

# Sercon-Navigation

#20 is another desperate Apa-V contribution by Tom Springer that I would normally have thrown away. In case Victor, if he happens to read this, and he really shouldn't, or anyone else would like to respond, I live at 2255 E. Sunset #2030, Las Vegas, NV 89119. This would never have happened if Andy had decided not to print Victor's editorial contribution in *Apparatchik* #51, and who's to say what would have been best.

That split second thrill that drives your very being to peak performance in successfully avoiding certain automotive doom is the same kind of thrill I sometimes experience as I make my way through fandom. It can be kind of bumper-carish as ideas and opinions chaotically whirl around the electrified forum we call fanzine fandom, stunning each other with surprise collisions of opinion that sometimes leave a faned ineffectively spinning his bumper-car in the corner with a stuck steering wheel. Our hobby has very little in the way of physically violent confrontations unless were talking about the intellectual kind. Intellectually we have the potential for a conflagration on the scale of Judge Dread meets the Road Warrior, but in fanzine fandom you won't find any crumpled bodies after the smoke clears, just ego-pained faneds busily licking their wounds and trying to shore up their rapidly dwindling confidence in an effort to manufacture an effective rebuttal. All too often these poor victims of insurgency and high fashion find themselves left with only one recourse, ignorance. If you can ignore you can survive, but will you be happy? Will you have lost respect? By not addressing certain issues you have a definite opinion on are you keeping the peace or missing out on a chance to get some back? What will fandom think?

That's the biggy for me, "What will fandom think?"

Does what you say have more impact than not saying anything at all? Everytime I sit down in front of the computer with the intentions of writing, whether it be an editorial, article, or fanfic piece I can't help but speculate, even as I write, what fans will think when they read what I've written. It's not a painful rumination that plagues me during the entire writing process but it's something that sits in my hindbrain occasionally shining a flashlight at the back of my eyeballs. I'm learning more and more to think about what I'm trying to say, to look at it from as many angles as I can before I decide it's good enough for me (and that's never a truly confident decision). Then I wonder if I'd be better off by keeping my yap shut and minding my own business, going on with what I'm doing and ignoring what people might be saying about me. That course of action never sits very comfortably with me, it just doesn't seem to be what the hobby's about, nor what I'm about for that matter.

Which is why I like fandom so very much. It suits my nature.

The following is something I've been working on lately, but will never publish. It's one of my reactionary writings I sometimes indulge in when I know I should hold my tongue, but can't. These things are usually stored on a disk soon forgotten, but this time I thought I'd really put it to paper, just to see what it's like.

Dear Apparatchiki,

To be honest Victor, we actually did consider you for editorship of **Wild Heirs**. I believe it was some time after WH#7 & 7.5, right before publishing #8 while we waited for the last of the letters to come in, collectively wondering why Andy hadn't written one. I have to admit that I was a little disappointed that he hadn't. At least to tell us to lay off a bit. But instead, silence, until **Apparatchik** came out and he contributed his measly two cents about our zines in his "Fanzine Countdown". Arnie, JoHn and I were in Arnie's office where we were assembling the last of the letters for the letcol when this momentous occasion in Vegas Fandom occurred.

"No letter from Andy, huh?" I asked, sliding the disk with our letcol on it in my back pocket.

"Nope, not even a peep. Maybe he just doesn't know what to say," Arnie suggested with a smile, as usual trying to put a positive spin on things. "I talked to him over the phone the other day and while he was quite flattered he was also a little bewildered."

"Oh well," JoHn said, "he must be pretty busy putting that fanzine out every other week."

I turned back to Arnie. "Not even a little e-mail squib?"

"I'm afraid not," Arnie replied.

"Jeez, you'd think he'd send us a letter sooner or later." I complained.

"Maybe he doesn't think we're worth the time," JoHn suggested mischevously.

"Oh, I think he does," Arnie said, "he'll probably get around to it when he gets around to it."

"Hmm," I hmmed, scratching my chin, "That could take weeks. We need something that'll get him to respond now. Maybe we should make Victor an editor just to spite Andy. Maybe he'll write

something then."

JoHn and Arnie laughed at my preposterous idea.

"That's too petty, even for you," Arnie said to me with a chuckle.

"Besides, he's just Andy's flunky, we couldn't really make him an editor." JoHn said.

"He should have to work his way up," I joked.

"Maybe co-editor of **Apparatchik** first, then his own zine, *then* maybe **Wild Heirs**," Arnie suggested.

We all looked at each other in silence. Then we bust out laughing. Not even then.

We can't really say that we ever seriously considered you for co-editorship of **Wild Heirs** but stranger things have happened.

As you can see I've read **APAK #51** and I just had to write a letter. There's a few inaccuracies in Victor's many interpretations and it behooves me to make sure that everyone understands what we're doing in our little self-referential fandom. For real.

Before I go on I do have to point out that "timeliness" and "currency" are two things lacking in many fanzines today. For whatever reasons there may be, whether it's lack of motivation or funds, but our fanzine is probably one of the most current fanzines in fandom today. **APAK** being even more so. Especially when you consider that most fanzines come out only once a year, some a little more. I can't think of any other fannish fanzine that contains as much stuff as **Wild Heirs**, that comes out at somewhere between 38-49 pages, and comes with one or two extra 16-20 page publications, every month. What's the last anniversary you've seen?

And help me out with this paragraph

*"While one month means little to most fans, by the time I get WH, it's*

three issues old. Despite being monthly. Perhaps if the editorial were the last thing written instead of the first..."

I don't know how you figure the zine is three issues old when you get it. We send WH out every 4-5 weeks. Maybe it took a little longer over the holidays, but all of us Wild Heirs like Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years too and don't have much of a problem taking time off to celebrate. Just so you know, the letter column is the last thing to be written before WH is mailed, usually just days before Arnie runs it off and we collate it. We bring our editorial contributions to the first Vegrant meeting, which usually occurs a week or week and a half after the last mailing. It's not gonna get any more current than that until we change our editorial parameters, when it's easier to update the editorial up until the very last minute, which is a little harder with 8-12 different contributing editors.

Here's something else.

You'd think after living in this electric hell in the middle of the Mojave for the past five years, sweating, melting, and existing I'd have a working knowledge of the sun, heat, fire, combustibles, all of those things, but I must admit that I'm at a loss. What the fuck does "heat death" mean? And don't tell me it comes out of Victor's ass, I much prefer to maintain my romantic notions of zap guns and plonkers instead of subjecting myself to their modern day counterparts.

As much as I like the nice things Victor's said about me I have a confession to make. I'm not the most active fan after Arnie Katz. Joyce Katz is the most active fan after Arnie, then I might say me, except there's also Ross Chamberlain to take into consideration, who could be argued to be just as active, if not more so, than myself. While I've only pubbed three issues of

Brodie, by my count Joyce has pubbed over twelve issues of **Situation Normal**. Granted, it's a sf clubzine, but it is fanac. In fact, it's the most fannish clubzine you'll probably ever see aside from **Rune** and even that's debatable. She's never once missed a contribution to **Apa-V**, while I struggle to get something in every other month. She's always in WH, seemingly always with an article, but she's also in the editorial and letcol, every time. So I must point out, for my own sake, that Victor's wrong when he says I'm the most active fan in Vegas after Arnie. That's not true. Joyce is.

What disturbs me is how confident Victor is during his one page editorial despite the many errors he makes in his commentary. It's not until near the bottom of the first column of text that Victor actually hits the target with one of his observations. Referring to me he writes, "just to listen to the man -- he has the most powerful will of all." And though he's correct in this one statement, his following paragraph, like the previous one, is written under an inaccurate interpretation of metaphoric fan fiction he claims to be the key to figuring the puzzle. While the rest of

YES, AS A MATTER  
OF FACT, I DO  
OWN FANDOM



us are unaware that there is a puzzle.

People say that idle hands are the tools of the devil and the same can be said for Victor Gonzalez and idle thoughts. Not so in the case of Andy and Victor's fanfic piece, "The X-Fans", a most excellent and amusing work that we wished was published in **Wild Heirs** instead of **APAK**. Victor prefaces his remarks about my fanfic series, "The Hotdog Wars," by stating that when they were writing "The X-Fans" they were working under the impression there was some sort of conflict between Ken Forman and myself. While such an assumption isn't totally out of the realm of possibility, in this case, it was incorrect.

They thought Ken was "*turning his back on fanzine fandom, and that he was being ostracized by the Vegrants because of that.*" Again, incorrect. If you examine the last two or three WHs you'll notice Ken is still contributing to our effort, maybe with even more frequency than before, and was never close at any time to turning his back of fanzine fandom. In Victor's analysis of my Hotdog Wars series he made a key error which swings the rest of his commentary askew, leading him in the wrong direction and to the wrong conclusions. Now, in Victor's next paragraph, according to Victor, Ken goes from turning his back on fanzine fandom to "*Forman was not moving against fanzine fandom -- he was moving toward club fandom.*" None of us here in Las Vegas were aware that Ken was moving anywhere, but that didn't seem to stop Victor who went on to write that I've redirected my energy towards Forman's goals. I suppose Victor will be happy to know how wrong he was and will no longer have to worry about what "*we did to offend him.*"

I'm not offended, not in the least, and I hope you're not when you continue to

read the truth about what's been going on in Las Vegas fandom that has Victor all astir and afraid that we're going stop production of our personal zines. Victor believes that the rest of Vegas fandom will follow my supposed lead and drop all our fannish fanac to rush to the aid of our sf club. Victor wonders why a fanzine with 23 editors isn't a fucking big enough club for us. Victor hopes we can pull the club renaissance thing off and still do fanac, but he's not putting any money on it. He wonders, at the base of it, if we've simply realized that we couldn't make it in the straight (fannish) world.

Now, if you look back you can see how Victor may have worked himself up like this over what he thinks is true, but in actuality is merely his own delusional observations of actions, declarations, and events that never occurred or were so drastically misinterpreted that he's now led to believe that we're a dying, insular, backpatting fandom everyone is going to have to endure. But that's Victor. He isn't known for his dangerous edge by writing travelogues and meekly agreeing to everything Andy tells him.

What Victor doesn't know is that all of this started happening about a year and a half ago between SilverCon 3 and Corflu Vegas, when on one afternoon after consulting the pipe extensively I came up with the idea of taking over Snaffu so we could use the money in the treasury to buy grass for Corflu Vegas. That was the plan from the beginning, so those many days ago, despite Arnie and Joyce laughing at me and my ridiculous idea. Well, they were laughing more with me than at me, and though we agreed the idea was grand, it was never going to happen because none of us wanted to deal with Snaffu and all its painful particulars.

I guess it's just good living, I don't

know, but it's all seemed to work out quite nicely. Peggy Kurrila is no longer president, having stepped down and aside so Ken can take his rightful place. Ken is now president, Joyce vp, JoHn and I handle the public relations, and Ben is now treasurer. All of this happened in three short weeks, everything sliding into place with deceptive ease. It's all come full circle now, a year and a half later, and while it's too late to take advantage of our situation for Corflu Vegas, Toner's just seven months away and with Ben being a "very good friend," and a Vegrant, we should have a suitable connection lined up in plenty of time.

Putting Victor's fears to rest will take more then this article/letter, but **Brodie #4** is only hours away from being DP'd, and when I get paid on the 8th of February, mailed out. Along with an accompanying **Brodie #5**, just to get the ball rolling again, and with WH coming out monthly, **Situation Normal** having passed hands from Joyce to Aileen Forman, Joyce now has the time to continue with **Spindizzy**, though she's also talking about doing some sort of newszine. Ken Forman is already talking about a new fanzine, putting **Dalmation Alley** on ice, and someday, maybe soon, we'll see another issue of **Rant**. Come Corflu Nashville we hope to see Ben and Cathi's next installment of **Vows**, whether they attend or not, and as far as Victor's concerned, though he's wrong, I still think he's a pretty interesting guy and he's more than welcome to leave Andy in Seattle and come down for Toner to help us enjoy our spoils. We won't even make him join our club.