

VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

VSFA to Throw Halloween Party!

James Willey has announced that VSFA will sponsor the Third Annual Las Vegas Fannish Halloween Haunting on Saturday, October 27. It will take place at James' home, Cooperville, from 8:00 PM to 11:00 PM.

The host had this to say:

"Any and all offers of assistance and contributions of libation and foodstuffs will be welcomed with open arms and grateful hearts.

"As always, costumes are optional, clothing is mandatory."

You can get more information from James Willey at: horgon@yahoo.com.

Purcell Wants Your Pet Peeves!

John Purcell, editor of the excellent *Askance*, is collecting fannish pet peeves for a group gripe. Here's what John has to say about it:

"Since David Burton's wonderful fanzine *Pixel* is on hiatus, Lee Anne Lavelle sent a couple submissions to me, one of which will appear in the fifth issue of *Askance* this coming November. But the other one gave me an idea. It was a brief, two-paragraph "rant" about a couple sort of "fannish" pet peeves she has regarding some stories. It wasn't enough for a full article, but here's my idea: Are there any "fannish" pet peeves that drive you nuts? If so, write them up. I would love to run an article featuring four or fan fans writing about their fannish pet peeves and put it in *Askance* #6 (January, 2008). This means you have

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Corflu Silver Breaking News

- Vegrants' Party Fund passes \$240!. The Thursday night, pre-Corflu Part at the Plaza, sponsored by Las Vegrants, is shaping up nicely. With the con still far off (April 25-27, 2007), it looks like we may even have enough bjeer for the Brits.

Inside Story Southern Fandom WELCOME!

I've just added a bunch of contemporary members of Southern Fandom to the e-list. Since "Inside Story" customarily deals with *VFW* itself, it's the logical place to put out the welcome mat. (Mine has a saucy drawing of Betty Boop on it; how about yours?) These are certainly not the first or only members of that subculture to get *VFW*, but most of the readers are part of Core Fandom, a semi-autonomous segment of Science Fiction Fandom.

Australian and British Fandoms are already regularly represented in *VFW* and I'd like to bring Southern Fandom into the mix. The reason is obvious: If Core fans from across the seas interest us – and they most definitely do – shouldn't we also try to build bridges with a similar Fandom that is right here in the United States?

Our Fandom has greatly benefited from the contributions of fans who called the southeastern US home. Lee Hoffman, Ted White, Shelby Vick, Max Keasler, Ray Fisher and my Very Own Wife Joyce have all helped shape today's Core Fandom. They, and all the other fine fans who were active in the region between 1930 and 1960, are our common fancestors, our fanhistorical link to each other.

Southern Fandom diverged from ours in the mid-1960's, a consequence of heightened regional consciousness in the Mundane culture. Southern Fandom developed its own BNFs, legends, fanzines, cons and institutions, largely separate from those of All Known Fandom. At the same time, some folks in the Southeast continued to come into All Known Fandom (and Core Fandom). Time has created the confusing, yet somewhat amusing, situation in which there are Southern fans who live outside the South and Core Fandomites who live in the South but are not part of Southern Fandom.

Some fans — Curt Phillips, Billy Petit and Guy Lillian come immediately to mind — have become fanish bridges, spreading activity between our Core Fandom and the equivalent segment of Southern Fandom. As a former member of the Southern Fandom Press Association and a current participant in the SouthernFandomClassic listserv, I'd like to think I'm one of those bridges, too.

Core Fandom must respect Southern Fandom's unique culture and vice versa, but there is so much common ground between creative Southern Fandomites and their Core Fandom counterparts that closer association can only help both groups.

I hope members of Southern Fandom will give *VFW* a few issues to worm its way into their hearts and that they'll contribute news, letters of comment, cartoons and articles.

Let's fan together.

— Arnie

Vegas Fandom Weekly #101, Volume 3 Number 13, Bloctober 7, 2007, is written and produced by Arnie Katz (909 Eugene Cernan St., Las Vegas, NV 89145; Email: crossfire4@cox.net; phone: 702-648-5677).

Special Thanks to Bill Burns (Posting), David Gordon (Mountaineering Consultant), Alan White (Arty Fella), Bill Mills (Technical Advisor), Joyce Katz (proofreading and So Much More).

Reporters this issue: James Taylor, Chuck Connor, James Willey, Linda Bushyager and Joyce Katz

Art/Photo Credits: Taral Wayne (cover), ATom (4), Alan White (5, 10, 11, 12), Bill Mills (27), Frank Wu (7, 8, 9) and all else by Bill Rotsler.

Columnists This Issue: Shelby Vick, James Bacon, Bill Mills

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

Member: fwa

Supporter: AFAL

Corflu Silver in 2008!

A Fannish Scandal **REVEALED!** Katzenjammer



The name alone brings on a wave of revulsion and nausea. It evokes lurid images that shake every righteous Trufan to their core.

Underground Secret Professional Neo Feuding.

I thought it was a mere fantasy, a lurid imagining of diseased fakefan minds. Now the evidence has piled up like a mountain of shame and the awful workings of a worldwide ring of heartless and evil people who engage in this disgusting business.

Maybe you've read about the startling finds or maybe, because *VFW* is Fandom's answer to TMZ, you haven't heard about it to this very article. Whichever the case, no humane fan can ignore this hideous subterranean "sport."

I have heard apologists for the Dark Eminence behind this descent into barbarism and, frankly, it makes me sick. "What's the difference between watching neos fight and stalking fan sluts late at night at conventions?" These deluded individuals, these casual semi-fans, say it in blithe ignorance of the horror that is Underground Secret Professional Neo Feuding.

To those naïve people, let me point out that the fan sluts in question participate voluntarily and seldom receive any permanent damage. And they generally get invited to te good parties and eat lots of free meals. Nothing could be farther from the sick reality of Underground Secret Professional Neo Feuding.

This fan – let's call him "Fanass X" to shield *VFW* against nuisance litigation – certainly knew what he was doing when he rented the property in the foothills of the Ozarks and outfitted it as a training center for neo feuders.

Even worse is Fanass X's willingness to sacrifice harmless neofans just to make money by selling neos to those who want to sponsor them or by acting as bookmaker for the gambling that is the true driving force of this despicable activity.

I realize that some *VFW* readers may be squeamish about the blunt truths associated with Underground Secret Professional Neo Feuding. That's understandable in view of this shocking material, but it is necessary to describe the terrible process by which cherubic neofen are changed into crazed feud-mongers. Only by understanding the whole set-up can fans grasp the enormity of the crimes that Fanass X and his coterie have committed, the blameless lives they have ruined forever.

I'll try to be explicit, but not graphic.

It all begins with the rawest of neofans; first-time worldcon attendees, people who pop up on the listservs and other feckless newcomers. With cold calculation, Fanass X and his associates stalk their quarry, cut them off from other fans who might rally to their sides, and harvest them for exploitation in Underground Secret Professional Neo Feuding.

Cut off from both fans and Mundane friends and relations, the



Continued on next page

neos put up surprisingly little fight when they are taken from safety to be cruelly worked by these cynical people.

Fanass X's crew conveys the neos, still stunned and glazed, to that damnable Ozark compound. They keep these poor, gullible souls in line on the way to the compound with pie-in-the-sky promises of explosive parties, passes to Dragoncon's Green Room and autographs of Ultraman. By the time they are within the walls of this foul camp, it is too late.

They are lost.

The greatest tragedy is the way the greedy operators twist the neos so they can use them. It takes a lot of mind-bending manipulation to turn a quiet, introverted, gentle, bookish neofan into a raving, raging feuder ready to pounce on any and every fan who comes into contact with them.

Fanass X's workers put each of the newly arrived neofans into an individual cubicle. Four of these cubicles are grouped around a small common area. They can see other neos in every direction, but they can't leave their cubicles due to the strong chains that connect their necks to the heavy computer desk bolted to the floor in their cubicle.

Just out of reach are trays piled with hamburgers,

French fries, pizza, doughnuts and assorted salty snacks. Coolers crammed with frosty beer, Pepsi and Diet Coke surround the food tables. The neos can't reach the food unless one of the orderlies unhook the chain from the desk so they can graze.

And the way, the *only* way, to earn that privilege is to write a set amount of feud material on the computer. The orderlies remove each day's leftover food and replace it with fresh. Neos who refuse to engage in unrestrained vitriol get nothing except bouncing potato tots and water from Phoenix, AZ.

Some hunger-crazed neos have actually gnawed through the chain in a desperate attempt to get at the food before collapsing from starvation. (Paradoxically, those who break their chain suffer the worst fate of all; they are immediately and forcibly Gafiated.)

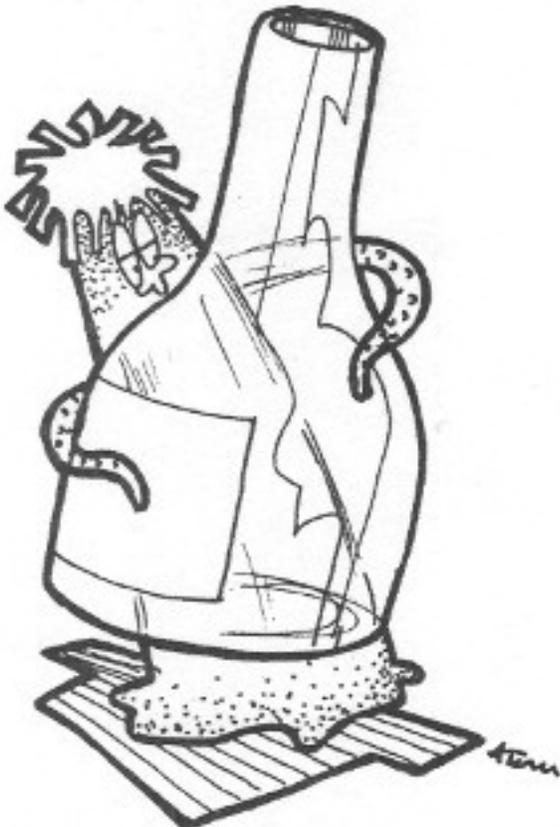
No aspect of the metamorphosis is neglected. These fakefans know their grisly business. Day after day, they bombard the helpless neofans with a torrent of inflammatory material. A steady diet of *Gnarley Knews*, *Plokta*, the N3F web site and the worldcon committee can, over time, make even the cuddliest neofan into a modern Francis Towner Laney!

At least once a week in the beginning and then more and more frequently as training continues, the neos are forced to engage in mock feuds, usually against token opposition like volunteer con-workers and gamers. These unfortunate victims, often kidnapped from their regional cons and formal SF club meetings, are an extra dimension of human – ok, *fan* – suffering. Lacking the mental dexterity of the pumped up neos, the captured victims are little more than animated targets for parodies, insults, snide comments and withering sarcasm.

Some neos don't make it past these pseudo-battles. If they fail to show the desired pitch of ferocity, they are summarily Gafiated. A reliable report tells of a neo unwilling to inflict the final, killing retort on a hapless junior accountant from LASFS who was led out of the arena to a room where prolonged, intense exposure to InTheBar sent him looking for *Stamp Collecting for Dummies* within a half hour.

The practice fights are simply ugly beat-downs, savage battles of wits against the half-armed. The competitive fights are exercises in blunt brutality and sadism that draw up to several hundred fans to secluded and secure locations known only to the depraved *cognoscenti* who bet on the outcomes of these extreme feuds.

Any pretense that Underground Secret Neo Feuding is a legitimate form of fannish entertainment evaporates in the face of the obscenity of an actual Neo Feud. The crowd screams and chats as each combatant scores



increasingly lethal points. The back-and-forth continues until one neo can't continue. These forced feuds are always fought to Gafiation; the loser is never seen in Fandom again.

The Fanass X criminal case will eventually go to a Sciffy Tribunal, but it should not obscure the larger question: What must Fandom do to exorcise this abomination of Underground Secret Professional Neo Feuds?

Some fans have suggested that all neos be marked and catalogued. There's some division of opinion about whether they should be tattooed or branded, but the basic concept is the same. We mark every neo with a unique ID number, perhaps on the forehead for ease of detection, and then track them until they have passed through the perilous neofan stage and are no longer in peril from the scavengers who run these Feud Clubs. (It also has the additional benefit of making life a little easier for older fans who complain that all neofans have begun to look alike.)

Another possible answer to controlling the trade in neofan is borrowed from the automotive world. We could easily track down stolen neos if each one was equipped with some sort of "lo-jack" system. This would necessitate the insertion of a sub-cutaneous homing device, but it is still less invasive than the facial tattoos. The only potential problem is the vast number of UFO believers who annually become part of All Known Fandom.

Whatever the mechanism Fandom ultimately chooses to combat this menace, the important thing is that we follow up detection with punishment. And that punishment, to fit the crime, must be severe – ostracism, FAFIA, even a day with Jerry Pournelle would not be too much retribution for this systematized atrocity.

Fandom, awake!

-- Arnie Katz

Only YOU
Can Prevent
Cruelty to Neofen



Corflu Silver Info

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

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 send me (Joyce) an email to let me know that you've done this.

The name of the account is Joyce Marie Katz. Email for the account is JoyceWorley1@cox.net.

Now & Again Why I Get SIDETRACKED

Predictions are such great fun – both making them, and (later) seeing how they turned out. Like, I once predicted I'd totally burn out in fandom. . . but I never had the balls to predict that I'd write a bestseller!

Seventy years ago, I saw an item in the newspaper about how my generation would end up owning flying cars, complete with an artist's concept of what they would look like.

Now, THREE generations later, flying cars still aren't filling garages.

But then, Arthur C Clarke predicted space satellites. He once said, afterward, that it wouldn't have mattered if he'd copyrighted the idea – the copyright woulda run out before they were achieved.

Then there was the Dick Tracy wristwatch radio. Today, it has been supplanted by cellphones – complete with video and internet!

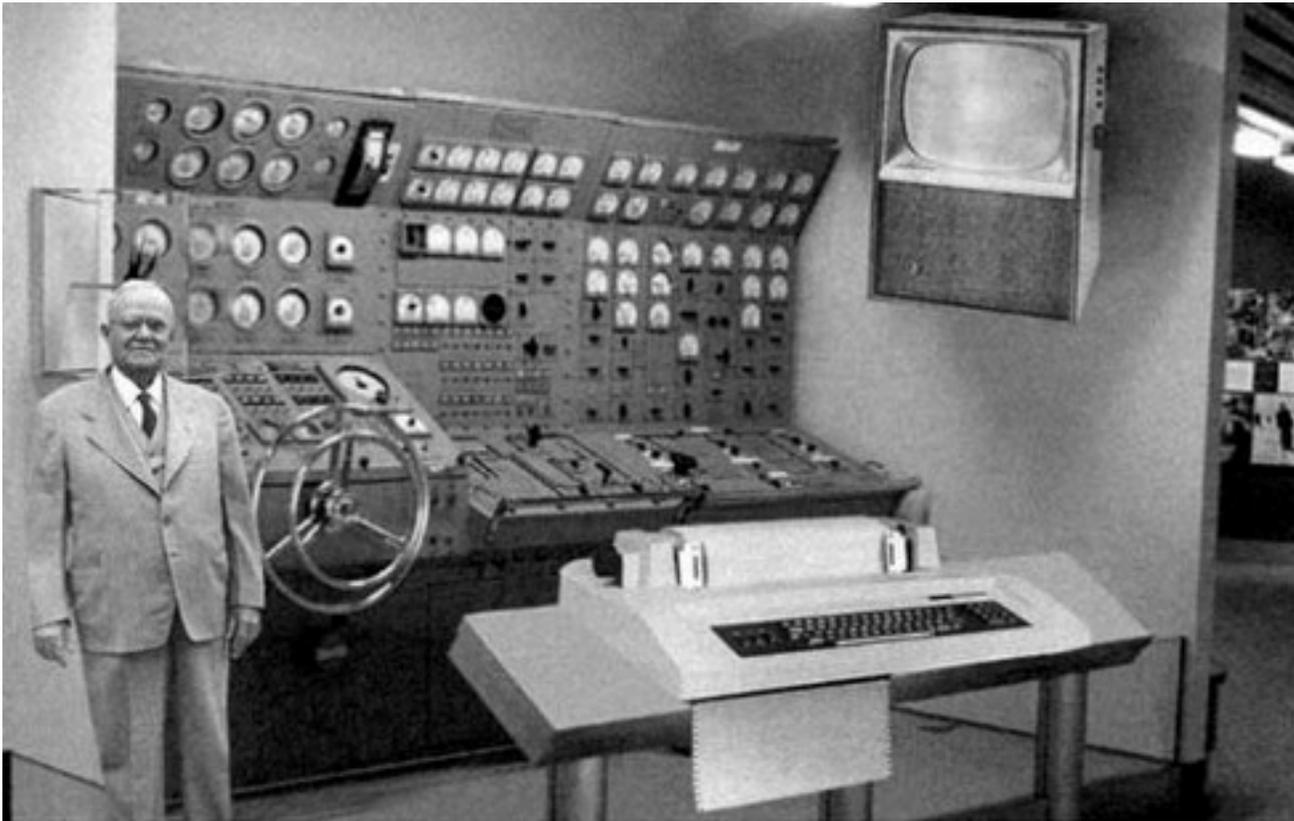
Or, back to Clarke, he created the idea of a space elevator. Today, billions are being spent in research and they're likely gonna be a reality sooner than we think. In fact, I heard on the news that some big hotel chain has announced they are planning a Space Hotel, to be available within the near future.

But, about predictions: It has long been said that predictions about mechanical and electronic stuff are far more accurate than predictions about changes in society and humanity. (I have often said that, if they somehow brought a baby caveman to the present, he'd grow to fit in our lives just as well as many do today. Maybe better.)

–Why do I keep sidetracking myself?

ANYhoo, I recently was sent something from a friend of mine, Jerry Page, that was lifted from a 1954 Popular Mechanics, showing what a home computer would look like in 2004. Thank goodness transistors were developed!

— Shelby Vick



Scientists from the RAND Corporation have created this model to illustrate how a "home computer" could look like in the year 2004. However the needed technology will not be economically feasible for the average home. Also the scientists readily admit that the computer will require not yet invented technology to actually work, but 30 years from now scientific progress is expected to solve these problems. With teletype interface and the Fortran language, the computer will be easy to use.

Chris for TAFF Crisp

As I sit here the morning after TrouserCon 3, my head is a little sore. I drank some whiskey, and my tummy is a bit iffy, as I ate a lot of chili curry. It was good curry, though, and better company.

I discuss with Nic Farey the reasons why someone should run for TAFF and also its importance, to me and in general. I take some notes for myself as I sup on some Coke Zero. My dogs have taken to Nic; they initially barked like the Baskervilles when he came into the household, I trained them well, but it's a relaxed kitchen scene, here in Perfidious Croydonium.

I often contemplate if people wonder why TAFF is important. As I sit with Nic, I begin to wonder how I can answer or determine reasoning behind this importance. Initially, I find it's like a question that's just hard to answer, because the answer is: That's the way it is, thank goodness. It's hard to explain, without either sounding patronising or elitist, but TAFF exists because people want it to, and they are happy

to work damn hard at it and also many many more are happy to fund it. TAFF is also like a mini honour though, recognition by our peers for their own reasons and by people who know of you, or know you well and they think you should be flung across the sea, to meet other communities. It's a frequent joke here; what will the Yanks make of HIM! Usually, they love our candidates and it all goes astonishingly much better than one could hope.

Apart from a way to bring communities together and create concrete links with whoever is actively doing stuff in today's current fandom, there is the weight of tradition, which adds its own special importance. It's nice to be amongst such amazing people who raced and won before. Imagine who voted the years Forry Ackerman or Charles Brown ran.

When something is an altruistic effort relying on good will, like TAFF, it becomes really hard to figure out why so many people elect to support the fund in such a variety of ways. It's so much more than money handed over with the ballot. Convention committees support TAFF every year, administrators like the Ladies League of fundamentalists fundsters work all year, every year, at numerous conventions, tombolaring or auctioning and assisting the administrators, the people who donate or purchase at auctions, purchasers of the reports, contributors who don't or can't even vote. For every voter, somewhere someone else is also supporting the cause. Last year, some 292 people voted, just voted. I know, from winning TAFF, that dozens, no hundreds, of people did things, some overtly, some discreetly and some like stealth supply planes, drifting in at the absolute perfect moment under the radar to complement these votes.

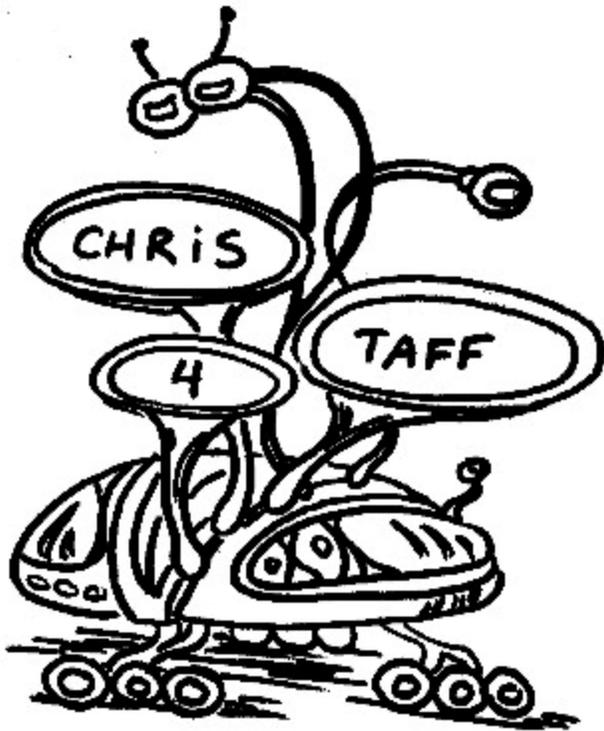
I know why TAFF is important to me. They are my own personal reasons, unquantifiable and incomparable to the wider reasoning behind the importance of TAFF. I imagine the diverse reasons others have are not only their own reasons, but like the workings of my own brain, a little bit wonky and never the same reasoning.

To confront my own reasons, and why I want to see Chris Garcia win TAFF.

I would like to see a North American fan, Chris in particular, come over to Europe and interact and be part



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of the community for our biggest bash, Eastercon. I hope his enthusiasm for fan lounges and fanzines will infect others. I hope that he ends up on panels, showing people how easy it is to do a fanzine, and extolling the virtues of efanzines.com. I want to hear about how things are different, what BayCon was like and if all these dozens of San Francisco gatherings have six or 60 people in attendance. I want to know what's happening in the undergrowth, if plans are being hatched, who to look out for and which fanzine writers he is reading and who is new to the scene and hot. I hope he brings a fanzine with him, and maybe a movie. I want to bask in his aura and listen to his comments, thoughts and even opinions. I hope he is the catalyst for some good social gatherings and parties.

I feel strongly enough that I am happy to pay my hard-earned cash to enable this to occur. Well then, that's a good enough reason for someone to be a candidate. isn't it?

Money is the grease to the machinery that is TAFF. I work hard and am not some benefactor on a Gatesian scale, so if I am motivated to actually pay to see someone, well then that person is fitting in with the desire to have them transported across the Atlantic.

I understand, as many people will do, that North American fans wanted to meet the great Walt Willis, so they raised funds, and a lot of them paid money. I have

seen the contribution list, and he duly visited America and started this concept of firing fans across the Atlantic.

Willis was a fanzine person, but TAFF is no longer the remit of fanzinists as many contenders and winners have had stronger con-running pedigrees. In the world of Multi Media stuff, Chris is very active. In actual fact, he has such promiscuity among fannish aspects that he will soon need antibiotics for that venereal disease, er gestalt or Gestetner or something beginning with "G," anyhow.

So if I want to meet Chris, see him do his stuff, here in the UK, and hopefully he'll infect everyone with this get up and go disease he has, I think that's a justification.

The altruistic ideal of funding a person to do a trip in its own right is fantastic and brilliant. It is an idea that in today's corporate and fast living world is unthinkable, it's not charitable; this is a fannish road trip. The idea of ganging together to pay for a pen-friend to come over? Not modern at all.

It's such a great concept in its own right, it assumes a position of importance in the variety of volunteer activities that I get involved with. Continuing a tradition is strangely important. Yet then would it be important enough to pay out hard cash?

It is for me. I like the fact that the process is traditional, that it has been extant for a long time, that there is some pseudo-nostalgic warm feeling.

The opportunity to choose is very important. On a basic level; it's a race. We watch horses run around a track, and in Roman times there were chariots.

Here, we back our TAFF person and then hope and watch the race. Races are compelling, and although it's not a good enough reason to watch and to support a particular candidate, it somehow adds to the fun that is involved.

More importantly, it's a ballot. This is important too, as it allows supporters of the concept to contribute, and hold over funds, or to be selective about their vote. Although I know the administrators have had people just send in money, and admit they weren't eligible to vote.

I often find it disappointing when people from the US, who either cannot get over for their own financial reasons or who haven't been over for a long old time, prefer not to stand. It's often a comment that TAFF is more about sending someone away to the other side of the Atlantic than those demanding they come over.

Therefore it's hard when someone I want badly to come over decides they shouldn't, It's the voters choice, surely. Luckily I want to see Chris over, I know that he will be entertaining and provide a level of input

that will far outweigh any effort I put into getting him over.

Like a guest at a con, he will provide excitement just by existing. He better provide a damn good party.

TAFF somehow encapsulates what I see as the fan-nish outlook. Apart from the welcoming nature of TAFF, the way we look well beyond our navel to a far away place and make a strong connection, the attitude, it's beyond people's comprehension who are not au fait with the idiosyncrasies of fandom. That the desire to meet, to shake hands, is so strong that people will give their money away, or maybe it's just to see what this fool will look like with his beard hewn off. There is a level of consistency and permanence. Even if some people run who I don't know or care about, I care about TAFF as a concept as well, so I will vote and contribute.

The responsibility placed on a winner is return enough for the fund alone: They must administrate, work hard, refill the coffers as best they can and ensure there are subsequent races. This self-fulfilling prophecy situation works really well.

Often, even in today's modern and cheap world, the cost of travel can still be prohibitive. It has not been unusual for Guests at convention to be visiting a country for the first time, because they are a guest.

This is true also for a TAFF winner. Most candidates cannot afford the trip and maybe haven't been across the pond ever — or at least for a while. I know Chris Garcia couldn't afford it otherwise.

Chris is at a peak. The guy is producing more fan-zines than well, I don't know. I would need to speak to

fanzine statistician Mark Plummer for some impressive stats, but a lot, nearly one a week perhaps, and he is getting along to cons and doing stuff in fan lounges and being out there. He is a machine, and he impresses me, quite a bit.

Chris Garcia is a one off. Look, here I am in Free Croydon, writing about some bloke I briefly met a few times in America. Like, it's mental.

Trip reports are enjoyable and give a record of one person's viewpoint of a trip. It's expected that TAFF winners do a trip report. This can be of interest both to fans that were not along and fans who were there and want a memento of some of the things they took part in or saw.

The difference between an official programme and a personal account is obvious. I expect Chris will do a fabulously huge report, and maybe have it in 3D or something new and shiny. It's also a bit of fun, sending someone away into the arms of unsuspecting fans. It can be quite a funny achievement.

And then there are the parties. TAFF parties have been getting better, and they are an excuse to have a good time and to party. It's a social aspect, a trigger for some boozing.

I hope some people, like me, see it as a special thing that we have in our community. Something to be treasured, supported and looked after. Soon it will be 50.

Like, I was standing outside a room waiting to speak to Teddy Harvia, my TAFF label on, and a girl, a sweet East Coast American girl, tall and elegant and just a honey, asked me what TAFF was about. I was stunned. That makes TAFF special.

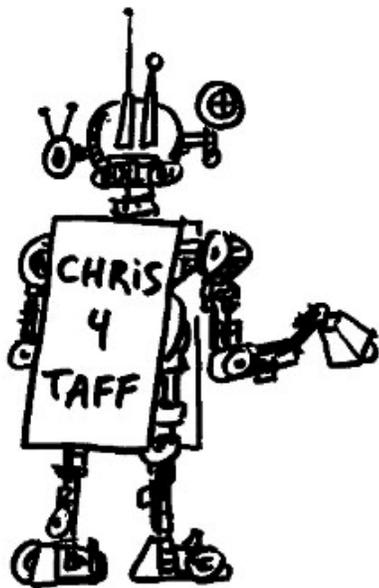
Max, oh Max, oh yes, a party princess. It wasn't Xerps, it wasn't Denver, it wasn't Australia, it wasn't the naked people, or the gaters. It was the Brits, the Irishman and Max. (Max for OZ!) Yep, the best party at LACon in 2006 was the TAFF party that Max ran. It went the latest, had the most free booze, and was both well decorated and well fed.

That's what TAFF is; it's about a bunch of mates having a laugh. And the candidate was somewhere, being friendly and stuff, too.

Multi tasking, that's what TAFF is. A bloody blinding idea. Let's get Chris Garcia over and have fun with his beard, while he regales us with tales in the bar, hands out one fanzine, Photoshop's another and gets another to Bill.

Oh, and for the compu-geek types, he is a Curator at the Computer Museum in California. So he can geek out as well. I'll be in the bar at that stage, with John Coxon's Nintendo NES. Pah!

— James Bacon



Las Vegrants A Jumbo JAMBOREE!

Everyone has heard and read the phrase “perfect storm.” Like the phrase it replaced in the mass media’s limited vocabulary, “The mother of all [fill in the blank,” it is used to describe anything that is Big and Bad, even when that bigness and badness doesn’t result from a convergence of separate, somewhat smaller (but still bad) things. Now fans might call the Japanese Worldcon a “perfect storm of heavy-handed commercialism” whereas two years ago, it probably would’ve been, “the mother of all fuggheaded con committees.”

Alas, Macro Society’s obsession with doom, gloom and apocalypse has fostered neglect of the opposite instance. We’ve got this “perfect storm” phrase to cover mega-calamities, but there’s no comparable word or phrase for a confluence of *good* things.

If there was such a phrase, I’d be overworking it in this report on the September 15th Las Vegrants meeting. But there isn’t, so I can’t. I guess the most I can do is call the Vegrants meeting a Perfect Storm, but of a meeting, only in a *good* way.



It certainly was a notable meeting, even though I’m at somewhat of a loss to explain why it was an especially rousing evening of fannish frivolity and one of the largest Vegrants meetings, excepting only the open parties for special occasions like Bruce Gillespie’s visit. Even though a few of the regulars – Bill & Roxanne Mills, Don Miller and David Gordon – didn’t make it, we still had 21 fans.

The evening started normally enough with CochTayl arriving at their customary 7:00 PM for their first post-wedding Vegrants meeting. James Taylor helped Joyce set up the living room buffet on our new, round marbled table while I pumped Teresa for details about their week of family and ceremony.

Tee and I were having one of our beginning-of-the-evening leisurely conversations when the door burst open promptly at 7:30 and what seemed like 17 fans streamed into the house. I kidded Merric Anderson that it seemed like all those folks were coming en masse from some other, earlier club meeting.

Actually, it’s more like they entered a holding pattern on our driveway while they waited for exactly half-past the hour. We’re pretty informal about the starting time of Vegrants meetings, but this is a polite bunch and they don’t like to surprise us by arriving early. Of course, that sometimes results in them “stacking up” outside our door, getting involved in lively conversations and storming the food table at one tick after 7:30.

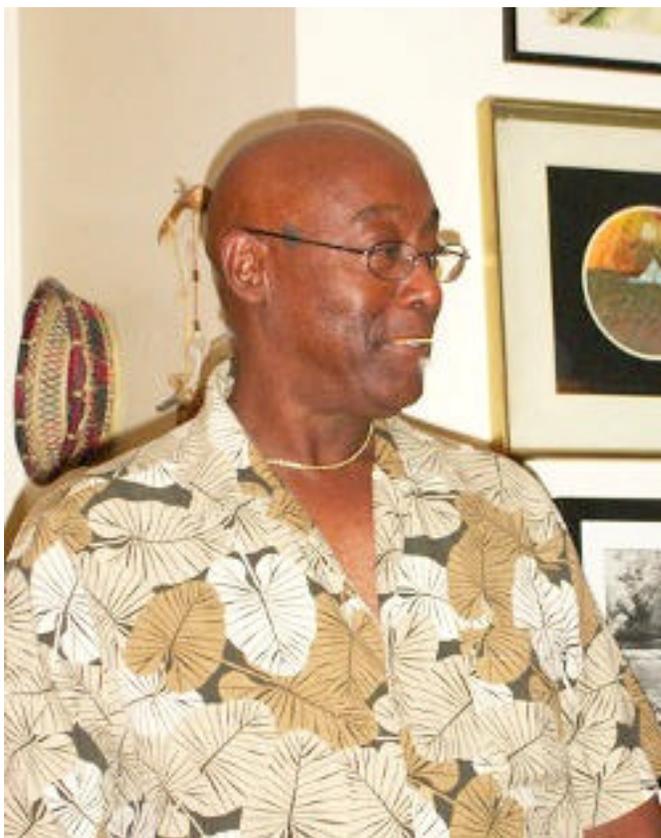
Jokes aside, it was really enjoyable to see all those sensitive, smiling fannish faces erupt into the Launch Pad like that. It was “instant fan club,” and a pretty good one at that.

Teresa and I talked about the wedding. Referencing the title of her article in the last *VFW*, I assured her that her wedding was not “perfect.” I explained that this is a Good Thing, because harmless little imperfections give a wedding a lot of its character and that the quirky little bits would probably prove to be the most memorable. I also pointed out that few so-called “perfect weddings” seem to lead to long and happy marriages. I told her about the glitches in Joyce and my wedding and wished her at least as many happy years.

Discussion of imperfections led, quite naturally, to talk of the tacky Hugos that the Japanese Worldcon gave out this year. A lot of suggestions for future Hugo designs kept everyone laughing, but opposition



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Willie Hall returned from Wisconsin.

was based on more than the stupid look of the thing with the big blue guy next to the rocket.

The Hugos aren't an advertising opportunity. That's what this year's worldcon did; it reduced Science Fiction's most visible and prestigious popular award to a commercial for Ultraman. I wonder how many SF professionals will proudly display these pieces of crap? A couple of more steps down this path will see the worldcon with very little to distinguish itself from Dragoncon or even Creation con.

The Halloween Party, again to be hosted by James Willey and VSFA this year, came in for some discussion. Several people said that planned to go, which should make the party a little livelier and more successful. James W, Mindy Hutchings and the others put a lot of work into the event last year and local support was probably not what they might've wished. They're trying to bring back a tradition and I think it's great that they have hung in there and tried to nurture it for several years like this.

"James Taylor is a wife beater," announced Derek Stazenski as I walked into the room. I thought *VFW* had the Fan Scandal of the year, but it turned out he meant James Taylor the singer.

Someone referred to me as "the leader of the Vegrants," which caused me to remind everyone that the

club has no officers. When pressed, I admitted that someone has to take care of the details, like telling Ross there's an empty chair waiting for him and that it was often me.

"I've learned from the master, Ted White," I bragged. "He doesn't have a lot of fancy titles; he's just in charge." Not that I meant that literally. Ted is "in charge" of a hunk of Core Fandom, because his talent, his dynamic personality and his willingness to champion the ideals of Fandom have made him the point man for the faanish/bohemian wing – all right, the Group Mind – for over 30 years. In our little Meritocracy, Ted earned his role by taking abuse for defending the principles that the rest of us hold dear. Putting your ass in the line of fire counts for something

Ray Waldie turned attention to the Library when he asked James Taylor, as the Head Librarian, whether he'd gotten the books Ray had borrowed during an earlier Vegrants meeting. (This is the *SNAFFU* Library, but most Vegrants are at least nominally members and, besides, they seem the most interested in delving into the collection.)

It developed that Ray had not only returned the books in a timely fashion, but even contributed three more! That's a painless way to expand the library. And speaking of contributions, the kitty for the pre-Corflu Silver party on Thursday 4/24 at the Plaza is growing, too. Thanks to the big meeting, the total jumped to over \$250 by the end of the night.

Jolie LaChance reported progress with her flute lessons. "I can play 'Danny Boy'," she said. With Teresa learning harp and Jolie studying flute, fans might be tempted to call the Vegrants effete if we didn't also have Bill Mills on guitar, Joyce on organ and John DeChancie on piano.

"Come over here and give me a noogie!" Merric Anderson shouted to Lori Forbes. We all thought this was a strange request even for Merric, but Lori obliged by grinding her knuckle into the side of Merric's skull, a classic noogie delivered with classic effectiveness.

As Merric rubbed the sore spot on his head, his fellow Vegrants attempted to find out what was behind this bizarre request. Turned out that what Merric actually wanted was "nookie," not a "noogie." Of such small distinctions are minor anecdotes made.

Joining together in fannish fellowship were: Ross Chamberlain; Lubov; Merric Anderson; Ray & Marcy Waldie; Willie & Penny Hall; Alan & Dedee White; Derek Stazenski; Belle Augusta Churchill; Eric Davis; Ron & Linda Bushyager; Lori Forbes; Bryan Follins; CochTayl (Teresa Cochran & James Taylor); guest Bridgett Westerman; Joyce Katz & me

-- Arnie Katz

Continued from p 1

until, say, Christmas of '07 to get something to me. It doesn't have to be long: one or two paragraphs will suffice. Send it to John Purcell via e-mail at j_purcell54@yahoo.com or snail mail it to me at 3744 Marielene Circle, College Station, TX 77845. I thank you from the bottom of my fannish heart."

This is such a clever idea that I'm definitely going to participate and I hope you'll dash off a couple of paragraphs, too.

SNAFFood to Return to Cool Cuba!

Linda Bushyager, coordinator of the monthly SNAFFU Dinner Meeting (SNAFFood) announced the event will return to one of its most enjoyable venues on Saturday, October 13. Fans will gather at Cool Cuba (2055 E. Tropicana (at Burnham near Eastern) at 6:30 PM for delicious Cuban-style cuisine and lots of animated conversation.

The restaurant is relaxed and casual and fans are likely to get a corner all to themselves. The prices are



Enjoy the revived Cinaholics are (left to right): Joyce & Arnie Katz, John DeChancie and Lubov.

quite reasonable, hardly more than a typical coffee shop, but the eats are a lot more interesting.

You can do as nine fans have already done and

TVoFact Words & Music

New audio on the Oral History page:

Two examples of the "Science Fiction Radio Show" programs produced by Odessa College students (Carson, Lane, Cruz and Johnson) in the early 80's. One of the two shows features a phone interview with A. E. Van Vogt from 1982. Plus, you'll find several additional audios consisting of the original unedited phone interviews conducted for the program in 1982 with notables such as Poul Anderson, Hal Clement, and (our own) Greg Benford. Several more are being encoded for the web from cassette tapes as time permits and will be added to the site as soon as possible.

New audio on Pages One and Four of Fannish Music Pages:

On page One I've added a new recording of Don Simpson's "Ship Of Stone". The song is again nominated for a Pegasus Award in the Classic Filk category. This is essentially my "Unplugged" version, stripped down and mostly acoustic (as opposed to the more heavily orchestrated version I did last year). A link to the Pegasus award web site is there as well, and I urge everyone to go vote for Don Simpson and "Ship Of Stone."

On Music page Four I've added Bill Beard's "Alpha Centauri Waltz," JoHn Hardin's "King Of The Sky" and my renditions of Cat Faber's filk song "Sixteen Tomes" and Julia West's comical "Mutants."

Also, several photos from the wedding of James Taylor and Teresa Cochran have been added to the "Las Vegrants" album in The Mills Photo Archive. <http://www.billmills.net/coppermine>

TVoF's next podcast will run through October and will feature material in the spirit of the Halloween 'season' including a reading of Poe's "The Raven".

I welcome email comments and opinions of the site, it's contents and/or our TVoF podcasts. Send 'em to: BillMills@TheVoicesOfFandom.com.

— Bill Mills



RSVP to Linda (2055 E. Tropicana at Burnham near Eastern). Joyce and I have already signed up, so we'll hope to see you there.

Cineholics Returns!

Alan and DeDee White (podmogul@cox.net) have begun holding Cineholics meetings again after a short hiatus. The group meets to watch movies, talk about the films and raid the White's generous table of goodies and drinkables.

The group gets together most Friday evenings at 7:30 at the White House, the exquisite home of Alan and DeDee White. Cineholics is informal, and invitational. The welcome mat is out for all interested local fans (and fannish visitors who want some Friday night fanac). Contact Alan for more details.

The group now also has a very attractive website with information about the club and the movies it shows. The URL is: <http://fanbase1.com/cineholics/cineholics.html>.

Tommy Ferguson Returns to Toronto!

On September 29, Tommy Ferguson, the founder of Toronto's First Thursday, returned to the Foxes Den for a special Last Thursday meeting. Tommy Ferguson started the monthly pub meeting while he was living and working in Toronto seven-eight years ago. Then he returned to Belfast and Toronto Fandom has not seen him since.

The trip was allegedly a birthday present to his wife Leslie.

VFW hopes someone in Toronto will Write It Up.

Fan Publishing Update...

John Purcell has posted *Askance #4*. The successor to *In a Prior Lifetime* has quickly replaced John's earlier title among today's elite fanzines. This issue has an emphasis on conventions as well as articles by Claire Brialey, Chris Garcia and more. Download it free at: efanzines.com...

Shelby Vick has posted the 8th issue of *Planetary*

Rumbles of DISCONTENT **SNAFFU Central**

The ups and downs (mostly the latter) of Las Vegas Fandom sparked the liveliest discussion at the September 30th meeting of SNAFFU. The club normally gathers on the fourth Sunday of the month, but a scheduling conflict at the Library pushed it to the fifth Sunday this time.

Some of the regulars weren't there — Joyce & Arnie Katz and Teresa Cochran — weren't able to attend, but there were two newcomers. Al Breaux is a 69-year-old UFO enthusiast who has enjoyed rides on flying saucers. Elizabeth Ozi is a prospective science fiction writer. (Of more potential interest to fans is the continued attendance of neofan David Miller, who comes across better with each appearance.)

Linda Bushyager expressed dissatisfaction with the direction in which Westercon '08 is heading. I have no interest in Westercon, but I haven't seen anything unexpected or unprecedented. Everything seems in line with the way the con has been run, at least in recent years. That's not a compliment, but it's their event and they can do as they please. Hopefully, Corflu Silver will be more to the taste of Linda and other fans.

Besides those mentioned, attendees included Ron Bushyager and Jolie LaChance.

— SNAFFU X

Stories, his electronic fanzine dedicated to reviving the pulp science fiction genre. ShelVy reports that PS now has puffins – and a new section called ‘Fanstuff.’”

Check it out at: www.planetarystories.com

Chuck Connor, who did an outstanding hardcopy anthology of Harry Warner’s “All Our Yesterdays” columns in the 1990’s, has embarked on electronic fanzine publishing in a big way with *Phlzz*. Check it out at efanzines.com...

Tommy Ferguson, international fan of semi-mystery, has returned to fanpublishing after a hiatus with *Best of Gotterdammerung*. I would no doubt be touting this if I’d received a copy.

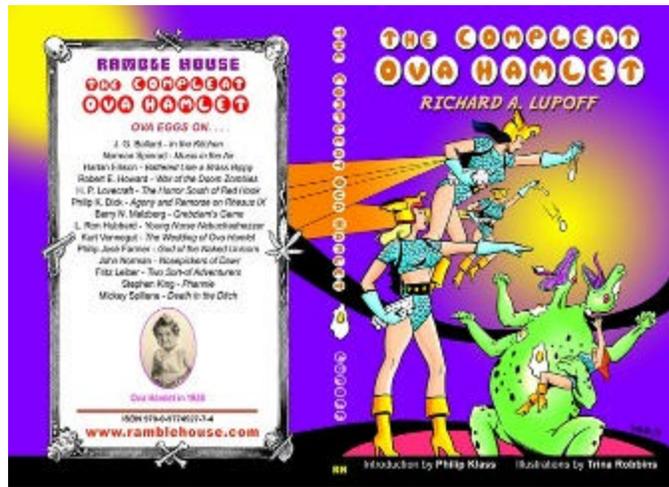
On the Pro Front...

Congratulations to Greg Benford on the great reception to his new hardcover *Beyond Human* (Forge 0-7653-1082-1). Publisher’s Weekly Online gave the book a tremendous review. Hopefully, equally tremendous sales will follow...

Richard Lupoff has a new anthology, *The Complete Ova Hamlet*, out this month. It is a collection of pastiche/parodies, many published originally in *Amazing* during the editorship of Ted White...

Heard Around Fandom...

Willie & Penny Hall have returned from extended exile in Wisconsin and attended their first Vegnants meeting in a very long time. It’s good to have them



back. (Penny, by the way, is the sister of long-time Las Vegas fan Marcy Waldie...

Andy Porter is currently touring Europe, which must mean he’s feeling a lot better. Maybe he’ll Write It Up...

Robert & Carol Lichtman have just returned from a visit to Portland, OR, during which they got to spend a lot of time with Dan & Lynn Steffan. They enjoyed themselves so much, reportedly, that they even toyed with the idea of relocating. Gee... the Lichtmans, the Staffans and David Levin and Kate Yule would be a terrific nucleus for a local club...

Best wishes to Southern fan Tim Bolgar, who is recuperating from a cardiac incident.

Contact! Las Vegas Club Directory

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

Cinaholics

Alan & DeDee White

Email: podmogul@mac.com

Website: <http://fanbase1.com/cineholics/cineholics.html>.

Las Vegnants

Arnie & Joyce Katz,

909 Eugene Cernan St., Las Vegas, NV 89145

Email: JoyceWorley1@cox.net

Phone: 702-648-5677

Website: LasVegnants.com

SNAFFU:

James Taylor

Email: dfh1@cox.net

Phone: 702-434-5784

Website: SNAFFU.org

ChatBack

The VFW Lettercol

ChatBack: The VFW Letter Column

The 100th issue is complete – and this one is heading in that direction – but not before we dive into this issue’s tremendous collection of outstanding comments.

The Sage of Fandom steps up to the podium first and, as usual, he has plenty of cogent comments (and some corrections)....

Robert Lichtman

Since I have no way of knowing at this writing just how many sections of VFW No. 100 there will be, it seems prudent for me to send you a letter of comment on them as they appear rather than waiting for the final one and then trying to do justice to whatever the ultimate page count turns out to be. I have this vision of installment after installment appearing every couple days for some indeterminate amount of time, challenging even those of us with the most capable of staplers from assembling it once you’ve decided enough is enough. And perhaps you’ll *never* finish the 100th issue because material will keep coming in (or coming up in your mind) and you’ll pump out part after part after part of the issue into the far distant future.

Returning to some semblance of reality, it’s undoubtedly good that you’re putting it out in installments—thus averting the strong likelihood of Nydahl’s Disease afflicting even such a seasoned fan as yourself. I know I shouldn’t worry about that, but a



The Fuller Movie Mystery — Solved!

One of the articles in *VFW #100* was Charles Fuller’s heart-tugging account of his search for an illusive movie. I’m pleased to report that the Mighty Braintrust that is the *VFW* readership has come through with flying colors.

Several people — Alan White and Frank Wu were first, in a virtual dead heat — to identify the film as *The Four-Sided Triangle*, which is based on a story by William Temple.

All Truth can, indeed, be found in Fandom.

— Arnie

little piece of me can't shake the mental image of you fading away in the starry Vegas night, your centenary issue never completed, rumors that you really are a hoax resurfacing stronger than ever. It sounds like a faan fiction yarn that you would write, except that it would be true

Starting with Part A, thanks for the "special 'thank you'" you extended to me (and Lloyd Penney) over our faithful appearances in "Chatback." My pleasure!

The milestones you listed in "Great Moments in Fanhistory" seem true and correct to me, but some of the order in which you present them is askew. For instance, the Staple Wars happened earlier than that first Leeds gathering and should appear between Leeds and the founding of the Science Fiction League. John Bristol was invented after the creation of FAPA. Moskowitz began writing and serializing *The Immortal Storm* before Rick Sneary came up with "South Gate in '58." And Corflu began well before John Foyster started publishing *eFnac*.

Your mention at the end of TheVoicesOfFandom.com led me to have another look at that site, which for the most part I've been ignoring. It's expanded considerably since my initial peek at it, but appears to have plenty of room to grow. For instance, to balance out all that Ackerman stuff I'd like to hear the Laney Laugh and hear Burbee tell the Watermelon Story. Someone must have those wire recordings they did back in the '40s or a dubbing from them. It's all on them—and much more.

Enjoyed Shelby's account of his 100th birthday party and was certainly glad to be in attendance!

In Chris Garcia's account of his year as N3F president, I think he beats himself up a little too much here and there. As he notes, he "wasn't the right guy" for the job—being a relatively new fan and also new to the N3F—and perhaps shouldn't have allowed himself to be considered for the position. Of everything he wrote about the experience, the thing that bothered me the most is where he takes blame for that "Neffar friend" of his who got onto an e-list and proceeded to cause lots of trouble. Chris, you had no idea that guy would turn out to be so disagreeable and such a hassle. It definitely wasn't your fault.

I enjoyed Terry Kemp's article about Ken Krueger, a fan about whom I knew next to nothing. His biography doesn't mention that in 1947 Krueger was editor of a little printed fanzine, *Space Trails*, that had at least five issues. (Interestingly, it's not listed in the *Fanzine Index*.) The first issue is nearly entirely devoted to "Prison Planet," a short story by Bob Tucker, and features a photo of Bob hovering over his mimeo on the back cover. The fifth issue is similarly devoted to "The

Old One," a short story by one Toby Duane. Both issues have advertisements for books published by Pegasus Publications. And that fifth issue must have appeared sometime in the early '50s because it has an advertisement for the Ballantine editions of Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*, which wasn't published until 1953.

It was interesting to read the various earthquake stories that resulted from your mention of our late July shaker at a Vegrants meeting. Our own experience resulted in our finally purchasing earthquake insurance as a form of *financial* protection should we be unfortunate enough to suffer a really big quake during our lifetime. You mention noticing a number of small quakes in Las Vegas since you've lived there, but apparently you've been lucky. When I google for "earthquake las vegas," I come up with a number of sites that mention the possibility of more serious temblors. In a 1999 news story someone is quoted as saying "the most prominent threat in the [*Las Vegas*] valley is Frenchman Mountain Fault, which could deliver a magnitude-6 to magnitude-7 earthquake based on its 20-mile length and the fact that the fault has shifted before, leaving rock layers offset by as much as 6 feet. Based on preliminary examination of the fault, geologists believe an earthquake of that caliber happens every 10,000 to 50,000 years." Time would appear to be on your side here. Or maybe not—a 2003 news story quotes a seismologist saying, "The valley is surrounded by a big, deep-faulted basin that would shake like a bowl of Jell-O if struck by a major earthquake and would continue to shake until the energy dissipates," and that because there hasn't been a major quake in the area since people settled in the nineteenth century, "We don't know when the last earthquake occurred, so we can't predict when to expect the next one." James Taylor told me he has quake insurance, but that when he went for it the insurance agent looked at him funny.

Moving to Part B, I want to note that Carol and I will be at the Ditto/Artcon in Gualala at the end of October, but our plans are to attend for only one day. We have a room reserved for Saturday night, we hope it isn't raining that weekend, and we look forward to the occasion.

I hope some information will be available eventually on how to donate to the fund Greg Pickersgill has started to erect a plaque in memory of Dave Wood. It would be good if contributions could be made using Paypal.

On the face of it I didn't expect to find much of interest in "VFW by the Numbers," but I was pleasantly surprised. My eyetracking first stopped at the description for No. 6, where I thought to myself that an organization with the acronym "SNACCOA" was pre-

Joyce Wins EGOBOO POLL! SNAP Shots

Joyce Katz, co-founder of SNAPS and the monthly electronic apa's first Official Editor, earned the additional distinction of winning the group's first Egoboo Poll. She received heavy support as a publisher and writer to finish first in the standings. The final results were: 1. Joyce Katz; 2. Arnie Katz; 3. Robert Lichtman; 4. John Purcell; 5. Ross Chamberlain; 6. Alan White; 7. JoHn Hardin; 8 (tie). Roxanne Mills; 8 (tie). James Taylor; 8 (tie). R. Laurraine Tutihasi; 11. Linda Bushyager; 12. Chris Garcia; 13. Teresa Cochran.

A discussion among the members led to the Official Editor ruling that eMailings will no longer be posted on any web site. The group has not gone "secret" or "private," however. Sample eMailings are still available for the asking from OEvia me (crossfire4@cox.net) for the asking.

SNAPS is an electronic amateur press association open to all interested fans — and eager for new members. There are no dues and very low activity requirements. We hope you'll give it a try. — Arnie

Deadline for Oct. eMailing: 10/20

doomed to failure even if it didn't represent an attempt to form an umbrella organization to "supervise" all Vegas fan activities (which sounds suspiciously like a local N3F).

Your mention of Lloyd and me leading off the first installment of "Chatback" sent me to that issue to see who came first. I was satisfied with the results of my investigation, but I'll leave it to the readers to delve into the vast archive of past issues at efanazines to see the answer.

In your comments on the 29th issue you wrote, "I'm always a little shocked when I realize I have been active in Fandom much longer this second time than in my original stint." I have those moments, too, when I observe that I've been in both FAPA and SAPS about three times longer since reactivating than I was back in the '50s and '60s. And I've published about twice as many genzines. How did this happen to us, Arnie!?

About Joyce's suffering a bite from Steve Brust's dog and he "never even called to ask how she was," is this still the case? If so, that's pretty unforgivable — and in my opinion a fandom-wide boycott of his writing should be organized. I see from listings on Amazon and his Wikipedia entry that he writes primarily fantasies (although some with stfnal elements), so my own participation in this is assured. I'm embarrassed to read that like me he's of Hungarian descent. In the spirit of our mutual native tongue, I proclaim him a major *bosszantó dolog*.

You mention John DeChancie's eulogy to the late Bob Leman in No. 84 and observe that you'd "liked to have a companion piece to John's that delved more

deeply into Leman the fan." I did that to some extent in my letter responding to that issue, in which I wrote:

"You note that 'Many fans consider *The Vinegar Worm* #1 as the best first issue of all time.' I don't dispute that claim, but want to point out that it was called *The American Journal of Oculenteratology* and didn't become *The Vinegar Worm* until the second issue. There were four issues of it as a genzine followed by a dozen more circulated through FAPA. Bob also published half a dozen issues of *Nematode* for SAPS and at least one oneshot fanzine. The latter was titled *An Inquiry into Certain Little-Known Consequence of the Berlin-Baghdad Pact*."

Yes, this is far short of that in-depth piece you'd like to see, but the truth of the matter is that Bob's fanac was focused as noted above and he was active altogether for only a dozen years. He wrote for other fanzines than his own, but much of what he turned out was the same sort of pastiches and parodies he published himself. (His political views were not ours, but he was for the most part fairly civilized in expressing them.) Some of the most memorable of those were the parts of the issues of Ron Smith's *Inside* that satirized *Astounding* and *F&SF*. When I began *Trap Door* in 1983, I somehow obtained Bob's address and sent him just about every issue. I would occasionally be rewarded with a fine letter of comment, but towards the end his neat typing was replaced by increasingly hard to decipher handwriting as he reported on his declining health.

Your mention of the lead story in the 92nd issue moves me to mention that what you term "the year's most outstanding fan publication" is still very much

Las Vegas Fan October Events Calendar

VSFA Monthly Meeting Saturday, September 1 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, October 6 7:30 PM

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

SNAFFood Sept. Dinner Saturday, October 13 6:30 PM

The dinner meeting will take place at Cool Cuba. Contact LindaBushyager@aol.com for details

Las Vegrants Meeting Saturday, October 20 7:30 PM

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

SNAPS Deadline Saturday, October 20

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 Vegas Fandom Annual Halloween Party Saturday, October 27 8: 00 PM

VSFA is the sponsor, and James Willig the host for this year's party.

SNAFFU Discussion Meeting Sunday, October 28, 2:00 PM

Vegas' formal science fiction club meets for a lively discussion meeting once a month at the Clark County public library on Flamingo (near Maryland.)

available. Copies are \$15 plus postage from Pat Virzi, who accepts Paypal. Complete ordering information and a handful of sample pages may be found at <http://www.efanzines.com/ASL/SampleASL.pdf>. (It's possible the postage figures listed there might be obsolete, though, since they predate the July increases.) Taral also still has the Glicksohn CD available, too.

I'm looking forward to the Lee Hoffman memorial issue you hint might be coming in a month or so.....

Arnie: I toyed with the idea of just continuing to publish segments of #100, but I was afraid fans would hold their letters of comment until it was done. (Not everyone took your bold approach to the four-part issue.)

Let me emphasize that it definitely isn't Too Late to write about VFW #100. In fact, additional comments, whether accompanied by steaming piles of egoboo or not, would be highly welcome.

Reluctantly returning to reality with you – I like Fandom better – I published the issue in segments purely to avoid sending folks one blockbuster file. The best advice I could give anyone who aspires to be active in today's Fandom is: Get a broadband connection. Only when most fans have updated their equipment will we really be able to publish the kind of electronic fanzines that are currently possible, but impractical due to memory constraints.

I agree with you about Chris unnecessarily taking

the blame for that disruptive neffer. It's all most of us can do to be responsible for our own behavior, much less someone else's, in Fandom.

I felt Josh Andrews' penchant for starting groups resulted from a lot of unfocused neofannish energy and a desire to "do something." He's a nice enough fellow who did not, at least at that time, perceive the differences between Star Trek Fandom and ours. I've always felt that he would eventually develop into a good fan. For some time, he has lived in Oklahoma, away from the Vegrants' benign influence, so that probably hasn't happened yet.

Thanks for providing the extra detail. For purposes of the article I did, I thought it might be better to refer to Leman's fanzine under its most familiar name, but I think I'll add that fact to the final entry.

No, Steve Brust never did ask about Joyce after the dog-bite incident. I know he had some health problems of his own on his mind, but it still wasn't a Shining Moment.

The Ackerman content on TheVoicesOfFandom.com is a result of Bill's friendship with FJA. For material outside his circle, Bill, like Blanche Dubois, depends on the kindness of strangers. I'm sure Bill Mills (bill@billmills.net) would love to hear from anyone with audio of fanhistorical interest.

Mr. Sunshine rolls up his sleeves, gives his propel-

ler beanie prop a playful spin and attempts the impossible...

Shelby Vick

Reminds me of my favorite commercial, Arnie --
And I mean my favorite commercial of all time!

At least forty years ago, Snowdrift Shortening had a commercial where a cute li'l cartoon guy comes out holding an hour glass. He looks at it, looks at the audience, and says brightly: "I have ten seconds to tell you how wonderful Snowdrift is." He looks at the hour-glass and the sand's almost thru it. He tosses away the hourglass, looks at the audience, and says: "It's impossible!"

I sat down, pulled up this email form, looked at it, told myself I needed to write you and tell you how pleased I was with your 100th issue -- which I'm filing in my 'Hold Forever' file -- and said, "I've got to tell Arnie how great, how Wonderful, his 100th was.

It's impossible.

Arnie: Let me get this straight.... when you think of VFW, what comes to mind is a tub of lard? Given the rather impressive tallness of some VFW participants -- you, me, Lichtman, Ken Forman -- "shortening" is something I wouldn't expect to find associated with this fanzine.

Here, with his first letter of comment to a fanzine, is Jay Shannon, who may well have more to say next time, now that he has survived the initial contact...

Jay Shannon

Very impressive. Only got the chance to glance at the download so far...ultra slammed at work. Will read after shift and send more feedback. Great graphics... great content...and now I'm extremely homesick for Vegas.

Arnie: After Jay came to work for ProWrestling-Daily.com, we discovered some interesting overlap between his life and mine, including residence in Las Vegas. We even discovered that he had attended the same small wrestling show as Joyce, Bill Kunkel and me, during which Mick Foley and Sabu battled out of the arena and into the casino, where Mick put Sabu through a poker table that was actually in mid-game! I doubt there were 500 people there

From the Bay to the Desert comes a letter from a fan who is always welcome in "ChatBack" (and whom we hope will come to Corflu Silver in April, 2008...

Jack Calvert

Greetings from the wilds of Oakland. I haven't written for a while, and have no hope of catching up on

all the fine stuff you've been sending my way, but thought I'd send along a few words to indicate that I'm still alive, and still enjoying the cheery and busy Vegas fan scene from afar.

I'm not surprised your brother read aloud the words you wrote about your mom. That's a touching remembrance. A drive to understand is a good thing to be remembered for.

Your list of great fanzines tickled my memory with some once familiar names, and also reminded me that there is much good fanwriting out there that I've never seen. And that's a good thing -- it's always nice to know that there are unknown parts of the world to explore. It also crosses my mind to wonder if there are zines that are the opposite of these. I mean not just poorly done, but so obnoxious that people avoid them -- the paper equivalent of fuggheads. I can think of one possible candidate that I've seen mentioned in tones of horror now and then, but won't mention the title, since I haven't actually seen a copy. Another thing the great zines list peeled off my brain is to wonder if you'll extend this "great fans, great zines..." concept to great cons -- the ones that were pivotal events in fan history.

I enjoyed Shelby Vick's piece on Chantrix. Back in the way long ago when I was smoking a pack or so a day of the little white coffin nails, I tried using some over the counter stuff called "Bantron," I think. I believe that it was advertised as being a nicotine substitute. But it had no effect whatsoever that I could tell. I also wasn't really trying very hard to quit. When I finally did (much later), it was without any aids. I had a couple of backslidings, and many times when I was going around thinking only about not smoking, but finally the desire went away, and it became a non-issue.

In 98, I got a laugh out of the CJGFSCF proposal. But Chris doesn't seem quite up for this generous offer from his fellow fen. Also liked the picture of the Vegants' critters. Clearly, there is an in group and an out group in this fannish circle.

I read the news about James Taylor and Theresa Cochrane on the e-lists, and offer congratulations and wish happiness to them both.

Arnie: I don't want anyone, except Lloyd Penney, to feel that they need to "catch up." If you get VFW, it's because I want you to have it. It means a lot to me if, every now and then, a reader shares his or her thoughts about something in the issue and maybe even spreads a little egoboo, but I definitely do not keep count.

I won't be covering "Great Conventions." That's a more fitting topic for Mike Glycer's File 770. I enjoy the memories of cons I've attended, but have little feeling for them in the abstract.

I was in another room when Bill Mills snapped that photo of Foggy and Candy Matson “interviewing” the stray cats through the dining room’s sliding door, so I don’t know how Bill set up the shot. My cat is normally so reclusive that fans seldom see him and I was astounded to see him sitting so quietly next to the ferret. I guess it’s true what they say about the Bond of the Ve-grants.

Making her “ChatBack” debut with what I think is her first-ever LoC comes the Fairest Flower of Vegas Fandom...

Jolie LaChance

If the memory is supposed to be low does that mean that there *won’t* be a quiz on the contents?

Here’s my Dragoncon report: Dragoncon is big, very big. Lots and lots of people.

Big con. Big co o on Big Bad con,
Big con.

It wasn’t that bad really but the filk was too good to pass up.

I’m sure the panels and stuff were cool if you could find them and/or get into them. Watching the parade was neat. However, bottom line is that it felt like a day at Disneyland. Just too big and crowded for *moi*.

Arnie: Since I find current worldcons too big, commercial and impersonal, I can only imagine how much I would’ve disliked DragonCon. The similarities between the two conventions will probably grow fewer in coming years, so there is little likelihood of me attending either (unless they make me Guest of Honor or something).

VFW’s TAFF Choice says some incredibly nice things about this fanzine. You gotta appreciate a fan with Taste...

Chris Garcia

Eventually, someone will write the complete history of electronic fanac. They’ll talk about the BBS years, mailing lists, they’ll mention *Emerald City* and *eFnac*, go into great detail on the early sites and when they get to the eFanzines era, we’ll hear about the founding and then about *VFW*: the zine that changed everything.

You see, issue 100 made me realize what I already knew, that *VFW* is the ground-breaker. *VFW* was the first regular PDF newszine focusing on a specific area to take root outside of that specific area. With *SF/SF*, Jack took that model and ran with it.

VFW was weekly, something that had been done before, and proved that even with a fast schedule and being electronic, LoCs could flow in large numbers and content could be gathered to form great issues. *The Drink Tank* owes more to *VFW* than I think I’ve ever confessed. Hell, if I win TAFF, *VFW* will be a very big part of what made it happen, without question.

We saw folks come out of the woodwork after discovering *VFW*. We’ve had people burst on to the scene for the first time through the pages of *VFW*. *VFW* has changed the eFANAC world, certainly for the better.

That said, I’ve enjoyed the first two parts very much. I loved the index you put together. It makes me realize just how little I’ve managed to send your way. I’ll try and fix that for certain.

Brad Foster’s been doing a great job recently with his colored pieces. I’m loving the way Photoshop has changed the look, but his style shines through.

That’s actually a great list of important moments, though there are a few that I’d say warrant inclusion. Bjo revamping LASFS in the 1950s is one. Project Art Show would be another. The first fannish hoax to get any attention outside of just fandom was the Little Men Claiming the Moon as their property, which was written up in papers around the world. The 1980s growth of fandom is another important part, as is the birth of Trek fandom, I’d say.

Gotta love ShelVy! I’ll be there for your 100th, Padre! You can bet on that

Ken Krueger is a legendary name and one that I knew from folks in and around Comics fandom and from my recent reading of *All Our Yesterdays*. It’s interesting how guys like Ken kinda get bumped off the map over the years. Peter Weston’s been profiling folks like that in UK fandom through *Prolapse*, which is a very good thing. You can’t get the full picture and forget to find out what sections might have faded away over time.

John Purcell puts it all in perspective. I’ve barely managed to keep a weekly sched (most weeks something comes out, but there are theme issues that take forever and throw my plans off) and it’s never easy. The last few issues of *VFW* have been great, even if they’re showing up less often. Speed should be trumped by quality, and you’ve managed excellent quality.

Not sure what the name of the movie Charles Fuller is looking for, but it sounds so familiar. It’s not *The Amazing Duplicator* (yes, a real film, but it was a short made in the 1910s) but I’m sure it’s out there. The upside down fish tank makes me think of *The Device*, but that would have been in the 1950s.

Great parties are put to the world in great articles. I

wish life hadn't raised its ugly head this year and I'd have been able to make it out there. I'll find a way eventually, and I knew I'll run into Vegas folks at Los Con, but it's always nice to meet on the ground of the City of Clinking Trays.

Arnie: I tuned up for VFW by first doing several fanzines with at least 50% electronic distribution and then two – Jackpot and Bring Bruce Bayside Bulletin – before I started this one. You're right that response was very low at the start, but it has increased steadily as more and more fans figure out how to participate in this medium.

Rising up from his Temporary Exile in Pittsburgh comes one of VFW's favorite contributors...

John DeChancie

"Monstrazine" is the neologism I've just coined to hang on your 100th gala ish of VFW. When you finally put it all together, it should properly let out a roar and start lurching toward Tokyo (only fitting given those embarrassing Hugo trophies). One hundred issues of anything is a proud accomplishment, and kudos is due you and your many contributors, which includes me, so if you pat my back, I'll pat yours, for all that I deserve only a patlet (another coinage) for my minuscule offerings. I haven't read every word of the ish yet, but after I finish War and Peace, I will get right to it and scan every jot and pixel. Meanwhile, I'm enjoying the coverage of Theresa and James's wedding. I wish I could have been there. I would have worn my tux and shown up all you slobs (except James, who was, if not *comme il faut*, acceptably attired). I've long lamented the sorry fact that some fans' notion of dressing up is a new T-shirt and jeans without wear-holes. Sigh. Anyway, that is a subject for another LoC. Again, in regard to the zine, congratulations on persisting in your own special, and quite affable, brand of madness.

Arnie: Even a four-part issue doesn't faze Fandom's Young Star, who returned with his second letter of comment of the issue...

Chris Garcia

Another fine section of what is truly a remarkable issue of VFW. Great coverage of the Fannish Wedding of the Year. If I may say congrats to the Bride and Groom and wish them all the happiness that life can throw at them! It looked like a good wedding and a fun one, too. I'm officiating the wedding of two friends of mine in February (the 29th, to be exact) and they're two wonderful fans. What can I say, I love Love.

Alan does the best photos. The guy's just phenome-

nal! They really make me feel like I'm at whatever event he's capturing. Thanks, Alan!!!

A couple of little notes: it's a great list of folks who are planning on attending Corflu. Anyone from out of town should swing by NorCal after the fun and hang here for a few days! I'll give free tours of the museum and might even take you to lunch.

Always good to hear more from Graham Charnock. He's a funny guy, quick on his feet, and one of those fellas who can whip out a knock on Chris Garcia faster than a hiccup! Nothing gains a human more respect from me than that!

On the response to John Purcell's comment about Chris Barkley, he's actually much better known than I am nation-wide (he's been around for a lot longer and travels more to the cons that I never get to) and he's a fine candidate. I read a little of his writing recently and was very impressed. He's good, though he doesn't show up in too many zines. It turns out that the two of us were on a Star Trek Quiz panel together in 2002. Nice guy. I don't know much about Linda Deneroff, but if Kevin Standlee backs her, I certainly have to take her seriously.

I also realised that you've got a GIANT LetterCol this issue with some of the best names in fan writing and I completely failed to get a letter in in time to run. I should be horse-whipped. As soon as I find someone strong enough to wield a horse, I'll accept the punishment.

Arnie: CochTayl's wedding was terrific. With 18 fans (not counting Tee and James), it was like a very special Vegrants meeting (with a bunch of other guests who mostly entertained themselves.)

Your praise for Alan is fully merited. He's also a fine artist and cartoonist – and I wish I could coax him into sharing some of his excellent writing with VFW readers, too. But I don't want to overlook the amazingly talented Bill Mills, who has done extensive audio and video of a number of fannish occasions, including the CochTayl Wedding. I recommend a trip to TheVoicesOfFandom.com

Back for his second featured appearance is the inimitable Sage of Fandom with plenty of comments about old fanzines, TAFF and more...

Robert Lichtman

Nice coverage of James and Teresa's wedding in Part C. But "Cochtayl" is such a weird coinage that in my opinion it deserves to die quickly, perhaps even in the "complete version, including a few little fixes," that you'll be putting together after the final installment of this mammoth issue. What do the victims of this

abomination think of it?

Moving on to this issue's "ChatBack," it was a distinct pleasure to see others recommending some of the same fanzines I mentioned in my own extensive list of great fanzines of the past. I definitely agree with Jay Kinney about *Starling*, which I overlooked in my own commentary, being "one of the best fanzines of its era," of which I have a complete run starting with the twelfth issue (and wonder why the first eleven issues have eluded me). To answer his question about Chris Couch's zines, the primary one was *Cipher*. I have all but one of the seven issues, and all but one of them have art contributions from Jay, including covers for the first and final issues. Chris was also involved in seven issues of *High Time* with Terry Hughes, a one-shot called *The Last Shot* with Terry and Hank & Lesleigh Luttrell, and at least one issue of an Apa-45 zine called *Unhealthy*. As for Jay's assertion that Grant Canfield "resolutely gaffiated after being active for years," let's not overlook his "Thrilling Architect Stories" in the most recent *Trap Door*.

Like you I also hold Vernon L. McCain in high regard. As it happens, he was one of the victims of the first Year of the Jackpot back in 1958—joining Kent Moomaw and Cyril Kornbluth in early deaths. His *Wastebasket* saw only four issues back in the early '50s, and I wish I had more than just the first one. (The fourth is being auctioned on eBay even as I type, closing late tonight, and I intend to do my best to score it.) I also like his FAPAZine, *Birdsmith*, which had many more issues. But I disagree with your disagreement about *Dream Quest*—perhaps since, as you write, you've read "by no means all of them," you've missed the best of the lot. Balancing your opinion of *Dream Quest* is mine of *Rune*, which John Purcell lauds. I'll admit that it's had some good issues in its lengthy run, but it's had a lot of different editors and not all of them were successful in putting together a fanzine that appealed to me. Some of my favorite issues are those edited by Jeff Schalles.

You comment to John Nielsen Hall that he "will have to write the three-to-five line entry" on *Fouler*, apparently overlooking that I did so in my letter—although I lumped it and *True Rat* together. If you'd like the titles broken down into individual entries, I'd be happy to do so.

I agree with your view that "Chris Garcia is nearly the definition of the type of fan whom TAFF's founders had in mind," while also agreeing that Christian McGuire "has some legitimate credentials" but to my mind is insufficiently known on the other side of the Big Pond to attract the attention of all but a small handful of voters. Chris Barkley also shares that handi-



cap—I know him only as someone who's had articles in *File 770* and *Outworlds* that have tended to serve as insomnia cures—and I'd never heard of Linda Deneroff at all until she turned up on the ballot. (And to compound that I haven't heard of two of her five nominators, either.) You write that "The fourth candidate's platform confesses to repeated theft of intellectual properties and as a writer, I think that's disgusting." I don't see such a confession in her platform. What am I missing?

I heartily endorse Shelby Vick's mention of the Bruce Pelz collection as a good resource for getting copies of old fanzines. The Website listing what's been catalogued of Bruce's collection (which is *far* from complete due to its massive size, but still includes over 40,000 items) is a useful supplementary source for checking out fanzine bibliographic information, at least so far as number of issues is concerned. It's also worth adding that Terry Carr's fanzine collection is separately catalogued on the Eaton's Website, although in a different and to me less useful format.

Noting that Mark Plummer also contests your belief that Penelope Fandergaste was F.M. Busby—both Mark and I hold that it was Ron Bennett—let me carry this discussion one step further by suggesting that perhaps you've confused Buz's *nom de review* of "Renfrew Pemberton" with Ron's gossipy Penelope pseudonym. As you'll recall, Buz used "Pemberton" in

Cry of the Nameless for many installments of a column reviewing the current SF magazines and later revived the name in Pete Weston's *Zenith/Speculation*. Am I on the right track, Meyer?

I agree with Ed Meskys that Ron Smith's *Inside* is worthy of inclusion on the list. Neatly reproduced in photo-offset (which some would say makes it less "fannish") and tilted somewhat towards more serious discussion of the mother literature, still it included contributions from a wide range of fans and pros including Bloch, Ellison, Tucker, Lowndes, Moskowitz, Blish, Doc Smith, Lin Carter, Silverberg, John W. Campbell Jr., Bob Leman—and more (including several stories by the wonderful David R. Bunch). Oh, and the *aSF* and *F&SF* parodies that concluded the Smith run. (Jonathan White inherited it after Smith emigrated to Australia and did a few decent issues before turning it over to Leland Sapiro, who changed its name to *Riverside Quarterly* and in my view lowered its quality.)

As for Ed's other suggestions, Riddle's *Peon* had a long run and certainly published a lot of quality contributions; but despite that somehow it's never risen to the "memorable" category for me. (Maybe it's the zine's resolutely boring appearance.) More or less the same applies to Terry Jeeves' *Erg* (though its appearance isn't boring). The Eaton's Pelz fanzine catalogue tells me that *Gaul* was done by Larry McCombs and Steve Tolliver, but I remember nothing about the fanzine and have none in my collection. I agree with Ed about Ron Ellik's *Starspinkle*, but note that *Ratatosk* was done after Ellik discontinued publication by Bruce Pelz. It's good, too. (I have a soft spot for newszines.)

Lloyd Penney writes, "If I recall correctly Richard Bergeron lives in the Ottawa area." Huh!?

Finally, I agree that this year's Hugo statue well deserves a place on the list of Most Ugly and that Taral is an excellent choice for the Montreal Worldcon's fan guest of honor. And your mention of Michael Bernstein reminds me that the Rotsler.com Website is no longer available. This is a recent occurrence, since several weeks ago it was still there but full of broken links. I hadn't visited it for a long time until last month when, spurred by correspondence with an eBay person who was buying up lots of Rotsler stuff, I checked it out. It's a shame that it's gone, and I hope someone will pick up the pieces and either revive it or come up with a successor.

Arnie: I'm afraid general sentiment is against you when it comes to "CochTayl." It's especially handy when referring to Tee and James as a couple, because they have elected to maintain their family names.

Hmmmm.... Maybe you're feeling left out, unfairly ignored, After all, your marriage to Carol has even

more "BNF chic" than the CochTayl nuptials. Perhaps some VFW readers will demonstrate their cleverness by coming up with one of those "couple names" for you.

I consider theft of intellectual property to be on the same footing as theft of goods or other services. Anyone who doesn't scruple at appropriating someone else's literary work may not have inhibitions about stealing other things from other people.

Peon, which I encountered about a decade after it ceased publication, never excited me much, either. That doesn't mean Ed Meskys and others can't vote for it when we take that poll. That's the idea of dredging up all those musty fanzine titles; someone out there probably loves FOSFAX.

Mark Plummer

Congratulations on the century which, at the risk of stating the obvious, is quite an achievement. I wonder how many fanzines ever make it that far, given that it involves such a commitment to either incredibly frequent publication (*The Drink Tank*) of just keeping going for a long time (like Terry Jeeves, with *Erg*)?

I've just done a very rough trawl through Greg Pickersgill's catalogue and come up with thirteen fanzines that produced an issue 100. Obviously, that's not a definitive figure in that Greg's collection is inevitably Anglo-centric, and even then my hasty analysis skips over those fanzines which have reached and passed the 100 mark but where Greg doesn't have that 100th issue: *Fanews* by Walt Dunkelberger, for instance, whose first 275 issues seem to have evaded the Pickersgill collection.

Looking at those centenarians represented in the Haverfordwest stacks, I see that several have achieved the milestone through dint of a succession of editors -- Checkpoint, say, or the BSFA's publications such as *Vector* and *Matrix* -- and others titles seem to have treated it as a convenient place to stop: *Checkpoint* again, Arthur Hlavaty's *Derogatory Reference* and the Australian fanzines *Etherline* and (I think) Leigh Edmonds's *Fanew Sletter*. I do recall writing to Chris Garcia about *Drink Tank* #117 and saying that I could only find seven #117s in Greg's catalogue, suggesting that the survival rate beyond 100 isn't brilliant, but I'm sure if anybody can do it, you can. And whatever happens, you're in select company now, up there with... well, Chris Garcia for a start.

And all this and you give us another list, this one of great moments in fan history. This one is actually rather tricky, because, as you say, there are so many things that might be included were it not for the fact that to include one implies the inclusion of dozens of

other similar examples.

I'll start then by critiquing the list that you provide, most importantly to point out that surely the Philadelphia/New York get-together preceded the Leeds gathering -- in both cases here I'm eschewing the loaded term 'convention' -- by several months such that the former was in 1936 and the latter in 1937. Which isn't to dispute the significance of either, mind. Also, the listing, which seems to be chronological at first, go awry in the 1980s where the ordering suggest that Then was written pre-Topic A and John Foyster's *eFnac* precedes the first Corflu. The running order here is Corflu, Topic A, Then, eFnac, isn't it? Again, not disputing any of the events as significant.

But what else? Well, my Anglo-centric view inclines me to suggest the first (1946) White Horse meeting. This kicked off a regular tradition of at first weekly and later monthly London fan meetings which continues into the twenty-first century and which has drawn fans and professionals from all over the UK and indeed the World -- although not, so far, you. Perhaps it's less important in the internet age, but it was for years the regular meet up and place to conduct fan business, simply because so many of the people you might want to see would be there. Then, two years later, there was the 1948 Whitcon which was the first post-War British convention and the first of the annual series of national conventions which again is ongoing. And ten years later, the British Science Fiction Association (BSFA) was founded and it has been, at various points in its history, a significant fannish force in this country. All these, I accept, may be deemed too parochial.

Your list is heavily slanted towards the early years with 22 events up to and including 1958, and only nine for the next half-century. That makes sense, I suppose, given that the early history is more likely to see the 'firsts' but I wonder what else we could include from more recent years? You list the 1957 Loncon as the first Worldcon outside North America which I agree is significant, so maybe we should also add Heidelberg 1970 as the first Worldcon in a non-English-speaking country, although this might rate as more significant had it been more of a trend-setter which, with only two successors in the following forty years, it clearly wasn't. Aussiecon One in 1975? Actually, maybe the first DUFF race in 1972 rates as more momentous on an international scale.

Should we also include the introduction of fan writer and fan artist Hugos in 1967? I know you're not a big fan of how these awards have worked out subsequently -- indeed I know that their creators hadn't meant for them to come into being in that way in the first place -- but I think it probably does still rate as a

notable event. As does, perhaps, the setting up on the FAAn Awards in 1975, although having just seen the sketchy information about their origins on the Corflu website, perhaps not -- or rather maybe we should be looking to their revival in 1994. Indeed we might also mention the creation of the Nova Awards for British fanzine activity in 1973, if nothing else because -- just like the N3F -- they've given British fandom plenty to talk and write about and generally disagree with in the subsequent years.

Returning briefly to the previous list-making exercise, Robert Lichtman proposes some sensible additions to your list of great fanzines, although again it's mostly stuff that I know only by repute. I'd certainly second Izzard (should have thought of it myself), and now I think maybe I should have suggested Telos by the same editors as well. Which leads to another thought. Robert notes that there are further fine fanzines produced by editors who already appear on your list with other titles, and he makes me wonder whether one slight flaw in your notion is that some people are simply good editors and thus their work should really be considered as a piece. Bruce Gillespie, for instance. Yes, SFC is a good fanzine but so's The Metaphysical Review and for that matter *brg* and The Great Cosmic Donut of Life and all the other various fanzines and APazines which are ultimately all Bruce Gillespie-zines in varying livery. Same goes for John Bangsund's fanzines, I think. Robert singles out Philosophical Gas in addition to ASFR which you'd already listed, and I'm personally quite fond of Parergon Papers which exist as a 12-issue run in the middle of PG, but really they're all -- along with all the other Bangsund titles -- manifestations of the same thing. Not sure the same principle works for everybody -- in fact I'm sure it doesn't -- but sometimes the title changes are just cosmetic.

One slight nit to pick with Robert suggestions. He lists *Fouler* bracketed with *True Rat*. He does acknowledge that the former was co-edited with Greg Pickersgill but my understanding -- which I admit comes through a Gregorian filter -- is that aside from possibly the first issue or two it was in fact *mostly* Greg's work so if it's going to be brigaded with anything it should really be *SBD* and *RJC*. Which is only a pretty minor point I'm sure -- Greg may disagree about that -- but when you're dealing with Robert you really have to look to the detail to catch him out.

And in commenting on that, I'd like to end by mentioning what I think has been an important legacy of *VFW*. It seems to me that, more than any other, it's the fanzine that's proved that it's possible to attract a decent roster of letter-writers in the e-arena, in defiance of

received wisdom on the subject. Other efanazines had managed letter-columns before, but VFW seems to have drawn a real variety of substantive comment from every-issue regulars, some who contribute in short bursts, and others to write maybe only once. Here's a thought: next time you have a significant anniversary, perhaps you could index the ChatBack contributors. Give you something to do on those cold Vegas nights...

Arnie: There are quite a few fanzines that have reached triple digits in FAPA and SAPS, where some memberships have lasted a half-century or more. There'd be more, except that some fans who've maintained regular production, like Jack Speer, change titles every 20 years or so. No stability.

Yes, the "Great Moments in Fandom" is tricky. I tried to frame it even more carefully than I did with the fanzines and great fans. I knew if I didn't, 73 fans would immediately suggest "The first time I got laid at a con" or some variation of that.

And still, I left out a lot of Great Moments that might be justified. I ruled out blatant subjectivism like the date each of us found Fandom, but it could be argued that it was a Great Moment for all of us when Walt Willis (or Charles Burbee or Lee Hoffman or Terry Carr or Bob Tucker or Ted White or...) found fandom.

I think it also would be very interesting to know what each fan's personal Great Moment in Fandom would be. I've already got a few candidates beyond the obvious "when I opened the first envelop containing a fanzine and knew I'd made contact with Fandom." I hope others will write in to share their own Great Fan-

nish Moments.

My list is heavily slanted toward older Great Moments, because pioneers tend to do their stuff at the beginning. Putting on a Corflu is a fine achievement and every Corflu is important to Core Fandom, but that very first Corflu will always have a fanhistorical importance that separates it from all those that have come after it.

Mr. Sunshine casts his beneficent gaze upon VFW – and offers a Special Bulletin for Mr. Lichtman...

Shelby Vick

AHHH! A title change! 'Virtual Fandom World' indeed. Where's the holosuite?

But to more important (if not as world-shaking) things.

Unfortunately, Arnie, this latest development with the Hugos is just another of many steps in the wrong direction for fandom. I've lost all interest in world cons. MagiCon was, to me, the one exception, a time when – despite the multi-layered mixture of Star Trek, gaming, filking, anime, and all the other hangers-on that have accumulated – Fandom Lived! Thanx, primarily, to the Fan Room, where fandom flourished.

Programs are so specialized that I have no interest in them. Awards mean nothing, unless someone I know and cherish is recognized. Art shows have some minor interest bec'as a few excellent fan artists are there – but so's a lot of trash.

To my way of thinking, a Corflu is far more important than a worldcon. Reminds me of The Good Ole

Fannish Fashion Focus

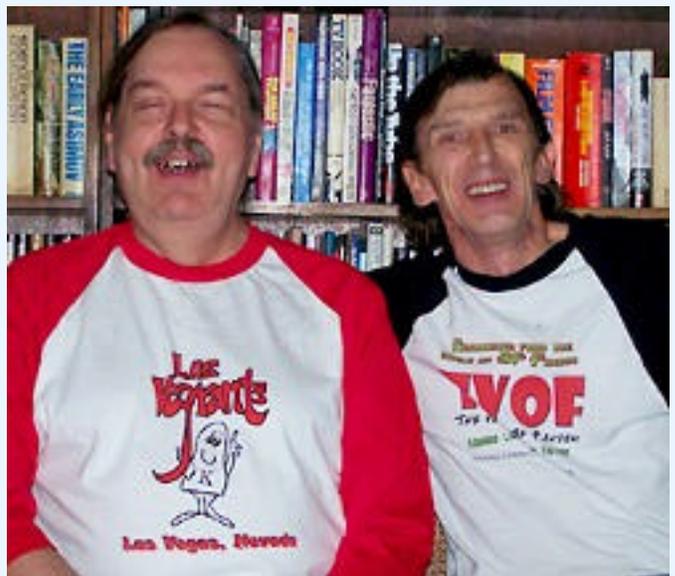
Mr. Mills, clothier to the BNFs, unveils his stunning fall tee-shirt line, appropriate for an evening at Las Vegrants or a lazy afternoon of slumming at LASFS,

Shown here are the fannish modeling duo of Muck and Meyer. Arnie (*left*) is insurgently appropriate in this Mill creation that features a Rotsler illo and the Las Vegrants logo on the front and his name and the number "100" on the back.

Bill Mills (*right*) is Fannishly fetching in his TVoF shirt, which celebrates the one-year anniversary of TheVoicesOfFandom.com.

Mr. Mills Creations may be seen at any chic fan club near you or can be ordered by writing to Bill Mills at bill@billmills.com.

The amusing joke, quip or remark that inspired their laughter is, alas, lost to fanhistory. — Arnie



Days when a worldcon attracted only a few hundred people – but they were Fans! Fa-a-ans, that is.

Y' done good, Arnie, to reprint that Roy Lavender piece. Even tho he was older, we had a lot in common. Not professionally; his professional success was, as he commented, a fan's dream come true. But we were both exposed to science fiction at a tender age, and lived thru the beginning of fandom, and saw it change. Goodbye, Roy; nice running across you again.

And thank you, Arnie Katz, for a really enjoyable and memorable 100th issue!

-- Oh! Let me add a remark to Robert Lichtman: I'm back to work on that weighty (physically weighty, due to its length) LoC on the latest Trap Door.

Arnie: There was so much talk of titles and title-changing that I thought I would toss in the one I liked best as it might look if I actually made the change. It has some good points, including aptness and the retention of those initials, but I haven't decided to pull the trigger. Comments from the readers are definitely invited on this one.

Yes, the unsightly Hugo statues are another step in the wrong direction, but there have been so many steps and the World Science Fiction Convention is now far, far from the ideals and principles of Fandom as conceived by those who created the World Science Fiction Convention. For instance, did you know that the people who run the worldcon claim ownership of the word "worldcon" and threaten suit against anyone who uses the word to refer to any convention other than the World Science fiction Convention.

I actually have a lot more respect for DragonCon than I once did. At least those people don't pretend to be something they're not. They are exploitative businessmen with no allegiance to Fandom or respect for its traditions or historical claims.

The Stalwart from the Lone Star State has some advice for VFW's editor...

John Purcell

One hundred issues of VFW, that's not too many...

As I said in my article for your centennial zine, congratulations on reaching this fannish milestone, Arnie. You have earned the right to take a break now; in fact, I encourage you to do so. Besides, your computer will love you for it. You might be interested to know that so far I have printed out the first section (100A) and will be printing out the other sections to be bound as a whole issue to be kept in my fanzine collection. This might be just my way of doing things, but I think such a milestone issue deserves such treatment and will be a worthy addition to the collection.

Speaking of fanzine collections, my plans are to contact James Halperin Real Soon Now for a brief follow-up article on the interview in *Askance #3*. The fourth issue is now posted to efanzines, and the fifth is due out the first week of November. I am positive that other fen besides me are interested in how the archiving of the Warner fanzine collection is going and if Mr. Halperin has formed any opinions of this stash so far. It could be interesting. Stay tuned for further details.

That cover by Brad Foster on the first section of VFW #100 is totally awesome! He just keeps getting better and better the more he farts around with Photoshop and all. Brad is a wonderful talent, and I am going to have to request a cover from him again, maybe for the first annish next March. That would be a nice touch: he did the cover on the debut ish, and so a cover for the first annish would book-end the first year nicely. Thanks for the idea, Arnie! By the way, the other section covers are wonderful, too: Steve Stiles' whimsical artwork, the photo of the Taylor-Cochrane wedding, and the Frank Wu bathing dragon are all fun.

I see that Ken "The American Hope" Foreman has withdrawn from the WAC crown match at Corflu Silver. Hmm... I may have to go into training for this... Which arm do I get to use again? An even more important question to ask is, "What distraction props will I need for the event?" Any suggestions?

Isn't it amazing to look back over your past issues and see how this zippy little zine has progressed in the nearly three years of its existence? You have covered a lot of territory, friend, and the growth has been phenomenal. The indexes you included in section B are indicative of where this zine has been and where it is going. Future fanzine historians will be ecstatic over them.

When I got the e-mail from Joyce, your beloved and lovely cohabitant at the Launch Pad, about James & Tee's wedding video, I immediately watched it. What a delightful video. James looked positively dashing in his tuxedo, and Theresa was all smiles throughout. I am very happy for them both, and wish them godspeed and a long, happy life together. When Tee blurted out her "Yes, I do!" I couldn't help but laugh. What a delightful ceremony. It makes you proud, doesn't it? Ah, young fannish love. They are a lovely couple, and I look forward to seeing them again at Corflu Silver.

The full-blown TAFF race is on, and I wish the best to all concerned. Your reference to one candidate's admitting to the "theft of intellectual properties" is a blow to that person's credibility. Allowing for that tidbit of information, that still leaves three really good candidates. I think it's going to be a good race, and my

hope is that a lot of interest will generate excellent fundage for the TAFF coffers. I know that I will do my part.

Many thanks for the wonderful centennial zine, Arnie, and I definitely will be seeing you and Joyce plus the rest of the Vegrants next April.

Arnie: While it's true that I've opted to publish larger issues a little less frequently, I don't think a "rest" is needed or even advisable. Not only do I want to buck Lichtman's predictions of Nydahl's Disease – gafia caused by publishing a too-ambitious annish – but I'm not in Fandom to lie around and watch from the sidelines. This is a participatory hobby and those who only watch get just a sliver of what is there. Until that well of creativity dries up, you're probably stuck with hearing from me on a fairly regular basis. If I stopped VFW, it would probably be to start something else.

The next "ChatBack" contribution comes from a fan with Hugos on this mind.....

Chris Garcia

Wow, we're way apart on this one. I totally think that the 2007 Hugo is the coolest ever and that none of the others I've seen come close to approaching them in specialness. Well, LA's 2006 version as the theatre marquee comes closest, but none of them are as special.

Ultraman is a major symbol of science fiction in Japan, akin to Buck Rogers in the US, and having him



It's not true that I have my name on my back so that, if my memory goes, someone can remind me. (Photo by Bill Mills)

incorporated into the design makes a lot of symbolic sense and it just looks so damn cool! There's something to be said for giving the Hugo awards something special when it comes to the base design and I think this one worked out very nicely. Maybe it's a generational thing since a lot of the younger fans I deal with regularly love it and most from previous generations seem to hate it. I think that giving the Hugo base design a symbol that is strongly associated with the place where it's being awarded is a very good thing and serves as something of a signature. Too many simple rockets on wood bases for my taste.

You're absolutely right when you say that the N3F could be a worthwhile thing. Turning the website into a major gathering post for info and news is a brilliant idea and it is slowly happening from what I'm seeing. Sadly, I'm not a member at the moment (money matters) but I still keep tabs and support the group. Good people in the club, no question.

BY the way, the Neffies do have Fan Awards (Best Fan Writer, Fanzine, Fan Artist and a couple of other things) but as far as I know, the last set was never awarded for either the pro or fan categories! I do think the Bureau structure of the N3F can work, especially with the dedicated peopling that several of them have at the moment. I totally forgot to mention the fantastic art zine that Sarah Glasgow put out as Art Bureau head. I got a copy at BayCon and it's fantastic. I'm one who loves history, so I would never want to see it completely unshackled from where they've been, but a few changes seldom hurt.

You really didn't like Ultraman on the Hugo? I just don't get that...

Roy Lavender sounds like one of those people who I would have loved to have sat down with and just chatted up. I'm making a point of getting to all the First Fandom people I can (I've had a lovely few chats with the Moffats over the last couple of years) and I should make more of an effort to get to even more. Someone needs to get the stories down, even if just poured out over a beer at a room party.

Nice little report from Linda and a mention of Rusty Hevelin! His son is a BASFA member and a good guy. I'm glad to see that Rusty's back up and around a bit.

What an issue! Too big for one part (thought I've put them all together as one giant PDF for my files. Congrats on one hundred issues and here's to a hundred more!

Arnie: I don't think it's a generational split. If what you say is true, then the simplest answer is that your older friends are smarter and have much better taste than your younger ones.

Leaving aside the tacky appearance of the Hugos, it is the worst kind of commercialism. Don't worry, though; if you should ever place first in a FAAn Awards category, we've got it all worked out to give you a very special certificate that incorporates the usual design with an ad for the Moonlight Bunny Ranch.

And here, fittingly enough, is the issue's final letter, another brilliant contribution from the fan we call The Sage...

Robert Lichtman

Congratulations on finally completing the 100th issue of *Vegas Fandom Weekly*! But I'll admit I was a little surprised that you stopped at 94 pages. In my mind the issue was going to run a full hundred pages in the tradition of the *Quannish*, which ran exactly that, and the *VegAnnish*, which overshot at 104 pages. Of course the editors of those efforts were considerably younger than you at the time they did them. Maybe, Arnie, you've finally become an old fan, and tired.

Your comment about this year's Hugo is spot on: "The idea of tying the Hugos to an overtly commercial enterprise is reprehensible." Although there's been some discussion on the lists of other Hugos people think are uglier, this is the first time the award has been paired in this way. I sincerely hope it's the last. Otherwise, what lies ahead—the Tor Hugo (giant statuette of David Hartwell the same size as the rocket on top of a pile of remainders), the *Analog* Hugo (JWC Jr. statue with psionic base), the Writers of the Future Hugo (Elron and the rocket perched atop an e-meter), or even the Microsoft Hugo (Bill Gates or perhaps a visual representation of a computer virus getting through Win-

dows' weak defenses)?

It was amusing to see my name along with Laney's and Tucker's in a list of "high-minded do-gooders" who've inhabited the ranks of the N3F over its many years out there on the margins of fandom. To set the record straight, the *only* reason I initially joined was so I could participate in its fledgling apa, the Neffer Amateur Press Alliance (N'APA, the comma there to differentiate it from the venerable NAPA—or National Amateur Press Association—which had been around since 1876). This was during the period that Bruce Pelz, Jack Harness and I were vying for "omniapan" status (to be in all available apas), something that was actually possible back then when there were far fewer of the things around than a few years later. I produced five slim issues of *KTP*, my Esperanto-abbreviation named zine, and served for a few mailings as the group's Official Editor when Harness flaked out on his duties in that office.

During my term quite a few of the original members doing the better zines had been gradually dropping out, finding the return on their investment in time and energy insufficient to sustain fannish life. I promptly changed the name of the group's official publication from the *N'APA Yap* (*shudder!*) to the more dignified *Alliance Amateur*, which seemed to meet with approval or at least no objections. But then I enraged some people when I put out several single-sheet issues, which they regarded as uncool or somehow inadequate. While I engaged in some recruiting of new members, more dropped out than joined. I also made some off-hand comments to a few people that they might enjoy apa participation better elsewhere than in the neofan-heavy precincts of N'APA. News of this "malfeasance" got out, and in my final *Alliance Amateur* I wrote some explanation of my activities, concluding with, "I got into this job as the result of a drunken whim, I stayed on because I felt obligated to. I could have withdrawn at any time, but I didn't."

As a parting gesture of goodwill, I created the first N'APA egoboo poll (after nearly four years of mailings)—something not mandated by the group's constitution—and wrote in my preface to it, "In other apas the egoboo poll, conducted once a year, has proven to be a stimulant in activity and group spirit." And I closed my final mailing with a "N'APA Questionnaire": "What do you think might be done to improve N'APA group spirit, gain more new members and hold them in the Alliance, and raise group standards of quality? What are *you* doing towards these goals?" Was I making nice? You bet!

In the following mailing—the first of his administration—Fred Patten put in a oneshot, *Why Give Up*



the Ship?—that went over the top in trashing me and others (such as Bruce Pelz and Jack Harness) who were expressing doubts that N'APA was a viable group—and otherwise sounding the klaxon horn of the Good Ol' Beleaguered N3F that we've been familiar with over the years. Perhaps it was because my Bad Influence went away after I dropped out, but the apa did go on to endure for many years and is apparently still around in electronic form to this day. (I wonder if any VFW readers are in it and might report?)

I did some other good things during my N3F membership, perhaps the most notable of which was to expand an article on apas I'd written for Fred's fanzine into an N3F "Fandbook" entitled "The Amateur Press Associations in S-F Fandom." There were two other Fandbooks, both by the late Don Franson: "A Key to the Terminology of S-F Fandom" and "Some Historical Facts About S-F Fandom." These were attractively mimeographed as half-lettersize booklets and were very popular as well as useful for newcomers to fandom at the time. Also, while in N'APA I was also active in the National APA and talked many of its members into contributing copies of their NAPA publications for a sampler in a N'APA mailing. Don Fitch printed an attractive label for a manila envelope to contain them, and I wrote an introduction and list of contents in a small zine called *The National Amateur Jr.*

But enough of the backwaters of my personal fan-history! I enjoyed Joyce's very interesting account of the life and times of Mickey Rhodes. I have that issue of *Odd* with his wonderful cover, and I see you and Ray used him fairly extensively in the issues after that (although not, as you write, "hundreds of illustrations"). "Perhaps I should write a bio for him for Wikipedia." I think you just did.

I'm glad to have Roy Lavender's autobiographical essay in a more permanent form than the out-take from his now defunct Website that was posted somewhere recently. I knew Roy and Deedee back in the early '60s when we all lived in Southern California—and also their daughter Lois, in whom at the time I had a certain, um, interest. But I knew almost nothing of his more extended life and involvement in aerospace.

Linda Bushyager mentions that attendance at the Midwestcon she's reporting on was "a bit over 120 people, just the right amount of people..." That's the size of some of the larger Corflus, and I agree about the rightness of that number. Beyond that things begin to fragment too much and it becomes difficult to touch base with everyone you would like to see. In her report I also enjoyed hearing about the Wizard-playing triumphs of her "90-year-old Uncle Reuben...[who] proved to be a dangerous competitor after many years

of being a Bridge player."

I hadn't know before reading his article that Taral was a coin collector, albeit in a very specialized way. This was an entertaining and educational read! I've been something of a coin collector, too, at times over the years. When I was very young I had albums full of American currency, and even now I've been collecting the state quarters that have been coming out (five a year) since 1998 and are due to complete their run next year. Don Anderson and I have been exchanging coins from the mints on our respective sides of the country (Philadelphia and Denver). I've also begun getting the presidential dollars, although I don't intend to go to the extent of getting them from both mints. I've been looking for an album that holds only one of each coin, unless my album for the quarters which has spaces for each mint's output. Aside from that, I have accumulations of various other coinage: the Susan B. Anthony and Sacagawea dollar coins (not complete), the various commemorative nickels of recent years, Kennedy and Liberty half-dollars, gray 1943 pennies, and so on. These are not organized into albums, just stuffed in a small box in a drawer.

Mark Plummer's piece was a fun read but aroused no comments. I enjoyed Teresa's account of their wedding and the lead-up to it. Looking forward to 101...

Arnie: I've previously done two, 100-page annishes, so I didn't feel compelled to reach triple digits with BFW #100. Quip's third annish and Wild Heirs' third annish were, respectively, 102 and 100 pages. Of course I had Lon Atkins as a co-editor on the former and a slew of Vegrants on the latter. Even so, VFW #100 would've reached 100 pages had a couple of those I asked been able to come through.

The ugliness of the Hugo is, as you say, not the issue. The commercialism most definitely is. It's just another symptom of the degeneration of the worldcon from fan event to business enterprise.

Thanks for the synopsis of your N3F executive career. I'd say your story buttresses what I said about would-be reformers. The introduction of change always excites the N3F's entrenched bureaucrats. Those who think a national/international fan club would be a good thing would do better to start from scratch, unburdened by 66 years (and counting) of N3F wallowing.

We Also Heard From: Ian Maule, Greg Benford, Dick Lupoff, Jay Shannon, John Purcell, James Taylor, Mark Blackman, James Willey, Alan White, Frank Wu, Linda Bushyager, Bruce Gillespie

KINGFISH SAYS



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As you may've noticed, I've made a few changes in *VFW* over the last few issues. Normally, I'd have made them all in this issue, but I got eager and began to institute them ahead of schedule.

I've simplified the layout, partly to freshen up the pages and partly to save a little memory.

I've also found a way to avoid the problem of color fills on headings slopping outside the line in the .PDF (although it looks right in the Microsoft Publisher file). The solution, which is to turn the WordArt into a jpeg, not only produces a better-looking heading, but it also saves a little memory.

I've reduced the point size of all text in *VFW*. I used 12 point until recently; now everything is in 11 pt. or 10 pt. I don't think it hurts readability, but it puts a lot more content in the same space. This may cut the page count a little, though it doesn't seem to have had that effect.

In case you've evaded variations on this theme: If you enjoy *VFW*, the real way to show it is by giving back something of yourself — a letter of comment, article, cartoon, news info. I don't propose to treat this fanzine's readers like infants; you're gonna get it until you can't take it no more. But if it brings you some pleasure, you could spread the joy by participating a little.

I'm already working on another issue, so I'll be watching the inbox for ya.

— Arnie Katz