

VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

Las Vegas Fandom's Sorta Weekly Newszine

Vegrants Grill Hastings or Some Like It Hot

Lots of food, bolstered by Woody Bernardi's lavish donation of cheese and Kent Hastings's donation of oatmeal raisin cookies, a varied array of music and a lot of talk about tsunamis, music, film and computers kept a smallish meeting of Las Vegrants entertained on Saturday night.

James Taylor returned to the Vegrants after a long hiatus and arrived first, followed shortly thereafter by Ross Chamberlain, JoHn Hardin, Kent Hastings and Woody Bernardi. Several Vegrants were out of town this weekend and a few others suffered last-minute changes of plans that frustrated their intention to attend.

Kent's decision to run for vice president of SNAFFU drew some good-natured chiding. He professed shock when we told him that Darmon Thornton, unlike him, actually *wants* to be elected.

Kent expressed confidence in his ability to dissuade the SNAFFU electorate from casting its votes in his direction. He seemed a lot less sure after I told him that I

had run for, and won, the presidency of FAPA (Fantasy Amateur Press Association) despite a campaign that included a threat to change the name of Fandom's oldest amateur press association to the "Fantastic Amateur Press Association." Kent promised to redouble his efforts and is expected to produce a very interesting platform statement for a near-future VFW.

Both James Taylor and Kent Hastings are apostles of "open" software in general and Linux in particular. Joyce and I, non-techie users to the core, trembled as unfamiliar software package names flew through the air. No one was injured, though Joyce's computer is now *pouting* at the lack of all this powerful, if exotic, software.

Nerds Rule at SNAFFU

"Will nerds rule the earth?" was the main discussion topic at a lively meeting of SNAFFU. The group seemed about equally divided between fans who feel that nerds will triumph because they are nerds and those who feel that society will co-opt anything valuable geek culture produces. Kent Hast-

Vegas Fandom Weekly #9 January 19, 2005, is written and produced by Arnie Katz (PMB 152, 330 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107; Email: crossfire4@cox.net; phone: 702-648-5677).

Special Thanks to Joyce Katz (proofreading)

Reporters this issue: Roxanne Gibbs, Woody Bernardi and Joyce Katz

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 efanzines.com

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

Contact Information

Las Vegrants Hosts: Arnie & Joyce Katz, PMB 152, 330 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas 89107
Email: JoyceWorley1@cox.net
Phone: 648-5677

SNAFFU President:: Michael Bernstein
Email: webmaven@cox.net
Phone: 765-7279

VSFA Director: Woody Bernardi
Email: woodybernardi@yahoo.com
Phone: 327-3154

ings championed the cause of Nerd-dom most eloquently, while Kathryn Daugherty and I expressed the more pessimistic view.

Joyce contented herself with bleak visions of a coming apocalypse that she hoped she wouldn't live to see. She also passed out another issue of *Hard Science Tales*, so we will forgive her, provisionally.

President Michael Bernstein opened nominations for this year's election of SNAFFU officers. The final tally will determine the winner at the next meeting, though there will be provision for by-mail voting.

Not surprisingly, Michael and Vice President Darmon Thornton will stand for re-election. Somewhat shockingly, Ron Bushyager will provide the presidential opposition while Kent Hastings decided to run against Darmon. The fan most shocked by this unexpected turn of events will certainly be Ron, who was nominated in absentia by Lori Forbes.

April Reckling used a disparaging comment about SNAFFU in the latest *Las Vegas Weekly* to raise

a couple of dissatisfactions with current state of the club.

The more controversial one involved an allegation, made by a since-departed member, that he was told to muzzle his religious rhetoric during club discussions. The group kicked around the topic and eventually decided that it was probably a simple misconception or miss-communication rather than a deliberate attempt to limit free speech. Everyone agreed we would watch this in the future to prevent inadvertent abrogation of free speech.

Her biggest criticism is the inaccessibility of the mammoth SNAFFU science fiction and fantasy library. Packed away since Ken and Aileen Forman moved to California, the original plans called for building shelves at the home of Michael Bernstein and Roxanne Gibbs. Unfortunately, Roxanne's protracted health problems have made it unwise to have 10,000 dusty books too close to her.

April's prodding resulted in a promise by Michael to come up with a plan for



This was supposed to be a photo of Alan White, rather than a cartoon by him. My web search produced 130 pages of Alan White photos — all of them depicting the former drummer of Yes. He does kinda look like our Alan in his contemporary pictures, but I'm going with the illo. Now if I could remember why I needed to print the photo...

Exploring Fandom: *The Enchanted Duplicator*

Fandom has produced a tremendous range of literature. You give intelligent, verbal folks 75 years and they will come up with some fairly compelling stuff. Fandom has produced reams of delightful personal meanderings, formal essays, fan fiction (fiction about fans and fandom), humor and even poetry and songs.

One work stands above them all. It isn't the longest, the funniest or maybe even the best that fandom has produced, but no work says more about what it means to be a fan. It's called *The Enchanted Duplicator* – and it's nothing less than Fandom's universally recognized prose epic. Walter A. Willis and Bob Shaw, two fans in Northern Ireland, wrote it 50 years ago and it has been reprinted at least eight times since. (I co-edited one edition with rich brown in 1971 that featured artwork by Ross Chamberlain.)

There's an edition of it that is exceptionally easy to read on screen available at: <http://www.qui-gonline.org/features/dupe.htm>. Another edition, found at http://fanac.org/fanzines/Enchanted_Duplicator/Enchanted-00.html has gorgeous art by Dan Steffan and photos by Madeleine Willis.

The Enchanted Duplicator tells the story of Jophan's journey from his home in Mundane to the Mountain of Trufandom in his quest for the Enchanted Duplicator. It is an allegory of every fan's growth from neo to a full member of the subculture. In a series of humorous encounters, Jophan meets a wide variety of fan types, including some that provide instructive lessons about what *not* to do in fandom.

Although Willis and Shaw keep the tone light with many jokes, puns and amusing allusions, *The Enchanted Duplicator* has serious underlying themes. Fandom has evolved quite a bit since the first publication of *TED*, but its universal concepts are still highly relevant to Fandom in the 21st Century.

Fundamentally, *The Enchanted Duplicator* is a highly entertaining short story that should strike a chord with any real fan. That's fortunate, because no one is truly a Fan until they have read this masterwork and understood its message.



Shown here: Ross Chamberlain sketch of a Magrevoo, which menaces Jophan during his perilous journey.

setting up the library so that members can make use of this important club resource. The most likely solution is rental of a storage area, available to those who want to check out books.

Lori Forbes called for a renewed empha-

sis on book discussion. Michael pointed out that aversion to reading an assigned book had led to mass avoidance of meetings at which such reading was a prerequisite.

I suggested a compromise: have those who want to read a particular book under-

take to present a panel discussion. If more than four fans — pretty much the ideal panel size — read the book, they can ask questions and make contribute to the discussion from the audience. The club has four copies of Elizabeth Bear's first novel in paperback, so that may be the guinea pig book.

That's fine, though I would also like to see such panels discuss some of the classics. I'd think quite a few SNAFFUties have read the Foundation Trilogy, *Man in the High Castle* or *Stranger in a Strange Land*, so more fans might participate in the discussion.

Many club members would like to see more and wider participation at the meetings. More advance planning and pre-meeting publicity are apt to be the best way to achieve that goal.

That's probably an area in which VFW will be able to help a little. Look for advance information about SNAFFU (and other) meetings and events Right Here. Well, maybe a page forward or back, but Damn Close to Here in the final analysis.

Warren Harris, a fanzine fan from San

Francisco, came to the meeting with local resident Shane Roth. The former is encouraged to visit again, while the latter looks like a great newcomer for SNAFFU if he continues to attend meetings. (You can read or download the electronic version of Warren's pulp-oriented fanzine *Back Numbers* at the free fanzine online newsstand, www.efanzines.com.)

Other not already mentioned who attended the meeting were: James Taylor, Dave Gordon, Gino and Juliet Ruiz and Kent Hastings.

Hambly to Make Vegas Appearance

Author Barbara Hambly will be visiting Las Vegas to plug her new book, *The Emancipator's Wife: A Novel of Mary Todd Lincoln*. She will do a reading at the Clark County Library's Jewel Box Theater (1401 East Flamingo Rd.) at 2 PM on January 30.

Hambly will sign copies of *any* of her books at the reading. There will also be an opportunity to buy some of her titles.

Try Your (Pot)luck on Game Day!

Ron and Linda Bushyager will host a Game Day with a Potluck Supper at their home on February 20. Fans will dine on spaghetti and play a selection of board and card games.

You can get more details by writing to Linda at: LindaBushyager@aol.com (Cooperation permitting, VFW will have more details of the event as it comes together over the next few weeks.)

Anyone for a brisk game of *Dungeon*?

All Good Things Come to an End...

... and so do things like this issue of *Vegas Fandom Weekly*. I'll be back in a week with a new assortment of goodies including a report on the *Star Trek Experience* event, a tarot reading for Las Vegas Fandom, the latest news and possibly a couple of new features.

Tell your friends — and tell me your news via phone or email. — Arnie Katz

Club Calendar

SNAFFU January 28 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 (Stephanie & Sunset), Henderson. at 8:00 PM.

Las Vegrants February 5 7:30 PM

The informal, invitational club returns to its regular meeting schedule.

VSFA February 7 7:30 PM

This formal club meets at the Clark County Library on the first Monday of each month.

Las Vegas Futurists Feb. 11 7:00 PM

This discussion group looks to the world of tomorrow on the second Friday of each month at Borders bookstore (2190 N. Rainbow Blvd.)