

Virtual Tucker Hotel



“A Mimeo with THE TRUFAN at the Crank.”
(Bob Tucker, 1944.)

Issue Seven

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

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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 Dean Sweatman and Curt Phillips for this issue's front cover photo

Member fwa. Startling Press Production number 275. Today is Friday 6th June, 2008.

Five Alive

Last weekend was the 5th Saturday, so no Vegrants and no Southern Fandom Classic.. However, that didn't stop Arnie Katz from doing a special edition of “The Wasted Hour,” his 30-minute presentation. A transcript of the session is later on in this issue.

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.

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. New videos added this week are:

- Space Shuttle Discovery – ustream's coverage of the shuttle launch earlier

this week.

- Wasted Hour #2 – Arnie Katz interviews Joyce Katz and Teresa Cochran.
- Bill Mills chatting to Peter Sullivan – a planning session that we ended up recording. Some potentially interesting hints about the future of the Lounge.

Also, Dean Sweatman has put up a slideshow of still photos relating to Southern Fandom Classic, which is available at:

<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/harry-vincent-investigates-fandom>

Problems with the chat-room?

Some users are reporting problems getting access to the chat-room. It's normal when you open the page for the chat-room on the right-hand side to take a second or two to load. However, in some cases, it appears that the chat-room gets stuck loading, and you just see something like the screen-shot overleaf.

If this happens to you, I've discovered that you can sometimes clear the problem by just re-loading the web page. But this doesn't appear to be a 100% cure.

If you get stuck, please e-mail either me or Bill Mills. I'm not saying that we will be able to fix the problem, but if we can start to see a pattern, we should be able to get ustream to see what they can do.

Art Credits

Front cover: photo of Bob Tucker, from the Southern Fandom Classic scanned photo collection. From Bob's own collection. Provided for the collection by Toni Weisskopf, and scanned by Curt Phillips.

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loaded $BuildTime 20080507155932$
connect to chat1.ustream.tv:6667
please wait...
connected
Acquiring nickname...
Joining room...
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USTREAMTV

The Virtual Fan Lounge's Partner Shows

Hide

[Schedule for the next few weeks](#)

[Vegrants Party](#)

The Vegrants in Las Vegas, Nevada meet the first and third Saturdays of the month and invite you to join them here for conversation, music, live web cam feed and possibly the latest of Arnie Katz's 30 minute presentations entitled "The Wasted Hour".

- Saturday 7th June, 8.00 pm PDT (Pacific Daylight Time)
- Saturday 7th June, 11.00 pm EDT (Eastern Daylight Time)
- Sunday 8th June, 3.00 am UTC (Co-ordinated Universal Time)
- Sunday 8th June, 4.00 pm BST (British Summer Time)
- Sunday 8th June, 11.00 am WAST (Western Australian Standard Time)
- Sunday 8th June, 1.00 pm EAST (Eastern Australian Standard Time)
- Sunday 8th June, 3.00 pm NZST (New Zealand Standard Time)

[Southern Fandom Classic chat-room session](#)

Dean Sweatman and other members of the Southern Fandom Classic group will be holding their regular chat session in the Virtual Fan Lounge, and invite other interested fans from around the world to join them.

- Saturday 14th June, 4.00 pm PDT (Pacific Daylight Time)
- Saturday 14th June, 7.00 pm EDT (Eastern Daylight Time)
- Saturday 14th June, 11.00 pm UTC (Co-ordinated Universal Time)
- Saturday 14th June, 12 midnight BST (British Summer Time)
- Sunday 15th June, 7.00 am WAST (Western Australian Standard Time)

- Sunday 15th June, 9.00 am EAST (Eastern Australian Standard Time)
- Sunday 15th June, 11.00 am NZST (New Zealand Standard Time)

(This may not end up being the regular time for this chat, but as we've already announced this particular session, we won't change it for this time around. But future sessions may be at an earlier time.)

[And More?](#)

Other ad-hoc events may be added around this 'core' schedule – see future issues of [Virtual Tucker Hotel](#) for more details. And, of course, the chat-room itself is open 24/7.

The Wasted Hour, 31st May

Bill Mills reported "we're running a bit late,,,my fault, techie stuff, but we'll be on soon." Burbank396 replied "You KNOW that it's always fannish to be 15min late." crystal-2632 said he "Can't wait for "The Strangers"" movie to come out. Burbank396 said he had not "been to one in <mumble> years my son almost drug me to Iron-man." He felt that "the minds eye will always be the 1st best venue for sf/fantasy/horror - then audio in a dark room - but video is catching up."

On the video feed, Arnie Katz thanked the audience for joining and emphasised that this was all highly experimental. He started with a couple of news items. There had been some round-robin e-mails suggesting that the National Fantasy Fan Federation (N3F) was at death's door. Arnie didn't sound that upset about this, but suggested that this might be a good opportunity for anyone interested in launching a rescue/takeover bid. He also gave an update on fans on the "sick list."

In the chat-room, jpurcell "finally!!!!!" got logged in and asked "Is anybody else besides me having trouble logging into The Virtual Fan Lounge tonight? There have been interminable lengths of "waiting for connection" so far." He reported that he had been "waiting a long time for the connection to be made. Now I have Arnie on screen. headphones on so I can hear him, but lots of static. working to clear it."

Arnie's first guest this week was Joyce Katz. Arnie announced that Joyce was looking to build a collection of marbles for her new cat, and invited viewers to send in contributions. He noted that Joyce already had a collection of swans, and appeared to have developed a taste for collecting elephants too. Joyce confessed

that she wanted a big stone elephant for the back yard.

There were also rumours of a new fanzine from Joyce, with several possible titles proposed. But no promises regarding date or content.

Arnie asked Joyce about the arcane art of getting articles and other contributions for fanzines. Joyce felt that blackmail was by far the best way, followed by coercion and intimidation. In the chat-room, jpurcell felt that "blackmail's an ugly word. "Extortion" sounds much better." Joyce added that the use of womanly wiles was not as effective as you might think. Arnie remembered rich brown's theory that pretty young femme fans found it easier to get fanzine articles, but harder to get good ones. It was noted that Joyce's second solo fanzine had featured an article by a then-eligible-bachelor Arnie, but neither of them were sure this proved anything. In the chat-room, jpurcell added "I find abject begging works very well for getting contributions. Buying a bheer works really well - especially after a half dozen or so." Joyce said that, when trying to get material from people, it was important to be ahead of Earl Kemp. Arnie agreed, saying that Earl, one of his oldest friends in fandom, could be a vulture when it came to snaffling cartoons.

Both Arnie and Joyce mentioned friends as a source of fanzine articles, although friends often selfishly insisted on writing for their own fanzines first! They both felt that general appeals for material never really worked - everybody knows that when an editor says "This is *your* fanzine!" what they really mean is "This is *my* fanzine - send me something, anything." Arnie felt that it was always easier to write articles to a topic provided by the editor

rather than "whatever you want to write about." Joyce said that it was important to decide what kind of content you wanted in your fanzine, and then go searching/asking for this specifically. Arnie added that, for your first fanzine, it was realistic to plan on writing most of the content yourself.

In the chat-room, jpurcell asked "How about going about matching up artists with articles? How do you do this? For example: do you get the article first?"

After a quick interlude, Arnie's second guest was Teresa Cochran. Arnie explained that Teresa was the first fanzine fan to have been blind from birth. Although jpurcell pointed out in the chat-room that some had been fanzine fans and become blind - "Like Ed Meskys." Teresa explained that she had read a lot of science fiction, and had wanted to be more involved in fandom. When she had moved from the Bay Area to Las Vegas, she had started attending VSFA Meetings. Arnie explained that this was a Vegas fan group founded by Woody Bernardi - it had been a bit in the doldrums recently, but interest was now picking up again as several VSFA people were involved in helping with the 2008 Westercon, being held in Las Vegas. Teresa explained how she had gone into writing and publishing in Core Fandom. She had heard about the Vegrants via the VSFA, who were described to her as "a different kind of people." She thought this sounded like "my kind of group," and wangled an invite. She had been involved in the Vegrants ever since. jpurcell commented in the chat-room "Poor

thing. And Tee's still with us. She's gotta be one tough young lady to handle those Vegas fogies." Burbank396 said "Clubfen are not FakeFen." jpurcell agreed - "Minn-stf clubfen were wonderful! I was lucky to get into fandom up there. It sounds like the las vegrants are good folks, too."

Arnie noted that Teresa's first Corflu had been last year, in Austin - plus she had attended the Las Vegas Corflu last month. He asked her for her view of Corflu, as a comparative newcomer. Teresa said that the most important aspect of Corflu was the friendship and camaraderie. There was general approval of this in the chat-room - Burbank396 said "Amen Tee," and jpurcell added "No kidding."

Burbank396 couldn't "decide if that is a rable cloth or the table is full of bheer bottles with muti-colored caps." jpurcell suggested "hmm -- could play one big chinese checkers game." crystal-2632 asked "is this every Sat. now?" Burbank396 explained "the vegrants meeting is 1 & 3rd Sat and Southern Fandom will be 2nd and 4th Sat." FanLounge said thank you "for guys for hanging in there for us... sorry for the technical probs." LennyB asked "What did Arnie interview Teresa about?" jpurcell explained "how she got into fandom - when and where." LennyB was "sorry I missed that. The whole wasted hour seems to have lasted less than 45 minutes." ustreamer-66363 explained "yes lenny it's the fastest hour in fandom. This was a special bonus edition - normally it will be 1st and 3rd Saturdays for the wasted hour."