

VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

Las Vegas Fandom's Sorta Weekly Newszine

Happy Holidays!

If I don't watch out, I'll have to remove "Sorta" from the slogan under the VFW logo. Of course, once I do, that'll be the week I loaf and don't do one.

I put "Sorta" in the slogan because, fanzine name aside, I thought *Vegas Fandom Weekly* would appear frequently or maybe sporadically. Possibly occasionally.

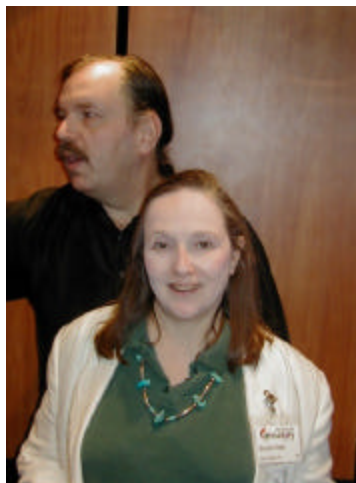
I didn't reckon on the tremendous response to the fanzine, the strong support I have received, the upswing in Vegas fanac and my own rising enthusiasm for the project. It would be an understatement to say that I am very pleased.

I can't make any promises — we insurgents are notoriously flighty — but if the response continues strong, I'm going to pump out a lot more issues in 2005.

I'd like to get more fans involved, though. So if you are in a club, tell me about the meeting you just attended and the one coming up next. If you go to a convention, share your experiences like Woody Bernardi and Teresa Cochran did after LosCon. If there's something happening in your life, tell me about it.

Open House on New Year's Eve

The Christmas Party is history, but the



Arnie and Joyce look forward to seeing you New Year's Eve.

celebration continues unabated. Joyce and I will again host a New Years Eve "Open House" for Las Vegas fans. We invite fans to stop by, get a little nosh and push on to the next party or whatever. (We'll watch the ball drop at 9 in New York City and then again for the local festivities at midnight, so it's fine if you want to hang out for the night.)

You don't have to bring anything but your good spirits. (Any food or drink you may want to share is gratefully accepted.)

We'd appreciate it if non-Vegrants call before they come calling. The number is 648-5677.

The Kunkels Host Post-Christmas

Bill and Laurie Kunkel continued a multi-year tradition with a "Day-After-Christmas" Open House for friends and family. Good food, a very friendly crowd and the chance to

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Special Thanks to Alan White (all photos), Ross Chamberlain (art) and Joyce Katz (roofreading) Reporters this issue: Roxanne Gibbs, Joyce Katz, Woody Bernardi and Michael Bernstein.

VFW is free for the asking — and you may get it anyway. It can be downloaded at the SNAFFU and VSFA websites as well as at efanazines.com

Members (and Co-Past Presidents, 2003): fwa. Supporter: AFAL.

Contact Information

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gaze at the Kunkels' striking Christmas tree were among the attractions.

Among the fannish visitors, besides Joyce and me, were Woody Bernardi and Derek Stazenski.

SNACOA Folds Its Tent

The Southern Nevada Alliance of Clubs, Organizations and Associations (SNACOA), started by Joshua Andrews has officially disbanded after nearly two weeks of verbal activity. The Founder didn't go into his reasons, but they probably boil down to the general disinterest in the proposal and lack of any obvious purpose for another fan club in Las Vegas.

Joshua is a member of quite a few local clubs and it is hoped that this very minor setback won't keep him from joining in their activities.

Trek Experience Outing Is in the Works

A fan outing to see *The Star Trek Experience* is in the formative stages. Woody Bernardi is the instigator.

Woody wants to know how many would be interested. There is a strong

possibility of a discount/ If you'd like to get in on this or just find out more, contact Woody at: woodybernardi@yahoo.com

Anyone for Poker?

JoHn Hardin is looking for fans who'd like to play a little friendly poker about once a month with a congenial group. The previous series of poker games, which included people like Ken Forman and Ben Wilson, but

died out when so many of the players moved. Among those looking to play this time are Bill Kunkel, Derek Stazenski and Stan the Inferno.

If you'd like more info about what ought to be a pretty entertaining group, contact JoHn Hardin at: fractal_zero@yahoo.com.

SNAFFU Meeting Report: December 24

The email announcement of the December 24th SNAFFU meeting surprised me, since Michael Bernstein had made quite a point of telling everyone at the last SNAFFU meeting that



Stan the Inferno and his (relatively) new bride TinTin stand still for Alan White's camera at the Christmas party.

there wouldn't be one on that date.

"We really should go," I told Joyce. "I owe it to the Vast Readership of *Vegas Fandom Weekly* to be there, especially since so many will be celebrating Christmas Eve."

"Yes," the High Priestess acknowledged. "It's like the *goyim* lighting Sabbath stoves for Orthodox Jews or Jewish doctors working on Christmas and Easter."

We got a couple of email retractions, letters that claimed there was, in fact, no meeting. We knew the fans who sent those letters, so we tended to trust their sincerity if not their accuracy. "Perhaps Michael Bernstein and Linda Bushyager are simply miss-informed," Joyce said, reassuringly as we climbed into the car to make the trip.

Sure enough, we found most of the chairs occupied by the time we got there. I didn't see any of the other regulars, not even Michael Bernstein and Darmon Thornton, so Joyce seized control of the club in what she called "a unilateral friendly takeover." As Acting President, Joyce declared Martial Law, suspended elections for the duration and burned the Reichstag and declared her birthday, January 9, as a Las Vegas Fandom mandatory day of celebration.

I was disappointed, to say the least, when Joyce appointed one of the newcomers acting Vice President just because he came from Hollywood. ("Who could be an acting VP better than an actor?" she asked rhetorically. All her questions during the meeting were rhetorical, which confused Greg Benford and earned him a *klop* on the head with the SNAFFU Talking Stick.

"I've seen that Talking Stick for 14 years and it still hasn't said anything interesting," Joyce said. "It took me to finally find a good use for it.") I was glad that Bob Silverberg



and Andy Hooper were there to carry Greg out to where the ambulance took him for emergency treatment.

I got a measure of satisfaction when the *Veep-for-a-night* referred to his recent victory at the Gay Mr. Olympia competition, frustrating Joyce's not-so-hidden post-meeting agenda for him. It's a pity you weren't there, Woody, because he was really starved for someone to talk Eastern Orthodox theology with him. I just wish I could remember his name....

Some attendees seemed to find the presence of Jenna Jameson somewhat distracting. The former adult film performer said she has always liked science fiction and, now that she is no longer spending her time in front of the camera, is looking forward to many stimulating discussions with Dave Gordon,

Penn Gillette did several astonishing tricks. He offered to make SNAFFU disappear, but Joyce told him he was too late. He enjoyed the evening so much, he decided to extend it by taking everyone to The Palm steakhouse for dinner.

Just as we were about to depart for the restaurant, the ghost of Robert A. Heinlein materialized in the center of the circle and blessed us all, every one. Then Oprah Winfrey showed up and gave everything to eve-

Club Calendar

Las Vegrants December 31 7:30 PM
The Open House replaces the month's first Vegrants meeting.

VSFA January 3 7:30 PM
This formal SF club meets at the Clark County Library on the first Monday of each month.

SNAFFU January 14 8:00 PM
This formal SF club meets the second and fourth Friday's of each month. This time, it will be held at Borders bookstore on Sahara at 8:00 PM

Ross Chamberlain is one of fandom's all-time great artists, a frequent collaborator in my fanzine projects and, I am proud to say, a friend of nearly 40 years' standing.

One of the fringe benefits of this friendship is that I get really great greeting cards from him. I thought this year's Christmas card was so excellent that I asked Ross for permission to share a version of it with you.

This isn't exactly the card I received, but it's the same general idea. I think it's his best yet — and that's saying something.

If you'd like to check out Ross' unbelievably diverse portfolio, go to his site: Rossworx.net. It's definitely worth a whole bunch

I consulted with myself and agreed with me that it was high time...



ryone for free.

See what happens when you miss a SNAFFU meeting?

(Author's Note: The preceding story may be a pack of lies.)

Bye for Now!

I've actually got more stuff to share, but

the bottom of page four looms. That means it's time to close up for the week and get this out to all of you.

I'll be back on January 5, with more news and reports (if you send them) and quite possibly a few intriguing surprises.

Happy New Year!

— Arnie