

VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

Laney Anthology: Final Details!

Ah! Sweet Laney!, a 136-page collection of the fan-writing of Francis Towner Laney, will be available at Corflu for \$15 and by mail from Pat Virzi (chairman of Corflu Quire and the volume's publisher).

The pieces, selected by the ever-erudite Robert Lichtman, include many not seen in well over a half-century and will give many fans their first real opportunity to savor the burning Insurgent spirit of the fan known as The Stormy Petrel.

Cineholics Skeds Open Screening!

Cineholics, the invitation film watching and discussion group, will have a very special open screening on Friday, February 9, starting at 7:30 PM at the lovely home of Cineholics' hosts Alan and DeDee White.

The night's feature film will be the not-yet-released-to-DVD apocalyptic science fiction movie, "Children of Man."

Cineholics gatherings feature and movie, some informal discussion, lots of chitterchatter and prime snacking grub.

It would be an act of kindness to let Alan and DeDee know if you plan to attend so they can prepare. The email address is: podmogul@cox.net.

Gilliland Wins Rotsler Award!

Alexis Gilliland is the recipient of the 2006 Rotsler Award, the latest fan artist to be honored for lifetime achievement in the name of Fandom's all-time greatest cartoonist, William Rotsler. His selection is especially apt, because he and Rotsler collaborated on so many cartoons.

Previous winners of the award, first given in 1998, are: Steve Stiles, Grant Canfield, Arthur Thomson, Brad Foster,

Kurt Erichsen, Ray Nelsen, Harry Bell, and Mark Shirmeister.

If the true worth of an award is in the people who've won it, then Alexis can be proud to be included in such company. (If it isn't, the \$300 cash prize that goes with the award will pay for some good partying.)

The current Rotsler Awards committee consists of Mike Glyer, John Hertz and Maureen Kincaid Speller, who should be congratulated for picking a good one.

There's a very interesting Rotsler Awards site with plenty of info about the recipients. Visit it at: <http://www.scifiinc.org/rotsler>.

Andy Porter Is on the Mend!

Massive internal surgery can't stop Andy Porter, though it has slowed him down a trifle while he recuperates from his 1/17 operation. The long-time fanzine dynamo (and my former roommate, 1968-1970), best known for *Algol*, *Degler*, *SF Weekly* and the semi-prozines *SF Chronicle* has weathered the operation and its immediate after-effects in good shape and must now regain strength and heal.

Andy has now returned home after his extended hospital stay. Of roughly 10 days. He's back on the major fannish listservs, so I'm sure he'd enjoy hearing from his many friends.

Energumen Disk in Final Prep Stage!

Taral Wayne reports that that his *Energumen* CD anthology may be released a little later than he'd hoped, but that the project is now in the final stage of production.

Taral decided to extend a major interview with Mike Glicksohn, *Energumen*'s co-editor) and is awaiting some material from Mike.

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Vegas Fan Events

Cineholics Meeting Friday (2/9) 7:30 PM
Vegrants Meeting Saturday (2/17) 7:30 PM
SNAPS Deadline Sunday (2/18)

Check out the Calendar and preview stories

Inside Story Forever Changes

The Editor's Paradox is the enemy of the long-running fanzine. The fanzine editor strives for a smooth, dependable publication. The more the editor succeeds in making his fanzine consistent and dependable, the fewer challenges cex the faned.

Yet the fewer obstacles and challenges, the more boring the production cycle becomes. The better job the fanzine editor does, the more likely that boredom will overcome the urge to publish. I've edited my way out of a few fanzine in the past, and I didn't want to do the same thing with *VFW*.

That's why, starting with #11, I change things every 10 issues. Sometimes I slack off and don't change much and other times I implement new stuff an issue or two late. Overall, though, I've kept to the policy.

What I hadn't considered was the cumulative effect of all that editorial fine-tuning. It becomes progressively harder to make meaningful changes. Worse, the more changes I make, the less likely I am to come up with new changes that strike me as positive. For example, I changed the logo last issue — and this issue reverted to a variation of what I've used for some time.

As I indicated a few issues back, I've toyed with changing the name of the fanzine, most probably to *Virtual Fandom World*, but I still haven't pulled the trigger. I may well not, because the current name still sounds good to me.

The current round of changes has been easing into place for some time and will not be finished this issue. This time, it's less about the graphics than the content. Let me explain.

Fandom comes in many flavors. My favorite flavor is Core Fandom, that segment of All Known Fandom that is rooted in Classic Fandom and centers around fan-literary effort, communication and creativity. I enjoy the subculture of Core Fandom and the kind of fans who share my love of such things. I guess that's why the circulation of *VFW* outside Glitter City is roughly 15 times larger than the circulation within my adopted hometown. I won't whine about being a prophet without honor in my own land, though, because local support from the city's three main clubs — Vegrants, SNAFFU and Cineholics — has been outstanding.

I've widened the news coverage. Since *VFW* can't really add more pages — and probably should drop a few — something else has to go. *VFW* will continue to cover all fan events here in Glitter City, but there'll be less space for things that don't seem to connect to the Big Picture. Don't worry, you'll hardly notice, except maybe that *VFW* is a little more relevant.

And Shelby Vick and Bill Kunkel are back and Bhub Stewart returns next issue!

I couldn't be happier, so *VFW* can safely go into triple digits.

— Arnie

Vegas Fandom Weekly #92, Volume 3 Number 4, February 3, 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 Roxanne Gibbs (many things), Bill Burns (posting), David Gordon (Mountaineering Consultant), Alan White (arty fella), Bill Mills (technical advisor), Joyce Katz (proofreading and So Much More) and Murray Moore (FAAn Awards ballot)

Reporters this issue: Taral Wayne, Robert Lichtman, Murray Moore, Linda Bushyager and Joyce Katz

Art/Photo Credits: Ross Chamberlain (5), Kip Williams (6), Atom (7), Lee Hoffman (8), Terry Kemp (10-13), all other cartoons by Bill Rotsler.

Columnists This Issue: Shelby Vick

VFW is free by request — and you may get it anyway. It can be downloaded at SNAFFU.org and efanazines.com. No suffering SNAFUties were harmed during the production of this fanzine.

Member: fwa

Supporter: AFAL

Believer: United Fans of Vegas

Whatever Happened to COLUMNS?

Katzenjammer

Contrary to what fans who've started reading *VFW* in 2006 or later might think, "Katzenjammer" wasn't originally Part of this fanzine. I'd used it as an editorial column in several fanzines since Andy Main donated the name to me back in the 1960's late one night while we were having burgers in a seedy Times Square coffee shop.

My ideas for *VFW* were much more modest when it began and I wasn't planning on having enough pages for something like "Katzenjammer."

I didn't start using "Katzenjammer" until #16. It moved to its present position (on page three) for #19 and became a regular feature with #31. It has been part of just about every issue ever since.

That's a lot of columns, though I hope 60 (like 27) is Not Too Many. The thought comforts me, because I dearly love good fanzine columns (and will settle for my own in a pinch.)

Let me tell you how I came to be such a devotee of columns...

I was fortunate, as a young fan, to have friends with fine fanzine collections. So even though I had no roots in the pre-Breen Boondoggle (1964) era of Fanzine Fandom, I got a chance to read a lot of great fanzines at a time when I was especially sensitive to their influence. Some of my fannish contemporaries may have located similar fanzine troves, but I was reading *Void*, *Innuendo* and *Hyphen* at a time when they were mostly seeing each other's zines.

It's one thing to read such fanzines now and quite another to have read them in rich brown's room after my day at high school and evening at Fanoclasts or FISTFA.

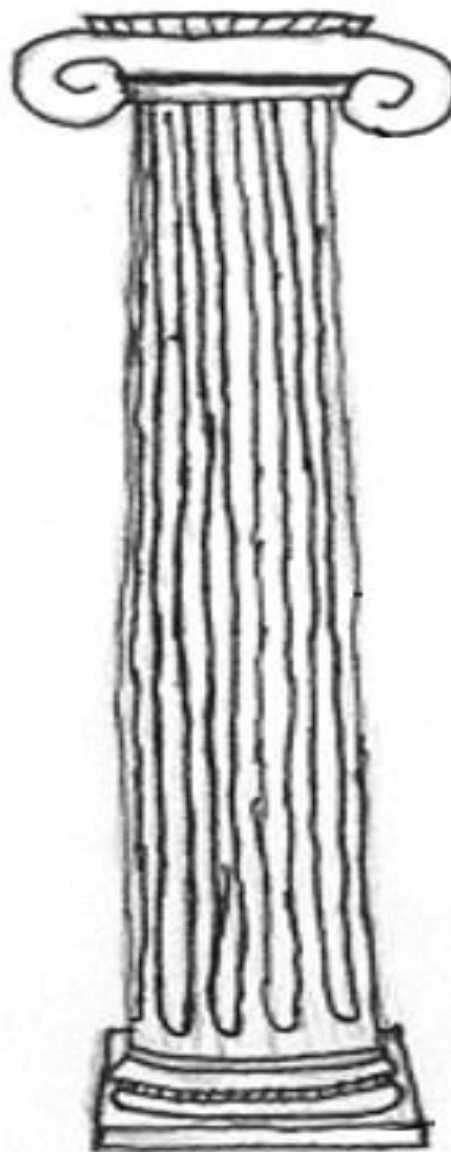
Energized by hours spent with some of Fanzine Fandom's outstanding fans of the mid-1960's, I'd plunge into the stacks of fanzines rich laid out for me to read. As I read, we held a running dialog as he filled in details about each fanzine and its creators.

I also learned a *lot* of fanhistory, fan legend and fannish lore at the side of Ted White. Always

one of Fandom's most engaging anecdotists, Ted seemed to enjoy passing on this knowledge almost as much as I enjoyed receiving it.

Ted also gave me the opportunity to put his fanzine collection in order in exchange for the duplicates. I did almost as much reading as filing

Continued on next page



and my reward at the end includes runs of Ted's faan fiction fanzine *Stellar* and the fabulous fannish *Void*, edited by Ted, Terry Carr, Greg Benford and Pete Graham. *Void*'s glamorous brand of fannishness directly inspired *Quip* and the stories I read in *Stellar* encouraged me to start writing faan fiction.

The best way to understand the magnitude of the effect of those all-night fanfests on me as a neofan is to think about an author like Edgar Rice Burroughs. A lot of adults like ERB, but the people who like him the most first encountered his novels in their early teens or even younger.

Quip shows the powerful influence of Sixth (1951-1954) and Seventh (1958-1962) Fandom fanzines on my writing and publishing. *Quip*'s multi-page covers are an obvious homage to *Void*, but that certainly wasn't the only fanzine that inspired Lenny Bailes and me.

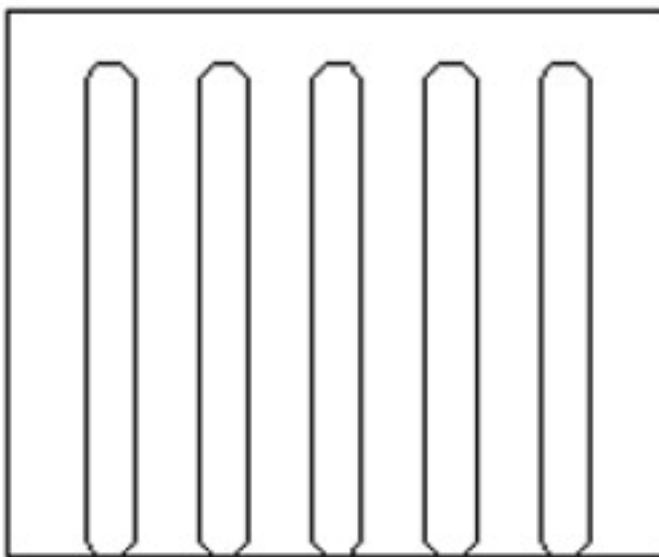
Less obvious, but very important to forming my approach to fanzine editing was Gregg Calkins' *Oopsla!*. Generally bimonthly when he was publishing it, *Oopsla!* had its first peak right after the heyday of Sixth Fandom and resurged strongly during Seventh Fandom. I bought the start of a run from Bob Tucker at Midwestcon in 1965 and had soon pulled together a representative, if incomplete, run.

Oopsla! had many virtues, but the aspect that grabbed me hardest was its sensational columns. Calkins corralled some of Fandom's best columns, led by Walt Willis with "The Harp That Once or Twice" and Harry Warner's "All Our Yesterdays," and got them into every issue.

Quip, *Focal Point*, *Folly*, *Wild Heirs* and *VFW* are all column-oriented to some degree, balanced by my penchant for relying on a heavy dose of my own writing.

I eventually got to publish many installments of "All Our Yesterday" in *Quip* and *Focal Point* and also had a Willis column ("Dusty Answers," a retitled continuation of his "I Remember Me" memoirs column, because "Harp" was earmarked for Richard Bergeron's about-to-be-revived *Warhoon*).

Not that I begrudged Richard Bergeron his acquisition of "The Harp That Once or Twice." The



fanzine's line-up of columnists — Bob Shaw, Terry Carr, Ted White, Robert A.W. Lowndes and Walter Breen — was one of the best ever seen in a fanzine and seemed to cry out for Willis as the natural capstone to the glittering roster.

My fanzines have had a few columnar successes, too. As a result of a great deal of fannish generosity and a little luck, I've published regular columns by such superb fanwriters as Chuch Harris, Greg Benford, Bob Shaw, Andy Hooper, Shelby Vick, Dick Lupoff, John DeChancie, Joyce Katz, rich brown, Rob Hansen, Bill Rotsler, FM Busby, Ed Vox and John Berry— and Vegrants like JoHn Hardin, Aileen Forman, Tom Springer, Ken Forman, Roxanne Mills and Marcy Waldie.

All installments of "Katzenjammer" in *VFW* have have focused on single topics. That's the way I've used the name during my second go-round in Fandom. Yet I've always enjoyed the variety and subtlety embodied in the bits-and-pieces type of column, such as FM Busby's "One Fan's Beat."

I have some topics lined up for the next few installments of "Katzenjammer," so now is the time to try that format if I want it to happen before next spring.

So having warned you about impending changes of topic, here we go....

The Naming of Zines

I was semi-happily reading *File 770*, a fanzine

that uses “SMoF” *without* the implied horse-laugh. Mike Glycer often printed interest fan news and Mike writes well, too. I can (and do) skip most of the con reports, which examine conventions from what seems to be an event-planning standpoint. Since I have no plans to put on a con and the mere mention of the possibility triggers lurid nightmares for former worldcon chairman Joyce, I feel no remorse about skipping them.

So I was enjoying selections from *File 770* when I read something that soured my day. It was right there in Mike Glycer’s column about electronic fanac, “Fandom’s Tangled Web.” It’s a nice column and all coverage of digital Fandom is most welcome.

This page from a *Quip* cover, drawn by Ross Chamberlain and scripted by Lenny Bailes and me, shows that we had a sense of humor about our debt to the legendary *Void* and its cover artist Bbob Stewart..



I like Mike Glycer and I believe he likes me, too, so I know that he meant nothing malicious. Yet how deep and burning is the bite of an unkind friend? No one can hurt us as much as the ones we love.

And if I don’t exactly love Mike Glycer, his repetition of an unjust and unfair slur wounded me to the center of my black fannish heart.

Here’s what he wrote:

“Then Arnie Katz keeps publishing Vegas Fandom Weekly, well, every week. His faithfulness is impressive, but the really shocking thing to anyone familiar with Arnie’s history is that he’s produced 88 fanzines since 2004 eithout giving them at least 37 different titles.”

I guess that’s what happens when one of my own shticks gets out of control. I’ve occasion mentioned the variety of fanzine titles I have used and Andy Hooper picked it up as proof that I run through titles like a drunken femefan runs through fanboys at a convention.

Now, I admit that I’ve employed many fanzine titles. In fact, I’ve done at least one for almost every letter of the alphabet: *Abnormal*, *Bring Bruce Bayside Bulletin*, *crifanac*, *Damn Yankee*, *Excalibur*, *Folly*, *Glitz*, *Heirlooms*, *Implications*, *Jackpot*, *Le Merde*, *Meow*, *Nemesis*, *Polaris*, *Quip*, *Swoon*, *Tandem*, *Umpyre*, *Vegas Fandom Weekly*, *Wild Heirs*, *Xtreme*, *Zup*.

That means, assuming I haven’t blanked them out of my mind, I only need fanzines that start with “K,” “R” and “Y” to use up the Latin alphabet and, perhaps, launch a new round with Cyrillic or Hebrew.

Since this alphabetical quirk wasn’t planned, I’ve done multiple titles for some letters. For instance, “F” titles include *Focal Point* and *FIAWOL* as well as *Folly*. I’ve used titles that be-

Kip Williams drew this fine heading for “T Remember Me,” when Walt Willis continued it for the Lynch’s *Mimosa*.

gin with an “S” pretty heavily, too, including *Swerve*, *Splotch* and *Softcore Fantasy Adventures*.

I protest that, despite the large number of fanzine names I’ve used over the years, that I am neither fickle nor capricious.

Let’s face it, I’ve done a lot of fanzines. I’ve spent a lot of years as an actifan, despite the 1976-1989 gafiation, and the publications have piled up.

I’ve produced a wide range of fanzines and thus have employed a lot of titles. I’ve done genzines, apazines and newszines and I’ve published weeklies, biweeklies, monthlies, quarterlies and oneshots.

It doesn’t make sense to keep a title when switching to a new format. I did that once, with *Focal Point*, and in retrospect that may’ve been a mistake. *Focal Point* was a newszine with general articles and biweekly frequency and I should’ve changed the name when it went monthly and dropped the news content.

Quite a few of my fanzine have reached 20 issues, a fair measure of my consistency within each project. These include: *Focal Point*, *Wooden Nickel*, *Excelsior*, *DamnYankee*, *Folly*, *Implosion*, *Umpyre*, *Wild Heirs*, *Bring Bruce Bayside Bulletin*, *Vegas Fandom Weekly* and *Softcore Fantasy Adventures*.

I like to try a lot of different things in Fandom, take on new challenges cope with uncharted territory. It parallels a lot of my professional editing career, where I’ve done quite a few successful start-ups.

Periodic change keeps my fannish interest fresh, but there’s a pitfall, too. When you try a lot of things, some of them won’t work. Occasional failure is the price of pushing one’s personal envelope.

I can’t imagine doggedly continuing with a hobby project when the results please neither me nor the recipients. Examples of such fanzine fizzes include *FIAWOL*, a mid-1970’s four-page newszine co-edited by Joyce and me; *Abnormal*, a local Las Vegas newszine somewhat ahead of its



time and *Splotch*, which ran into an unexpected name conflict. (I’d also like to think that successes — *Quip*, *Focal Point*, *Wooden Nickel*, *Folly*, *Wild Heirs*, *4B* and *VFW* — compensate for those short-lived ones as well as fanzines in which I lost interest before reaching that 20th issue mark. I doubt that plowing ahead to produce 20 issues of something I didn’t love and that wasn’t working would improve that picture.

Yeah, sometimes I do lose interest after I feel that whatever challenges prompted the zine have been met. There have been several of those, too. I stopped *Quip* after #13, because I got involved with *Focal Point*. I stopped *Jackpot*, because I felt I’d proven that I could do an interesting, popular fanzine that was not about fans, Fandom or fanzines. There were other, similar cases, but those make the point sufficiently.

If you’re wondering about my current fanzine titles, I would say that you’ll probably see both for at least a while longer. I have some other fanzines I’d like to do for Core Fandom, but there’s no rush to abandon *Vegas Fandom Weekly*, which has given me such pleasure to create.

The prospects for retention of *Softcore Fantasy Adventures* are pretty good, except for one minor thing. I originally coined the name as a play on Joyce’s title, *Hard Science Tales*. Now that Joyce has changed titles, severing the connection, I might be tempted to change mine, too.

Joyce’s Name Game

Joyce is going to do a genzine. Her *Hard Science Tales* was technically a gen-apazine, but looks like it’ll be her first major fanzine since beautiful and well-written *Smokin’ Rockets* (with art director extraordinaire Alan White). She made the momentous announcement at the January 6th Vegrants meeting and is already soliciting contri-

butions and artwork from a number of skillful Vegas fans. (Don't worry, she'll be knocking at your doors soon enough...)

When Joyce declared her intention before Almighty Ghu and the assembly of trufen, she referred to this soon-to-be-classic publication as *Claptrap*. I breathed a relieved sigh; the name search had ended. Joyce, you see, though clever in so many ways, is not adept at fanzine titling. She occasionally comes up with a gem like *Smokin' Rockets*, but normally she depends on the kindness of strangers for such names.

Well, not exactly the kindness of strangers, even if she is a little Blanche DuBois about the whole process. Mostly, it's the kindness of me. She maintains a list of possible fanzine titles and, when she requires a new one, always ropes me into several hours of title-generating chat. It's not unpleasant, but it is fairly draining.

When Joyce continued her statement with a comment about not liking the name "Claptrap," though, I knew the task of name selection was not yet done.

And it wasn't. The next morning after the meeting, Joyce and I sat listening to the Blues Channel Cox Cable provides its subscribers when

her list came out again. She came up with a lot of western-themed titles, like *Rodeo Gal*. She was very enthusiastic about her idea, *Box Canyon* until I gave her a Strange Look and she considered for the first time the punning ramifications of the title.

"Maybe 'Big Canyon'?" she asked hopefully, having removed the questionable word from the title. I felt compelled to advise her that a woman with her chest development might want to steer clear of "Canyon" and "Box," separately or in combination.

We continued to sift through names together for the rest of the morning and into the afternoon before Joyce found the Perfect Title. I would tell you what it is, but Joyce asked me to preserve the element of surprise. While I know some of you will have trouble eating and sleeping normally until you know, I am honoring her request. Believe me, it's safer that way, for me.

The Year of Laney

Two recent announcements suggest that 2007 will be the Year of Laney in Core Fandom. Robert Lichtman has put the finishing touches on a collection of Laney articles called *Ah, Sweet Laney!* and Taral Wayne is nearly ready with a CD edition of FTL's *Ah, Sweet Idiocy!* (Australian fan Damien Warman announced a new edition of *ASI* what seems like eons ago. The latest word is that he still plans to do it *after* another project on his "to do" list.)

This is the year the seminal Insurgent Francis Towner Laney becomes accessible, and possibly relevant, to Core Fandom. His effect has diminished over the last several decades as his writings became harder for fans to find. He is more often an allusion than a presence, invoked by fans who may not even have read much Laney themselves.

You'll be reading my extensive article about Francis Towner Laney soon enough, so I don't want to cover the same ground here. Still, I'd like to talk a little about who he was and what he means to me as a fan for the benefit of latecomers unfamiliar with his fanwriting..

Francis Towner Laney contacted Fandom in

Atom drew the headings for the editorial column that always ran on the inside cover of *Hyphen*. This one heralded a stint in the editorial chair by Walt Willis.



the late 1930's in Idaho. He was an unusual recruit for several reasons:

1. He was college educated.
2. He was older than most neofans
3. He was married with children.
4. He didn't have a long-standing interest in imaginative literature.
5. When he did start to read the stuff, he gravitated toward fantasy rather than science fiction.

Laney developed a very idealistic view of Fandom. Though very intelligent, he was also naive enough to take a lot of the bullshit in fanzines seriously. The only fan he knew in person was Duane Rimel, a borderline pro in the Lovecraft Circle, who was also very different from the younger and less sophisticated actifans.

Laney started *The Acolyte*, inspired by Lovecraft and dedicated to fantasy and horror literature. It was a very serious fanzine and, along with some seminal work on a Cthulu Mythos concordance, earned Laney a high standards as a sincere and productive fan. That might well have been the reputation that marked his entire fan career had not circumstances sent him to Los Angeles to find a better job during the early days of US involvement in World War II.

Reality collides with his image of Fandom with explosive results when Francis Towner Laney encountered the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society. Highly intelligent, but not necessarily wise or widely experienced, Laney was smart enough to see the flaws in the LASFS, but maybe not sensitive enough to understand them.

At the time he arrived in Los Angeles, a group of fans had broken away from LASFS in protest over what they saw as the club's aimlessness and worthlessness. Like Laney, the Knaves — a coinage that resulted from a typo in a fanzine heading — were smart, talented and non-comfortist enough to have problems fitting into the LASFS of the early 1940's.

Though Laney tried to work within the

system, holding LASFS office several times, he gradually came to dislike the club and what he felt it stood for: bureaucracy, immaturity, narrow-mindedness and laziness. Laney also countered LASDS' "Shangri-la" puffery with more naturalistic, truthful writing. He tried to portray events and people as he saw them, not the way he wished they were.

His feuds in LASFS soon brought him into contact with another free spirit, Charles Burbee. Around these two fannish giants coalesced the LA Insurgents, an informal, invitational semi-club that might remind some of the Vegrants, in format if not in sheer brilliance.

Burbee, Laney, Rotsler, Perdue and the other LA Insurgents evolved a philosophy called Insurgentism that turned out to have wider appeal, and wider application, than just southern California.



One of the great joys of *Warhoon 28* is the complete set of "The Harp That Once or Twice," Walt Willis' finest column. The illo is by Lee Hoffman, rendered by editor Richard Bergeron.

Francis Towner Laney began working on his memoirs in 1947 and wrote them directly onto stencil without revision. When he was done, he sent it through FAPA as *Ah, Sweet Idiocy!*

The theme of *ASI* is that the only way to have a happy, normal, well-adjusted life is to quit Fandom. Laney didn't take his own advice and continued to pour mammoth amounts of material into FAPA. He did a regular column for the number-one fanzine of the late 1940's, *Spacewarp* and co-edited (with Charles Burbee) the two Insurgent Issues of *Spacewarp*, which became necessary when editor Art Rapp was summoned to fight in the Korean Poise action.

The Stormy Petrel, as he was sometimes called, proved to be one of Fandom's best writers. His essays were blunt and honest, though he could also be savagely funny when the occasion demanded.

Laney is one of the expositors of Insurgency, one of the seven basic philosophies that dominate Fandom. Between the start of World War II and the end of the Korean War, Fannishness split into two separate philosophies, Insurgency and Trufannishness.

Trufannishness stresses the brotherhood and equality of fans and puts great store in cooperation, myth-making and easy-going fun.

Insurgency believes that the individual is paramount and that organizations mostly burden Fandom with bureaucracy and paper-shuffling. They are willing to cooperate with other fans to achieve desirable ends, but prefer self-liquidating institutions like special funds to ones that perpetuate.

Insurgents feel that fans should be held to the professed standards of fannish behavior. Insurgency holds the truth to be the highest priority and abhors hypocrisy, puffery and delusion.

Laney the Man is a flawed jewel, as Laney himself readily admitted. He was not sophisticated and carried many of the prejudices of the time. His antagonism to homosexuals is the most obvious example, but his naïveté comes through in many other ways, too.

Prejudiced can't be excused, but it is important to understand the context in which Laney espoused views that any contemporary person should find

repugnant.

The most obvious is that the 1940's are not the 2000's. Overt segregation ruled in a big chunk of the country, Jim Crow laws kept African-Americans from their rights and Kinsey had not yet done his groundbreaking sexual research. Few talked openly about homosexuality and Laney had little empirical knowledge of it. And when he wrote about it, he used the working class vernacular of the times, including words like "fag" and "pansy" that are no longer acceptable in any but the most unusual circumstances. But it's not entirely fair to condemn Laney for words that were then in wide usage to the degree we would if someone used them now. It's like blackface; mean-spirited but socially acceptable in 1900, but suitable only for entertainment at gatherings of the Ku Klux Klan in 2007. It would be better if Laney wrote to today's aesthetic standards, as some of his more cosmopolitan contemporaries (Widner, Speer, et al), but it's not as damning as it would be if he did it in 2007.

The situation in the LASFS had a big impact, too. When Laney wrote about gays, he was talking about predatory, pedophiles who came to LASFS, because its young and unsophisticated membership offered rich opportunities to victimize inexperienced young fans. (Fans were young in those days; the oldsters were in their twenties and early thirties.)

Laney was not sophisticated enough to distinguish between such creatures and homosexuals, because his stereotyped perceptions didn't allow him to identify homosexual fans who *weren't* ped-erasts. *Ah, Sweet Idiocy!* describes some fans in most favorable terms who, based on evidence from other sources, were gay. They weren't child molesters, so they didn't track on the Laney radar as homosexuals.

Nonetheless, Laney's benighted attitude toward sexual preference is his signal flaw as a human being and the most negative aspect of his writings. My hope is that new readers of *ASI* will note the bias, shake their heads at the fallability of even brilliant men and revel in Laney's trenchant observations about fan-life in old-time LA Fandom.

— Arnie

In Requiem PACEM

Recently far too many of the greats have faded from the science fiction pantheon. Now one of the brightest luminaries in the field has passed, on to smoother seas and further horizons. Yesterday, Saturday, my father told me that Jack Williamson had gone on before us, once again. Investigating the far reaches of the unknown and, I believe, still pursuing his search for wonder.

Being new to the actifan (I love this word. According to the Oxford English Dictionary it was coined by my godfather, Rog Phillips, another long-departed member of the pantheon) world, I find it novel to write a LOC. Essays or instruction manuals and book reviews have always been my

usual method of writing. But everything changes...

Having grown up in the science fiction world, underfoot most of the time, hidden inside my cloak of invisibility, recording events unobserved and unknown, my interaction has for decades gone unnoticed. At most my activity has been viewed as an afterthought, a ripple around the shakers and movers, but there have been a few times when I was in the right time and place.

One such time was in April of 1991. It was the last time I saw Jack Williamson alive. I had just finished a brief stint working for *Hustler Magazine*, and was between plays (read that as out of work, for the details you can read my piece, *Pris-*

Jack Williamson signing my two copies of *Star Bridge*

When all was said and done, I think the two copies of *Star Bridge* (Gnome Press) that I asked him to sign impressed him more. Our encounter was all too brief; there were things I had planned to say, forgotten in his presence. I humbly, shyly pushed my stack down the table, moving on to James Gunn to have him sign even more books (yes, and the two copies of *Star Bridge*).

I think he felt more comfortable with a table between us. During that event I pursued them all avidly. The de Camp's were there. I got them to sign my owners' copy of their Advent book *Footprints on Sand*. Of all the writers there, only Catherine took the time to chat with me on a personal level. I will always remember our time together fondly. She was a very gracious lady.



Joan Slonczewski

Joan signed a pile of books for me. Later, I did follow her around, intrigued, and we chatted for a moment. I guess I was trying to convince her that I was not a bad guy, I don't know if I succeeded. Even Bradley Denton signed (whatever happened to him?) Fred Pohl was there, at his peak...awesome and still inspiring. I was especially pleased when he signed one as "Edson McCann."

oner of XXX, Jr. in eI26). I have always really been a bibliophile at heart, an ardent collector. Otherwise I really am a quiet, shy and unassuming guy. A blurb in *Locus* caught my eye that hot early spring in LA, not only James Gunn but Jack Williamson (among many others) would be at the upcoming SFWA meeting in Denton, Texas. It was fate! I knew when I saw it that I had to go.

Now a little back story is required. Back in April 1960 my father produced a fanzine for SAPS, it was his first annual, *SaFari* #6, subtitled *Who Killed Science Fiction?* and he would go on to win a Hugo Award for this effort. My father was, and still is, an actifan. So at the time he had one copy specially bound in red buckram for himself by the same printer that did all the books for him and the rest of his partners at Advent:Publishers.

I remember that he would carry that special copy around with him to every convention and pull it out at every party, diligently working at having all the contributors sign their pieces. Eventually time passed *The Book* to me. In my turn I continued the process, finding a few more people to sign it that had for whatever reasons been missed decades earlier.

Finally in was 1991 and SFWA with Gunn and Williamson in attendance, somehow the two had not placed their names in *The Book*. It was time. I was on a mission. Arrangements were made, flights, hotels, and details.

Arriving in Denton I met my first target, James Gunn. By accident we ended up on the same airport-to-hotel bus. I noticed this dapper man of undeterminable age talking animatedly to a dark haired younger woman. I eavesdropped. Sure enough, they talked and acted like Big Name Writers.



Lo and behold, it dawned on me that I was listening to James Gunn. As my eyes bugged out, wider and wider, maybe it was my imagination but I could tell that the two of them were looking at me curiously out of the corner of their eyes, slowly edging away from me. Maybe it was because of my raggedy (but comfortable) corduroy cut-offs, maybe it was the way I was fumbling at my over-stuffed backpack, certainly it was the look in my eyes. They didn't know I was on a mission.

My backpack, as well as my suitcase, was over-filled with every book that I owned that any writer that might possibly be at the SFWA meeting could be enticed into signing for me, hopefully with the much sought after "personal autograph."

As Gunn and his female companion (later I was to find out that she was Joan Slonczewski, a writer who I find to be right up there with C.L. Moore) edged by me out the door of the bus at the hotel I made my move. "Mister...ehh...Mr. Gunn! Would you please sign my book for me?"

I pulled out *The Book*, impatient to fulfill my mission. I couldn't even wait for the poor man to

step into the hotel. I think he cringed a bit as he signed, thinking something like: *"Oh, no, this very weird, strange dude is actually attending the SFWA meeting. I hope he doesn't latch onto me."* He never said a word, not one comment.

Under the circumstances I am sure it was warranted, but I was determined to achieve my goal before he could disappear into the lofty heights of celebrity.

I think Slonczewski also did a double-take, looking around quickly for her non-existent body-guard, a little disappointed that I had not accosted her with a pile of books, but also somewhat relieved. In short order, I, as well as a couple of other fans who had "crashed" the SFWA event, were separated from the herd of writers and corralled into a special "nerd" corner. (We were in official, paid attendance, but we were fans after all, and didn't count.) Gosh, it was wonderful to feel so welcome by all that creative talent that we obviously adulated.

It was clear that there was the writers' side, and way over there at the far horizon, was the side for all the riff-raff. I was never sure whether I was riff or raff.

The SFWA meeting proceeded. The special people were "herded" away from the writers whenever possible, a different committee helper apparently assigned to divert us away from the hotel and the writers whenever they could. But it worked to my advantage; after all, I *was* on a mission.

Guided by these helpers to the local bookstores, I was able to buy even more books to be signed, hardbound or paperback, some tattered to near shreds. I didn't care. I loaded up for the "official" book signing. When the event came, I was ready. I proudly stood before Jack Williamson with a pile of books larger than any of the other fans. Speechlessly, I slipped him *The Book*. I do not know what I expected, maybe a simple "Oh, my...what do you have here?" But nothing was said. He signed.

I stammered out a "You're my favorite writer." And it was over and done with.

The young Bradley was interesting, surrounded by a sub-group of young writers/fans(?), certainly his personal entourage. After the signing was



Catherine Crook DeCamp

mostly done, and most had drifted off, he sat with his friends and I joined them. He was clearly a sarcastic, self-centered individual, but he was funny.

We swapped barbs for a few minutes as he wittily and accurately skewered me with the observation of my *in vitro* membership in fandom.

Overall I enjoyed the SFWA event, the writers were entertaining (they usually are), and their various meetings and panels well attended. Most of all I tremendously enjoyed the banquet.

All of the special people, all the "nerds," were herded into a far corner of the room, separated from the gods and placed at a table that had clearly been pushed to the most extreme distant point away from all the others tables that the room would physically allow. I enjoyed the dinner, sitting with Mr. Bogle, the chimney sweep and other notable "nerds," far more than I would have trying to eat in the rarified air of the mighty.



Mr. Bogle, the chimneysweep and L. Sprague de Camp

Somehow during the event I caught the attention of James Frenkel, the editor.

Later that night before the entire event was over and done with we had a short walk and talk. He quizzed me for some vague reason over my obvious enthusiasm and regard for Jack Williamson. At first he questioned the depth of my sincerity as he stepped up putting himself forward as Williamson's unrequired defender and champion. I quickly disabused him of his concern, and in fact placed him on the defensive after I backed him into a corner when I made him realize that I had far more of a stake and right to my proprietary regard.

Embarrassed, he apologized, pointing out the reason for his concern. He had brought Jack to the event and was rooming with him. Somewhere he had acquired the notion that he was a bit of a guardian for the older man. His concern was quite unnecessary, I assured him. I pointed out to Frenkel that Jack had been around a long time, and would continue to be around for a long time. As time has shown, I was right, Jack held on for an amazing length of time.

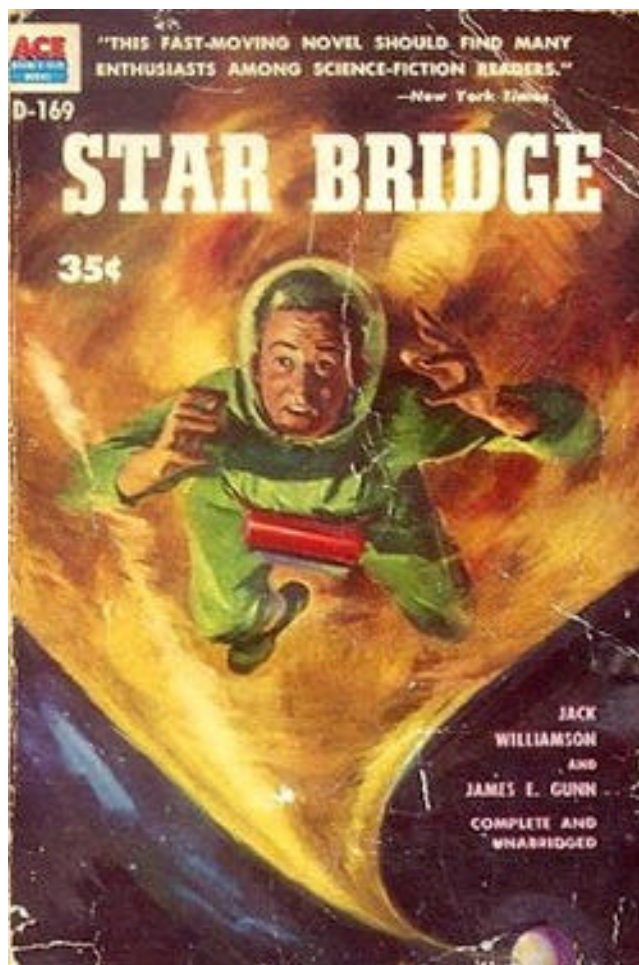
The next day I flew back to LA, mission ac-

complished, two more names entered into *The Book*. All in all a great time was had, photos taken, books acquired, and I had made a few, brief, encounters with the latest group of shakers and movers in the field. It was enough to back off from further contact, the SFWA dinner had left a lingering aftertaste, something of too-much arrogance mixed with a clear cut case of forgetting that it has always been the fans that make the writer and not the other way around.

I never did get to see Jack Williamson again. But I will always fondly remember that last time. The old sorcerer, still with a keen, razor sharp mind albeit in a frail body, unnecessarily protected from all comers by his well intended but misguided apprentice. There is no doubt that a tremendous magical force has now left the field. No one will ever appear who can replace him, though many will try.

Sic transit gloria mundi, Jack.

— E. Terry Kemp



NOW & Again

(There! You've

been warned!)

–And don't trip over the large type! I'm gonna hafta change a lot of new bad (but currently necessary) habits.

It all started with my eye surgery in early December. (On my good eye, of course, as Murphy's Law demands.) I could see to walk around, could open doors, get in the car, that kinda stuff – but couldn't read!

I was told recovery of my sight would be gradual – and therein lies the heart of my tale, for it was very gradual. First sight test was 20/400, a coupla days later, 20/300, then 20/100 and last time. 20/70. Improving, yeah; but – I was told not to strain my eyes for a few weeks, maybe a coupla months. But I couldn't read anything of any length.

So the bad habit (tho necessary!) is that I spend only a short time on what I'm doing. Like, I've come back to this at least six times already! This flicking from thing to thing is messing up my concentration. I'm no good at writing things in my head; no chalk! Besides, the background is slippery and when I do grab hold of a thought, another one cannons thru, and I'm back where I started. Which

Let Me Tell You About My Operation

is nowhere. And it's messed up my reading. Usedta be, I'd read a book in one day; recently, however -- before my operation -- it took me as much as a week to read one becos my eyes got tired. Eye, that is.

I'd stay at the computer a few minutes, then step outside to smoke. I used to make one cigarette last for three or four sessions, lighting up, puffing, then putting it out. Now one lasts at least six sessions! –I know, I know; that increases my tar intake – but hell, I'm stubborn; I'm gonna live forever! –Well, at least 24 years so's I can attend my great-granddaughter graduating magna cum laude. (She'll be very smart, of course!)

--Gonna stop and play a game.--

And speaking of a long life reminds me of something a friend recently told me. A guy she knew invited her to meet his 101 year old great-great-grandmother. He took her to a house and they walked in. Two fat elderly old ladies were sitting on the couch and another old lady, skinny and spry, was darting about cleaning things up. She figured one of the two on the couch would be his great-great-grandmother.

Nope.

One on the couch was his grandmother and the one sitting beside her was his great-grandmother. The skinny one was his great-great-grandmother! My friend asked her how she was still so active at her age.

“I work!” she was told. “Those two fat slob always sat and watched TV, just like they’re doing now. Me, I smoke, drink at least a glass of wine a day, but I’m always busy! I’ll probably outlive them.”

. . .But, back to me.

—After I watch some TV--

Spending a short time at any one task affects my concentration – not that it was every that great! Of course, I can switch to computer games. . .smoke more. . .back to computer games . . . –

Hey! I could just smoke and play games! Would have no responsibilities, just have fun. Doesn’t that sound great???

Actually, it sounds lousy. Instead of a gafiato, I’d be a SLUG – Sorry, Lazy, Useless Grub.

I couldn’t do any work on *Planetary Stories* – you know, [http://](http://www.planetarystories.com)

www.planetarystories.com. Now, I *could* pull up the site, because I knew the location of things on my computer, so I could keep tabs on the number of hits it was getting, since I had the type in fairly large size.

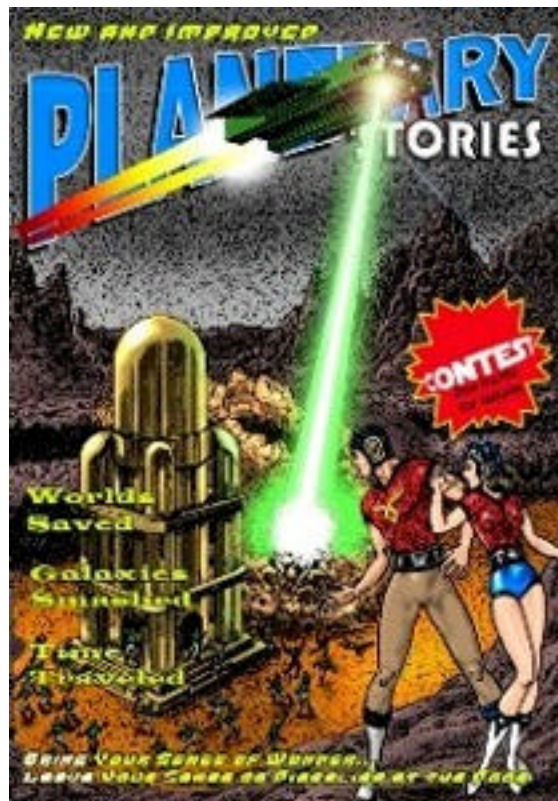
But that didn’t get more stories ready to go online!

—Let me stop and take a puff.--

And now things are better enuf that I can go into my 700plus email accumulation and do a lot of heartless deleting – even including The Writer’s Almanac and Kim Komando and other weekly bulletins. . .and many letters from listservs. Only kept things I need to save or, eventually, answer. Now have less than 50 emails. But I can’t deal with lengthy ones.

But I’ve gotta keep taking it easy. Like, I’ve long ago lost track of how many different times I’ve saved this column and pulled it up again. You’d assume that would lead to a higher quality column. But I’m afraid it’s rather broken up. Proving that old saying about ASS U ME.

— Shelby Vick



Continued from p 1

Vegas Fandom Weekly will have ordering information as soon as Taral is ready to ship.

SNAFFU Starts Election Process!!

The January 28 SNAFFU Discussion Meeting moved to a new, larger room in the library (Jewel Box Theater), got a new starting time (2:00 PM) and began the process of nominating members for the election in February.

With Michael Bernstein opting to end his reign as SNAFFU President, James Taylor looks like the leading candidate for the office. He will face competition from singer James Taylor (nominated by Teresa Cochran) and former Green Bay Packers running back James Taylor (nominated by me).

Joyce Katz appears to be running unopposed for her second term as Vice President and Meeting Coordinator.

More on the election, and a report on the meeting, will be in the next issue.

The SNAFFU Library Committee Plans February 11 Work Session!

Library Committee chairman Lori Forbes has set Saturday, February 11 as the date for the next work session on the SNAFFU Library (which is now housed at the Launch Pad, 909 Eugene Cernan Street). Lori calls upon members of SNAFFU to alphabetize the books onto the shelves to gather at the Launch Pad at 10:30 AM. (Joyce and I will be there to receive the volunteers, since financial problems will prevent us from attending Corflu Quire that weekend in Austin, TX.

To quote Lori:

"We only need a handful of people but it would be nice if someone could bring a card table or something so that people can sort and alphabetize off the floor. Not necessary though. A stool would be nice, too. We'll also need to move the boxes out of the back into the front for sorting."

Heard Around Fandom...

Ross Chamberlain is home and recuperating from his prostatectomy. Don't know if he'll be up to the 2/3 Vegrants meeting, but his friends are hopeful...

Old-time fan Joe Pilati and underground comix legend Jay Lynch are working on a revival issue of the satire fanzine *Smudge*. Ill let you know when they make the formal announcement...

Murray Moore, the Canadian fan who is spearheading the 2007 FAAn Awards balloting, will have cataract surgery right after Corflu Quire in February. Murray is feeling pretty confident; he told me that his big worry is tickets he has for a performance of an opera.

ChatBack: The VFW Letter Column

This issue of VFW has proven very therapeutic in a rather wearying period. Now let's complete the cure with the greatest bunch of letterhacks in Fandom...

Canadian Fandom's premier locker sent this one just

after I sent out #91, so he gets the honor of leading off "ChatBack" this time...

Lloyd Penney

I hope the parties were good for all. We spent our New Year's at Chris and Emily Knight's home, just up the street from us. Chris and Emily have staged marvelous con suites and green rooms for many years, and this year's party was great. No need to pop a DVD in the player...we had enough fanchat for all.

The picture of RAH reminded me that I found a greeting card in a Bay department store the other day, a cute one with a dog and cat on it, and it also had the following RAH quotation on it..."Women and cats will do as they please, and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea." I Googled "Heinlein quotes," to confirm I had the right wording, and it's amazing how many sites there are.

Congratulations to Marcie Waldie on her college honours. My sister-in-law was once a teacher and a principal, and it is tough to be a motivating influence on students, especially today where there is so little cool incentive to be a good student.

My own career as a proofreader/copy editor is kinda stalled right now...I thought that being a voice actor, if I could get the work, would at least help to fill my time. Several jobs are now done, and the voice work for the aforementioned kids yoga DVD will start up again soon. It's been a lot of fun, and I wouldn't mind if it became a new career. I could use the change.

Could we actually have a fanzine wiki? I have my doubts...would we agree about anything? We'd spend more time discussing it and arguing about it in some kind of forum, and no actual work would get done.

My surgery did, indeed, happen, on December 5. Right now, I look like Popeye minus the bulging forearms, one eye open and one closed. The closed one is in the late stages of being weaned off corticosteroid eye drops, and I'll find out how I'm doing on January 31. Then we talk to see if laser surgery is required on either eye. Probably on the left, possibly on the right.

No, I am not discouraged from joining FAPA, it is good to know what the minac requirements are, and who to talk to about it...it's just that my plate is a little full right now. I have some article ideas I want to pursue, and I'll need the time to write those, in addition to my own loccing schedule. I may join FAPA some time in the future, but for now, it's probably prudent that I make no promises.

Hello, Chris Garcia! Grab the back end of Fandom and feel the healing power! Or just a good jolt of electricity...or a good slap, depending on whose back end you grab...I am a Brother in Diet Coke truly, although as I race towards decrepitude, I may have to lay off the acidic drinks, and rely on flavoured waters. More and more, there's good food to eat and drink in the con suites as we age; we can't pull all-nighters on Coke and cheesies any more.

If Joshua Andrews has surfaced around Tulsa, OK, I guess he's not in charge of the GLBT SF Club any more. Is there a fannish GLBT group there, or did Joshua set this up

to say he did it?

Arnie: Thanks largely to the enthusiasm and aid of Bill Mills, several Vegrants are becoming voice actors, most notable Ross Chamberlain and JoHn Wesley Hardin. Joyce is actually working on an audio product with Bill, but it would probably be better to talk about it when it has been published.

Of course we could have a fanzine wiki. All it takes is one-to-three fans willing to put up the site, solicit entries and go over them for accuracy. A lot of fans (too many) seem to be afraid to make qualitative judgments. Some others don't suffer this impediment and would be able to handle this very well.

I wouldn't want to discourage anyone from any worthwhile form of fanac, which includes FAPA, but while you ponder this momentous decision, why not join SNAPS? It's fun, it's free and it has good folks.

After repeated tries at getting information, I've given up on the Gay, Bi, Lez Trans SF Club. There are quite a few bi and gay fans in Las Vegas. Most are simply active in one of the fan clubs. Now that both Woody Bernardi and Josh Andrews have left town, the club has little connection to Fandom.

If they do anything resembling fanac and let me know, I'll cover it. But since not a single member of this very small group has offered the tiniest bit of news in months, the point is moot.

Chris Garcia

Another issue drops onto eFanzines! I wish I had been around yesterday so I could have gotten you my LoC sooner. Anyhow, here's what I'm thinkin'...

I made my New Years Resolutions on my LiveJournal. 1) Be More Judgmental. 2) Write 3 Screenplays 3) Make another Short Film 4) Make sure I'm not hunted for sport. Those were all the ones I could come up with. Sadly, the first one is probably going to be the hardest!

That's a good look at the FAAn awards. I was going to do an article on the very thing in the next *Drink Tank*, but a theme popped up (the Montreal WorldCon Bid) so I'm going with that for the next ish and after that's the Giant-Sized Annual.



I didn't realize that Clare McDonald was a new fan. I figured she'd been around a while. I got to meet her at WorldCon and we're both in ANZAPA now too. I dropped the list of the bunch of new fans out this way in the last issue, and it's a really good group of considerees.

Battles with Animals almost never end well for humans. I hope Joyce feels better soon, and that she is using proper techniques in making Foggy feel genuinely guilty.

Sounds like another delightful Open House. You do realize that all of this fine description is making me desperate to get out there again. If it weren't for Corflu, I'd probably have already visited this year! Such a thing happens. It also reminded me that I owe Merric a dangle in the short term.

I totally know why you added the disclaimer to the faan fiction piece: because it's so damned plausible. I could 100% see someone writing a piece exactly like it that described their real experience. I guess that's the thing I'm enjoying most about all of your faan fiction.

Must get Laney Anthology! I've still never read *Ah Sweet Idiocy* all the way through, but I'm making an effort to get a copy. Good to hear that Glicksohn's in good shape. Sorry to hear about Andy Porter's surgery. I hope he gets through it best as possible.

Shockingly, I got an LoC from Greg Benford. I had no idea he'd ever read an issue of *The Drink Tank*. I was slightly taken aback.

I love that photo of Dick and Pat Lupoff dressed as Capt. and Mary Marvel. Those are the kind of costumes you so seldom see anymore.

And another whale of a LetterCol! I'm amazed at how many responses you get. It's right up there with zines like *The Knarley Knews* and *The Alexiad* in the sheer number of LoCs!

Arnie: Your letters of comment seem to arrive mere minutes after I dispatch the distribution email with its attachment. Truth is, I was a little relieved that this one took a little longer to arrive, though it was still the first. I'd feared that you would soon break through the barrier and send a LoC before I have actually published the issue.

I used to get LoCs from Greg Benford. I used to get columns from Greg Benford. It's true. I'm not a drinkin' fan, Mr. Garcia, honest. I miss those days.

Here with commentary on the FAAN Awards and the proverbial "much, much more" is the Lone Star Stalwart...

John Purcell

Many thanks for the kind words, Arnie. With Corflu Quire looming just around the corner, I do hope that all fans who enjoy and appreciate fanzines and the folks who produce them - to say nothing of all the writers, loccers, artists, collators, and all the others I am forgetting to mention right now - will take a few minutes to go to efanzines.com or Trufen.net, download the FAAn ballot, and cast their votes. Make someone's life meaningful: vote FAAn-ishly.

Like you, I had a very difficult time making my voting decisions. There are so many deserving people and their zines this time, that I will be happy no matter who wins what.

Peer recognition is everything it is cracked up to be; for example, I was surprised as hell to get a handful of votes last year, and it made me feel good. This year's gonna be fun simply by being at Corflu with all of these talented fen. Like your categorical run-downs show, there is a full field this year. Methinks you and VFW will be getting some votes here and there, laddie.

That reminds me: a couple days ago I had an idea for a new name for VFW so that it can still maintain the acronym: *Vegas Fandom Whenever*. It covers everything: where the zine comes from, what it covers, and its frequency of publication. Whaddaya think?

Of course, you could even call it *Veterans of Fannish Wars*, but that might carry a negative connotation even if it is appropriate. I'll leave the ultimate decision up to you.

I liked the "Arn-ish"; lots of good stuff in here, sir, even without making fan pubbing resolutions. I have only one this year: to keep at it, despite the need to slow down to make room for my dissertation research. *sigh* Life intrudes, hang it all to heck. For a break I will try to contribute an article here and there. No real promises, but I'll do what I can.

I say there, Arnie, you certainly do live dangerously. There I was, enjoying the true story of Joyce, Speaker to Katz, when you slipped in the following aside:

Foggy showed no hostility to the other cats.
Foggy's main interest was the grass – who said cats don't resemble their owners? -- and the other cats were much more interested in the food.

Are you still sleeping on the couch? In the litter box? Man, I am telling you, that comment was *harsh*. You had better watch your step, or one of your nasty dreams of Joyce leading an army of slugs with plentiful air support is going to come true. However, I am certainly glad not only are Joyce and Foggy doing much better now, but that a truce has likewise been reached. If need be, my wife - Valerie, Speaker to Pets - is willing to fly out to Vegas to mediate a lasting peace. Kissinger doesn't hold a candle to what Val can do for

inter-species relations. Of course, she'd have to bring her lackey along...

It was fun briefly chatting with you and other Vegas fans during your New Year's bash. Judging by the background noise, it certainly sounded like a rousing success. Great photos, too. All that food makes me hungry every time I look at these pics.

Great faan fiction. I am enjoying this continuing series, but the problem is that Charley Gentry bears a strong resemblance to many a male fan I have known over the years. Wait a minute.... This story sound really familiar...Are you *sure* we haven't met and talked before?

Fantastic news about Mike Glicksohn! He certainly has been through a lot of medical grief recently, and I am so glad he's got a positive prognosis. Mike is another fellow I would love to see again.

In his loc, Lloyd Penney made the comment that "Pat Virzi looks so coordinated and organized, it'll make the rest of us look bad." While this may be true, the PR's have been a lot of fun to read. But I really missed the interlinos in PR #2. Sure wish you and Joyce could be there, Meyer.

Man, I had heard that Pat Lupoff was a looker - I have never met here in person (Dick, neither) - but that photo on page 19 of them as Captain and Mary Marvel confirms it. Great costumes, too!

Regarding my loc: still no word from Dr. Hall about the Warner collection. Hmm. "Curiouser and curiouser," to quote a well-known phrase. Also, thank you for the kind words about my remembrance of our old friend, Bob Tucker. I have had more compliments from readers about that one piece than anything else I produced in the last year. Thank you, everybody!

And that wraps it all up. We shall see if there's a VFW #92 before Corflu - hope so! - and I am also looking forward to the next SNAPS disty. Take care of yourself, and if you hear the flapping of wings descending from the sky behind you, I have one word for you: Duck!

Arnie: Since returning to Fandom 18 years ago --! -- I've tried to accommodate Core Fandom's indolence. That

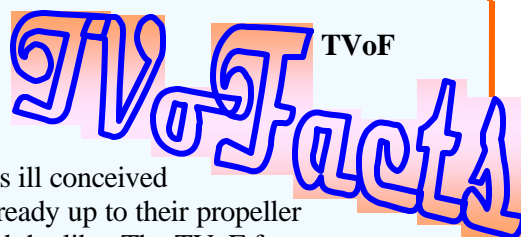
Snapshots A Short Extension

The original deadline for contributing to the February eMailing of SNAPS would have fallen on the same weekend as Corflu Quire. For the convenience of some members planning to attend the con and to encourage those who do to write up their thoughts while still fresh, the deadline has been moved to the following Sunday. I'll be putting together the eMlg the next evening, so there won't be the usual three-four days of grace.

We'd like to have you give it a try. The first step is to check out one or more of the past eMailings, available as free downloads at snaffu.org. After that, if you think you'd like to participate, just drop me an email and we'll work it out. — Arnie

Deadline for Feb. eMailing: 2/18

Comings & Goings on the Site



The demise of the TVoF Forum: A text based forum for TVoF was ill conceived from the start... SF Fandom being a community that is undoubtedly already up to their propeller topped beanie caps in 'zines, locs, bulletin boards, listservs, forums and the like. The TVoF forum was not being used except by adult web site spammers, so the time had come to pull the plug on the TVoF forum.

The demise of the Las Vagrant's Audio One Shot - The birth of the Fandom Oral History Project: The Las Vagrant's Audio One Shot page has been removed from the TVoF web site. The idea was a good one. But it's been decided that the project should be widened beyond Las Vegas Fandom to include all of known fandom as subjects and participants. The audio clips garnered from the Las Vagrants recording sessions will form the basis of the new and more broadly inclusive "Fandom Oral History Project". You'll find all the original recordings of fans describing how they found SF fandom or how it found them on the new Fandom Oral History pages where you'll also find instructions for using the TVoF recording system (and your computer microphone) to leave your own voice message or audio contribution to the ongoing project. You are heartily invited to go check that out and try out the easy to use recorder, embedded right in a web page, to leave TVoF and fandom your input or your story for archiving and showcasing on the TVoF web site.

<http://www.thevoicesoffandom.com/history.html>

New on PAGE TWO of the Fannish Music Pages: An evocative new age style soundscape from John Hardin and a brand new arrangement and recording of the filk song classic "Mary O'Meara" written by Poul Anderson performed by Bill Mills. Plus the Virtual Filk Room! An hour of unedited Westercon filk room fun from 1978! Really! Travel back in time to hear Lee and Barry Gold hold court and sing the great filk songs most of us grew up hearing with a roomful of fans you may well have grown up with. It's wonderfully nostalgic, historic, fun and entertaining. Throw some ice and sodas in the bath tub, sit on the floor to listen and it'll be just like being there!

<http://www.thevoicesoffandom.com/music-2.html>

And, New On Page TWO Of The Misc Audio Clips Pages: You can hear the entire 23 minute conversation with Arnie Katz on the subject of Core Fandom and Vegas Fandom in 2006 and his projections for 2007 on of the Audio Clips pages. <http://www.thevoicesoffandom.com/audio-clips-2.html>

Lastly: TVoF's Podcast #4 (for January 2007) went up a little late, but has been getting a lot of play, so it may be left until the first week of February. This is the streaming mp3 of TVoF Podcasts:

http://www.thevoicesoffandom.com/mp3/tvof_podcast.mp3.

— Bill Mills

included keeping categories and names within each category to a minimum when I revived the FAAn Awards for Corflu Vegas. The ballot has grown even simpler with passing years, but I've begun to think that maybe we've gone too far in the direction of simplicity. Maybe I'm wrong, but I can't believe that most of the folks who fill out the ballots would not do so if it meant nominating five fans in the more important categories or even nominate in one or two additional categories.

In light of the fanzine's popularity, it looks like it's going to stay Vegas Fandom Weekly. I did like your suggestion, though. Maybe I could follow the lead of Corporate America and simply shorten the name to its initials.

Stretch your recollection (and your fanzine collection), you will realize that Joyce has feasted on my flaws and idiosyncrasies in many articles and stories. I have reciprocated,

even though she won't let me use the really lurid and sensational secret details. As a fellow Actifan, Joyce knows that it's a delicate balance and would never force me to sleep on the couch. Besides, I'm a stud.

You really couldn't have said anything more complimentary than that the lead character in my story reminded you of several real-life fans. I will say this: it's not autobiographical in any way. I was trying to create a certain type of fan-nish elder statesman and purposely set the story before I was even born.

The letter column is an ensemble production, but if there's a star of stars, it's the Sage of Fandom...

Robert Lichtman

Before I get into specific comments, I must say that I

like the *VFW* header's New Look for 2007. It's too late now to make a big deal of it—not that I ever would since in the final analysis it's a minor point—but the 2006 version always seemed kind of weak and washed out to me. By way of contrast, the new version looks nicely pumped up.

It's something of a mystery to me why Murray Moore is requiring FAAn award ballots to be submitted by the end of January and not accepting them at the convention. Considering how easy it is to tabulate a ballot form with only five categories and three choices in each one, it wouldn't appear that challenging (at least not to me) to allow voting right up to the night before the awards are presented at the Sunday morning banquet. Could it be that last year's glitch in the final results of the best fanzine category has spooked Murray and he doesn't want to go through that again?

Thanks for your run-down of the respective categories. I have my own thoughts on them and will vote somewhat differently than what you set forth here; but there will be some overlap, of course, since we tend to have similar taste in fanac.

A few specific comments on your article: You write that "For the first time...it looks like the electronic fanzines are dominating the field." It's clear to me that you don't get as many paper fanzines as I still do. My own take is that there's about an even split between the quality paper fanzines and the quality electronic ones. My own voting in this category will reflect that. Of Dan Steffan you write, "In many ways, he is the fannish heir to Steve Stiles in that he, too, draws exceptionally well and is also a good humorist." I think of Dan and Steve in the same breath, and don't feel that there's a progression from Steve to Dan in the way you express it. (Actually, I think of them as *Trap Door*'s staff artists, since it's to them that I most often turn when I need a custom

heading or a cover. I'm incredibly grateful that both of them have been able to fix me up for years and years.) And finally, of me you write, "The only reason I haven't drafted Robert as a *VFW* columnist is that I hate to think of not getting his magnificent commentaries after every issue." Good thinking, Meyer, although I will point out that I have a history of successfully avoiding the draft dating back to 1965 and the Vietnam war.

It's good to know that both Joyce and Foggy are okay. Especially Joyce!

In your party report you write, "A neofan who doesn't participate in Core Fandom's electronic aspects is missing a lot—listservs, websites and electronic fanzines—so it might be hard to really become part of the subculture." Although you refer to this as the Great Divide, in a way it's much more than that. You would be instantly cut off from a vast area of fan activity (and growing vaster and vaster, ahahahaha). Imagine if Harry Warner Jr. was still alive. Would his ubiquitous LoCs be only appearing in the remaining paper fanzines, or would someone have gone so far as to visit him in Hagerstown and set him up with a second-hand computer so he could access Bill Burns's wonderful fannish newsstand and see how the other half was getting along?

I enjoyed "One Pacificon Night," especially your bringing in Betty Boop as a con attendee attracting the attention of ol' Charley Gentry.

In response to Lloyd Penney's suggestion that *Folly*, *Wild Heirs* and some of the other Vegrants fanzines of the past decade or so be scanned and posted on efanzines, you write that it would be difficult to do so because you don't have the software anymore. Since they were all photocopied, I immediately wondered if the "copier-ready" originals still existed. If they do, it would be a big job to scan them all

Contact! Las Vegas Club Directory

Las Vegrants

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

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

SNAFFU:

Michael Bernstein
Email: webmaven@cox.net
Phone: 765-7279

VSFA:

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

Las Vegas Fan Events Calendar

Cineholics Friday, February 2 7:30 PM

The invitational film circle meets weekly at the home of Alan and DeDee White

VSFA Monthly Meeting Saturday, February 3 11 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, February 3, 7:30 PM

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

Cineholics Friday, February 9 7:30 PM

The invitational film circle meets weekly at the home of Alan and DeDee White

SNAPS Deadline Sunday, February 11

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

Cineholics Friday, February 16 7:30 PM

The invitational film circle meets weekly at the home of Alan and DeDee White

SNAFFU Dinner Meeting Saturday, February 17 11:00 AM

The city's oldest formal SF club will be breakfasting together on Dim Sum.

Las Vegrants Meeting Saturday, February 17 7:30 PM

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

but it would be the best way to re-create them for Web consumption.

About the people who serve on Worldcon committees Peter Sullivan writes, "Despite the highly formalized organization and multi-layered bureaucracy of a typical Worldcon committee, not a single one of them have gone on to run Worldcon more than once." A look at just about any Worldcon program book in recent years at the pages where the committee and all the various and sundry staff members are listed would reveal quite a few repeat customers. Just looking at the program books published for the 1972, 1984, 1996 and 2006 shows that (for instance) Milt Stevens was involved in all four committees. There are others involved in the most recent three, but someone else can do the name-dropping.

I agree with Chris Garcia that the Bay Area would be a good choice for an SF grove, although I also agree with you that some of his examples (especially the "ton of fans who went to UC Berkeley") are a major stretch. In expressing sadness over Dick Eney's passing Chris writes of one of Dick's "Operation Crifanac" outputs, *A Sense of FAPA*, that

it was "one of those massively important fan published things." At 388 pages it's the second largest fanzine ever (the 618-page *Warhoon* No. 28 collecting many of Walt Willis's writings being the largest). If someone does reprint its single largest article, Laney's *Ah! Sweet Idiocy!*, which runs 130 pages, it might be worthwhile if the rest of *A Sense of FAPA* was posted on-line one of these days.

John Purcell is "wondering about Dick [Eney's] age... so far I have seen his age listed as 69, 73 and 74 in obituaries about him. A little clarification here, please." There was some discussion of this on-line when Dick's passing was first announced. Apparently Dick had some personal documents (passport, etc.) listing his age at 69. This didn't seem right to a number of people, and further investigation revealed that Dick was born on September 13, 1932. Thus he was 74 when he died in December.

John also writes, "I will have to think long and hard about joining FAPA mainly because I have my doctoral preliminary exams staring me in the face and dissertation research to do and write." If this is something that will eventually be behind you, I would strongly suggest putting poten-

tial FAPA membership on hold for now. Although the minimum activity is small (only eight pages *per year*), it does involve some time in composition and publishing—and then there's the little matter of keeping up with the mailings, which tend to be 300 pages or more.

You write, "I remain ambivalent about large fanzine collections going to universities. The chances of a university collection getting properly preserved and put in order are higher than for a private collection, but the odds against a typical fan getting to see such a collection are much slimmer." My own experience and what I've heard from others tends to go against your impression. Although I haven't been there myself, a number of fans report visiting the largest university fanzine collection at UC Riverside in Southern California. The University of Iowa collection (obtained from Mike Horvat) makes photocopies of fanzines in their collection available at a nominal and quite reasonable cost. It was brought to me attention last year that they had a copy of the first fanzine I did for the Carboniferous Reproduced Amateur Press (CRAP), existing in only five copies. I sent away for one, and am happy to report they did an excellent job of making a crisp and clear photocopy. I'm *very* happy to have this copy in my collection, and given the limited edition I would likely never have encountered it otherwise.

About my comments concerning several potential impending reprints of *Ah! Sweet Idiocy!* you write, "Whether it's Taral or Damien, I would sure like to see a complete, electronic reprint of *ASI*. And to tell the truth, I sure would like to have the rest of you read the very long article I wrote about Laney as an introduction. I don't want to pull the plug on Damien Warman if there is any reasonable chance we might see his version soon. Since he's on the VFW list, maybe this discussion will prompt an update." I hope he does comment, but when I raised the question on one of the lists within the past month or two he came back with a list of heavy-duty other projects (fannish and job-related) he had to get done first. This made it sound like his edition was at least another couple years in the future. Speaking for myself (I want to read your article) and on behalf of fandom, I feel it would be the gracious thing for Damien to step aside and let *ASI* be done by others *and* release your introductory essay back to you.

Arnie: I liked the on-site voting at Corflu, though I thought some past committees could've done more to encourage voting by non-attendees. I don't know why the deadline was set for 1/31, but it seemed better to distribute the ballots rather than get bogged down in an argument about it. I fear that the decision may have something to do with making a Big Deal out of the awards in some way, which I think would be a negative step.

My comments about the increasing importance of electronic fanzines is based on last year's FAAn Awards, in which electronic fanzines dominated the standings with something like five of the top seven finishers. I think this year or next, an electronic fanzine will actually win the poll.

That's good news about the collections at some

universities. It would be very good if anyone who went there could gain access. It would be even better if some university decided to digitize their collection and made it universally available

There are "camera ready" copies of some of the Vegas stuff, but a lot of the rest of it was done and stored on Macintosh disks that no one locally seems to be able to open. Ever since my big computer crash of several months ago, nothing has persuaded my scanner to resume proper operation

We Also Heard From: Ross Chamberlain, Mike Korn, John Purcell, Earl Kemp,

— Arnie Katz

The Kingfish Says...

The delay in bring forth this issue results mainly from factors external to this fanzine and, for the most part, Fandom itself. Without tedious recitation, the main reasons are that my mom had a bad fall, Joyce has been ill and I've had some professional work that took priority.

This issue is 22-pages, because otherwise it might've been 40. That's a bad idea from several standpoints, not the least of which is the negative effect of plunking a huge emailing like that in your queue.

So what I'm doing is getting out this issue and immediately going to work assembling the next issue. I hope to have it to you by the time you return from Corflu — or recover from a weekend of whatever you decided to do instead.

VFW #94 will have Bhob Stewart's article about Dave English, which will be Profusely Illustrated by his artwork, including never-before-printed (thanks to Dan Steffan) pieces.

See you all next week! Write! — Arnie

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