

Virtual Tucker Hotel



Issue Twelve

<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 for hosting another Southern Fandom Classic chat room session last weekend.

Member fwa. Startling Press Production number 281. Today is Tuesday 15th July, 2008.

Looking Back and Looking Forward

In The Virtual Fan Lounge last weekend:

- There was the regular Southern Fandom Classic chat session on the Saturday.
- And, on the Sunday, there was a chat session around the re-broadcast of The Wasted Hour – the fifth episode of Arnie Katz's "The Wasted Hour," his 30-minute fannish programme.

The transcript of the Southern Fandom Classic chat session follows later in this issue. The transcript of The Wasted Hour re-broadcast, together with other recent transcripts, should follow next issue.

Meanwhile, this coming weekend, on Saturday 19th July, it's the sixth episode of The Wasted Hour.

Joining the Lounge

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.

The following videos have been added this week:

- The Wasted Hour episode 5
- Westercon 61 Opening Ceremonies
- Bruce Dane 2003 – a video presented in memory of filker Bruce Dane, who died last week.
- Bruce Dane and Bill Mills – another video presented in memory of Bruce.

Also, if you have problems with the streaming video, most of the videos are also available at our alternative/back-up site, The Fan Video Network, which is available at the web address <http://TFVN.renebooks.com/video/fanvid-1.html>

Yours Sincerely, Wasting Away...

Dean Sweatman writes: I finally got a chance to see the 5th episode of The Wasted Hour. I was distressed to find out that Arnie and Joyce have joined that subset of fandom to have had to experience the rising waters of destruction. As a Plumber by trade I can say that what happened to them is not to unusual and advise everyone that an annual peek at the washing machines hoses should come right after replacing the smoke alarm battery<g>. I hope that their experience was slight and confined to the more mundane aspects of their home and lives. The new improved time slot (PM PDT) should be a welcome change to all. Production values on this pre-recorded rather than live

episode show that Bill Mills is learning fast and both Arnie and Joyce seem to have become more comfortable in being on camera. I think that Arnie's excursion into fannish history and lore is a good idea and look forward to seeing it return in the future. Overall it shows a continuing effort to give us an alternatives to

Jay Leno. Many thanks for the time and effort expended by Bill, Arnie, Joyce and Roc.

Art Credits

Front cover: Tucker Hotel Bath Robe. Spotted and photographed by Bill Mills in the Westercon Dealers' Room.

Schedule for this weekend

The Wasted Hour 6

The sixth edition of The Wasted Hour – 30 fannish minutes with host Arnie Katz and guests for fannish chat and fannish fun.

- Saturday 19th July, 7.00 pm PDT (Pacific Daylight Time)
- Saturday 19th July, 10.00 pm EDT (Eastern Daylight Time)
- Sunday 20th July, 2.00 am UTC (Co-ordinated Universal Time)
- Sunday 20th July, 3.00 pm BST (British Summer Time)
- Sunday 20th July, 10.00 am WAST (Western Australian Standard Time)
- Sunday 20th July, 12.00 noon EAST (Eastern Australian Standard Time)
- Sunday 20th July, 2.00 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 26th July, 1.00 pm PDT (Pacific Daylight Time)
- Saturday 26th July, 4.00 pm EDT (Eastern Daylight Time)
- Saturday 26th July, 8.00 pm UTC (Co-ordinated Universal Time)
- Saturday 26th July, 9.00 pm BST (British Summer Time)
- Sunday 27th July, 4.00 am WAST (Western Australian Standard Time)
- Sunday 27th July, 6.00 am EAST (Eastern Australian Standard Time)
- Sunday 27th July, 8.00 am NZST (New Zealand Standard Time)

The Wasted Hour 6 - Re-mix Session

Last week's edition of the The Wasted Hour re-broadcast. Arnie Katz aims to be in the chat-room to respond to any queries, and re-argue all or any of his more contentious points.

- Sunday 27th July, 10.00 am PDT (Pacific Daylight Time)
- Sunday 27th July, 1.00 pm EDT (Eastern Daylight Time)
- Sunday 27th July, 5.00 pm UTC (Co-ordinated Universal Time)
- Sunday 27th July, 6.00 pm BST (British Summer Time)
- Monday 28th July, 1.00 am WAST (Western Australian Standard Time)
- Monday 28th July, 3.00 am EAST (Eastern Australian Standard Time)
- Monday 28th July, 5.00 am NZST (New Zealand Standard 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.

Southern Fandom Classic chat, 12th July

Burbank396 announced "It is 3 pm and this is the Southern Fandom Classic Chat." He added "The Following arrived last night posted by Guy H Lillian III - Re: Pete Bezbak. Word has come in tonight from Dennis Dolbear that NewOrleans fan Pete Bezbak has passed away. Pete was a sweet guy, responsible for Dennis meeting everyone in" New Orleans and Louisiana "fandom. He's in shock and so am I." ceemage noted "he's mentioned in the history of new orleans clubs - at <http://www.smithuel.net/sfchb/hbp3la.html>"

Burbank396 quoted "Pete Bezbak Peter, Denis Dolbear, Craig Shukas, Jole Penton, and a few others came into NOSFA about the same time a year or so before the '68 DSC. If I remember correctly he served as club Treasurer and Secretary and had a run as NOSFAN co-editor with Dennis." He added "I hadn't seen him and heard very little about him in the past few years - I guess he was in Gafia as many of the former Nofans have a habit of doing." ceemage noted "we're really beginning to start losing 1960s fans these days.: Checking the fanzine index, he noted that Pete was "listed as co-editor of Steamboat Willie - only one issue in the archives." Burbank396 remembered "That was one of the many Don Markstein onshots." ceemage confirmed the editors were listed as "Don Markstein, Harry Purvis, Peter Bezbak, Craig Shukas, Ken Hafer." Burbank396 explained "that ran through the Southern Fandom Press Association (apa)."

ceemage also reported "Meanwhile filker Bruce Dane is also reported as having died," as reported on "trufen & other mailing lists." FanLounge explained "Bruce was one of my best friends... not fannish acquaintances... best buds for many many years." ceemage quoted Lee Gold's report that "I just heard from Meera. Bruce died peacefully in his sleep about 1:15 am today. I had just visited this past evening, and he seemed to be resting better

now that he had pain medication. The concert next week in Manitou Springs (<http://www.boomerbox.com>) will be a benefit for his minor children and a memorial for Bruce."

Burbank396 added "Elliot Shorter's health is in question also as I reported here a few weeks ago. He is not taking to Dialysis and seems to be giving up."

ceemage announced "OK, I've decided - no one else is allowed to die - at all - we'll deal with the overpopulation problem somehow else." Burbank396 replied "I read that story and I think I saw the movie - the author escapes me right now but I remember it well."

Burbank396 asked "So what is the new price of petrol?" ceemage said that prices in Britain "seem to be about £1.15 to £1.20 a litre for unleaded - around £1.30 a litre for diesel. Can't remember the conversion to dollars per gallon - but it'll be well over \$10 a us gallon by now - as it was pushing that last time i worked it out. Of course, even with the increases, most of that is tax." Burbank396 noted that diesel was "\$4.60 and saw 87oct at \$3.83 today," adding "I have a feeling that the US train system will be getting an overhaul - too bad we haven't maintained the tracks in 25 years." ceemage noted "british trains are already at record capacity - especially around london for commuting - getting difficult to add more in places." Burbank396 responded "New Orleans still gets 3 most days east to New York West to LA and north to Chicago." ceemage said "long distance rail is more competing with the airlines i guess - commuter rail is where the potential to save car journeys is." Burbank396 agreed - "the short haul is indeed the answer but in our area there just ain't none." ceemage asked "is new orleans a big commuter town? i would guess that like most cities its size a lot of people live outside, work inside." Burbank396 replied "after katrina there was talk about high speed rail from the northshore to South Shore but that was all it was just talk. 30% of

the NO work force is from outside the parish(county) 10% of that is driving 50+ miles across or around the lake every day with no chance of carpooling to be had for most of us." He was doing 110 miles round trip every day - "really tiring when you have gridlock because some accident is in front of you." ceemage replied "the way to think of it is - always better to be behind an accident - than right up front <g> - which is a suitably morbid note to finish on i suspect."

Later, FanLounge reported "I just posted a video of Bruce and I from 2003 to the Video Gallery. It's of poor quality being recorded using a webcam... the only camera available at that moment."

jpurcell had been "just perusing the latest Time & Again on efanazines. It got posted earlier tonight. - at first glance - looks really good." He asked "how did the SFC chat go earlier?" Burbank396 replied "Not too well - more deaths to discuss." jpurcell "was quite surprised to read of Tom Disch's suicide." This had been reported "a few days ago, apparently. Shot himself in his New York apartment. Reading the NY Times obituary, Disch has had a real rough time in recent years, very depressed."

Talking about Pete Beezbak, jpurcell asked "if I had gone to Apollocons in Houston or a con or two over in Louisiana, would I have met him? I don't know how much of a con fan Peter was." Burbank396 explained "he was of the sons of the Sand Guidry/Winston/Markstein group." He added "NOSFA was mainly born out of a private high school (deLasalle) with Don Markstein and Doug Wirth in about 1964 - they encountered other fen meeting Rick Norwood and John Guidry along the line - and by 1966 had a proto club established. In 67 John Rick Justin and Don took the Train to Atlanta and Nycon iii. On the way NOSFA was formed as an established club to sponsor a bit for the 1973 worldcon and 1968 DSC" (Deep South Con). jpurcell had "heard of a rumor to bring the worldcon to texas in 2013. If I remember correctly, is DSC going to be in Texas in a couple years?" Burbank396 explained that John Guidry "was the mover for the world con bids bidding in 73, and 76,"

adding "by almost all reports NOLAcon to was saved by outside intervention. Early on he was involved in the 68, 71, 73 and 79 cons maybe a few out of town cons but his dream was getting his name in the program books as Chairman of NOLAcon ii."

jpurcell confessed "I have a lot to learn about fannish goings on between 1992 and 2006; that's my gafiation gap. even the late 80s are a bit fuzzy since I was drifting out of fandom by then." Burbank396 agreed - "I have major gaps too 1975 throu 93 then 2001 to 2006." He had first encountered fandom via a "Letter col in Comic book around 62 or 63 - sent out some sticky quarters and dropped into Comics Fandom." jpurcell felt this "sounds familiar; lots of sf fans have that comic book crossover." Burbank396 said that he had taken "a while to mconvert to the tru-fandom as Ted White liked to say - Was in Denton Texas then in summer of 67 family moved to New Orleans and I started writing to fan eds I knew to see if there was anyone in NOLA to talk to. Through them I met Doug Wirth then Markstein, Guidry and the rest." jpurcell said that his introduction to fandom "was Minicon 7, MInneapolis 1973 - had been reading sf for years, but a high school friend told me he saw this flyer in a bookstore downtown, so we went."

Burbank396 noted that he had "Just missed the formation of HYDRA in Dallas by a couple of years - Denton Fandom of those days were Gary Lancaster, Gary Coulter, Steven Speake, and me." He now lived "closer to Baton Rouge." jpurcell asked "isn't there a con in Baton Rouge? I run a regional con listing in my zine, and I've listed an anime con - or something like that - for Baton Rouge before." Burbank396 replied that it was "Media infested<g> as most are today < sigh>." jpurcell agreed - his own local "AggieCon is very media/anime oriented - so different from the midwest cons I grew up on." He was "putting together the 9th issue" of Askance "this weekend - should be done in a week - and the con listing is the last item to plunk in before I start doing the major layout and proofing work." Burbank396 clarified "Don't get me wrong I have nothing against media SF it is just not my cup of tee." jpurcell agreed - "I

have never been one for costuming, either, but I appreciate the work those folks put into the costumes." Burbank396 explained "If I have to explain what I mean by "PULP" and HUGO" and such then we might as well be talking two different languages." jpurcell agreed - "to say nothing of saying things like "fount!" or "fiawol" or "I had one once, but the wheels fell off" and getting weird looks." Burbank396 added "or stringing AmazingAstoundingThrillingStartling etc together." jpurcell confessed he still did it - "I like to add in Wonder, too." Burbank396 replied "lest we forget Astounding and Authentic." jpurcell loved "the old pulp titles - Cosmic Stories! well, you know them all..." Burbank396 noted "ah the sense of wonder runs deep in this one."

Burbank396 said "I mourn the fact that I will never read the lensmen again for the first time but kept a set of used paperbacks on hand to give to some neo-fan with the instructions DO NOT read introductions - and start with Galactic Patrol - put em on the right path to start and they will never wander<g>" jpurcell felt "the same way, also with the Legion of Space books by Jack Williamson. I've been reading Quarantine Planet by Murray Leinster

these last couple nights - very dated, but still fun."

jpucell noted "Greg Benford is GoH at Fencon this coming Oct. I'm planning on going." Burbank396 asked "Dallas Fencon??? That is a maybe for me if gas doesn't get TOO high between now and then and I can find sleep space at a reasonable price." jpurcell asked "wanna split the cost of a room?" He explained "FenCon V is Oct. 3-5 in Dallas; I'm arranging for Greg Benford and I to visit James Halperin and get to poke around int he Harry Warner, Jr. fanzine collection."

Burbank396 said he "Still love[s] Leinster." jpurcell agreed - "yah. I loved re-reading Hal Clement a few months ago." Burbank396 had "Read Runaway Skyscraper for the first time this year Not bad considering." Burbank396 noted that "7 of the 8 tom corbet Space cadet books turned up on" Project Gutenberg (<http://www.gutenberg.org>) - "Downloaded them and some Tom Swift JR - but havent had the guts to smash the good memories by re-reading yet." jpurcell had "LOVED Tom Swift Jr as a kid! I think I still have a copy of "Tom Swift Jr. and his electronic hydrolung." - Gave it to my son a couple years ago." Burbank396 "Had the whole set pre katrina."