

VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

Las Vegas Fandom's Sorta Weekly Newszine

SNAPS Is Off to Great Start!

A Ross Chamberlain cover depicting a fannish publishing session graced the front cover of the first distribution of the Southern Nevada Amateur Press Associate (SNAPS). Official Editor Joyce Katz, assisted by several helpful fans, collated the new group's first distribution at the 4/8 Westside SNAFFU meeting.

Responding to Joyce's combination of cheerleading, nagging and not-so-veiled threats, 10 contributors combined to produce a 26-page disty, an excellent showing for the kick-off.

Two Las Vegas fans, Lori Forbes and Teresa Cochran, capitalized on the opportunity to produce their very first fanzines. The mailing also saw the return to publishing for Linda Bushyager, James Taylor and Ross. Other contributors to SNAPS inaugural disty were: Joyce Katz, Woody Bernardi, JoHn Hardinm Kathryn Daughterty and (inevitably) me. James had the distinction of submitting the first SNAPS contribution. Linda and Ross tied for the largest SNAPSzines, at four pages each.

SNAPS

Distribution #1 April 2005



"I want to thank everyone for giving this a chance," said Joyce after she handed out the



Small Changes, No Worries

Welcome to the “coming of age” issue of *Vegas Fandom Weekly*. That’s 21 newszines in 21 weeks with nary a skip. (Every time I start to think about goofing off, I look at all the stuff I want to share with you and crank up the DTP software.)

Almost makes me feel confident enough to remove “Sorta” from the slogan, but I think I’ll go a little longer without tempting the faanish fates.

Publishing a fanzine like this is a tightrope act. If the work gets too hard, the editor falters and the zine dies. If it gets too easy, the editor gets bored and the fanzine dies.

My solution is to tweak the design every 10 issues to keep from falling into a rut. That’s why there are some changes this time. I don’t think any of them will be especially disorienting, but if you feel dizzy, read this issue lying down.

disties. “Now lets see whether people keep it up for the second distribution.”

She went on to encourage all local fans, not just SNAFFU members, to contribute to the second distribution, which will take place at the May 12 Westside SNAFFU meeting.

Joyce also said that she planned to write comments on the mailing as part of the next *Hard Science Stories*. Several others vowed to do likewise, so the outlook is optimistic. She also re-enforced earlier statements that the mailings will be

posted in electronic form only at the SNAFFU website so that SNAPS members can develop their expertise without lots of prying eyes.

If you’d like to take part, I have an informational flyer on .pdf that I’ll gladly send out upon request. You can also get in touch with Joyce at: joyceworley1@cox.net.



Fans Are Ready to Rock On the Big Weekend!

The weekend of April 16-17 is finally here and all of Las Vegas Fandom is ready for all-out fanac in one of the city’s biggest two-day spree in local fanhistory.

Thanks to coordination and cooperation, there are three great events, each differ-

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Vegas Fandom Weekly #21, April 13, 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 Alan White (photos). Joyce Katz (proofreading) and Woody Bernardi (Star Reporter).

Reporters this issue: David Gordon, Robert Lichtman, Linda Bushyager, Kathryn Daugherty 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 efanazines.com. No Aliens were harmed in the preparation of this fanzine.

Member: fwa. Supporter: AFAL.

Fannish Religions — Arnie Katz

The newest generation of Las Vegas fans often talks about religion, so here's a piece that may open new vistas for those seeking that ideal denomination.

Fans, especially the pioneering ones in the 1930's, generally respected science and logic, giving more weight to factual proof than cherished belief. That is only to be expected of those who are willing to defy the world by reading "that crazy Buck Rogers stuff."

So although many fans claimed a religious affiliation (often Jewish or Catholic), few fans went in for a lot of actual religion.

A few, such as the flaming idealists who clustered around Donald A. Wolheim in the mid-to-late 1930's and early 1940's, subscribed to the belief that organized religion is the opiate of the people and took a more antagonistic attitude. They concocted a burlesque of religion that they dubbed "GhuGhuism." It's tenets are a little murky, because only a few chapters of its Gholy Ghible were ever actually published, but Don Wolheim was its ghod. (And that's where all those extra "H"es come from.)

Jack Speer, and others who held a less harsh view of religion, retaliated with FooFooism, which was more of a send-up of GhuGhu-ism than a parody of religion itself.

GooFooists claimed that Wolheim wasn't really ghod; their deity was a beetle-like monster inhabiting the subside of the planet Vulcan.

The sacred foo cat smiled upon worshippers, unlike the scary GhuGhu. FooFoo was closely associated with the use of the hectograph and the spirit duplicator (as opposed to the mimeograph, which was guarded over by GhuGhu in all his awesomeness.)

Lee Hoffman reinvented the whole idea of fannish religions circa 1950s. Instead of Wolheim's perpetual anger, she brought a wonderful sense of humor and a Trufannish love for fellow fans to the topic. She championed Ghu as the god of Fandom, but this turned out to be a much more benevolent deity than DAW's version.

For a time, Ghu and FooFoo proselytized fans without much competition. Then Art Rapp brought forth Roscoe. The plucky Beaver quickly found favor with fans and became the third major religion. (There are some minor ones, such as Pthallo, invented by Karen Anderson. Pthallo's sacred color is blue, so Karen always printed her fanzines, mostly for SAPS and FAPA, with that color ink.)

Roscoe has made great strides in recent years, thanks largely to the zeal of Andy Hooper. Of course, it's all in good fun and the "controversy" is not really seirous.

And then there was the time that John Trimble, frustrated by the inability of the Navy guy who was guiding him through his application form to understand the concept of Agnosticism, spontaneously invented the Great God Agnos... —Arnie



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ent and special, to tempt people out of their homes. (Maybe even Don Miller, but who can say...)

First up, starting at noon on Saturday and running to 5:00 PM, is the **Daugherty Open House & Pool Party**. (See *Kathryn Daugherty's piece at the top of page 5 for lots of details.*)

This is the first time James and Kathryn Daugherty have invited Vegas Fandom to their home since moving here from San Francisco. They're a charming couple and know how to host, so it's not surprising that the advance attendance count is now close to 30!

It's open to all fans, so RSVP to Kathryn at: kd9@jsd.com. She'll also provide directions to the house.

After all the food

and fun in the sun at the Daugherty's, it's time to head over to the Westsideto enter the zone of hedonism and Trufannishness (with just a spicy hint of Insurgentism) at the **Las Vegrants Open Meeting**. Those

who've attended parties at the Launch Pad (our home at 909 Eugene Cernan Street) know that it's informal, relaxed and ablaze with fannish chitterchatter.

It's a good opportunity to get to know some of Glitter City's most active and accomplished fans a little better. As at all Vegrants Open Meetings, the living room, kitchen and dining room will be smoke free. Smokers will have a room inside and can also use the backyard.

Contributions of food and drink are delightful, but not necessary.

Non-Vegrants are encouraged to RSVP to Joyce



Alan White is shown here with legendary B-Movie Diva Sybil Danning.

Daugherty Pool Partty Preview — Kathryn Daugherty

All Las Vegas fen are cordially invited to a Pool Party at our home in Henderson on Saturday, April 16, 2005, from Noon to 6 pm. An RSVP to my email (kd9@jsd.com) would be appreciated so that I don't fix enough food for 100 and force you all to take the leftovers home.

The following food will be available: Hamburgers, chicken, marinated flank steak, potato salad, cole slaw, deviled eggs, chips, veggies, dips, cheese, crackers, and cookies. Coke and water.

You do not need to bring anything unless you would like something else to drink. We do not have any diet sodas here (except water). I will be glad to add other items to eat if you are allergic to all of the above or you would prefer something not on the list.

I passed out maps at the SNAFFU meeting last night. If you did not get one, I would be glad to send you a .PDF, if you email me letting me know that you would like one.

We hope to see you next Saturday.

— Kathryn

(joyceworley1@cox.net)

Sunday brings the **April Sunday Social**, the sequel to last month's outstanding event that honored

Joyce Katz. This month's meeting will feature a short, entertaining program about the early days of Las Vegas Fandom.

It's a pretty painless way to absorb some local fanhistory while eating and drinking with your friends in a pleasant venue.

The Sunday Social takes place at The Tap House on 4/17 at 2 PM.

Besides the eating, drinking and non-stop chitterchatter that made the first Sunday Social so enjoyable, the April event will spotlight many of the fans who helped make Vegas Fandom what it is today.

Woody Bernardi heads the sponsoring VSFA, says the welcome mat is out for all Las Vegas fans, both old and new, to

come to this free event.

It all happens on Saturday and Sunday, April 16 and 17. Joyce and I will be at all three, her medical situation permitting, and we look forward to spending time with a great many Vegas fans over those two days (if you are on the Westside and need a ride, that can probably be arranged, too.)

Joyce Katz Avoids Stress — Again!

The nurse had actually injected one of the substances that, combined in the human system, to produce the chemically triggered stress test, when the doctor de-

ecided to cancel the test. He felt that the first test, upon examination, showed enough evidence of a problem that Joyce should proceed to an angiogram (and a likely angioplasty).

I SHALL RULE THE
WORLD, BUT FIRST
I MUST CORRECT
ITS GRAMMAR



Continued on page 7

SNAFFU (4/8) Meeting Report — Arnie Katz

The first distribution of SNAPS, the new local apa, added some excitement to the 4/8 SNAFFU meeting, held at Borders Bookstore on Sahara. Joyce and I arrived early so she could collect the contributions, so we knew that both enthusiasm for the group and the page count of its first distribution had exceeded expectations. Joyce postponed handing out copies until near the end of the meeting or we might all have wound up with our noses buried in the 26-page SNAPS #1.

President Michael Benstein banged the metaphorical gavel a few minutes after the scheduled 8 PM start time. The wisdom of patience became obvious when a wave of slightly tardy (but still lovable) fans filled in all of the available chairs by about 10 minutes past the hour.

Joyce Kohler, who debuted at the David Brin event, was an early arrival, too. That gave her a chance to meet Joyce Katz, with whom she shares not only a given name, but a middle name and surname initial. Joyce magnanimously permitted the newcomer to retain her current name.

My enthusiasm got the better of me when Michael plugged the Daugherty Pool Party on Saturday. I burred that there are *three* major events set for the weekend of April 16-17. I rhapsodized about the Big Weekend, one of the most exciting in Las Vegas fanhistory and exhorted fans to come out for one or all of them — and to check *VFW* for all the details.

Talk of all that fanac revved up Woody Bernardi who offered intriguing details about the First Annual Las Vegas Fantasy & Science Fiction Day, which will be held at the Clark County Library on April 30, 10:30 AM to 6:00 PM. Woody outlined some of the program and listed major speakers.

Talk of what SNAFFU should do as a club to support Fantasy & SF Day prompted Linda Bushyager to raise what she considers a prime SNAFFU problem, failure to properly promote the club. Michael countered her criticism of the SNAFFU website for alleged lack of timeliness and scarcity of content, with assertions that he and Roxanne post updates regularly and that they would put up more content if people submitted it.

I agreed that promotion is *an* area that could use more ideas and effort, but added that there are other problems, too. I acknowledged the many recent updates, but also said that vague, mass calls for content don't work; that editors have to make specific requests of individuals to get action. After pointing out the tremendous amount of work Michael and Roxy do for the club, I suggested that he might consider looking to others for assistance.

Several members, including me, looked searchingly at SNAFFU's vice president Kent Hastings, who appears to have a computer growing out of one of his hands. It seems likely that either he or Linda will help Michael maintain the site.

Some asked for something that already exists: reports of the meetings. *Vegas Fandom Weekly* seldom lets a SNAFFU meeting pass without a full report. While this newszine belongs to all of Vegas Fandom, not any one club, it publicizes and reports SNAFFU more fully than any incarnation of *SitNorm*, the club's suspended newsletters. (I also have no objection to the SNAFFU site posting meeting reports from *VFW* once the next *VFW* is posted there.)

Several members suggested that the club appoint a secretary to report on meetings for the site. Unfortunately, very few fans go to both the Westside and Eastside meetings — and none of them wants to be secretary. If the SNAFFU site reprinted the reports from *VFW*, members would have them no more than 10 days after the meeting, pretty timely compared to the old *SitNorm*. Why add to the bureaucracy?

The night's major topic was "The Future of the Police State," which got off to a bad start and never did become a discussion about police states in science fiction. Almost everyone agreed that the future looks very bright for police states, so I guess parents of kids who show signs of ability as thugs, snitches, weasels and sadists ought to point them in that career path.

After the meeting, many of the attendees accompanied Ron & Linda Bushyager to the Palms for the best kind of dinner — free. Other at the meeting were: Darmon Thornton, Shane Roth, Rachel Mainz, John Hardin and Woody Bernardi. — Arnie

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The lab doctor will confer with Joyce's cardiologist and, if they come to a unified conclusion, will probably fast-track her for the surgery. It may take place as soon as next week.

SNAFFU Plans Book Giveaway!

Roxanne Gibbs and John Hardin have come up with a clever way to help SNAFFU attract new members at the First Annual Fantasy & Science Fiction Day and other forthcoming fan events.

SNAFFU is going to give away books, each of which will have a SNAFFU bookmark with the club's contact information. Anyone who takes a book will get the bookmark (and its pitch).

Since SNAFFU doesn't want to deplete its club library, the idea is to have members donate the books that will be distributed at the one-day event. If you'd like to help SNAFFU by giving a few books, contact Roxanne (missroxanne@cox.net) for more information.

Las Vegas Fantasy & Science Fiction Day is jointly sponsored by the city's three major fan clubs, VSFA, SNAFFU and Las Vegrans. The one-day convention will be

held at the Clark County Library at 11 E. Flamingo Rd. It is located at the corner of Escondido (1 block East of Maryland Pkwy).

The convention is scheduled for Saturday, April 30. The official opening is set for 10:30 AM and the program will run until

TODAY FANDOM!
TOMORROW
SOMETHING ELSE!



SNAFFU Members: Air Your Beefs!

SNAFFU has experienced a little ambivalence at recent meetings when members have brought forward criticisms about the club. I think everyone wants to bring complaints into the light so that they can be discussed, evaluated and, possibly, remedied, yet there is antipathy toward having such discussion, which sometimes get heated, in lieu of other club activities likely to be more interesting to the newer members. I'm not saying that's my point of view — personally, I think new members should see older ones having this kind of involvement — but it is a noticeable attitude at meetings.

So, as a compromise, I'm inviting, even encouraging, members of SNAFFU to send their criticisms, hopefully constructive and with some idea about resolution, to VFW. I'll be glad to run such material and give space for further discussion going forward.

All ideas aren't necessarily good ideas, of course, but I don't see any virtue in nursing secret dissatisfactions when they are often so easy to fix.

Consider this a challenge to speak your mind. We all want the same thing, a better club, but it takes a little effort to make it happen

— Arnie

Las Vegas Futurists (4/8) Meeting Report — David Gordon

Twenty-three (23) members of the **Las Vegas Futurists** gathered at *Palace Station Hotel* for a buffet dinner on Friday evening, 8 April. After dinner, we moved to a conference room where *John Smart*, founder of the **Acceleration Studies Foundation (ASF)** (<http://www.accelerating.org/>), inculcated us with his vision of the future, **Creating the Symbiotic Age: Activism**. *Iveta Brigis* ably aided and abetted John's presentation.

The ASF explains its purpose thusly (from its website): The ASF Tagline is "Awareness | Analysis | Forecasting | Action." We explore the rapid present and faster future of our increasingly technological and computational world via four key processes: improving public awareness, data-driven analysis, technological and social forecasting, and concrete plans of action with regard to accelerating processes of change.

John's presentation exceeded 2 ½ hours, as we explored a gamut of relevant topics, including education, globalism, *NGOs* (non-governmental organizations), business, technology, singularity, and tools for apprehending and managing the diluvian flood of information that fast approaches the shores of our minds and bodies. (John promises that he will upload soon to the ASF website the PowerPoint slideshow.) John's knowledge about these topics, and others, seemingly knows no boundaries, as he answered many questions that at times became tangential to the topic at hand. John also is obviously passionate about the future; a passion I daresay became contagious among us, his listeners. The 'sense of wonder' for the future that John imbued for each participant would resonate for any fan of Science Fiction.

This meeting further served to remind me once again of the intelligence of each participant. But this time, due to the better opportunity to mingle, I was equally surprised to learn the occupations (and former occupations) of the group's members; no mundane careers here!

It is *probable* that *Gilda Cabral*, moderator of the **LV Futurists** <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lvfuturists/> will permanently change the meeting venue. It also is *possible* that the schedule will change to the first Friday of each month. This latter change would allow for more cross-pollination between members of the **Futurists** and **SNAFFU**. Whether these changes occur, I suggest you attend at least one meeting to have a better lock on that light at the end of the tunnel, the future.

The speaker for the 13 May meeting is Ted Kaehler. He will lead the discussion of **On Intelligence** by *Jeff Hawkins – A Book Review*. Now that is one topic — intelligence — I welcome! See you there. --David M Gordon

about 6:00 PM.

Meetings of both SNAFFU and Las Vegrants will be held in conjunctions with LV Fantasy & Science Fiction Day, the largest fan-run general convention since Silvercon 4.

VSFA Takes Star Trek Poll!

When *Enterprise* winds up this spring, the *Star Trek* franchise will be quiet

for the first time in more than a generation. Perhaps this is a temporary hiatus and *Trek* will fly again, but it's at least a Significant Pause.

What better time, VSFA decided, to take a look back at the tremendous body of work and discover which permutation of *ST* fans liked the best.

If you want to chime in with your choice, the URL is: <http://groups.yahoo.com/>

group/VegasSFAssociation/surveys?
id=1661886.

Chatback... the VFW Letter Column

This installment of Chatback starts with a letter that covers no fewer than five issues of VFW. Good thing we have the winner of the "Best Letterhack" FAAn Award for 2004 to write it...

Lloyd Penney/

As always, we are not masters of our time, especially our spare time, as others seem willing and able to rush in and fill it for us. Such is my lot these days. I just finished a daytime assignment with Tourism Toronto, and I now have a nighttime job with The Globe and Mail newspaper, entering appointment notices into their website. I have some money now, but time is in short supply. This will now change until I can get some more day time work, so while I work to make that happen, I can catch up on some zines. I am so far behind... Here are some comments on Vegas Fandom Weekly, issues 11, 12, 13 and 14.

11...After so many organizations being societies and clubs, I like the word League. Knowing what I do of fannish history, I like the idea of a Science Fiction League. The word resounds of action, while societies and clubs remind me of knitting circles and drudge-like assemblies.

I've won a couple of chili contests in my day... here are some ingredients that might come in handy. Cocoa adds darkness to the chili, and brings out the flavours in the spices. A little honey is good, as is soy sauce or Worcestershire sauce. Even coffee adds some flavour. I prefer fresh-brewed in the pot, although a couple of spoonfuls of instant stirred in will do in a pinch. It's almost easier to tell you what I don't put in it.

12...I'd thought in the past about trying one-day conventions open to the public to bring more people into the fold...not that To-

ronto is short of fans, but it would be nice to see about getting more people to attend conventions and the like. However, the topic almost invariably starts with Trek, and goes from there. When we mention books and fanzines, that blank look almost always appears. So, we chat up people at the existing conventions, and we find a good soul from time to time, and we invite them to the local fannish pubnights. That usually works.

I haven't been in apas for a while now, and I get invites from time to time to join FAPA, or APAPlexy in Ottawa. (Used to belong to the latter some years ago.) More and more people are noticing how much time blogs and lists take, and how little real communicating gets done. Toronto used to have an apa called, to no one's surprise, TAPA, and I had published in it 93 straight issues of my TAPAZine called *Yeggs 'n' Picaroons*. I enjoyed my days in TAPA very much, but I feel that fanzines provide me a large audience. Not much larger, but larger it is.

For Joshua Andrews...weep not for the Trek franchise, for it has been a victim of its own success. With four modern series and a string of financially successful movies, we have become jaded as Trek viewers, and we can pick and choose, and criticize openly. What we need is a hiatus of about four or five years. New ideas will come about, new directions will open, and fresh minds will take the Trek franchise in new directions. The idea of boldly going where no one has gone before is one of the most basic ideas in science fiction or any kind of adventure fiction. That's an idea that's been around for a long time, and it's not likely to fade away any time soon.

One advantage Vegas fandom has is that you and Joyce are willing to tell people about fannish history and why we do what we do, but you also have an audience willing to learn. That makes *The Enchanted Duplicator* come alive again; instead of becoming just another tale the older fans want us to hear. You're lucky; few fans I meet have any inter-

Event Calendar

Daugherty Open House April 16 Noon

All of Vegas Fandom is invited to the home of Kathryn & James Daugherty.

Las Vegrants April 16 7:30 PM

The informal club invites all fans to an Open Meeting at Arnie and Joyce Katz's home..

Sunday Social April 17 2 PM

VSFA is sponsoring this event, open to all Las Vegas fans, at The Tap House. The theme this time is the pioneers of Las Vegas Fandom

SNAFFU April 23 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.

Las Vegas Fantasy & SF Day

April 30 10:30 AM-6:00 PM

A free, one-day convention for all Vegas fans. Woody Bernardi is chairman.

VSFA May 2 7:30 PM

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

Las Vegas Futurists May 13 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.) The featured speaker is Ted Kaehler.

est in history or wonder about the structure of conventions, clubs, and why fandom is the way it is.

Fannish nicknames are not bestowed much these days. The closest I ever came to one was when I chaired the local convention and all the chairmen in that era were given nicknames. Because of my good nature, and the fact that my physique is more rounded than straight, I became the ChairBear. Other chairmen were the ChairBeast, the Chair-Wench and the Comfy Chair.

13...For a club library, I would recommend getting in touch with the Melbourne SF Club, those great people in Oz who produce their fun clubzine *Ethel the Aardvark*, and ask them about their own club library, which has become of a prodigious size. They collect, they store the books in a church base-

ment, and they lend out...they might be able to help you with their own policies about donations, sales, lending out and storage. They're old hands at this.

14...I see there is talk of scheduling meetings of various groups to avoid conflicts. Perhaps this is where Joshua Andrews could come in handy. He seems to be an organizer, so maybe he could serve as calendar man, and every so often send out word of all the groups' meetings for marking up in your PDA.

Another issue of Crazy From The Heat? Wanna see it! A new zine from Yucaipa? Wanna see it! I'm not greedy, I just want it all.

15...Congrats to Joyce for a little honour and a consolation over the game of musical surgeries. Looks like the social calendar in

LV is well under way and a good local, too

Arnie: The idea of fans disinterested in timebinding, once considered a central tenet of the hobby, shows how far some segments of Fandom have drifted.

Part of the reason for BFW is the benefit of coordinating local events to avoid scheduling conflicts. Big Weekend is one of the happy results – three events in two days!

From the examples you gave, I can see why nicknames aren't popular in Toronto. Vegas fan nicknames are often the result of Long Study or maybe long nights in smoky party rooms.

The BBB Fund has Brought Bruce Back to Australia, but he's been keeping in touch. Here's his latest letter of comment:

Bruce Gillespie/gandc@mira.net

VFW 18 is surely a wondrous thing. How much more seems to be going on in any one week in Las Vegas than in Melbourne! Or perhaps nobody is telling me about wild Melbourne parties, in punishment for deserting the place for a month or so.

Thanks for running my letter complete. Since I wrote it in a hurry, I suspected I might have committed some terrible booboo. If it's there, nobody's mentioned it yet. Some nice people have offered photos: Bill Burns, Peter Weston, Pete Young and Mike Deckinger, but still no photos to document the Seattle week.

Also, does anybody have available clear photos of some of the sillier buildings in Las Vegas? My photos of the Excalibur, where I was staying, are not crash hot, and it would be nice if somebody has a photo of that casino with the vast leaping fountains (name?), or of the Luxor. I just want to be able to prove that I have seen the truly unbelievable.

Life has returned to mundanity since returning to Melbourne,

but I keep composing bits of the Trip Report in my head. I suspect I've forgotten all the great dialogue, but I should be able to put something onto paper.

Arnie: One thing overshadowed the rest of your LoC for me, the news that Mike Deckinger, whom I knew in my neofan days when I attended ESFA in Newark, NJ, is still alive. Why hasn't anyone sent me this news? From now on, if you are alive, you need to send me a note every month to confirm your status. (If you're dead, you only have to write every other month.)

OK, all you Vegas fans with digital cameras, how about some photos for Bruce's forthcoming trip report?

And now some words from the President of the NFFF and one of Las Vegas' new fan generation...

Ruth Davidson/

I certainly didn't expect to see an article in my honor! My first VSFA meeting was a lot of fun. Everyone was awesome, especially Joshua Andrews for walking me home (long story).

My daughter loved everyone, too. I was so surprised by how excited and interested she was in everything. It must be because she recognized everyone as awesome Fans. (She's turning two in 3 weeks and normally shy around strangers.)

Isn't it amazing what a few people will do that end up giving a whole organization a less than favorable name? Even now, years later, when the same organization isn't really exactly the same since there are different people in it?

Like any group, there are ups and downs. It's possible when you joined; the Correspondence Bureau was



Mike Deckinger at Corflu 22.)
Photo by Chaz Baden)

at a low activity level (since it really does - at least now - have a different function than the Welcommittee). When I joined N3F for the second time (first time I didn't get it and wasted my membership) I got involved with the Correspondence Bureau (not as the head, but a participant) and I remember receiving 8 to 10 different people to choose for a pen pal! I chose 2 or 3 I believe.

Unfortunately I've lost contact with them all, which was my fault entirely. I never responded back after a few exchanges because I was depressed and dropped the ball on a lot of things. (As you can see, I "got bettah.")

So, things fluctuate in the club. Bureaus and activities come and go, have highs and lows at various times. It all depends on the interests of the club's current members.

Even Vegas Fandom has had its highs and lows, or so you tell me. ;)

It's kinda the same for the club as a whole too. There have been great highs and some really bad lows, but we always end up coming back. It's all good though. I think the club's improved a lot in the last couple of years, but ya know, I'm biased since this is my third consecutive year being President.

Arnie: The 102% neffers are mostly a memory, but the attitudes linger and I still see a castle-under-siege mindset. My point about the two bureaus, as true now as when I said it, is that the Welcommittee could easily absorb the minor functions of the Correspondence Bureau simply by having the lists of new fansindicate which ones wold like to engage in correspondence. It wold get the job done — and there'd be one less chief.

My belief, though I can be convinced otherwise if you want to pursue the discussion, is that N3F members are every bit as intelligent as non-neffers. Since those non-

members negotiate their neofan period just as well and emerge from it more quickly, it appears that the way N3F does things now may be counter-productive to its stated goal of being a Gateway to Fandom.



He's a new VFW reader, but a fine friend of a little over four decades' standing, so here's one of Fandom's all-time greatest cartoonists with a story about another hoax...

Steve Stiles/

swstiles@comcast.net

Thanks for the latest VFW. I envy you for the fannish socialac you always seem to be engaged in. Around here (Baltimore/Baltimore County) that old gang of mine seems to have melted away in recent years due to moves, mor-

tality and career and family concerns. Lately it seems like some local friends we only see at funerals or bat and bar mitzvahs -- no weddings in the foreseeable future, alas.

My earliest encounter with a fannish hoax took place in the late 1950s, when I was exchanging letters with T.H. Milton, of Buddha's Bulletin fame (no doubt few people remember this fanzine, with good reason).

Tom, via the mail had introduced me to two of his local fan friends, Paul Shingleton and Peter Skilton. Soon the four of us were engaged in a round robin. After some time Pete evidently dropped out.

I wrote either Tom or Paul and got the explanation that Peter wouldn't be on this earth for much longer. He was in the hospital, and time was running out. Stricken by this ghastly state of affairs --so young!--I quickly wrote back, asking if there was anything I could do.

I was advised that, even though Peter was dying, he'd appreciate any reading material I might have lying around.

Any old prozines, for example, to take his mind off his impending demise.

I had to wrestle with habitual stinginess,

but in the end I resisted sending all the relatively cheap crap, the pot-boiler Ace Doubles --well, most of them-- and culled some particularly choice goodies from my collection. I mailed them off to the doomed wretch. Maybe my eyes were a bit moist on the way to the post office. I never heard from Peter Skilton again.

That was because, I found out years later, Peter Skilton never existed. Sucker!

As fannish hoaxes go, I don't think it was all that fannish.

Arnie: Of course, that "cheap crap" is now probably on sale on eBay for Big Bucks.

And now, with a first-person hoax story, here's another first-time VFW locker...

Curt Phillips/absarka_prime@comcast.net

I would never have thought that anything could put thoughts of re-joining the N3F back into my head, but your photo on page 7 of *VFW 20* has done the trick. If you'll send that young lady around to collect my dues I'm sure I'll buy a life membership. If Liz will let me, that is...

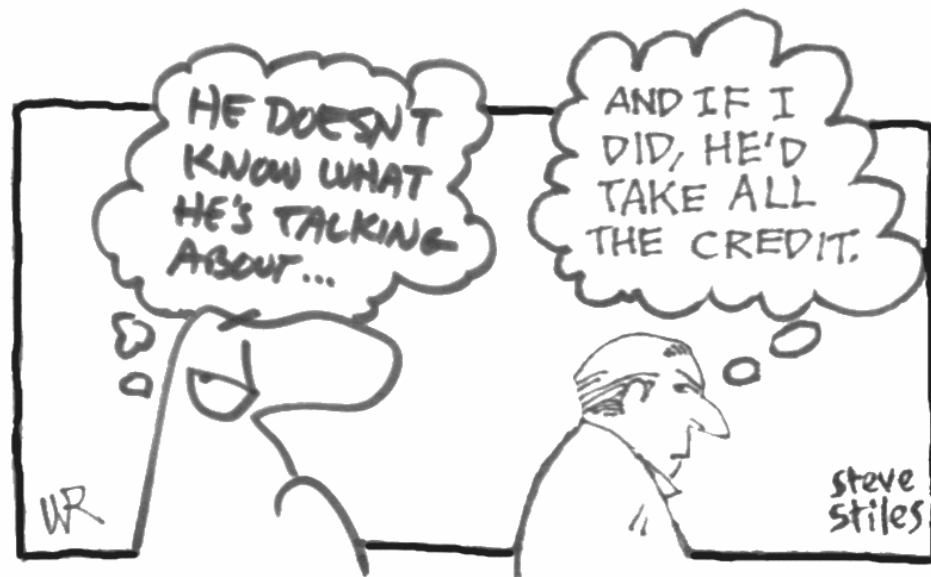
Your article on hoaxes reminds me that I pulled off a successful hoax in one of the apas I was in many years ago. I signed up a hoax member, conducted conversations with him in the apa, and watched as he took on a life of his own. In no time at all I realized that he was more popular than I was in that apa and I quietly tried to get rid of him. That proved more difficult than I'd expected since many of the other apa members wanted to correspond with the hoax rather than with

me. Eventually I got rid of him and decided that I'd learned my lesson; no more hoaxes for me.

Five years later I'm at a convention and while wondering around in the dealer's room I bump into a guy who looked vaguely familiar. Glancing at his nametag I was stunned to see that it carried the exact same name as the hoax fan I'd thought I'd dispatched years before. I stared at him like a deer caught in the headlights while he looks at me with a puzzled expression. He says, "say! I think I know you, don't I?" I assure him that I've just moved here from the Ukraine and that he must be thinking of someone else and run for the door. Haven't seen him since then, but I won't be surprised to see him winning a "Best Fanwriter" Hugo or running against me for TAFF someday. Heck, *I'd* vote for him...

I greatly enjoyed the just concluded run of *BATTLESTAR GALACTICA* and like you noticed the odd little religious aspect. The first time that Baltar's imaginary Cylon friend mentioned her "one God," it occurred to me that the *Galactica* might eventually find Earth only to find it's the home of the "human" Cylons. Now *that* would be discouraging...

I used to work in a couple of movie thea-



ters back in the 80's and while I never heard of a distributor demanding 115% of the box office (highest our theater ever had to pay was 80%) I can see how that could happen. Most theaters make more on the concession sales than on many of the films anyway, and after the first week those percentages drop anyway. I recall that on a 3-week run of an average film we'd typically pay 70% the first week, 50% the second and 30% during the third. In a town with multiple theaters the distributors could make theaters bid against each other to see who'd pay the highest percentage of the gross. That really hit home on films like *The Empire Strikes Back* where we all *knew* that we'd have sold-out shows for weeks. The distributor makes out like a bandit on films like that.

I'd be curious to know more about Jennifer Weber's pulp cover print collection. Is this her own artwork based on pulp characters? "Pulp cover prints" sounds like enlarged prints of pulp covers - something I have a more than passing interest in. Either way, I'm interested. Can you tell us more?

Arnie: Woody's the one with a bead on this, so perhaps he can tell us more in a letter of comment in the next VFW. Hint.

And here, like a warm wind out of the Sunny South, comes the man who virtually invented the idea of fan funds with "WAW with the Crew in '52{...

Shelby Vick/shelvy20012000@yahoo.com

I can't believe it, Arnie --I find no evidence I have written you a loc in WEEKS! What has gotten into me?

Anyway, thanx muchly for the Vegas Weekly! I definitely wanta keep up with what's going on at my Home-Away-From-Home. And what's going on NOW -- wow!

But the big thing in thish, to me, was your article on hoaxes. That should be filed on Trufen -- or somewhere comparatively permanent and available to researchers.

Arnie: Nice of you to say so, ShelVY, but

it was just a short piece with lots of omissions and simplifications. People seem to like it, though, which encouraged me to do a similar piece on fan religions this time.

The Sage of Glen Ellen returns with a timely correction...

Robert Lichtman/RLichtman@ci.santa-rosa.ca.us

On page 3 of VFW No. 20 you claim that "in 2004 Gordon Eklund won the 'Best Fan-writer' FAAn Award largely on the strength of a long faan fiction story that claimed Las Vegas Fandom invented me." You have it wrong. What you're referring to is "The Katz Kontroversy: A Document," which appeared first in Gordon's FAPazine and which I reprinted in *TRAP DOOR No. 21* in 2002. Gordon's award was for "Sense of Wonder," his fannish/stf novella that appeared in its entirety in *TRAP DOOR No. 22* in 2003 with splendid full-page illos by Dan Steffan.

On page 5 you make reference to "a special anthology about fandom's history" to be handed out at the June 19th Sunday Social. Since that's Father's Day and I'm an Actual Father (even a grandfather), I naturally wonder if I will be qualified to receive a copy. And, of course, for more behind-the-scenes details as to what you have in mind and, perhaps if I can be of any assistance.

Arnie: Me being me, I'm actually working on several projects, one of which is a history of Las Vegas Fandom. I'd hoped to have it ready in time for the April Sunday Social, but Outside Factors short-circuited my good intentions. It'll be ready in about two months.

We Also Heard From: Bill Wright, Dick Luppoff, Teresa Cochran, Steve Kent.

Nothing to Sat But 'Good Night!'

Thanks to all for making this a banner VFW. I'm caught up on letters, so write some more. See you next week!

— Arnie