

VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

Fannish Podcasts on the Rise!

Bill Mills continues to issue his TheVoicesOfFandom podcasts with astonishing rapidity and has just posted a new one at TheVoicesofFandom.com.

That's remarkable, considering that Bill currently has more than usual on his professional plate. A malfunction took down one of the Renaissance Books host servers. Bill's days (and nights) have mostly been devoted to restoring the content, including all the backlog.

Meanwhile, a quartet of fans — John Hall, Dave Langford, Pam Wells and Graham Charnock — are reportedly putting together a podcast called *Wonderful Fannish Radio* that I, for one, can't wait to hear.

The Veggrants are also still planning to do a podcast. It's expected to involve the talents — as it says here — of a number of the group's leading lights.

Corflu Silver Announces PR Plans!

There will be more progress reports for Corflu Silver than in many, if not most, past years. Two of the progress reports will be sent out hard copy, while the others will be distributed electronically.



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Corflu Silver Breaking News

Corflu Silver, the 25th Core Fandom Worldcon, has found its hotel, which means that chairman Joyce Katz can give out the salient facts. Here's the scoop in The High Priestess' own hallowed words:

I am within days of signing off on the contract for the Corflu hotel accommodations – all that is left is to dot the I's and cross the T's.

*Corflu Silver will be held over the weekend of April 25, 26 and 27, 2008, at the Plaza Hotel, One Main Street, Las Vegas, NV 89101. Room rates will be \$35 per midweek night (Monday through Thursday) and \$72 per night on 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.*

Although I made an extensive search of other hotels, no other hotel offered the combination of low room rates and affordable meeting room space. Therefore, Corflu will return to the Plaza in the Downtown Area of Las Vegas for an unprecedented third visit.

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. Corflu Silver thanks those who Had Faith and paid even before we had a hotel or date.

Inside Story Pilot Error

“Have you told *VFW* readers the big news?” Joyce asked me as we paused during preparations for the April 21 Vegrants meeting. “Have you told them about it?”

As you can well imagine, her question threw me into extreme consternation. I don't think any editor of a half-assed, semi-newszine cares more about bring The Truth to my Brothers and Sisters in Fandom. I'll stack up our *VFW*'s hit-and-miss coverage of Core Fandom against any other half-hearted effort out there today.

The thought that there was something that I should have told you, something that you needed to know, gnawed at my vitals. What if knowing this piece of data spelled the difference between a happy like and one of misery for even one loyal reader? (Disloyal readers are on their own.)

“You haven't told them about the resurrection of Robby the Chair!” she stated, each word tinged with the acid of scorn. “Fandom will want to know.”

I hung my head, because I had no defense.

I want to apologize to each and every one of you — or at least to everyone who writes a letter of comment on this issue — for not immediately bringing this momentous development to your attention. I am devoting the entirety of “Inside Story” to it as a *mea culpa*.

Seating for fan parties or even a good-sized Vegrants meeting is always a problem. We have two love-seats, each seating two friends (or six swingers) in the living room, a table with four wooden chairs in the dining room and a couple of swivel chairs in my office. Even if we *schlepped* them into the living room — and I'm much too lazy to do that, anyway.

Joyce and I have acquired a bunch of metal folding chairs and plastic stacking chairs over the years as well as a dark wooden chair that Woody Bernardi dubbed “Robby the Chair” due to a perceived resemblance of its curved back to Robby the Robot.

Robby the Chair has always been a magnet to Vegrants who instinctively saw its superiority compared to the austere metal or slightly shaky plastic seats. Since many fans are quite sizable, their attentions proved ruinous to Robby the Chair, which developed loose struts in the base.

Numerous attempts to fix Robby the Chair having failed to mend the problem for more than a couple of days, we turned to a professional, Jolie LaChance, who has worked as a stagehand on the Vegas Strip and proved her skill when we set up the SNAFFU Library. Jolie se to work and made an impeccable repair on the beleaguered seat. Robby the Chair lives again! — Arnie

Vegas Fandom Weekly #96, Volume 3 Number 8, April 28, 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, Terry Kemp, Greg Benford, Bill Mills

VFW is free by request — and you may get it anyway. It can be downloaded at efanzines.com and LasVegrants.com. No Corflu honks were garmed during the production of this fanzine.

Member: fwa

Supporter: AFAL

Corflu Silver in 2008!

Who Are Fandom's ALL-TIME GREATS?

Katzenjammer

The fifth Saturday of the month always feels a little strange. It's due to a quirk in in the scheduling of local fan events in Las Vegas. Modern LV Fandom's original club, SNAFU always keyed meetings to the week of the month rather than periodicity (such as biweekly).

At the time Joyce and I began the five-year run of monthly Socials in 1990, we set it on the first Saturday of the month, because SNAFFU then meting the second and fourth weeks of each month.

When the active core of SNAFFU -- the Formans and the Katzes -- started Las Vegrants in the early 1990's, we put the meeting on the vacant third Saturday of the month. A second Vegrants meeting eventually replaced the Socials, so Las Vegrants ended up being the first and third Saturdays of the month.

Yet four times a year, there are months with *five* Saturdays. I'm sure if *you* had designed the calendar that awkwardness would never occur, but it does and that's that.

As I said, those fifth Saturday always feels a bit strange. We haven't seen the whole gang in two weeks -- and that won't happen for an additional week.

Las Vegas Fandom has never found anything to do with those extra Saturdays. Woody Bernardi and I thought the Sunday Social might address those "fifth weekend" blues, but then Woody liked the idea so much he wanted to do it more than four times a year, so it became the third Sunday of the month.

Often Joyce and I invite one or more couples to visit on those nights, but sometimes we make it into a Quiet Evening at Home.

For March's fifth Saturday, we

decided to go the sub-
duded route. So it was that, at
Midnight, we were sitting companionably on
the couch, watching the WWE "Hall of Fame"
induction ceremony on USA Network. (Please
don't go; I promise no wrestling references after
the next short paragraph.)

Seeing the celebration of lifetime achievement made me wonder, and not for the first time, whom Fandom would salute for lifetime fannish achievement. A Hall of Fame vote, in parallel with the FAAn Achievement Awards balloting, could easily establish a virtual HoF and induct new members annually, but I'm not thinking of anything so grandiose. This is more of a "let's kick it around" thing that I thought *VFW* readers might enjoy. Maybe down the road, we'll take a poll and see

Continued on next page



(L to R) Walt Willis, Ethel Lindsay, James White and Ian MacAulay.

how it matches the extensive vote rich brown and I took as part of the 1951 Focal Point Poll.

I don't think we need to confine the discussion to the merits of gafiated and deceased fans. Twenty years as an active fan ought to be enough to make the discussion of "lifetime achievement" reasonably meaningful. Since we've all more or less participated in Core Fandom, fan-literary efforts should count most, without ignoring other activities like putting on conventions, starting and hosting clubs and so forth.

Here's a partial catalog of some of the names that I think should be considered – and a few why:

Forrest J Ackerman – The igniter of modern Fandom remained highly active for well over 20 years. During that time, fan polls often proclaimed him #1 Fan Face. He was the guiding force of the LASFS until the 1950's and edited the popular VOM letterzine

Greg Benford – This terrific fanwriter's sharp wit and equally acute perceptions have made him a leading fan for a half-century. He started *Void* with his brother Jim and, as co-editor helped create the Fabulous Fannish school of fanwriting.

Richard Bergeron – Whatever you want to say about Topic A, *Warhoon* was a truly outstanding fanzine in several incarnations from the late 1950's to the late 1970's. A very good essayist and a sophisticated graphic designer, Bergeron's fanzines set a high standard of intelligence. *Warhoon 28* may be the single best fan publication of all time,

John Berry – The chronicler of the Goon Defective Agency wrote hundreds of hilarious articles, co-edited *Retribution* and produced the monumental trip report, *The Goon Goes West*.

John D Berry – It is hard to see the fans I helped as neos on the same level as the fans that



One of the most under-rated BNFs chats with one of the most celebrated..
Dean Grennell (left) meets Walt Willis.

helped *me* when I was a neofan, but I think an objective evaluation puts John D. Berry among Fandom's best. As co-editor of *Hot Shit* and *Egoboo*, he showed a rare ability to adapt his own style and interests so they fit with, respectively, those of Calvin Demmon and Ted White.

Redd Boggs – The impeccable reproduction of his fanzines went well with the precise locution of his prose. *Skyhook* was probably his best fanzine, but he also produced many fine fanzines for FAPA and friends.

Charles Burbee – I can never decide whether Burbee or Willis is the greatest Fanwriter; it usually depends on whom I've just read. An architect of Insurgentism, Burbee led many memorable one-shots and edited *Shangri-L'Affaires* in the early-to-mid 1940's.

FM Busby – Co-editor of *Cry* and one of the founders of Seattle's Nameless Ones, Buz was a popular columnist for such fanzines as *Apporheta* and *Quip*. He co-chaired (with wife Elinor) the 1961 world SF convention (Seacon).

Gregg Calkins – His *Oops!a!* remains one of the finest fanzines of the 1950's and early 1960's, well-edited and mature. After that, he became a mainstay in FAPA, where he has displayed great ability as an essayist.

Terry Carr – Terry published at least three great fanzines (*Fanac*, *Innuendo* and *Lighthouse*), wrote such classics as *The Cacher of the Rye* and is arguably the Burbee of his era and then some.

Vincent Clarke – He co-edited several successful fanzines, most recently *Pulp*, and was also a wonderful writer. Vincent helped organize TAFF (though he never took the trip, he also won a TAFF election back in the day). Vincent was also a great leader in his quiet way, the stimulus and enabler for a ton of fanac.

Calvin Demmon -- Often imitated (by Gordon Eklund and me in the 1960's, to name two) he crafted an amazingly humorous prose style that always Made Me Laugh. Ahahaha. He also did at least two memorable fanzines, *Flying Frog* (with Andy Main) and *Hot Shit* (with John D. Berry).

Ron Ellik – The Squirrel co-edited *Fanac* in the 1950's and *Starspinkle* in the 1960's, two of the best newszines, before his untimely death in an automobile accident. An incredibly likeable guy, Ellik took ribbing good-naturedly and was a big part of the *Shangri-L'Affaires* scene in LA in the late 1950's and 1960's.

Dick Eney – Two major achievements, *Fancy-clopedia II* and *A Sense of FAPA*, highlight Dikini's long fan career. He served as OE of FAPA for a number of years and was also active in The Cult among other groups. And who can forget his feud with Gary Gygax.

Dick Geis – The various incarnations of *Psychotic/Science Fiction Review* testify to Geis' ability as a writer and as an editor who specialized in fomenting blazing discussions. He probably deserves credit for reinvigorating Fandom after the Boondoggle.

Dean Grennell – A fine humorist and excellent writer, Grennell's *Grue* was one of the finest fanzines of its era. He pretty much gafiated after the Boondoggle, but returned to participate in the Burbee-hosted oneshot series *The Best Lines*.

Rob Hansen – British Fandom's foremost fan-historian, his multi-volume *Then* is the only extensive history of Fandom in the UK. He has also published at least a couple of excellent fanzines (*Epsilon* and *Pulp*) and is also an outstanding essayist and faan fiction writer.

Chuch Harris – No fan writer has ever made

me laugh as hard as Chuch Harris, co-editor of *Hyphen*, and European editor of *Wild Heirs*. The self-styled "Fan Face Number One" also authored two hilarious series of column, "Random" and "Charrisma," in the 1980's and 1990's (in *Pulp* and *Folly*, respectively).

Andy Hooper – I consider Andy Hooper the greatest fan who became active during my gafia (1977-1989). He is an outstanding essayist and a fine fanzine editor (*Spent Brass*, *Aparachik* and *Chunga*). He also throws an enjoyable convention and is my favorite contemporary fan auctioneer.

Lee Hoffman – Incredibly, LeeH's influence goes far beyond even *Quandry* and *Science Fiction Five-Yearly*. She, along with Walt Willis, Shelby Vick, Bob Tucker, Bob Bloch and Max Keasler restyled and re-oriented the subculture as thoroughly as Franklin Roosevelt changed 20th Century American culture.

Joyce Katz – *Potlatch*, *Smokin' Rockets*, *QUANt Suf* and *Wild Heirs* are only some of the many fine fanzines she has edited. Her writing, some of which is collected in *The Sweetheart of Fanac Falls* is impeccable. amusing and percep-



Lee Hoffman wore a costume made of *Quandry* covers at the Nolacon (1951 worldcon) masquerade.

tive. Fandom's greatest female Insurgent has chaired a worldcon, two Corflus and several regionals. She has co-founded informal, invitational clubs in three cities.

Joe Kennedy – The scarcity of his fanzines has undeservedly dimmed the reputation of JoKe, who dominated Fandom in the mid-to-late 1940's. Polls proclaimed him the top Fanwriter, fan humorist, fan cartoonist, columnist and editor of the number one fanzine, *Vampyre*.

Francis Towner Laney – The Stormy Petrel excelled as a serious fan and a fire-breathing Insurgent. His fantasy-oriented fanzine *Acolyte* is one of the best of its type and *Ah! Sweet Idiocy!* is the touchstone of Insurgency and one of the most illuminating and engrossing fan memoirs ever written.

Dave Langford – His long-running *Ansible* has been a UK Fandom fixture for a couple of decades and he has written dozens of amusing articles for fanzines in the US and Great Britain. I think he may have won a Hugo -- I need to check – but that doesn't mean he shouldn't be considered as one of Fandom's best.

Robert Lichtman – Another outstanding issue of *Trap Door* early this year reminded everyone what a wonderful fanzine it is. *Frap*, his fanzine of the 1960's, was every bit as good. And the Sage has become the best letter-writer in the history of fanzine fandom. He appears to be Secretary-Treasurer of FAPA for life and he is a TAFF winner, too.



Steve Stiles ponders Fandom's Infinite Questions between creating his brilliant cartoons.

Ethel Lindsay – Little Sister Ethel was renowned as one of the kindest of fans, but she also had a slew of achievements, including her long-running genzine *Scottishe*. Her TAFF Chronicle *The Lindsay Report* and her "Sporran Partner" fanzine review column in *Retribution* are among her best writings.

Sam Moskowitz – SaM co-chaired the first worldcon, wrote the first faan fiction story and championed the idea that Fandom needs no justification or "cause." His *The Immortal Storm* is an idiosyncratic memoirs of a tumultuous decade in Fandom and in his association with it.

Ray Nelson – The man who popularized the beanie as the symbol of Fandom in his cartoons has also given fans with a bohemian bent an icon. Ray is also a very good writer, as both a poet and essayist. His cartoons often have a profundity to go with their clever humor.

Bruce Pelz – Although Bruce never produced a major fanzine and was not often seen in other genzines, he wrote voluminously and well for a number of apas. He was a pioneer in filk music and also made his presence felt in costuming, gaming, LASFS and con-running.

Elmer Perdue – For a guy who posed as a n'er-do-well and layabout, he produced an awful lot of fanzines and articles. And in a hobby overrun with fabulous characters, Elmer "Ghod" Perdue was likely the most colorful. That ought to count for something.

Art Rapp – The Korean Police Action ended Fifth Fandom, which revolved around Art's monthly *Spacewarp*. He did resume activity, mostly in SAPS, where he showed a lot of maturity and intelligence in his increasingly well-honed writing.

Bill Rotsler – He excelled as a cartoonist, writer and fanzine publisher (*Masque*, *Kteic* and "The Tattooed Dragon" series). He was sophisticated, worldly, generous and talented. The elegant line went well with the witty observations found in both his drawings and his prose.

Bob Shaw – He contributed heavily to *Slant* and *Hyphen*, co-authored *The Enchanted Duplicate* and authored such memorable pieces as "The Fansmanship Lectures." His "Glass Bushel" and "Bosh Tosh" columns are among the all-time best.

Jack Speer – Juffus wrote the first history of Fandom (“Up to Now”), created the first hoax fan (John Bristol), compiled the *Fancyclopedia* and co-invented the mailing comment. An indomitable foe of Claude Degler and revisionist grammar, Jack’s activity has spanned virtually the whole of fanhistory.

Dan Steffan – A triple treat: cartoonist, fan editor and writer. His art combines excellent drawing with a highly developed sense of humor. Dan has co-edited *Pong* and *Blat!* with Ted White and also did the excellent *Boonfark*. His edition of *The Enchanted Duplicator* is especially good.

Steve Stiles – His awesome talent and spirit of innovation make the self-effacing former New Yorker one of Fandom’s all-time greats. His fanzines such as *Sam*, his hilarious TAFF report, strips like *Prof. Thintwhistle* (with Dick Lupoff) and many other fabulous creations make Stiles an eminently worthy fan.

Bjo Trimble – She was the prime mover of LASFS from the late 1960’s through the end of the next decade and organized most of what went on in LA Fandom in those years. Bjo was a charming cartoonist and a deft writer who often contributed to others’ fanzines. Bjo also gets points for her work in creating Project Art Show.

Bob Tucker – Fandom’s Will Rogers wrote many humorous article, both as Hoy Ping Pong and in his own name. *Le Zombie* was his greatest fanzine, but there were others of note, including *Bloomington/SF Newsletter*. He created *The Neofan’s Guide* which, through several revisions, provided the best counsel for newcomers from the mid-1950’s to the mid-1980’s.

Shelby Vick – From *confusion* to *ConfuSon*, ShelVy’s fanzines have always glowed with gentle humor, good-natured informality and a sunny, positive view of the world. Shelby’s fanzines, and his columns, generally leave me feeling good when I’m done, which is a handy knack to have.

Harry Warner Jr. – He’s the most prodigious letterhack of all time, the author of the two most widely read fanhistory books (*All Our Yesterdays* and *A Wealth of Fable*) and the editor of two imposing fanzines (the early 1940’s focal point *Spaceways* and eight-decade-spanning *FAPAZine Horizons*). His column “All Our Yesterdays,” is

the best of its type ever presented in fanzines.

James White – An erudite and kindly fellow, James White was a major part of the Wheels of IF group in Belfast. He participated in both *Slant* and *Hyphen* and co-authored *Beyond the Enchanted Duplicator* with Walt Willis and wrote many fine articles for *Idea* and others..

Ted White – The greatest Insurgent of the era, TEW has published an awesome array of top fanzines, including *Stellar*, *Void* (with Benford, Carr et al), *Minac* (with Les Gerber), *Egoboo* (with John D. Berry), *Pong* (with Dan Steffan) and *Blat!* (also with Dan). He’s also one of the best essayists, a debater who might have even daunted Laney and a surprisingly deft humorist. Oh, and he chaired the 1967 worldcon (NyCon 3) and was a founder of New York’s Fanoclasts and DC’s Fabulous Falls Church Fandom.

Art Widner – RT was a major fan in the late 1930’s and early 1940’s – and he came back from gafia to become one again in an a lustrous 25-year second fan career that continues strong. His fan publishing credits include the 1940’s *Fan Fare* and the contemporary *Yhos*. His signature form of spelling notwithstanding, Art is very knowledgeable on a wide range of subjects, making his essays varied and entertaining.

Walt Willis – He may be the greatest Fanwriter and, in my opinion, is also the greatest fan. His brilliance as an essayist (“The Enchantment,” “The Harp Stateside” among hundreds) and fan publisher (*Slant* and *Hyphen*) have earned him a special place. He was also a tremendous person and an inspiration for many of us.

Don Wolheim – Before he became a successful professional editor and publisher, DAW was one of the most important, and most controversial, fans of the late 1930’s and 1940’s. A prolific writer and publisher, he championed the idea that Fandom should be part of a movement to create a better future. On the other hand, he invented FAPA.

That’s just to get you folks started. I’m looking forward to seeing whom fans of different eras will see as the benchmarks for fan-literary and fan-artistic effort.

— Arnie Katz

NOW & Again Getting Opinionated!

I've been thinking over the column I wrote about my own writing. (Yeah, I know; thinking is a dangerous thing for a man my age to do! But hey, I like taking risks; I'll even read reviews of Planetary Stories! <http://www.planetarystories.com>)

Oh, I remember Laney. I remember Chad Oliver. I even remember Vernon McCain and his Wastebasket.

ENNYhoo, my thoughts and analysis divulged a painful conclusion: I never say anything!

Oh, I hook words together – but that's all it is. Like in the cartoon, the word balloon is full of talk, but it's just so much hot air; so much that the balloon is drifting away. I never *say* anything! Unlike Robert Lichtman, Chris Garcia, Donald Sullivan and all those other good LoCcers, who issue insightful comments, even opinions.

Opinions.

That's one thing I seem to lack. I ramble along about this'n'that, but I seem to shy away from actually stating an opinion. I *do* have some! . . . I think. . . . Oh, I'm just kidding; of course I have opinions.

First and foremost, I love fandom. Where else could you find such a divergent group – atheistic and religious, straights and gays, Republicans and Democrats – that all get along together? Where else could I, at 78, meet with a group in their twenties and thirties, and fit right in? (Oh, we have our feuds and squabbles – but very few fans are lost that way.)

I love fun! In fact, humor is what has kept me afloat in fannish waters.

I *dislike* the fact that most of my fanzine collection went the way of the dodo and, worse yet, my memory ain't up to dredging up details like whose fanzine was number one when (except, of course, for Quandry) and what fanzine carried that classic column/cartoon/etc?

Also, I have opinions outside of fandom. . . that sometimes overlap. Like:

I'm sick and tired of the way Global Warming has been distorted, making it all Our Fault. They focus on auto emissions, ignoring the fact that emissions from cattle far outweigh the damage our vehicles do. Not only that, a recent report strongly suggests most scientists have been overlooking one vital item: Cosmic rays. It says that cosmic radiation strongly affects clouds, and the

effect clouds have on our planet's heat; heavy overcast leads to cold, and days or weeks without clouds increases heat. That, the researchers were saying, could cause Global Warming or an Ice Age.

Then there's marijuana. I don't think it's anything as bad as the media would have you think. In fact, I just heard results of a twenty-year study of forty marijuana smokers – and forty cigarette smokers. They said the marijuana smokers showed absolutely no sign of lung cancer, while eighteen of the cigarette smokers did.

–Hey! I've been saying I need to stop smoking cigs. Anyone have a joint???

Which brings up a problem: How do you take marijuana on an airliner? Can you just slip it into a bag, or do you hafta put the joints in a zip-lock bag, cover it thickly with wax, and figger that'll take care of it?

Or do you just leave it at home, and find some where you land?

So THERE! I CAN state opinions. I can (sometimes) even Say Something!

. . . But that doesn't mean I'll make a habit of it!

— Shelby Vick

I HATE FANS!!!



...of course, they
don't think much of me either!

A Day in the Life of...

AN ODE TO FRANK ROBINSON JR

Where did he go, my old friend? I'm sure he knew I wanted to see him again, that I wasn't the only one. All day long I was met with the question, "Where's Frank?" It was often preceded with, "Say, did you know, Frank's coming!"

Alas, that was not to be the case.

Frank did not come.

I did not get to see my uncle, my father's best friend, one more time, before the final curtain call.

When I told George Clayton Johnson (*Logan's Run*), in response to his statement of fact, informing me that Frank M. Robinson was coming, and what a thrill the anticipation was. When I had to tell George that Frank had begged off, that he was too busy with commitments, and wasn't coming, all George could say in stunned surprise was, "But we're all too busy."

George's cameraman and documentarian paused long enough to nod in agreement, lowering the whirring camera for a brief moment. Everyone agreed at the tremendous loss and disappointment over Frank's absence.

Cameraman & documentarian (I didn't catch his name) with George Clayton Johnson



Total strangers lamented the absence.

Perhaps a little back story is in order now, for those readers who haven't been tracking the players.

Frank M. Robinson is the man with *"The Power,"* which is also a book he wrote. In his lifetime he has been many things, writer, fan, companion, and my favorite non-relative, my father's brother, my uncle.

As a kid growing up around fandom, Frank was always there. He was a regular visitor at my parent's house, attending most all the parties, along with a few others who I always thought (at the time) were blood relatives, some kind of kin, their relationship was so close to my father that neither seemed complete without the other. Among this small group were the Advent boys, of course, as well as Fritz Leiber and Harlan Ellison.

My father's parties back in Chicago in the early '60s were notorious. I can remember a drunken Harlan, head in toilet. I can remember the time a too drunk Fritz couldn't drive home, so my parents made me sleep under the ping-pong table, while he slept it off in my bed.

I didn't know who he was, but my best childhood, comic-reading, friend, Henry Beck, confided in me that he was a "writer." I wasn't sure what that was at the time, but if Henry said so, I knew it must be something special.

I always thought that Frank was my uncle. After we moved to San Diego, where my father became the Fourth King of Porn, Frank would turn up regularly, and spend a week or so at a time with us. For a while he kept a part of his fabulous pulp collection in our garage. But all that was before everything changed when he hit the big-time with his writing partner,

Scortia, writing their end of *The Glass Inferno*.

I still fondly remember the week he spent, lounging around our swimming pool, index cards in hand, plotting and scripting their novel. At the time one could almost hear great music humming through the charged atmosphere as he created their masterpiece.

What I remember most about growing up around Frank was that I could rely on receiving a regular copper shower from him every time he visited. Not a golden shower, mind you. Frank would dig deep into his pocket and toss me all his pennies. I could never really figure out why. But sometime during that visit he would also find a moment to shower me with a few words of sage advice.

All this was in stark contrast to Ed Wood, one of my favorite Advent boys, who could always be relied upon for his silver shower. Every time I saw Ed he would hand me a bright new shiny silver dollar. A whole dollar could go far at a science fiction convention in the 1960's, buy a lot of monster movie posters and John Carter of Mars pocket books.

The most profound advice Frank ever gave me was at a truly mind-blowing Mexican beach party. It was at a fantastic Memorial Day weekend bash in 1969, with most of the inner group from the Greenleaf porn factory. During the course of events, I think it was right before my ex-brother-in-law and I carried the party crashing drunk away and heaved him into the surf, Frank gave me this advice. He told me not to be like my father.

I'll always remember that moment. Frank was wearing his ubiquitous golf-cap beret, a fashion feature I've never seen him without. I was chasing after one of the Greenleaf secretaries, Blue White, a buxom handful. Frank in shorts, t-shirt (the kind without sleeves) and beret, cornered me and offered his sage words of wisdom.

God, how I wish he never had.

It was the worse possible advice to give, especially to an impressionable teenager, and from someone who I so thoroughly respected.

I spent a lifetime, first following his advice, and then doing just the opposite. Doing the opposite has been more fulfilling, and a whole lot more



San Diego Comic Con, July 24, 2001: Frank M. Robinson, Jr. & Earl Terry Kemp. This, so far, has been the last time I've seen Frank, complete with ubiquitous beret. We accidentally bumped into each other in front of, of course, a pulp display.

fun.

So there I was telling George Clayton Johnson that Frank was a no-show.

George and I go way back. He is possibly one of my most favorite people on the planet. He was one of the very few, if not the only one, of my father's friends who took an active, and direct interest in me as a child growing up. I was not one of the invisible, hidden, underfoot children to him. So we've had some tremendously fine times together over the years.

One of the high points of our life's journey together was back in 1984. George and I were attending the San Diego Comic Con. George as a celebrity, to autograph stuff, me as fan to provide context. We took a break together outside the old convention center, which was attached to the City Hall by a walkway. While we were standing there smoking a joint, along walked once-upon-a-time mayor, Pete Wilson.

Pete didn't recognize me as I stopped him and asked him for the time. Although I had recently done a big piece for him in a local magazine I was editing at the time, all about his run for senate. Pete was cute. He looked at his watch and gave me the time of day, eventually noticing that I was wearing my own watch, blinked once at the reeking joint, and kept on walking, never quite turning



Once upon a time...

his back to us until he was well out of reach.

Some people never do get it.

I've often wondered what would have happened had Pete joined George and me for a short break. Alas, that was not to be, also.

So, Frank did not make it to the 28th Annual Paperback Collectors Show and Sale. I believe, in the long run, that he really missed a once in a lifetime opportunity. The LA (okay, Mission Hills) event is just that kind. It's a small, relatively unknown event, crowds are small, wonderful books, artwork and ephemera are stacked to overflowing in rooms full of tables.

The show manages to attract a surprisingly large, and varied, number of Big Name Writers to sign books for fans. The list of such stellar attractions is long, filling the one day event from start to finish. It included such notables as Karen Anderson, Peter S. Beagle, David Gerrold, George Clayton Johnson, William F. Nolan, and, of course, my father, Earl Kemp.

Forry Ackerman didn't make it again, but that was no surprise.



Michael Kurland & Dick Lupoff, busy signing (and selling books.)

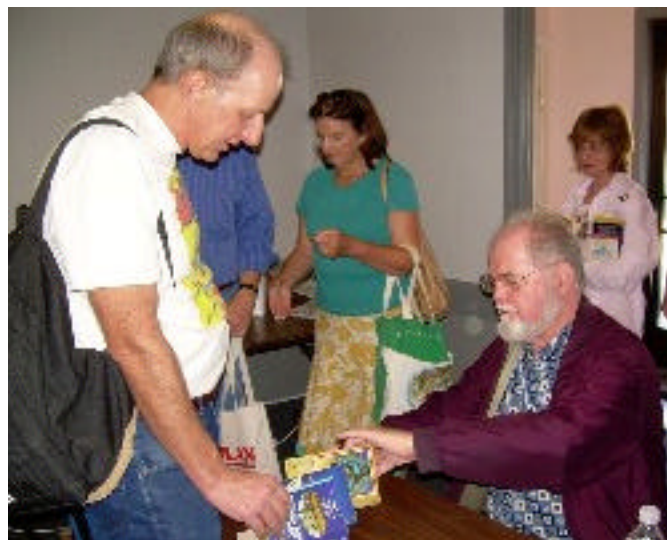
Harry Turtledove didn't make it, which was a disappointment, but not as much as not seeing Frank.

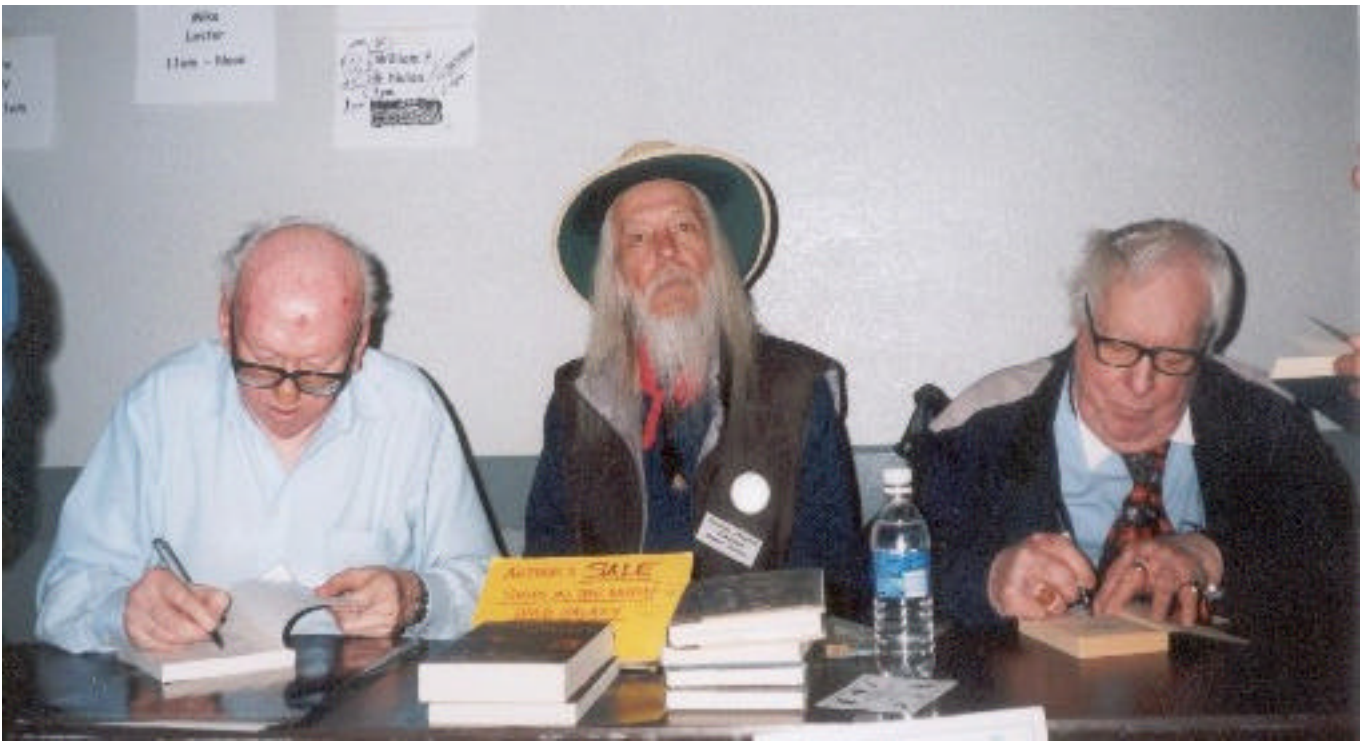
Richard Lupoff and Michael Kurland made it, again. The event would not be the same without them; they are a cornerstone to the entire show.

The lovely and very talented Ann Bannon made it. She is a recommended must see. For the curious, just google her name...

The ever popular Frederik Pohl was there. For any trufan, this is an incredible opportunity to have an up-close and personal encounter with one of the

Terry Kemp & Larry Niven I expect even better stories from Mr. Niven in the near future.





William F. Nolan & George Clayton Johnson & Ray Bradbury.
I asked George to pose for this photo. It took a couple of shots. He kept hamming it up.

all-time masters.

Larry Niven made it, Frank! (So there! Everybody's busy...) I had an especially fine encounter with the esteemed Mr. Niven. He is a tremendously talented writer who appears to be catching his stride and becoming an even better writer as time goes by. I told him so.

And big surprise, the best of all, Ray Bradbury made a special appearance. It was unexpected by one and all. I've seen the electrifying Ray many times over the long decades. It was truly moving to see him one more time.

Once Ray even came to my hometown, on the outskirts of San Diego, in the mid-'70's. He gave a very well-attended monologue about his early childhood days and the influences which made him the writer he became.

Both my father and I enjoyed the session. I managed to have him sign my copy of *Fahrenheit 451*, which remains one of my personal treasures.

Now I don't want to spend too much time trying to sell this event, the LA show, but it has everything; sleaze books and original sleaze art; science fiction, hardcover and paperback. There were even comic books and pulps. I managed to snag a

half dozen, bargain basement *Amazing Stories*, in order to read a couple of the more obscure and never re-printed stories, written by my god-father, Rog Phillips.

The best part of the show is meeting, and socializing, with like-minded fans, whether they are collectors, hucksters, or writers. The sercon was truly fine.

One of my only other disappointments, aside from Frank, was not being able to finish a conversation I had started with Dick Lupoff. I was trying to plumb his mind, and get some insight from him, over *Analog's* editorial policy. They maintain there is a never-ending marketplace for "Heroes who overcome All." This is a policy, Lupoff was telling me, which began when George Scithers held the reigns.

George is/was another one of my father's non-relatives. I remember him best always visiting in his plaid suit, to the point, that even I, as a child, began to wonder if he only had one, and always wore the same one, much like Frank Robinson's ubiquitous beret.

Analog's much dated editorial policy became clear after Lupoff made this telling point. It was

obvious. Scithers had long maintained his focus on Conan, with his wonderful fanzine, *Amra*. It is too bad that *Analog* is stuck with it, and has been unable to shake it, and replace it with a modern editorial policy.

Dick Lupoff and I were not able to finish the conversation at that time...some other time, right! Never enough...

One of the high points of the day-long show was the lunch, Chinese, my father and I had with Karen Anderson.

Karen is a remarkable lady. I remember a more than hour long conversation I had with her at the LA World Con in the 1970's. Then, as now, her brilliance, her clever repartee, show that she has always been one of the greatest female science fiction personalities, writer and fan, of our times.

I had a big kick watching the two of them, my father and Karen, walking memory lane. I had a sneaking suspicion that they had forgotten that I was there, back then, too.

The LA show was much too short, over with in a flash.

There wasn't even enough time to really chat at length with Len and June Moffatt, which I regretted.

Finally, the show was over. I packed away my fifth copy of *The Power*, unsigned. There were so many things I had planned, and wanted to talk with Frank about, now all undone and unsaid

I so much wanted to tell him that he was wrong that Memorial Day in 1969. It is, perhaps, better

Terry Kemp & Karen Anderson & Earl Kemp. A true highlight of the show!



June & Len Moffatt, First Fandom's cutest couple

that such "I-told-you-so's" remain unsaid.

As always, it is usually much better to remember the good and fine moments, when we were all young together.

Still, the picture doesn't seem entirely complete; it lacks one more family get-together, one more group photo. It lacks one more round on the merry-go-round and grab at the brass ring.

So, this is for you, Frank... you were missed by one and all... your loss.

Hope you find that brass ring someday, even if it is at the end of the rainbow.

— E. Terry Kemp

HAPPY BENFORD CHATTER

A VISIT TO ARTHUR C. CLARKE

Arthur has post polio syndrome and thus very little memory or energy. He turns 90 this December and wants to keep in touch with the outer world, mostly through the Internet. He has few friends left in Colombo. He took us to the Colombo Swimming Club for lunch, a sunny ocean spot left over from the Raj. It felt somehow right to watch the Indian Ocean curl in, foaming on the rocks, to the tune of gin and tonics -- and to speak of space, that last, greatest ocean. Science fiction is to technology as romance novels are to marriage: a sales pitch. But without vision and then persuasion, little would ever happen. Arthur has always known that.

Our hotel with a similar ocean view. The Galle Face is the oldest grand Raj hotel east of Suez, dating from before the Civil War, and reeks of atmosphere. On the veranda we daily dug into a good Lankan breakfast: string hoppers of woven rice, rich curry of meat and potatoes, papadams - cause

for lascivious hunger. Sri Lanka sits a few degrees from the equator an island long ago named Serendip, for its fortunate circumstances.

Not all is fortunate now, though. The civil war between the Sinhalese government and what even the Times of Delhi terms “the fascist Tamil Tigers” (18% of the population) has now run 23 years, killing hundreds of thousands. Since the Galle Face is next to the British High Command compound, and just down the street from the presidential residence, subtle security lurks everywhere. A heavy machine gun on a nearby tower peered over us as we swam in the pool. Arthur mused, “All this effort, all this death, when we could be building the staging area for a seaborne space elevator.” In *The Fountains of Paradise* he had moved the island five degrees south so it could sit on the equator.

— Gregory A. Benford



Of Old Fanzines, Staple Wars & OTHER FANCY STUFF

Percolations

The title here is a bit misdirecting, but this article really does concern old fanzines. In particular, Harry Warner, Jr.'s old fanzines.

Let me cut right to the chase. Ladies and gentlemen, I have finally learned the name of the new owner of the Harry Warner, Jr. fanzine collection.

Recently, I reported on the Fmzfen listserv that Hal Hall, the curator of the Science Fiction and Fanzine collection at Texas A&M University's Cushing Library of Special Collections, had e-mailed me saying that he had hints of who had bought the collection, but had no confirmation yet, so he was still working on it.

Well, at 12:35 PM on April 13th – yes, it was a Friday the 13th, proving that the number 13 can indeed be lucky – Hal e-mailed me yet again, this time with the news that “at long last” he had an answer to my initial query.



Harry Warner's fanzine collection has found a home.

The man who is the new owner of the Warner collection is a gentleman named James Halperin, who lives in Dallas, Texas. Hal forwarded to me the following message that he received earlier in the day from Mr Halperin:

Yes, you may tell anyone -- I am not one for secrets. I used to publish comic book fanzines in the mid-1960s when I was 10-12 years old, and wrote two moderately successful SF novels when I was in my early 40s (1995-1996). Now I'm 54, and in my dotage I find myself collecting comic and SF fanzines, among other things, perhaps as a way to rediscover my youth. I might eventually donate them to a library like yours, or even fund having them all scanned and posted on the Internet. But hopefully I still have plenty of time to decide.

There was also an ambiguous parenthetical remark added, which Jim Halperin later clarified, saying that Jerry Weist was “writing a reference book on fanzines,” which Mr. Halperin is helping to fund, and may possibly even help write or edit this reference book if Mr. Weist so desires.

All of this is, of course, very good news. It definitely sounds like Harry's fanzine collection is in very good hands, and I, for one, can now breathe easier. Hopefully, Robert Lichtman will likewise be able to sleep at night. (I can just hear Bob muttering now at his computer, “Halperin? James Halperin?? Wrote a couple SF novels in the

Continued on next page

90's???" Gotta track this down..." Easy to find, I might add.)

Okay. Here is where this might get even more interesting.

At the end of May – the 25th or 26th – my wife and I will be up in Dallas to meet with Lloyd and Yvonne Penney for dinner (Brad and Cindy Foster might also be joining us) while they are in town for that weekend's International Space Development Conference. Since I am one who recognizes the power of asking simple and direct questions, I asked Hal for Mr. Halperin's e-mail address, got it, and thus have already contacted James Halperin to see if he'd be willing to be interviewed for my fanzine. This sounds like one of those, "Say, since I'm in the neighborhood" kind of deals to take advantage of, and we can talk about Harry's zines, Mr. Halperin's existing collection and background in SF, and then pub the transcript in the July issue of *Askance*.

As I write this breaking news bulletin, I haven't received an answer yet, but if it is in the affirmative, I promise to do my best to provide fandom with a portrait of the man who may have in-



Harry Warner (*center*) is flanked by Bruce Pelz and Peggy Rae Pavlat Sapienza.

deed rescued Harry Warner's massive and historically significant fanzine collection from the indignity of eBay, or the trash-bin of history. I will naturally let everyone know one way or the other.

I cannot begin to tell you folks how all a twitter I felt yesterday after reading Hal's e-mail. The first thing I did after dancing around my office at Blinn College – thankfully, I was alone at the time – was look up Arnie Katz's phone number and call him to see how close *VFW #96* was to hitting the Internet so that I could break the news to Fandom at Large. I haven't posted anything of this to Fmzfen yet, nor even my LiveJournal. For some unknown reason, I feel a certain loyalty to Arnie since he has been so kind to me in my fannish rebirth, and I want this news to run in *VFW* first. There will be, I am positive, a massive discussion of this on Fmzfen as soon as the word gets around, which is fine. Fans do love to chatter about their hobby interest.

With any kind of luck, James Halperin will agree to the interview, maybe even allow me to take a few pictures of him and the stacks/boxes/piles of the collection. I do not intend to take photos of certain issues, but if this interview does come to pass, he may want to frisk me before I leave. Some zines might stick to my fingers or accidentally leap into my pockets. Then again, if I bring my Corflu fanzine bag, that might be a nice touch. Remember: it has a deep, secret pocket!

Thank Ghu I'm only kidding. — John Purcell



Janes K Halperin is the proud new owner.

Continued from p 1

The first Progress Report will be sent out in about a month, once chairman Joyce Katz has solidified the hotel and related information like the dates of the con and the cost of a membership. The second hardcopy PR will go out around January 1, 2008 and will contain a 2008 Fan Achievement Awards Ballot.

That's pretty much what other recent Corflu's have done. Corflu Silver will issue several additional progress reports including at least a couple between the first and second printed ones and at least one "eve-of-the-con" one.

VFW will provide frequent updates on Corflu Silver and is likely to be the best place to find breaking news about the Core Fandom Worldcon. There will also be full information on the Corflu and Vegrants web sites as soon as there's something to tell fans.

SNAPS Starts OE Election!

As it enters its third year of operation, Fandom's second-oldest electronic amateur press association has started voting for the group's next Official Editor. The only name on the ballot is mine (the incumbent) after an April call for candidates produced a veritable firestorm of indifference.

To me, this proves that SNAPS members are smart as well as good-looking. They'll probably let me do it as long as I don't protest or Joyce doesn't run. (My lovely wife has an excellent record in elections in which we run against each other. If only they would believe my libelous accusations!)

Taral Reveals Details of Laney Disk!

Taral Wayne has nearly finalized his much-anticipated Francis Towner Laney disk. Built around an electronic version of Laney's *Ah! Sweet Idiocy!*, it will come out after fans have a chance to digest Taral's recent released electronic *Energumen* collection.

The new Laney compilation, *The Louche Knight — The Quest of Francis Towner Laney* contains a lot of other goodies besides *ASI*. Here's the tentative contents list, provided by the editor:

Dedicated to Boff Perry, whose copy of *ASI* I bought by accident more than twenty years ago, and is the foundation of this archival edition.

Thanks to Robert Lichtman for moral support and archival resources (ie: copies of vital documents), as well as a cheerfully pathological optimism. I'm grateful also for

the encouragement and advice of Arnie Katz whose interest in the subject of FTL borders on the more than usually fannish obsessive. A tip of the hat also to Pat Virzi, who totally without my knowledge, prepared and committed the perfect companion piece to this disk, "Ah! Sweet Laney!"

- My Preface "Tilting at Fandom" (?)
- "Francis Towner Laney, Threat or Menace?" -- Introduction by Arnie Katz
- ASI*
- "FTL and *ASI*: A Critique of the Man and the Book" -- Alva Rogers (from Alexandran Trio, ed. Dick Eney, Nov. 1964)
- "The Truth About the Laney Memoirs" -- Rick Snearly, humour, Word Doc & PDF
- All Our Yesterdays -- fnz articles by Harry Warner Jr. from
 - . #23 "Francis T. Laney" - Stormy Petrel 1, May 1959
 - . #22 "Ah! Sweet Idiocy!" - Void 26, Aug 1961

SPECIAL FEATURES

- Fandango (first ten issues -- scan or reformat)
- "The Mind of Chow" -- Charles Burbee
- "Death Shall Not Release" (from DNQ)
- Photos
- FTL scrapbook, catalog page from U of Idaho/
- Promotion for "Ah! Sweet Laney"?

Taral could use some help rounding up photos of Laney, which are hard to find. If you have anything, you can contact him via email: taralwayne@3web.net).

SNAFFU to Participate in Local Authors Day!

The Las Vegas Library will be holding its annual Local Authors Day on October 27 and SNAFFU will participate with a table. James Taylor (president) and Teresa Cochran (Best Neofan) will be there to pass out flyers and answer questions.

I'll remind everyone some time after Labor Day.

Cineholics Looks for New Hosts!

Alan and DeDee White have regretfully decided to end their hosting of the weekly film viewing and discussion group, the Cineholics. The White have set an enviable standard of hospitality since they founded the group in late 2006.

Several potential hosts have come forward and regular attendees are also considering a rotation system. It is likely that the group will settle into twice-monthly gatherings on the second and fourth Fridays, alternative weeks to Las Vegrants.

SNAFFood to Return to Artem!

Artem (4825 W. Flamingo (Flamingo & Decatur), the Russian restaurant that hosted a SNAFFood dinner in '06 is back on the schedule for this May. The dinner, says coordinator Linda Bushyager, will be held Saturday, May 12 with a 6:30 start time.

You can ogle the menu: <http://www.usmenuguide.com/eliseevskymenu.htm>. Artem's website: <http://russianrest.russianvegas.org/home.asp>

The dinner is open to all Las Vegas fans and fan-nish visitors to Glitter City. Send your RSVP to Linda Bushyager (LindaBushyager@aol.com).

Roxanne Mills Has Auto accident!

Roxanne Mills' cars got read-ended by a careless driver. She exhibited some signs of whiplash soon after the collision, but she is making a very good recovery.

Heard Around Fandom...

Marblehead, a novel centered around HP Lovecraft by Richard A. Lupoff is now available from Ramble House (www.ramblehouse.com/marblehead.htm). The 500-page tour de force was presumed lost at one time, but came to light in recent times...

Michael Bernstein and Roxanne Gibbs, who have done so much for SNAFFU and Las Vegas Fandom in the last few years,, will be moving to Colorado some-time around mid-year. Michael served as president of

SNAFFU for two years and Roxanne has been the club's secretary-treasurer over the same period. In addition, the pair operated the SNAFFU website (www.snaffu.org) and the SNAFFU listserv. We're hoping to give them a proper send-off...

Jeff Redmond reports that three romantic fantasy adventure novels are about to be available from Double Dragon publishers (www.double-dragon-ebooks.com). The books are currently available for a buck each as e-books. Hard copy paperback editions will be out shortly....

ChatBack: The VFW Letter Column

Time and space are colliding, so it's best not to dawdle over the introduction of Fandom's Liveliest Letter Column.

Who better to lead the way than one of Fandom's leading lights, the BNF from the Sunshine State...

Shelby Vick

You told Mark Plummer that, by '08, it will have been THIRTEEN YEARS since Corflu Vegas. You gotta be kidding! I'm with Mark; it doesn't at all seem that long! I remember it so clearly, like it was yesterday!

. . .Of course, that's one of the disadvantages -- advantages??? -- of old age; you remember the things you enjoyed so well. 'Like it was yesterday'? Heck, I often have trouble recalling yesterday!

Robert Lichtman and others refer to letterhacking and the old pulp lettercols. Hey, they still exist! Go to <http://www.planetarystories.com> and check out our lettercol! Pulp lettercols are alive and well!

Snapshots Hot Streak Continues!

The April eMailing of SNAPS, the electronic amateur press association, totaled _____ pages for the second month in a row. The largest SNAPSzines came from me (12 pages) and Ross Chamberlain (10 pages), but there were also substantial contributions by Joyce Katz, Robert Lichtman, John Purcell, Chris Garcia, Laurraine Tutahasi, Belle Churchill and Linda Bushyager.

SNAPS currently has 14 voting members, plus another half-dozen fans who show up regularly in the eMailings, such as JoHn Hardin and Roxanne Mills. There's plenty of room for more members, though. There are no dues and the activity requirement is minimal. If you'd like to know more, send me (Crossfire4@cox.net) an email and I'll give you the details.

— Arnie

Deadline for May eMailing: 5/13

New Podcast!

There are many new additions of note at TheVoicesOf-Fandom.com , leading off with another new fannish podcast.

I've added some more pages to the site. There is now a *Page Three* for both the Miscellaneous Audio Clips and the Fannish Music sections. Plus, TVoF has added a brand new section called Voices on Video to post fannish vids. If you've got a clip, I'd love to hear or see — and maybe add it to the site.

On *Page Two* of the Misc. Audio Clips. you'll find a seven-minute clip of Robert Silverberg being interviewed by Paul Fischer outside the Hugo Awards Nominees' Party at the 2006 Worldcon. And on the new *Page Three* of the Audio Clips you'll find a little report from Charles Jackson on visiting Forry Ackerman in the hospital during his recuperation from a fall and hip injury.

On the new *Page Three* of the Fannish Music pages. you'll find several audios lifted from a recently rediscovered home video shot at the Westercon 33 Fan Cabaret back in 1980! They include Ron Bounds doing the Robert Asprin filk classic "The Hungover Barbarian" and "Wode," a wonderful SCA-based filk from Fred Lerner, as well as performances from Frank Gasperic and from yours truly, of course.

There are also videos from which some of those clips were taken on the new Voices On Video page. You can also see and hear Wade Heaton singing and Ev Turner bellydancing at the Cabaret and a 16-minute video shot at a backyard bar-b-q party held at the home of Drew and Kathy Sanders in August, 1980 attended by many notable L.A. fans of the time including Bruce Pelz and Alan Rothstein, both now deceased

There are also more recent videos like a little montage of images from a visit to the Launch Pad for a Las Vegrants meeting and Arnie Katz announcing Corflu Sliver at a Vegrants meeting. More will be coming soon, so check in occasionally.

On the Oral History pages. TVoF now has the interviews that were part of the Corflu Special podcast, as individual audio files for convenient listening.

One of the adjuncts to the TVoF web site is the Mills Photo Archive, which is a gallery of albums of photographs from the personal collections of my wife Roxanne and I. They include some wonderful and rare fannish photos of SF fans and pros, photos from various events and conventions, and a very special album of rare (and we believe never before published) slides taken by Andy Young of Walt Willis and others during a trip to Europe in the late fifties. I am happy to report that we recently received email from British fan Bruce Burn, who met Andy when he visited London. Bruce generously provided names for several of the fannish faces pictured in these wonderful vintage slides. Our sincere thanks to Bruce for his delightful email message and for his contribution to our ongoing fanac!

I invite you to please check out the gallery. There a lot of photos and it's a lot of fun to browse through. But, it's also an interactive style site, meaning that you can rate photos and leave comments on the photos right on the display pages. So, if you see any pics showing things, places or people you can identify or add additional info about... PLEASE do so! Help us make the gallery not only entertaining but a reliable source for accurate fannish history.

If you wish, you can stream the mp3 of the podcast by clicking the following link:
http://thevoicesoffandom.com/mp3/tvof_podcast.mp3

— Bill Mills

But that reminds me of one big difference: Addresses. In the pulp lettercols I met Joe Green and Duggie Fisher, both of whom visited me and friendship flowered. In today's lettercols, you feel hesitant about giving email addresses because of the misuse that is made of them by ad-searching programs who want to grab new addresses to pester

Oh, yes; lettercols and Robert Lichtman. Robert, as I guess you know by now, I got confused and off to FAPA, so my activity is still . . . active. But I inadvertently sent you ALL the issue; now I gotta print up another one for my files. Which, in a round-about way, gets us back to the ongoing comparison of electronic vs paper fanzines. Yup, the ever-increasing cost of postage (mainly due to the electronic field; people now send email rather than paper mail, resulting in a lesser use of the PO and thus an increase of the costs) makes it harder and harder to publish a paperish -- but my opinion is that as long as there is paper, there will be paper zines!

Y'know, back when PCs were first becoming popularized, they said that we were entering a paperless society.

Hah! More paper is used today than ever -- 'cos people want a Hard Copy for their records. So paper, I say, is here to stay -- and so are paper zines!

Sure, ezines are very popular and will also continue to flourish. But paper zines will struggle and find their way to struggle on.

Robert also brought up emoticons. I hate 'em! If you're wanting to be sure someone understands you're telling a joke, just write 'ha-ha!', or somesuch.

Bill Mills, you can chalk up one more listener to Voices of Fandom; I enjoyed it; keep it up!

Arnie, you were mentioning problems with paper zines, such as slip-sheeting and show-thru, and comparing that to ezine problems. There are many, many other problems that you didn't bring up -- like, recently I spent over three hours trying to clean up a header so I could use it on a cover. . .and my computer goofed! Three hours of effort down the drain in a second.

And speaking of computer goofs, has anyone else had the problem I've had with Updates? A couple months ago I clicked to accept a Windows Update -- and it took over a month for me to recover from it! From now on, if I can't manually edit stuff that comes in a Update, I'll just pass it by.

--Hey! What's the membership fee for Corflu Silver???

Arnie: Joyce and I were talking about the change in letter columns only a day or two ago. If current practices had applied, I would not have been able to

plant that plug for Cursed #1 in the Amazing letter column, which might have kept Lenny Bailes and I out of Fandom for years, perhaps even indefinitely.

I think of things like cleaning up illos and cropping photos as challenges more than actual problems. Something analogous to print fanzine problems is the way a transparency eats up giant gobs of memory so that the technique is all but impossible to use.

Lloyd Penney

I haven't been looking for a while, and it looks like *Vegas Fandom Weekly 95* is the last one for several weeks. No matter; looks like it's long overdue for some opinionated commentary.

Just checked out the website... good start, lots more to do, should be informative and handy, especially with a single place to eventually purchase all those special fannish publications I've wanted to buy, but never had the cash for it. Once launched and fully stocked, The Faan Store should do some good business. Also, after years of being scolded for not having read certain fanpubs...not much you can do if they've been out of print for 15 years, and no one would be insane enough to loan you their copy...having at least a .pdf'ed version would fill in the gaps for a lot of people, including myself.

The article about the Hobbit Bookstores in LA makes me wonder...with publishing becoming such a money-losing business, followed quickly by running bookstores, how many SF bookstores are there in existence? Toronto's still lucky enough to have Bakka-Phoenix, but I know Montreal and Syracuse (I think) lost theirs.

Ah, there's that CD! Mr. Glicksohn himself gave me a copy of that CD, with most of his personal publishing .pdfed and recorded, courtesy of Taral's fine work. I have been working the last three weeks for a trade show in Toronto, so I haven't had the chance to slip the CD in the player and see what's there.

When we were planning to go to the 2006 Worldcon in Anaheim, we scraped up every cent we could for various reasons... one was the fact that Forry Ackerman and Ray Bradbury would be there, and we felt it would be our last opportunity to see them. Forry's in hospital, recovering from a broken hip, and I've read a report that says that Bradbury is wheelchair-bound, both blind and deaf. I fear the worst will happen soon, and I'm very glad to have seen and met them both probably one last time.

My first loc... the tickets are purchased, the flights are booked, and we will both be going to the 2007 ISDC in Dallas to work for our memberships, see lots of interesting things and meet some famous folks in the

aerospace industry, and also meet with John and Valerie Purcell for some dinner, probably on the Friday night. We'll have to make a report at some point. The zine wiki I mentioned...Chris Garcia registered with it, and jammed into it as much fannish information as he knew. If it wasn't our zine wiki then, it sure looks like it now.

We all read it here, in black print, and written by Mr. Garcia himself...he is committed. We all thought he should be, and he confirms that he is. We'll come and visit every so often, Chris, and loosen the straps if you're good...

My second loc... that trade show I mentioned is just wrapping up, so I will be getting some time back, and can catch up with a huge number of zines. When my mention of there being no SF club in Toronto to speak of arrived on my LiveJournal loc archive, Alex von Thorn replied to that by saying "IDIC and the Space-Time Continuum are both science fiction clubs in Toronto. IDIC has author readings almost every month attended by dozens of people." I was aware of both of these groups, with IDIC being a media-based group, and Space-Time Continuum being more of a book discussion group. I guess what I want is something along the line of NESFA or LASFS. Don't want much, do I?

Getting late in the day, and there are other things I have to do. The last three weeks have meant my life was on hold, and a day off will allow me to catch up, at least a little. Hope all is good where you are, and that issue 96 is but a short wait away. See you then.

Arnie: Chris Garcia's weekly publishing schedule continues to amaze. I think it has also had the effect of accelerating Chris' development as a writer and publisher in some ways. It took a lot of us four or five years to develop some of the skills that Chris mastered in a matter of months. He's doing 50-70 fanzines a year; that used to be more than most fans published in a decade.

Another ChatBack stalwart is next, with comments on many hot

topics, from paper fanzines to the early days of MinnStf,

John Purcell

I was a bit surprised to not find one of my locs in the latest *VFW*; must not have made the cut. Oh, well. I have also not pubbed locs from folks simply because they didn't fit in with the rest of the locs, or for space limitations; repetition can also be a factor in deciding which locs to run or not. I promise that I am not losing sleep over this editorial decision of yours, and that that I'm not taking this personally.

Yet.

You Las Vegrants are so technically savvy. Now you have your own website to go along with Voices of Fandom and SNAFFU. This sounds like fun. As the site develops, I shall check into it from time to time. The Internet is my lifeline to fandom, and perusing sf club websites and all is a lot of fun. Good luck with this venture. With Bill Mills, the Vegas Genie of the Ether, involved, it should be interesting.

Harry Bell's illo signifying the appropriate gesture of egoboo is always appreciated. I really don't care how many times you run this or for what reasons - including abject apologies - it will always make me smile. Appropriate gesture of egoboo right back atcha, Arnie!

Now, the Faan Store is an interesting idea. Having something like this as a repository/distribution point for fannish memorabilia should make things a bit simpler instead of hunting around on the Internet for goodies.



A Note of Mystery

Hal Hughes sent me this in an email:

I was leafing through some old journals, and came across an entry in one, dated 8/9/77, written when I was in Copenhagen: Dreams - Talk of A. Katz and A. Porter - movie: "Everything You Wanted to Do with Your Girlfriend But Didn't" - Cary Grant's tires - shoes in trees - Sandra on roof - ladder.

I'd be very surprised if that makes even as much sense to you as it does to me, but thought it might tickle you that you'd popped into my sleeping brain there and then. Does that count as fanac?

There you have it. Now it's up to you. Can you weave these mysterious notes into a coherent, if fictional, story? Consider this an invitation to a mystery.

— Arnie

Just recently I acquired a handful of old zines of mine from 1979-1983 from Ebay (former fan Roger Reus had listed them there) for a decent price that I was willing to pay since I'm rebuilding my old zine production as best I can. (Twenty-three years ago, my personal stash of zines was tossed without my knowledge when my folks moved from St. Louis Park, MN to Sun City, AZ, and they got ruthless in clearing out what they deemed "unnecessary items." I don't remember if they gave my brother and I the chance to claim some of these items; if they had, I would have grabbed my fanzine collection still at home, plus old baseball cards and comic books.) Also, I just received two other photocopied old issues of This House from UC Riverside (gotta pay them for this). Maybe offering a central Internet location for storing/retrieving/buying old zines and such would make the Faan Store a going venture. If there is a project that I get the hankering to do, I will keep this option in mind. Thank you for the idea.

This whole thing also reminds me why each issue of Askance will have a limited print run: there will always be fans who prefer Dead Tree versions over electronic format, which doesn't bother me. I cut my fannish eye-teeth on twill-tone zines back in the 70s - how well I remember my original exposure to Minneapolis Yellow, which Rune was pubbed on back then - so I figure to maintain a three-dozen copy print run of each issue for my Dead Tree Roster. As mailing costs go up, so goes the means of affording the postage for maintaining large mailing lists. On line zines keeps this expense under control. I mean, good grief, in 1979 I purchased my own bulk mailing permit because the mailing list of This House exceeded 200 US recipients and its print run eventually crashed the 300-copy barrier.

That permit helped cut costs, but there was an awful lot of work involved in collating, stapling, stuffing, labeling, sorting, bundling, etcetera, to say nothing of hauling the stash to the downtown Minneapolis Post Office to send them off.

The funny thing is when I think of that entire process nowadays, I find that the sheer feeling of accomplishment was very much a part of the reason for publishing my zines. Getting responses for making such an effort made it all very gratifying, and I felt as though I really was a part of the fannish community. At conventions, handing out copies and talking zines (getting artists and contributions lined up) was a major part of my enjoyment of a con. Running a large circulation fanzine definitely got your name out there and opened the door to a roomful of like-minded fans who loved reading, writing, and talking fanzines. It was a lot of fun.

This is not to say that this scenario doesn't happen here in the opening strains of the 21st century. The song is still the same if you pub your zine on-line via Bill Burns' wonderful website, or if you e-mail it to folks as an attachment, or if you maintain a website of your own (with an attendant e-mail address book). Corflu Quire proved that to me hands down. I just think that maintaining a paper presence is just as important as maintaining an on-line presence. Granted, the last refrain of paper-only fanzines may be about to be sung, but I think that's a number of years off yet.

In the meantime, it makes sense to me to use the technology to preserve our fannish heritage, which is where the Faan Store, efanazines.com, Trufen.net, and fanac.org all come into play, to say nothing of the fanzine collections at UC-Riverside, Texas A&M, University of Iowa, and elsewhere. Heck, at the moment I'm a

bit torn of where to bequeath my collection: TAMU or ISU.

Anyway. This is a very long-winded - and hopefully interesting - musing on your Faan Store project. I think it's a great idea, and I really love that illo for it! A wonderful likeness of you and Joyce, the proud proprietors.

It is totally great to see Shelby Vick back in VFW's pages. What he wrote about here is so totally true: to be a writer one must first write. Gee, that kinda makes sense, doesn't it? Plus, it helps to not be afraid of rewriting. I tell my comp and rhetoric students all the time that writing is a recursive process: writing, rewriting, then revising and rewriting the re-writes is an ongoing deal. At some point you have to stop - deadlines help in this regard - but the deal is, one must do in order to be.

You know, it's funny, but when I lived in LA with my first wife back in 1986, I never went to the Change of Hobbit. For that matter, we attended LASFS meetings sporadically. But one of my biggest regrets from that era was never going to Change of Hobbit. *sigh* Terry Kemp made me realize just how cool of a place that bookstore was/is. Thanks a whole heap, Terry.

Joyce's "Blue Jaunt" was another wonderful installment of her fannish reminiscences, and made me a bit envious of her fannish pedigree. I have never been involved in the beginnings of a club or convention, or anything like that. Even though I got into Minn-stf back in 1973, it had been a going concern since something like 1967 or 1968 when the original Floundering Fathers coalesced into the Minnesota Science Fiction Society, Inc., and put on the first Minicon one Saturday afternoon in Coffman Union on the University of Minnesota campus.

Who would ever have thought that from such a humble beginning that a fannish juggernaut like Minn-stf would evolve? Most of those guys are still around, too, I believe: Frank Stodolka, Fred Haskell, David Emerson, Don Blyly, Nate Bucklin, and Jim Young. There are others, too, but I forget their names offhand. Oh, Scott Imes! Can't forget him. He was an important figure back then, too; think Uncle Hugo's Bookstore, and you have to think of Scott. Then there was the Bozo Bus Building with its legendary tenants over the years. Whow! I may have to hit Minn-stf's website to refresh my memory banks of the club's early years. What a great place to discover fandom!

By the way, I loved the photo illo of "Strange Voyages" on page 12 (Mike looks great in that picture) and the doctored Vegas sign on page 16. Then again, are there casinos in "Fabulous Etobi-

coke"? Just wondering. At the end of May, my wife and I will be running up to Dallas to meet Lloyd and Yvonne Penney, maybe even Brad and Cindy Foster, for a dinner-get-together of Great Fannish Minds. Should be fun.

One final comment before I go. In your comments to Lloyd's loc, Arnie, you said that Corflu can be very energizing. I most certainly second that emotion. Besides providing me with material for a con report, I came away with ideas for a couple other article ideas, which SNAPS may see in up-coming disties that will probably find their way into the pages of VFW. No doubt about it, though; Corflu left me with a glow that kept me warm for a couple weeks. Knowing that the next one will be in Vegas ensures that A Good Time is in store. I am looking forward to it. Now to get that check off in the mail to Joyce.

Arnie: My loc policy for VFW is to publish every substantial letter of comment, giving each writer as much rope as needed. If a LoC you sent didn't get printed, the most likely reason is that my ISP, Cox Communications, has experienced repeated problems over the last few months.

Some Vegrants are technologically versed, some are knowledgeable users and a few shudder at the mere proximity of a computer. Bill Mills is largely responsible for the Vegrants' move into the realm of websites and now ranks as one of Core Fandom's cutting-edge publishers/producers.

You really cranked up the memory machine with that recitation of names. I hadn't thought about good ole Frank Stodolka for many years. I believe I ran off David Emerson's first fanzine on my Rex Rotary back when he was a neofan and a member of the Brooklyn Insurgents. Jim Young, Fred Haskell and Nate Bucklin were all fans I knew very well from my earliest days in the hobby and they introduced me to Ken Fletcher.

From the Sceptered Isle comes a fan who's not afraid to avoid clichés.

Mark Plummer

I'm trying to avoid cliché here -- because it's a generally admirable aspiration in itself but also because while I don't doubt that *you* have a Great Mind I'm unwilling to ascribe the same to myself.

Still, I've recently also been having thoughts along the lines of your Faan Store although -- unsurprisingly for me -- I've been thinking more about hard copy publications. I agree absolutely about making the material available, especially to fans who weren't around when these publications were originally offered, but I wonder whether it's the case that in some cases at least the print

editions are actually still available -- although only in the loosest sense because they're sitting in boxes in lofts and garages, their availability no longer advertised.

I'm sure your basic point is correct, that most fannish special publications -- collections, anthologies, trip reports, classic reprints etc -- are produced in print runs that 'can be sold in a short time, plus whatever is needed to get a price break (if one is within range)' and when they're gone they're gone, leaving late arrivals to scour eBay and convention auctions for copies of these fannish landmark volumes. However, I suspect that despite the intent, many do remain in print, having 'earned out their advances' or at least having had their production costs written-off. I remember Bill Bowers attempted a round-up in *Outworlds* #70 nearly a decade ago now, but the web provides a better opportunity to advertise availability. We still have a number of copies of that Greg Pickersgill collection for instance. We don't *need* to sell them as the print run is long since paid for, so any money we get for them over and above postage goes straight to the Science Fiction Foundation. We tend to assume that we widely advertised the collection's availability at the time of its publication, and that anybody who wanted a copy was able to get one but I guess there are new fans coming along all the time so some kind of forum for an ongoing advertisement -- and one which goes beyond the bounds of our mailing list -- might provide a slow trickle of orders, and more importantly simply make fans aware that they do still have a chance to get a copy if they want.

I'd stress here that I'm not criticizing your proposed venture which I think wholly admirable as a mechanism for placing core texts in the hands of people who've never had a chance to own them. I just wonder whether there's a way that a Faan Store might somehow encompass advertising the ongoing availability of print publications too, although I don't wonder too hard as that's the path to What-You-Should-Do-ism.

Robert Lichtman comments to Chris Garcia, 'As much as I agree that Mayhew and Gunn did decent work, I'd prefer the [Rotsler] award to be given to living fan artists.' As it so happens, I agree, but more importantly it seems that so do the administrators of the Award as it says on their website (<http://www.scifiinc.org/rotsler/2000-thomson/>) 'After the 2000 Rotsler was given to Atom (1927-1990), it was decided not to give the Rotsler posthumously again.'

Thanks for continuing to produce Vegas Fandom Weekly. It remains an essentially fannish read.

Arnie: The weekly schedule is just a pleasant mem-

ory for VFW. Even my strategy of redefining the word "weekly" to mean a 14-day period is probably insufficient. The main reason is that the fanzine has grown from a two-pager to 24-30 pages for most issues. I could still produce a VFW every week if I cut back to one-third of its current size, but I like the articles, columns and long letter column. I think you folks do, too, so I'll fall back on the designation "sorta weekly" that's part of VFW's slogan.

I've enthusiastically supported every major printed fanzine project in VFW and expect to continue to do so. As far as The Faan Store goes, it's still Fandom, not a big deal commercial venture. A page of timely info about available printed fanzines sounds like a good idea. Maybe the printed anthologies and so forth remain in print, because they aren't as easily purchased as electronic editions.

Too bad all fans don't share that attitude. What's more important: selling a few printed copies or getting the content to as many fans as possible? I know my answer; maybe a few others need to decide whether they are trufans or penny-ante capitalists.

And while some paper publications remain in print, many do not. How many fans do you know who have "A Sense of FAPA," "Fancylopedia II" and "The Best of Quandry"? All could be made widely available in electronic form. No fan would have to go without the literature of our subculture.

Robert Lichtman

The first thing to catch my eye in *VFW* No. 95—after that great Bhub Stewart cartoon, of course!—was the final sentence in the article on the SNAFFU library committee meeting: "The goal will be to put the last couple of cartons onto the shelves and get started on the cataloguing." Other than a small pile of recently received and as yet unread, I don't have any unshelved books; but except for the books that I've catalogued as part of a file entitled "My Fannish/Stfnal Reference Library & Special Publications," nothing is catalogued. It's been on my personal back burner for many years, though, and one of these days I really must get around to it, if only for insurance purposes.

You write that "Taral Wayne reports that he's putting the final touches on his *Energumen* CD." As it happens, I recently got my copy and have been having a great time making my way through it. I'd already downloaded all the issues of 'Nerg I didn't have in paper originals and printed them out for my files, but the full set of PDFs of that fanzine are only a part of what's on this amazing disk. There's also a complete file of Mike's perzine, *Xenium*, as well as his DUFF report, *The Hat Goes Home*, chronicling his 1975 trip

to Australia and that year's Worldcon.

But wait, there's more! There are a couple of introductory essays by Taral leading up to a 12-page interview with Glicksohn that should not be missed. In addition, Mike's short story, "Dissenting," published in the February 1975 *Fantastic* under the pseudonym "Gardner R. Dubious," is here, and for good measure there's Bill Bowers' introduction to Mike's guest of honor speech at that 1975 Worldcon in Australia. But there's still more. In a folder called "Art Folio" there are scans and/or photos of all the tipped-in stuff that adorned various issues of Mike's fanzines and, well, Much More. As someone who's scanned fanzines himself, I know that a lot of work went into producing this CD. Taral could easily ape what *Mad* used to put on its cover: "Our price \$15—cheap!" I sent Taral payment for my copy, so this is not an un-



paid testimonial from a "review copy."

I checked out your provisional Website for the Faan Store, and was impressed with the overall look and feel of it. I wish you luck pulling off this project because of your good intentions, but I wonder if you'll attract the sort of work from people that will be needed to furnish the store with suitable inventory. You write, "The producers of some landmark fan publications like Robert Lichtman's Willis collection...need to get at least expenses back in order to make the projects feasible." As a matter of fact, *Fanorama* made back its expenses years ago, and I have only a small handful of hard copies left. (They're 100 pages for \$12 postpaid.) It would be a good item to sell via the Faan Store, even though it's available as text files on Bill Burns's site. However, it should be noted that the bulk of the copies sold prior to publication—I offered a pre-publication special price to get enough money on hand to pay the cost of producing the 150-copy edition—and in this millenium only three copies have sold, the most recent in May 2005. So demand might not be there.

I'd like to note that the Eaton SF collection at UC Riverside and also the University of Iowa (which has the Mike Horvat collection) both offer to sell photocopies of any fanzine they've catalogued (and the Eaton also offers scans, but they are more expensive). I've ordered photocopies from both and have been treated in a friendly, helpful manner and found the quality of the copies to be perfectly adequate. (In one case I was able to get the first issue of a zine I did in 1960 for the Carboniferous Reproduced Amateur Press that existed in only five copies!) According to the Eaton's Website there are nearly 42,000 fanzines thus available. These photocopies are not exactly the same as getting a nicely produced PDF of vintage fanzines, but they're a good stopgap until such exist.

(A minor footnote: the cost of postage for *Ah! Sweet Laney!* is five bucks, not six as you probably inadvertently typed. That's for copies sent to the U.S. — it's more expensive to other places, and possibly all these rates will go up in mid-May when a sweeping postal rate increase takes effect.)

In his article Terry Kemp mentions that "In a recent conversation with Tom [Whitmore], I mentioned I had sold off my own Arkham collection a few years before as well. I turned it around and now live in the house that Arkham built." This made me wonder if the house he's referring to is the mobile home he and his father live in these days out in the desert near Kingman. That aside, as a former long-time resident of Los Angeles myself I find it a wonderment that Terry was able to stand being a pedestrian there. I can well believe it when he writes, "Getting around L.A. became a daily

adventure.” Between his accounts of doing so and his recollections of his many visits to Sherry Gottlieb’s original Change of Hobbit bookstore, I enjoyed this article very much. I never knew that store when it was in Santa Monica, but I visited it on Westwood Blvd. a number of times before it went away altogether. These days I drop in now and then at Berkeley’s Other Change of Hobbit, usually in search of some obscure SF magazine I hope they’ll have down in the mysterious but apparently commodious basement.

I enjoyed the latest chapter of Joyce’s “How I Found Fandom,” but wondered if I’d already read it. I’m too lazy today to go digging through my back issues of her perzines to find out, but even if this is a second reading it’s been sufficiently long since the first time around that it’s sort of all new. I particularly like the way Ted White comes on stage near the end and does his thing, leading to Joyce’s observation that “listening to Ted’s tales of fandom...I felt I was finally at the door to that society I’d craved since I learned about it reading *Quandry*, *Opus/FanVariety*, *Odd*, and the other old fanzines.”

In the letter column Terry Kemp mentions spending time reading his way through many issues of *The Drink Tank* and ending up “completely comatose, filled to capacity with fannish info.” And this, he writes, “reminded me of a conversation I had with my father about fanzines a long time ago. I had determined that they were all idiosyncratic, and without outside context. Without this outside, objective context, without

some kind of interpretation, they were meaningless to the world at large, holding interest only to a very small sub-group. And more to the point, the older fanzines held meaning mostly to the very small subgroup that produced them, younger fans could avidly collect them, but would find large pieces so arcane as to seem to be written in a foreign language. My father disagreed. I believe the debate to be still undecided.” Well, I certainly would agree about the “meaningless to the world at large,” but that’s only true of some parts of some fanzines—and, after all, fanzines aren’t done with “the world at large” in mind.

Terry goes on to relate reading through old FAPA and SAPS publications at the time (early ‘70s) and having conversations with some of Earl’s Advent partners, whose information wasn’t particularly helpful to him, and concludes that even now he’s “still looking for a road map.” As you suggest, Arnie, there were “road maps” then and there still are, although of the ones you mention finding a copy of *A Sense of FAPA* might be fairly difficult (and Earl wasn’t a member of FAPA when it came out, so he may not have it). You sum it up well in this statement: “Learning the context is part of becoming a citizen of Fandom. A neofan is an immigrant; the newcomer must learn the cultural context of his new homeland.” Certainly we all went through that at our respective fannish beginnings. As I’ve written before numerous times, the first handful of fanzines I ever saw were of the “faanish” variety. Instead of being put off by them, I was intrigued—and read them

Contact! Las Vegas Club Directory

Las Vegrants

Looking for a local group? These are the major ones.

Arnie & Joyce Katz,
909 Eugene Cernan St., Las Vegas, NV 89145
Email: JoyceWorley1@cox.net
Phone: 648-5677

SNAFFU:

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

VSFA:

Rebecca Hardin
Email: hardin673@aol.com
Phone: 453-2989

Las Vegas Fan Events Calendar

VSFA Monthly Meeting Saturday, May 5 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, May 5 7:30 PM

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

SNAFFood April Dinner Saturday, May 12 6:30 PM

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

SNAPS Deadline Sunday, May 12

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

Las Vegrants Meeting Saturday, May 19 7:30 PM

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

SNAFFU Discussion Meeting Sunday, May 27 2:00 PM

Vegas' formal science fiction club meets for a lively discussion meeting once a month at the Clark County public library.

repeatedly trying to figure out the meaning and the context of the words upon which I cast my neofannish eyetracks. It helped a lot that a year later *Fancylopedia II* was published, but by then I'd also met some vintage L.A. area fans, including some of the "Insurgents," and they'd helped fill me in, too. As a supplement to *Fancy II* Terry might want to check out...

http://fanac.org/Fannish_Reference_Works/Fan_terms/

...where the late rich brown does a workmanlike job of supplementing and updating much of what's in Eney's book. (And of course *The Neofan's Guide* and both versions of the *Fancylopedia* are available at this Website.)

Greg Benford writes: "I think the satiric aspect of the old fannish fmz style is crucial, because it descends from the Insurgents. Since they were good writers, a natural convergence of such attitudes and talents propagated into zines far away, like *À Bas*—one of my all-time faves, & very hard to find copies. I wonder where I could buy some? I want to get some *À Bas* issues & donate them to the Eaton Collection at UCR—& read them first!" Actually, Greg, according to their database they're just a couple issues short of having a complete set. If you didn't want to go there and sit down with

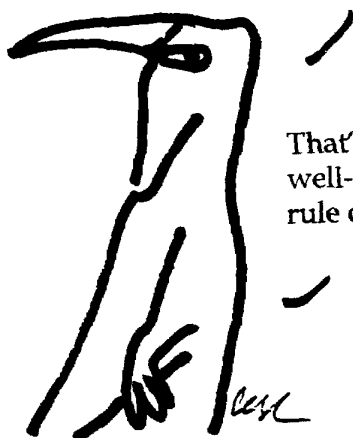
the real thing, as I noted above in my comments on the Faan Store they will gladly sell you photocopies or scans. And yes, I agree that it was one of the best of the faanish fanzines!

Dick Lupoff mentions that "a young woman who is researching the history of women in fandom came by the house to interview Pat (and myself)." In private e-mail I asked Dick what her research was about. He wasn't sure, but said the woman in question worked for *Locus*—it didn't sound like her research was for *Locus*, though, but for a project of her own. Dick continued: "She must have been at an early stage of her investigations, which she said had started with a list of past Hugo winners, because she'd never heard of Lee Hoffman or of Nan Gerding." About Nan you wrote: "Robert Lichtman could probably provide up-to-date information, but I believe Nan Gerding returned to SAPS some years ago. Don't know if she stuck." She not only didn't stick, she probably didn't return at all. Checking my file of SAPS official organs, Nan dropped out in 1965—and unless she returned for a stay sometime between 1972 and 1984, a period for which I don't have records, that was the end of her association with SAPS. And I'm not surprised someone in 2007 wouldn't have heard of her—I would guess that a large chunk of *VFW*'s readership wouldn't have, ei-

ther. (If anyone reading this has the *Spectators* for SAPS mailings 101-148 and would be willing to part with them or make photocopies, please contact me.)

Finally, Mark Plummer writes, "Personally, I feel increasingly like a poor cousin from the sticks when encountering American restaurant food, although perhaps not so poor now as the current exchange rates mean that I can get a really fine meal for about 37½p." Even in Las Vegas that's probably not possible, since that equates to about 75¢.

NO FANZINE MAY BE PUBLISHED
IN THE KNOWN FAN WORLD
WITHOUT A ROTSLER
DRAWING.



That's a
well-known
rule of tentacle!

Arnie: One of the sad ways the heir callously dismembered SaMoskowitz's collection is that he had it all arranged properly on shelves and cross-referenced in a card catalogue. While this suggests the ultimate futility of cataloguing, I must admit I'd be really thrilled if I had my fanzine collection accessible and in proper order. Inspired by your industry, Meyer, I'm going to put putting the zines in order on my back-burner, too!

Thanks for the excellent rundown of Taral Wayne excellent Energumen disk. I'm also glad you mentioned the amount of work that goes into an electronic fan production. I know fans are not used to buying electronic fanac, but this is a damn good place to start.

The Kingfish Says...

Hope you enjoyed this issue. I definitely enjoyed putting it together, despite the continued hurdles presented by the computer problems. I'll do the two promised special issues as soon as things get back to normal and I can scan all the wonderful material.

The cupboard is a little bare at the moment, so I'm hoping to hear from a lot of you.

The 100th issue is in sight, a milestone I never expected to see with a genzine. I'll get there with your help.

— Arnie Katz

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... and a ton of news.