. The hands may optionally slide along the pole, but the grip must not alter throughout the ceremony. Lower the still-horizontal pole and step with first one foot and then with the other over the section of pole between your hands. The pole is now behind you: maintaining the grip, bring it back over your head until you are again holding it horizontally before you (though with uncomfortably twisted wrists, as you will find). This was the easy part. Now raise your right leg - "left" and "right" may be exchanged throughout the following if desired - and manoeuvre the right foot around the right-hand side of your right arm and back over the pole towards you. You should now feel less than comfortable. It only remains to duck your head under the pole and - still without releasing your deathlike grip on it - continue the motion so that your torso follows your head, and your whole right leg follows your right foot, through the "hoop" defined by arms and pole. In the penultimate position you find yourself standing shakily with the still-gripped pole passing between your legs. A backwards step with the left leg over the pole returns you to square one in a glow of triumph, fulfilment and Astral Mastery. Have another drink and spend four days in traction."

If you can manage all that without letting go then you (a) have succeeded and (b) are a contortionist.

Although I am not all that slim and wasn't then either, I do remember managing all this at one con in the late 70s. It must have been the relaxant effect of the alcohol. Dave reports that, amazingly, Taral (Wayne Macdonald) managed this during Noreascon 2. Though he is somewhat dumpy, he must also be double-jointed.

There is nothing all that secret about all this, though D. might want to maintain its esoteric nature. So feel free to publish this description in VFW if you want! If so, credit it to me feat. Dave Langford.

— Rob Jackson (with Dave Langford & Joyce Katz)

# Walter J Daugherty

Walter James "Doc" Daugherty  
(December 18, 1916 - June 14, 2007)

Walt was born in a trunk in Oklahoma City to silent film actors Lilly Mae and "Two-Gun" Monty Williams who were touring with their latest film, but the birth was never listed in the official government records due to a fire in the doctor's office. After his father died while Walt was still a baby, Walt's mother remarried to Jessie M. Daugherty, who adopted Walt, giving him his name, a much treasured Irish-name heritage and a birth certificate. With his sense of humor, feel for fun and love of color, Walt was certainly meant to be an Irishman.

His prime love was ancient Egypt, especially anything about King Tut. Walt's first talk on Tut was given in junior high school and his passion for the subject lasted a lifetime. Although he earned a Doctorate in Anthropology, Walt never professionally worked in the field, though he gave countless lectures to schools and various groups until just a few years ago when poor health cancelled the tradition.

He lived an active and full life. Always an active hobbyist, he was known as "Mr. Hobby" on host and friend Ron McCoy's former KFI radio talk show, "The Night Owl Program". Some of Walt's hobbies included:

? Archaeology - after first talking on King Tut in junior high around 1932, he kept on reading, lecturing and keeping current for the rest of his life, working on several digs, including the search for DeMille's "Ten Commandments" sets in our nearby dunes.

? Science Fiction - charter member of LASFS (Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society), founder of Westercon, chairman of the 1946 Pacificon World Science Fiction Convention, fanzine publisher, guest of honor or fan guest of honor at many conventions including the 1968 World Science Fiction Convention, recipient of the Evans-Freehafer Big Heart Award, emcee for countless conventions and events

? Tropical Fish, especially Bettas (Siamese Fighting Fish) - he was the Archivist for IBC (International Betta Congress), was awarded several Article of the Year Awards, and in 2002 was honored to receive the prestigious Gene Lucas Award in recognition of his years of service to IBC.

? Ballroom Dancing - over 600 awards, including the world championship in New York's "Harvest Moon" competition (film of him dancing there appears in four different M\*A\*S\*H episodes), won his first contest at age 9 and the final at age 71.

? Photography - hundreds of awards as an amateur competitor, plus professional work for several film-oriented magazines, including Forry Ackerman's "Famous Monsters of Filmland". (Forry and Walt were best friends for over 70 years.)

? Anecdotes, Stories and Puns - on any and every subject

? Plus Stamp Collecting, Parakeets (major prize winner with his parakeet King Tut), Aquariums, Auto Racing, Quick Draw (22/100ths of a second), Gardening, Model Building... among others... He even participated in the 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles in the gymnastics demonstration given there.

? Professionally, he was a production control manager for large manufacturing and aircraft companies, a private detective, a motion picture stand-in and stuntman (among others for Red Skelton, Robert Hutton, even Cary Grant), a photography instructor, a photographer for both the L.A. Libraries and the L.A. Convention Center, plus magazine and custom work, and a museum curator. He retired from the City of Los Angeles, where he held two positions, Curator of the Hollywood Museum (which was never opened to the public) and Photography Instructor at the Los Angeles Photo Center.

He was truly unique. We traveled this earthly path together for over 34 years, navigating past the rocks and potholes which appear in all relationships due to a soul-deep intense caring about each other. The last few years were difficult and frustrating for him, a active and vibrant man hampered by various physical limitations, but our own relationship grew stronger than ever. He'd had a rough time earlier this year, but lately it had seemed he was getting better. But on Thursday, June 14, at age 90, he passed away peacefully in his sleep at home. He was a valiant warrior and I miss him very, very much.

My world is a lot emptier today.

-- Mary Ellen (Mrs. Walt) Daugherty



Continued from p 1

### **Curt Phillips Won't Stand for TAFF!**

In a characteristically classy move, Curt Phillips has decided not to stand for TAFF in the current election to send a North American fan to Eastercon '08. That will leave Chris Garcia as Core Fandom's only candidate in the balloting for one of Fandom's highest honors.

### **SNAFFood to Convene at agave!**

The July Dinner with SNAFFU and friends (SNAFFood) will be held on July 14 (Sat.) at 7 p.m. at Agave Mexican Restaurant, 10820 W. Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89135.

Website with map: [http://www.opentable.com/rest\\_profile.aspx?rid=6114](http://www.opentable.com/rest_profile.aspx?rid=6114)

Please RSVP to James Taylor ([white-dwarf@cox.net](mailto:white-dwarf@cox.net)) as soon as possible. (Linda Bushyager)

### **Linda Bushyager Takes a Spill!**

So far, fortunately, a bump on the forehead is the only lingering evidence of Linda Bushyager's recent fall. It happened at home and, says Linda, there was no particular cause or unseen obstacle. She turned suddenly, a leg gave out and down she went.

She experienced some dizziness at first, but felt well enough to attend the June SNAFFood meeting at Hushpuppies.

In other Linda Bushyager news, she and husband Ron traveled East to Cincinnati for the Midwestcon at the end of June. Linda's sister, well-remembered by fans from her late-1960's attendance at Midwestcon, was also there.

### **Taral Gets New eAddress**

Sick of poor service on his existing account, Taral has gotten a new emailing address. Mail doesn't seem to be bouncing from the old one, so a lot of his friends may not be aware that there is even a delivery problem.

His new email address is: [saara@netscape.ca](mailto:saara@netscape.ca)

### **Heard Around Fandom...**

Linda Bushyager, in an event unconnected with the earlier story about the fall, had knee replacement surgery on July 2. Although the surgeon felt the operation was somewhat complex, his initial verdict is that it went very well...

Michael Bernstein and Roxanne Gibbs will be moving to Ft. Collins, CO, within the next month. Career opportunity for Michael is the main reason for the decision. Fans are eager to fete the pair before they leave, but the hubbub surrounding the big change

seems to have imposed Complete Silence on Michael and Roxanne...

Ross Chamberlain celebrated his 70th birthday with the Vegrants. His friends sang "Happy Birthday" and helped him eat a rather imposing birthday cake...

Curt Phillips invites fans to take a look at the trailer for his movie *Freedom*, set to premiere later this month. The URL: [www.myspace.com/freedommovie...](http://www.myspace.com/freedommovie...)

Greg Benford has won the Isaac Asimov Memorial Award, bestowed annually by New York's Lunarians club. They announced Greg's honor at this year's Lunacon...

### **ChatBack: The VFW Lettercolumn**

*Here they are, Fandom's finest letter-writers! No reason to say more; let's just get to the meat, shall we?*

*A friend of my fannish youth steps up to praise perhaps the most underrated BNF of all time...*

### **Dave Locke**

In "Who are fandom's all-time greats" you list:

Dean Grennell - A fine humorist and excellent writer, Grennell's GRUE was one of the finest fanzines of its era. He pretty much gaffiated after the Boondoggle, but returned to participate in the Burbee-hosted oneshot series *THE BEST LINES*.

Dean definitely deserves to be listed, and the comment about GRUE is certainly true enough. From there, though, we need a correction. His activity was a lot broader than that.

His meatspace fanac included about two decades, starting in the mid-'60s, of heavy activity in the Petard Society, SoCal's other major fan club primarily consisting of fans older than those in LASFS. Throughout the '70's he also attended every meeting of a much smaller group of fans who partied hard eight times a year (Candlemass, Vernal Equinox, Walpurgis, Beltaine, Lammas, Samhain, Halloween, and Winter Solstice - the pagan holidays...).

Fanwriting wise, besides his contributions to *The Best Lines* series of oneshots in the '70's, he had a column in every genzine title I published in the '70's and '80's except for *Gallimaufry* which I co-edited with Joni Stopa. That would include *Pelf* (co-edited with David Hulan), *Awry*, *Shambles* (co-edited with Ed Cagle), and *Time And Again*. Dean also published at least three issues of *Grue* (#s 31-33) in '69 and '70. And, for about two decades beginning in 1980, he was very active in the fanapa FLAP, falling out around the time that his wife Jean began failing.

Dean himself died on 10 Apr 2004, as I discovered only by accident a year later.

*Arnie: Thanks for the extra detail, especially about Dean's publishing credentials. I confess I wasn't aware he*

had passed on and am very sorry to hear it. I guess that's more evidence of a great fan whose reputation should be gaudier.

A contributor (to the Corflu Quire Issue) returned with an entertaining and insightful letter of comment.

### David Bratman

It's always impressive these days when fanzines have the hot news, and you have it.

It's good that the date and location of Corflu Silver have been settled. I attended both the previous Vegas Corfli, and am not one of the great grumblers against the Plaza. It seemed adequate to me, and I liked being downtown where there is some point to going out for a walk, and not on the desolate Strip. I particularly liked being right next door to the place that sells the 99-cent shrimp cocktails, which functioned as something of an extra con suite lounge last time. (Alas that I can't sign up right away, as it's going to be a few months before I know if I'm available that weekend. My problem, not yours.)

And all honor to John Purcell for tracking down The Man Who Bought Harry Warner's Fanzine Collection, which definitely sounds like the title of an article by Terry Carr, or possibly Burbee. I look forward to the trip report, John, and don't let Mr Halperin talk you into moving the entire collection from one room to another using only a small tweezer.

One leftover point from Mark Plummer's letter in #95: The point I was trying to discuss was not whether fanzine fandom is cryptic and esoteric - of course it is, and always has been - but whether it's perceived by outsiders as elitist and unwelcoming thereby. Fanzine fans were talking to each other above everyone else's heads thirty years ago when I showed up, but nobody complained about it. Twenty years later they did. "How dare you say things we don't understand; how dare you look down on us." (We were looking down on them back then, too; maybe we weren't obvious enough about it.)

*Arnie: The news would be hotter if I could keep to the*

*schedule. Things have been so bad that all I've been able to manage is a 26-30-page monthly. (Note sarcasm.) Seriously, I'm going to try to get back to biweekly with #99 so that VFW can hit the century mark on a strong run.*

*The Plaza has had extensive renovation since Fandom was last there, but the hotel appears to have retained its tolerance for fans and some of our quaint ways. And the central location means that you can walk out of the hotel and find dozens of restaurants, pop cultural attractions and gambling dens.*

*Core Fandom should always be accessible and approachable to people who feel motivated to make the effort. There's no reason to "dumb it down" to make it more tolerable for people who don't have a community of interest with us. They can have Fandom their way, but we should always insist on our right to have Core Fandom our way.*

*The Sage has been part of VFW since the very beginning and he's still one of the prime contributors to the fanzine with great letters like this...*

### Robert Lichtman

Ignoring my usual method of commenting on VFW in the order items appear in its pages, I'm leaping forward to my letter and the list in it of potential candidates for a fanish "hall of fame" and the longer list of "possibly not among the great greats, but all of whom enriched my experience of fandom in one way or another." The danger of making such lists is that inevitably one will overlook some people who belong on them. In my case I'm deeply embarrassed that I neglected three significant and excellent fan artists: Dan Steffan, Steve Stiles and the late Arthur Thomson. How *could* I!? Without them my fanzine would be a much less visual treat. And in addition I forgot \*Joyce\*. Yikes!

In reply to my letter you wrote, "How can you do it, Meyer? How can you hold me to things I said more than a Chris Garcia ago? Rich brown and I must've been Thinking Expansively, probably too expansively. Maybe I'm a little wiser; I just want to know which fans current Core Fandomites most esteem." I've searched in vain in my letter in

## SNAFFood, Cajun Style! SNAFFU Central

The June SNAFFood dinner was great with about 12 people on hand for delicious fried catfish, shrimp, ribs, and more. Dinner was very economical at Hush Puppies with all you could eat catfish and/or shrimp for \$11.79 including all you could eat salad bar, hush puppies, and veggie or potato or rice. The food was not spicy, but for those that like spice, there was also Cajun style. Catfish was especially good, juicy and fresh.

In attendance: James Daugherty, James Taylor, Teresa, Arnie, Joyce Katz, Lubov, Merric, Anderson, April Reckling, LoriForbes (making a welcome return after a number of months of being unable to attend), Ron and I, and special drop in and designated non-eater David Gordon.

We will have to return to this restaurant again.

Next month - July 14 - 7 pm! Agave - up near Red Rock Casino on Charleston. This is an excellent Mexican restaurant, recommended by Merric and Lubov, who will be attending. — Linda Bushyager

an effort to determine just what I wrote that set you off. The only possible place I can find might be where I wrote (in reference to your 1971 article), “You write there that ‘The winners will be the charter group in the Fan Hall of Fame, with additional votes in future years to add to the original list of ten.’ Well, it’s only taken 26 years but here you are with suggestions.” Was that it? If so, know that I certainly meant no disrespect.

It’s good to see that a call for candidates for the 2008 TAFF race has been made (although I would have combined your two pieces on the subject into one). I think both Chris and Curt would make good candidates—and who knows who else may emerge as additional candidates as the mid-July deadline approaches.

I enjoyed your “Corflu Silver—Exposed!” piece, but hope that in this issue you’ll answer the burning question that arose in my mind over the caption to the photo on the first page and let us know just *what* “the Las Vegas police force is known for their friendly, welcoming attitude toward.” Not being completely *au courant* with the intricacies of pop culture, I had to resort to Googling to learn who Adam Savage and Jamie Heineman were in relation to “myths about Las Vegas climate and weather.” I wonder if I was the only one who didn’t already know!?

Joyce had written me privately about “The Tragedy of Canter’s Restaurant,” but your short article on the subject made me sad all over again. I wonder if they are actually owned by the same people that run the one in L.A., or if they’re a franchise operation buying some of their supplies from there. In an effort to learn more I went to Canter’s Website. There’s a link to the Vegas store, so I clicked on it. But what I got was the same page I’ve been seeing for years, which announces that “The full-service, 125-seat restaurant is scheduled for completion by the end of 2003.” So I went on to Yelp and searched for reviews. There were only two. One gave them four stars, the other only three—and both of them had concerns about both the food and the physical premises. I think you and Joyce should both post reviews there of your experience, and perhaps mail copies to the L.A. store. It might do some good.

No major comments on Shelby (borrowing stuff from previous zines and the internet and photoshopping it isn’t

“cheating,” Shelby, it’s standard operating procedure), Bill Mills (never knew Frank Gasperik, but I appreciate the humor of his King Kong memorial urn), or John Purcell (read this already in SNAPS and commented there).

Although he writes of himself in the third person—always a little strange—I enjoyed Greg’s autobiographical article. I knew much of this information, but a lot was new to me, and the chronology was useful. I particularly enjoyed this bit: “Edward Teller peered at him from behind a messy desk piled high with physics journals. Teller insisted on taking the measure of every postdoc candidate. ‘We didn’t want you to be nervous,’ the clerk said later. It worked; GB was merely terrified.” I wish I’d been a fly on the wall at that very moment to see the usually unflappable Greg be...um, flapped.

It was a shock to hear of the Zuhls’ house fire, but it wasn’t a rental (as you have it) and presumably was covered by insurance. However, this sort of thing is certainly dislocating *and* it’s unlikely that insurance will cover the cost of replacing all the books Ben must have had. And I won’t even go into the loss of his fanzine collection—too tragic!

“While we’re all cavorting at Corflu Silver, Chris Garcia will be serving as toastmaster at a costume con. He’s more to be pitied than censured.” Indeed, *what* was he thinking?

*Arnie: Stiles, Steffan and Thomson certainly are all-time great fans. I think we also need to mention a few other fine fan artists such as Ross Chamberlain and Ray Nelson as highly worthy of egoboo.*

*What triggered my (joking) comment was your delving into that long-ago Fan Poll booklet and mentioning that we were toying with the idea of an actual, if virtual, Hall of Fame. My current goal is much more modest: I presented a preliminary list, got some outstanding feedback from many knowledgeable fans including yourself and will soon send out a ballot so that everyone can voice their choices.*

*I believe that was supposed to be a friendly attitude towards tourists....*

*I confess that as I excavated the cold, fatty mess that passed for a corned beef sandwich at the Las Vegas Canter’s, my thoughts were of you. Not because you in any way remind me of a cold, disgusting corned beef sandwich, but because I knew that the sad state of this once-proud restau-*

## *Snapshots* Participation Runs High!

The difficulties that wrecked VFW’s schedule also delayed the June eMailing. It proved to be another excellent bundle when the 51-page eMlg finally showed up. It consisted of 51 pages by 13 members, a high level of participation for a group that has so many relatively inexperienced fans. John Purcell had the largest contribution at eight pages. Joyce Katz and I each had six.

The group’s first Egoboo Poll also went out with the eMailing.

SNAPS is a monthly electronic amateur press association and is open to all fans. It has no dues and requires only one page every two months. You can see sample eMailings at [www.snaffu.org](http://www.snaffu.org)

## Deadline for July eMailing: 7/22

# Accent on Filk! *VoFactz*

There have been only a few additions to the audio pages of TheVoicesOfFandom.com in the last month. On Page Three of the Fannish Music pages I have posted the latest of my filk song recordings, “Bones’ Song,” “Little Teeny Eyes,” “Revenge for Alderon” with Roxie Mills on lead vocal, and my filk for Frank Gasperik, “Gasperik Was A Filker” to the tune of “OI’ Stewball.” The URL for Music Page Three is: <http://www.thevoicesoffandom.com/music-3.html>

On Page Three of the Audio Clips pages you’ll find my reading of one of Shelby Vick’s articles for *VFW* and you can hear Norman Spinrad’s telling of “How Gene Roddenberry Saved *Star Trek*.” The latter is the audio from the YouTube video blogs Spinrad has recently begun posting. I have pulled the audio track and made it into an mp3 for easy listening and/or saving to your own audio collection. The url for Audio Page Three is: <http://www.thevoicesoffandom.com/audio-clips-3.html> — Bill Mills

*rant would be very bad news to a sincere Keeper of the Deli Flame like you.*

*Core Fandom’s most prolific publisher brings some bad news – plus a lot of good comments.*

## Chris Garcia

Well, it’s official that I won’t be able to attend CorFlu. It happens, sadly. Too many things on the fannish calendar. Bummer. I’ll try and make myself present in a third-person sort of way. I’ll have to think of some way to project myself. At least I’ll get to come out for Westercon and see folks (since work has once again changed their minds and pushed my coming visit back until at least the middle of June \*grumble\*)

There are a lot of great fannish, and semi-fannish, podcasts. I do one for Fanboyplanet.com once in a while. I’ve done three and I’m looking at doing another with them in a few weeks. We talk about comics, movies, wrestling, TV and other weirdnesses. I can’t wait to hear that Hall-Charnock-Langford-Wells Podcast. It just sounds like a blast.

Speaking of Bill Mills, I just came across a few songs from Westercon in the 1980s of him leading some great songs. I was quite shocked and it was awesome to see the stuff. Between those pieces and Graham Charnock’s stuff that’s on YouTube, there’s a fannish bonanza!

I must try and cop a squat on Robbie the next time I’m out there. These things must be done!

I’ve been thinking a lot about that list since you first pubbed it in SNAPS. It’s a great list, but like any list for a Hall of Fame-kind of thing, it doesn’t cover enough people. I mean, where’s ATom, the second greatest fan artist of all-time in my eyes? Or Claude Degler for that matter? Or Rick Sneary? Or Dave Kyle? Earl Kemp? Donaho? Big Hearted Howard? Arnie Katz? I mean, there’s a lot of folks who a very strong argument could be made for their inclusion, and equally strong arguments for almost everyone to be excluded for one past sin or another. There are folks that no one would argue, Forry, Warner, Widner, Hoffman, Rotsler, Tucker and Willis, but I’m betting there are people who would fight certain other inductions tooth and nail for various personal reasons. The Hall of Fame problem exists everywhere where

certain things are valued more than other and there’s a group who firmly believe that one set is infinitely superior to another. The Wrestling Observer Hall of Fame is a perfect example. There, some people believe that only top-flight, incredible wrestlers should get in and others believe that it should only be people who drew large crowds in major cities. The same argument could be put here with Zinesters vs. SMOFs vs. Others of various kinds.

ShelVy’s now on an FBI watchlist for asking how to take marijuana on a plane.

I think I’ve only briefly met Frank Robinson, perhaps at the CorFlucisco in 2005? The Paperback Show, which I’ve meant to go to every year and can never seem to make money and timing work at the same time. At least I’ll get a chance to chat with Dick Lupoff again at BayCon (I think we’ve ever got a panel together) and I see Larry Niven all the time. I was glad to see that photo of Ray Bradbury signing because there had been some very concerning posts about his health of late and he looked much better than anyone said he had. It’s always good to see a photo of my favorite LA Fan Couple and Former TAFF winners: The Moffatts. Such nice folks they are!

One of my prize digital possessions is an eMail from Arthur C. Clarke in which he says, among other things, to ‘say hello to Douglas Adams and apologize for our not having met before’ a month before Doug passed away (and less than a week before I relayed the message to Adams when he visited the museum.

It’s wonderful to see that a single individual who is committed to keeping the collection together has bought them all. If Mr. Halperin is reading this and he ever wants to give them to a University, Northern California is in need of a good collection, and San Jose State has been looking for something like it. Thanks for the Dick Tracy work, John!

Hope your neck feels better, Roxanne. I know that whiplash can be a real pain. I’ve had to nurse three different people through it over the last decade. Never easy.

I’ll be happy to write a little something for the 100<sup>th</sup> issue. I’ve got just the piece that I never got to use in *The Drink Tank #100*.

*Arnie: I’m chagrined that you won’t be coming to Corflu. You’ll certainly be missed – and I think you’ll be missing*

*a fine fannish time. Toastmaster at a Costume Con, eh? I hope, when you come to Vegas for Westercon, that you'll also be able to visit with the Vegrans, too.*

*I'll chase down your podcasts once this issue is out, but I wouldn't call the content you describe "fannish," though it's likely to interest many fans. A fannish podcast would be about... well, Fandom. My own agenda is to first get the computer technology all fixed and then invade the audio realm.*

*Kemp, Sneary and Donaho undoubtedly deserve consideration and I guess that Katz guy will sulk if we don't include him, too. Big Hearted Howard Devore and Dave Kyle have credentials, though I suspect they'd be mentioned on fewer lists.*

*I wouldn't put Claude Degler or D. Bruce Berry or George Wetzel into a Hall of Fame – and remember we're just picking a list, not founding an organization – any more than I would put Hal Chase into baseball's Hall of Fame. Being a great villain doesn't earn you a spot in that mythical Hall, any more than it earned the perennial game-fixer and gambler admission to Cooperstown. Degler was a bad fan whose "fannish crimes" made him infamous. While Bill Donaho also perpetrated a horrible fannish crime, I tend to see him more like Ty Cobb, A great fan who has some failings.*

*She's a multi-time winner of the "Best Fanwriter" FAAn Award and most welcome when she feels moved to share her thoughts with VFW's readers...*

### **Claire Brialey**

We're just back from a holiday in Australia which included the national convention; held in Melbourne this year, it provided a great opportunity to catch up with some old fan friends and acquaintances and even meet some new ones, and in the former category was Bill Wright, who took several opportunities to enthuse to the uninitiated about the wonders of VFW – including providing an ad hoc review of the updated *Fannish Worry Book* when a print-out appeared in the fan fund auction, which I'm sure helped in its eventual sale.

And listening to Bill I felt even more guilt than usual (and, of course, fannish worry) about not having written to you recently, despite your having considerably slowed down just a bit in order to let laggards like me catch up. So I grabbed a handful of print-outs of recent issues and retired to the sofa for what I like to think of as concentrated fanac.

When I woke up again, I properly read VFW #93-#96 (and even read #97 online like a young person), and realised that I have many thoughts to organise if I'm to attempt a coherent response. I also now have may be the final piece in the jigsaw of an article I've been trying to put together for some time about individual and collective fan activity; since my jumping-off point for the article was a perceptive comment that Joyce made on one of the e-lists several years ago – I said I'd been thinking about this for some time – it feels particularly neat that something you wrote very recently may have provided the final point of inspiration. Full credit will of course be given if ever I manage to organise that into

something coherent too...

One of the advantages of my laggardly way of reading and responding to fanzines is that seeing several issues together provides more of a sense of the ongoing conversations and also gives an overview of the fanzine itself. Sometimes actual revelations emerge. In looking back over the many recent issues of *The Drink Tank* that I'd also failed to keep up with, my eye fell on Chris's claim in letter column comments for #123 that the zine is a hoax and he is really you in disguise. Hmm. I reckon that could be an elaborate double bluff. I've seen quite a lot of published fanzines from 'Chris Garcia' recently, even by the usual standards, while in the past year or so 'Arnie Katz' has been publishing less regularly although still pretty frequently. And of course, Arnie, despite Mark's regular invitations to you to attend the London Circle pub meetings, I've never actually met you myself: one of the reasons we're hoping to get to Corflu Silver. Indeed, I'd begun to think that another reason would be to try to spot both you and Chris in the same place at once – although I guess at least one of you could be a hired actor – but then I saw in Chris's letter column comments in #127 and then in your letter column comments in VFW #97 that he isn't going to be at next year's Corflu because he's going to be helping out at CostumeCon. Aha, I say.

But now this presents me with a real dilemma; I was all set to tackle my even more daunting *Vegas Fandom Weekly* loccing backlog next, but would that be entirely fair if you're really the same person? I thought hard. I remembered all the things in VFW that I was strongly moved to respond to. I invoked the fannish spirit of Bill Wright. It's a bit like the question of whether it matters who wrote the works of Shakespeare, I suppose; in the end, it's all fan activity no matter who does it, and it all deserves recognition and response.

Which leads me tangentially to something you wrote in #95, in letter column comments to Greg Benford on the subject of humour in fan writing. Noting that you had given up on the plan of having a FAAn award for humorist or humorous writing, you said: 'I wish there was a way to take a larger poll without adversely affecting the total number of voters.' Is it definitely the case that this would happen? Or is it more that multiple categories would somehow become less meaningful? (The latter seems to be a popular view about the Australian national awards, the Ditmars, although they encompass both fan and pro categories with about 11 awards. To my mind the definitions they have for 'fan production' and 'fan achievement' alongside fanzine, fan writer and fan artist do seem rather confusing and/or confused, and there's now a specific group tasked with looking at making the Ditmars clearer.) I'd be interested in your views on this – or, since you mention them, some way in which a Traditional Fan Poll could complement the FAAn and other awards by recognising a wider range of achievements, as you put it. This is not an attempt on my part to win more awards: quite the contrary, in fact, since I'd like people to be able to be more precise and thoughtful in how we all give recognition to our peers and friends for the things they do in fandom that we enjoy. As a repeat winner for both the FAAns and Nova



# Corflu Silver

## MEMBERSHIP

Ted White  
Frank Lunney  
Joyce Scrivner  
Rob Jackson  
Murray Moore  
Shery Scott  
Richard Coad  
Hope Leibowitz  
Pat Virzi  
Colin Hinz  
Chris Garcia  
Art Widner  
Catherine Crockett  
Don Anderson\*  
Jolie LaChance  
Peter Weston  
Robert Lichtman  
Joyce Katz  
Arnie Katz  
Belle Churchill  
Eric Davis  
Marty Cantor  
John Nielsen-Hall  
Audrey Nielsen-Hall  
Bill Mills  
Roxanne Mills  
Earl Kemp  
Ross Chamberlain  
Jean Weber  
Eric Lindsay  
Teresa Cochran  
James Taylor  
Graham Charnoff  
Pat Charnoff  
Claire Brialey  
Mark Plummer  
Gary Mattingly  
Patty Peters  
Nigel Rowe  
Lloyd Penney  
Yvonne Penney  
Shelby Vick

\* - supporting membership  
All others are attending.

awards I get a bit edgy, as I've mentioned at tedious length in our own fanzine, that voting for specific people may become a bit of a habit.

But you've since raised a bigger issue of recognition which, in also offering a List, is utterly compelling. I also think the question you pose about who are fandom's all-time greats to be a really important one that it's worth us all taking some time to think about now and again. That said, your original suggestions in #96 and the host of responses in #97 have covered a lot of the ground; to those names I've already seen I would add for consideration, perhaps, only Susan Wood who Robert Lichtman mentioned only in passing. (Is it a reflection on our community, or at least on the timeframe in which we're realistically looking at the moment, that women are very definitely in a minority?) In an initial whiz through all the names I've seen suggested, about 15 leap out at me as being truly Great. I find myself inevitably inclined to favour the fans of the past whose work seems to have weath-ered the best, i.e. those whose writing has current appeal as well as contemporary relevance; but that points up the other function of this exercise, which is to shine a light on those fans whose work isn't currently so accessible – not so much because it has dated but simply because it's difficult to get hold of (such as Joe Kennedy). And thus the whole endeavour also fits splendidly with your Faan Store idea. It's almost as if you do these things on purpose.

In addition, already I find I'm making a different little mental distinction between those who are Great and Gone (dead or thoroughly gafiated) and those who are Great and still, fabulously, with us and active in fandom; not to deny the Greatness of the latter category, but almost a sense that we can't quite assess you yet. Is this because you might yet go on to do something even better which propels you up the league table? Or a belief that one or other of you might do something so utterly mad that the Greatness is nullified? Perhaps it's more that someone amongst your contemporaries who is not quite Great now might prove to be at least as Great and it seems premature to decide now. Clearly we'll just have to keep coming back to this idea. And, as Mark commented, the twenty-year timeframe as an initial focus is even more off-putting, making it difficult to suggest fans in that sort of range, because that means looking amongst our own contemporaries. It seems definitely too soon to tell whether any of them will be Great in the way that those from earlier fannish generations will be. And that's one of the reasons why I really appreciated Robert's list of fans who have 'enriched [his] experience of fandom': a lovely idea, which I don't feel up to the task of following here for fear that I'll leave off too many people if I do it quickly. And there would, in any case, be a fair bit of overlap.

Back on the subject of Corflu, I did appreciate the reports and other information about Corflu Quire which you provided in #94; it was good to see the expanded con report from Randy Byers, one of my favourite fan writers, but also really interesting to read David Bratman's recollections of the panel discussions in the programme. Robert Lichtman in the subsequent letter column picked up on both David's and James Taylor's comments about the letterhacking panel, which was indeed more about editing letter columns and soliciting good contributions to them. As one of the participants on that item, I should perhaps tell Robert that I don't think we did conclude anything about ordering of letter columns, other than that we all now agreed with his preference not to have letters chopped up by subject (audience as well as panel comments mentioned that this was about the only aspect of *Pixel* – often mentioned during the con as a popular fanzine, borne out by its strong second place in the FAAn awards – which they disliked, not least because it dissuades letter writers from responding to a fanzine as a coherent whole. Just as I bit the bullet and wrote a more starkly subject-divided letter to *Pixel*, I found that David Burton had come to the same conclusion. And I've just realised I owe him a letter too, especially since #14 presents another fine example of fanzines talking to one another. Oh, I am a Bad Fan).

I personally aim in editing a letter column for a gradual flow of subject matter from one topic to the next, grouping letters that focus on a single subject and using others that touch on several to help to introduce the next. Robert mentions picking a

favourite loc to kick off, and the prevailing view at the panel was that editors will pick 'the best' letter to begin with; in fact, what we do in *BW* is pick the one that seems best to start the conversation that the current crop of letters are having with us and with one another, which may not be the best in objective literary terms. Playing on that point I claimed about the benefit of looking at several issues of a fanzine together, I see you lead off in turn with Robert Lichtman, Terry Kemp, Shelby Vick and Eric Mayer and I can't discern your mastery (or dastardly plan) at all. Maybe I need a bigger overview... I may be some time.

I also share David Bratman's experience that 'my entire social life, excepting only blood relatives, is either in fandom or a result of fandom', and in this context I found his comments about the way in which some fans are instinctively drawn into fandom (these days, I guess it's into fanzine or fannish fandom) while others are repelled by it particularly thought-provoking. David mentioned the 'Neofans' Bill of Rights' from a Worldcon a few years' back, which I had heard about and found curious – if people were already in a position to be describing themselves with the fannish term 'neofans', what did they feel was stopping them from finding out about, understanding and getting comfortable with the rest of fannish culture too? Or am I missing the point here, and it was a declaration drawn up by some slightly alienated fans for the presumed benefit of new people and thus, to my mind, patronising them in a different sort of way?

Jaunita Whitehead was attending this year's Australian Natcon in Melbourne as the delegate of NAFF (National Australian Fan Fund, which sends a fan from a different state to the Natcon) and feels that her role as delegate and administrator of the fund includes a responsibility to reach out to newer fans, perhaps particularly people for whom the Natcon was their first convention, and explain to them about fan funds and other aspects of conventions and fannish culture which they might find confusing or excluding. Ju had developed a New Members' Guide for the convention, with help

from other fans, to address some FAQs about Australian conventions in particular; it includes a glossary to help explain particular fannish terms. She is still revising and polishing her document in the hope that it can continue to be useful; I know there have been other similar publications in the past, of which I'm planning to get copies for her if I can find them either on paper or electronically. Ju also ran a programme item-cum-room party on the first night of the con, announced at the opening ceremony, about NAFF and the Natcon, aimed at new people in particular; we went along to say hello and offer any help we could, and met some new people ourselves – one of whom, clearly recognising my inner old-fartiness, very sweetly gave up her chair to me and went to sit on the floor – although I saw very few of them again over the course of the convention. This in itself suggests that we were attracted to rather different strands of the programme or even spending different segments of time in and around the con, which might reflect different national interests (I'm not a big fantasy fan and the nature of Australian genre publishing means that many of the literary programme items, which I often attend, weren't really to my taste) but I fear reflected another common divide between older and newer fans in that we went to quite a lot of fannish items and younger/newer fans really didn't.

Meanwhile, that TAFF conversation rumbles on; we've just published an article by the renewed TAFF candidate Chris Garcia in *Banana Wings* about his approach to campaigning, while at the same time having recently run a bit more of a traditional campaign for victorious GUFF candidate Ang Rosin. That campaign wasn't quite by the book, or at least not Peter Weston's book (he has written a book, by the way, and very good it is too, although you never hear him mention it himself), but I did take responsibility, as one of Ang's European nominators, for putting together a fanzine of her writing: [\*I Knew The Porridge Was Trying To Tell Me Something\*](#), still available on efanzines and in my opinion well worth checking out. I think that part of the problem

# 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: 702-648-5677

## SNAFFU:

James Taylor  
Email: dfh1@cox.net  
Phone: 702-434-5784

## Las Vegas Fan Events Calendar

**SNAFFood June Dinner** Saturday, July 14 7:00 PM

The dinner meeting will take place at Agave. Contact LindaBushyager@aol.com for details.

**Las Vegrants Meeting** Saturday, July 21 7:30 PM

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

**SNAPS Deadline** Sunday, July 22

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

**SNAFFU Discussion Meeting** Sunday, July 22 2:00 PM

Vegas' formal science fiction club meets for a lively discussion meeting once a month at the Clark County public library on Flamingo (near Eastern.)

**VSFA Monthly Meeting** Saturday, August 4 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, August 4 7:30 PM

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

about the issue of getting the vote out (rather than the issue of who should do that and whether candidates should nobly hold themselves above getting their hands grubby) rests on whether you think the ongoing fan funds should be a reward for a particular fan and/or voted on by people who know and can choose between all the candidates, rather than a way to bring fan communities in, and within, different countries together; the latter approach supports more easily the idea of a fan fund race being in itself a means to get more people interested and informed about the fan funds and the principles behind them.

Both David Bratman and Robert Lichtman (again) in his subsequent letter also raised the issue of eligibility to vote in the fan funds, and whether it's enforced – a point which was also raised at the Corflu panel.

As I commented then, in the fan fund races that I've helped to administer (both TAFF and JETS, the one-off race from Europe to the Japanese Worldcon this year), there have been eligibility criteria and where I don't know that a potential voter meets them I certainly have followed up the 'reference' that they cite to check that that person can vouch for the voter having been active in fandom for the relevant period.

Now, that can lead into all sorts of questions about defining 'active' or even defining 'fandom', but when it comes down to it we ask a relatively straightforward question and I've had to rely on the people providing references to answer it in the spirit of the fund. My own general view is that if someone thinks they're a fan then they probably are; the

point of the eligibility period seems to be to ensure that voters have been around for at least a little while and should thus know enough about the fan fund to make an informed decision – and also, put bluntly, to prevent an unscrupulous candidate from signing up votes from everyone they work or socialise with outside of fandom as if they were doing a sponsored swim. It's not a foolproof system; there's one current British fan with impressive levels of fan activity who nonetheless considers that they haven't been active for long enough to have met the eligibility criteria for several recent fan fund races, and who consequently has made a donation of the voting fee without attempting to cast a ballot; to me, that's more fannish than some of the voters who do meet the criteria, but I too have played by the stated rules. I'll leave my rant about the high levels of inability to fill in ballots correctly, found at all levels and subgroups within fandom, for another day...

I seem to have rambled a bit. Well, that was five issues' worth of loc, so that may excuse it – but apologies that it presents you with more of an editorial challenge. Belated congratulations to whoever took the photo of me of p.27 of #94; I am notoriously hard to photograph and that image makes me look like a human being who one might not need to cross the street to avoid, unlike approximately 99.537% of all other photos of the adult me ever taken.

And I've just Paypalled two attending memberships for Corflu across to Joyce, so that brings our aim of being there and meeting you both just a bit closer. I should add that, although I'm obviously grateful for your extensive tourism

supplement about Las Vegas in the latest issue, I share the opinion you attributed to Joyce in #94: at Corflu Silver I shall be doing my best not to go outside either. I look forward to room-booking information.

*Arnie: At the risk of getting answers: Why do so many fans fantasize about either being my hoax or me being theirs? Come to think of it, I may have even written a couple of those, too. Wish I knew why I did.*

*Voting eligibility has always been an Issue with continuing funds; another reason I prefer the Special Fund concept. Donations need no qualifications. The real question about TAFF, if the current election is aborted, is whether the fund has any utility in contemporary Fandom.*

*Now,, out of the Canadian North comes a fine cartoonist with something on his mind...*

#### **Taral Wayne**

A list of 10 top fans couldn't possibly be meaningful. It'd be like trying to decide if Julius Caesar was more important than Napoleon in a list of top historical military leaders. As for an open ended honour roll, the problem shifts to where do you draw the line? Should you count Grant Canfield but not Ken Fletcher, Avedon Carol but not Linda Bushyager?

*Arnie: Aw, c'mon, Taral, people make lists all the time – the top movie, the best rock song, the most beautiful breasts, the best baseball pitcher and so many more. Of course it's meaningless, since it simply expresses the consensus of popularity, but I'd like to see what that consensus would be – and how it might agree or disagree with my own list.*

*I think Grant and Ken will be on a lot of lists, as will Avedon and Linda.*

*That's ChatBack for this time. I've got more letters and will have them, and whatever you send, in the next issue of VFW.*

## **THE KINGFISH SAYS**

I must start with abundant thanks to James Taylor and Roxanne Mills, who upgraded my computer and to Jolie LaChance, who figured out a decent work-around for the scanning problem. It looks like it's going to take a new printer/scanner/copier combo unit, but I should be able to take care of that in the last week or so.

The next issue, which I'd like to have out in two weeks, will feature a number of fine contributions, possibly including yours if you send one.

This was a tough issue to complete, due to various problems, but I hope you enjoy it as much as I enjoyed getting the thing together. I'll be looking for your letter of comment — and I also promise to publish the ones that got squeezed out this time.

— Arnie

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*...and a ton of news.*