

June Sunday Social Salutes SF's Founding Fathers!

This coming Sunday (6/18) is Father's Day, so it is fitting that the program portion of the June Sunday Social honor the "Founding Fathers" of Science Fiction and Fandom. Plans aren't finalized, according to Woody Bernardi, president of the sponsoring VSFA, but the program is likely to consist of a panel of experts who will delve into the formative years of SF and the Fandom that sprang from it.

Though the program is always interesting, its just part of what has made the Sunday Social one of the most successful series of events in Las Vegas fanhistory. The Tap House, site of the monthly get-togethers has proven to be an excellent venue with comfortable (and plentiful) seating, a friendly wait staff and a nicely varied, moderately priced food menu.

But in the long run, the biggest attraction — and the May Social drew a record turn-out — is the fans. There's something about the relaxed set-up that seems to promote nonstop chitterchatter and socializing.

VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

The Social runs from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM. VSFA welcomes all interested fans, there is no charge for the meeting and you don't even have to order so much as a soft drink if you don't want to spend the money.

Joyce and I will be there and we hope to see a lot of familiar fannish faces (and hopefully at least a few new



SNAPS

Distribution #3 June 2005



ones) at what ought to be another fine afternoon of easy-going fanac.

SNAPS #3 Welcomes Back Its Official Editor in Style!

Circumstances may have caused quite a few fans to miss the Westside SNAFFU meeting on June 10 (*see my meeting report on page 6*), but it only slightly affected support

for SNAPS (Southern Nevada Amateur Press Society).

With OE Joyce Katz back in charge, the monthly apa matched its outstanding second distribution with another 35 page bundle. Counting the two contributors to Woody Bernardi's Wood Pulp #3, 12 fans contributed content to Disty #3.

Making their SNAPS debuts were Chris Haraway, Ayesha Ashley and Rebecca Hardin. Ayesha's page was her first fanzine fanac of any kind.

The largest SNAPSzine came from Joyce and Linda, both six pages. Wood Pulp also tallied six pages (including Ayesha and Rebecca) and provided the excellent Alan White back cover (*see the bottom of page 1 for a reduced-size version.*)

"I'm especially pleased to see some fans writing Distribution Comments," Joyce observed. "A lot of the fun of a group like this is the "cross talk" among the members in their

Inside Story United We Fan

I hope no one is too unnerved by the changes in the appearance this week's issue of *Vegas Fandom Weekly*. As though we've been with *VFW* for a while may recall, I've made it a policy to give the fanzine's appearance a makeover every 10 issues to keep me from getting into too deep a rut. So, like #11 and #21, the current *VFW* looks a bit different than the ones that immediately preceded it.

Joyce has worked diligently, as the proofreader-in-residence, to rein in most of the glitches I've committed due to the new format and the graphics ought to be in high gear by next week.

I want to thank everyone who has helped, supported and promoted *VFW*. I could not do it without you. Even a Publishing Giant would be a little daunted at the prospect of turning out such a large fanzine with such regularity and I'm not sure I could do it without all the wonderful feedback.

And now, like the perennially greedy fanzine editor I am, let me plead for *more*.

VFW is an engine that runs on news and I need you to help me keep it running. We especially need news about individual Las Vegas fans, reports of fan meetings I don't attend — yes, there are some — like the GayBiLesTrans SF Club and the VSFA Movie & Dinner outings. And if you'd snap a few photos, that would be even more wonderful.

I would love to hear from all the fine folks who receive *VFW* each week. Letters of comment are Fandom's medium of exchange, so "enrich me." You'll sleep better, too. — Arnie



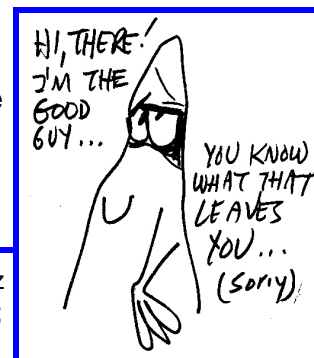
apazines. Fresh content is always good, but comments tie the group together and build the community."

(joyceworley1@cox.net) or in person. You should submit 15 printed copies — or I will run them off for a modest fee if they reach me by the Wednesday before the deadline (to give me a little time to get everything done.)

Vegas Filkers Strike Up The Fannish Band!

The Vegas Filk Circle, a couple of months in the planning, will have its first get-together on

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Joyce has sent copies of the electronic version of SNAPS Disty #3 to her special list and it is now posted on the SNAFFU website. Any interested fan can download it for free.

The deadline for SNAPS' 4th distribution is July 8 at the Westside SNAFFU meeting. Contributions can be submitted to Joyce online

Vegas Fandom Weekly #31, June 15, 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), David Gordon (photos), Rob Hansen (photo) Joyce Katz (proofreading), Woody Bernardi (Star Reporter), rich brown (columnist), Rob Hansen (columnist)

Reporters this issue: David Gordon, Woody Bernardi, Richard Brandt, Aileen Forman and Joyce Katz

Art/Photo Credits: Alan White (1), Bill Rotsler (all other cartoons)

Columnists This Issue: rich brown, Gilda Cabral

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 design wizards were harmed during the production of this fanzine.

Member: fwa. Supporter: AFAL. Toner II in 2006!

The Dear Departed Katzenjammer

Linda Bushyager, in a recent post on one of the local listservs, brought up the many Vegas fans who did *not* attend the Las Vegas Fantasy & Science Fiction Day. It really was an outstanding event (kudos to Woody as chairman) and it struck her odd that everyone wouldn't want to be there on such a momentous day.

Linda expressed a degree of surprise that they didn't show up and suggested that they should be contacted to find out what had kept them away. This drew strong comment from Darmon Thornton and several others. There was much quoting of, "Fandom Is Just A Goddam Hobby."

I've been a fan even longer than Linda and, I must admit, I felt that way as I counted the missing at the con. Then I thought about it more and realized that there's be a difference between an active fan like me (or Linda) missing the Fantasy & Science Fiction Day and someone who is barely on the fringe of Las Vegas Fandom doing the same.

It's a matter of priorities. It has nothing to do with "being busy" or "working hard" or any of that stuff. Everyone is busy; everyone works hard; everyone has things in their lives that require attention. People make time for the things they *want* to make time for.

For various reasons, including *VFW*, going to local fan events has a high priority for me at the present time. Yet I can also remember times when attending such a thing ranked below other activities. Surely, we can't begrudge someone the right to a different set of priorities from ours.

Fanhistory teaches us a lot about new fans. Many rush in the front door — but many rush out the back door, too. A lot of these folks are absolutely wonderful in many ways. I was very fond of many of those who were neos about the same time as I was, but almost all have gone on to other pursuits. I miss some of those folks a lot, but it doesn't blind me to the fact that, for now at least, they are not thinking of Fandom (and former fan friends like me).

Even among those who find Fandom and stick, there's a wide range of possible levels of commitment. Most will elect to take minor roles that require relatively little time and energy while others make a huge personal investment. You can't expect these two types of fans to feel the same way — and they don't.

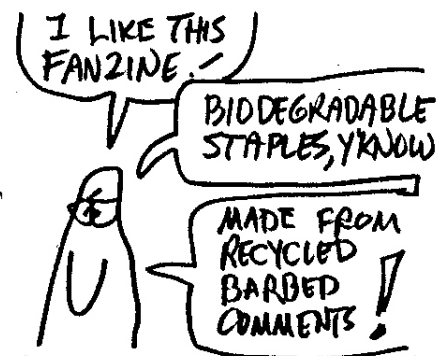
Not, I want to assure you, that Linda was in any way saying they are bad people. Her thought, as she elaborated on it at last week's SNAFFU meeting, is that some of those very nice folks retrenched activity for transitory reasons. For example, they may have hit Vegas Fandom during its recent three-year lull and not liked the ambience. Or maybe there was so little happening at the points of contact that nothing grabbed their attention and mandated continuing involvement.

Linda has a valid point here. There may be some who simply don't know how things are developing and might possibly find the revitalized local scene more to their taste. The question is: What can be done to let those on the fringe know what's happening?

In a general way, making sure news of local events gets maximum distribution. This might mean encouraging fringe fan friends to check out *Vegas Fandom Weekly* or join one of the local listservs. Until they have new information, they'll continue to order their priorities based on the information they have. And *that* means they'll continue to stay away.

Another thing that can be done is person-to-person contact. I remember Andy Porter seeking out Lee Hoffman at her apartment and bringing her back to activity with the Fanoclasts after she had done almost nothing in Fandom for several years. A little personal caring and concern often produces better results than a lot of generalized cheerleading for "faanish spirit."

By all means, let's help the fine folks on the fannish fringe in LV find out what we're doing, but let's also not be too disappointed — or take it personally — if they simply don't have the interest to actually participate even when they know. — Arnie



Old Tyme Religion

rich brown's Fanhistory Corner

Not to be outdone by certain fantasy authors, fandom began engaging in tongue-in-cheek idolatry by inventing its own ghods and mock religions relatively early in the formation of the microcosm. Over time, the practice led to certain individuals in fandom being nominated, for different reasons, to ghodhood -- Robert Bloch, Walt Willis and Elmer Perdue most notably -- and there have even been a number of tongue-in-cheek cults that have worshiped Melvin, Bheer and The Great Spider.

Let's first deal with these cults briefly. Bloch and Willis were nominated, because of their overwhelming popularity in the microcosm, but they both managed to shrug off the nominations and participate as mortals anyway.

Perdue was self-proclaimed, and was noted for his parables and miracles: He might, for an example of the former, let someone hold his beer briefly before retrieving it while intoning, "The Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away" -- or, for an example of the latter, gesture dramatically in the direction of a moving vehicle, only to call upon all witnesses, including any non-believers, to testify to the fact that the car had immediately turned into a driveway.

Melvinism we will deal with later as the offshoot of one of the major fannish religions that it is.

Bheer still has it adherents and, although more a cult than a fannish religion, it's probably the only one with large numbers of non-fan adherents in

its flock, given that it's worshiped with similar ardor at many a college fraternity. (But see below for a caveat entered about the first of the major fannish ghods.)

Finally, the Great Spider is still called upon, to some effect, to provide parking spaces for its worshippers by eating other automobiles whole (excluding, perhaps, those protected by Elmer, which have turned into a driveway in any event).

We move on to the major fannish religions, whose ghods are Ghu (or GhuGhu), Foo (or FooFoo), Roscoe and Ignatz and whose followers are therefore Ghu(Ghu)ists, Foo (Foo)ists. Roscoeites and Ignatzians. GhuGhuism was the first mock religion, started in the early 1930s by Donald Wollheim and John B. Michel.

The second, FooFooism, was launched as a burlesque of GhuGhuism shortly thereafter by Mary Corinne Gray (better known in fandom as Pogo, years before the Walt Kelly possum of that name) and her left-hand man

Jack Speer, author of the first *Fancylopedia*. Speer got virtually all the credit, however, since he did most of the work in spreading the religion.

Ghu was either a beetle bodied monster on Vulcan or an incarnation of Wollheim; Michel was the high priest while members of their club, the Futurians, held other posts.

Ghu's holy color is purple because Ghuists publish their fanzines using spirit duplicators or hectographs and the

YOU CAN'T KID
ME - YOU'RE NO
EARLIER THAN
9TH FANDOM!



primary ditto/hecto carbon is purple.

In relatively recent times, Stuart C. Helinger raised a disturbing question when he pointed out that Barney is purple and, being worshiped by many young and impressionable non-fan toddlers, might turn out to be a reincarnation or new avatar of Ghu.

Foo was embodied on earth as Speer.

The name actually came from a mundane source, the "Smokey Stover" comic strip drawn by Bill Holman, which had the word "foo" in many of its panels. The holy color of Foo is black, as Foo was a ghod of mimeography.

Melvinism was a late 1950s offshoot of FooFooism which recognize Speer only as a prophet, not as Foo Incarnate, and followed the wise counsels of Melvin, the BEM of BEMs.

There was mock religious feuding between early GhuGhuists and FooFooists, some of it having a little edge to it, not in any real belief but because the founders were at loggerheads on other, real issues.

The popularity of these two mock religions had waned by 1949, when Roscoe was introduced to fandom by Art Rapp, Rick Sneary and Ed Cox.

Roscoe is a jaunty beaver whose birthday is Labor Day Weekend (which all fans celebrate, Roscoeites or not, as the Worldcon is traditionally held over that weekend).

Possibly the most popular of the fannish ghods, for reasons unknown, although Rapp speculated that it might have been a numbers game. Which is to say, FooFoo was invented by one fan (Jack Speer) and GhuGhu by two (Don Wollheim with the help of John Michel), and Rapp (the editor of the monthly fanzine *Space-*

warp) speculated as follows:

"Then mighty Roscoe's cult arose
(as every SPACEWARP reader knows)
Interpreted by deacons three:
Rick Sneary, Edmund Cox and me.
The moral of this history, fan
Is: cults ain't founded by one slan;
Attempts by two make fandom nod,
For only t'ree can make a ghod."

The last of the major fannish ghods was Ignatz, the brick-throwing mouse from the *Krazy Kat* comic strip, whose high priestess was Nan Share. The little troublemaker certainly had his followers in a microcosm which has, after all, at times been defined as an "anarchistic meritocracy" -- that is, a place where no one really "runs" everything (anarchistic) and where the only status achieved is via other's recognition of one's real accomplishments (meritocracy).

Though the early 'mock' religious wars between GhuGhuism and FooFooism was divided pretty much along serious feuding lines, given that Ghu's earthly incarnation was Wollheim and Foo's was Speer, this did not carry over as the newer fannish religions came on the scene. The fact that Art Rapp, one of the three deacons of Roscoeism, and Nan Share, the high priestess to the ghod Ignatz, were married for 40+ years no doubt served as an example to establish ecumenicism in the fannish religions.

The Melvinist branch of FooFooism holds that 'all' fannish ghods are equal (although some may not be as equal as others) and perhaps the only real advantage to belonging to it lies in the fact that it is the only fannish religion which openly acknowledges this.

— rich brown

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Saturday, June 18, at the Launch Pad with Joyce Katz as host. Steve Brust, Ayesha Ashley and Teresa Cochran have already committed to participation, but Joyce invites everyone to bring instruments, whether it's guitars and harmonicas or kazoos and tambourines.

Las Vegrants is sponsoring the first VFC session, though future ones are likely to be "free-standing" gatherings. Non-Vegrants should contact Joyce (joyceworley1@cox.net; 648-5677) to get details and an invitation.

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Six Fans in Search of a Club

Arnie reports on the 6/10 SNAFFU meeting

Joyce and I arrived at Borders Bookstore on Sahara about 7:30. That was a little early even for us, since the meeting doesn't start until 8:00, but the High Priestess was excited about her return to SNAFFU after a month away and, of course, the third SNAPS distribution.

(There's also the fact that her beleaguered right ankle means that she has to pack a lunch and a change of clothes for the trip from the bookstore's front door to the area in the back reserved for meetings.)

I began to get a little nervous when no one had arrived by 7:45, which was hardly usual for the club's Westside sessions. Woody Bernardi and Rebecca Hardin arrived, but it turned out they were only there for a moment. Both had volunteered to help at the CineVegas film festival and, as a reward, had invitations to attend the star-studded premiere party at the Palms.

Woody helped me set up the chairs — though the two especially comfy padded ones are no longer in evidence — and left us to wait for our fellow SNAFFUties.

Eventually, Darmon Thornton, Lori Forbes and Linda & Ron Bushyager joined us to make up the evening's entire attendance. Quality, perhaps, but a little light on quantity.

It was a bit strange not to see so many of the regulars, but it isn't significant. It's a phenomenon that overtakes all but the largest clubs from time to

time. VSFA and Las Vegants have had even smaller meetings at times — and for the same reason.

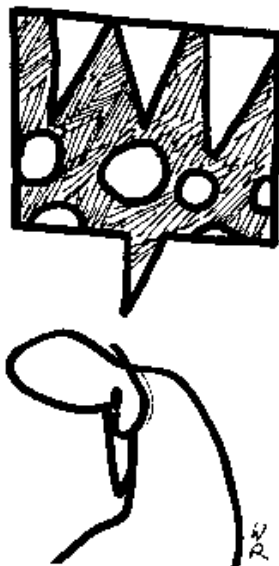
A group will go along with a very steady attendance — Westside SNAFFU is almost invariably 10-14 these days — and then a combination of circumstance will cut the expected crowd in half or even less.

Since both the president (Michael Bernstein) and vice president (Kent Hastings) had pressing reasons to be elsewhere, Darmon came out of retirement to wield the (metaphorical) gavel.

Darmon did a commendable job in a trying situation. Our numbers were so depleted that we only followed the usual meeting structure in the most haphazard way.

Lacking any old business to chew, we bit into the new stuff shortly after the acting president called the meeting to semi-order. The news that Merric & Luba Anderson will host Toner 2 the weekend before the 2006 World SF Convention in Los Angeles was the main item.

The Library Committee was also discussed. Joyce asserted that the delay in her ankle operations means that the Committee ought to swing into action now. Lori and Darmon, both of whom are part of that group, agreed. I gave them a choice of times over the next two weekends and Lori indicated that she would contact the others and figure out the most con-



venient time for everyone. I recommended that the committee consider working in the morning, before the garage heats up under the summer Vegas sun.

Darmon did his best to keep a SNAFFU tradition alive with a Science Report on forthcoming experiments to be conducted involving high energy cosmic rays. Scientists cannot yet explain the origin of these high energy rays, a small percentage of all the cosmic radiation that bombards the planet, and hope to clear up the mystery with additional research.

Tepid interest in the night's scheduled topic arose as much from the small number of participants as a degree of ennui with the subject: Wizards.

Each of us brought forward our favorite examples of the breed — I am still shilling for *The Incomplete Enchanter* by DeCamp & Pratt — but none of the six of us seemed to have real enthusiasm for the discussion.

A strictly *unscheduled*, and much more energetic, discussion broke out about the future of the group. It would be unfair to quote the various comments made about current and possible future club officials, because they were not made with that in mind. Suffice to say that there was support for current officers as well as sentiment for some future change to meet SNAFFU's evolving needs.

One comment that deserves further airing, though, came from Joyce. She feels that some restructuring to separate the functions of running the club and running the meeting would benefit SNAFFU. This might translate into more planning before, and more dynamism during, the meetings. Very few combine the balance and managerial skill to direct a club and the out-going personality to control and invigorate the meetings.



Right now, SNAFFU is riding on the backs of Michael Bernstein and Roxanne Gibbs. A lot of people are good at talking, but this couple actually does a huge amount of the work.

I doubt they would oppose a revised structure that reduced their considerable burden. (I'm hoping that one or both of them will comment on the idea in the next *VFW*.)

One problem with finding fans to work for SNAFFU is the semi-divided meeting set-up. Having half the meetings on the Westside and half on the Eastside is convenient in

some ways, but it also creates two semi-separate groups. The overlap in attendance appears to be about 50%-60%. A club that always meets in one location would have the same fans at every meeting (with the usual meeting-to-meeting variation).

This leads to a lack of continuity and, incidentally, limits the number of potential club officers. I think one of SNAFFU's major goals should be to find a reasonably central meeting venue that would eliminate the current separation between Westside and Eastside. Obviously, SNAFFU can survive the way it is now, but it would have a better chance to thrive if we could do something.

"Unity" seemed to be the theme for the evening, so I brought up the status of Las Vegas' two interactive local listservs. (SNAFFU also has an announcement listserv that distributes meeting information and such.) Several attendees thought a merger had merit. (See *"Virtual Town Meeting" elsewhere in this issue*.)

The meeting was small, but rather enjoyable. It was a good opportunity to talk to some fellow Vegas fans whom I don't see as often as I would like. — Arnie

Contact Information

Las Vegrants	Arnie & Joyce Katz, PMB 152, 330 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas 89107 Email: JoyceWorley1@cox.net Phone: 648-5677
LesGayBiTrans SF Club	Terry Wilsey Email: GayScienceFiction@yahoo.com Phone: 702-733-9990
SNAFFU:	Michael Bernstein Email: webmaven@cox.net Phone: 765-7279
VSFA:	Woody Bernardi Email: woodybernardi@yahoo.com Phone: 327-3154

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VSFA Movie Outing to See *Batman Begins* on 6/18!

Dinner & a Movie with VSFA's next outing is *Batman Begins* on Saturday, June 18. Fans who want to go to the Twilight Show at the Crown Theater in Neonopolis should get there at 4:30 PM. The actual starting time is 5:10 PM. The group will go to dinner at one of the casinos, actual destination to be determined at the time.

It's always more fun to see a movie with friends. Let's hope that VSFA will schedule future events so that they won't conflict with the Vegrants meetings.

Las Vegrants Has Good News For Hardcore Non-Filkers!

Las Vegrants' *other* host (me) wishes to assure those who do not thrill to the voices of fans raised in song, that there'll be plenty to do (and lots of space in which to do it) at this Saturday's Las Vegrants meeting.

Earthquake Strikes Yucaipa!

With the impending move of Forman and Wilson families to Flippen, AR, the chances of Yucaipa, CA, becoming the epicenter of the fan universe are small, but the town was the epicenter of a 4.9 earthquake on Thursday (6/16)!

Ken and Aileen report that there was no injury or property damage for the Formans and Wilsons as a result of the tremor, which lasted a harrowing 90 seconds.

While the Vegas Filk Circle welcomes both participants and listeners, it is definitely not necessary to be either if that's not your thing. Although the VFC will be meeting on Saturday at the Launch Pad, their sing will start later and probably end earlier than the Vegrants meeting itself.

More importantly, the filkers will get a large and comfortable room in which to make music, but the rest of the house will belong to members who prefer the group's usual fannish, social and hedonistic pursuits. The Launch Pad is famed for its privacy-oriented acoustics.

NonCon 2 Needs a Host For Friday or Sunday!

The July 4th weekend already has two major events, the Vegrants Open Party and Arnie Katz Birthday Festival on Saturday evening at 7:30 and the VSFA Independence Day BBQ, hosted by Mindy Hutchings at the home of Woody Bernardi.

To make it a real NonCon, the city's first in well over a decade, we need some people or groups to step forward and offer to host an event Friday evening or any time Sunday. It doesn't have to be anything terribly fancy. One suggestion (by Joyce) is an Ice Cream social to which each guest would bring a pint or more of ice cream.

Whatever the idea, this would be a good time to do it. If you've been looking for a way to pay back months of incredible hospitality, this might be a very appropriate way.

Heard Around Vegas (and Fandom)...

Richard Brandt, frequent (and recent) Vegas visitor, is quoted on page 48 of the June 10 issue

of *Entertainment Weekly*, in Dalton Ross's article "The Worst Movie Ever Made." Says Richard: "I have become, Mr. Ross asserts, 'something of a Manos historian.'" Although I am quoted, but briefly, behind the scenes I assisted the reporter by hooking him up with two of his interview subjects, and their photo editor by directing her to sources of old photographs. Much of the article may also ring curiously familiar to those who have read my two tracts in 'Mimosa' on the same subject."

Richard also says he'll be returning to Vegas the week of July 10. Maybe he'll be able to join us at the 7/16 Vegrants meeting or the 7/17 Sunday Social...

Bill Kunkel, Joyce and I were mentioned in a major *Time* story about video and computer games in last week's issue. *Electronic Games*, which we began in 1981, was shown and described in the article as the world's first such publication...

Ruth Davidson, missing from the local scene and Fandom in general for a few weeks, is slowly edging back into activity. She's trying not to get over-extended so as not to repeat the situation that caused her to put fanac aside temporarily to deal with personal and non-fan matters...

Ken & Aileen Forman, those earthquake-dodging daredevils, will make one last visit to Las Vegas before the big move to Arkansas. They plan to come to town on Saturday, July 2, for the Vegrants Open Party and Arnie Birthday Festival — and then return home Sunday morning to finish packing. Ben & Cathi Wilson have not yet firmed up their plans, but we're hopeful that they, too, will be able to attend the big party.

Chatback: The VFW Letter Column

The letters came in very strong this week, so let's not lose any time getting right to them.

*This time, the leadoff spot goes to an old friend who's making his **VFW** debut. Due to some stubborn compu-problems, he has been receiving, but not reading VFW until now:*

Dick Lupoff

Whee!!! Reinstalled Adobe pdf reader 7.0 and was able to open *Vegas Fandom Weekly* at last. Lots of fun. Of course I'm a paper junky from w-a-a-y back, and having just finished browsing Earl Kemp's [el20](#) I now find myself confronting *VFW 30* -- two e-zines in a row.

I wonder how many readers print out e-zines and read 'em on paper versus how many read 'em on-screen. Also, how many print 'em for archival purposes, how many save 'em as e-files, and how many just read and delete.

One of the great cosmic questions of the age.

Wd like to write a full-fledged loc but I have an appointment in the city (San Francisco) and by my own schedule should be leaving the house in exactly two minutes if I'm going to be on time.

More whenever. And thanks, many thanks for *VFW*.

Arnie: Those who love the feel of a fanzine in their hands are invited to print out this one. You can take it to the bathroom and other important places without lugging your whole computer in there.

*Joyce sends her thanks for the copy of **The Best of Xero**, which I unreservedly recommend to everyone as a terrific read.*

Now that the rookie has had his say, it's time for one of the Chatback regulars to weigh in with the first comment about the announcement of Toner II:

Chris Garcia

Toner II: The Conventioneering

I'll certainly try and make it, as I'll be at L.A.Con and may as well combine it and take a week and a day or two instead of just a couple of days off. A nice relaxicon right before Worldcon would be a nice aperitif, it would!

You're absolutely right about other local fandoms having major flare-ups and feuds. I've been able to avoid most of them that exist in this part of the world, but you always have to think a little about who's who and what's what.

Best of wishes for successful Vegas cons to the chairs and committees, and I'm already throwing my hat in to be a panelist!

Your little section about the interconnectiveness of all things surrounding Toner makes my head spin. The last time I saw that many connections was in P.T. Anderson's film *Magnolia*. You can't pluck one string on the spider web without shaking them all, or so the saying goes.

Yes, that Bonds story shook the Bay Area a little bit, though we all pretty much know that he's not a good guy, but he's the closest thing we've had to a sports hero since the days of Joe Montana. Since the only thing we can cling to now is baseball, and even that's letting us down, we

have overlooked a lot in Barry's favor. If only the NHL hadn't cancelled the Sharks' season!

I bet you knew I'd comment on the entire string about your visit to First Star Software. I still can't believe that games ever solid on magnetic tape cassettes. I refuse to believe it, even though I've cataloged more than a few.

The trouble with them is speed of loading and the fact that tape isn't the most reliable of mediums. I've only played one game off of a tape drive, an early version of Zork that I found lying around the museum. It took me almost an hour to get a Commodore 64 up and working so that I could play it, but play it I did, and all afternoon. In fact, I might fire it up again after I finish this LoC.

Wow, that's a nice spread out in AR the Forman's have bought. It looks like it'll make for a nice B+B, and if I'm ever in Flippen (which I really wanna spell as Flippin') I'd stay there!

Arnie: Your comments on Toner confirm the strategy that made the original so successful –

and which Vegas Fandom hopes will work against for the 2006 reincarnation. The World SF Con is a giant show filled with lots of formal events and a great deal of "official"-ness. The Andersons intend Toner II to be the antithesis. It'll be for socializing and partying without the manifold distractions and disruptions of a worldcon.

The next writer reveals a stunning duplication of names, if not identities, that imperils the steady flow of bribe money to his Seattle home:

Randy Byers

When I was attending the University of Oregon, I once took a strange call at the apartment I shared with Carl Juarez.

"Mr. Byers," the caller said, "this is Joe Blow of Blow's Music, and I'm calling to let you know that the sheet music you ordered has arrived."

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***LV Futurists* Gilda Cabral Reports On the 6/10 Meeting**

At the June 10 meeting of the Las Vegas Futurists Mathew Crawford, former National Math Olympiad, former quant trader, turned online math teacher at www.artofproblemsolving.com showed us that creating a supportive environment of teachers and motivated students can turn an eager student to an exceptional math student worthy of competing in national and international math competition.

The "Art of Problem Solving" is a technique of problem analysis of math questions devised by Mathew Crawford and his partner Richard Rusczyk. Mathew had a long list of anecdotes about students who took the Art of Problem Solving classes and saw their scores increase tremendously. One of his students in South Carolina (Joseph Laurendi) who went from scoring 1 out of 15 on the 2004 American Invitational Mathematics Examination to an 11 out of 15 on the 2005 exam qualifying him for the USA Mathematical Olympiad (top 250 or so students in North America).

Having a strong foundation in mathematics prepares students for many professions in life. A quote from Mathew: "The kinds of tests our students take are very different from standardized tests, though are much more important to students who might one day participate in new technology production".

The support of the teachers and peers from a global resource pool provides a vastly superior environment than traditional in-classroom teaching. To show how thoroughly excited problem solving can be to young and inquiring minds, Mathew announced an impromptu online math session -- a Math Jam (think of it as a Math problem solving chat room) the day of the meeting at 8:00pm Pacific Standard Time.

Remember June 10 was a Friday night -- typically a date night for the middle school and high school-aged future scientists and future technology leaders of America. At about 7:50 pm, the logins at the math jams trickled in. By 8:15pm, the logins was about 57. Also remember that this was a global session so that many people that participated may be from other time zones--such as the East Coast or possibly Asia or Europe.

Where were your teenagers on Friday night?

Thank you Mathew for coming to Las Vegas and giving us a wonderful talk!

— Gilda Cabral

The Local Listservs Town Meeting

The Virtual Town Meeting is a new VFW feature that will focus on discussion of topics that affect the entire Las Vegas Fan Community. All comments are published unedited except for spelling and punctuation and all side of the question are invited and encouraged to air their thoughts. before all of Vegas Fandom by sending them to VFW for next issue.

The Question: Should We Merge the VSFA and interactive SNAFFU listservs?

Arnie Katz

Las Vegas Fandom isn't about clubs, it's the fans who comprise the community. If the two listservs were combined, it would be easier to address the *whole* fan community and it would eliminate the need the repetitive (and annoying) double posting. A look at both listservs shows two things: there's a huge overlap in participants and there is little posted on either that is not relevant to all of LV Fandom.

Having one central listserv instead of two semi-redundant ones will strengthen the community by improving communication. It is also likely that, by putting all local fans under the same roof, the traffic (and therefore the interest level) will increase.

Darmon Thornton

Not everybody in SNAFFU subscribes to the VSFA list, or vice versa.

Arnie has suggested that both the SNAFFU and VSFA general discussion lists be dissolved and that a general Las Vegas Fandom discussion list be started.

I would personally support the idea on the following conditions:

1. That it is not hosted on Yahoo! Groups or MSN. Ads suck. Google Groups or Mailman listserv (privately hosted) is preferred.
2. List administration and moderation be shared equally among participating clubs. No particular club would "own" the list.

The suggestion, however, would have to be discussed among the board members of both clubs.

OTOH, maintaining club-specific discussion lists for club-specific discussion isn't a bad thing, as what might be of interest to Las Vegrants members may not necessarily of interest to members of the LGBT SF Club (for example). Therefore, this list *is* justified. Let's discuss SNAFFU-specific stuff here!

Regardless of what is jointly decided by the local fan groups, the last thing local fandom needs is a political war between SNAFFU and VSFA. As there's enough room in this town for two daily papers and multiple casinos, there's plenty of room for both SF clubs. Let's save the turf wars for the Bloods and the Crips, OK?

Joyce Katz

Just throwing in my 2 cents worth: Although I don't think we Need two listservs, I don't think they do any harm, either. While it might be more efficient to combine then, I don't think it's necessary.

James Taylor

I can see good arguments on both sides of this but maybe we need to consider what the purpose of a central list would be. If it's to coordinate fannish activity then we need a announce list. If we want discussion then I would suggest that fans have voted with their feet in favor of VSFA's list. This could change if the future or even tomorrow.

Not being big on online discussion. I would favor a central list for announcements and coordination among fans & groups. But I see no need for any group to give up their own discussion list. I just join the VSFA list and I'm on the SNAFFU lists. I don't see this as a problem, I just set up a new filter and put the mail into a new folder. Let the fannish market decide.

Teresa Cochran

Bring it on. we could have the lists we have now, and a centralized list. Since I don't get out very much, I like having online discussions. (I just joined mailing lists on bats, Richard Feynman, and Carl Sagan!) and I'm not much of a telephone user.

OK... that's round one with a lot of good points.

Now it's *your* turn. Send your opinions!

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same as mine, although his resume is a lot more impressive. Simply put, I've just had more receptive audiences -- on the whole -- in other venues both amateur and professional. Since I can get paid, and get starred reviews in Publishers Weekly, and win professional awards co-writing mystery novels with Mary, it isn't very enticing to me to be heavily involved in Fandom where I was never considered good enough to garner so much as a nomination or even make a decent showing in an egoboo poll. Obviously, what I do doesn't match what most fans want. You have to find your audience.

That being said, the encouragement I received from a lot of individuals in Fandom is what kept me writing over the years until I was finally able to figure out what to write...(and who to write with!)

As you know I refrained from saying this last time I wrote because I didn't want to sound overly negative and so when I read Bill's loc I was kicking myself. Man, what a missed chance. I could've been in a tag-team with Bill Kunkel We'd have put Fandom down for the count!

Arnie: It would be unseemly for someone who has reaped as many honors as me to loftily say that Fandom is not about awards and honors. I might feel differently if fandom hadn't rewarded me in that way, though it's doubtful I'd still be a fan if it hadn't rewarded me so richly in so many other ways as well: friends, fun, a wife.

In my case, professional success came more swiftly and to a greater degree than honors in Fandom. Yet I came back to Fandom at a time when my career had made me a celebrity in one field (video and computer games) and was about to make me an even bigger one in another (collecting).

I came here for the stf and stayed for the subculture.

And now, what I believe to be the first published letter of comment anywhere by one of the leading lights of Vegas Fandom's New Generation:

Teresa Cochran

I'm one of those contrary people who likes to start in the middle. So I say that thirty is the middle, though it may also be just the beginning.

Actually, I didn't expose all of you to this virus-

thing I've got, because I meant to say I saw my family after I saw you all for the Vegrants meeting. But hope I didn't expose other folk who will then expose you.

There's a point I have to disagree with you heartily about. (Hey, I'm doing it, finally!) I'll have to paraphrase it, but you made the point that amateur folk was like amateur SF, and implied that it is not good enough to be published. Restate that if I'm wrong. Well, I don't think all filk is off-key, though some is, and much of it is professional, though some isn't.

Furthermore, I have a strong belief that music is for fun, just like writing for fanzines. Lastly, I don't think professionalism or commercial appeal necessarily have anything to do with quality, one way or the other. Of course, this could just be more a matter of personal tastes, and there's no need arguing that.

I'm looking forward to the *Toner Memories*. It sounds like a lot of fun was had by all, and I look forward to experiencing such a thing.

Arnie: The point I made, none too skillfully as it turns out, is that fan stuff -- whether written, drawn or sung -- is produced within the context of Fandom. Most fan articles and cartoons are not saleable, because they depend on at least a rudimentary consciousness of Fandom.

Amateur science fiction does not require knowledge of Fandom. It is published in fanzines, because it is either not good enough to publish in a professional magazine or book or because the author is too cowardly to put it to the test by submitting it to a professional editor. And, yes, I can conceive of circumstances that could produce exceptions, but that is the general case.

Filk music about Fandom and songs that parody SF and Fantasy stories are not suitable for professional publication. Filk music that goes on about unicorns and snowy bosoms in the full moon's light do not face the same obstacles to professional publication, since they do not have a context that would make them inaccessible. There's nothing to prevent a record company from issuing such music except that it isn't good enough to meet professional standards.

You make an excellent point about music for fun. It is enjoyable to play and sing even if you aren't going to headline Live Eight. From the point of view of a listener, however, I'd rather hear Bob Dylan, Keb Mo, Zachery Richard and my other favorites than someone who sings about unicorns and isn't good enough to record professionally.

And, yes, I understand there are exceptions. I'm talking about the general case.

And now, to wrap up this issue's letter column in fine fannish style, here's the Sage of Glen Ellen:

Robert Lichtman

It's been a while since I wrote you regarding *Vegas Fan Diary*, which has advanced along the lines of becoming More Than Just A Clubzine. It's now morphed in part into being a Syllabus Of Fannish Knowledge as part of your efforts to mold a new and vital fandom out there in the bright lights and sagebrush. A veritable *Vegas L'Affaires*, if I may be so bold.

While a part of me would rather see new issues of *Flicker* and regular FAPAazines from you, I can't fault you for what you're doing -- and I'm enjoying it more and more as its evolution, er, evolves. The addition of columnists and article contributors from outside Las Vegas (rich brown, Bruce Gillespie, Bill Wright, Rob Hansen and Tucker) is way cool.

One error I spotted immediately in No. 30 is your reference to the "1997 L.A. worldcon." In fact, that convention and the Toner that preceded it took place in 1996. Countering this is my own Oh No when I saw the dates for Toner II (August 26-27) and misread 2006 as 2005. So we're even on the date confusion front, Meyer. The Oh No was because *this year* I wouldn't be able to come. On those dates I'll be in the final throes of moving from Glen Ellen to Oakland -- and I will be "retired," Since my plan is to vacate my apartment on the last day of August, it simply wouldn't work out for me to be in far oof exotic Las Vegas.

One nice thing about half of the convention taking place on August 27th is that in 2006 it will be my 64th birthday. If I come -- and I'd like to, even though I'm not so sure about the worldcon itself -- it would be interesting to see if fandom will still need me, if fandom will still feed me.

Meanwhile, I'm looking forward to seeing *Toner Memories* when it becomes available, even though I will have read all the articles in it -- *and* I was there!

I loved your article on allusions, layered as it is. Interesting that Ben and Tom named the first Toner as an allusion to Toner Hall -- I'd always thought it was the next logical step in conventions named after aspects of fannish reproduction, i.e., Corflu and Ditto.

Good to read on the same page that Damien Warman's reprint of Laney's *Ah! Sweet Idiocy!* is finally going to appear. Do you know if it will be distributed electronically, in hard copy, or both? By the way, I just noticed an interesting thing. I was pretty sure that your rendering of Laney's memoir's title as "AH, SWEET IDIOCY!" was incorrect, so I went to look it up in the Pavlat/ Evans/Swisher *Fanzine Index*. And it's *not* listed!

It's too bad everyone involved with that wonderful reference work is deceased and so there's no one to ask if this was intentional or otherwise. So instead I pulled out my copy of *A Sense of FAPA* and confirmed my suspicions about your rendering of the title there. I also have that edition of *ASI* that came out in the late '50s, half of it leftover pages from Burbee running it off for Laney in 1947 and the other half a reprint from Laney's stencils by the Busbys. This copy came to me by way of the late Boyd Raeburn and has a note from Elinor to Boyd informing him of the identities of most of the people Laney shotgun trashes on the last couple pages. But *ASOF* was closer to my computer.

In your report on the June 4th Vegrants meeting, you say that the Carrs and the Lupoffs (and others) "exited the Big Apple in the mid-1970s." I don't know about the others, but the Lupoffs moved to California in 1970. I know this for an absolute fact because when they came out and bought the house in Berkeley in which they live to this very day there was a going away party for them. At the party they announced that if anyone cared to come back to Poughkeepsie and drive across country with them in one of their two Volvos, they would give one of them to that person. They made this offer because they wanted to split their three young children between two cars.

Being self-employed at the time, I gladly accepted. I've written elsewhere about that trip, so I won't go into its many adventures here, but I remember doing it in the summer of 1970. And Terry & Carol moved to the Bay Area in 1971, but they drove across by themselves. (And I think I recall Jay Kinney being in the Bay Area before I moved to Tennessee in 1971.)

I want to note here that I've been religiously reading the SNAPS distributions (oh, how I hate the word "disty"!!) but life and other fanac has precluded my commenting or participating. Once I'm retired, this may well change as *work* will not get in the way of *fanac*.

Las Vegas Fan Event Calendar.

Las Vegrants Meeting June 18 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 June 19 2 PM

VSFA sponsors this event, open to all Vegas fans, at The Tap House. The theme this time is the Fathers of Science Fiction.

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 or by the day for \$25. Website: <http://www.sfra.org/>

SNAFFU June 24 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 July 2 7:30 PM

Las Vegrants invites all Vegas fans to its Open NonCon 2 party (and Arnie Birthday Festival). It's at the Launch Pad, the home of Arnie and Joyce Katz. (No presents, please.)

VSFA Barbeque July 4 3:00 PM

Mindy Hutchings hosts at the home of Woody Bernardi.

SNAFFU July 8 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 July 8 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.)

Chris Garcia seems to be overlooking, in his bid to "someday do the first daily print fanzine" that it's been done, many times, in the form of convention dailies. It seems to me that in the dimmer recesses of fanzine fandom's past it was done in some other context as well, but I don't remember the specifics.

Bill Kunkel's mention that he "still writes pieces for nobody in particular and do tons of cartoons that sit in drawers" is shocking and yet enticing. Please tell Bill that he is welcome to contact me for a home for at least one of those articles. Sorry to hear that he and Laurie are contemplating a move to Michigan in 2006, but I can understand the urge to be near family.

So Chris Garcia thought "there was no fanac during WWII"!? Someone give this guy a copy of Warner's *All Our Yesterdays*, *now*! (Or he could buy one from NESFA Press, which just put out a new edition with way more photos than the original Advent book.)

A question for Chris: I see you referred to yourself as a second-generation fan, but I have no idea who your mother and father might have been, and you don't name them here. It would be interesting to know if I knew them (or at least of

them).

The Formans and the Wilsons moving to Arkansas!! That's an attractive-looking home and some nice woodlands in those pictures, and perhaps when they get their bed and breakfast set up they can reserve a weekend sometime for a small convention to be called LoveCampCon.

Arnie: I guess I'll have to stop referring to you as the "Sage of Glen Ellen" when you make your retirement move. How does the "Oldphart of Oakland" strike you, Meyer?

Sometimes, after expert nitpickers like you and rich have gone over my pieces, I feel more like I am creating the Short Bus of Fandom.

I believe Ken and Ben are already thinking about putting on a Corflu, probably in Little Rock. Maybe 2008 or 2008, depending how the geographic dispersion fo Corflus between now and when they want to do theirs.

Bye-Bye for This Week

Whew! Another 14-page issue, even though I dropped the text a point.

Send news, essays and letters of comment. I'll be back in seven days

— Arnie Katz