

## Whites Plan Brunchcon I With Three Movies!

A hilarious flyer distributed at the 6/18 Vegrants Meeting proclaimed next Sunday (6/26) as Brunchcon I. Alan & DeDee White invite Las Vegas fans to come over to their house for an 11:00 AM brunch, to be followed by showings of the genre movies actually shot in Las Vegas, *Six String Samurai* and *Sword of Death*. And, as the flyer says, "strictly for those of low self esteem, the infamous dinosaur movie from 1948, *Unknown Island*. (Unlike membership in the LASFS, death will release you from the movie marathon as will the sudden compulsion to be elsewhere.)

Among the promised gastronomic delights awaiting Brunchers are the mysterious Cthulhu Omlettes. No word about whether there will also be Yog Sogoth Salad.) And those who'd like to get an enjoyable buzz before the cinematic onslaught are sure to enjoy DeDee's Mimosa Festival.

More certain is that Alan and DeDee, one of Vegas Fandom's most likeable couples, will



articles about the first Toner in 1996, chaired by Ben Wilson and Tom Springer.

Toner Memories is an 18-page collection of pieces by Joyce Katz, Ken Forman, Ben Wilson,

Aileen Forman, Tom Springer, Cathi

# VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

offer bountiful hospitality and a relaxed, good-humored ambience to their fannish guests.

The Whites invite all of Las Vegas Fandom to come spend Sunday at Brunchcon I. Because of the nature of the event, and the limited seating, Alan and DeDee ask that anyone who plans to attend call (648-3681) to RSVP.

This is the first time Alan and DeDee have hosted since the Ladies' Tea. It's going to be a good one, so Joyce and I hope to see you all there!

## Toner Memories Recalls Epic 1976 Vegas Con!

Merric Anderson's announcement that there will, at long last, be a Toner II in 2006 (August 26-27, the week before the LA worldcon) has inspired a small anthology of



# Inside Story A Couple of Apologies

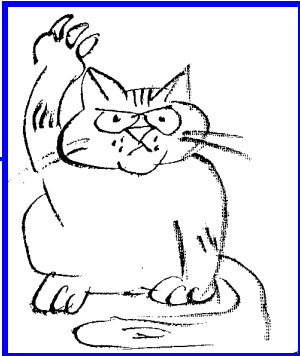
Although it will dent my Thin Veneer of Infallibility, I have to make two apologies.

The first goes to Randy Byers, whose letter in the last issue ran afoul of an unfathomable (by me) technical problem. The final .PDF of issue #31 somehow lost several lines of his letter in the jump from page 10 to page 12. What makes it especially frustrating is that Joyce caught the glitch when she proofread it and I spent about a half-hour trying to fix it.

I *did* fix it. I got it to look right on the screen, saved the .PUB file, converted it to a .PDF and gave the matter no more thought until Bill Kunkel pointed it out during a phone call the day after I distributed the fanzine. Check the letter column for the complete text of Randy's letter of comment.

Coincidentally, it is to Bill Kunkel to whom I owe the other apology. Bill sent me a series of four illos a month or two back and I feel bad about only having used one. My only defense is that they are rather large and need the size due to their detail, but I should've done something about sharing with you the work of the fan Charles Burbee once said drew the cartoons Laney would've have done if he could draw.

Sorry for the lapse, Bill. Your deferred justice (and the readers' delayed pleasure) begins this issue! — Arnie



Wilson and me. The volume's illustrations are by Ross Chamberlain, Bill Rotsler and Ray Nelson.

*Toner Memories*

will be posted on efanzines.com for free download and, it is hoped, will also be available on the SNAFFU and VSFA web sites.

## Daughertys Mull a Westerncon Bid For Las Vegas in 2008!

Kathryn & James Daugherty, the well-known con-runners who now reside (partially)

in southern Nevada, have again raised the possibility of a Westercon for Las Vegas. The target year in 2008, which would be up for bid at the 2006 Westercon.

The Daughertys are currently involved in the 2007 Westercon bid for San Jose, so that will be their focus until the matter is decided at this year's Westercon in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

According to Kathryn, there may be some obstacles, but

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**Vegas Fandom Weekly #32, June 22, 2005**, is written and produced by Arnie Katz (PMB 152, 330 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107; Email: crossfire4@cox.net; phone: 702-648-5677).

Special Thanks to Alan White (photos), Rob Hansen (photo) Joyce Katz (proofreading), Woody Bernardi (Star Reporter).

**Reporters this issue:** Woody Bernardi, Kathryn Daugherty, Mindy Hutchings and Joyce Katz

**Art/Photo Credits:** Ray Nelson 2 (2), Rob Hansen (4), Alan White (8, 9), Bill "Potshot" Kunkel (13), Bill Rotsler (all other cartoons)

**Columnists This Issue:** Rob Hansen, Joyce Katz

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. No fannish folk singers were harmed during the production of this fanzine.

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

# Numbered Fandoms *Katzenjammer*

The basic fanhistorical question of how to divide Fandom into epochs has bedeviled such fine minds as [Jack Speer](#), [Robert Silverberg](#), [Ted White](#) and [rich brown](#). And me. The late [Harry Warner](#), author of two book-length fanhistories and numerous articles, always seemed immune to this mania. Maybe it was no more than Harry's well-known aversion to even a whiff of controversy. ,

Speer introduced the Numbered Fandoms Theory as a way to structure *Up to Now*, the first significant history of Fandom. (It's less than one-tenth the size of Warner's *All Our Yesterdays*, Admittedly, when Jack wrote it in the late '30's, there wasn't nearly as much fanhistory to discuss.) Fanhistorians have been debating it, revising it and repudiating it ever since.

Fandom has changed so much in the 70 years since Speer proposed his theory. The concepts that helped describe fairly homogeneous '30's Fandom simply can't handle today's All Known Fandom of 25,000. This is one (of many) ways to look at the history of Fandom. Rather than dwell on its flaws, the things it *doesn't* do, let's take advantage of its strengths as a tool. (There are other ways to structure fanhistory; I'm responsible for two of them, but those are for another time.)

The Numbered Fandom's Theory has three special terms. A "Fandom" is a period of reasonable stability in which there is a consensus of attitude and approach among the core of active Fandom. An "Interregnum" is a transitional period in which a unifying consensus does not exist. Finally, a "focal point fanzine" is one that, during a Fandom, is the focus of interest and activity by the period's top fans.

Here are the eras as defined by the Numbered Fandoms Theory:

**Eo-Fandom** (1930-1933). This is the formative period of Fandom when it coalesced out of correspondence among prozine readers, local fan clubs and the Gernsback-sponsored Science Fiction League.

**First Fandom** (1933-1936). Elaborate printed fanzines dominated the era with serious discussion of science fiction. *Fantasy Magazine*, the Focal Point of First Fandom was a printed publication that was close to what we, today, would call a semi-prozine in that it featured many professional science fiction authors and a very slick design.

**First Transition** (Late 1936-Oct. '37). The printed fanzine field, including *Fantasy Magazine* crashed. The withdrawal from activity of the guy who did all the lovely hand typesetting exposed the futility of the pseudo-pro chase for subscriptions. Big circulation fanzines ceased to exist, replaced by comparatively primitive hectographed zines. The "Gernsback ideal" of fans as future scientists gave way to an interest in the literature as an end in itself.

**Second Fandom** (Oct. '37-Oct. '39). Richard Wilson's *Science Fiction News Letter* dispensed frequent updates on the feuds ([Don Wolheim](#) vs. Sam Moskowitz was the main event) and ideological battles (those who wanted Fandom to be political vs. those who didn't). Fandom has never been more combative.

**Second Transition** (Oct. '39-September. '40). Dissention wracked Fandom from the Philadelphia Conference to the second worldcon (ChiCon I) as major fans fought to a stalemate on the issue of political action. A huge influx of new fans overwhelmed existing fans' ability to teach them the ropes and the hobby veered toward more emphasis on science fiction.

**Third Fandom** (Sept '40-early 1944). Led by the studiously non-controversial focal point fanzine, [Harry Warner's](#) *Spaceways*, Fandom turned away from vicious feuding and showed flashes of maturity. In FAPA, the Brain Trusters ([Louis Chauvenet](#), [Art Widner](#) et al) discussed intellectual topics with a balance and objectivity foreign to Second Fandomites.

**Third Transition** (early '44-early '45). World War II finally caught up to Fandom and the cohesiveness of Third Fandom was one of the main casualties.

**Fourth Fandom** (late '44-Sept. '47). Found Fandom getting back to normal with Joe Kennedy's *Vampire* setting the standard for quality, humor and intelligence. Many point to the high activity in the prozine letter columns (especially *Startling* and *Planet Stories*), but that is probably more properly the spawning ground of Fifth Fandom than a true part of Fourth.

**Fifth Fandom** (Sept. '47-mid-'50). [Art Rapp's](#) monthly focal point fanzine *Spacewarp* led fans away from the sercon toward a more fun-loving approach to Fandom. Insurgentism became a major fannish movement during this period. It entered the mainstream when Rapp, something of an Insurgent himself, invited [Charles Burbee](#) and [Francis Towner Laney](#) to guest edit two issues of *Swarp*.

**Sixth Fandom** (mid-'50-mid-'54). There was no Fourth Transition, because Fifth Fandom got ready in the prozines and came forward with a rush when Kennedy turned to other pursuits. There's no Fifth Transition, because Fifth Fandom ended totally and abruptly when Rapp went to Korea to fight in the Police Action. [Lee Hoffman](#) drew inspiration not from *Spacewarp*, but from the more sophisticated *Vampire*. The Big Four — Hoffman, Willis, Vick & Keasler — helped make Fifth Fandom good-humored, adult, harmonious and downright brilliant. Extravagant flights of whimsy and running jokes cemented the feeling of community. *The Enchanted Duplicator* is the ultimate expression of the Sixth Fandom aesthetic. When [LeeH](#) folded *Quandry*, 13-year-old [Joel Nydahl](#) kept things going for about another year with his *Vega*.

**Sixth Transition** (mid-'54-late '57). All good things come to an end and so did Sixth Fandom, aka the first "Golden Age." All of Sixth Fandom's leaders retrenched at the same time and successors like [Dick Geis](#) and [Harlan Ellison](#) represented the antithesis of Sixth Fandom's low-pressure, friendliness. When they, too, reduced activity, mid-fifties blandness took over Fandom and its fanzines

**Seventh Fandom** (late '57-Sept. '62). Fans called *Fanac*, the fannish newszine edited by [Terry Carr](#) and [Ron Ellik](#), "indispensable" and it was no idle compliment. There was plenty to report, too. Never before or since has Fandom had as many fine fanzines. The SF magazine field shrank and with it the interest in SF discussion. Seventh Fandom saw the range of topics and concerns widen into the amazing variety we enjoy today.

**Seventh Transition** (Sept. '62-?). The numerous gaffiations sparked by the Breen Boondoggle and a second Barbarian Invasion. All Known Fandom became too segmented and diverse to be charted with this system,

— Arnie (with thanks to rich brown)

# London Calling

**Rob Hansen talks about London Fandom's new home.**

London fans have been meeting in a pub on the first Thursday of the month since 1938 (and, for some periods during that time, meeting every Thursday night). Our first pub, the Red Bull, was destroyed by Hitler's Luftwaffe in 1941. Our latest pub, Walkers, hosted its third first Thursday meeting on Thursday 2nd June.

In a way, our move to the new pub marks a return to the site of former glories, Walkers being on Norwich Street, off Fetter Lane, mere yards away from the site of the venue for these

meetings in the late 1940s and early 1950s, the White Horse.

Thanks to Arthur C. Clarke, whose 'Tales from the White Hart' is set in a thinly disguised White Horse and whose characters are in turn equally thinly disguised versions of real fans of that time, the White Horse is easily the most celebrated of the many pubs that have hosted the first Thursday meetings down the years. (Pictures from those days at the White Horse are included on that fine CD



collection of old fannish photos advertised here by Arnie Katz a few issues back.)

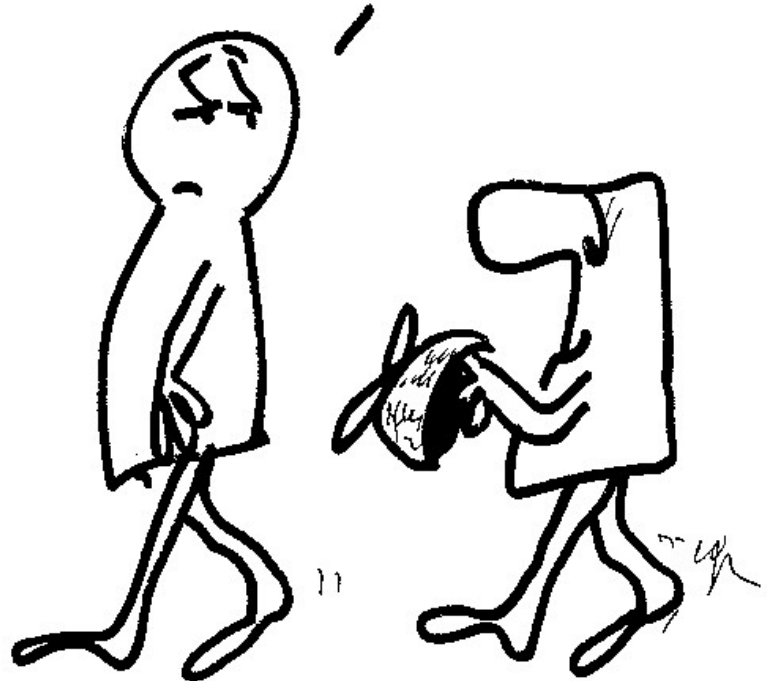
At the end of 'Tales from the White Hart' the regulars follow the pub's much-loved landlord, Drew, to the new pub he's been assigned, the Sphere. In real life, the White Horse regulars followed the pub's much-loved landlord, Lew Mordechai to the new pub he'd been assigned, the Globe.

London fans met and drank at the White Horse from 1947 to 1953, and the Globe from 1953 to 1973, at which point the pub was scheduled for demolition (the final meeting there was a non-Thursday meeting in honour of the visiting Isaac Asimov) and they moved on to the One Tun.

We (and I can now include myself since I moved up to London in 1980) stayed at the One Tun until 1987, and the gatherings here grew to be what were almost certainly the biggest regular meetings of a fan group anywhere in the world with several hundred people attending every month at their height.

Having spent six years at the White Horse, 20 at the Globe, and 14 at the One Tun, we had grown used to having a regular, dependable venue for the first Thursday meetings, so the semi-nomadic wanderings that have subsequently been our lot have been a bit of a shock. No pub we've tried since has lasted more than a couple of

DON'T TOUCH IT—  
YOU NEVER KNOW  
WHERE IT FANNED



years at most before, for various reasons, we've had to move on. With each move we shed more people, the SF pros who attended up through the years of the One Tun and beyond have long since stopped coming, and we probably get no more than about 70 or so people along now - fabulous numbers for most groups, but low for us. Hence our hopes for Walkers. It's a great venue for the meetings, probably the best since the One Tun. May our stay here be a long one.

— Rob Hansen

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the couple hope to be able to surmount them.

### **'Indoor Picnic' Set for July 4th At Woody Bernardi's Home!**

Mindy Hutchings, co-hostess of the upcoming VSFA July 4th event, has pro-

vided some details — and here they are in her own words:

On July 4th, Rebecca Hardin and I will be hosting an "Indoor Picnic" at Woody's house. The festivities will start at 3 pm and close down around 7 pm, since we are sure that many attendees will want to go see fire-

*Continued on page 8*

# Sing! Sing! Sing!

## Arnie reports on the 6/18 Vegrants meeting

Something new enlivened the 6/18 meeting of Las Vegrants. Steve Brust and Ayesha Ashley led the largest and most successful music-making session in Las Vegas fanhistory. An enthusiastic group of sing-alongers, drummers and listeners took possession of the Launch Pad's living room about an hour into the meeting and filled the house with some pretty terrific tunes for about the next two hours. Those who wanted to talk without interrupting the music clustered around the dining room table in easy earshot of the singing and eyeshot of the soft drink-laden refrigerator.

Steve's reputation preceded him and he proved to be as outstanding as advertised. He skillfully played a variety of instruments and his

singing and delivery were irresistible, especially on his humorous songs.

We'd had intimations of Ayesha's talent, but most of the Vegrants weren't prepared for her professional-caliber performance. (I especially liked her version of "Nobody Loves You When You're Down and Out," but it was only one of her many fine folks and blues renditions.)

Steve and Ayesha kept everyone involved and it's likely that there'll be another such session in July. (See *Joyce's complete report on page 9.*)

Linda & Ron Bushyager arrived first, laden with food and a stack of items likely to be of interest to the filk/folk circle. They helped me ferry all the food Joyce prepared from kitchen to the big, square coffee table in the living room. I confess that, as I carried a luscious chocolate cake down the hall, its slick paper under-plate and the smooth plastic plate under it parted company and the dessert landed unceremoniously upside down. I looked around guiltily, saw that there were no witnesses and silently invoked the "five second" rule.

Banter sparked by a reference to "official conventions" in the recent discussion on the VSFA listserv about how individual fans choose which cons to attend produced no definitive interpretation, but it gave James Taylor a potentially lucrative idea that. He suggested that we open a web site and sell "official memberships" in Fandom. He reckoned that the gullible would pony up \$25 each.



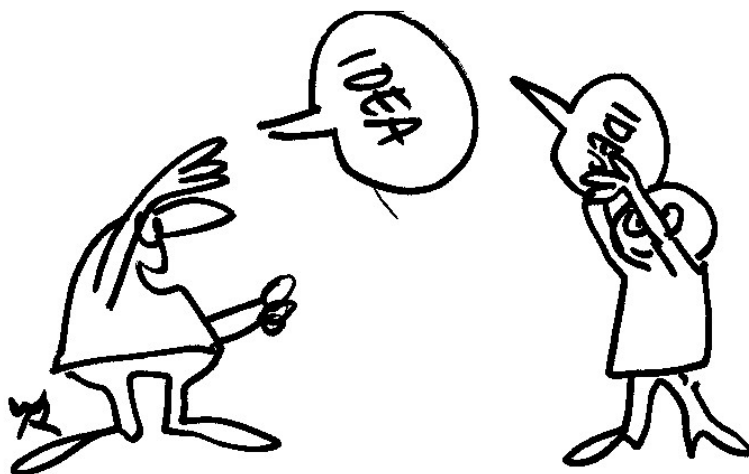
Merric & Luba Anderson brought more of that delectable Jewish sausage and a bottle of honey wine that several fans pronounced, “Smo-o-o-th!” Merric returned my copy of *The Enchanted Duplicator* (the one with Ross Chamberlain illos that rich brown and I published circa 1970). He said he thoroughly enjoyed his first read of Fandom’s prose epic and claimed that he had no questions because he had gotten all the allusions. I immediately cited one – the blonde giantess who swamps fans with too-liberal applications of egg o’boo – to let him know that *TED* had more layers than might be apparent. I loaned him a copy of *The Incomplete Terry Carr* to continue his fannish education.

James Taylor asked my opinion about the rumor that Mike Tyson, having quit boxing, will next try wrestling. I described Iron Mike’s previous brush with sports entertainment and said that he could do the same again, once or twice, but that he’d need a lot of training to actually work in the ring and he was a bit too old to start down that road.

Steve Brust, accompanied by Michigan fan and personal assistant Ariel Zinoni, came through the door lugging his instruments about 8:00 PM. Twenty minutes later the house filled with the strains of “You Are My Sunshine” to start the musicale.

Lori Forbes, bearing a huge bowl of fresh strawberries, made a rare (and most welcome) appearance at Las Vegrants. She joined the group of music listeners who clustered around the dining room table, including JoHn Hardin. James Taylpr, Merric and me with occasional visits from Alan White, Kent Hastings and Woody Bernardi.

The dining room conversation meandered through claptrap, the significance of the number “23” in the *Illuminatus* trilogy to a continuation of a topic begun at the 6/10



## TOSsing ARouND IDEAS

Westside SNAFFU meeting, the formerly active local fans who have retired to the fringes.

Lori made a convincing argument that some of those who seem to be more or less Gafia may only be somewhat disaffected due to one or two incidents that put them off SNAFFU. Although I argued that one or two off-key moments would not make someone who really wanted to be a fan decide otherwise, I also think it would be worth following up on Lori’s ideas to see if, perhaps, a few of those worthies can be re-energized about the local fan community.

Merric & Luba closed down the gathering with us. We got the leftover food moved to the kitchen, cleaned up the most egregious messes and settled back down for a nostalgic look at Minneapolis Fandom, undoubtedly inspired by Steve Brust’s visit. Both Joyce and I have fanhistoric connections with Minneapolis that go back 40 years to the rise of the Jim Young-Fred Levy-Haskell-Ken Fletcher combination and the founding of that city’s current club.

Vegrants attending were: Alan & DeDee White, Ron & Linda Bushyager, Merric & Luba Anderson, James Taylor, JoHn Hardin, Aysha Ashley. Ross Chamberlain, Woody Bernardi, Lori Forbes, Steve Brust, Kent Hastings, Joyce Katz and me. Welcome guests were: Mindy Hutchings and Ariel Zinoni. — Arnie

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works. This is an open house with no set program. The hosts will be providing sandwiches, drinks (water/sodas), and dessert (cake and cookies). This has the potential for being a potluck; we already have two offers:



Steve Brust shows he can sing and play as well as write fine SF and Fantasy.

grilled, Indian-style chicken and cornbread.

While no formal RSVP is required, it would be nice to give us a call so we can have at least a basic head count. We wouldn't want to run out of cake and cookies to hand out! You can call Woody at 327-3154 (cell) or Mindy at 204-4332 (cell). An email will do too: [woodybernardi@yahoo.com](mailto:woodybernardi@yahoo.com) or [lady\\_shayir@yahoo.com](mailto:lady_shayir@yahoo.com).

Directions: Go north on Rancho past Craig. You will see a Wendy's on the east side of Rancho, very near the corner. Just before the Wendy's is a tiny street sign which indicates Torrey Pines. Cosmo Lane is the 4th left off of Torrey Pines (you will pass Lone Mountain). Woody's house is on the corner: 6400 Cosmo Lane. Here's his home number, just in case you get lost: 256-7769. Ask for Rebecca or Mindy as Woody is going to be out of town. Will there be a house left standing when he returns? (Mindy Hutchings)

### Newest LV Club Changes Name

No, the Gay/Bi/Les/Trans Science Fiction Club of Las Vegas hasn't added a new demographic category to its name. On the other hand, the Vegas Filk Circle, flushed with success from its first get-together, has changed its name to the Vegas Music Circle.

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# Vegrant Sing Out! Blue Jaunt

The Veggrants took the first stop on the meandering road to establishing a folk circle, at the June 18 meeting. As I'd requested, quite a few showed up with impromptu instruments. Linda Bushyager brought a handful of kazoos, an electronic keyboard, and a sheaf of folk songs and histories. Arnie and I pulled out a kazoo, my wooden drum and my African Kalimba. DeDee White brought a tambourine. The real musicians were Steve Brust who came with a couple of guitars, a banjo and a Moroccan drum, and Ayesha Ashley with her guitar and drum.

The evening started with a group sing, "something we all know." It seems appropriate for this hot-weather fandom that the first song was "You Are My Sunshine". After a tentative beginning, we stumbled through a couple of verses. Next we graduated to "When the Saints Go Marching In" – we raised the dead on that one.

It seemed appropriate to let Steve and Ayesha take the lead for the rest of the evening, and they each produced an impressive repertoire, with the Veggrants singing along on the verses they knew. Ayesha started us off with "If I Had a Hammer" and Steve countered with "Hell Froze Over Today." Ayesha sang "Blowing in the Wind", and Steve sang a Joe Haldeman song, "Stan Was a Man".

As the pair took turns leading us, JoHn Hardin played blues on the harmonica, I tapped on the Kalimba, Linda played keyboard, DeDee rattled the tambourine, and different people contributed rhythm and vocals, through dozens of songs both familiar and new to me. Ayesha sang an Israeli folk song, and Steve sang a Robert W. Service ballad. Ayesha performed a stirring rendition of "No Body Wants You When You're Down & Out", and some tender Childs' melodies, such as "Girl of the Low Country" and "Silver Dagger." The whole group was turned on to Steve's "Bloody Red Baron", and I think I saw a teardrop fall when Ayesha played "Foggie Foggie Dew."

Though we'd planned for only a couple of hours of music, the evening stretched happily on in its groove 'til well after midnight. Almost everyone took a turn singing along, or tooting a kazoo, or banging a drum. And when it was over, everyone agreed that it had been a rollicking good time, and we really will have to do it again soon. — Joyce Katz



Ayesha Ashley delighted us all.



Continued from page 8

"The new name reflects the group's current interests," explains Joyce Katz. "I think we will get into some filk, and the fanzine [*Songbirds*] will promote that. For now, the main interest is getting together to sing, play and listen to folk, blues and rock."

### Heard Around Vegas Fandom...

Karla Hardin has begun a new, full-time job working at Brewed Awakenings. She plans to continue photographing babies at area hospitals...

Woody Bernardi will be crossing the country to attend Gaylaxicon over the July 4th weekend in Boston, where he also has family. We'll miss him at the Vegrants Party and the VSFA Barbeque on NonCon II weekend, but he'll probably be back among us in time for the Westside SNAFFU meeting the following Friday...



Teresa Cochran has finally begun to throw off the virus that has kept her home-bound and away from Vegas Fandom for nearly two weeks. Little T has resumed posting on the Trufen and the local listservs, so it probably won't be long until she is able to resume her normal fan activities. We all miss her...

### Chatback: The VFW Letter Column

*As promised, the letter column this time opens with an accurate printing of a letter that got mysteriously mangled last week:*

#### 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.

This was odd, since I hadn't ordered any sheet music and I explained as much to Mr. Blow (if that really was his name).

"Well," he countered, "is your name really Randy Byers?"

"Yes," I admitted, flustered, "but I haven't ordered any sheet music. I'm not a musician, so I have no reason to buy sheet music."

"That's weird," he said. "There must be another Randy Byers in town."

That seemed unlikely to me, because at the time I thought my name was unique, but, hey, I got him off the phone, so, you know, whatever.

A few weeks later I was in the University Bookstore, and I had to show the clerk my student ID for some reason. The clerk did a double-take, and then she exclaimed, "My son is named Randy Byers too!"

"Wow!" I said. "Well, your son must have ordered some sheet music a while back."

I told her the story, and she agreed that it must have been her son. At that point, I looked at her name tag and did a double-take of my own. Her name was Carol, which is my mom's name!

Whoa, dude! It was like they were a doppelganger family or something, and I fled the store before she could tell me her husband's name was Dean.

That was all creepy enough, but now I find from the latest issue of *VFW* that this guy has followed me to Seattle and become an SF fan (or is

at least pretending to be one) and is taking bribe money from you to convince other fans that Las Vegas Fandom is the Fandom of Good Cheer. Or at least I'm guessing that's what's happening, since I haven't seen any of the money myself. I wonder if that's why I haven't seen any of the TAFF money Andy keeps telling me he raised on eBay!

On the other hand, Vegas Fandom \*is\* known as the Fandom of Good Cheer, so the guy is obviously doing his job. I'm just pissed that I'm not getting my cut of the booty, if you know what I mean. We'll be sending out the next issue of *Chunga* on Monday, so please be sure to check the address in the colophon to make sure you send the bribes to the right Randy Byers next time.

Unless the other Randy is the editor of *Chunga* too, in which case I guess I'm royally screwed. Maybe I should just become a musician. I've always wanted to play guitar like Frank Zappa.

*Arnie: All I know is that someone is cashing those checks. I assumed you were using your ill-gotten booty to finance Wild Living and maybe a color cover for Chunga.*

*When I was in college, I received a dunning letter from the publisher of Very Expensive Books. That's never a good thing and it was especially bad because I'd never heard of the company nor seen the books I'd purportedly ordered. A close reading of the letter, which sounded one step before the one from the lawyers, showed that a Mr. Paul Novitski had ordered these weighty tomes and told the publisher to send me the bill.*

*I wish I had the letter I wrote to the publisher (copy to Paul) in which I explained that, as the Associated Editor of a pair of science fiction magazines, I often came into contact with the lunatic fringe that clusters around that sort of "literature." Subtly, but not too subtly, I drew the book folks a word-picture of a troubled teenager lost in a world of delusion that included an alter-ego he had named "Alpajpuri."*

*Novitski sent a letter of apology/surrender to me and one with a check to the publisher.*

*Having fixed Randy's LoC, I find I also owe a big apology to Eric Mayer, who had the opening of his letter disappear. So let's try a rerun:*

### **Eric Mayer**

Yeah, I'm having a good season. Managing

HERE'S OUR NEW  
MODEL LOC  
FORM



to keep loccing. Staying healthy. I figured it'd be a Juan Gonzalez sort of thing. Three pitches and out. How cool is that? He probably tweaks his hamstring signing his paycheck. At this stage of my career I figure I'm better suited to just come in briefly at the end. 'Course you and Chris Garcia think I'm Mike Marshall!

Well, I'm kind of glad Bill Kunkel said what he did. His reasons for gafiation are pretty much the 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!)

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# Recalling the Fancestors

## Arnie reports on the 6/19 Social

The June Social drew about half as many fans as the May edition, but the 12 fans who did come out on Sunday (6/19) certainly had a good time. The fluctuation in attendance most likely derives from the appeal of the Fantasy Art program and visit by Ken & Aileen Forman in May and the unlucky coincidence of a number of regulars with schedule conflicts this month.

A panel consisting of Mindy Hutchings, David Gordon and Woody Bernardi (moderator) presented a panel, "Fathers & Mothers of Science Fiction and Fandom" as the formal part of the festivities. I was im-

pressed by the fact that Mindy and Woody researched the topic. Woody's delvings, backed by fannish experience, worked out better in practice, but Mindy displayed admirable initiative and guts. I felt bad about inserting so many corrections and clarifications from the audience, but I lack the willpower to ignore errors of fanhistorical fact. On balance, I thought the panel worked out well, since it produced a lot of discussion and held interest well.

Joyce and I arrived early, but found Ron & Linda Bushyager already waiting in the banquet room at the Tap House. Mindy Hutchings and Rebecca Hardin soon joined us. We chatted about nothing particular until

it became obvious that we'd been volunteered to rearrange the tables into the "U" shape with the panel table as the cross-piece that worked so well in May.

Showing impeccable timing, James Taylor showed up just in time to take the empty chair next to us. David Gordon, newly returned from a Los Angeles trip, settled at our end of the table as we chatted about whether SNAPS should go all electronic. Everyone is participating in this high-



Hugo Gernsback (the serious gentleman at the left) is the Father of Modern Science Fiction. Forry Ackerman (the jovial guy on the right, shown speaking to a 1977 Houston con) is acclaimed as the first Fan.

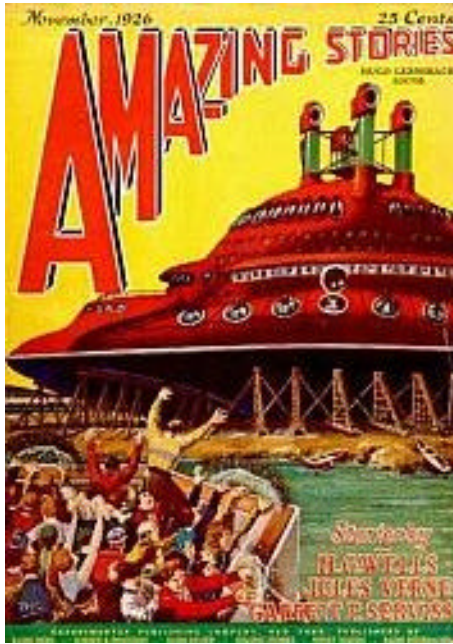
profile debate online and in person has been so reasonable and considerate you'd hardly know it was Fandom.

The upcoming *Firefly* movie sequel *Serenity* touched off general discussion around the table. The group includes some fervent *Firefly* fans and a few who feel the opposite way. Mention of *Babylon Five* and *Star Trek The Next Generation* drew less-than-unanimous approval, too, which certainly *did* sound like Fandom.

James shot the conversation in the direction of the *worst* SF on television and in the movies.

All I can say is that Sci-Fi Channel executives would bite their Ouija boards if they'd heard how many of their series earned dishonorable mention in that competition!

In the movie category, Linda asserted that *Radiance*, shown at the recent CineVegas



film festival, might be a serious contender as worst SF film of all time. She described it as "people wandering in the desert, looking for a plot." I went with the classics and proposed *Robot Monster*, the one with the guy in the gorilla suit with the diving helmet and the Lawrence Welk bubbles.

Next month, the Social will have a panel on the theme of freedom in science fiction. It's ok, but I hope that some future Social programs include topics that have more edge and attitude.

Attendees this time were: Woody Bernardi, Ron & Linda Bushyager, James Taylor, Kent Hastings, Mindy Hutchings, Darmon Thornton, David Gordon, Rebecca Hardin, Joelle Barnes, Joyce and me.

— Arnie Katz

# Potshot's Cartoon Theater



## Las Vegas Fan Event Calendar

### **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.) The Formans are the gueststars.

### **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. SNAPS deadline.

### **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.)

### **Las Vegrants Meeting** July 16 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** July 17 2 PM

VSFA sponsors this event, open to all Vegas fans, at The Tap House. The theme is Freedom in Science Fiction

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 sub-culture.*

*We Also Heard From: Shelby Vick, Randy Byers,*

### **It's Page 14... Again!**

Sadly, that means I'll have to hold a few letters of comment to add to the one *you* are going to write. Don't forget to send news, too.

See you all next week with more of everything and maybe some surprises. —Arnie