

## Again, Numbered Fandoms

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months later and Harlan's brand of self-hype not been so embarrassingly obvious? Kindly note that Harlan subsequently polished his style to the point where it not only served him well in his professional career, but when used on fandom, only had a few people mumbling in their beards.

Even if this is not the case, and there are objective, substantive reasons why "Phony" Seventh Fandom was not a real numbered fandom, it still seems obvious that

it in a square hole. If it doesn't fit, the historian says, "oh, well, it's a circle," and promptly hammers it into a circular hole, ignoring the glaring gaps on all sides.

I'm not unalterably opposed to the idea that numbered fandoms can be inherited, but the Sixth Fandom leap from *Quandry* to *Psychotic* tugs my disbelief suspenders to the snapping point. If anything, these groupings are, or should be, gestalts. Which is to say that they are nothing if not configurations of participating individuals. By their nature, they are so unified and complex that their

properties cannot be derived or inferred from the sum of their parts. Fans gaffate all the time, so no matter how worthy, no individual fan -- not Willis, not Burbee -- embodies so much of an era that their absence, in and of itself, would bring that era to a close

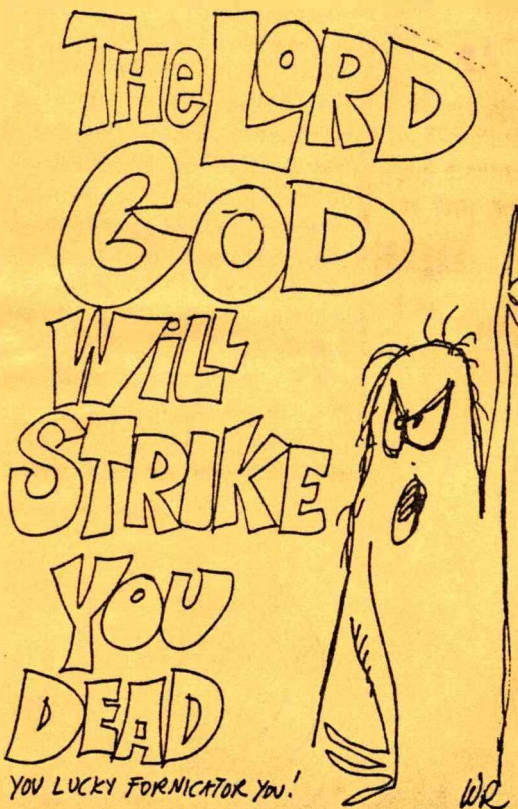
But what can be said of any individual cannot be said of the gestalt of individuals whose interactions give a "fandom" its flavor. The era

crosses when a vast majority of those who made up the original gestalt or the focal point which held them together are no longer there. Otherwise, the groupings mean nothing.

I have no problem with the notion that the vastly different group of individuals who focused on *Psychotic* were strongly influenced by, successfully emulated or carried on "in the same spirit as" Sixth Fandom. I just don't think they were Sixth Fandom. I think they were one

of the Numbered Fandoms which followed; Seventh, if there's any legitimate reason to deny Ellison and crew, or Eighth. Or perhaps *Psychotic* inherited Seventh Fandom from *SFB*. Depending, this moves all the numbers following Sixth Fandom up by one or two.

Until consensus can be reached on what a Numbered Fandom is, and/or whether or not a "focal point" is a requirement, and/or whether or not this focal point must be a fanzine, and/or whether a Numbered Fandom can move from one focal point to another, we're in a "Through the Looking Glass" situation in which words only mean what the people using them want them to -- and the Numbered Fandoms theory will remain no more than a flawed shorthand method of referring to a mere handful of fanhistorical eras. □



this "False" Seventh Fandom is just as important fanhistorically as many "real" numbered fandoms, if only as an object lesson. As I've said before, one of my problems with the Numbered Fandoms theorists is that they either hammer the facts to fit the theory or ignore all contradictions. It's like a kids' block set with spaces only for squares (fandoms) or circles (transitions). When the theorist comes across something triangular (not-fandom/not-transition), s/he tries

## TAFF Time

Nominations are now open for the TAFF (Trans Atlantic Fan Fun) race to bring a fan to the 1991 Chicago Worldcon. Candidates need three nominators from Europe/U.K. and two from North America. Nominations close December 15. Ballots go into the mail on January 15, 1991.

Candidates pledge that, barring acts of Ghod, they will make the trip and administer TAFF until succeeded. A TAFF candidate must post a \$20 (£10) "good faith" bond and submit a 100-word campaign platform. Donations are \$2/£1.

Nominations (as well as donations and auction material) can be sent to Robert Lichtman (P.O. Box 30, Glen Ellen, CA 95442), Lillian Edwards (2 Spring Valley Terrace, Morningside, Edinburgh, EH10 4QD, United Kingdom), or Christina Lake (47 Wessex Ave., Horfield, Bristol BS7 0DH, United Kingdom).

Always a worthy cause. \*Give\*.



## Meet Becky Shayne

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past of fandom and science fiction. *Folly*, perhaps owing to a short attention span, looks in all directions in a cyclopean quest for fun. We are an outreach program and, as such, we are bringing together elements of both the old and new. It seems proper, on the occasion of Becky's fanwriting debut, to provide biographical background.

Becky has recently switched to a journalistic/editorial career after holding a succession of office jobs in Las Vegas, Reno, Denver, and elsewhere. A deceptively young-looking thirtysomething, she is a slim, woman with expressive eyes and masses of dark curly hair. She also has elegantly long legs she shows off in the usual abbreviated Las Vegas skirts. The mini skirt never lost popularity in the Sodom of the Southwest.

She is very charming with a velvety voice, but you would not want to feud with this neo femmefan. I've heard her wrangle with recalcitrant debtors and stubborn trades people on the telephone and in person, and I

wouldn't want to come under fire. Becky pursues her points forcefully and takes no prisoners. She generally gets whatever it is she wants.

If fandom didn't already have a "Victoria Yayne", it would be a perfect nickname. Mirrors adore Becky, and she reciprocates. Of course, she's worthy of a bit of vanity.

Reading between the lines of her account of Rachael's brief career as a wheelgirl, you may infer that Becky has led a colorful, offbeat, and sometimes exciting life. This is true. She has stockpiled an ample supply of off-the-wall anecdotes with which to regale fandom. She and Joyce like to sit around and compare past indiscretions, and I know you won't want to miss any of this stuff. (Then they go to the local flea markets and flirt some bemused vendor into an extra discount.)

I don't know if Becky is quite ready to start reading other fanzines, but I am certain she will scan each and every letter of comment on *Folly* before she passes it on to me.

Fandom, meet Legs. □

## Son of ODD

You may soon see a new/old name in fanzine: Jason Fisher. When Ray (Duggie) and Joyce Fisher split up in 1970, Joyce eventually became Joyce Worley Katz. Ray, too, soon wed a second spouse, Jane. Jason is his son from that marriage.

As many know, Ray died last year from diabetes. Joyce has become a sort of surrogate aunt. She corresponds with Jason and talks to him regularly on the phone. He's about 13 now, a bright, young fellow.

Recently, Joyce sent Jason his first fanzine, *Folly*. The genes bred true, because Jason immediately vowed to Publish. His next call burbled plans to follow in his father's footsteps and revive *Odd*.

Joyce suggested a "go slow" approach in light of Jason's youth. She also said that a new *Odd* might be beyond his current powers.

Jason followed her advice as closely as kids usually follow their elders' dictates. *Son of Odd* hit my mail box -- and maybe yours, too -- last week.

It is a typical First Issue, except that it's not every day one comes with illos by Keasler. □

*Folly*

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First Class

