

Virtual Tucker Hotel



Issue Five

<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/the-virtual-fan-lounge>

From: Peter Sullivan ("ceemae"), peter@burdonvale.co.uk
Boring webpage at <http://www.burdonvale.co.uk>
Slightly less boring livejournal at <http://ceemage.livejournal.com>

VTH is primarily an electronic fanzine, available on <http://www.efanzines.com>. Paper copies of this fanzine do exist, however, and will be available for the fannish usual. In any case, e-mails and letters of comment are, of course, welcome.

Thanks to: Bill Mills ("FanLounge"), without whom The Virtual Fan Lounge wouldn't exist. Also to Arnie Katz. Curt Phillips and the members of Southern Fandom Classic group.

Member fwa. Startling Press Production number 272. Today is Wednesday 21st May, 2008.

A Busy Weekend

The Virtual Fan Lounge was invited back to The Vegrants' party in Las Vegas, Nevada. This week's Vegrants event also featured the first of Arnie Katz' 30 minute presentations entitled "The Wasted Hour", which is still available to view on-line at:

<http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/421974>

(Although note that the very first part of the interview with Joyce Katz is missing.)

Also, we had an additional Sunday session hosted by the Southern Fandom Classic group.

A summary of the chat-room transcript for both these sessions is further on in this issue.

Future Schedules

..are beginning to shape up a bit. We have a standing invitation to join the Vegrants for their regular event on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month, starting around 8 p.m. Pacific time. And the Southern Fandom Classic group will be having a regular event on the 3rd and 4th Saturdays, starting at 4 p.m. Eastern time. (The SFC sessions will initially be text chat only, but I've already noticed some ominous mentions of web-cams...) In addition to these two recurring events, Bill Mills, myself and anyone else who's interested will be doing a more irregular series of other events, starting with the (otherwise empty) '5th Saturday' next week. But of course, the chat room is open 24/7, so you're always welcome to check in and see who else might be there.

Joining the Party

To use the chat-room, just go to <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/the-virtual-fan-lounge>. On the left hand side of the page is the

live video feed – replaced by a slide show when there isn't anything happening. On the right is the actual chat-room. You can see what everyone else is typing in the top window, and add your own contribution in the smaller box at the bottom.

You will be assigned an initial user name in the format "ustreamer-12345." If you'd rather change this – to your real name, livejournal name, or whatever – you can do this by clicking the "Sign Up" link at the top to register for free. Some people have been slightly put off by the amount of information that the registration form asks for, which I can empathise with. But registration is entirely optional – you can simply stay as "ustreamer-12345" if you prefer.

(And see below in the letters for another way of changing your screen name.)

Video Library

As well as the live events, The Virtual Fan Lounge is beginning to build up a library of recorded material available for viewing. The clips are listed under the main viewscreen – just click to select. Current videos available are:

- Corflu Silver Panel – the second half of the "Fandom – Where is it going and how do we get there?" panel from last month's Las Vegas Corflu.
- The Wasted Hour #1 – partial recording of Arnie Katz's presentation from 17th May.
- Video Voyage Ep 1 - 30-some minutes of funny and fascinating vids gathered by your 'Video Ranger' Bill Mills. Includes: Graham Charnock interviewing Chris Garcia, Shatner singing to Lucas, & more!

Yours Sincerely, Wasting Away

((Last time, I asked Geri Sullivan if she had a full list of people who had used the DIY Fanzine Kit in the last Science Fiction Five Yearly – including their Rotsler illos!))

Geri Sullivan replies: No, I don't! John Hertz was the first to put his Rotsler into print in Vandemonde, Brad Foster put together the brilliant LoCS compendium of fan art, and I could dig through the likely suspects and come up with other existing 'zines that used their illos. A review of the LoCs we received would likely turn up a few more. Then there's your use in the Virtual Tucker Hotel. But other new 'zines? I'm blanking on any more of those. If you remember or stumble across any, please let me know. Thanks!

Thanks for confirming my suspicions of how on-going participation would affect me. During Corflu, the rush was so strong I stayed up around the clock and online from whatever time it was Friday evening -- 8:30-9ish, I think -- until shortly past midnight on Saturday night. The exhaustion that accompanied that had a great deal to do with the botched tick removal that led to my urgent care visit on Sunday to have the rest of tick carcass cut out with a scalpel. I have a decades-long habit of sleep abuse. I'm far better at dealing with and minimizing it than I was in the 1990s, but I still need to be better. The Corflu chat was great, but I'll be better off if I don't make a habit of it. I can certainly relate to and support your decision to jump right into the time sink -- there's a lot I wouldn't have done any other way that's brought enormous fannish satisfaction and joy into my life. I'm glad this is one of those things for you.

Teresa Cochran writes: Thanks for providing the chat summaries and info in this fine zine. I think this chat room is going to be a nice hangout for fans. I should note that I did some experimenting in chat, and discovered something about the user name situation. (Warning: the rest of this paragraph is a bit technical, but just a bit.) Even if you log in anonymously, you can change your nickname by typing /nick <name> in the chat message edit box (substitute the name you want to use without the angle brackets) and pressing enter .

If you're familiar with IRC commands, a lot of them work in this chat, except for status messages.(/away)

((**Peter replies:** Well, even away messages 'work,' it's just that they're not visible in the normal web version of the chat-room, which is set to not display most control messages (e.g. people entering or leaving the room). Thanks for that tip, Teresa.))

Curt Phillips writes: The virtual fan lounge chat sessions continue to be very enjoyable but it seems to me that we haven't yet done enough to arrange chat sessions that Australian fans can realistically participate in. So, just thinking out loud here, doing a chat on a Saturday at 2:00 p.m. EST = 7:00 a.m. Sunday in Melbourne which is harsh but possible (with sufficient coffee...do Australians even drink coffee?) and 7:00 p.m. in the UK. Bumping that down a couple of hours would probably work out reasonably well for all concerned. That would be:

- 9:00 p.m. Sat. in the UK,
- 4:00 p.m. Sat EST in the US ,
- 1:00 p.m. Sat PST (Las Vegas) in the US ,
- 9:00 a.m. Sun Melbourne time

What time would that be in Adelaide and Perth? What about Tokyo? Is the above time the most optimal time to start a fan chat worldwide? If so, we should take care to reserve that time for an International effort. I suggest that we establish the above as a set time to hold the Worldwide Fan Chat and see how much participation we can muster. We should also promote this just as much as we can to all the fannish mailing lists, Live Journals, etc that we can reach.

I believe you already have the times for the Southern Fandom Classic Chat. I'll host at least the first one but I hope that we'll have Dean Sweatman and perhaps a few other volunteers as hosts as we go forward, Thanks very much for the great job you've been doing with VTH in getting the word out.

((**Peter replies:** I *knew* that we were talking slightly at cross-purposes in the chat-room, but it wasn't until you sent me this (and I re-read the transcript) that I cottoned on why. I didn't

realise that you were talking about *two* chat sessions, one for Southern Fandom Classic and one more general.

The model inside my brain was that we now have a regular event most weekends - Vegrants on 1st/3rd Saturdays, Southern Fandom Classic on 2nd/4th Saturdays. If other groups want to hook in with regular events, that's great, but even this gives us a good backbone. Other, one-off, events can then fit neatly around this backbone, both in terms of filling the blank '5th Saturdays,' and by doing more than one event on a given weekend (which I think we've proved works, based on last weekend's 'double-header.')

As such, I'm not sure I see the need for a regular third session, especially if it is just chat-only. In particular, we did get some feedback from the previous weekend that at least some people felt the need for some pre-planned content. (Note that this specifically *doesn't* apply to the Vegrants and SFC, as both of those have a strong sense of community built-in anyway.) And I wouldn't want to commit to a specific regular time for one-off events, since we should be looking to be at a convenient time for our 'hosts,' whatever that is.

As it is, I think the fact that our two regular events are at different times works quite well - the SFC chat is a sensible time for Brits (9 p.m.), whilst the Vegrants is more accessible to Aussies (11 a.m. Perth, 1 p.m. Sydney and

Melbourne) - all of these times may shift an hour or two with the differing impact of Daylight Saving Time, of course. (I *think* the times you give above actually put Australia too far east - I reckon it's 7 to 9 hours ahead of England, not 12.)

All of this is just my opinion of course - I haven't really spoken to Bill about this in particular - and I'm more than prepared to be convinced otherwise.))

((We Also Heard From: Robert Lichtman.))

Paper Copies

I am having a bit of a purge of the paper mailing list. If you've been receiving paper copies and I haven't heard from you, it'll say 'LAST ISSUE?' on your mailing label. If you want to carry on receiving VTH, just let me know. Otherwise, you'll probably not receive the next issue.

Of course, the most common reason for sending someone a paper copy of this is where they can't (or won't) get internet access. In which case, I guess sending you this is somewhat akin to sending a Frigidaire fanzine to an Eskimo.

And if there really are Frigidaire fanzines out there, I'm not sure whether I want to be told or not...

Art Credits

Front cover: screenshots from FanLounge's video clips.

Schedule for this week

Southern Fandom Classic chat-room session

Curt Phillips and other members of the Southern Fandom Classic group will be holding their second chat session in the Virtual Fan Lounge this Saturday, and invite other interested fans from around the world to join them.

- Saturday 24rd May, 1.00 pm PDT (Pacific Daylight Time)
- Saturday 24rd May, 4.00 pm EDT (Eastern Daylight Time)
- Saturday 24th May, 8.00 pm UTC (Co-ordinated Universal Time)
- Saturday 24th May, 9.00 pm BST (British Summer Time)
- Sunday 25th May, 4.00 am WAST (Western Australian Standard Time)
- Sunday 25th May, 6.00 am EAST (Eastern Australian Standard Time)

We have at least one event planned for the weekend of 31st May/1st June, but details still need to be confirmed as of time of writing. Check next week's [VTH](#) for more details.

The Wasted Hour, 17th May

CurtPhillips worried "Am I at the right place? At 20 min before the start of Arnie's show I would have thought there'd be a crowd here already?" Burbank-Dean said "Everybody gearing up for the party <hic>." He had discovered that it was possible to use IRC commands to change your screen name - "as in typing "/nick ShelVy"" - if there is already a shelVy in the Data base then it appends a - random number" but otherwise it worked fine. ShelVy noted "Ain't but one ShelVy here, I guess." CurtPhillips noted "ShelVy, I'm hosting an SFC [Southern Fandom Classic] chat here tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. our time if you can make it. We'd love to have you join us then." ShelVy figured that he qualified - "I'm wearing my bulletproof cotton shirt! SOUTHERN cotton, of cuss!" CurtPhillips feared "Next we'll all start doing old Kenny Delmar lines... Remember him, ShelVy? (Dean's too young to recall Sen. Claghorn, ah 'spect...)" Burbank-Dean queried "Klaghorn?" CurtPhillips replied "That's - ah say, that's *Claghorn*, son..." explaining "Kenny Delmar was an actor who created Sen. Claghorn - a big talking stereotypical Southerner - on the Fred Allen Show in the 40's." ShelVy replied "Remember -- ah say -- I remember him well!" CurtPhillips added "My favorite Claghoren line was an apparent ad-lib; Claghorn did a joke that Allen failed to respond to, and Claghorn gently admonished him; "That was a *joke*, son. Don't let 'em get by you like that!""

LindaBushyager reported "Aloha from Hawaii. At 35 cents a minute though I wont be on long - we are on a Royal Caribbean cruise ship off coast of Hilo. We just saw kileua volcano where a big steam vent opened up March & now it is spewing large amounts of sulfur dioxide and other bad stuff and causing VOG - volcano fog. I thought I would see katz dining room again from Hawaii - quite a silly treat." jzak also reported in "Since I am sitting here at the CFG meeting, I thought that I wold log into Las Vegrants."

CurtPhillips asked "WHERE'S ARNIE? COME IN, ARNIE!" ShelVy agreed - "It's TEN! Where's Arnie???" Burbank-Dean was "suspecting tech troubles." FanLounge reported "working on it, folks!" CurtPhillips feared "Nah,

they're all still having the super-secret Vegrants pre-meeting meeting..." bburn queried "I've not visited the fan lounge before... just a bit puzzled. The time swshown for the messages is sort of my local time, rather than the time you lot live to in the Northern hemisphere. Is that normal for this chat room?" jzak explained "once you log in, it changes to your local time."

ustreamer-31679 (Bill Kunkel) noted "Ah, there's Joyce!" CurtPhillips confirmed "I see Queen Joyce now..." ustreamer-31679 added "I see Arnie, too." FanLounge asked "do you all have sound and video?" Various people confirmed this. He added "if you have questions, let me know - i mean for the interviews... this is supposed to be interactive." CurtPhillips asked "Is that a TAB that Joyce is drinking, Bill? I didn't think they still made TAB!" FanLounge confirmed "but of course, her favored drink." ustreamer-31679 noted "They still make Tab in several flavors, actually." CurtPhillips responded "Maybe it's not that well distributed then. I don't think TAB is available here." ustreamer-31679 confirmed "You have to really look hard. Joyce has been hooked on it since the 70s."

Vegasite reported "This is DeDee, I was able to come into the house, an officer estorted me into the house. Alan is being interviewed by two investigators right now in the livingroom. We are in for the night or until they take down the yellow crime scene tape," and so they wouldn't be able to make it to the Vegrants meeting. She added "This interview with the police is still going on with Alan who heard the shots and the yelling of the officer and so he'll have to let know all the details later." CurtPhillips replied "Wow, DeDee! Thank God you and Alan are both ok. That's too scarey!"

Burbank-Dean confessed that much "of what arnie and joice said went out the window with Dee's news." FanLounge explained "we fought so hard with these old computers here that when we finally got it working, we forget to hit record at the beginning. " CurtPhillips asked "did they just say that they're reday to bid for a Las Vegas Worldcon now?" FanLounge said "something like that..." CurtPhillips replied "Yeah, that's what I thought they said. I'll go and announce the news on Trufen..." adding

"Maybe a LV Worldcon is *WHY* the world will end in 2012..."

FanLounge asked "questions, anyone?" ustreamer-31679 asked "Has anybody there seen Ironman yet?" FanLounge replied "no one at the table." Burbank-Dean responded "My son has raved about it." ustreamer-31679 asked "What is "Core Fandom"?" FanLounge explained "The Fandom Formerly Known As Fanzine Fandom = Core Fandom." CurtPhillips felt "You know, this is actually working Very Well as a real TV program. These guys are good, and I'd happily watch this sort of show anytime." FanLounge replied "arnie is a good interview host, we just need to get him more victims - i mean, subjects." CurtPhillips asked "Holographic Fan Lounge? Somehow I'm sure that Bill is Working On It..." He noted "During Corflu, the Virtual audience was participating in the trivia quiz real time too... AND, we were pretty much kicking butt at it too. At least twice we beat the real panel to the answers." FanLounge said "we want to do more interactive stuff like that - maybe the internet room versus the vegrants."

CurtPhillips asked "Hey! Any more video from the Vegrants tonight?" FanLounge reported "the folks are taking a break right now, but we will be back." ustreamer-23250 felt "well, that was fun...too short though." CurtPhillips agreed - "Yeah, Arnie should do a two-hour show..." FanLounge explained "if we interviewed everyone at once, at length, we'd run out of material - gotta save something for next week, right?"

icemonkey reported "looks like music is in the offering." CurtPhillips reported "I have a tommy-gun. It's a non-firing resin model used as a movie prop, but looks very realistic. I never have been able to find a violin case to carry it around in, but I'm still looking..." icemonkey suggested "most music stores or maybe even online but I'm maybe a viola case would be a better match. CurtPhillips replied "Oh, I'm too cheap to go out and buy a *new* one. I'll find a used one at a flea market someday. I use that Thompson in WWII displays now and then." icemonkey suggested "maybe craig's list ?" CurtPhillips replied "I've never found anything useful on Craig's list. Probably that works better in bigger cities. I'm

in a small town in the mountains of Virginia." Vegasite suggested "Violin cases cheap on ebay" CurtPhillips quoted ""All Knowledge is contained in Fandom"...! I wonder who first said that? Arnie would probably know..." Vegasite felt it was probably a paradox - "No one has the knowledge to know who it was who said that." CurtPhillips noted "Nice job of "Tennessee Waltz" guys, my grandfather used to love that tune," adding "Somebody get Arnie a pair of spoons so he can play the bones..."

ceemage helpfully interjected "just to make you all feel very tired, it's 6:20 in the morning here - England." Burbank396 asked "So what's on Radio four at this time of day?" ceemage guessed "probably Farming Today." Surfing the BBC website, Burbank396 discovered "Radio 7???" ceemage explained "One of the best BBC radio channels as it's all the old radio comedy. Digital and internet only." Burbank396 asked "Know anything about radio Fun?" ceemage responded "is that a question or a proposition? <g>" but then explained "radio fun was an old children's comic - used to have comic strips featuring characters from radio shows - sounds like the sort of thing Radio 7 would do a documentary on." He noted "you should be able to use Listen Again from the website - unless there are rights issues and it's blocked - which is unlikely with such old material ("The Goons have said they don't want their stuff made available on the internet in 50 years' time.")" As Bill Mills did a rendition of The Mutant Song, ceemage and Burbank396 outed each other as Tom Lehrer fans and quoted lyrics back and forth.

FanLounge said "we should start shutting down and packing up to go home now, folks - been great fun as usual!" ceemage said "no problem it's been great - the southern fans should be gathering in 11.5 hours time." Burbank396 replied "so Why should WE worry Were not going any where - and we look just fine with a keyboard pattern etched into our foreheads from nodding off. ceemage added "& wearing curt phillips' diapers - now there's a sentence i never thought i'd type."

Southern Fandom Classic, 18th May

Whilst waiting for the chat to start, ceemage said "i think it's cool that SFC are keen/willing to use this resource - it'd be just as easy for them to go off and do their own thing - but one of the reasons bill & i wanted to work together on this was to avoid fragmentation." He felt that SFC's involvement was "a good first step in making sure that the fan lounge isn't seen as a 'Vegas thing' or a 'Britfan thing' - or any thing other than a fandom-wide thing." Tee agreed - "it's a nice goal to work for, and I think it isn't a bad idea to give it a try." ceemage felt that the best part of the ustream service "is the zero-install aspect - just go to the web page and start typing" with no software to install, which would be a barrier for many people. Burbank396 felt "LOOK WE may be regional in some ways but we're FANS even if the wheels do fall of a but more often down here." ceemage felt that "Actually, Southern Fandom seem to pull of the trick of having a well- defined identity - without it being exclusionary," which was a difficult trick to pull off.

ceemage said that "i've been looking at setting up a proper logging bot" for the chat-room. Burbank396 said "Hey I ain't been do'n a proper job???" ceemage replied "as always, your help is appreciated - but, in the best american tradition, we're considering getting a robot to replace you <vbg>." CurtPhillips arrived and asked "I hope someone's opened up the virtual bar already..." ceemage replied "you said the tab was on you, if i rememmer." CurtPhillips responded "As long as I can pay with virtual money, drink up!"

CurtPhillips also offered "There's an unlimited supply of HYPENs in the Virtual Fan Lounge; take as many as you can carry." ceemage replied "apparently there were free hypens for the taking at the fanzine table at eastercon - i missed them. Did see an old It Comes in the Mail however - must tell Ned." CurtPhillips "Hadn't heard that - about the free Hyphens. I wonder who brought them?" ceemage said that the fanzine table at Eastercon had basically been the collection of "an old-time fan who had recently died" but he wasn't 100% sure whose. CurtPhillips remembered "Just after Bill Bowers died, Resnike brought a few thousand zines from his collection to give away at

MidWestCon. No Hyphens, and Mike had mined the most sellable zines to put on eBay, but there was still some great stuff."

CurtPhillips said to FanLounge "Thanks for allowing us wandering fans to wash up on your shore..." He felt that "Last night's show was excellent. I greatly enjoyed Bill & Teresa's music... And the Arnie Katz Show was a great success." ceemage noted it was "saved (well most of it) for posterity." CurtPhillips agreed - "I notice that the video clip area (just below the slideshow) has a clip from last night's show and I urge you all to give it a play. It's good stuff." FanLounge explained "I was very upset that we got so flustered trying to get it all set up (there is a bit of a tale there) that we forgot to start the recording until about half way through the interview with Joycie! May I simply say ARRRRRRGGGGGHHHH!" He noted it was possible to directly upload ustream videos to youtube as well.

ceemage asked if it was OK if he did a summary of the chat-room session. CurtPhillips replied "Unless anyone objects - and I doubt anyone will - please do go ahead and cover this for the VTH. I've enjoyed the first 4 issues very much." He added "For everyone, Peter (ceemage) routinely writes up these chats for his zine THE VIRTUAL TUCKER HOTEL, which you can read at efanzines.com." He confessed "I'm not so big on reading fanzines from the web, but at efanzines.com you can very easily print them out and read them at your leisure. I have a foot high stach of such printouts bere beside me now. It's the way that fanzines seem to be moving towards."

StephenHaffner reported "Hi, Curt. Trying to do this from a Caribou cafe. Their wifis not been too stable this morning." CurtPhillips was "glad you could join us. What new book are you working on, Stephen?" StephenHaffner replied "The next book is the 6th Williamson collection, and the proofreader is working on the first volume of The Collected Edmond Hamilton. As I sit here, I'm editing Ed's 1956 story, "The Starcombers" from Larry Shaw's SF Adventures." CurtPhillips felt "That's very welcome news about the Hamilton collections. How many volumes do you anticipate?" StephenHaffner replied "The Collected Hamilton set looks to run to 20 volumes -- 6 of

which are Captain Future." ShelVy was enthusiastic - "Can't have him without Captain Future!" Burbank396 asked if there was a website. StephenHaffner said "Right now it's www.haffnerpress.com, but none of the links go anywhere--it's just an order page at the moment with some out of date newsbits." CurtPhillips added "If any of you haven't seen the Haffner press volumes for yourselves, I urge you to check them out. Magnificent books both as collectible artifacts and as collections of great SF. I'm a committed fan."

He asked "How many more Brackett volumes do you expect to pub?" StephenHaffner replied "At least one more Brackett to wrap up her short stories. Nothing concrete after that." ShelVy had "GOTTA have more Brackett." CurtPhillips would "love to see her non-SF brought back into print someday, though I imagine it's somewhat less commercial..." ShelVy asked "Didn't she do some westerns?" StephenHaffner replied "LB wrote Spur-award winning FOLLOW THE FREE WIND in 1963 and did a bang-up job on the novelization of RIO BRAVO." CurtPhillips added "about 3 or 4 "modern" novels too I think. For Bantam." Burbank396 asked "Didn't she do the screen play for Mans Favorite Sport?" ShelVy replied "She did LOTS of screenplays." StephenHaffner replied "Film-wise, she also wrote/co-wrote westerns EL DORADO, RIO LOBO, and GOLD OF THE SEVEN SAINTS. LB lost her arbitration for credit on MAN'S FAVORITE SPORT, but did get sole credit after arbitration for HATARI. It's been said that she assisted on RED RIVER, but I've yet to turn up anything concrete. Will Murray said LB told him she worked on it."

CurtPhillips reported "Whoa! Another present from Bill Mills on our slideshow!" Burbank396 complained "The alien is BLUE." ShelVy asked "What, you want little green men?" CurtPhillips liked "the graphic. It makes it look as though I'm controlling all of fandom with my mind... ..which, of course, I would *never* actually *do*, of course..." ShelVy wasn't convinced - "Su-u-u-ure. . . ." CurtPhillips "should have sent Bill a photo of myself. He could probably make it revolve around in the screen like the opening of "BILL NYE - THE SCIENCE GUY"..." Burbank396 put a "Proposal: A Southern

Fandom Chat Day and Time." CurtPhillips replied "The Poll on this topic indicated that Friday's at 8:00 (but let's make it 7:00) and Sunday's at 2:00 are equally attractive to the SFC group. What do you folks here think?" ceemage asked "would you be looking at every week?" Burbank396 said the "proposal was bi monthly." jpurcell thought "that's a good idea; alternating weeks with the Vegrants." ceemage noted "we'd then have a regular event most weekends - and bill & i can plan 'specials' around these."

FanLounge boasted "you will not believe what I just inherited. a 1961 Fender Precision bass which was played with everyone from Dizzy Gillespie to Peggy Lee to Buddy Rich and the big band to to to to to an amazing number of great performers and recordings!" There was much appreciation of this. FanLounge added "I may have inherited the 1973 classic Fender precision bass too... I have it here, but I may not be the final recipient." He explained "Gary, my stepfather, was one of the 5 great bassist ever born and he passed a couple of weeks ago. He played with an amazing array of people and these 2 instruments were his babies. Now, there mine. It's pretty overwhelming for me I must say." jpurcell couldn't "think of a better person to have those wonderful axes. I know you will take care of them."

There was some discussion around the amount of information ustream asked for when creating an account. ceemage felt "well, date of birth is a bit sensitive for some - i guess if they started asking for [social security numbers], we'd all be worried." Several people suggested just supplying fake info. FanLounge emphasised "I have always had the room ste to NOT require registration. For several days while ustream was all squoonky it seemed to ignore that... but I think it's back to normal now."

CurtPhillips had "lost track - when were we talking about for the regular SFC chat?" ShelVy was shocked - "What -- we had a TOPIC?" There was some back-and-forth about the relative merits of Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays. ceemage pointed out "add 5 hours to Eastern time to work out if you'll get any/many Brits - of course, not having brits may be an advantage as far as you're concerned <g>." CurtPhillips replied "Oh we like having the Brits around."

Why, Greg was the one who first taught me to curse violently at the drop of a hat. I owe him so much..." In the midst of a discussion on favourite TV shows (especially cartoons), CurtPhillips said "I'd rather have a set time so that folks could expect to always find us at the same time and place." He had been "favoring Friday nights, but Saturday's looking more attractive now. How about 2nd & 4th Sat. evenings, starting at 7:00 EST (4:00 PST)?" jcaughran noted "that's midnight for the brits." ceemage felt that "midnight is a bit ouchie but better than vegrants = 4 am." But he felt "really brits can't dictate the schedule - unless we're doing our own events of course."

CurtPhillips added "And I'd like to suggest that we find a time for an additional scheduled chat to more reasonably bring in British fandom. How about Sunday mornings, UK time? Peter?" ceemage replied "possibly. I'd like to see some more UK interest before scheduling anything. we had quite a few for corflu, somewhat less since" but felt that this was partly because "vegrants is especially bad time for us (not complaining, btw - it's a scheduled event)." CurtPhillips suggested "5:00 p.m. London time = Noon Abingdon time = 9:a.m. Las Vegas time - if I haven't mucked it up." Tee noted that this was "not even bad Aussie time, should that factor arise." ceemage was "aware that we've not really appealed to aussies yet - mainly thru timing." ceemage pointed to a webpage that he used "to sound clever on timings: <http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/fixedform.html> - allegedly works out daylight saving changes as well." He feared that "will be where the real fun starts - as north america and europe do DST from different dates - and the aussies and nz-ers do it in the other direction - i.e. have summer time in our winter." FanLounge "was astounded and impressed that you had all the various times listed in VTH. More work that I would have wanted to do I admit, so I was guiltily relieved when you did." CurtPhillips noted "Oz fans: Janice Gelb in Melbourne has already pointed out that *this* chat started at 0700 Monday morning Melbourne time, so I think she's interested in participating if we can set up a reasonable hour." He suggested "That's 9:00p.m. Sat in the UK; 4:00 p.m. Sat in the eastern us; 1:00 p.m. Sat in Vegas, and 9:00 a.m. Sunday in

Melbourne. Would that work?"

ceemage asked "Would you want to start from next week, that being the 4th saturday? bill & i have something half-planned, but we could plug it in to that slot if everyone's willing. if not, we'll either have two events that weekend - or push our semi-planned event to the next weekend - which is a 5th weekend and hence empty." He explained "we have a potential interview with a bnf, but it depends on him being available and having a working mic by then - so we've been a bit quiet about it until we know for sure. Aforesaid bnf definantly counts as a southerner, so would fit in to SFC session nicely - or as a seperate event - but i won't be in a position to confirm until midweek."

LennyB asked "What would happen if you gave moderator privileges to everyone with a webcam and arranged the talking heads on the video screen? Complete Chaos?" FanLounge replied "not with the right people Lenny. But yes, potential chaos in the wrong hands." ceemage thought "it would be fun to push the cohost feature as far as possible." FanLounge continued "but you have hit one of the things I personally want to see happen - I would love to have several dependable friends with cams willing to use 'em to be part of a fan lounge thang with at least 2 other co-host cams running giving us three hosts to do round robing-ish/talk show type stuff. Soooooooooooooo... are you considering go on cam with us Mr Bailes? (I'd <censored> LOVE it if you are!!)" ceemage remembered "reading about the old BBC Empire Service radio, before the world service - they used to do an xmas broadcast where they'd go round the Empire singing the national anthem a verse at a time. What would be the fannish equivalent?" Burbank396 had "a couple of CBC tapes like that." CurtPhillips suggested "Bouncing Potatoes, one line at a time?" Burbank396 shuddered.

LennyB felt that "The main thing is the unreliability of the Ustream server. Some days it's fine, other days not." FanLounge replied "It's past it's worst I thinck... and it will still have some hinky days from time to time as they continue to tweak it, but I am willing to be patient, as we've already seen an insane improvement over the last few days which I

believe will be their dependable median functionality, with occasional 'off days'." LennyB asked "You don't think the Ustream performance is a variable of how many people are using it at the same time, then?" CurtPhillips noted "Some ustream shows have a few hundred users at one time." FanLounge replied "Of course traffic is always an issue, but as they see their popularity increase to past novelty level they can and will be able to promote all the \$\$ necessary for as buff a bunch of servers as they need for the increasing traffic. But it would have been financially foolish to make that an upfront cost/expense before they even knew if it would take off or not."

ceemage noted "cherylmorgan was jealous of our Faan awards coverage from corflu - as she's been pushing to do live video feed of Hugos for some time. She was somewhat less impressed when she learned we had to sit thru the banquet as well <g>," pointing to <http://www.sfawardswatch.com/?p=740>. LennyB said "The thing that makes it fun is the people who participate. I suspect Worldcon may contemplate stealing the whole thing, but the only interesting part would be a broadcast from their fanzine lounge." FanLounge said "Ya' know, if someone becomes inspired and has a different set of resources and end result intentions who get inspired by the idea and go off to actually produce 'shows' that would be terrific. I'd love to see it... I'd go to their site and watch their stuff... but it's just not what the Fan Lounge is currently 'about'." CurtPhillips added "Actually, I can think of other Worldcon stuff well worth broadcasting. Panels, the awards and costumes, and a roving reporter to cover the con from the floor level. As well as the fanzine lounge." FanLounge replied "AGAIN I say... any one with a laptop and a wireless connection can start a ustream page to broadcast their personal convention show, clips, report, interviews, etc. and do as Peter does with his built in cam. Walk arounds with the cam on and ta da. No need for the con to even be involved." ceemage felt that securit for

the equipment might be an issue.

ceemage added "there was definantly a balcony insurgents feel to our presence at the faan awards - except that bill mills said we *could* sit there." FanLounge agreed - And the fact that there was a peanut gallery, and even people making giving acceptance thank yous from the UK is still being talked about in glowingly excited terms around these parts." But CurtPhillips warned "Yes, but without the few like Bill & Roxie, Bill Burns, Randy, and one or two others who relayed *our* comments to the convention, we'd have remained voiceless observers." But "feeling like a pioneer was a big part of the excitement of that weekend for me. Kind of like being a head-in-a-jar on Futurama..."

ceemage apologised "sorry - i'm a bit distracted - oscar wants some attention - i will have to play ball with one hand, type with the other." CurtPhillips replied "ALL HAIL THE HYPNO-WESTIE!" FanLounge wondered "what the hell did Peter say? Did I slip into the pron chat room or what?" CurtPhillips explained "Oscar is Peter's West Highlands White Terrier puppy. I have one too." ceemage said that he "was just about to say "That must be a new toy. I've never seen him play with it before." - but after FanLounge's last remark, maybe i'd better not."

ceemage felt "we need a proper logging bot - i quite like the look of this: <http://supybot.com/> - as well as doing logging, you can teach it tricks - like it can answer questions - or slap people with trout." Burbank396 replied "<I roll over and beg for food>." ceemage said it would save chat sessions as text "but accesible as a web page if we want it to - i'd probably put a robots.txt file in to stop the all-seeing eye of google getting to them. Of course, first thing to check is whether ustream's [terms and conditions] allow bots at all." katster felt "that bot program looks pretty good, actually. Do you have a full-time host to run it on?" ceemage replied "no, but i can get one cheap. main attraction to me is that it's written in python, which i can almost understand on a good day."