

# VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

## Art Takes Spotlight At the Sunday Social

Professional science fiction and fantasy and fanzine art will be the focus of the program at the May Sunday social. Sponsored by the Vegas Science Fiction Association, the Social will be held at The Tap House (on West Charleston) between 2:00 PM-4:00 PM.

Tentatively, the program will consist of two panels. I will moderate a panel on fan art that will feature Alan White and Ken Forman. The panel will show some outstanding examples of fan art, share the stories behind the artwork and talk about the role of art in fanzines.

Woody Bernardi will then lead a session featuring Linda Bushyager, Lubov Anderson and other local professionals. They'll be bringing some outstanding work to show and discuss.

The Tap House, which has hosted the two previous Socials, has proven to be a very congenial venue. The meeting room is spacious, the food is decent (and relatively economical) and the ambience is relaxed, informal and socially oriented.

The Socials are open to all interested fans. There is no admission or cover charge.

## Second SNAPS Distribution Is Bigger, Better than the First!

Official Editor Joyce Katz was on the sick list, but emergency OE John Wesley Hardin could not be stopped from his duties even by a recalcitrant stapler. Under his benign supervision SNAPS Distribution #2 attained the impressive size of 32 pages

# SNAPS

Distribution #2 May 2005



with contributions from 11 local fans.

Linda Bushyager led the way with a six-page contribution, though several others did four-pagers: Joyce Katz, Woody Bernardi and me. Making their debuts as fanzine editors were David Gordon and

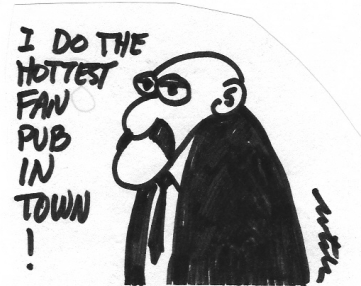


## Inside Story What's New?

This issue finishes a half-year of weekly (or better) publishing for *VFW*. The half-annish may be next issue, but this one turns out to be pretty special, too. I've got many reasons to smile about *VFW* this week, but perhaps the biggest for me is the debut of rich brown's column. *Rich brown's Fanhistory Corner* will augment my own efforts in that area — and I'm sure his writing will be a refreshing break from mine. Rich is one of my oldest friends, and one of my main fannish teachers, so I hope you'll give him a read/

Also new this issue — and it would be enough to make me happy — is the debut of Australian fan Bill Wright. I got to know him somewhat during the Bring Bruce Bayside Fund, when he was Australian Administrator and I think you'll enjoy his reports of Australian fan doings. (I know he's clever; this time he got Dick "Ditmar" Jenssen to write up Melbourne fandom's big day.)

Enjoy the issue and let me hear from you if you have a chance!



Charles Fuller, Teresa Cochran and Lori Forbes, who made their fanzine publishing debuts in the first distribution, graced the second distribution with impressively improved second issues.

Now that Joyce is back online again with her new computer (see story on page 6), she ex-

pects to compile the electronic version of *Disty* #2 for posting on the SNAFFU web site within a couple of days. If you haven't sent her the electronic version of your fanzine, now would be a good time: joyceworley1@cox.net.

The next distribution will take place on Friday, June 10, at the Westside SNAFFU meet-

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**Vegas Fandom Weekly #27, May 18, 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 (cartoons), Joyce Katz (proofreading), Woody Bernardi (Star Reporter), rich brown (columnist)

Reporters this issue: David Gordon, Bill Wright, Mindy Hutchings, Ditmar Jenssen, Merric Anderson and Joyce Katz

Art/Photo Credits: Alan White (1), Bill Kunkel (4), ATom (4), Steve Stiles (4); Ross Chamberlain (6, 7), Brad Foster (5)

*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 efanazines.com. No professional science fiction authors were harmed during the preparation of this fanzine.

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

## A Virtual Artwalk

**Arnie Katz**

*Note: The May Sunday Social is dedicated to fan and professional art. It seems like a good time to lead a jaunt through fan and pro artwork on the Internet. This isn't complete — there's always the possibility of a second article — but it ought to make for an enjoyable surfing session.*

The natural place to start the Virtual Fan Artwalk is with our hometown talent. Las Vegas Fandom is abundantly blessed with three outstanding fan artist/cartoonists: Ross Chamberlain, Alan White and Bill Kunkel. Bill does not yet have a web site in his honor — a great volunteer project for any Vegas fan who wants to give one of our own his justice — but there are excellent ones for both Ross and Alan.

The first stop on the Virtual Artwalk is Rossworx (<http://www.rossworx.net>). Ross' elegant graphic design creates a classically understated backdrop for both fan and sf/fnal artwork in a variety of styles. The cover galleries are especially interesting — and don't forget to click "New Stuff" to see his latest efforts. Ross is also an excellent writer, so be sure to look at the words as well as the pictures.

Big Al's Art-O-Rama (<http://members.aol.com/fansite3/artorama/artorama.html>), the next stop on the tour, is Alan White's gorgeously glitzy site. Alan is a master of the pop culture visual. His science fiction and fan work, both showcased here, are among the most imaginative and slickest in the history of Fandom.

Until someone puts together a Kunkel site, the best place to find Bill's work is in the fanzines available as free downloads at [efanzines.com](http://efanzines.com) such as *Chunga* and *Flicker*. If Francis Towner Laney had been a cartoonist, he'd have been Bill Kunkel.

One of the newest local fans, Lubov Anderson, has earned a fine reputation with her evocative fantasy art. Luba has been a selling professional for about a decade and her site (<http://www.Lubov.net>) has examples of her work that fully explain her deserved success. And it's worth a few extra minutes to read her fascinating autobiography.

Bill Rotsler is our next tour destination. Though not a Las Vegas fan, but he said quite clearly that he considered himself part of LV Fandom in the 1990s. Not only are his deceptively simply (and inevitably witty) cartoons a staple of Vegas fanzines, but the Rotsler site (<http://www.rotsler.com>) is operated by our own Michael Bernstein. His biggest problem is the sheer magnitude of trying to capture even a sliver of Rotsler's amazing output. A volunteer assistant might be welcome at this site, too.

Next, we'll stop to see Steve Stiles, the greatest fan cartoonist of all time. Certainly, no one has a better combination of artistic and humoristic talent. His pro and fan work is waiting to delight you at a brand new stop on the Virtual Artwalk. Here again, there's also a lot worth reading, since Steve is both a popular fanwriter and a successful professional journalist.

Arthur Thomson, best-known as "Atom," is unsurpassed among UK fan artists. Whether he was drawing sleek spaceships that presaged the look of the Concorde or wryly humorous cartoons for fanzines like *Hyphen* or drawing for the prozines, ATom was a class act. You can see his bacovers for the UK prozine *Nebula Science Fiction* at <http://members.aol.com/nebulasf/atom3.html>, but don't neglect his fan work, which is utterly delightful.

Ray Nelson, the cartoonist who first put fans in propeller beanies, is another BNF who has visited Vegas Fandom. The dean of fan cartoonists and still among Fandom's elite. His site (<http://www.raynelson.com>) has plenty of his great cartoons as well as Nelson's always entertaining writing.

The final stop on today's Virtual Fan Artwalk is Brad Foster who combines a polished style with underground sensibility and a touch of fannishness. His work is widely seen in fanzines. There's also a small collection of his cartoons to be found at <http://www.kcsciencefiction.org/foster.htm>.

— Arnie Katz

*The illos on the next double-page spread are examples of the work of some of the artists on the Virtual Fan Artwalk.*





plicated. There's a Kinko's copy shop right next to Borders bookstore where SNAFFU gathers.

Alternatively I will gladly copy a one sheet (two sides) SNAPSzine for the bargain price of \$2.50 if you get the material to me by Wednesday, 6:00 PM, of the Thursday before the deadline. You can send me a .pdf, .pub or .doc file via email as long as you also call to let me know it's coming my way. I wouldn't want to overlook your contribution.

According to the SNAPS rules, the OE distributes bundles using the following priorities: contributors to the current distribution get first call, followed by contributors to the previous distribution. If there are copies left, fans at the SNAFFU meeting can request them. So if you contribute to the next disty, you're pretty much assured of getting the one after that, too.

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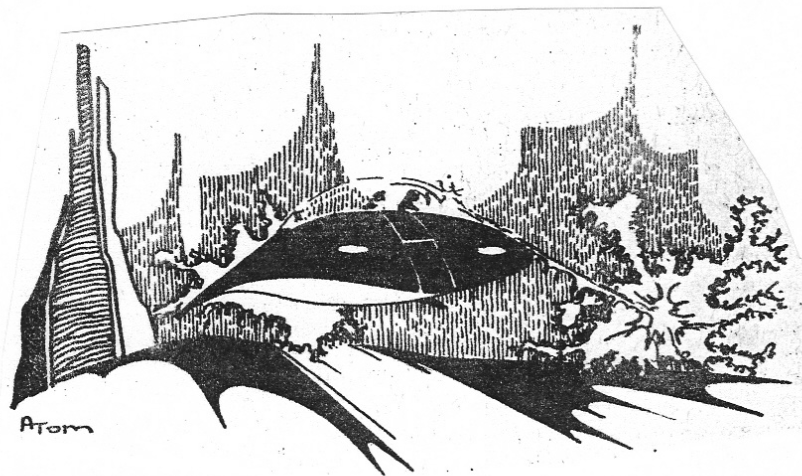
ing. Joyce expects to be on hand to collect last-minute contributions, assemble the bundles and see to their distribution.

As quite a few fans have already shown, participation in SNAPS (Southern Nevada Amateur Press Association) is fun and surprisingly easy.

All you have to do is write up some of your opinions, thoughts, experiences and attitudes. (*Microsoft Publisher* is excellent, though any word processing or desktop publishing software does the trick.)

Then get 15 copies of your SNAPS contribution du-

The SNAPS distributions are also available in electronic form on the SNAFFU.com web site.



## Art Identification

This two-page spread shows the art of four of the fans visited during the Virtual Artwalk. Represented are: Steve Stiles (4-top), ATom (4-bottom), Bill Kunkel (5-top) and Brad Foster (5-bottom).

You can see work by Alan White on page 1 and by Ross Chamberlain (page 8).

### **Lubov to Exhibit Art At 'Third Thursday'!**

Lubov Anderson will be showing her art at a Fantasy-oriented Gallery in Downtown Henderson at the "Third Thursday" Art Walk.

This is a monthly event in the Water Street district of downtown Henderson. It starts at 6:00 PM and runs to 10:00. Lubov's first exhibition is scheduled for this Thursday (5/18).



This is a terrific opportunity to support one of Vegas Fandom's most talented Fantasy professionals — and see some outstanding fantasy paintings.

**SFRA 2005 Convention Set for Las Vegas!!**



### **THE ORIGINAL HARRY WARNER FORM LOC**

The Science Fiction Research Association may take an academic approach to speculative literature, but they obviously have interests outside the library and the study hall. That's the best explanation for the fact that the 2005 SFRA Convention will be held in Las Vegas this year!

## The Wright Stuff: Seeing 'Hitchhiker'

**Bill Wright**

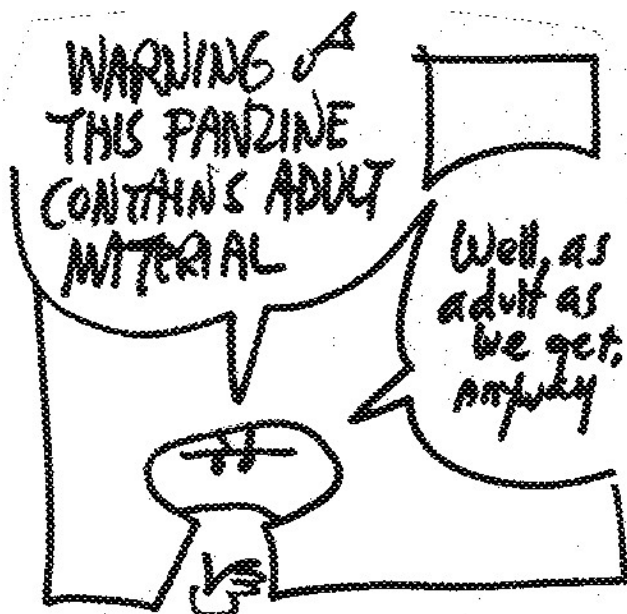
I note with interest that the Melbourne launch of the new theatrical movie version of Douglas Adams' *The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy* occurred only a month after its premiere in Las Vegas.

On Sunday evening, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005, the Melbourne Science Fiction Club attended a special showing at the historic Westgarth Cinema in the inner Melbourne suburb of Thornbury.

Over 40 members gathered in the upstairs foyer an hour and a half beforehand to experience at first hand the agonies of Vogon Poetry.

Refreshments were served and everyone 'won' a door prize consisting of a t-shirt and galactic hitchhiker towel. Due to licensing commitments small blue furry creatures from Alpha Centauri were refused admittance, which led to spirited altercations at the mezzanine ticket table.

The towel is an item of apparel that goes with my best shirt and which I will treasure always. I wore it to bed that night and continuously for three days thereafter, including on my visits to the Thai Consulate to obtain a visa for my six-and-a-half-week visit to Pattaya over June-July 2005. — Bill Wright



SFRA 2005 will take place June 23-26 at the Imperial Palace Hotel and Casino. Membership is \$140.

Leading the parade of notables will be Distinguished Guest Author: Ursula K.

LeGuin. The Featured Guest Authors already confirmed include: John Barnes, Kij Johnson, Tim Powers, Elizabeth Bear, Steven Brust and Joan Slonczewski.

This is an essentially serious con with a strong program For more information about the convention, go to the SFRA's website: <http://www.sfra.org>.

### Joyce Katz's Surgery Set For Monday, May 23!

Joyce Katz's angiogram went flawlessly on May 13 and she is fully recovered from the procedure. Unfortunately it confirmed that she has an 85% blockage on one side of her heart.

Joyce will have an angioplasty on Monday, May 23. She will stay overnight in the hospital and will then have a short recuperation period. Ken & Aileen Forman will be stay-

*Continued on page 10*

### Futurists (5/13) Meeting Report — David Gordon

On Friday, 13 May, fifteen members of the *Las Vegas Futurists* gathered at **Borders** bookstore to listen to *Ted Kaehler*, a consultant to *Alan Kay* at **Hewlett Packard**, review **On Intelligence** by *Jeff Hawkins*.

Jeff Hawkins, whose notoriety comes from his invention of the *Palm Pilot* and the *Treo smart phone*, imagines fascinating new ways of combining computer science and neuroscience. His book, **On Intelligence**, sketches how he believes the cortex of the brain works. Jeff's theories are detailed enough to stimulate Ted and others to build cortex simulations.

Ted offered an excellent overview and discussion of **On Intelligence**, as we journeyed through the architecture of our neo-cortex. Now that scientists have gained new insight into how the brain works, Ted and others can take the first steps to create machine-based intelligence. Both *cognitive science* and *artificial intelligence* race to build tools to supplement human intelligence. Make way, Palm Pilot; Jeff Hawkins has inspired many people, including Ted, to build a *Palm Pilot: The Next Generation* as a means to raise our IQ.

The group, as always, was well informed and well behaved, as each member asked good questions, thus making it a learning experience for all. We had the added treat of Sheila Klein sharing a report of her recent trip to China and Tibet. It was a very enriching evening.

The next meeting is 10 June, although the venue remains undecided. Unfortunately, your reporter has forgotten the guest speaker's name, but the topic is *online education*. The description of the presentation promises something far more exciting than those two words imply. See you there! -- David M Gordon (with substantial assistance from Gilda Cabral)



## Melbourne SF Club Invests Life Member A report by Ditmar Jenssen

On April 15, the Melbourne Science Fiction Club formally inducted nine fans as Life Members of the Club. These were: Mervyn Binns, Paul J. Stevens, Bruce Gillespie, Race Mathews, Dick (Ditmar) Janssen. Lee Harding, Bill Wright, Alan Stewart and George Turner.

Of these nine, three were absent. George Turner had died and, as John Donne put it: “when one man dies, one chapter is not torn out of the book, but translated into a better language; and every chapter must be so translated”. Paul Stevens had moved interstate and had gafiated so completely that he was uncontactable. And although he had retired as a politician some years ago, Race Mathews was still so busily involved in that work that he was speaking elsewhere that night. But for the six of us who attended, the evening was an unforgettable honour, made all the more memorable by Jack Dann masquerading as Master of Ceremonies. Jack would have liked to have had the evening as a group roast of the inductees (he admitted this), but was confined by the biographies of the life members which had been written by Rose Mitchell, printed as a pamphlet, and given to all attendees. Being Jack, however, he allowed himself moments of sly digs and uproarious humour.

After each life member’s biography had been read by Jack, they were led on stage and given commemorative badges and certificates, and it was at this time, usually, that Jack indulged in the roasting comments he had been saving up. The effects of his words are clearly seen in the photographs.

Clearly we all enjoyed a laugh at the other guy’s expense...

— Ditmar Janssen

(Special Thanks to Bill Wright!)



Three of the life members pose for fanhistory (left to right): Merv Binns, Lee Harding and Bill Wright.

# A Tower to the Moon

## rich brown's Fanhistory Corner

We're approaching the 50th anniversary of the true beginnings of space exploration. Pioneering rocket work was done long before that, of course, but realistically speaking things really got under way during the International Geophysical Year -- which actually spanned the 18 months between July 1957 and December 1958 (those "wacky" scientists, eh?) when both the US and the USSR began their efforts to launch satellites into outer space.

The USSR was first to do so, and it was a genuine accomplishment -- no matter how many Americans tried to downplay it by point-

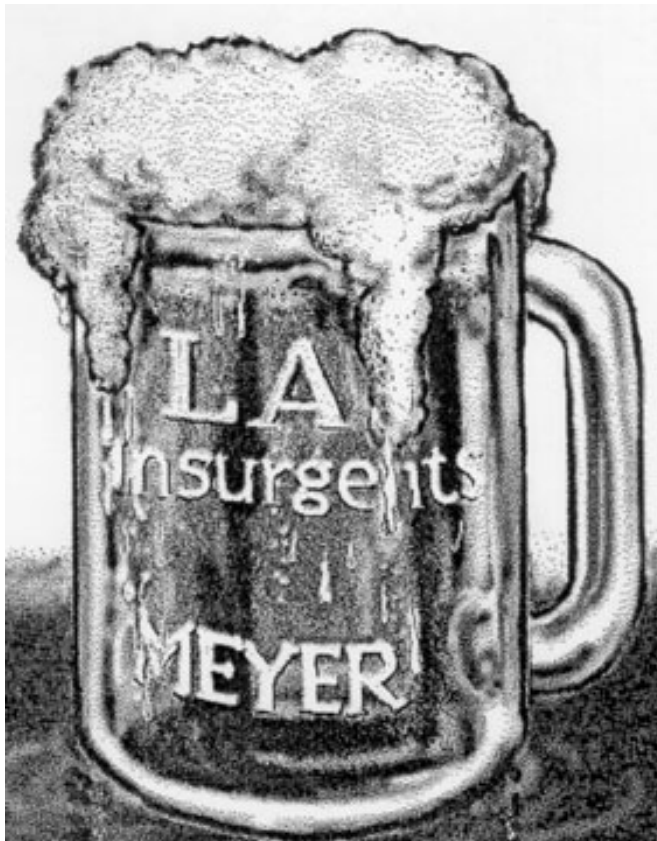
ing out how Russia's Sputnik went over like a lead balloon. The US was in too great a haste in trying to duplicate the effort, the end result being that the televised launch showed the first Vanguard rocket falling flat on its face.

And how (you might well wonder) did sf fandom react to this? How did we face the possible impact this could have on the genre we love?

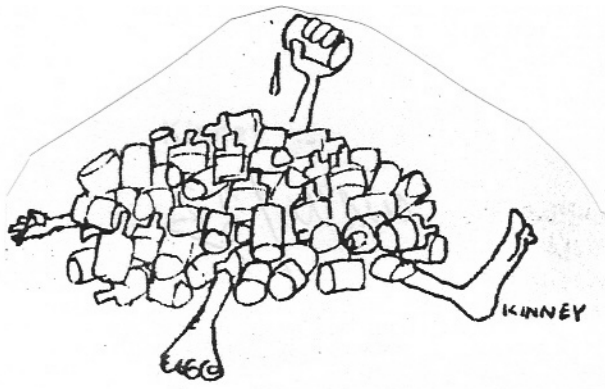
Well, I don't want to minimize the contribution of Brooklyn fan Les Gerber -- but may wind up doing so anyway, because while it needs to be mentioned it really isn't the subject I wish to expound upon. Suffice it to say that Les wrote a short article regarding the model of the Vanguard which he'd eagerly cut out and constructed off the back of a box of Cheerios. After folding as directed and inserting the various lettered "tabs" into the correspondingly lettered "slots," he not only had a cardboard Vanguard but a cardboard "launching pad" as well. He attached a rubber band, per instructions, placed the rocket on the pad, tested the band for tautness, quickly let go -- and the rocket promptly fell over. Gerber titled his piece, "The Authentic Model."

But this represented only individual effort. Not to be sniffed at, but at the same time it did not attempt to galvanize all of organized fandom into a concerted force in support of the US space race for the benefit of all mankind.

That task fell to the Publishing Giants of Berkeley Fandom -- Terry Carr, Ron Ellik,







Pete Graham, Dave Rike, Bob Stewart and "Carl Brandon" (a hoax fan, about whom I may write more in subsequent installments.).

Now Carl was probably the most successful fan hoax ever and Terry and Ron were co-editing a fanzine called *Fanac* which was destined to win the "Best Fanzine" Hugo, but neither of these facts need concern us here. Nor for the purpose of this piece do we care, except to mention it in passing, that Terry went on to a very successful career as an SF anthologist, editor and writer. All very interesting stuff, no doubt, but right now we are here to focus on Berkeley Fandom's contribution to the space race.

Terry used principles of trigonometry which he had learned in a college astronomy course to determine the distance between the Earth and the moon. Getting a parallax view of the moon from two different vantage points in Carl Brandon's back yard, Terry was able to calculate that the moon was about 20 feet in diameter and only approximately 150 feet above ground level. From this observation, he was able to devise an excellent, nay, a brilliant plan.

Terry proposed that he and his fellow Berkeley fans should build a Tower of Bheer Cans to the Moon.

Terry's proposal was breathtaking in its simplicity, as well as in its downright daring stupidity -- qualities fandom always applauds. In a series of editorials in his fanzine *Innuendo*, he appealed to his fellow Berkeley fan's love of sf to get them to use not just all the "profits" but every red cent they received in

subscriptions to the fanzines they published, not to defray the costs of publishing said fanzines, but to buy six packs of bheer, which they would then be called upon to drink, quite selflessly, so as to use the empties as building blocks to create a Tower to the Moon in Carl Brandon's back yard. The offer of aid by fans outside the area to forward their empties for the project was rejected out of hand -- Berkeley Fandom wanted to do it themselves -- but cash donations, either direct or in the form of "subscriptions" to fanzines published by Berkeley fans, were gladly accepted.

As the Tower rose, various plans were suggested in the *Innuendo* letter column regarding how it should be utilized, ranging from using it as a vantage point to harpoon the moon with a church key and anchor it to the ground, to climbing the Tower to bring the moon back down to the surface of the Earth where it would be kept forever safe from the hands of the Russians who were trying to grab it before we could. After all, it was reasoned, if it floated 150 feet off the ground, it couldn't weigh very much.

Just what happened to the Tower remains a matter of conjecture. Some say Carl Brandon took it with him when he left in disgust after so many fans were told and actually believed he was a hoax. Others say that from the proper vantage point in San Francisco you can look out over the ghoddminton greens and deep blue water of the sparkling bay, beyond the stately sentinel of Alcatraz, over the Oakland and Golden Gate Bridges spanning the water from peninsula to peninsula, island to island, and see above them all the narrow, shiny, fountain of steel stabbing into the sky that is the Tower of Bheer Cans to the Moon. But they're probably just funning you when they say that.

Occasionally, partying fans at conventions across the land will try to construct such a Tower in Terry Carr's memory. At Magicon, the 50th Worldcon, this was attempted on a night on which there was no moon, but undaunted Art Widner was heard to intone, "If you build it, it will come. --rich brown

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ing at the Launch Pad to help out while Joyce is incapacitated.

### Vegas Fans Score Big In FAPA Egoboo Poll!

The 2005 Pavlat Poll, which rewards achievements in FAPA (Fantasy Amateur Press Association) for 2004 proved a triumph for a Certain Local Fan Couple.

In just-completed balloting by FAPA members, Joyce Katz finished sixth and her husband came in second in overall total to A Langley Searles. Both hotly deny that there is any connection between this finish, believed (by me until Robert Lichtman corrects me) to

be the highest husband-and-wife placing in the group's nearly 60 years, has absolutely nothing to do with the fact that I (as FAPA Vice President) distributed the poll and that Joyce (as Official Teller) counted the ballots.

Alan White placed 4th and Ross Chamberlain came in 5th in the Art category although neither is currently a member. (The winner was Ray Nelson, followed by Bo Stenfors and the late Bill Rotsler.)

### Chatback: The VFW Letter Column

*One of the BArea's most active current fans leads off this installment of Chatback.*

### Chris Garcia

Another great issue of VFW. I was actually thinking of going down to the Steven Brust thing, since the last time I saw Brust was at a small con in San Diego. I spent the last half of the evening sitting in a hotel room with a dozen or so folks and a bottle of Tillamore Dew being passed around while Steven played the guitar and sang a bunch of delightful songs, a very good time.

Looking at the program, I'd say it looks like it was a great one day event. A group called SwissNex, run by the Swiss Technology Attache, put on a one-night event where they brought in folks from around the world, most notably Greg Bear, Terry Bisson and a Swiss automaton maker. That was a special event, but it sounds like I would have had an even



better time at the Vegas event, as my interests tend to run slightly more fannish than the Swiss event.

I was actually thinking of hopping in the car and making the trip, but a Baycon meeting kept me in town. (And a good thing, too, as my water pump went out on Saturday afternoon.) I did get a chance to gab with Kathryn and James Daugherty though, since they are running pubs. Kathryn and I are running a "Fanzine in an Hour" panel that should be very interesting.

I loved the piece on fannish nicknames. I get in trouble once in a while for calling folks I went to high school with by their real names instead of their 'Fan' names. My good friend Josh (I'm sorry, Schwa) is the one most annoyed by my faulty memory.

There are some great ones you didn't mention: MoRoJo was one of those names that will always stick with me (despite her having passed on about a decade before I was born). There's also the great capitalizations (or non-): rich brown, SaM, ATom, and others out

there. I have given out several nicknames, like referring to Frank Wu as The Wu, which has caught on in some circles.

*Arnie: Although I've dished out quite a few nicknames, including some that have stuck. I've gone through my 42 years in Fandom (minus 15 for Gafia) without a real one.*

*I was "Arnie the K" early on in my fan career, which Roy Tackett shortened to "AtheK." He even used it as the title of a N'APazine, but it faded, too. Ted White dubbed me "Jumpin' Jack Flash," but that didn't survive the 1960s.*

*Bill Rotsler dubbed me "the Moses of the Desert" for my contribution to creating Vegas Fandom, but it's a little cumbersome (and grandiose) for every day use.*

*I have acquired a nickname in the last couple of years, but have not used it in Fandom. In the world of professional wrestling, I'm known as "The Kingfish," which I must admit I do like.*

*Stop talking about visiting, dammit, and come see us in Glitter City!*

## VSFA's Dinner & a Movie

### **Mindy Hutchings**

On May 14, Teresa Cochran, Woody Bernardi, Terry Wilsey, Stacy Lawrence, Merric & Lubov Anderson, Joyce Kohler and I met at the Crown Theatres at Neonopolis for the 4:20 showing of Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy. Although some of the group had a bit of difficulty with traffic and finding a parking place because of the Helldorado parade earlier that day, overall it was agreed that the location was a nice one: good ticket price (\$5.00 for the matinee), not crowded, plenty of parking, and very near the central CAT bus depot. Later, after a general consensus to switch the dinner location from the Main Street Station, Woody, Teresa, Merric, Lubov, JoKo and I went to the El Cortez for a post-movie mortem and good food. (Really, the food is good!)

The next Dinner and a Movie will be *Star Wars III* on May 21, 2005. This will also be at the Crown Theatres at Neonopolis for the 5:10 PM matinee (the last of the day). We'll meet in the lobby at 4:00 PM as there is sure to be a line. Also, VSFA is sponsoring an information table in the theater lobby starting at 2 PM on that day.

-- Mindy Hutchings





*Now it's time for a LoC from an old friend and a recent mainstay of Chatback...*

### **Eric Mayer**

I don't know about periods being inside or outside the asterisks. That's a good question. I've always thought it more logical for punctuation to go outside quotation marks, for example, but different publishers I work for have different rules and needless to say I can never remember which one wants it which way.

One thing I must warn you about -- with all this regular publication, and now news of fandom outside Las Vegas...you're getting a little close to the center.

I've been reading some fanzines and even writing a few locs, but I'm resolved to stay as far from the center of things as I can. I'm a fringe kind of guy.

Not that I think I see Las Vegas as becoming the epicenter of Fandom. No offense to all you great fans there, but it's just the place, the idea....Vegas... just doesn't seem faanish somehow. You've done an amazing job.

Your article on clubs reminded me, when I was a kid we formed the Horseshoe Club. I guess we weren't insurgents. Our first meeting we drew up rules for an election.

Then we held an election. Then we wrote a history, because now we had a history. (i.e. at its first meeting the Horseshoe Club drew up rules. Officers were elected at the second meeting.) Then we drew up more rules and held another election. Which meant the history had to be updated. We also ate chips and drank soda. At some point we buried the history in a time capsule (a plastic bag) at the edge of a swamp along the railroad tracks, for posterity. A few months later, having become posterity, we dug it up. That was the Horseshoe Club.

*Arnie: Only someone who hasn't visited could cast such aspersions on the Fandom of Good Cheer — or could question Las Vegas as a setting for high octane fanac. So, not because you'd like to see a bunch of old friends (Bill Kunkel and Ross Chamberlain), but merely as the ombudsman of Fandom, why don't you come stay in our spare room?*

*His first letter in this issue's column went so well, let's have our BArea correspondent back for an encore...*

### **Chris Garcia**

I think a Vegas Con would be great. Y'all seem to have a good number of fans down there, and with folks from LA and even up around my neck of the woods always looking for any excuse to head to Vegas, which assures attendance, and I'm betting more than a few of the SMOFs from up this way and Down South would be happy to help. Heck, I'll even volunteer right now! The beautiful thing about cons is that one event, even if it's run entirely by those out of the area can breed a generation of new interest and gather folks to gain an entire 'self-rule' situation.

Having read the first Disty of SNAPS, I am quite excited about the future of LV Fanzines. There's a particular flavor that is certainly identifiable between them all and it's a very good thing. I look forward to more from the SNAPS gang, especially JoHn, who put out a great piece of work that I highly enjoyed reading.

There was another set of initials that I saw used on a poster the other day: FIAETD.I couldn't figure it out, so I went to the party and it meant 'Fandom is Another Excuse to Drink!'. I laughed rather heartily.

Wow, a new computer! That's a beautiful thing, it really is. I can remember when one of the older Bay Area fans was going through a series of health issues, mostly related to getting hit by a car, and everyone got together and made him a traveling cart so that he could go to the store and the like. When we gave it to him, he had only one word: Wow. Fandom looks after its Own is another phrase I've heard over the years. Can't argue.

*Arnie: A convention that reflected the interests of Las Vegas Fandom, including being "fanzine friendly" would be great. I think it bears mentioning, however, that Las Vegas Fandom is traditionally better at hospitality than con organization.*

*The arrival of the Daugherty's and Anderson's might lead to improvement in that area if*

they are interested in putting on an event.

I, too, would like to see more Vegas fanzines. I'm trying to drum up some interest in getting the less experienced fanzine fans to start one, but neither SNAFFU nor VSFA seems very interested. Which wouldn't prevent it from happening anyway.

One of the stalwarts of the letter column returns with a "catch up" letter of comment...

### Lloyd Penney

23...Steven Brust has come to a number of Ad Astras in Toronto, and he's replaced Steve Stirling as our brooding Man in Black. I hope he can come back for the 25th Ad Astra in 2006. (By the way, Steven, To Reign in Hell is my favorite Brust book, too.)

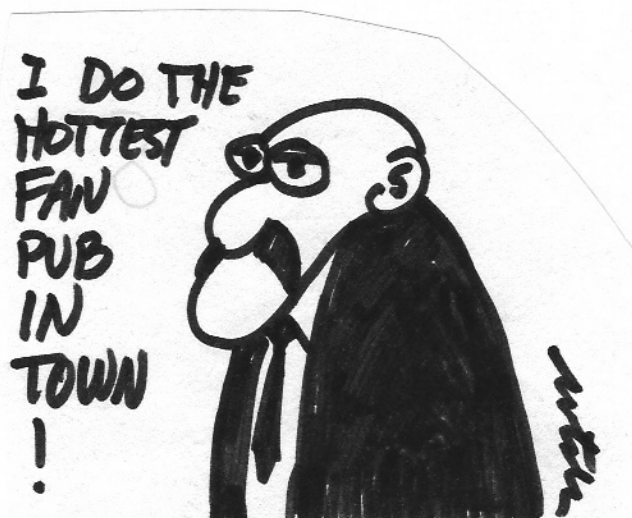
Boy, can I ever tell fandom is getting older... instead of tales of adventures at cons, and pulling all-nighters at parties, we're complaining of various illnesses and injuries. I can't pull those all-nighters any more; I gotta get at least six hours of sleep to be refreshed, and I'm lucky to get five. My left knee still bothers me from time to time; my bald spot is getting bigger, etc., etc.

Please, let me know what's happening with the final and posthumous *Outworlds*. I hope it will be a tribute issue, and a way to wrap up and summarize a fabulous fannish career, and praise a fine fan.

24...Sounds like the LV SF Day was a ton of fun. Dick Pelletier might be interested in the latest Robert J. Sawyer book called *Mind-scan*, where a man is able to record and download his consciousness into an android body.

I am heartened that in this age of passive entertainment at cons, not to mention personality worship, people can still enjoy themselves by discussing any SFnal topic at random, and come up with fabulous ideas. I wish there wasn't so much geography between TO and LV; I'd like nothing better than to come join you at the next such event. Erm...there will be another event like this one, won't there, chairman Woody?

Awards are always a subject of contention,



for they are never managed the way people want them managed, even if they have the power to change it. There are times, not often, though, when tradition is not a good reason for keeping the way things are done. I still have some aspirations towards a fan Hugo, but I have won two Auroras and three FAAs, and I am pleased.

Never thought I'd discuss about the future of the NHL in a fanzine, but seeing I live in Toronto, I can certainly comment on it. A number of people in the media have said that the fine game of hockey has been hijacked by lawyers who know little about the game, and come across as people who know nothing about business. Fire both Bettman and Goodenow, and let new people negotiate the new agreements. I've even heard the suggestion of moving the NHL head office from New York City back to Montreal or Toronto, and letting Canadian corporate law manage the league.

It was doing fine when head office was in Montreal; the problems started when the office moved to the big Apple. I grew up with hockey the way American kids grew up with baseball, football or basketball, so I am hoping an agreement will be reached, if not imposed, and the Leafs can start playing some decent hockey again.

25...Vegas might get a major league baseball team? I hope it's an expansion team, but I

## Las Vegas Fan Event Calendar.

### **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.

### **SNAFFU** May 27 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 the East Side.

### **Las Vegrants Meeting** June 4 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.

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

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

### **SNAFFU** June 10 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** June 10 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 topic is online education

### **Science Fiction Research Association** June 23-26

Ursula K LeGuin leads a roster of well-known authors at this convention that stresses the academic aspects of science fiction discussion and analysis. It will be held at the Imperial Palace. Admission is \$140. Website: <http://www.sfra.org/>

haven't heard anything about expansion. These days, if anything, I hear about contraction, reducing the number of franchises. I've seen the name Lubov on convention flyers, so you have a very talented artist in your midst. Not only is LV fandom expanding, so is its prodom.

As a professional proofreader and copy-editor, like many in fandom, I would say that the punctuation goes outside the asterisks. You'll get my bill in a light year...

*Arnie: Unless there's a sub-rosa version of New York's Hydra Club that has escaped my notice, pros and*

*fans have very cordial relations here in Glitter City..*

*As an editor of some decades' standing, my experience tells me that you are right in placing the quotation marks and such outside the asterisks. But it looks so bad...*

**We Also Heard From:** David Gordon, Shelby Vick, rich brown, Bill Wright.

### **That's It for Now!**

There's not even room for a decent exit. Write me a letter and send news! — Arnie