

## Are the Listservs the New Apas?

The Apa Boom changed Fandom in the mid-1960's. The number and variety of amateur press associations soared and waves of criticism flooded Fandom.

Genzine-oriented fanzine fans complained that the proliferation of apas Balkanized Fanzine Fandom. Some felt that the reliance on mailing comments and the lower level of graphics and production took away some of the artistry of Fanzine Fandom.

Apans countered with several tenable arguments. Most obviously, Fandom is a hobby and everyone should pursue it as they feel best. Beyond that, apans praised mailing comments as excellent communications channels that created multi-sided discussions.

Apans claimed that apas moved at a faster pace than the rest of Fandom. Most of the genzines of the period were relatively infrequent, very sercon in the original sense, or both. Apas were quarterly or more frequent. The Cult kept a three-week schedule, TAPS appeared monthly and some others used monthly and bimonthly frequencies, too,

If these points have a familiar ring, it's because fans have applied most of them to boost or knock listservs. In fact, I'd like to apologize to both ardent listserv posters and passionate fanzine publishers for mouthing many of these recycled arguments.

History provides perspective on the present. I'm a little ashamed, as a fanhistorian, that it took me so long to make

# fanstuff



**Fanstuff #2, May 11, 2012**, is the second issue of a new fanzine of uncertain longevity from Arnie Katz ([crossfire4@cox.net](mailto:crossfire4@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.

Member fwa Supporter AFAL

*Continued on page 2\_*

# fen den

I can't launch into what passes for **fanstuff**'s editorial without thanking everyone who responded to the first issue. I'm humbled by your enthusiasm and I'll try to keep **fanstuff** worthy of your future attention.

Still, even in the midst of abundant joy, there lurks a shadow of sadness. I mourn that most of my very closest fan friends, except for the indomitable Robert Lichtman, have not yet made their first appearance in **fanstuff**.

One possible explanation is that I have a lot of extremely smart close fan friends. It's one thing to have a loc in the first letter column of *Folly* or *Vegas Fandom Weekly*, but it's quite another to have your letter buried along with *Splotch* or *The Glitter City Gazette* or some other stillborn title.

In their wisdom, my buddies are sensibly hoarding their BNFish energies, saving themselves for their momentous **fanstuff** debuts.

They are dedicatedly building up their strength against the moment when they are certain that **fanstuff** will be a long-running hit, not a one-issue flame-out.

Well, this is the *second* issue. Perhaps it'll convince some of them to send letters of comment, articles and cartoons.

I wrote about news and articles last issue, but I didn't mention a third important type of material. Almost everybody understood without an explanation. To clarify for the rest, I'm trying to start discussions, not "promulgate" anything.

I want to create a dependably frequent forum for open discussion of fannish topics.

I hope you'll chime in with your opinions, too. (AK)



This is a photo, taken at Corflu Glitter, shows the hearty fannish survivors of Corflu Sunsplash. Thanks to Shelby Vick for sending along the photo.

the connection. I think I've gained some fresh insights. Ill share them with you – and you can tell me what you think in next week's letter column.

- 1. Listservs are to the rest of Trufandom as apas were to the rest of Fanzine Fandom in the 1960's.** Listservs are becoming an important channel for communication and discussion, because the reaction time is measured in minutes and hours, not weeks and months. Listservs now set the pace for our Fandom, just as apas did about 45 years ago. Feuds that once raged for years now burn through in less than a week.
- 2. Listservs are as unlikely to replace fanzines as apas were to replace genzines.** Listservs have gained popularity because of their advantages, but fanzines have some potent plusses, too. The medium is more congenial to high quality, extended writing and has an art and graphics component that is absent from listservs.
- 3. Listservs, like apas, are not inherently evil.** There's nothing about them that compels bad behavior. The proof is that there's a lot of worthwhile content on listservs as well as the hastily written, overly emotional posts that turn off some potential posters.
- 4. A listserv with a DNQ covenant isn't so different from secret and private apas.** The secrecy promotes candid, in-depth conversations. Some fans hide behind the

DNQ to pump out poisonous gossip and behind-the-back character assassination, but let's blame those individuals, not the medium. Some fans don't like secret apas and I'd expect them to feel about the same about DNQ listservs. If you don't object to one, there may not be much reason to object to the other.

**5. Fandom is still a hobby.** Each fan still can choice their preferred mix of activities.

That's enough from me; let's hear from you. We can discuss other pros and cons, but we can also push past "Listservs: Threat or Menace?" and also talk about how they might be enhanced (AK)

# sittings

[WWW.File770.com](http://WWW.File770.com)

Edited By Mike Glycer

If you are looking for intelligent and reasonable coverage of the science fiction community, Mike Glycer's long-running newszine *File 770* gets my vote as the best source.

This is "big tent" coverage, so most fans won't find all the stories equally interesting, but that diversity virtually guarantees that readers will find several relevant pieces in every issue. I prefer *File 770* to *Locus* with all its pseudo-pro airs and graces. Mike doesn't try to put up a gaudy front; he's a fan publishing a fanzine about things of interest to him.

Now there's also [www.file770.com](http://www.file770.com) to provide similar wide-ranging coverage online.

Everything is well-written and neatly presented. Mike Glycer has opinions, some of which don't accord with my views, but I respect his experience and intelligence. We may come at some things from opposite directions, but his calm, balanced and accurate journalistic style has my respect.

File770.com is a fairly simple design. The text uses type large enough to be comfortable even for me. The color palette and the text's large point-size promote pleasurable online reading.

*The following comments should be considered within the context that I, personally, lack the technical skill to do what I suggest. I suspect that Mike is in a similar position, so I hope someone with the ability to upgrade a site will contact him with an offer of help/*

A more sophisticated website design would greatly enhance *File770.com*'s appeal and utility. It lacks a navigation menu and lists its subsidiary pages and archives at the extreme right. I'd also recommend narrowing the site's width to put more of the front page on the typical computer screen.

Content is this website's greatest strength – and ample justification for paying it periodic visits. The design isn't ideal, but it shouldn't dissuade anyone from consulting it frequently. (AK)

## The DUFF Confusion

Two boys stood on the flat suburban driveway. Behind the one holding the broomstick was the metal garage door with a rough rectangle sketch on it in chalk. The boy standing at the end of the driveway grips the spauldeen, swings into a left-handed wind-up and wings the full-count pitch at the chalk Strike zone.

"Strike three!" the pitcher yelled. "Inning over and I win!"

"Ball four!" the batter yells just as loudly. "That walks in the tying run. Bases filled, two outs."

"Strike!"

"Ball!"

There is much pointing to spots on the door where the ball theoretically struck.

Finally, the urge to continue the stickball game wins out over each boy's desire to get a favorable decision on the crucial pitch.

"Do Over!" they chorus.

Both smile. The game continues.

That's the solution I propose for the confused, and confusing, situation that now besets the recently announced US-to-Australia race with only a two-week voting period. The winner would only have days to make travel plans, which might actually be impossible. One of the candidates wants off the ballot and at least one nominator feels that they wouldn't have agreed if they'd known the whole situation.

No one intended to cause problems and there's no real harm. I'd like to see DUFF take the high road, scrap all the nominations and start a new race..

### About the Letter Column

A brief rundown of the rules of this letter column may be helpful, even reassuring, to potential writers.

I'll edit out material I think is not essential, but will only correct spelling (ha!) and punctuation on what sees print.

A writer's discussion of a topic will be shown in full. I'll never bust into your letter with editorial comments.

In fact, I'll mostly let the loceers discuss the (relatively) serious discussion topics. I get to talk first, so I want to lay out while you have your say.

My editorial replies are in the side columns.

### To Robert Lichtman

I must've been partying like it was 1999 when I did that fanzine. Even after you pointed out this amazing fact, I still have absolutely no memory of **Fanstuff**'s first issue. Absence of any degree of recollection nearly persuaded me that you were paying me back in kind for my recent *Glitter* hoax. I have to admit that if you made up *Fanstuff* #1, you trumped me!

I may change the name of this fanzine in the Very Next Issue. For a new name. what do you think of "Quip"?

Yesterday's news included a story about a disease spread by girl scouts distributing cookies in infected bags.

Imagine if I transmitted the weekly publishing disease that way. Steve Green would have to rename *Fortnightly Fix* something like *Weekly Whack*. Some fans could get buried under piles of *Dark Matter* and *Trap Door* might even go bi-annual.

Steve Green and I are *not* proposing anything. I brought it up, spur-of-the-moment, in a conversation about fan funds among Steve, Tee Cochran and me. Steve thought it was worth considering, so I tossed it to **fanstuff**.

As I said in my original piece (as distinguished from the maliciously distorted and pathetically fughheaded version you read Elsewhere) this may not be the time to start such fund.

Let's kick it around here and see if we get a consensus.

# loccer room

*What more fitting way to begin fanstuff's first letter column than with Fandom's most celebrated Letterhack, the Sage of Fandom?*

### Robert Lichtman

When I printed out *fanstuff* #1 and went to catalogue it, I was struck to discover that exactly thirteen years ago, in May 1999, you published the first and only issue of *Fanstuff*. Like the current first issue, it ran exactly four pages. Unlike this current fanzine, it was photocopied and sent through the mails. I'm happy that after all these years you've revived the concept of a short, snappy fanzine *and* that you've learned to spell "stuff."

That said, you're certainly right when you write that you "have some weird new form of addiction." An ordinary fan would breathe a sigh of relief after publishing over sixty relentlessly weekly issues of a fanzine such as *Glitter* and take a break for a while. But you, Arnie Katz, are no ordinary fan. The Pub Weekly Bug has bitten you, hard, and it appears you're unable to swat it away. You may write now that you plan "to do a few issues and see what develops," but I can foresee years to come of issue after issue, like *VFW* growing ever larger and more complex, and you completely unable to stop. I would have pity on you, Meyer, except that I'm looking forward to it all.

I have mixed feelings about your and Steve Green's idea of a new fan fund to shuttle "an American Trufan to Novacon and a UK Trufan to Corflu," especially if this is envisioned to be two trips each year. This would involve a lot of fundraising, and because it would be focused on fanzine fans there might be some difficulty in raising the necessary amounts to pull it off—especially in these difficult financial times for so many.

Also, would the recipients of these funds be chosen in an election, TAFF-style, or would they be selected by consensus, as are the winners of the Corflu Fifty trips?

As you know, this idea has already led to some spirited discussion on various of the fan Yahoogroups lists, and I look forward to more of it in your future issues.

And I'm also looking forward to the *2012 Fan Awards Results Book* you mention for June or July.

*A fan on the brink of publishing a fanzine pauses to fix blame for this reckless act.*

### Terry Kemp

With fear and trembling I waited for Friday to come wondering what would it bring. After a year of receiving *Glitter* (the only fanzine anyone sends me) I thought to myself this would be it, nothing more to look forward to reading.

And then it came, like a blaze of glory, lightening up my otherwise drab and zineless existence.

*Fanstuff*, wow! Pretty cool, so far, Arnie. I like your new approach. Hope you can keep it up.

What I like to read in a zine is a mixed bag of stuff; articles, stories, and news items.

There's no question about it, serializing your longer work is where it's at. Always leave 'em wanting more. Give us cliffhangers, keep us guessing, put out that hook and reel us in...so far *Fanstuff* looks like it could do the trick.

Alas, I won't be sending you anything but LOC's for a while, and you have no one to blame except yourself, and Lenny Bailes.

On Sunday night, the last day of Corflu, Lenny had a long chat with me convincing me that the thing to do was to pub my own zine.

My current excuse is that it's all in the formative, beginning stages. My best excuse is that I'm waiting for that list of snail mail and email addresses (will Andy Hooper be sending me a copy...soon?).

Now, don't tell me there are other ways to begin. It's my best excuse so far and I'm sticking with it.

Provisionally I have a name for my new zine, *Outlier*. But not only am I planning a zine, I've begun work on a new organization as well, C(r)APA. [Corflu (retired) Amateur Publishing Association]

There will be no rules, membership requirements, or limitations, only that all members of C(r)APA are full of that special something probably best described as a Sense of Wonder. (As in, I wonder what he means by all this s--t?)

Following your lead, Arnie (see I told you it was your fault...and Lenny's), I'll be asking for material as well. But I'm devious, I plan on getting reams and reams of stuff, and sitting on it, just like my hero, Harlan.

*A fan of rare wit and perception delivers a cogent literary analysis.*

### **Eric Mayer**

Good to see another zine from you. I'm looking forward to seeing what you come up with. I like the idea that a fanzine is allowed to evolve a bit, perhaps in unexpected ways.

If some fans failed to read the *Fractured Circle* because it was in electronic format they missed out on what I considered last year's top single publication. (Not sure if you saw my review in E-Ditto. I was highly impressed and particularly with the way you handled the mystery.)

I have a hard time grasping this reluctance to read electronic zines. Fans will claim they don't like to read long pieces of text on screen and yet they will by all evidence read endless postings on lists. I swear some electronic lists must post more than 44,000 words a day. Surely they don't print out all those posts before reading them?

This reluctance to accept ezines as the standard for the 21st century bothers me because many of us cannot afford to print zines. Period. How cool is it that we no longer have to and thus can still publish? Well, not as cool as it would be if all fanzine readers would deign to read the things.

Looking over today's best fanzines, it strikes me that many of them are purely electronic, or else the editor reluctantly manages to produce a few print copies for die-hards. I would have thought that fanzine readers, being sf fans, would have embraced the future more readily, would exhibit a little more adaptability. Why would folks who dream about FTL drives want fanzine production technology to cease at the mimeograph?

I look forward to your continued creative efforts. I'm not sure such creative efforts are as important to fanzine fandom as they once were. Fanzines seem to have become more appurtenances to in-person fanac, or perhaps they always were and I simply didn't notice. (I almost said accessories but that makes fanzines sound like a crime) Heck, maybe you will inspire me to stop blathering about myself and actually create something!

### **Sorry for the Abrupt Stop**

My apologies to everyone for stopping the letter column several pages short. The truth is, I'm just getting used to this fanzine. I have a marvelous loc from Claire Brialey that needs, and deserves, six pages, so it'll be in #3, along with other goodies.

### **To Terry Kemp**

I eavesdropped on your conversation with Lenny at Corflu Glitter as he made a passionate plea for you to take the plunge and commit fanzine. I'm delighted that his words have moved you to give it a try.

## **Fannish Declensions**

### **Time to De-clench!**

**I am a Trufan.**

**You ae a little sercon.**

**He has wet dreams about  
Orson Scott Card.**

### **To Eric Mayer**

The bright red outline and pale red background of this reply is symbolic of my blushes as I grapple with a fitting response to such fulsome praise.

Your comments on *The Fractured Circle* are the sort that any author would be thrilled to receive. Maybe a few more fans will give it a shot as a result of your recommendation.

Fanzines are a minor facet of Mass Fandom and have also declined a little in importance in our subculture.

That's partly attributable to the new media for fannish creativity, like websites, listservs, Facebook pages, audio and video.

The other key factor may be demographics. Trufandom is trending younger as the pioneer generation dies and is replaced by newer fans, mostly in the 35-50 age bracket.

Some "younger fans — Mark Plummer, Claire Brialey and Randy Byers come immediately to mind — have amply demonstrated their ability to produce a fanzine, but a lot of them haven't yet given it a serious try.

Publishing a fanzine is fascinating, one that every Trufan should experience.

## Do You Have a Corflu Glitter Memory?

Corflu Glitter is now part of fanhistory. As Trufandom swings into full-fledged anticipation for Corflu XXX next year in Portland, OR, I thought it might be fun to pause long enough to reflect on our Corflu Glitter experience.

I've asked some of the Vegants to pick a favorite Corflu Glitter memory and write it up for **fanstuff**.

Now I'd like to throw it open to all of you, too. Write up your favorite Corflu Glitter moment and send it here. I'll start printing them next issue

# fanews

## Corflu Glitter Tee-Shirts Available

Demand for the Corflu Glitter tee-shirt exceeded supply, thanks to the brilliance of Ross Chamberlain's illustration. The full-color depiction of the Spirit of Fandom hovering over Las Vegas, which also graced the cover of the Program Book (or "Prgram Book," as it says on page 2), caused a complete sell-out on all shirts in the larger sizes.

Whether you attended Corflu 29 or not, you have a limited-time opportunity to acquire your own Corflu Glitter tee-shirt. Not only that, but the Corflu committee has decided to eat the cost of postage and handling so that fans can get this wonderful piece of fannish apparel at the original price of \$15.

If you want to buy a tee-shirt, send an email with the desired size (S-M-L-XL-XXL) and your preferred method of payment (snail mail check or PayPal) to Joyce Katz ([JoyceWorley1@cox.net](mailto:JoyceWorley1@cox.net)). She'll respond with the appropriate payment information.

The deadline for placing your shirt order is Saturday, May 26, 2012. The goal is to ship all tee-shirts by about June 1.

## Corflu.org Goes Triple X!

Now that some of you have returned from a quick trip to [www.Corflu.org](http://www.Corflu.org), let me explain that the headline refers to *Corflu XXX*, not a sudden content shift in an unexpected, if exciting, direction. Dan Steffan and the site's genial host Bill Burns have posted information about Corflu XXX.

The site also carries information about the nature of Corflu, some history of events and the Corflu Glitter Archive.

## DSC 50 to Honor Hulan!

Southern Fandom will mark a major milestone when DeepSouthCon 50 convenes in Huntsville, AL, on June 15<sup>th</sup>. The first DSC, also held in Huntsville, was one of the first significant steps in the emergence of Southern Fandom as a distinct entity.

The convention will have two fan guests of honor, Dave Hulan and Larry Montgomery. Dave Hulan hosted DeepSouthCon I and was active in Fanzine Fandom (Loki) as well as Southern Fandom. Larry Montgomery was also one of Southern Fandom's pioneers and was a prominent participant in SFPA, Southern Fandom's first amateur press association.

Lois McMaster Bujold is the GoH, Howard Taylor is the Artist GoH and Travis "Doc" Taylor will serve as Toastmaster. The special media guest of honor is Dr. Demento.

The committee reports that the con hotel, The Embassy Suites, is completely sold out. There are two nearby hotels that can provide suitable accommodations.

For more information, visit the DeepSouthCon's website at: <http://www.dsc50huntsville.com>.

## Parting Is Such Sweet Sorrow

Despite the increase in page count, the end of the issue's final page still arrives with uncontestable finality.

See you next Friday. Meanwhile, keep fanning!

— Arnie

## the menu

### Are Listservs the New Apas?

Arnie Katz — page 1

### Fen den

Arnie — page 2

### sitings

Kingfish — page 3

### The DUFF Confusion

Fan AK — page 3

### Locker room

You and Me — page 4

### Fanews

A — K — page 6