

# Virtual Tucker Hotel

The screenshot shows the UstreamTV website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'USTREAMTV' logo, 'SHOWS', 'VIDEOS', and 'COMMUNITY' dropdown menus, a 'BROADCAST NOW' button, and a search bar. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with 'Dashboard', 'My Feeds', 'My Followers', 'My Shows', 'My Videos', 'My Messages', 'My Pictures', and 'My Profile' links, along with 'Live' and 'Upcoming' buttons. The main content area features the title 'The Virtual Fan Lounge' in large, stylized red and yellow letters. Below the title is the text 'WELCOME TO THE "ENDLESS CONVENTION" AT THE TUCKER HOTEL!' and three colorful, multi-colored balloons. The interface is split into two main sections: a video player on the left and a chat window on the right. The video player shows a still image of the lounge logo and is currently 'OFF AIR'. The chat window displays the hashtag '#the-virtual-fan-lounge (3)' and a list of users: '+ceemage', '+katster', and 'ustreamer-64398'. At the bottom of the chat window, there is a 'SEND' button and icons for bold, italic, underline, and link formatting. The video player also has a 'MENU' button and social media sharing options for Embed, Email, Digg, Facebook, Twitter, and Stumbleupon.

## Issue Seventeen

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

From: Peter Sullivan ("ceemage"), [peter@burdonvale.co.uk](mailto:peter@burdonvale.co.uk)  
Boring webpage at <http://www.burdonvale.co.uk>  
Slightly less boring livejournal at <http://ceemage.livejournal.com>

VTH is primarily an electronic fanzine, available on <http://www.efanzines.com>. Paper copies of this fanzine do exist, however, and 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.

Member fwa. Startling Press Production number 288. Today is Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2008.

## Looking Back & Looking Forward

On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, the Southern Fandom Classic chat session happened as usual, but with a twist. We played Fannish Botticelli. Botticelli is a guessing game, similar to Twenty Questions, but with more interesting rules for more interaction. Fannish Botticelli is the same as normal Botticelli, except that all persons named must have some link to Science Fiction, Fantasy or Fandom.

Meanwhile, after a couple of weeks' break, The Virtual Fan Lounge resumes again this weekend, with another Southern Fandom Classic chat session. See over for more details.

Also included in this issue is a write-up of events in TVFL on the Saturday of the Denver Worldcon, back at the start of August.

## 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.

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

## Fannish Slide Show

In addition, Dean Sweatman has added some more scans to his Fannish Slide Show on ustream, which now has over 500 scans now being displayed at:

<http://www.ustream.tv/Burbank396/pictures>

To view the pictures as a slideshow, click on the "Start PicLens Lite Slideshow" selection. Go to the lower right corner of the java window and click on the "full screen" icon. Moving the cursor will bring back the selection menu at the bottom of the java window .

From left to right across the bottom, you will see :

- 1] left arrow which moves the selection box to the previous scan
- 2] Pause button
- 3] right arrow moves the selection box to the next scan
- 4] less than symbol moves the thumbnails displayed in the selection window 6 (regular window) or 8 (full screen window) previous scans.
- 5] Thumbnails of the scans themselves
- 6] Greater than symbol moves the thumbnails displayed in the selection window 6 (regular window) or 8 (full screen window) next scans.
- 7] full screen icon expands the java window to full screen mode. Pressing the "escape key" or clicking on the full screen icon will return to regular size.
- 8] "Options" (above the "full Screen" icon allows you to adjust the amount of time that a scan is displayed on the screen (slow = 10 second to fast = 1 second; default setting is 3 seconds.) You can also turn on or off the loop setting.

## Schedule for the next few weeks

### 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 13<sup>th</sup> September, 1.00 pm PDT (Pacific Daylight Time)
- Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September, 4.00 pm EDT (Eastern Daylight Time)
- Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September, 8.00 pm UTC (Co-ordinated Universal Time)
- Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September, 9.00 pm BST (British Summer Time)
- Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 4.00 am WAST (Western Australian Standard Time)
- Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 6.00 am EAST (Eastern Australian Standard Time)
- Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 8.00 am 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 27<sup>th</sup> September, 1.00 pm PDT (Pacific Daylight Time)
- Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September, 4.00 pm EDT (Eastern Daylight Time)
- Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September, 8.00 pm UTC (Co-ordinated Universal Time)
- Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September, 9.00 pm BST (British Summer Time)
- Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September, 4.00 am WAST (Western Australian Standard Time)
- Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September, 6.00 am EAST (Eastern Australian Standard Time)
- Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September, 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.

## TVFL & the Denver Fanzine Lounge

The Virtual Fan Lounge was "open" the same hours as the Fanzine Lounge at the Denver Worldcon on the Saturday of the convention, 9<sup>th</sup> August. Kicking off, ceemage explained "The plan is that i'll be playing videos and stuff and urging people to write us stuff for the denver fanzine pretty much ongoing. I will see if I can get a link to Denver for the SFC hour - but no promises." He had been having problems getting logging in, having just made it "by skin of teeth" for the start of the session. He pointed to a video he had found at <http://www.fast-forward.tv/blog/> CurtPhillips

explained "The Fast Forward people do a SF tv show broadcast on several TV stations in Virginia and Maryland. This was evidently a part of their con report."

CurtPhillips asked "Peter, is anyone at the convention thinking of joining us and providing some video? Live, I mean?" ceemage said "probably audio only - but even that depends on connections. Hope to have katster reporting in from the fanzine lounge - at which point we can do a pass around like at CurtCon." CurtPhillips asked "how did our "Curtcon" phone report sound on The Wasted Hour? Did it come across ok?" ceemage said it had been fine - "Bill Mills

balanced the sound wonderfully - but then, he is a professional at this." CurtPhillips said that Ted White had "seemed a little uncomfortable with the set-up, or so it seemed to me," adding "Ted had spent the entire day surrounded by "SouthernFans" - a group he's not had the most cordial of relations with. But in spite of that, he got on well with everyone and - I think - started to rebuild a couple of bridges..." He added "The South Ted has a problem with is mostly locked in the 1960's, I think. Tain't the same here in 2008. And we fans were not \*that\* kind of Southerner in the first place... but that's a long and involved story."

ceemage played some audio he had been sent by Chuck Connor - the speech that Doreen Parker (Doreen Rogers) had given as Guest of Honour at Novacon 2 in Birmingham, England in 1972. LloydPenney joined - "Greetings, everyone! Lloyd Penney here from Toronto. Wish I could be there with you." He had hoped "we'd have access to the Denver fanzine lounge by now. I've got to take lots of notes...I'm running the lounge in Montreal." ceemage explained "To be fair, we decided very late on to do something - and until they got there, they had no idea what internet access they would have." LloydPenney had "read on Cheryl Morgan's blog that internet access is \$15 a day or something?" ceemage asked "Lloyd - any chance of getting an article out of you for the Denver Fanzine Lounge one-shot? You could do a short piece about plans for the Montreal Fanzine Lounge. I fully expect people to use this as a chance to plug their own fannish projects <g>." LloydPenney said "My plan is to ask Chris what he did for his lounge, and see what I can do for mine. I keep getting told what won't happen there, but not much about what will. I submitted my business plan to both John Mansfield and Terry Fong. We'll what happens. I liked the room that Yvonne and I ran in 1994 in Winnipeg, and I really liked the room Milt Stevens ran in LA in 2006. Milt had a \$10,000 budget, though. I want enough space for lounge, some panel area, work space for a WOOF collation or any other apa, plus some refreshments available when you arrive. Plus, of course, space to sit for an auction." He was "going to Con\*cept in October. That's the

annual SF con in Montreal. I'll have the chance to see the Palais de congres, and perhaps find out what room I might have."

ShelVy looked in, but couldn't "stay long. Working on Planetary Stories." ceemage asked "Do you want to do a quick article about Planetary Stories for the Denver Fanzine Lounge one-shot?" continuing the theme of "plugging one's own fannish projects." ShelVy had "Just wrote an 'About' bit for PS. I'll send it!" And LloydPenney promised an article - "It's called "The Case for the Holographic Cat". If you'd like it, I'll send it to your address."

Progress was made on getting a live connection to the Denver Fanzine Lounge. katster said "Let me see what I can do about Skype now that I have an internet connection. I've had a little less time to Internet than I expected. Worldcon ...is kinda intense." ceemage understood - "much better things to do at worldcon than talk to us <g>" LloydPenney felt that "Worldcon is a little like Woodstock. If you really remember it, then you weren't really there." katster agreed - "Although I've been doing pretty good at maintaining five hours a day and eating something, and taking it slow so the altitude doesn't get me, and yeah. :)"

ceemage reported "Cheryl Morgan reports that Australia have won 2010 bid - which will be a big shock to no-one I'm sure." More interestingly, the "Guests of Honour now announced as Kim Stanley Robinson, Robin Johnson, Shaun Tan." He added "Cheryl also reports that internet access in the Fanzine Lounge is "spotty"." ShelVy noted that this "Seems a common complaint." katster explained "Wifi is \$15/day, and Cheryl came in when I was trying to debug the problem I was having. (Chris and I were working on getting me connected via the con, so I didn't have to pay.)"

LloydPenney asked "Any interesting fanzine programming at Denvention so far?" katster said that there had been no panels actually in the Fanzine Lounge - "We're kinda in a small oval in the middle of the convention center. All the panels are elsewhere, which means it boils down to a nice place to hang out." ceemage said that it "Sounds like Lloyd will

have something a bit bigger." LloydPenney had "my doubts about a bigger room. Some who inhabit the fanzine lounge want a dark single bedroom far away from everything, and others want a room close to the action, but not in the middle of things. I'd like a room close to the action, and there might be a single bedroom in the evening. Not sure what's going to happen yet." He explained "My room in the daytime would be a lounge in a function room in the Palais. Catherine's evening room would be just a gathering in a private bedroom."

andermoose said "Hi, Curt--301 people at the next CurtCon? Would that be Too Many?" ceemage suggested "Actually, we could use CurtCon as a hoax worldcon bid." andermoose replied "Well, Curts house looks pretty big," adding "Actually, on an e-group, Curt told us we could go ahead and make plans while he sat under a tree and read a book. Now, isn't that an invitation?" LloydPenney remembered a bid for "Myles' House in '89...a great hoaxbid for Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Even the Boston in '89 people got in on the act because it was great fun." CurtPhillips liked the sound of ""CurtCon in 2011"? Well, ok, but you have to be FGOH... - ...and make a speech at the opening ceremonies - which will be held in the Abingdon Farm Supply Co-Op parking lot just down the street... ...AND you'll have to wear a tux, but you'll also want to wear Wellies. That parking lot is slightly downhill from the livestock market feedlot." ceemage noted that there were two good bids for 2011 already - Seattle and Reno. BillMills felt that "Reno is a terrible bid," adding "You think Vegas in July sucks... Reno would reallllllly suck, if only from the point of view of the heat. ceemage replied "you go \*outside\* at a worldcon? is that allowed? <g>" CurtPhillips replied "Seattle and Reno? Bah! "Flash-in-the-pan" bids! I'll bet neither city even has their own Farm Supply Co-Op..."

BillMills asked "did you hear the fan panel audio I was running here yesterday? I need to ferret out more info in the when, where, who dept. I think it was Eastercon in Newcastle in '74, but am not certain." ceemage noted that the 1974 Eastercon had been "held at the

Royal Station Hotel," recalling that he had read that "In those days, Eastercons were so small they usually had to share with other events - Eastercon 74 was at the same hotel as a probation officers conference - the only time the British fen have ever been out-drunk." BillMills said that the audio "had 1970 in it's metatag stuff but I am dubious about that date... but what do I know? the little info I could dig up seemed to favor the 1974 Eastercon, but it was still only a guess on my part." It was decided to re-play the audio to see if there were any internal clues to help with dating. ceemage noted "Panelists include Jim White, Ken Bulmer, Ron Bennett, Bob Madle(?). Peter Weston appears from the audience." One panellist had mentioned that it was the first convention for many attendees, which ceemage felt supported the suggested 1974 dating, as "1974 Tynescon was noted at the time as bringing many new people in." ustreamer-27772 asked "I keep getting only a crawl of text on a black screen reading "Eastercon Panel - The Golden 50s." How do I get Actual Video of these mostly deceased panelists?" CurtPhillips felt that "video is an awful lot to ask of a 40 year old audio tape..." ustreamer-27772 replied "Came in late -- didn't know this was only audio. Where were the Super 8s!?" ceemage explained that the "picture is the Royal Station Hotel, Newcastle - the presumed venue of the panel." Later. he noted "newcastle convention mentioned - so must be 1974." Later, BillMills noted "for those interested, the 96k mp3 of this panel is available on the ORAL HISTORY page at <http://TVoF.info> - it's a good, fun, funny and informative fanhistoric audio, I'm awfully pleased to have it on the site now."

katster and ceemage tried to get skype working, to get a direct live link to the Denver Fanzine Lounge, but with no success. BillMills said "TY for extending so much effort to join us in here. That's very flattering actually!" katster reported "i think skype isnae playing nice with the wifi drivers" on her laptop. As a fall-back, it was agreed that ceemage would use Skype to call katster's cellphone. Meanwhile, CurtPhillips reported ""I just called Guy Lillian and happily caught him as he was walking between panels. Wished him luck in the Hugo awards tonight."

He didn't sound as though he expected to win - may the nominees all get advance notice? But I wished him luck anyway. Based on who is voting I would not expect him to win but one still hopes."

jzak reported "This is Joel in the lobby of the Denver Sheraton. There is a Raleigh Nascif Party starting at 4. The con has been fun, but a bit too spread out. Also, kinda small for a worldcon (about 3,500)." DianCrayne thought "That's interesting, considering that Westercon was small too. I wonder if that has something to do with the date." jzak was "not sure if that was a factor. I think some of it has to do with the hotel situation and the fact that it is a bit spread out. We did do about \$1,000 in the DUFF auction yesterday."

Chris Garcia borrowed katster's login and said "Hello fanlonge. This is Chris Garcia, Live and in Public!!!!!! How is everybody?" ceemage said "doing fine - as you'd expect from an 8 hour session, people drop in and out." Chris said "That's near addiction!" DianCrayne replied "So, fandom isn't?" ceemage said "i have at least 4 articles for the Denver Fanzine Lounge Fanzine." Chris said "Great! We're gonna be working on it after the Hugo madness has ended." ceemage asked "do you know which hugo you are awarding yet?" Chris said "Fan Artist, actually. I hope to be giving it to Steve Stiles, though any of them would be good." ceemage noted that it "won't be Frank Wu." Chris agreed - "I know, the year I'm presenting and my guy turns it down!" ceemage noted that "There's always the possibility that you'll be up on the platform for another two Hugos, of course <g>" Chris said "If by possibility you mean the exact opposite..." ceemage replied "And if not, well I hear the hugo losers party is much better than the winners party anyway<g>." DianCryane said it would be "Larger!" BillMills noted "According to Bob Silverberg it's now referred to as the Hugo Awards Nominee's Party instead of the 'Loser's Party'." Chris said "if I accidentally win, I'm planning on going bck to my room and cuddling with it before they come and take it away" ceemage agreed - "just in case mary kay kare comes knocking and says "Chris, we've had a look at the figures again..." Chris added "Or the massed fen

come to the door with pitchforks and torches." ceemage noted "And remember, you just need to keep saying "It's a honour just to be nominated." Steven Silver's got really practised at saying that - you might want to tap him for some free lessons." Chris agreed - "We had diner and compared notes."

Earlier, BillMills had suggested "Peter, I wanted to try CONFERENCING you and I and Kat... which I think is do-able - I believe that phone contacts and pc2pc contacts can be included in a conference call." A conference call was duly set up, and an impromptu telephone interview held with both Chris Garcia and Kat Templeton, with the audio fed through to The Virtual Fan Lounge.

ceemage handed the master login back to BillMills/FanLounge, so that he could focus on finishing the article he had promised for the Denver Fanzine Lounge fanzine. He noted "Actually, I haven't done a plea for articles for a while I'm obviously a miserable little pleader. I know Dian can write - she does an apa zine. Maybe I should try my puppy dog eyes on her - or even use a real puppy dog - although he's asleep at my feet at the moment - so might not want to be disturbed." He asked Dian "Do you have any memories of Worldcons from the 60s you could share?" DianCrayne said "Yeah, but I wrote those in Murder at the Worldcon. Lemme think..." FanLounge noted "that 'sharable' part may be a problem... tehe." DianCrayne remembered "hiding a bottle of Scotch from James Warren. (I did give it back, eventually). \*chuckle\* And there was that piece of art Ted White put in the auction of a kneeling girl without a mouth. Very evocative... meaningful! Then Ted 'fessed up that he had such a hard time painting a mouth that he gave up. The trouble is, all the cons sort of blend together after a time. The other problem is that so many of the people are gone to the Great Tucker Hotel in the sky."

CurtPhillips contributed an article - "I wrote about the way that we used to show movies on 16mm and 35 mm film at conventions (a dead practice, or so I suspect...) and the good times I used to have helping do that." FanLounge was "not sure they even do film rooms anymore." CurtPhillips doubted "they

do Bill, but the old films rooms were fun. A different experience to be sure. Video opened up so many more doors, but like most new things, something had to be given up when we left film behind to embrace the video revolution."

CurtPhillips "By any chance, is there any provision to broadcast - anywhere - the Hugo ceremony?" FanLounge said "I wish! but they aren't Corflu-ing it." DianCrayne felt "That's really too bad!" CurtPhillips replied "Well, I expect we'll here the news quickly enough, one wayu or another." CurtPhillips noted "Last year there were some Worldcon videos posted to U-tube pretty quickly." ceemage added "There should be live blogging from the Hugos this year - Cheryl Morgan is hoping to have wifi. also, some people have said they will twitter the results via mobile phone."

FanLounge played an audio of "the 1980 Westercon fan cabaret." DianCrayne said "Heavens -- Ron Bounds! Haven't thought of him in years." FanLounge replied "no one has heard from Ron in years luvvy - I suppose Bobbi knows where he's at and wht he's up to... or not." He had seen "Bobbi at the Westercon and she looks healthy and happy." He had not enjoyed Westercon much otherwise - "the con was soooooooooooooo depressing for Roc and I that we couldn't make ourselves keep going back, even though the hotel was amere 10 mins away and all. we went on Thursday and Friday awhile and by Sat we couldn't bear it any longer and left after a very brief visit." DianCrayne remembered a convention "in San Diego, where the committee sort of disbanded without doing anything. Yeah. I remember the first day of that SD con, when Chuck and Bruce and the Trimblees were buttonholing people to set up panels and stuff, so there would actually be a program. It was a little rough, but people had a good time." FanLounge asked "wasn't that the one where Greg Bear sort of jumped in to organize it and make something of a program and such? with the help of the stalwarts of course." DianCrayne replied "Yes! Greg did a lot of

work on it. I think his brother was involved too." FanLounge noted "memory tells me that's sorta when Greg got to be more known than he'd been previously." Dian agreed - "He was another low-key guy prior to that."

FanLounge explained "my first con was westercon in Goleta Calif in 1970.. so it will always hold a special place in my fannish heart. Dian recalled "Is that the one that was at the odd little resort and all of the beds were singles? John Trimble told some carping fans that "anything you can do in a double bed, you can do in a single!"" FanLounge remembered "Bob and I made quite a splash at that one and David (Ted) was up in a room much of the con finishing the editing of the 16mm print of "The T.H.R.U.S.H. Training Film" that he and Bob and I made. He finished it and we 'premiered' it at the con, of course! ;-)" Dian "didn't realize that you knew Dave! I always think of Dave tied up with Owen Hannifen." FanLounge said "that was just before my time - but from 1969 until his death we were best buds and spent a lot of time together." They reminisced about other members of the LASFS that they had known in the 1960s. Dian noted "(Fan relationships around the LASFS tended to be a bit complicated)," adding "I originated The Chart, which showed which LASFSians slept with which others at second, third, and fourth hand. I've still got that around somewhere." FanLounge had heard "that you once helped raise money for some fannish event by selling kisses. True or False?" DianCrayne replied "False. Another LASFS gal came up with that idea, and I thought it was pretty lame because we were all snogging for free. I'm trying to think of her name... Ellie!! Ellie Turner!! I don't think it ever happened. It was just one of those ideas that crop up at a late night party after a few drinks. If anything else happened, I wasn't there. There weren't all that many women around the LASFS anyway. What I always find amusing is that I was the first firl Hank Stine ever kissed! ... GIRL, dammit." jcaughran thought "you'd make a cute firl." DianCrayne replied "I'd do my best!!"