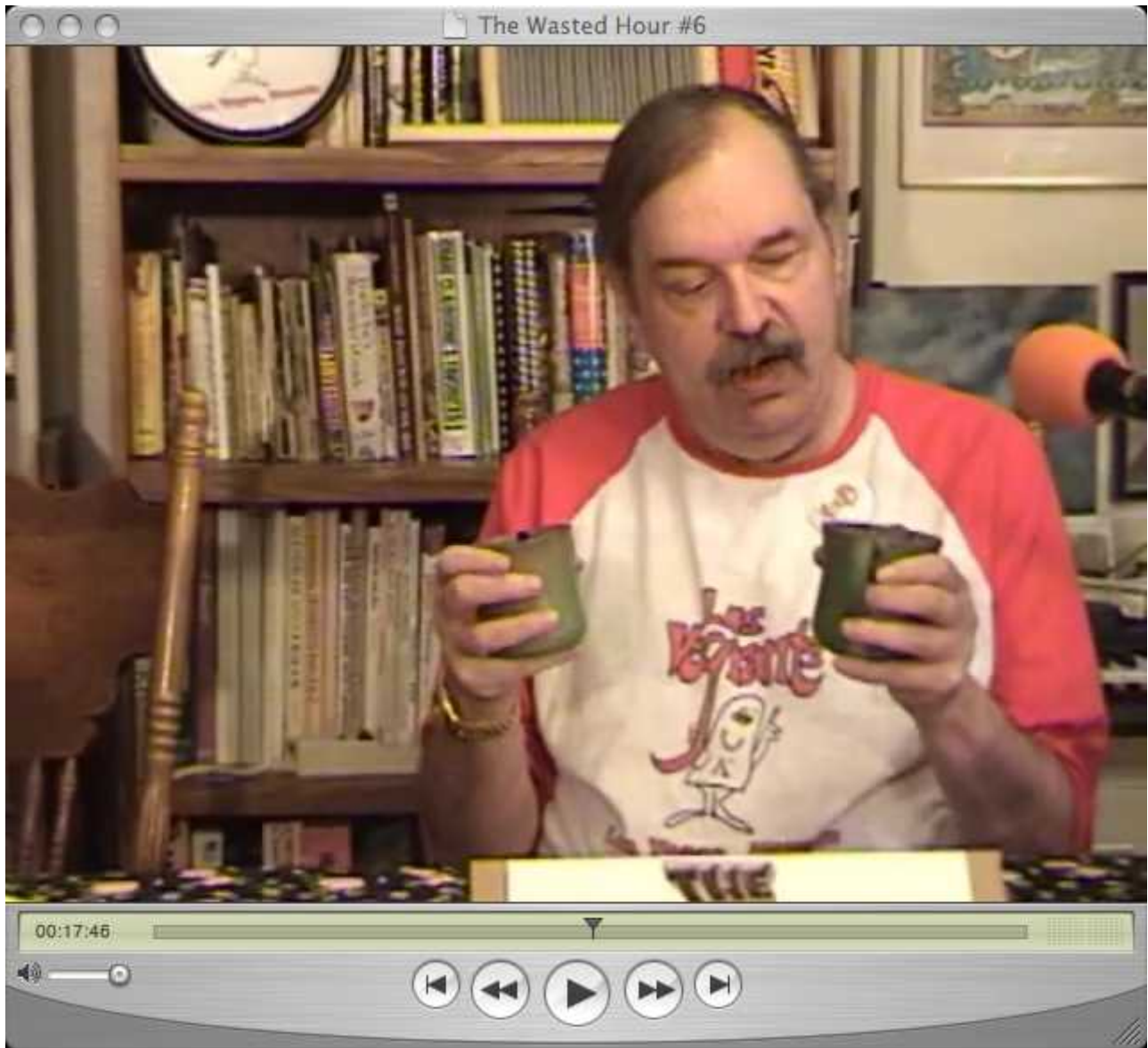


Virtual Tucker Hotel



Issue Fourteen

<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/the-virtual-fan-lounge>

From: Peter Sullivan (“ceemage”), peter@burdonvale.co.uk
Boring webpage at <http://www.burdonvale.co.uk>
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VTH is primarily an electronic fanzine, available on <http://www.efanzines.com>. Paper copies of this fanzine do exist, however, and will be available for the fannish usual. In any case, e-mails and letters of comment are, of course, welcome.

Thanks to: Bill Mills (“FanLounge”), without whom The Virtual Fan Lounge wouldn't exist. Also to Dean Sweatman for hosting another Southern Fandom Classic chat session last weekend.

Member fwa. Startling Press Production number 283. Today is Thursday 31st July, 2008.

Looking Back and Looking Forward

In The Virtual Fan Lounge last weekend, there was the regular Southern Fandom Classic chat session on the Saturday.

The transcript this issue goes back to 19th July, and the most recent edition of Arnie Katz's “The Wasted Hour,” his 30-minute fannish programme.

The main event of this coming weekend would normally be a further edition of “The Wasted Hour.” However, due to Bill Mills' recent surgery, this has been postponed. However, the Las Vegrants VoyeurCam **may** be active during the Vegrants meeting.

Joining the Lounge

To use the chat-room, just go to <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/the-virtual-fan-lounge>. On the left hand side of the page is the live video feed – replaced by a slide show when there isn't anything happening. On the right is



the actual chat-room. You can see what everyone else is typing in the top window, and add your own contribution in the smaller box at the bottom.

You will be assigned an initial user name in the format “ustreamer-12345.” If you'd rather change this – to your real name, livejournal name, or whatever – you can do this by clicking the “Sign Up” link at the top to register for free. Some people have been slightly put off by the amount of information that the registration form asks for, which I can empathise with. But registration is entirely optional – you can simply stay as “ustreamer-12345” if you prefer.

Video Library

As well as the live events, The Virtual Fan Lounge is beginning to build up a library of recorded material available for viewing. The clips are listed under the main viewscreen – just click to select.

No new videos have been added this week, but all the existing videos are still available to view, including all six episodes so far of The Wasted Hour.

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

Art Credits

Front cover: Arnie Katz, during The Wasted Hour 6, with “two genuine fannish artefacts.”
Read on for more details.

This page: Bill Mills' tribute to Bruce Dane.

Schedule for this weekend

The Wasted Hour 7

POSTPONED DUE TO PRODUCER'S RECENT SURGERY. However, the Las Vegrants VoyeurCam *may* be active during the Vegrants meeting. Check in... ya' never know!

- Saturday 2nd August, 7.00 pm PDT (Pacific Daylight Time)
- Saturday 2nd August, 10.00 pm EDT (Eastern Daylight Time)
- Sunday 3rd August, 2.00 am UTC (Co-ordinated Universal Time)
- Sunday 3rd August, 3.00 pm BST (British Summer Time)
- Sunday 3rd August, 10.00 am WAST (Western Australian Standard Time)
- Sunday 3rd August, 12.00 noon EAST (Eastern Australian Standard Time)
- Sunday 3rd August, 2.00 pm NZST (New Zealand Standard Time)

Southern Fandom Classic chat-room session

Dean Sweatman and other members of the Southern Fandom Classic group will be holding their regular chat session in the Virtual Fan Lounge, and invite other interested fans from around the world to join them.

- Saturday 9th August, 1.00 pm PDT (Pacific Daylight Time)
- Saturday 9th August, 4.00 pm EDT (Eastern Daylight Time)
- Saturday 9th August, 8.00 pm UTC (Co-ordinated Universal Time)
- Saturday 9th August, 9.00 pm BST (British Summer Time)
- Sunday 10th August, 4.00 am WAST (Western Australian Standard Time)
- Sunday 10th August, 6.00 am EAST (Eastern Australian Standard Time)
- Sunday 10th August, 8.00 am NZST (New Zealand Standard Time)

And More?

Other ad-hoc events may be added around this 'core' schedule – see future issues of [Virtual Tucker Hotel](#) for more details. And, of course, the chat-room itself is open 24/7.

The Wasted Hour 6, 19th July

Arnie Katz welcomed the audience to the sixth episode of The Wasted Hour, noting that he felt very hot and experimental, being under hot lights on what was already a very hot day in Las Vegas. He also announced that he would be taking questions or topics from the chat room for the last segment of the show.

However, he started by talking about something that he felt was a growing concern in fandom. As the average fan was more mature these days, problems like how to get dates or dealing with acne were no longer at the forefront of most fan's minds. However, aging brought with it a whole new set of

problems. One of these was the possibility of losing our minds due to old age, starting saying and doing weird things. So far, those who had gone off a bit had lost access to fandom. But we couldn't guarantee that this would continue. Therefore, Arnie proposed a Fan Sanity Council to monitor fan activity, and to be on alert for serious mental deterioration in fans. If they felt that someone was showing signs and symptoms, they could contact them and tell them it was time to pipe down. In addition, by creating the Fan Sanity Council, it would provide more opportunities for electioneering and office-holding for fans who liked that sort of thing. Without pre-judging the results of any such election, he personally thought that Robert Litchmann, Jay

Kinney and Andy Hooper would make excellent inaugural members of the Fan Sanity Council.

Arnie also took the opportunity to do a quick commercial for SNAPS, the Southern Nevada Amateur Press Society. This was one of two all-electronic APAs. It currently had 18 members, a mix of fans from Southern Nevada and from around the country. If anyone was interesting in finding out more, or seeing a sample mailing, they could contact him at crossfire4@cox.net.

There was also a plug for the Las Veggrants t-shirt that Arnie was wearing, available from Bill Mills' cafepress website at <http://www.cafepress.com/themillszoo/>. Bill was off for some impending surgery soon, but we all hoped that he would be back to normal by the next edition of The Wasted Hour.

After a short break, Arnie introduced his first guest, Janis Joplin. Who turned out to be both (a) not dead and (b) bearing a remarkable resemblance to Joyce Katz.

Arnie asked what made someone a core fan. Joyce thought that it was something in your heart. Arnie was more practical, saying that you had to actually do something to be considered a Core Fandom fan – it was, after all, a participatory hobby. Joyce wondered if Arnie was going to insist that being a Core Fan involved having a respect for and understanding of fan history. She felt that this wasn't really true – you didn't have to care about the past to be a Core Fandom fan. Arnie said it was more about understanding the sub-culture of Core Fandom, even if this didn't include the historical specifics.

Joyce asked whether a Core Fandom fan had to be involved in fanzines. Arnie felt that this was no longer a given, as activity on websites, videos and podcasts could count just as well. The essence of Core Fandom, he felt, was creativity and communication, however this was expressed, whether it be by writing, drawing or just talking.

Joyce noted that some people considered members of Core Fandom had very long gaps between their acts of creativity. Arnie agreed, but noted that they had done some kind of minimum activity at some point. Joyce gave

the example of Frank Lunney, who had for the last 25 years occupied a unique niche of being considered a fan, with no obvious activity at all. Arnie said that this was fine, as Frank had paid his dues with respect to creativity before then.

It was also noted that fan activity could consist of things that supported the creativity of others, such as helping to collate a fanzine. You could do both primary fanac (creative fan activity) and secondary fanac (enabling fan activity). At its extreme, this could even include ironing someone's shirts so that they had time to do a fanzine. Arnie wasn't sure whether just doing secondary fanac was enough to make you a Core Fandom fan. But he noted that, in practice, this wasn't an issue – as most fans did both primary and secondary fanac, being enablers at different times.

After a short break, Arnie showed off a rare pair of fannish artefacts – two cups full of pennies. These had originally been collected for the WAW with the Crew campaign in 1952. The Fanoclasts, a New York fan group, had set these cups out at their meetings, and everyone had put their spare pennies in. When Walt Willis had actually arrived in New York, Terry Carr had offered Walt the contents of the cups, but Walt hadn't seemed keen on carrying some five pounds in weight of loose change across the country. So Terry had just given him \$20 in notes and kept the cups himself. Then, in 1970, rich brown and Arnie had been running the Bob Shaw Fund, to bring Bob to the 1971 Worldcon. Terry Carr donated the two cups of pennies. But the same scenario as before played out – Arnie had offered Bob the contents of the cups, but in the end just gave him \$20 in notes again and kept the cups himself.

Arnie then had a phone chat with Chris Garcia, the current North American TAFF Administrator. Chris explained the principles of TAFF (the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund), which provided funds for North American fans to travel to European conventions (usually the British Eastercon) and for European fans to travel to North American conventions (usually Worldcon). Arnie asked what made a good TAFF delegate. Chris said that the main

attribute was a willingness to get out and be a fan – "oozing fandom from every pore," as he put it.

Arnie noted that Chris had attended Eastercon this year, and asked him what his favourite part of the trip had been. Chris said that it had "all been amazing," but he had especially liked hanging out with John "the Rock" Coxon, a young British fan who was already "a better writer than me" even at 19. Arnie noted that John had been voted Best New Fan at the Faan Awards this year, an award Chris himself had won previously. Chris added that he had met John again a few weeks ago when John had come to San Francisco – "we met up, I told him lots of lies about the city, it was great."

Arnie asked about Chris' TAFF trip report, as this was usually a significant fund-raiser for TAFF. Chris said that he had approached this somewhat differently, as he was famous (or was that notorious?) for doing electronic fanzines rather than paper. He had already finished his report – 50,000 words exactly – and it was available for download from the TAFF website. People should e-mail Chris at garcia@computerhistory.org for details of the login to get a copy. Whilst they were at it, they could have a look at the TAFF website at <http://www.taff.org.uk>, which had copies of all the current and many past TAFF newsletters, all maintained by Dave Langford.

Arnie asked about the next TAFF race which, following the usual rotation, would be a Europe to North America race, probably to the 2009 Worldcon in Montreal. Chris said that the deadline for nominations for the next race had yet to be fixed, but would probably be towards the end of 2008 – watch the skies fannish press for more details.

After a short break, Arnie noted that Bruce

Dane, a respected filk singer from Southern California had recently died. Bill Mills explained that Bruce had been a very good friend of his, much more than just a fannish friend. They had first met at the 1972 Worldcon, and recognised each other as old hippies. Over the years they had grown closer – "we called each other brother, and meant it," Bill explained. Bruce had had an appetite for the best of puns and the worst of puns. Bruce had died on 12th July. Bill gave a spirited rendition of "Please Don't Bury Me (In the Cold, Cold Ground)" in his memory.

Finally, Arnie asked the chat-room for a question or topic for the final segment of the show. Curt Phillips asked Arnie for his opinion on lawns. Arnie said that he didn't really have a lawn – just dirt and cat poop where the lawn should be. Lawn sprinklers were really too expensive to run in the Nevada climate, so he was happy with his bare landscape. Especially as this allowed him to evade all lawn care orientated activities. Curt asked which was better – mowing the lawn or reading a new issue of Vegas Fandom Weekly in the shade of a gazebo. Arnie said that, without wishing to over-egg the benefits of reading Vegas Fandom Weekly, almost anything was better than mowing the lawn. Time spent on lawn care could be much better spent on other activities, such as work, sex or fanac.

Arnie noted that the next edition of The Wasted Hour should be on 2nd August. There would be no scheduled re-broadcasts in future, but people could watch episodes that they had missed at any time via the website.