

# VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

## David Gordon Does First Zine For SNAPS!

David Gorman, Fan of Mystery, achieved two firsts with one piece of fanac. Not only has he now produced his first fanzine, but it also earned him the honor of leading off the second distribution of SNAPS.

David, whose fan career seems to extend further and further into the past each time he refers to it, sent his file to Joyce Katz who'll have me run off the needed 15 copies and pass them along to Emergency Official Editor JoHn Hardin in time to make the deadline (which is the start of Friday's SNAFFU meeting).

The Southern Nevada Amateur Press Society looks to be one of the most successful new local activities introduced in some time. A lot of fans are using SNAPS as a way of getting to know each other a little better, generate some additional discussions that might not have come up at meetings and dabble in the challenging and rewarding area of fanzine publishing.

SNAPS is a local amateur press associate that is open to all Las Vegas fans. Each contributor furnishes 15 copies of their SNAPS publication. The OE assembles 15 identical sets and distributes them to contributors. Contributors also send or give Joyce an electronic version of their fanzine — .pdf or .pub files are best — so



If you don't contribute to the second SNAPS distribution, emergency Official Editor JoHn Hardin may attack you with his vorpal spoon!

that she can post everything on the SNAFFU website. (This is both a



## Inside Story The Con Games

Now that the First Annual Las Vegas Fantasy & Science Fiction Day has begun to recede into fan-history, it's time to consider its implication for the present and future of our Vegas Fandom. It certainly shows that much can be done when the diverse elements of Las Vegas Fandom work together for a common goal. It was an enjoyable day, including the Vegrants Post-Con Open Party, and it brought some very promising new fans into contact with our city's Fandom.

Of *course* there were problems. They are all quite correctable and boil down to insufficient planning. I don't think they are an obstacle to considering a regional, general-interest convention in Las Vegas, possibly as soon as 2006. In the long run, the biggest problem may be the failure of so many local fans to participate. That, too, is curable and shows that New Generation Vegas Fandom is still learning its way.

I believe that, within a year, we may have a crew who can put on a con that both honors Las Vegas fan traditions and has the support of all local fans. — Arnie

support for our beloved blind fan and to let a few other local fans have a chance to see SNAPS and perhaps get the urge to participate in the future.)

It's fairly easy to produce a SNAPSzine. Type your stuff using either DTP or word processing software (*Microsoft Word* and *Microsoft Publisher* are good, though there is freeware that can do the job, too.) Then either take it to Kinko's — there's one right next to Borders bookstore — or get it to me by Thursday noon to get the 15 copies you need. (I charge \$2.50 for 15 two-sided cop-



ies.) You can either pick up your copy of SNAPS #2 at the Westside SNAFFU meeting or the OE will arrange for you to get it at some more convenient time and place.

### ***Hitchhiker's Guide* Movie Trip Scheduled for This Saturday!**

Although some fans went to see the new theatrical movie version of Douglas Adams' *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* when it opened two weeks ago, the first outing wasn't very convenient for a lot of folks.

Besides, it opened the night before the first annual Las Vegas Fantasy & Science Fiction

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Special Thanks to Alan White (cartoons), Joyce Katz (proofreading) and Woody Bernardi (Star Reporter).

Reporters this issue: Mindy Hutchings and Joyce Katz

Art/Photo Credits: David Gordon (1, 4); Alan White (1), Bill Rotsler (2, 3)

VFW is free by request — and you may get it anyway. It can be downloaded at the SNAFFU and VSFA sites as well as at [efanzines.com](http://efanzines.com). No Aliens were harmed in the preparation of this fanzine.

Member: fwa. Supporter: AFAL. Shop Steward: Gossip Rag Union.

## What Are All Those Initials? — Arnie Katz

*Note: I got an email from Dick Pelletier after he'd read his first Vegas Fandom Weekly that provided the impetus for this article. He was complimentary, but Dick also complained that he'd encountered many mysterious sets of initials. Since I go to special lengths to make VFW accessible, the idea of a piece that deciphers all that initialese appeals to me.*

One common use of initials in Fandom is exactly like the rest of the world, a short form of a person's name. Fans often referred to the two main fantagonists of the late 1930s and early 1940s, Don Wolheim and Sam Moskowitz, as (respectively) DAW and SaM. Slightly later, fans enjoyed the fact that Francis Towner Laney's initials were also commonly used to denote "faster than light." The 1950s gave us WAW (for Walter A. Willis and DAG (Dean A. Grennell). More recently, we've had TEW (Ted E. White), BEP (Bruce Pelz) and HORT (Horrible Old Roy Tackett).

Individual fans aren't the only ones identified by initials. Most fan clubs, like Vegas' own SNAFUU, are primarily known by their initials. LASFS (Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society) and NESFA (New England Science Fiction Association) are two currently prominent clubs that fit in that category. So does the NFFF or N3F (National Fantasy Fan Federation.)

Amateur Press Associations are generally known by their initials. FAPA (Fantasy Amateur Press Association) is the first fan apa and the most prestigious, SAPS (Spectator Amateur Press Association) is looser and also more active on a per-member basis, SFPA (Southern Fandom Press Association) is the oldest group serving Southern Fandom and N'APA (Neffers Amateur Press Association) is the N3F's group, a training ground for some neofan publishers. (N'APA has the apostrophe to distinguish it from NAPA )National Amateur Press Association), the oldest non-fan apa in the United States at 130 years old.

Fanspeak also indulges in a bit of initialese. "Gafia" derives from Getting Away from It All. At one time, Gafia meant to ignore the Mundane World and put everything into Fandom. The current meaning — to cease fan activity — came later, no doubt reinforced by the "Glades of Gafia" in *The Enchanted Duplicator*.

Like an Arctic Circle culture with 27 words for "snow," Fandom's fascination with the process by which one becomes an ex-fan has caused the coinage of several related terms. "Fafia," in which the "F" stands for "Forced," describes someone who is so overwhelmed with other commitments that there is simply no room for fanac. (For that reason, fafia is often a short-term condition rather than a change in basic lifestyle.) Charles Burbee invented "Dafia" — Drifted Away from It All — to describe the way some fans gradually fall away from their connection with Fandom. There were other proposed variations, but most fans disdained them as too deliberate and articial.

Fandom's two favorite slogans, narrowly beating out "Fans are slans! — are both best-known by their initials. Some fans rally around the cry of, "FIAWOL!" (Fandom Is A Way Of Life," while other fans retort, "FIJAGH!" (Fandom Is Just A Goddam Hobby.)

And that's the short course in fannish initialese.

— Arnie Katz



**May 7 meeting report by Arnie Katz**  
**A Night with the Vegrants**

**Las Vegrants (5/7) Meeting Report**

Joyce and I have been co-hosting club meetings, here and in our former home of Brooklyn, NY, for about 35 years and the evening always starts the same way. As she bustles around the kitchen, heaping food on serving dishes, Joyce will say to me, "I hope we have enough food."

"Well, there's more than you can fit on the coffee table," I inevitably respond. She looks at her handiwork. A tight grimace of disapproval puckers her brow as she critically examines what she has prepared. "They'll want to eat," she scolds herself.

"Yes, I say, ever the calming influence. "They may be hungry and they will get enough to eat. And if they want more than this, they can pick up the fine old fannish custom of bringing food and drink with them to contribute to the evening." I am a stickler for fine old fannish tradition, especially if it includes chocolate chip cookies or doughnuts.

Momentarily pacified about the food, Joyce then shifts effortlessly to another worry. "I think this will be a small meeting," says the woman who has never predicted a large meeting in three-and-a-half decades. I think it's her little way of cushioning the disappointment when you don't show.

This time, her fretting proved unnecessary. Not only did we have a good crowd of 13 fans, but many of them brought tasty treats and delicious snacks. Despite an inspiring group effort to devour everything in sight — our cat wisely stayed out of range — many cheeses, cookies, candies, chips and miscellaneous munchables still stared at us from that big square table in the living room.

Actually, the suspense about the size of the crowd and the adequacy of the food vanished right at the beginning of the evening.

Two cars-full of Vegrants found themselves riding around waiting for the meeting start (7:30) and wisely converged on the Launch Pad a little early. What a delight to open the door and see Woody Bernardi, Kent Hastings, Merric & Lubov Anderson and David Gordon!

They'd barely settled into their chairs when James Taylor and Teresa Couchran arrived.

Voila! Instant Fan Meeting! Well, at least as much of a "meeting" as passes for one in the free-form ambience of a Vegrants gathering. In other words, there was no meeting, no business, no elections and no appointments to the Board of Directors (with or without caps and hats). We just grazed on the vittles, in-



Lobov Anderson, shown here at the Fantasy & SF Day, is one of the newest members of Las Vegrants.

cluding some very tasty Russian-style marshmallow treats provided by Merric & Luba, and yammered about the usual broad range of subjects.

Merric and Luba told us about their experiences as first-time exhibitors at Las Vegas' "First Friday" artwalk. It had gone very well on Friday evening, with lots of potential patrons of the arts, but things had slowed noticeably on Saturday afternoon.

"We did a bad thing," said Luba. As Merric temporized and pleaded for mercy, our resident Fantasy artist explained that the guy at the next table had overheard Merric on the phone and expressed his yearning to discover local Fandom. That's when the Andersons invited him to the Vegnants meeting.

They looked at Joyce as if they actually expected her to use the cat o' nine tails crackling at least several inches above their heads. "He knew about fanzines," they chorused in a blatant bid for mercy, if not amnesty. "They picked up Josh!" David Gordon declared. "They invited Josh Andrews!" He grinned devilishly, knowing that I'd had my fill of the obstreperous trekkie. What could I do but laugh?

Chris Haraway turned out to be a very nice guy and, if his two fanzines are an indication, a potentially skilled fan and a possible professional fiction writer.

Amid much laughter, Woody compelled Kent to confess that he has been invited to speak at the Library during Latino Awareness Week. See? *That's* what happens when you are repeatedly photographed holding a book named *Anarquia!* It might be fun to be there about the time they notice that Kent is in no degree of latin heritage.

When JoHn Hardin arrived, he and James sprang a wonderful surprise on Joyce. They went out to James' car and returned with boxes containing a new computer for her!

Joyce was stunned into near-silence as she watched the components emerge. She recovered herself after a little while and began bombarding her two benefactors with their deserved egoboo. (JoHn will do the data

transfer and final install some time this week.)

I still can't believe what these two guys did. Really, it's an amazing demonstration of their friendship. I know that Joyce, on the eve of a series of medical procedures, was completely overcome

Ayesha Ashley, who needed some telephonic navigational assistance to find the Launch Pad, showed understandable interest in the space/time travel capabilities of Dr. Who's tardis. She'd lived in the UK for eight years and become quite a fan of the show. I explained that I'd lived in New York, where about five stations carried *Dr. Who* in every format from the condensed two-hour movies to the original half-hour episodes.

Kent told us about what sounds like a tremendous *Dr. Who* parody, starring Roland Atkinson (*Whose Line?*) as the Good Doctor. I'll have to look for that one; though I wouldn't be surprised if Kent doesn't have it in full DVD-quality on his handheld computer or telephone or whatever tiny futuristic device he readies for the purpose.

Our budding author's technological prowess has already shown its value many times. Kent outlined an article he plans to write, probably for the SNAPS distribution, about Podcasting. I don't want to steal too much thunder from what sounds like a "must read," but I think Kent has found a very entertaining and viable new type of fan activity that might work very well for us Vegas fans.

Woody Allen came in for some discussion as we debated whether his work has simply become irrelevant or if the public has just turned away from him because he married his step daughter.

We also talked about favorite Allen movies. Ayesha favored the more serious films, while I held out for *Sleeper* and *Bananas*. *The Purple Rose of Cairo*, though not any one fan's favorite, seemed to be a popular consensus pick.

One thing and another, fans stayed in appreciable numbers until at least 1 AM for what proved to be both a well-attended and well-fed get-together. — Arnie Katz

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Day. Many fans wisely decided to save up their energy for the con (and post-con party) the next day.

Woody Bernardi (woodybernardi@yahoo.com) has organized another fan movie trip to *HG* on Saturday, May 14. Fans will gather at 3:30-3:45 PM at the Crown Theater at Neonopolis (450 Fremont Street at Las Vegas Blvd.) The movie-goers tentatively plan to have a post-film dinner at the Main Street Station.

The Neonopolis has an underground parking garage accessible from 4th Street (between Fremont and Ogden).

To access the UNDERGROUND parking garage (parking free with validation at the box office) take Las Vegas BL to Carson Street (this is the third right from the LV BL exit of freeway) and take first right onto 4th Street, then go 1 block and look for down ramp.



## May Sunday Social Honors Art!

The May Sunday Social, rescheduled to 5/22 as explained in *VFW #25* will spotlight fan and professional art. The program is now set to include pieces from the collections of Linda Bushyager and Joyce Katz and the work of Lubov Anderson and Alan White.

The Sunday Social starts at 2:00 PM and runs to roughly 4:00 PM at the Tap House. VSFA, the sponsoring group, invites all Las Vegas fans to partake of the good times, lively conversation and, if you're so minded, The Tap House's reasonably priced (and reasonably edible) cuisine.

## Joyce Gets Angiogram This Friday!

After entirely too many delays to suit her nerves, Joyce Katz finally begins her series of medical procedures that should make her fitter than she has been for some time.

The first thing is the simplest of the procedures. Based on her EKG, doctors are reluctant to perform the needed ankle surgery until the true extent of her heart condition is known.

The angiogram is a relatively quick procedure. The doctors have informed us that Joyce will be home in the early afternoon. She will be sharply restricted for a couple of days until she recovers, which is why there's no chance that she'll be at Friday's Westside SNAFFU meeting.

Joyce will have a consultation with the cardiologist during the last week in May and

should be able to resume normal activities after the weekend.

### **VSFA Plans Monthly Newszine!**

The Vegas SF Association has accepted the proposal of Joshua Andrews to produce a monthly publication called *Vegas Valley Voyager*. Joshua, who has thus far published only for *Star Trek* fandom, says the publication will print things about VSFA that aren't in *VFW*. Of course, he also says the name doesn't come from *Star Trek*, so we'll have to wait until its first issue appears, which Joshua has promised for this month.

### **Heard Around Vegas...**

Mindy Hutchings will be in Utah this weekend, so she got the jump on the scheduled movie outing and saw *HG*. Her verdict: Thumbs Down!...

Chris Haraway, a surprise visitor to the most recent Vegants meeting, will be returning to his night job this week. He took time off from it to write a novel, which is still looking for a publisher. We'll have to come up with some way to get him back to a Vegas fan gathering..

### **Chatback: The Letter Column**

*Who better to lead off this installment of the letter column than one of VFW's most faithful supporters? So, direct from the Florida Panhandle...*

### **Shelby Vick**

Sent a loc last week -- now here's another one. Of course, that ain't nowhere near a match for your putting out a weekly fanzine!

Sounded like a GREAT con -- small, lots of people I know, interesting subjects discussed or talked about and kicked about.



Lotsa interesting comments on how/if SF affects the future.

Of course, the most usual effect comes under things like Clarke's prediction of communication satellites or the general idea of rocket ships and submarines. Of course, the trouble with affecting the future or predicting the future is the usual -- technology advances faster than we predict while society advances less than we predict.

Glad to see that Ayesha is still around.

*Arnie: SF's predictive ability is a slender thread on which to hang the whole genre. In fact, it's more likely to hang it than help it. It's true that many things mentioned in science fiction stories have come to pass in one form or another, but that's not a fair way to evaluate its capabilities*

*in that area. There have been a whole lot of science fiction stories that have predicted an incredible number of things, the vast majority of which have not happened.*

*Randy Byers, TAFF winner and Chunga co-editor, has some thoughts to share this week:*

### **Randy Byers**

Thanks for the latest *VFW*, which shows signs of engulfing the world now. I suppose *WFW* might be confused with the World Federation of Wrestling, so maybe you could just repurpose *VFW* to mean Vegas Fans of the World. Sort of like how in *fwa*, "America" means "the World".

Like Eric Mayer, I'm still learning, and the highlight of the issue was your brief history of Insurgentism which managed to connect a few dots for me. For instance, I now know where Andy got the term "derrogation," which is what he used to characterize his play at

## Las Vegas Fan Event Calendar

### **SNAFFU** May 13 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 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.

### **Las Vegrants Meeting** May 21 7:30 PM

The informal club meets on the first and third Saturdays of the month at the Launch Pad, the home of Arnie and Joyce Katz.

### **Sunday Social** May 22 2 PM

VSFA is sponsoring this event, open to all Las Vegas fans, at The Tap House. The theme this time is science fiction and fannish art.

### **VSFA Meeting** June 6 7:30 PM

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

Corflu Blackjack (published in the last issue of Marty Cantor's No Award).

I think it might be stretching things a bit to say that Seattle has had an Insurgentoid \*club\* in recent years, although Andy and Victor have perhaps in their own ways tried to spread the flame here. Maybe Carl, too, with his obscure references to Elmer Purdue and general resistance to any and all fannish formulas. On the other hand, "Fanoclast rules" is our formulaic explanation for taking someone's chair at a party when they get up to go to the bathroom or to get another beer.

I'm curious whether there was any influence of Insurgentism on British Rاتفandom of the '70s. Long missing survivors of that gang seem to have come out of the woodwork for John Brosnan's funeral, as covered in Rob Hansen's column. It's good to see Rob getting more active lately, with the artwork for *Chunga*, the CD-ROM photo collection he recently distributed, and now the column for *VFW*. I look forward to Bruce's article on recent doings in Melbourne as well. Wish I could be there and be a part of it!

*Arnie: Hear me now and believe me later, Mister Byers. It doesn't matter where it is. It*

*doesn't matter why. It doesn't matter who it is. If the Fuggheads want a Fanoclast Gafia Match, the Kingfish will be there (with mystery partner to be named later).*

*Your citation of "Fanoclast rules" shows how time and distance mutate fanspeak. We would say, "Old Fanoclast joke – I take your seat!" in such a situation. Actually, that gave birth to a second, closely related saying. When someone tries to slide past a seated fan to get somewhere (probably the kitchen to get a soft drink or to the bathroom to deposit one) In that instance, the person inching past is supposed to say, "Old Fanoclast Joke, I almost break your feet."*

**We Also Heard From:** Teresa Cochran, Bill Wright, Bruce Gillespie, Chris Haraway, Roxanne Gibbs.

### **Let's Just Say 'So Long'...**

... because to paraphrase the 1950s doo-wop classic, "weekly fanzine editors and their readers never say, "Good-bye."

I'll be back with much more, including your letters of comment (*strong* hint), about mid-week.

— Arnie