

# fanstuff

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## **Social Fans: Threat or Menace?**

No matter how we differ in our approach to Fandom, whether we're FIAWOL or FIJAGH, we all share a hope. For some of us, Fandom is a haven from the casually hurtful world. For some of us, Fandom is the cornerstone of our world.

Each of us interacts with Fandom in our own way. Yet I'm reasonably sure that we all wish Fandom to have a future as bright, active and creative as its glorious past.

Speaking personally, I've gotten a lot of pleasure from doing fanac and sharing the company of fellow Trufans. I try to do what I can to insure that

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### The Day the Laughter Died (Faan Fiction Mini-Story)

Arnie Katz sat in front of his computer, expressionless and unnaturally still. His mind was as blank as the screen in front of him.

Joyce watched with mounting apprehension. Normally, putting him at the keyboard led immediately to frenetic typing. His fingers hovered over the keys, but he didn't type a word.

"What's wrong, Arnie?" she asked when the silence became unbearable.

"I've lost my sense of humor," Arnie replied. "I don't have a joke, quip, epigram, pun or even a simple play on words. It's gone, all gone."

Joyce left him sitting there at the computer and rushed to the telephone. Her calls summoned the Vegrants. Once they arrived in answer to her summons, she explained the situation and led them into Arnie's office.

One after another, each Vegrant tried to lift the gloom that enshrouded the group's leader. Some tried to restore his confidence by bombarding him with egoboo, but no amount of praise seemed capable of shattering his melancholia.

JoHn Hardin tried reading a couple of Arnie's better humorous articles. JoHn's expressive reading drew laughter from everyone except Arnie.

JoHn could've been reading the telephone book for all the reaction he got from the Kingfish.

"So much for the carrot; now let's try the stick," said Teresa, tapping her cane for emphasis.

"Let me try something before you beat a sense of humor into him," said Joyce.

"You know, Arnie, if you've really lost your sense of humor, it won't be long before fans start calling you the 'ex-fanwriter and publisher,'" Joyce told her husband. "And soon... they'll be calling you a social fan!"

"Social fan! Social fan!" the Vegrants chanted. "Arnie is a social fan!"

At first, he didn't react. Then a fanish light blazed in his eyes. "I thought of something funny," he exulted. "I haven't lost my sense of humor!"

Suddenly, Arnie began to type: S-o-c-o-a-l F-a-n-s T-h-r-e-a-r —"

Joyce sighed with relief. "I think it's going to be all right." (AK)

Trufans of tomorrow can have similar experiences when they find Fandom in the years to come.

Fanhistorically, our subculture has been a meritocracy that put a premium on participation.

I'm concerned about something that has been developing within Trufandom for many years and now threatens to dim all Trufandom's tomorrows.

It is not within me to allow Trufandom to be menaced in this fashion. I couldn't remain mute, not even if I didn't need to write a cover essay every week.

I've mentioned Tee Cochran's Theory of Reintegration. Her theory is that Trufandom is now developing and elaborating, just as Fandom did.

Once we had fanzines. After Fanzine Fandom became a Special Fandom under the Big Tent, our subculture started to add elements that, in some ways, are a Trufannish spin on activities that formerly existed in Fandom, but only outside our own Special Fandom.

Trufandom now has several fans who write (and sometimes perform) fanish song parodies. Filking is at the center of a thriving Special Fandom. Trufandom has songwriters, too, but there are significant differences. Filkdom has many amateur science fiction and fantasy songs, while our music-makers concentrate on songs about Fandom.

The Theory of Reintegration also has a dark side that is the source of potential disaster for Trufandom. As our subculture elaborates, reconnecting with all the broad range of extra-fanzine activities, we are acquiring social fans.

Socializing was always a big deal in Fanzine Fandom and it continues to be so for Trufandom. The classic context, though, is taking a bit of a beating.

In the past, socializing meant in-person contact among fans who have become friendly through fanzines and other forms of creative fanac.

Slowly but surely, we're gaining fans who don't write, draw or publish anything for Trufandom in any medium.

No one objects if a long-time fan, someone who has a distinguished record of fanish creativity, eases up in later years.

Unfortunately, some newcomers misconstrue both our joy at seeing a new face and the relaxed lives of some of our senior fans. Too many of these folks go directly to Early Retirement, blithely skipping past the part where they contribute some creative fanac to the subculture.

These are very nice people, very pleasant company at conventions or fan club meetings. They want to be with us, even though they stand aloof from fanac. Who wouldn't be flattered?

The Vegrants have always had a few so-called "Fellow Travelers." They've been an asset to the group's meetings and occasionally one of them feels the touch of the wand, "Fanac."

Many things are beneficial in small quantities and lethal in large ones.

That's true of social fans. A few make gatherings more enjoyable, but too many weaken the fanish context.

If the percentage of social fans in Trufandom continues to grow at its present rate, we're headed for trouble.

Contemplate, if you are strong of heart, a future Trufandom top-heavy with social fans. It could be mighty grim. The thought of leaving the future of our Trufandom in the fumbling hands of these lazy posers fills me with trepidation (and maybe a little nausea).

I and my associates have taken on this mission, not just for Trufans, but also for the very social fans who may unwittingly topple Trufandom to its knees. If Trufans vanish from the world and they are not replaced, then the

social fans will pine for the days when they could hobnob with our gang of artistic pariahs.

There is no magic cure for this ill. The only bright spot, a ray of hope on an overcast day, is that sometimes a “Fellow Traveler” blossoms into an actual fan.

It’s rare, but it happens. Our challenge would be to come up with a way to convert a lot of social fans into creative and productive Trufans. If we can somehow perform this daunting task, we may be able to save Trufandom from a dystopian future in which Trufandom degenerates into a bunch of people who eat, drink and watch movies.

One thing’s for sure, the traditional practice of chaining a reluctant participant to the computer desk is unequal to the job. They just sit there and gobble snacks, or log onto You\_Tube and play intentionally annoying clips while gobbling snacks, until we give up and send them home.

When we abandoned this old-fashioned conversion method, the logical next step seemed to be modernization. It made sense that the methods must be updated to match the greater cunning of today’s social fans.

So we switched from acoustic (truncheons and lead pipes) to electric (cattle prods and neuronal whips). Tentative results looked promising, but the approach proved futile in the long run. We got a few social fans to write, but within weeks they had quit Trufandom for the S&M Lifestyle. It turned out that they liked the punishment more than they did the writing.

Pharmaceuticals aren’t the answer, either. Slipping LSD into the salsa sounds like the kind of innovative solution that could turn an indolent social fan into an industrious and creative Trufan.

The concept derived from the oft-stated belief that fans are neurotic messes, alienated from mainstream society. Secretly feeding LSD to social fans would knock their minds out of kilter, causing them to become instant Trufans.

It was a clever notion, but alas, it didn’t work. Oh, the social fans on whom we experimented went bonkers, but almost all of them settled back down when the effects of the LSD faded. Disappointingly, none of those who stayed off the beam embraced Fandom. One is spreading the word about the Mayan Calendar and the coming end of the world, while two others have joined the Republican Party. LSD was simply too unpredictable.

Since chemistry failed Trufandom in this crisis, we went “all natural.” Every single social fan tempted into sampling the “magic” chocolate brownies manifested the effects of the recipe’s secret ingredient within about a half hour after ingesting their first brownie.

The hope was that a wave of euphoria would drive the brownie-powered social fans to the computer keyboard. Temporarily free of the fear and shyness that has held them back from participation, the social fans would contribute creatively to Trufandom.

The fan researchers began to congratulate each other when the first stoned social fan floated to the computer and began to type feverishly. An hour later, they learned to their sorrow that the subjects of the experiment didn’t actually write anything at all. Instead, they’d logged onto the internet and ordered six pizzas with everything.

The problem continues, but there is no solution. The percentage of purely social fans in Trufandom rises unchecked. Our subculture still thrives today, but we may possibly be nearing a tipping point.

Once we reach this entirely theoretical and completely mythical point, it may be impossible for Trufandom to again become a haven for creative and artistic oddballs. — Arnie

### Wooing the Wallflowers

Jokes aside, Social Fans are an asset to every Trufandom club or con.

I learned about the judicious addition of Social Fans at Fanoclasts back in the ‘60’s. I applied the lesson as co-host of the Brooklyn Insurgents.

The Vegrants continue to welcome convivial people who aren’t interested in fan writing, drawing or publishing when they encounter our group.

Sometimes new member without previous fanac experience take to the whole idea right away. Tee Cochran, Jacq Monahan and Brenda Dupont, all of whom have become Vegrants since the ‘00’s, have done a fair amount of creative fanac.

Some social fans try, but for one reason or another, don’t enjoy the activities. It’s regrettable, but the rest of us don’t push, and simply enjoy them for the entertaining folk they are.

Many of the fannishly inexperienced newcomers to the Vegrants fall somewhere between those two results. They aren’t instant actfans or hard-line non-participants.

They may be shy, apprehensive about their ability or even scared of computers. They are interested in what we’re doing, but they don’t participate.

We’ve found that group publishing projects, especially oneshots written at the meetings, help our wallflowers stop watching from the sidelines.

It amazes me when I think of all the Las Vegas fans whose first fan writing was an entry in one of the oneshots or Vegrants’ clubzines.

Three things make the “oneshot” strategy an effective way to entice Social Fans into giving fan writing a try:

1. Social Fans usually like group activities. Seeing everyone work on the oneshot makes it seem natural that they do likewise.

2. Everyone writing makes it seem less daunting..

3. Expectations are modest for a couple of paragraphs in a oneshot, so there’s less fear of failure.

Once they write and don’t die, some continue to participate. Most often, it makes the Vegrants more fun for them — and for the rest of us, too. (AK)

# Us and Them

By  
David B  
Williams

In Fanstuff 12, our esteemed editor raised the issue of FIAWOL and FIJAGH. I replied that fandom can be a relaxed way of life or an all-consuming hobby. Rather than “Is fandom a way of life,” a more basic question might be, “Why is fandom?” My conclusions will lead to some thoughts about why old-time fans like me are feeling uneasy, or even alienated, in contemporary fandom, and why fanzines are a Good Thing. I think one reason fandom emerged from the primordial ooze, flourished, and has persisted for so many decades is because it possesses the peculiar qualities of a community. Self-identity gives us strength. We recognize ourselves as an “us” and non-fans as a “them.”

Please try to control that twitching knee. I don't intend to discuss fandom in terms of “us *versus* them.” But I do think that classical SF fandom is a community. There is an Us *and* Others. For my purposes here, a community can be defined as a group of people who consciously share a common history and terms of reference. I say conscious because members of a real community share a personal sense of affiliation, even allegiance.

There are many interest groups who have specialized publications, local and national meetings, even names for themselves. People can say, “I am a trade unionist” or “I am a philatelist.”

Yet these groups don't exhibit the peculiar characteristics of SF Fandom. Trade unionists don't feel an impulse to room together and call their shared residence a slan shack or adopt a group name like The Futurians or The Insurgents. Stamp collectors don't fret about whether their interest is a way of life or just a hobby.

If I might offer an example with which I am familiar, I have been heavily involved in amateur astronomy for half a century. There are lots of parallels with SF fandom. Amateur astronomers have local clubs and national and regional conventions. Perhaps their best invention is the star party, a gathering of amateurs at a dark-sky site where they can set up their telescopes and spend a weekend communing with others of their kin, a sort of camping relaxacon. The big events draw attendance from across the continent and even overseas.

I am not aware of any amateur astronomy fanzine. There is a technical vocabulary, of course, but no “astrospeak.” There is no term like “neofan” for someone who is new to the hobby. Amateur astronomers don't clump together to share housing, and I have never heard anyone declare “amateur astronomy is a way of life” or dispute that assertion with “amateur astronomy is just a god-damned hobby.”

In fact, there is no term like “fandom” to describe all amateur astronomers everywhere. This is a large and active population with a common interest, but I don't think it qualifies as a full-fledged community in the same way that fandom does.

Recently, I read a comment to the effect that the fandom of the 1970's was a simpler and more coherent place. The 1970's are almost too late in my estimation. I once wrote, regarding Chicon III in 1962, “If you stood on a chair in the Florentine Room of the Pick-Congress Hotel, you could spot everyone you had ever heard of, from the vilest pros to the biggest BNFs.” (“That Was Then, This is Now,” *Mimosa 26*.) I couldn't say the same thing about the Worldcon in 1969.

The fandom of 1962 was small enough and focused enough that it was literally possible to recognize every significant fan at a Worldcon. Having read the leading fanzines for two years, I might not have been able to recognize the faces (photos were rare in fanzines back then), but I could glance at a name badge and think, "Ah, Walter Breen. I know who he is."

Even for a neofan like me, the same was true in reverse. When I introduced myself, Editor Cele Goldsmith recognized me as a contributor to the letter columns of her prozines, *Amazing* and *Fantastic*; Wally Weber was vaguely familiar with my name as an occasional loccer to *Cry of the Nameless*. I didn't actually know anybody, but I didn't feel like a visitor; I felt that I was part of the fan community – obscure, yes; of no distinction, absolutely; but a full-fledged citizen of fandom nevertheless.

This sense of belonging is strengthened by an awareness of our common history or what might be called our cultural heritage. All the fans at the Pick-Congress that day were direct descendents of the fans who had created fandom in the 1930s – the prozine letterhackers, the pioneering fanzine publishers, and the fans who gathered in New York City for the first Worldcon. The torch had been passed, from hand to hand, and the same flame lit the way forward.

Our sense of community was also enhanced by common terms of reference. Fanspeak developed, and fluency in this esoteric jargon helped to distinguish between Us and Them. In Olden Tymes everyone read the same leading prozines and fanzines, so they could create and understand terms such as "slan shack." Everyone had read van Vogt's story in *As-tounding* and was familiar with the idea, discussed in fanzines, that fans possessed unusual attributes (fans are slans).

Some time ago, I joined the local SF/F club in Indianapolis and attended meetings faithfully for several years. I don't intend to disparage these good folks, who think they are part of fandom (and, alas, I have to agree that they are). But I sat through dozens of meetings and never heard terms such as neofan, sercon, or egoboo. They considered themselves fans, but I knew I was among strangers – they were a thriving immigrant population of media fans, gamers, costumers, and con-runners who were unaware of earlier fandom's history and terms of reference. They belonged to their fandom, but it wasn't *my* fandom.

We're suffering the effects of mass immigration. As I explained in my loc in *Fanstuff 12*, I think a change in fandom's major recruitment channels produced a large influx of fans who don't share our common heritage. Yesterday's fans discovered fandom via correspondence with other prozine letterhacks. Even better, they received a fanzine when their name and address appeared in a prozine lettercol. Or they sent for a fanzine mentioned in a prozine review column or listing. I was first attracted by a review of *Fancylopedia II* (talk about an introduction to fandom!).

These new fans were pre-selected as quality recruits because they were already readers with a keen interest in SF, and they were faunching to make contact with others who shared this interest. It used to be said that it's a proud and lonely thing to be a fan. I don't know about the proud part, mundane society bestowed no plaudits on kids who read that escapist trash. But it was certainly lonely, and fandom offered a way to social-

Where  
Fandom  
Came from  
-- And Where  
It's Headed

ISN'T THIS GETTING  
CLOSE TO FANNISH  
CRITICAL MASS?



# CORFLU XXX

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ize at long distance. Fanzines defined and sustained fandom and were open to all.

Today's recruits are introduced to fandom via conventions rather than fanzines. They are attracted to the conventions as media fans or gamers or whatever SF-related interest they have, and they meet a population of their own kind that is large enough to allow them to become engaged with fandom without ever seeing a traditional fanzine or learning anything about fandom's history and culture. Some of these new fans will eventually discover traditional fandom and assimilate (Steve Silver of *Argentus* fame entered fandom as a gamer, but he seems to be doing very well now as a fanzine fan). But many others will remain in their immigrant enclaves, retaining their native languages and cultures.

As the population of fandom continues to balloon, centrifugal forces increase. The comics fans already have their own well-developed conventions and fanzines, and the gamers have their own version of World-con and support structures. Maybe eventually, each of the elements making up today's agglomerated fandom will split off and go its own way, leaving core fandom once again standing alone in the sunshine. Probably not. Instead, we too split off with our own specialized conventions and fanzines. Oh well. You gotta do what you gotta do.

Today, we face a critical challenge. How do we maintain a sustainable population? We need to pass on our fannish genes, but traditional fandom's reproductive powers are failing. We need to attract new blood.

Here, I'd like to say some kind words for the e-revolution. In the early 1990's, I was well gaffiated, living in blissful ignorance of all that was happening in fandom. I never actually quit, I just let my last fanzine sub lapse while other interests distracted me. Once the fanzines stopped arriving, my links to fandom were broken and I had no way to renew contact.

Eventually, my other interests required me to send and receive e-mail, so I bought a computer. There it sat on a desk in my living room, connected to the Internet. My dial-up AOL account included a search capability, and the first thing I typed into the search box was "science fiction." That led me to the web pages of some leading fanzines, and I was back!

So, in this regard, e-publishing is a good thing. Individual web sites and the saintly Bill Burns have made fanzines available to all. Sure, some faneds provide piles of their zines for free distribution at conventions, and that is also a good thing. But giving away a few dozen copies can't compare with the World Wide Web's ability to reach billions of potential readers.

Fanzines have always been our fandom's most effective recruiting tool. I was only 15, wide-eyed and innocent, when Bob Tucker used this bait to lure me in ("Hey kid, want to see some fanzines?") So that's where I see some hope for traditional fandom's future. It used to be said that all knowledge is found in fanzines. Now, perhaps, we must say that all hope is found in fanzines.

– David B. Williams

# Poesy Coroner

We know that fanzine fandom is  
As even as can be.  
I write to Arnie Katz, but Arnie  
Doesn't write to me.

When he asks us to loc *Fanstuff*  
I send him off a poem.  
When Westercon is in his town  
I visit him at home.

I can't claim to be printed but  
I don't even get WAHFed,  
A silence less like fanziners  
Than the way we think of SMOFs.

But Arnie is so lovable,  
And just-one of a kind.  
Although he snaps out snooty cracks  
like "I've left you behind,"

I can't dislike him. I rejoice  
That Joyce makes sure he's kissed.  
He calls me great, and puts me on  
A Harry Warner list.

-- John Hertz

Oh Arnie, Oh Joyce,  
Won't you please send your Fanstuff to me?  
I wait each Friday for delivery at noon,  
And am crushed not to hear your voice,  
Till Saturday, or Sunday, or whenever it may be.  
I beg for just one favor, please grant me this boon,  
And send me my copy first and real soon.

-- Terry Kemp  
(with apologies to Janis)

## **You Just Never Know What You're Gonna Get**

Publishing a fanzine is *not* like a box of chocolates, as some future "Forrest Gump" Brandonization will claim, though it's true that you never know what you're going to get.

Among the unexpected goodies arriving this week are the poem by John Hertz and a snippet of song from Terry Kemp. I enjoyed both, so I thought I would share them with you.

If you have a fannish song parody or some fannish verse, send it this way and I'll put it in the next "Poesy Coroner."

### The 'Loccer Room' House Rules

These are the ground rules:

**There are no editorial interruptions or revisions.** What you write is what I'll print. My replies are in the skinny columns.

**When a writer addresses a topic the full text is always printed.** It's like posting to an e-list, except it's easier to read and won't bury your contributions at the end of a seemingly endless thread.

**Apologies for disagreeing with the editor are unnecessary.** The last thing I want to do is stifle anyone's opinions. I'd like to keep the column free of personal attacks, but I don't care *what* you write as long as you write intelligently. Fact is, I don't even *have* a firm opinion on many subjects raised in **fanstuff**.

### To Dick Lupoff Is Sexual Hrrassment A Problem for Trufandom?

Intelligence and creativity doesn't necessarily go hand-in-hand with social skill. Back before Fandom's population explosion in the 1960's and 1970's, it was widely believed that Fandom often had a civilizing effect on neos who weren't adept at things like interacting with women.

Fandom gave the gauche and awkward the chance to practice human interaction in a relatively safe environment. I know that I found it much easier to, for instance, strike up a conversation with a fangirl, because my name would be familiar to her.

I think sexual harassment is less likely to occur in Trufandom than in Mass Fandom. There's very little anonymity at Corflu and, consequently, more individual accountability.

Trufans are generally in for the long haul. Few would want to carry the stigma of misbehavior for the rest of their years in Fandom.

### More to Dick Lupoff A Weird Wedding In Glitter City

Joyce and I attended a wedding at the Elvis Chapel. An imitator of the old, bloated Elvis Presley officiated.

The highlight came when the bride and groom, in turn, vowed to treat the other like a "hunka, hunka burnin' love."

# loccer room

## Dick Lupoff

The material about sexual harassment in fandom is simultaneously puzzling and alarming. Puzzling because so much is hinted at and so little is actually said, I can't figure out exactly what was said and done at Readercon that provoked this response. I've only scanned the latest *Fanstuff* and will want to read it thoroughly before commenting at length. Alarming because -- well, here it is, the Twenty-First Century, and here we are, in the science fiction community. Readercon is supposed to be the most literate, intelligent, and (one would some expect) morally enlightened element of our community, which is itself far more literate, intelligent, and enlightened than the general run of our country's citizenry.

At least, we like to think that.

And if this kind of Bad Stuff is going on in our ranks -- among the *creme de la creme* of our ranks at that! -- then there is something very very seriously wrong. Whatever happened, I hope it's a matter of a few isolated incidents involving a few bad actors, and is not indicative of the way we're headed.

I've seen some bad stuff in the science fiction world (and elsewhere, of course!) and will not deny that I've said and done some things in my life that I would gladly delete if I could only find the rewind button. I hope that I've learned from my own mistakes, as well as from the errors I've observed. One lesson that I have learned is that old Edmund Burke was right when he said, "All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing."

So I've taken a silent vow *not* to stand by passively when truly objectionable conduct takes place. If I were on a panel at a convention and somebody was behaving badly, I would not hesitate to interrupt and put him in his place.

A few years ago two friends honored me by asking me to marry them. Um, to disambiguate that statement, I mean to say that they asked me to be the presiding official at their nuptials. Under California law this was feasible, and I was happy to perform the ceremony. The loving pair wrote their own vows, which included the following:

*In brightest day, in darkest night,  
No evil shall escape out sight;  
Let those who worship evil's might  
Beware our pow'r, Green Lantern's light!*

Happy happy joy joy, Arnie and friends!

I'll tell you all about my pancreas some other time. Probably more than you want to hear.

## Art Widner

About time: sez U. & KV & Dave Locke who is "Unstuck in Time." I'm like a cat or a dog who is just as happy to see U if U've ben gone 5 minutes, 5 hours or 5 years. Time is an illusion, wch i share w such masters as KV, WB Yeats, ("I spit in the face of Time, wch has disfigured me.") Richard Dawkins & assorted quantum fizzy-cysts, about wch i understand nothing, being content to consort w Calvin & Hobbes, who go with the ultra fantasmagoogle humongous space kablooey, otherwise known as the Big Bang. I like the idea of these Big Branes hanging there & occasionally brushing up agin one another, bcoz i had a direct xperience of this one time. Don Fitch & i were driving from a Minicon to a Corflu in Madison, & stopt in Baraboo (lovely name) Wis, to take in Ringling Bros winter quarters for their circus. I was intreedg by the old steam calliopes & wondering whether some of their tunes like "Hot Time in the Old Town" were boroed from old folk music, or gave rise to the "old folk music." i was filling out a form wch wd fwd my Q to their archives, when i had the strongest,



strangest, most real feeling that i had done this somewhere b4, altho i knew also that i cdnt have, never having visited Baraboo or a circus "museum" b4. I was sure, & still am, that it was a touch, just briefly, with a life i had lived in another universe, or would live, or was living. Owooo! Oy vay! Yehudi gevalt!

But i started out to ryt about FIAWOL & FIJAGH--& U tell me how i got side-trakt. Boy, do i digress in my old age! But one bryt shiny day in the morning i got up & sed to FTL, Francis Towner Laney, his very own self, "Did U ever realize, Fran, that FIJAGH is a way of life? This gave him a start wch it usually took Charles Edward Burbee Jr, HIS very own self, to engender.

Fran glared at me for a minute & went "Hump," but didnt care to pursue the matter, so i consider it settled. I'm with U & Christopher J. Garcia in this matter, bcoz i started off foloing the siren song of 4sj, then after about 10 yrs of 30s & 40s FIAWOL, i ran smack into the rock wall of reality, considerably in advance of the celebrated Wm J Shatner saying to dedicated Trekkies, "GET A LIFE!" Laney was proud of me, I GOT a life! I got married, fatherd children, & went back to skool (wch i had barely escaped from some yrs earlier) wch the vets adminstration assured me i wd do well at, & i did, completing 5 yrs work for a MA degree & CA teaching credential in 4 yrs wch qualified me to teach anything from K to 2yr colej.

A "life" is a snare & a delusion, folx. After 25 yrs of it, my wife dumpt me (I wdnt have minded so much if she left me for a gorgeous younger hunk, but it was another bald, bearded "educator."), my beloved sons took to drink & drugs, & died miserable deaths. The oldest one made it to 60, but cigarets dropt him dead in his trax w a masiv hart atak. I started messing around with Little Men's meetings in 68 when the worldcon came to my back door in Berkeley (I had earlier bonked into the Breendoggle in Oakland in 64 wch scared me off for a while--but thats a whole nother story), & in 78 i got back into FAPA & was born again! Take that, evangelists! Now i'm FIAWOL & i dont care who knows it, & besides i'm the head snob bcoz i'm the oldest effing fan on the whole effing planet!

I cd ryt mor & i wil ryt mor, but thats enuf for now.

### Dick Lupoff

I've now had a chance to read the Readerson-related material in *Fanstuff 14* and fortunately there are some specifics there which I hadn't caught on my first scan of the issue. Names are given, and the resolution of the case is stated. And I must say that I am *very* uncomfortable with the idea of a convention committee arrogating to itself quasi-judicial powers, hearing cases, taking testimony, reaching a verdict, and meting out a sentence. With all the best intentions, this is still a kangaroo court and vigilante justice.

If there was harassment that crossed a legal line, it was up to the victim to call the cops -- or not to call the cops -- as she saw fit.

If there was "merely" inappropriate language used by the moderator of a panel, toward one of the panelists, this certainly not does rise to that level. I would hope that, in future, the "victim" of such language would whack the table with a hard, heavy object. That would bring the proceeding to a quick stop. At that point, I would hope that she would say something to this effect: "Mister Moderator, your language is insulting and inappropriate. You must cease and desist. Thank you."

If that brings about the desired effect, great. If it does not, we get a repeat performance with the "victim" saying, "Since you insist on continuing your inappropriate conduct, I will not participate any further in this event." And follow this by simply leaving the hall.

In an earlier letter I cited Edmund Burke and indicated what I consider to be good conduct in bad situations. Looking back at past experiences in various situations, my chief regret is that I did *not* take a sufficiently aggressive stance when I felt that I was the victim of injustice. I think there is a clear and important lesson here, for any person in such a situation. It is: "*Stand up for your rights!*"

Yes, I vividly remember the infamous Breen Boondoggle. If stronger action had been taken at the time of Walter's original misconduct, much later harm might have been avoided. Yes, yes, it's ancient history now. But if the people involved had called

### To Art Widner

#### Flummocking Francis Towner Laney

I liked your Laney anecdote very much. Obviously, I didn't know Towner, but his writings indicate that your observation hit the bulls eye.

Laney put so much energy, and creativity, into delivering his FIJAGH message that he produced a hell of a lot of fanwriting, including *Ah, Sweet Idiocy!*

Laney's viewpoint may well have had some validity at the time. Fandom was a lot less complex and rich social entity at the time; someone who made it their life would be missing a great deal.

You should write more about your stint as Laney's roommate. Your insights would tell us more about one of Fandom's most fascinating characters.

### To Dick Lupoff

#### No Vigilante (In)Justice

I wholeheartedly agree that one of the most troublesome aspects of the Readercon Case is the extra-legal response from the con's Board of Directors.

The scary thought is that a convention committee in *our* subculture might make the same well-intentioned blunders.

### More too Dick Lupoff

#### No Exclusion Acts!

One of the reasons I decided to discuss the subject is that I don't want a similar situation in *our* group to lead to a similar exclusion act.

I didn't play "the Boondoggle card," without first giving it a lot of thought. Assumption of extra-legal authority by a convention committee led to the campaign against Walter Breen. The same philosophy could lead to a similar exercise of unlawful authority.

Even if a legitimate, serious case of sexual harassment occurred at Corflu, I *still* don't believe exclusion is justifiable. If someone commits a prosecutable felony, one of three things will happen: They can be convicted and sentenced by the courts, they can be found "not guilty" or the victim can decide not to prosecute. We don't have the right to punish someone who has paid for the crime, much less someone who was not guilty of any criminal offense.



### To Lloyd Penney Meeting the Locals

The Vegrants have always thought of the two local, formal science fiction clubs, SNAFFU and VSFA, as sources of prospective new members. We've gotten good Vegrants from both SNAFFU and VSFA, but good prospects have grown scarcer in the last few years.

VSFA is primarily a video-watching group with little connection to Fandom and SNAFFU is having trouble finding members.

Three of the last four additions came to us directly from Mundania and the fourth is a former member who has returned to Las Vegas.

the cops it would really have been better in the long run, despite fannish outcry at the time of, "We settle our own problems ourselves." I don't know if everyone in today's fan community is aware that Walter Breen was eventually convicted of child molestation. He died in prison. Of AIDS.

How many lives did he ruin? How many people did he infect? We'll never know, but earlier intervention would almost certainly have saved at least some of his victims.

### Lloyd Penney

Two more fanstuffs, one more loc. Guess that's the current exchange rate my time will allow. Nonetheless, here are comments on issues 13 and 14.

13...Exactly, FIAWOL, FIJAGH, doesn't matter, it's whatever you wish and/or can manage. Seeing Yvonne and I have had a few successful dealers' tables at local conventions over the past couple of years, FIJASOI...Fandom Is Just a Source of Income.

Some people from my busiest fannish days have gone, and others have moved back to raise a family, but I have tried my best to meet up with some of the newer groups in Toronto fandom, like the new Who group, the steampunks and the Nerd Mafia..

Mentoring newer fans is a fine idea, but it's one that few of us are able to do. All I can say is that by embracing the newer fans, they find out what you've done by talking with others. Many of them know that we worked on their favorite conventions for decades, and that Yvonne started one of the local cons, Polaris. And, that here we are, having some fun with them, and we're in our 50s. That seems to impress them, too. Yet, when I got into fandom in the early 70s, there were either few fans to meet, or those I did meet dismissed me as a neo, or tried to explain why I wasn't a fan, and never would be one. I had to go and find my own fun, my own activities and projects. We had to create our own fandom, and in many ways, we did, with nods to those who fanned before us, once we learned about them. I don't think neos will flounder, but they must make their own mistakes to learn and have their own successes in order to have enough confidence to carry on. We may have agree to disagree, like FIAWOL and FIJAGH...

Me, a master loc-smith? Nope, just a hack who spits out a loc every so often to as many zines as I can. I get repetitive, I complain about the same things each time, and I have been advised to cut down on the money and job news, and try my best to stay positive. A job would help with that... I'll just keep going with it, and add what I can to fanzine fandom as a whole. If I can help fill that last column-inch, my job is done.

The Readercon debacle has come to what I think is its logical conclusion, with a change in the BoD, and a lifetime ban. My problem...I know the perpetrator, and he is a friend. I do not defend his acts, and he will have to live with the consequences, but I am sorry he did this, and I'm sorry for him. To me, gafiation seems his only recourse. All of this is his choice, we'll see what happens as reports and blogs go on.

14...That sign in the Rotsler should say, "Fandom and How it Can Work". Nothing is guaranteed, and the grapevine works, only when it wants to.

Chris details what I've talked about in other zines, the idea of the fannish interest smorgasbord. You can chow down on one, or nibble from many. There's lots to do, lots to catch your interest, and what you enjoy is entirely up to you.

Thanks to Claire for catching me up with GUFF. I find I am gradually dropping out of the loop with a lot of things. For myself, a zine is a zine is a zine, whether it's on paper or electrons. The work to create both formats is the same, the writing, the artwork, the design. That's why they all get response from me.

The return of Rune? Fantastic! The new editors, I hope, have had the time to go through the past dozen or so issues to see what's been done in the past, and what may be expected of them today.

Done for the time being. It's a long weekend here, a civic holiday for the province of Ontario and three other provinces, but not others, so I have tomorrow off, too. I've been looking after Yvonne today, she's feeling better but has been quite ill, so this day has been a slow and lazy one. At least we've got a day to get back on track. Take care, hugs to Joyce, and see you this coming Friday or so?

### Graham Charnock

Favorite Corflus? Austin was my first Corflu and remains my favourite. For a start

there was the happy serendipity of meeting up with fellow Brits Claire and Mark and Peter Weston on the connection flying into Austin. Then there was a feeling of being made welcome, initially meeting up with Bill Burns, Bill Boden and others. Then there was a fan lounge, my first experience of such a facility, Free beer, free food and great company. Everybody I met for the first time was charming, Pat Virzi, Ted White who greeted me like a brother, Geri Sullivan, even Hope Liebowitz and everybody I'd already met was charming too, Randy, Craig, JDB. It was Harry's and Pat Mailer's first and only US Corflu too, I enjoyed them enjoying it, whilst also seeming somehow bemused by it at times. I got to perform both on guitar and in arm-wrestling Ted, and I got to be driven several times round the city by Rich, often in different circular directions. I got to smoke dope with Earl, Harry, Ted, Frank and Michael Dobson. What could be better?

If only Arnie had been there. But I've never been let down by an Corflu, although Sunnyvale came close to it, but I rescued myself from depression with a bottle of Strawberry flavoured vodka.

### **Terry Kemp**

Once more into the breach, or is it breach, or as the metallurgists say, braze....

To begin with, I'm certain that your opening Rotsler cartoon is full of secret, arcane meaning, but it's all some kind of foreign language to me.

Arnie, you are to be commended on tackling an incredibly difficult subject, sexual harassment. You tap danced around one of the major points without bringing it into succinct focus. Trufandom is ideally, hopefully, and by experience predominantly a group of intelligent adults brought together by common interests.

To wit, a group of adults that demonstrate the ability, among other abilities, to deal with diverse situations with their intelligence, wisdom and common sense.

You offered up a clever list of options not taken. You correctly surmise that a War of Major Proportions would take place should Corflu attempt to dictate any behavior at all.

But you left it to us to make our own assessments as to The Proper Course of Behavior. There is the patriarchal solution of the Readercon Authority which clearly is not satisfying. Why?

Because we are an aggregation of individuals. It was up to Genevieve Valentine to nip the problem in the bud.

This might sound harsh, but it is not. At the level we are all operating, we constantly demonstrate our ability to use words effectively. Why didn't Valentine use her words? Support would have sprouted immediately from all in attendance. No question.

I fault society in general for an individual's failure to assert their common sense. Society foists a "get along to get ahead" mentality on its members.

Experience teaches us that it is of paramount importance to speak out for ourselves whenever we encounter injustice, a lack of fairness, or just plain bad behavior. Our jails and prisons, as well as the military, are filled with adult children who have such fundamental behavior problems that the only way to improve their performance is with immediate correction given on the spot and to the point. Anything less produces nothing but contempt and a further demonstrable lack of respect.

The next order of business is to throw my hat into the ongoing setup for the Arkansas Corflu. Without a doubt, I'm one of Ken's biggest boosters, I'm set to drag Pop all the way back home to Arkansas, prop him up for the photo sessions and drag him back, if that's what it takes to make it happen. That being said, Ken, you've got to make it Little Rock.

As much fun as it would be stomping around Bull Shoals, and increasing the local population by 10% to 15%, it's not just a hard sell, it's next to impossible, if you really want to make a happening Corflu. Flying into Little Rock is manageable, that last dog-leg, renting a car and driving up north is a breaker, and you know it.

I know you are most eager to pull off an Ozark Down Home Corflu, and I'm with you pal. I plan on driving from here to there and making many visits along the way, so it's no big deal to go up to Flippin...for me. But I'm thinking about some of my new friends in the Corflu aggregate, and some new ones I'd like to meet, and I just see Flippen as a deal breaker for so many of them.

But I'm open to persuasion without seeming to be too wishy-washy. My mouth is watering with anticipation waiting for all those Down Home goodies.

### **To Lloyd Penney**

#### **The Matter of Mentors**

"It takes a fan to make a fan," Joyce declared. I thought it might be an unusually oblique come-on, but her expression was serious, not flirtatious.

Her thesis is that empirical evidence is that the best way to perpetuate the culture of Trufandom is to learn from a more experienced fan.

And *that* brings me back to mentors.

I agree completely with you that it wouldn't help a neofan to have a mentor hovering over them, rescuing them when they stumble. That's more like a kindergarten teacher.

We're not all using the same denotations and connotations for "mentor." Maybe if I explain "mentor" in more detail, it will make my comments clearer — and less frightening.

A good mentor should do the following things to help a neofan:

- \* Answer questions
- \* Give advice
- \* Provide access to old fanzines and references.
- \* Tell them the truth

Your fannish mentors are more experienced and accomplished fans who take an interest in you. They're your friends.

I also want to emphatically dispute an inference that fannish mentors are egoboo hounds who steal credit from the neofans they help. I never had the feeling that any of the BNFs who helped me did so with anything but the most altruistic motives. (Some fans declare that "it's all about the 'boo!" I think most experienced fans can see through something that shallow.)

### **More to Lloyd Penney**

#### **The Fandom Buffet**

I love the metaphor of the smorgasbord. Not only does it capture Trufandom's greatest strength, but smorgasbord will always be associated in my mind with Forrrt Ackerman. He took several Fanoclasts to dinner at one when we visited him in the mid 1960's.

**To Graham Charnock  
I Wish I Was There**

"Favorite Corflu," like "Favorite Fan Club," is a very hard survey to conduct. Each voter can only pick a Corflu they've attended, so there's no way to get meaningful results.

Here's a question that might draw some interesting answers: What Corflu do you most wish you had attended?

Limiting it to Corflus since I returned to Fandom, My choice would be Corflu Quire. Pat's Corflu really had spirit and just about every fan I know who was there seemed to have a fantastic time.

My second choice would be the Winchester Corflu. Many fans have remarked on the unique flavor of that UK Corflu and the consensus is that it was one of the very best in the series. I've always faunched to attend a UK convention and that Corflu sounds like a great choice to me.

Next would be a tie among just about all the remaining Corflus that I didn't get to attend. I've never had anything less than a good time at a Corflu, so I wouldn't willingly skip any of them unless forced to do so.

**To Terry Kemp  
Safety First!**

"Breech" or "breach," I don't think it makes much different. Both sound pretty dangerous and we simply can't lose valuable loc-smiths like yourself to such perils.

The health of this fanzine requires that all prominent letter of comment scribes remain healthy, safe and ready to fill "locker room."

**More to Terry Kemp  
Last Issue's Cover Illo:  
Bill Rotsler, Decoded**

"I interpret it as a zinger about fans like me who are always trying to explain why Fandom is the way it is. The cartoon suggests that Fandom doesn't have a rulebook and that fans will keep fanning, with or without the fan-historians and fanthropologists.

Gosh, Claire Brialey (and Lenny Bailes) I can hang onto every word in your letters, read and re-read them, and still find something new long after I think I'm done. So, Claire, how often do you really find that your "brilliant insights, great ideas or throwaway quips" have already been made. Not often I suspect.

I thought we might be kindred spirits, a few more letters like the one in *fanstuff* #14, and I might even ask you, politely, if you'd send me a copy of your "scummy" printed fanzine. Alas, mystiboo prevents me from doing so right now. (Is this sidewise communication?)

Now to jump ahead. It's always fun to connect the dots. Some short time ago I ran across David Williams' article, "Looking for Degler," which is recommended reading. My first real encounter with Degler was via Jack Chalker and Mark Owings. They mentioned Degler in their inimitable deft style of selling short those they obviously didn't respect in the second edition of their work on the science-fantasy publishers. They mentioned a couple of books he was purported to have written.

I was trying to track them down.

So, once upon a time I asked both Jack Chalker and Mark Owings about these books. They told me to ask my father. By some strange path, my research led me to George Price (Advent partner) and I asked again. And as always, was told to ask my father about Degler (yeah, like Pop knows everything so don't ever ask anyone else).

By far David comes closest to summing up the fascinating fannish career of Degler. Thanks!

Chalker/Owings told me that their Degler book cite was erroneous as it was based on second-hand info sent directly from Degler, and not from actually seeing any books. A fault that Chalker/Owings thoroughly demonstrated throughout their massive third edition, which is peppered with the same defect, bibliographic information based on wholecloth clearly without ever examining the books involved.

But I should bite my tongue, how dare I poke fun at what has become a primary source. One primarily used by book dealers who also don't open up the books they are trying to sell. Kind of like the blind leading the blind. Caveat emptor and all that.

With that I'll sign off for now, until later, same Bat-time, same Bat-channel,

**David B. Williams**

I have made an alarming discovery. Walking dogs, it seems, can be a dangerous activity. I received *Fanstuff* 14 on Saturday evening, read your comments regarding sexual harassment in fandom, and shrugged. I wasn't there, I had no certain opinions, I didn't think I had anything to contribute. But the next morning, while walking the dog, wicked thoughts on this subject began seeping into my brain. Now I have to expose myself to charges of indifference to human rights and callous disregard for vile crimes. The tenor of your opening essay seemed to imply that sexual harassment is bad (agreed) and that all such incidents can be classed as crimes against humanity.

First, let's be clear. We're talking about sexual harassment in fandom, in a casual and voluntary social situation, not the hierarchical power structure of the workplace and similar venues. I don't see how sexual harassment in this context can be construed as anything worse than obnoxious behavior. (If someone gets groped, that's an assault and the cops can be called if more immediate punitive action isn't taken.)

Admittedly I don't get out much, but is sexual harassment a big problem in fandom? Why has this incident roused so much hue and cry?

Why was the concom's resignation posted by Locus Online, as if this was important news to all fans and pros everywhere? I'm against bad behavior of all kinds. Why does sexual harassment get everyone breathing into paper bags?

I see some parallels here with the popular hysteria over smoking, leading to bans far more extensive that required to protect non-smoker health. Some people have worked themselves into a state of manic obsession. I am reminded of an incident I experienced at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, where I have sometimes performed volunteer research. I would occasionally interrupt my tedious work there to take a walk around the block and enjoy a cigar.

One evening I had finished one of these pleasant excursions and tossed the spent cigar butt into the grass. A woman passing nearby actually suffered a hysterical fit, utter-

ing cries of dismay and exclaiming “Oh god, a cigar! A cigar!” You’d think I had discarded a bar of plutonium. I tried to sooth her by pointing out that the cigar butt was just dead leaves, no more frightening than the leaves falling from the surrounding oak trees, but she was inconsolable. Now, there was no way that this dead cigar butt threatened any harm to this woman, even if she picked it up and ate it. But she had worked herself into such a state of psychological obsession with smoking that her condition verged on a disability.

I liked your point about the need for victims to stand up for themselves. Some people are just clods and, in fairness, need to be informed when their behavior is offensive. Most of the women I know are perfectly capable of dealing with assholes. The offending moderator at Readercon was fortunate in his choice of victim, who suffered in silence and only reported him later. I’m a little surprised that no one in the audience stood up and cut him a new one right then and there. Public opprobrium is often the most effective remedy for bad behavior.

Well, there it is, I am revealed as one of those fuggheads who is against all forms of bad behavior, not just this one or that one. I don’t blame Fanstuff entirely for outing me, I also think the dog must share some responsibility. If she didn’t have urgent business to conduct every morning, I would have ignored this topic and gone on to lead a blissful and blameless life. Fandom can be a harsh mistress.

### **Robert Lichtman**

Regarding “Sexual Harassment and Trufandom,” I’d never heard of either René Walling or Genevieve Valentine until Andy sent around his news tidbit about the Readercon incidents, and I admit that I did *not* follow up on the dozens of links that were available for inspection at the time. Because I don’t know them, I didn’t think doing so would be a good use of my time. Like many, though, I thought that the Readercon people violating their own rules about sexual harassment by giving Walling only a two-year suspension (“and we’ll be watching you”) was lame. So I was glad to read on the File 770 Website (<http://file770.com/?p=9811>) that they’re revisited their original ruling, and made his barring from the convention permanent.

As you write in the article, “There’s no excuse for sexual harassment.” And more specifically, “What separates harassment from non-harassment is very subjective. I don’t know that drawing a single line would work. A reasonable standard could be that sexual harassment starts when a person says, ‘No!’ and the behavior continues. That allows each person to set her or his own standard for sub-criminal sexual harassment.” This is a better approach than blanket “zero tolerance” rules that, as you say, “are just a substitute for thinking.”

(In our society it’s often children who bear the brunt of these idiotic one-size-fits-none laws, leading to police arrests for such things as doodling on a school desk, being late for school, and talking back to a teacher.)

I can’t imagine that a problem like this would surface at a Corflu. We who attend them are a very small group of people who’ve known each other for many years and are respectful of one another. Am I viewing us with rose-colored glasses? I hope (and think) not.

Ken Forman asks, “Take a moment to think about this. What was your favorite Corflu?” I don’t think I can make the call. All the ones I’ve attended—a dozen out of the 29—have been memorable in one way or another. I particularly remember some of the side trips at Los Angeles in 1992 (tour guiding for Geri Sullivan, expeditions to eat at Canter’s) and the bar scene Carol and I enjoyed at San Francisco in 2005 (with Michael Dobson in particular)—oh, and the Mexican dinners at a couple of the Vegas ones with Bill Burns, Earl Kemp and Ted White—but each one’s bigger picture blends together into one enjoyable loooooong weekend. Maybe it was the drugs?

On the food question at an Arkansas Corflu, Ken makes a direct appeal to my taste buds: “Ben and I hosted the 2004 Corflu. And anyone who attended any of the Vegas SilverCons or either of the first two Vegas Corflus may remember the hospitality suites stocked with all kinds of yummy home-made goodies. Those were arranged and hosted by Aileen and Cathi (with lots of others helping, too).” I was at *all* of the Silvercons in

### **Still More to Terry Kemp What’s ‘Proper Behavior’?**

I avoided a detailed examination of the case, because Corflu (and our sub-culture) and Readercon don’t have the same types of people or operate by the same rules. I wanted to start a discussion of what *we* should do if it happened at *our* convention.

I can’t judge Genevieve Valentine’s handling of the situation, because I don’t know her. I would expect a female Trufan to handle the problem quietly and efficiently without igniting a major uproar.

Trufans are intelligent adults. Wisdom is distributed more unevenly, but let it pass for now.

Yet despite these fine qualities, Fandom has seen its share of inappropriate sexuality and sexual criminals. I’m not saying that something is happening, only that the possibility exists.

### **To David B. Williams An Interesting Coincidence?**

Your article in this **fanstuff** mentions something in passing that revealed an Amazing Coincidence.

We were both letterhacks to *Amazing* and *Fantastic* in the early 1960’s. I’m fairly sure you preceded me, but it’s likely we overlapped.

### **More to David B. Williams Is Sexual Harassment A Problem for Fandom??**

I think sexual harassment is sexual harassment, whether it occurs in the workplace, at school, in a swing club or at a Corflu. Conduct is the issue, not locale. I don’t see how reclassifying criminal sexual harassment as assault would change the situation, either.

The Readercon case seems to fall well short of the standard for criminal prosecution. It would’ve been better if Genevieve Valentine had responded more effectively to the initial incident.

She didn’t handle it very well and then she publicized it to the best of her ability. I’d hope that a Trufan involved in a similar incident at Corflu would do better, but there’s no guarantee of good performance,

**To Robert Lichtman  
Why Bother about Readercon??**

If I didn't believe that the discussion of criminal activity and bad behavior had relevance to Corflu and our subculture, I wouldn't have done more than extract a little humor from the Board of Directors' antics, if that.

The actual case means very little to our subculture. Fans can learn no salutary lessons from Genevieve Valentine, Rene Walling and the Readercon Board. It's a quick course in what *not* to do.

The reason to ponder the situation, while largely ignoring the case, is that our subculture might have to deal with something of the same sort.

I'm less confident about Trufandom's imperviousness to such a case or our group's ability to handle it.

I was sexually harassed at the 1963 Discon, my first world sf convention, and by a different fan at a Corflu. I stopped both encounters quickly and without a fuss, well short of a prosecutable criminal offense, though more serious than the Readercon incidents.

I also recall a sexual harassment case of a couple of years ago involving two Trufans. I felt some fans switched to "witch hunt" mode and that the whole business was not handled very well.

I'd rather have us discuss the subject in a semi-abstract way than have to begin such a discussion amid the commotion of a real situation.

**More to Robert Lichtman  
Return to the Free Love Camp**

Ken Forman's article in *fanstuff* #14 offered two tempting alternatives for a 2014 Arkansas Corflu.

Either is sure to be highly enjoyable. One is a "safe" choice, while the other is unusual, with big plusses and big minuses.

It's obvious, from Ken's presentation, that he would love to do Corflu in Bull Shoals. I can understand why he likes the idea and it has features that make it highly appealing.

I've got personal factors to consider that don't affect others' decision. I'll hold my view for an issue or two and let fans have their say.

addition to those first two Vegas 'flus, and my palate definitely remembers. This memory would be important if the choice for an Arkansas Corflu is Bull Shoals instead of Little Rock.

I had to look up Bull Shoals on Google Maps, and once I found it I heartily agreed with Ken's statement that "While the Bull Shoals area has very little in the way of culture, the natural beauty of the area more than makes up the difference." But it's so isolated. There are some restaurants there, but the posted descriptions of their culinary offerings you see when searching from Google Maps make them sound unexciting. However, Ken writes:

"One thing that an Ozark Corflu would definitely include is food, food, food. Cathi and Aileen are both anxious and eager to 'cook for all y'all.' We anticipate being able to feed everyone who attends the convention with good, home cooking. One night will include an outdoor grilling special with grilled burgers, brats, veggies. We might also do a good old fashioned outdoors Dutch oven meal."

He also, perhaps unknowingly, offers a special feature that appeals to me:

"You can be sure Aileen will bring her Babycakes Bakery (Home of the Best Fried Pies in the Ozarks) trailer to the convention and treat us all with fresh pies."

My taste buds still remember the fabulous fried pies that used to be (and perhaps still are) made in Hohenwald, Tennessee, the main town in Lewis County, Tennessee, in which The Farm is located. Especially the chocolate ones.

Of course the likelihood of my actually going to this Corflu is probably fairly remote, but if I did I know I wouldn't want for good home cooking.

In his letter Graham writes, "Good luck to Dan in trying to get people to commit to T-shirts and other merchandise well in advance, but I think that's going to be a tough one." I don't know what "other merchandise" he means, but I'd happily pre-order a t-shirt *today*—and while I was sending money via Paypal I'd probably add another \$20 to prepay my opt-out fee for the GoH drawing.

A 7-page letter from Claire Brialey! The mind boggles, but the search for comment hooks yields a sufficiently adequate supply even after subtracting the places where she says the same thing, more or less, on subjects in past issues that I did at the time. We are both sagely.

"I've read lots of enjoyable self-contained pieces on e-lists, mind you; but, as I wrote in Banana Wings earlier this year and as Robert Lichtman mentioned in his letter in *fanstuff* #5, that usually prompts one or more fan editors to swoop on them for inclusion in a fanzine too – even when there's a significant overlapping audience. Fanzines are where I feel those pieces most belong." As one of those doing the swooping, like Claire I don't have a problem with overlapping audiences and have published numerous articles in *Trap Door* that first saw the light of day on an e-list or in an apazine. In the case of something snagged from a FAPazine, for instance (as what I publish by Gordon Eklund is), only about half of the membership (currently a little over thirty) is also on my mailing list. That means something like 150 people reading it in *Trap Door* won't have seen it before—and if I (or someone) didn't use it they would be absent some good reading.

About Andy Hooper's calls for discussion of FAAn Award categories that I encouraged (whether sagely or not!) people to answer, I can't help but notice that as soon as I made that comment the little box in every preceding issue suddenly disappears, never to be seen again. Did Andy decide he'd heard enough and call you off, or...?

"I'm well aware...that our paper-only publication is very difficult and in some cases impossible for fans with sight problems." This is something I've had to deal with, too, since it's unreasonable for those fans to have to wait a year until the PDF of the previous issue hits efanazines (which can be blown up to suit one's individual needs) more or less simultaneously with the publication of the next paper-only issue. Like you I've dealt with it behind the scenes and have netted some additional LoCs that otherwise wouldn't have been written as a result.

"I don't define myself as a 'Trufan,' notwithstanding its derivation. Me, I'm just a fan. The sort of fan who still likes science fiction. The sort of fan who is involved with fanzines. The sort of fan who's also involved with conventions and fan funds and fan history. Y'know: a fan. That's not dissimilar to what Chris Garcia said in his letter in #8, I realise.

But I'm not concerned with trying to embrace all of wider fandom with my terminology. I just know how I'm comfortable with describing myself." Bravo, Claire! I would alter some of the particulars of my interests, but this is how I would describe myself if anyone asked—and that's why I quoted your comments so extensively. As I wrote somewhere, perhaps more than one place, long ago, we all make our own fandom based on our interests, our contacts, our time available for fanac, and how all that plays out.

And Arnie, in your sidebar to Claire about mailing comments you write, "I've always hated those one-line mailing comments, the ones that say things like, 'Yeah, right. I agree completely.'" There's an art to them, and just as much as the "detailed, extensive, detailed comments" (*sic, ahahahaha*) you encountered in SAPS back in the day they can communicate if one is paying attention. To dismiss them as you do is to relegate the co-inventor of the mailing comment, that nice Mr. Speer, to some sort of fannish purgatory.

And actually, those short comments were just as much a part of SAPS mailing comment tradition as the longer ones you remember. I recall Lee Jacobs as an expert practitioner of the art.

Eric Mayer writes: "I agree with what Chris Garcia says in the loccol, that if we want fandom to continue we have to be open to letting people in even if they have different ways of doing things. And yet, I also agree with Joyce and you and Robert about the Nalini Haynes affair, so I guess I am not as open-minded as Chris." Is *anyone* as open-minded as Chris!? That aside, it pleased me to see your comment in the next paragraph that "John Scalzi's blog is not fanwriting" because of its link to his professional activities.

Along the same lines, Eric writes about Bergeron's Willis collection being a fanzine even though he charged for it, and then wrote: "If someone set up a company to print a series of classic fanwriting for sale, would that still be fanac? If the enterprise were designed to make a profit, I'd say no, otherwise, I'm not sure." There's a fine line here; such a venture might not be set up to make a profit, but it might do so in spite of itself. It would then depend what the person involved did with the money. When I published *Fanorama*, a collection of Walt's fan columns for *Nebula*, back in 1998, I hoped to break even but eventually it did turn a profit. I used that money to help defray the cost of publishing *Trap Door*, and eventually it zeroed out. Electronic books did exist back then, but I chose instead to publish a paper edition with the attributes of a fanzine instead of a paperback.

Terry Kemp writes: "It is good to see FAPA going strong. Thanks to Robert Lichtman's tidbit about SAPS, I've joined. It would be great to see more of you reading this join as well and help swell out the ranks." Both groups could benefit from more members. With Terry's joining SAPS, its membership is 14 out of a possible 25. FAPA has a similar ratio of members to capacity. Both are quarterly, paper-only, and a more leisurely pace than the e-lists or this weekly fanzine. I'm the Secretary-Treasurer of FAPA and can provide information on SAPS membership; anyone interested can drop me a line.

Arnie, you write: "Charles Lee Riddle was a well known fan in the mid-1950's and *Peon* was one of the leading fanzines. I feel that his reputation has justifiably diminished. Riddle's glory days were in the trough between the *Quandry*-led early 1950's and the *Fanac*-led era of the late 1950's and pre-Boondoggle '60's. He has come down to us as a nice guy who published a neat-looking regular fanzine with good repro. At that time, during the lull, it was enough. *Peon*'s content hovered around mediocrity. I'd rate it as significantly worse than *Yandro* or any of today's better fanzines."

I would disagree. Riddle began publishing *Peon* in 1948, and it had already seen 14 issues before LeeH started up *Quandry* in 1950. He produced another dozen issues during the time of *Q*'s existence, and then another dozen after it folded. The final issue was in 1957, a full year before Terry and Ron inaugurated *Fanac*.

Pulling out my file and looking at the lists of contributors in those issues published between the end of 1952 and the final issue in February 1957, one finds these names: Terry Carr, Jim Harmon, Ian T. Macauley, James White, Jerome Bixby, Vernon

### **STILL More to Robert Lichtman Moving the Corflu Merch**

Corflu Glitter offered logo merchandise and items decorated with illos by famous fan artists, but response has been negligible. The Café Press Store is still open and fully stocked.

Selling the Corflu Teeshirt in advance might work, even though it hasn't been done that way. Like you, I'd pay in advance, because the shirt will be great and it will help Corflu XXX's cash flow.

I'm sure Dan will update us in a near-future installment of "Steffanac" in **fanstuff** and at Corflu.org).

### **Yet More to Robert Lichtman An Editorial Note About Claire Brialey's LoC**

A seven-page letter is unusual, but **fanstuff**'s format is meant to accommodate the unusual. When someone of Claire's stature in Fandom cares to put that much into her comments, I'm grateful to receive it and eager to share it with all of you.

I feel I should mention here that Claire several times gave me carte blanche to edit it. I elected to present it in its full majesty.

### **Again, More to Robert Lichtman A Short Comment About Short Mailing Comments**

I don't hate all one-line mailing comments, just those that read like the horrible example I concocted (and you quoted).

### **Want to Receive Fanstuff By Direct Email?**

Thanks to the generosity of Bill Burns, **fanstuff** is available as a free download at [www.efanzines.com](http://www.efanzines.com). Bill maintains a complete archive.

If you'd like to have the .PDF sent to your email address, all you have to do is drop me a note. I'll be glad to add you to the reader list, now numbering about 350 fans.

**Social Fans:  
Threat or Menace?**

Arnie — page 1

**The Day the Laughter  
Died**

Arnie — page 2

**Wooing the Wallflowers**

Arnie — page 3

**Us and Them**

David B. Williams —  
page 4

**Poesy Coroner**

John Hertz &  
Terry Kemp — page 7

**loccer room**

YOU & me — page 8

**fanews**

Arnie — page 16

McCain, Robert Bloch, Mrs. E. E. Smith (a really interesting and very personal article about her husband), Bob Tucker, Larry Stark, Joe Hensley, Harry Harrison, Isaac Asimov, John Magnus, Sam Sackett, Harlan Ellison, Rog Phillips, Lin Carter, Robert Lowndes, Race Matthews, Eric Bentcliffe, Ron Smith, Joe Gibson, James Gunn, Kent Moomaw and Theodore Sturgeon. And one issue has an Emsh cover!

Some of these names might be unfamiliar to many in current fandom, but so it goes. But I would *never* consider it “significantly worse than *Yandro* or any of today’s better fanzines.” There’s stuff in those pages I would have been happy to publish if it came to me now. But of course there’s also material in them that’s not so great.

But don’t take my word for it. Go to the on-line archive at...  
<http://peon.currentsky.com/index.html>

...and see for yourself. It’s incomplete, but there’s enough on hand to get a good taste of what *Peon* was like.

You write to me: “I added Nalini Hayne to the **fanstuff** emailing list with the first issue in which she was mentioned. So far, she has not acknowledged the fanzine, much less written a loc.” I suspect that unless you made mention of her being discussed in those issues in a cover e-mail she probably ignored them. Your “explicit invitation” buried on page 17 of an 18-page fanzine isn’t likely to attract her attention, either, unless you sent this issue to her separately instead of as part of a transmission going to a chunk of your mailing list.

And even then it’s my view that because *fantstuff* is not about hot new movies and books and you have no interviews with the latest fantasy trilogy authors she won’t be interested.

But I’m ready and willing to be surprised.

WAHF: Glenn Glazer, Woody Bernardi, Brad Foster, Chris Garcia

# fanews

**Traveling Jiant Hits the Road Again**

Woody Bernardi, former Las Vegas fan and current Boston actifan is once more preparing for his boot-heels to be wandering.

After Woody attends the world science fiction convention in Chicago, hell head to Michigan to see old friend Laurie Kunkel, see family in Arizona and make his third visit to Las Vegas in a little over four months.

Not that we’re complaining. Quite the opposite. The Vegrants will be throwing a party for our fannish vagabond on Saturday September 8.

**A Quick Wrap-Up!**

Have a great time if you’re attending Chicon next week and be sure to watch your email inbox for fanstuff #16.

Sorry for the delay, caused by non-fannish events.

Meanwhile — keep fanning!

— Arnie Katz

fanstuff #15, August 10, 2012, is a frequent fanzine from Arnie Katz ([crossfire4@cox.net](mailto:crossfire4@cox.net)). It’s available at [efanzines.com](http://efanzines.com), thanks to kindly Mr. Burns.

Reporters this issue: Woody Bernardi. Joyce Katz and me.  
Member fwa

Cover illo: Bill Rotsler  
Supporter AFAL

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