

Who let the Katz out? (meow! meow!)

FANSTUFF

**So...
What's
Going
on Here?**



Fans are as renowned for their perceptiveness as for their great physical beauty. So I'm fairly confident that most of you have made three salient observations. To insure that No Fan Is Left Behind, however, let me review these points:

1. It is Friday. This can be verified in many ways, but I hope you'll accept it *a priori* for now.
2. This is not *Glitter*. I can see how some might decide that I had merely typoed the title, but I assert that is not the case. Colophons do not lie and the one to the right certifies that this is not *Glitter*!
3. Although it *is* Friday and this fanzine is *not* *Glitter*, nonetheless you have received a fanzine from Arnie Katz, just as the last 61 Fridays.

Corflu *Glitter* is not fodder for fanhistory and trivia questions. I hope everyone who joined us in Las Vegas last month had a great time. We loved hosting you.

Fanstuff #1, May 1, 2012, is the first issue of a new fanzine of uncertain longevity from Arnie Katz (cross-fire4@cox.net), who is now as well-trained as Pavlov's dog to put out a fanzine on Friday.

Fanstuff is sent free and without strings to my emailing list. But would it really cost you so much to write your old friend Arnie a little letter of comment? Or maybe brighten his golden years with a few little fillos? Or maybe send a short written contribution as your way of telling me that you Really Care. No duty or compulsion, mind, just do what your generous and affectionate heart tells you is right. I knew you would understand.

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Not Your Old Weekly Katzine

When I spoke of differences between **fanstuff** and *Glitter*, I primarily meant the content. The layout has evolutionary change; the written material is a clean sweep.

Although I tried to ease the formality with some humorous touches, I tried to keep a fairly sober and authoritative tone as befitted *Glitter*'s status as the newszine of Corflu Glitter.

As I told Joyce when discussing the new zine, "I'm gonna heavy up on the lightness." **Fanstuff** will have meatier discussion pieces by me and (hopefully) others, but a little fun and craziness would be good for Trufandom.

It may take me a few issues to unclench, but **fanstuff** will sound more like the "Arnie" you've known and loved — or is that loathed? — in previous Katzines.

Among the things I've been writing for Fandom, there are a number of rather ambitious, lengthy pieces.

When I released my fan novel *The Fractured Circle*, I ran smack into the fact that current home computer technology doesn't encourage printing out large electronic fanzines. It was also brought home to me, that many fans didn't want to read 44,000 words on screen. I honestly think it's pretty damn good and the feedback from those who've read it has been positively ecstatic, but so many of you haven't read it. That's painful.

I don't want future long pieces to suffer that fate. Provisionally, I plan to take full advantage of rapid digital publishing. I'll serialize *finished* pieces and then collect them into one volume with printed and digital editions.

My idea is to keep individual items and the issues short to make **fanstuff** accessible and convenient.

But it's over.

And as Corflu Glitter recedes in the rearview mirror, so does the weekly fanzine that shared part of its name.

So, to repeat the headline, "What's going on here?"

I can't tell you much for two reasons:

1. A fanzine, like most other forms of entertainment, works better when the audience can't see the gears turning.
2. I don't know.

Maybe it's self-administered Pavlovian conditioning or possibly I have some weird new form of addiction. All I know is, when I see Friday looming on the calendar, I have an irresistible compulsion to publish an electronic fanzine.

I'm functional, in the sense that I can do other things, but I can't help worrying. I fear my addiction to fanzine publishing may be overwhelming and cause me to lose control. I have a nightmarish vision of winding up in some putrid slanshack, relentlessly publishing to stave off the effects of fanzine fanac deprivation.

One thing I know with fair certainty is that this won't be much like *Glitter*. That fanzine served its purpose and **fanstuff** has a new mission to go with the new name and new look.

Well, not a *totally* new look, but a refinement of the online-friendly layout I evolved over 61 issues. It had better continue to evolve, because the content of **fanstuff** figures to be a lot different in tone, style and focus, which ought to present some stimulating challenges.

Wouldn't it be great if I saw that mission clearly enough to explain to you? I've got a few notions, but part of my (alleged) plan is to do a few issues and see what develops. Besides, like a good magician, I prefer to do my editorial tricks before I explain them.

As I embark on this adventure, I can't totally subdue a tickle of doubt. I've had the good fortune of publishing about as many successful fanzines as anyone West of Ted White. It's not a Natural Law of Fandom, or anything, but I've noticed that sometimes the first fanzine I try after a hit sometimes flops.

I've done a few fanzines that neither reached the heights nor plumbed the depths.

Home Kookin' is an example. It didn't set Fandom on fire, but it had a decent double-digit run and printed some good material.

My fanzine publishing is, more typically, a boom or bust proposition. If the fanzine feel like it has a little magic in it, I'm likely to run with it for 20 (or 120) issues. If I don't feel some sizzle within a few issues, I pull the plug.

I'm not a gambler, but I know the worst thing you can do is press your bet when you're on a losing streak. When I edited magazines and websites professionally, I often had to hang in there to get the property to achieve its goals, but there's nothing compelling me to do that in my hobby.

This is where some fans would insert a plea for letter of comment and

material, material, material. I want that, too, but I'd be lying if I said that the level of response determined the longevity of my fanzines.

Your response is an important contributing factor to any decision about whether or not to continue a fanzine, but it's not the only consideration.

Let me give you an example. A decade or so ago, I published a fanzine called *Jackpot!* It sprang from my desire to demonstrate that I could do a fanzine that wasn't hyper-fannish, that didn't revolve around serious and zany pieces about Fandom.

My essays focused on pop culture and my non-fannish interests.

Jackpot! drew more locs than either of its popular predecessors, *Folly* and *Wild Heirs*, even though *Jackpot!* had no print edition.

Yet I stopped it after proving my point about my range as a writer. The reason was simple and compelling: I got a lot of letters, some of them pretty good, but none from any of my close fan friends. I do fanzines to entertain my friends and *Jackpot!* didn't seem to be doing a very good job of it.

I folded *Jackpot!*. A little further down the road, I launched *Vegas Fandom Weekly*. It took off quickly and flew high for 116 issues.

Despite that weak-kneed caveat, I'm excited about the possibilities. I hope you'll find them exciting, too. (While you're waiting for that to happen, you could write a letter of comment or an article to help things along.)

Glittering Errata

The pressure, haste, weariness, fading eyesight and distracted proofreading before, during and immediately after the convention resulted in two huge ugly errors.

I'm tempted to confess that my good friend, Robert Lichtman, the Sage of Fandom, was the cause of or these embarrassing mistakes.. I'll resist that temptation, but only because Robert had no connection whatsoever with either of these egregious mistakes. His impeccability extends only onto to his immediate environment, which is a long way from Las Vegas.

Caught without a plausible scapegoat, I'm forced to fall back on the truth. I made those two trivial typos. I regret having to admit to these minuscule stumbles, because I'm justly famous for my typo-free fanzines. Yet as a servant of Truth, especially when there is no alternative, I must admit culpability.

On page 2 of *Glitter #61*, to the right of the oval Corflu Glitter logo, great big letters spell out "Prgram Book." The mere thought of the millions of starving children around the world going to bed without the missing "O" nearly brings me to tears.

The other, even more minor, miscue marred the perfection of *Glitter #61*. On page 2, one of the headlines reads "Claire Brialey Named Corflu Goth."

As the story itself makes clear, Claire's name came out of the hat at the Opening Ceremony and she gave a fine, non-linear GoH speech at the banquet. My apologies to Claire.

While we're at it, eagle-eyed Bill Burns drew to my attention that "Lloyd Penney" was spelled without the second "e" in Andy Hooper's *2012 Fan Activity Achievement Awards Book of Stats*. We deserve the blame for not catching the misspelling in proofreading.

Sorry, Lloyd. Your family name in its full orthographic splendor will be found in the *2012 Fan Awards Results Book* when it comes out in June or July with write-ups of all the top point-getters in each category.

Does Trufandom Need A New Fan Fund?

The subject of Fan Funds came up at a gathering we threw on the Friday evening after Corflu (4/27/12). It was for our Vegrants family, the fans who'd worked so hard on Corflu Glitter.

Since Steve Green was still staying with JoHn Wesley Hardin and Jacq Monahan, we included him, too. Steve is the "British Editor" of the Vegrants' *Neon* and is among the most popular Vagabonds.

"This is a night for family," I told Steve. A worried expression started to supplant the smile. "That's why we were so glad to invite you, Steve. You're our English Cousin!"

With two recent TAFF winners in the house, plus Shelby Vick's recent Corflu Fifty visit, Fan Funds were a natural topic.

I surprised Steve by telling him I thought there might be merit in a new fan fund that alternated sending an American Trufan to Novacon and a UK Trufan to Corflu. Then it was Steve's turn to surprise me by enthusiastically taking up the idea. (I won't know if he has had second thoughts until I see him at tomorrow's Vegrants meeting, but his initial reaction was very positive.

The thought is that a Corfluvian would be likely to enjoy Novacon more than the Eastercon, because it's much smaller, has a higher percentage of fans known to US fans and comes about a half-year away from Corflu.

I can understand if you feel that this is the wrong economic climate to start a new charity. On the other hand, it could pay big dividends for both Novacon and Corflu. Philosophically, it can be argued that every time Trufandom develops a new institution, it strengthens our subculture.

Whatever your opinion about starting such a fan fund, I hope you'll write it up for **fanstuff**. I'll share your comments with everybody over the next few issues.

About This Page

Yeah, that big black-and-blue logo to the right of this slim shaded column reads “fanews.” And that text below does, indeed, consist of several news items about Fandom.

Why am I running news in **fanstuff**? I’ll share the theory at some point in the future, so be warned. The bottom line is that a frequent fanzine like this can help circulate news and information to *all* of Trufandom.

The listservs do a good job of passing along news within the listserv and, thanks to overlapping memberships, major items can move among the listservs.

That doesn’t work as well as it might for two reasons: One is that Trufandom’s most active listserv has a DNQ covenant and the other is that there are many fans in our subculture who don’t get involved in these listservs. Even some of those who do belong to such groups have told me that they don’t watch them closely and are apt to miss things.

How much news **fanstuff** carries depends on how much you send. If there’s something interesting happening, share it here.

I’d greatly appreciate your help.

All material this issue by me, though that will change as soon as I can entice a few of you to share your experiences and opinions.

Reporters This Issue: Gary Mattingly, Mike Dobson, Arnie Katz

Art on page 1 — William Rotsler.

fanews

Corflu Extends to Third Day

Corflu Glitter led the way by moving the Opening Ceremony back to 5 PM Friday from its usual early-evening start time. A discussion during the Keynote Panel, “Fandom: 2020,” led to a statement from Corflu XXX co-host Dan Steffan that next year’s con in Portland would start mid-afternoon on Friday.

Corflu has few, in any, ironclad rules, but the consensus is that it will be a three-day affair in the future.

Some fans favored retaining a Friday night start and expanding into Monday. The considerable extra expense of adding Monday caused a swing to adding Friday afternoon. As I explained, the hotel would change an extra day for keeping the meeting room after the banquet on Sunday, while Corflu is already paying for Friday afternoon.

Hooper Revises FAAn Awards Stat Book

The ever-conscientious 2012 FAAn Awards Administrator Andy Hooper has produced a second, corrected edition of the *2012 Fan Activity Achievement Awards Book of Stats*.

The new version is posted at www.efanzines.com or from me (crossfire4@cox.net).

See Corflu Glitter in Photos

Whatever happens in Vegas... “gets posted on the Internet” goes the less-well-known version of Glitter City’s slogan. Almost everyone carries a phone with a camera, so little escapes the photographic eye.

Trufans seem to spend less time with their phones than most Mundanes, at least during Corflu, so everyone doesn’t go home with a personal photographic history of the gathering.

Even more fortunately, we’ve got some ace photographers to produce the images so many of us desire. The con’s Official Photographer Gary Mattingly and my long-time friend Michael Dobson have each posted large public galleries.

Gary’s photos are viewable (and downloadable) at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/gsmattingly/sets/72157629863016197/>. You can find Mike’s Corflu photos at <http://gallery.me.com/michael.dobson>.

If anyone else has done so, let me know. I’ll plug it in the next issue. I’d also like to get a copy of the Corflu Sunsplash photo so I can share it with everyone.

This Is the End

This is the end of the page and, therefore, of **fanstuff** #1. I don’t think it’ll be the end of **fanstuff**, especially if you liked this modest beginning.

I’m not making any promises about publishing frequency, but I expect to do the second issue next Friday. Meanwhile, keep fanning! — Arnie