

Virtual Tucker Hotel



Issue Eighteen

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

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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.

Member fwa. Startling Press Production number 289. Today is Friday, 26th September, 2008.

Looking Back & Looking Forward

On Saturday 13th September, the Southern Fandom Classic chat session featured a two-part interview from 1972 with Issac Asimov and Frederick Pohl. You can listen again to these interviews on The Voices of Fandom website at <http://www.tvof.info/history.html>

The next event in the Virtual Fan Lounge will be another Southern Fandom Classic chat session, on Saturday 27th September. This will include a showing of the seventh edition of The Wasted Hour, Arnie Katz's faanish 30-minute video production. If you want a sneak preview of this episode before then, it's already been released on the web at:

<http://TFVN.renebooks.com/video/fanvid-WH7.html>

Meanwhile, this issue we have a transcript from a chat session we held a couple of months ago, that I transcribed but never got around to actually publishing at the time.

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>

Time Zone Changes

As we enter the autumn in the northern hemisphere (and spring in the southern hemisphere), various parts of the world may be coming on or off Daylight Saving Time (or local equivalent). I will try to keep track of the various changes, and will update the relative times in the schedules shown in Virtual Tucker Hotel. However, if in doubt, you can always work the show times out for yourself from the difference between your own local time zone and the UTC time zone (which is the same as Greenwich Mean Time).

Art Credits

Front page: Screenshot from The Wasted Hour 7 – Arnie in conversation with Randy Byers (on the phone), con chair of next year's Corflu.

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. This session will include a showing of the latest edition of Arnie Katz's *The Wasted Hour*.

- Saturday 27th September, 1.00 pm PDT (Pacific Daylight Time)
- Saturday 27th September, 4.00 pm EDT (Eastern Daylight Time)
- Saturday 27th September, 8.00 pm UTC (Co-ordinated Universal Time)
- Saturday 27th September, 9.00 pm BST (British Summer Time)
- Sunday 28th September, 4.00 am WAST (Western Australian Standard Time)
- Sunday 28th September, 6.00 am EAST (Eastern Australian Standard Time)
- Sunday 28th September, 9.00 am NZDT (New Zealand Daylight Time) (**note change**)

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 11th October, 1.00 pm PDT (Pacific Daylight Time)
- Saturday 11th October, 4.00 pm EDT (Eastern Daylight Time)
- Saturday 11th October, 8.00 pm UTC (Co-ordinated Universal Time)
- Saturday 11th October, 9.00 pm BST (British Summer Time)
- Sunday 12th October, 4.00 am WAST (Western Australian Standard Time)
- Sunday 12th October, 7.00 am EADT (Eastern Australian Daylight Time) (**note change**)
- Sunday 12th October, 9.00 am NZDT (New Zealand Daylight 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 re-run, 15th June

On 15th June, The Virtual Fan Lounge had two back-to-back events:

- An audio interview with Shelby Vick being interviewed by Peter Sullivan, followed by:
- A re-run of the previous week's edition of *The Wasted Hour*, with Arnie and Joyce present in the chat room to answer any questions raised and defend some of their more contentious statements in the show.

What follows is a transcript of the second part of that session.

In the chat-room, JoyceKatz asked "ShelVy, does your interest in old time sf extend back to Famous Fantastic Mysteries?" ShelVy said "Even to the 1930s Amazing!" JoyceKatz replied "I'm particularly partial to FFM, lost civilizations, giant jewels, etc." ShelVy said "you're reminding me of the Shaver mysteries." JoyceKatz said "I love the Shaver stories..."

JoyceKatz asked "Is there any way to make this type larger?" ceemage did not think so -

"some web browsers let you increase text - but the chat room is a separate applet - so it ignores those settings." icemonkey confirmed "just tried to increase the size in firefox, no joy." Tee43 said that the chat room was a "flash app; that's why." She thought this was "something to suggest to Ustream; have a control to make font bigger."

ArnieKatz suggested "May I encourage more of you to use your names on here. It's not a porn site; no shame in being here." JoyceKatz agreed - "I second that. I don't know who I'm talking to." ceemage said people could change their screen names without having to re-register - just use the /nick new_name command - "the main limit on nicks is they have to be one word."

ArnieKatz confirmed that doing text in bold made it slightly easier to read, even at the same point size. JoyceKatz replied "Good! If you fans would go bold....!" ceemage said that the other, long-term, fix "would be to use a stand-alone IRC client - which I know Tee uses. That might have more control over font size."

JoyceKatz asked "Do we have pictures?" ceemage explained "I think bill is just putting up a slide show to keep us going until the rebroadcast" of The Wasted Hour "starts at the top of the hour."

ArnieKatz noted "Non Las Vegas fans may not be away of the large number of name-alikes we have. Besides James Taylor, we have David Gordon, John Wesley Hardin and now William Powell." ceemage had "even heard there are two fans named Katz - what are the chances of that happening?" JoyceKatz suggested "We should make them start a band!" ArnieKatz noted "Oddly enough, they live in the same house. Maybe it's a split personality." james-taylor "thought one was in southern fandom." JoyceKatz agreed - "Sure. One funny Katz, and one that's a damn yankee."

ceemage_peter said "it'll be good to see the rest of the wasted hour" but "I know that looking at oneself on video can be unnerving." ArnieKatz agreed - "Yes, you can see me shake side to side like an orthodox jew in shule on Saturday." ceemage_peter said "that's

just bill's video effects - otherwise known as moving the camera." JoyceKatz said "I figured we were praying for fandom." ArnieKatz said it was more him praying "for the end of the show... much like the viewers."

ArnieKatz was afflicted by typos, and hoped "my fingers should engage any minute now." ceemage_peter thought "the only solution for chat rooms is to keep typing - it has to be the most typo-triggering environment there is." Tee43 agreed - "no one docks for typos in chat rooms." Although james-taylor had "the same problem with fanzines." ceemage_peter noted "ragging on typos in fanzines is also risky - as the chances of you making a typo seem to be proportional to how rude you've been about other's typos. if you really flame someone, the risk rises to 100%."

james-taylor noted that it was "almost time by the clock on the wall" for the re-run of The Wasted Hour. JoyceKatz was "tossing my curls in anticipation." ArnieKatz could "hardly wait." He had heard that the host was "brilliant. Well, smart. OK... average - or close to it." He explained that The Wasted Hour theme tune "is 'Rollin' and Tumblin' by the Babyface Leroy Trio - with Muddy Waters." JoyceKatz confirmed "Same theme Arnie used on his wrestling show." Tee43 had "heard a great bluegrass version of Rollin' and Tumblin' the other day."

As the re-run got to the segment where Arnie explained what he meant by Core Fandom, in the chat room ArnieKatz explained "The idea of Core Fandom is that, today, there is more than just one way to express our fannish creative impulses." ShelVy noted "Banana Wings has been discussing Core Fandom."

ceemage_peter liked "the way bill adds the captions to plug his own website <g>" ArnieKatz added "I think he is also cleaning up my audio. I don't think I sounded that good when I did it originally."

FanLounge noted "There are still those who will argue that" fandom had to be expressed via fanzines - "probably will be for a long time... maybe always..." ceemage_peter noted "there are still some people who think that real zines are mimeo." james-taylor suggested "perhaps we can have a 21st century staple

war." ArnieKatz though "It is sort of ridiculous to argue against the proposition that fanzine fandom has expanded into core fandom on an audio video Internet site :)" Tee43 went even more retro - "real zines re storytellers around the campfire hahahaha." ceemage_peter, channelling Douglas Adams, suggested "the secret is, keep bagging the rocks together, guys." FanLounge felt "it's unfortunate that hiking off in new directions will inevitably cause division in the ranks." JoyceKatz thought that in "Twenty years from now we'll be arguing about some other new direction." ceemage_peter agreed, predicting that some people (maybe even him) would be complaining that "these new neural implants aren't as good as the old pdfs."

JoyceKatz explained that the shawl she was wearing on the show "is from Orenburg, Russia. It's called cobweb lace, and is very unique." ceemage_peter asked "has anyone actually sent joyce any marbles yet?" JoyceKatz replied "No. Nor any shawls, either! I'm let down." ArnieKatz noted that "fans have not been as generous with their marbles as they once were with their bricks for Tucker." Tee43 explained "I lost my marbles long ago; don't have any to send heh."

ceemage_peter noticed "that joyce gets away with saying the most outrageous things and yet it's arnie has the reputation." JoyceKatz explained "That's cause I'm lovable." ArnieKatz confessed "Yes... and I am an acquired taste - like olives - or belladonna." JoyceKatz added "I can growl at the neos, and no one thinks I mean it."

ArnieKatz felt that "Fandom was probably better when reading science fiction was a social stigma. Well, actually, fandom was better when most fans liked to read and write." ceemage_peter noted "I love arnie's reaction to this bit," but admitted the idea of having to play "straight man to joyce is a pretty terrifying concept." JoyceKatz suggested "The idea of combining Arnie and Lenny [Bailes] is sort of intriguing." ceemage_peter felt "we need to get arnie interviewing lenny - i even have a cover for it."

In The Wasted Hour, Joyce spoke about how looking after neofans was like looking after feral cats - you couldn't take them all in. In

the chat room, JoyceKatz explained "I have two litters of feral kittens that I'm feeding now, plus parent-kitties. They're easier to nurture than neofans." ceemage_peter felt that "these days it's more like the marines - the core fandomites are looking for a few good fen." Tee43 agreed - "us neos are high-maintenance :)" james-taylor noted "kittens on the whole are cuter than neofans and not as good at controlling pigeons."

ceemage_peter thought "one of the key issues for a neofan is having access to a fanzine collection they can splurge on - in the old days, you had to find a fan" with a large fanzine library. "Nowadays you just go to efanazines.com - Bill Burns is our hero." ArnieKatz agreed - "and there's something even more subtle: in the old days, the effective size of Fanzine Fandom was controlled by the size of the print runs of the key fanzines." JoyceKatz felt "Fandom was better when we were heckto-sized." ArnieKatz continued "When Lee Hoffman ran only 100 copies of Quandry, that effectively meant that there weren't going to be more than that number of real active fans." By contrast, "The direct email list for VFW is something like 320 - I used to send out maybe 80 copies of WildHeirs." JoyceKatz asked "of that number, how many do you think are real fans?" ArnieKatz replied "a lot of them - Some may be more active than others - but they are mostly all into VFW." ustreamer-46237 noted "Arnie writes that the print run of QUANDRY was only 100, but I recall that it was about twice that -- though perhaps not at first."

LennyB was "still pondering whether to do paper again. Paying to run 100 to 150 copies isn't such a big deal. But \$5 a shot to send them to the U.K. and Australia is something else." ArnieKatz "would not be publishing today if I had to print and mail the stuff I do." ceemage_peter noted "It's silly that paper & printing is cheaper & easier than its ever been but postage is a killer." JoyceKatz liked "being electronic. But I wonder about the life of the zines." ArnieKatz "would like to think Fandom is better for having zines like VFW and Earl Kemp's el that would not have been possible without electronic production and

distribution."

ceemage_peter noted "there was a very wise fan who said - the choice is not between efanazines and paper fanzines - the choice is between efanazines and no fanzines. I wonder who that was?" JoyceKatz replied "You got that right, Peter! Arnie the Sage of Vegas."

LennyB suggested "I'm thinking of changing my publication schedule to "every time Sandra Bond shows up at a U.S. convention";" in order to save on postage costs. james-taylor suggested "with you luck lenny she [will] get a job involving a lot of traveling to the states." ceemage_peter speculated "Actaully i believe sandra bond is considering moving to usa." FanLounge confirmed "yeah... we heard that Ms Bond was considering a move to Florida?" JoyceKatz said "We'd like Sandra to move to Vegas."

LennyB had "tossed off an idea on Trufen that was more or less ignored -- a fannish pony express network, where fanzine fans who attend conventions across the ocean volunteer to carry 20 to 40 copies back with them for cheaper distribution." ceemage_peter suggested "better would be to print both sides of atlantic and post at source - but in some ways efanazines.com does that anyway."

ceemage_peter also felt that Vegas Fandom Weekly started to really take off "when it started getting big lettercol." ustreamer-46237 agreed - "Strong lettercol definitely part of the glue that provides continuity. Also, good if fanzines "talk to each other."" As did JoyceKatz - "I think that "talking to each other" is the glue of fandom. Cross-talk between fanzines is what attracted me to fandom, in the 50s."

LennyB asked "Peter, printing on both sides" of the Atlantic "is an interesting concept. Do you know whether there's anything in the U.K. equivalent to the 3 to 4 cent per page rate that's possible in the U.S?" ceemage_peter replied "There's no printed

matter rate inland - but you can post a 20-page fanzine for bottom rate." LennyB recalled "Actually, Ted White and Rob Hansen tried the "printing on both sides" experiment 20 years ago -- they alternated being coeditors of a fanzine whose title I forget." He noted "Sandra was able to mail Whistlestars in the UK at reasonable old Earth-I rates. But I don't know if the copy shop production cost per page would be as reasonable as we can get in the U.S. (pre-collated, pre-stapled)." ceemage_peter said "for small print runs, doing mopies on a laser is not too bad." LennyB felt that "Asking a Pony Express volunteer to laser print & staple, as well as mailling seems like it would be a bit much. The pre-assembled copyshop trick makes publishing fairly painless here." ceemage_peter "would see it more as a mutual arrangement - you print & post mine, i print & post yours."

JoyceKatz noted "Everything about the Wasted Hour is new and hard to do, just like doing your first fanzine." FanLounge added "lots of hobbies are very expensive... try RC planes/helicopters or camping or some such... if it's yer thang ya' usually end up paying dearly for it..." LennyB felt "That's what we need, a helicopter fan to drop fanzine shipments in cities throughout the country."

For the phone interview segment, JoyceKatz thought it "Would be nice if we could get a picture of the phone-guest." ceemage_peter noted "they always used to do that on news - picture of reporter on the phone." ArnieKatz felt that "Joyce's desires are untainted by any understanding of the technology." FanLounge noted "IF I do these as digital tape recordings and edit them for broadcast... AND there pics available... we can do that. But LIVE might be trickier." JoyceKatz suggested "I could print out a pic of the guest, and hold it up...." ceemage_peter thought "we will end up with high-tech end shows - and lower quality stuff - just like we have high tech and crud zines - but the crud zines can still be fun if not as polished."