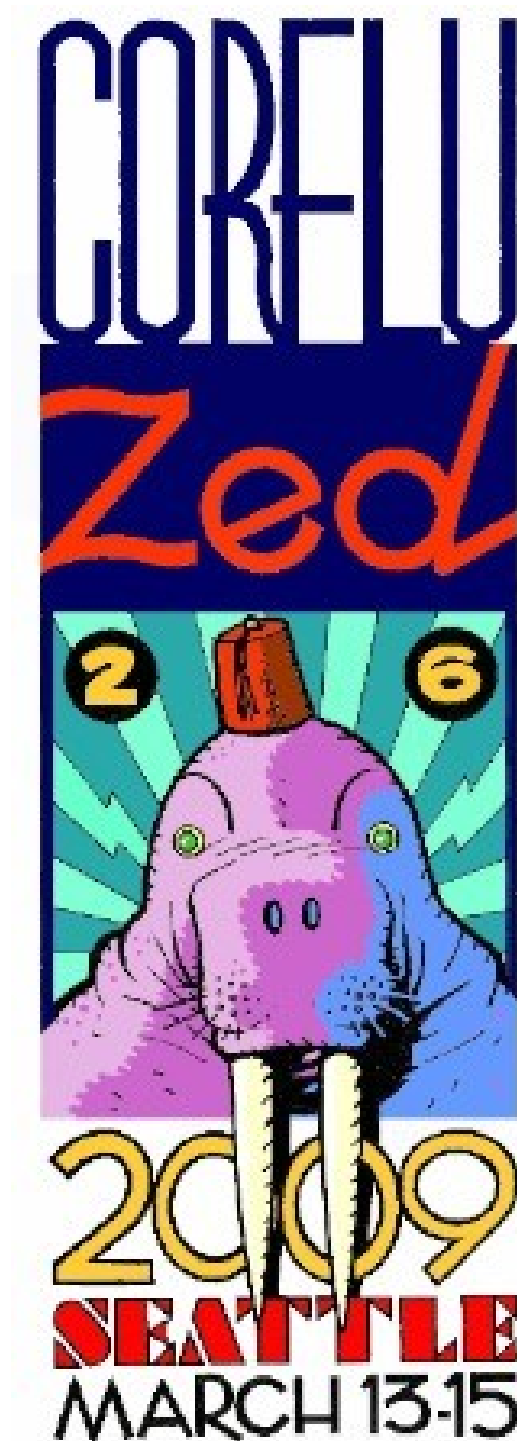


Virtual Tucker Hotel



Issue Twenty-Two

<http://www.corflu.org/virtcon.html>

From: Peter Sullivan (“ceemage”), 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 have been available for the fannish usual.

Thanks to: Bill Mills (“FanLounge”), without whom the original Virtual Fan Lounge would never have happened. And to Randy Byers, Jack William Bell and Tracy Benton for their help setting up the arrangements for Corflu Zed and this year's Virtual Con Suite.

Member fwa.A Startling Press Production. Today is 1st March, 2009.

Art credits

Front page: The Corflu Zed logo, featuring Seattle fandom's own lolrus. By Dan Steffan.

This page: The Hotel Deca in Seattle,, the hotel hosting Corflu this year.

Looking Forward

After a few months' break, the Virtual Fan Lounge is reborn as the Virtual Con Suite for Corflu Zed, at a new web address.

If you can't make it to Seattle for the convention this year, you can still participate in the proceedings. Building on the success of the Corflu Silver Virtual Fan Lounge last year, Corflu Zed will also be providing streaming video and an open text chat room for the weekend, open to anyone with an internet connection.

Joining the Virtual Consuite

To use the chat-room, just go to either: <http://www.corflu.org/virtcon.html> or <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/513315>

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 empathize with. But registration is entirely optional – you can simply stay as “ustreamer-12345” if you prefer.

Technical gubbins

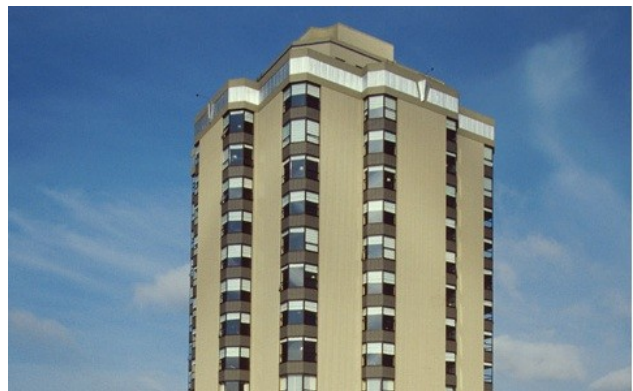
You will probably need at least a low-spec broadband connection to watch the Corflu Zed video stream. (Dial-up users in the past have reported that the video gets very choppy without a broadband connection – but the text chat room still works.)

If you are using an internet connection at work or college, be aware that the chat room uses port 6667, which is often blocked by work or college firewalls. Mainly because systems administrators know that it is used by chat room software – so asking them to unblock it is unlikely to be successful! Home users should usually have no problem, however.

Further Information

For more details about Corflu Zed in general, see the Corflu website at:

<http://www.corflu.org>, especially the third and final pre-convention progress report at: http://corflu.org/pdfs/C26PR3_hi.pdf



Schedule for the weekend

The next scheduled events are around the weekend of Corflu Zed, Friday 13th to Sunday 15th March, 2009.

Caveat: All of these plans are subject to us getting a sufficiently good internet connection to be able to stream video live from the convention. However, assuming everything works, we will be aiming to stream video for everything on the scheduled program beginning with the opening ceremonies on Friday evening, and we will look into streaming from the real consuite when there isn't any programming going on.

However, based on last year's experience, you are likely to find other fans in the text chat room pretty much at any time over the weekend!

Corflu Panel Discussion 2008

We kept a transcript of what was said in the Virtual Corflu chat room last year during the "Where Is Our Fandom Going – and How Do We Get There?" Panel, and this is a suitably summarised version. (Since I'm not sure that everyone knew we were transcribing, I've left people's screennames "as is," even when I know the person behind them – unless they have specifically asked me to 'de-cloak' them. Some screen names, to be fair, don't really need de-cloaking.)

Picture the scene. On the left hand side of the web page, a somewhat flaky webcam feed of Las Vegas's finest. On the right, a chat room window, featuring fans from across the world so desperate to be at Corflu that they are typing at each other a real-time commentary on the panel they are observing.

As the panel started, eFanzines (Bill Burns) noted that "Arnie is thanking all the helpers." There were various requests to move the webcam to get a better view - CorfluSilver (Bill Mills) said that the position was "because it's the only place in the room with a power outlet" Absaka (Curt Phillips) suggested a extension cord. BohemianCoast noted "Goodness, normally I have to go to the pub to get such a clear view of Mark Plummer's backside..."

Warming to her topic, BohemianCoast said "There's nothing like the feeling of having an actual fanzine in your hand, where you have chosen the printing technology and paper and so on -- And the right colour of staples..." GeriSullivan agreed, "but I do like what you can do with links in a PDF, and I have a kazillion things to learn about html and its relatives."

BohemianCoast said she'd personally "rather have four issues of Banana Wings than 164 issues of the Drink Tank." GeriSullivan and ceemage would rather have both! BohemianCoast was afraid that "Electronic fanac allows people to randomly spurt content all over the internet..."

IanSorensen asked "I'm trying to listen to the panel, watch Dr Who Confidential and type. Am I a woman?" There was some egoboo for the British fanhistory fanzine, Prolapse, although eFanzines noted that "Lilian Edward made a scathing denouncement of Prolapse!" at Eastercon. Absarka had "heard about Lilian's tirade. It sounded to me as if she was mostly trying to yank fandom's chain again." eFanzines agreed - "She said as much afterwards." ReplyHazy complained "Lilian? Tirade? I miss all the entertaining stuff." BohemianCoast felt that "Lilian only cares about fan history when she's in it."

BohemianCoast said "Well, personally I use the internet, especially LJ, to provide daily connectivity. Paper fanzines provide context and reflection." ceemage (Peter Sullivan) suggested "fanzines are for reading in the bath - efanazines are for reading on the ipod" BohemianCoast didn't "have a lot of time for the 'instant fanzine' where the editor writes whatever they're thinking about and sticks it on the web. That's a blog." ceemage felt that the only efanazine that really counted as "a blog in disguise" was Richard Geis' Taboo Opinions. eFanzines said "I'm pleased to see anything from Dick Geis these days."

BohemianCoast explained "I think what I'm saying is that the articles in some of the

frequent e-fanzines feel as if the writer just shoved some stuff down." GeriSullivan added "The mistress may provide quality egoboo, but she (or he) can't provide the full spectrum of egoboo you can get from pubbing your ish." ReplyHazy felt that "those super frequent zines are high on natter and low on content. I have lots of things to skim already." BohemianCoast agreed - "I get tons of stuff in my RSS reader; I don't really need to go elsewhere for it." ceemage said he "wouldn't claim (and nor would Chris) that things like The Drink Tank are comparable to fully-fledged paper zines" like Banana Wings and Prolapse - "but they do fill a niche in between the blog immediacy of 'this is what I thought of today' and the fully fledged fanzine that appears quarterly because that's how long it takes to pull together."

GeriSullivan noted that the chatroom was filling up - "if we get enough more people joining, we may outnumber the audience. That's more of a challenge than it was for the Corflu LJ community in Toronto." It was noted that several people in the chat room were actually at Corflu anyway - either in the audience or up in their rooms. Various people requested a wave via the webcam.

eFanzines noted that, on the real panel, "Arnie is making some good points - he's talking about sex with Mr Spock." ceemage didn't "know Arnie had had sex with Mr. Spock - You learn something new every day." Listening to the panel, BohemianCoast felt that "Some of these arguments are just insane" - ReplyHazy added "And some are awfully familiar." BohemianCoast paraphrased the arguments she was hearing as "People who watch SF on TV don't think or engage" - "only we are like us and out there are the Great Unwashed" ustreamer-6223 (Sandra Bond) felt "That's imputing a value judgment the size of a house."

BohemianCoast felt media SF was at least as worthy as books - "I mean, Heroes was a triff bit of SF which would hold up very well against a lot of stuff I read as a child." jmsstine-I agreed - "i know several young who and torchwood and next generation fans in their twenties who are brilliant grad students and are fully engaged and talk about the ideas in the shows." ustreamer-6223 asked "It is actually possible to say "only we are like us" without also saying

"this means everyone else is worthless"?"

Talking about the quality of the webcam feed, jmsstine-I said "the buffering is bad but this is a historic cast and the tec will improve" Absarka agreed - "THIS is fanhistory." He wished "Arnie would say, "well, let's find out what the fans on the Virtual Corflu website think about this..." eFanzines volunteered "If you can come up with a consensus I'll present it from the audience." ceemage thought this was unlikely with fans. but said "I think the consensus is that the people in the chatroom think that paper fanzines are best - which is suitably ironic to be fannish."

There was some discussion about when fandom was best. ustreamer-6223 noted that "Terry Carr said the golden age of SF is 13. Maybe the golden age of fandom is whenever you discovered it." BohemianCoast said "I like right now, actually. I think being able to hear a Corflu panel from my study is just cool." ceemage felt that "the best time in fandom is just before you joined - because everyone says it;s not as good as it used to be."

Absarka felt that "e-fanzining is still in it's infancy. 5 years from now none of us will even recognize what's happening now." nabuok felt that "electronic fanzines are easier to file!" Absarka added "It's going to be a Wild New World then... and I say bring it on." BohemianCoast noted "Though actually, Absarka, things have moved rather more slowly than I might have expected." ceemage felt "We need an alternate paradigm." GeriSullivan loved "both formats. I want to see online fanzines do more with animated art, color (that's coming along) and all sorts of things that you simply CAN'T do in print." nabuok felt "that's just turning fanzines into a multimedia format." GeriSullivan said "At their best, the fannish conversation flows between different fanzines. With electronic 'zines, we can link that." ustreamer-25992 added "Whatever the format the key thing is *audience* (you know what I mean)."

BohemianCoast said "Hey, I ran a fan lounge at a Worldcon and it was perfectly sound, both in terms of 'core fandom' (whatever the that is) and as a place where fans of all stripes could relax and have a nice time." ustreamer-6223 asked "If you don't know what core fandom is how can you know whether the fan lounge catered to it?"

Absarka said "Modern fandom as a whole really doesn't understand that *we* see Fandom as a community rather than as just a hobby. Thus, I think it's largely lost on most con attendees that Fandom is a family as much as it is anything. - If we want to evangelize *our* fandom, that's the point we have to sell."

ustreamer-6223 asked "Do we want to evangelize our fandom?" IanSorensen said "People find fannish fandom, fannish fandom doesn't find them." ReplyHazy agreed - "Considering how I react to anybody evangelizing about anything, I'm glad fandom didn't evangelize to me in 1983."

BohemianCoast felt that core fandom as a "group gets special treatment, partly because it demands it, and partly because of the thread of history running through it." ustreamer-25992 felt that "Demanding is a good tactic (done well) - But a high risk strategy (done badly)." ceemage didn't think that "core fandom is as demanding as other fandoms - all we want is a fan room near the real ale bar." By contrast, "how much tech do the costumers consume?" ReplyHazy noted "Serious costumers are terrifyingly knowledgeable about technology." BohemianCoast pointed out "The costumers get away with it because, even now, hundreds of people who aren't costumers like to go and watch the masquerade. - Similarly, film fans got away with it right up to the point where con committees noticed it was a lot of effort for very few people and ditched it." She added "Filk fans get their demands met because their demands are so reasonable.. "We'd like a room after you're done with it for the night and some water"." - "So the trick is to be reasonable in the context of the convention but quite specific about what you want and why."

ReplyHazy said "Years from now I'll be trying to figure out whether or not I was at this con, because I'll remember bits of it." As the panel broke up, various attendees came over to the webcam to see what we were up to. ustreamer-41143 noted "So the fans attending the con, ignore the *actual* con to chat with the virtual folk..."

And if you think that comes over as disjointed, you should have seen the original transcript...

Fannish Video/Audio Resources: Video Library

Over the last year, The Virtual Fan Lounge has built up a library of recorded material available for viewing. The clips are listed under the main viewscreen at the old address of <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/the-virtual-fan-lounge> – just click to select.

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>

Fannish Slide Show

Dean Sweatman has added some more scans to his Fannish Slide Show on ustream, which now has over 500 scans, still being displayed at: <http://www.ustream.tv/Burbank396/pictures>

The Wasted Hour

The Wasted Hour still continues, as "the fastest hour in fandom" (as it usually only lasts about half an hour). Arnie Katz's fannish video show will still be produced on its own fannish schedule and future episodes will continue to be posted on the web at:

<http://TFVN.renebooks.com/video/fanvid-1.html>

If you would like to be notified by e-mail whenever a new episode is available, please contact Arnie Katz at crossfire4@cox.net

The Voices of Fandom

Visit The Voices of Fandom (TVoF) for audio (including the most recent release of TVoF podcast), video, photos and links of fannish interest, at <http://TVoF.info>

Las Vegrants Online

Visit the website of Las Vegrants Online for info regarding the Las Vegas invitational fan social group hosted by Joyce and Arnie Katz, at <http://LasVegrants.com>

eFanzines.com

Finally, I can't believe that anyone reading this will be unaware of this already, but Bill Burns' exceptional repository of fanzines, old and new, at <http://efanzines.com>, is a fannish treasure

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WHEN?



2009 TAFF Ballot — Europe to North America

What is TAFF? The Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund was created in 1953 for the purpose of providing funds to bring well-known and popular fans familiar to those on both sides of the ocean across the Atlantic. Since that time TAFF has regularly brought North American fans to European conventions and European fans to North American conventions. TAFF exists solely through the support of fandom. Interested fans all over the world vote on the candidates, and each vote is accompanied by a donation of not less than \$3 or £2. These votes, and the continued generosity of fandom, are what make TAFF possible.

Who may vote? Voting in the 2009 race is open to anyone who was active in fandom prior to April 2007, and who contributes at least \$3 or £2 to the Fund. Larger contributions will be gratefully accepted. Voting is by secret ballot: only one vote per person, and you must sign your ballot. You may change your vote any time prior to the deadline.

Deadline: Votes in this race must reach the administrators by **Midnight, PST, Saturday 18 April 2009. This is 8 AM, GMT, Sunday 19 April 2009.**

Voting details: TAFF uses a preferential ballot system which guarantees automatic runoffs until a majority is obtained. You rank the candidates in the exact order of your preference for them. If the leading first-place candidate does not get a majority, the first-place votes for the lowest-ranking candidate are dropped, and the second-place votes on those ballots are counted as first-place votes. This process repeats itself until one candidate has a majority. Your votes for second and third place are important, but you may give your candidate only one ranking on your ballot. In order to win, a candidate must receive at least 20% of the first-ballot first-place votes on both sides of the Atlantic, separately. Any candidate failing to receive this minimum percentage on either side will be dropped, and the second-place votes on their ballots counted as first-place votes in the next ballot count. Thus candidates and their supporters will need to canvass fans on both sides of the pond. You may send your ballot to either administrator, but it will be tabulated with the other votes from the side of the Atlantic on which you reside. Votes from fans not resident in either Europe or North America will not count towards either 20% minimum, but are important to the outcome of the race.

Hold Over Funds: This choice, like "No Award" in Hugo balloting, gives you the chance to vote for no TAFF trip this year, if the candidates do not appeal. Hold Over Funds may be voted for in any position, and is exempt from the 20% requirement; thus, if it receives a majority of the votes on the final ballot, no TAFF trip will be held this year regardless of how many votes Hold Over Funds received on the first ballot.

No Preference: For voters who prefer not to choose between candidates, but don't want the trip held over.

Donations: TAFF gratefully accepts your freely given money and material for auction; such generosity has sustained the Fund for over 50 years. TAFF is fandom's oldest travel fund, and one of its worthiest causes — give early and often! Please contact your nearest administrator for details.

Candidates: Each candidate has posted a bond, promising — barring Acts of God — to travel, if elected, to Worldcon 2009, and has provided signed nominations and a platform (overleaf).

Please read both sides of this ballot before voting. Send entire sheet as your vote.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number or e-mail address: _____

(We need your full contact details. TAFF may need to contact you regarding your ballot or to send out newsletters. We do not publish this data or pass it to any other organisation.)

Signature: _____

Enclosed is _____ as a contribution to TAFF.

Please make checks/cheques, etc., payable to:
'Chris Garcia' for US dollar checks mailed to Chris Garcia.
'TAFF' for all UK (sterling) cheques posted to Bridget Bradshaw.

If you think your name may not be known to the administrators, please provide *the name and contact details* of an active fan (not a fan group, a candidate, or their nominator) who is known to them and who is willing to vouch for you:

Active fan known to the administrator: _____

2009 TAFF Ballot — Europe to North America



Steve Green

Since encountering fandom circa 1974, I've been a fanwriter, fanzine publisher, cartoonist, convention organiser and FAPA vice-president. From 1987-96, I co-edited the newszine *Critical Wave*; its online resurrection was announced in 2008. My own fanzines include *Thunderbox* (with my wife Ann) and *Gaijin*. I'm an sf fan, a horror fan, a comics fan, a telefantasy fan; I see no boundary fences. In "real life", I've been a newspaper reporter, radio pundit and film journalist. I've long had transAtlantic links, with regular columns in Seattle's *Apparatchik* and the Bay Area's *Drink Tank*. Can't wait to make some more North American friends.

Nominators: Randy Byers (US), Lloyd and Yvonne Penney (Can), Mark Plummer (UK), Martin Tudor (UK), Peter Weston (UK)

Tom Womack

I'm of that small generation that met fandom when they met Usenet; I'm still on rasfw for the conversation, though my random musings mostly go on fivemack.livejournal.com. I'll pub my ish as I campaign.

Jo Walton lured me to the first Ploktacon, where I discovered free-wheeling open conversations that worked as much like Usenet as could be contrived in the flesh; that lured me to Minicon and a living fannish culture.

If I win TAFF, I will marvel at the purported existence of warmth in Canada, and try to get to know some non-Minneapolisian American fans.

Nominators: Liz Batty (UK), Clare Boothby (UK), Vicki Rosenzweig (US), Alison Scott (UK), Geri Sullivan (US)

Please read and fill out both sides of this sheet. Send in entire sheet as your vote. Do not detach this portion!
I vote for (rank 1, 2, 3, etc.):

- Steve Green
- Tom Womack
- Hold Over Funds
- No Preference

Send ballot & donation to:

North America – Chris Garcia 962 West Weddell Dr. #15, Sunnyvale, CA 94089, USA
Checks payable to: Chris Garcia. E-mail Garcia@computerhistory.org with questions/comments.

Europe - Bridget Bradshaw, 103 Rustat Road, Cambridge CB1 3QG, UK.
Cheques payable to: TAFF. E-mail bugshaw@gmail.com with any questions/comments.

PayPal: to bugshaw@gmail.com. Payments should include the information asked for on this ballot: ranked list of votes; voter's name and contact details; active fan who can vouch (if necessary). An additional small donation is appreciated to cover PayPal's fees. UK pound sterling is preferred.

For more information on TAFF, visit: <http://taff.org.uk>

Reproduction of this form is encouraged. It is the official voting vehicle and must be reproduced verbatim.
Anyone doing so should **substitute** his or her name here: *Dave Langford* for <http://taff.org.uk> web site