

It's NonCon II Weekend!

It's time to celebrate our nation's independence with a weekend of fannish festivities. NonCon II consists of the following events:

- * **Lunch & a Movie with VSFA**
Sat, 12:00 PM
- * **CSFL 'Farewell Formans' Meeting**
Sat. 5:30 PM
- * **Vegrants Open Party & Arnie Birthday Festival**
Sat. 7:30 PM
- * **VSFA Indoor Picnic**
Mon. 3:00 PM

Now, it's a two-step process. Read about all these in this issue — and then get out there and fan!

Formans to Say 'Farewell' At 7/2 Vegrants Open Party!

The next (Saturday, 7/2) Vegrants is an Open Party to which all Vegas fans are cordially invited. It's my birthday — no presents, please — but what really will make it a special



VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

occasion is that Ken & Aileen Forman will make their last Las Vegas appearance before they and the Wilsons head off to their new home in Flippen, Arkansas. (Joyce and I are hoping that Ben & Cathi Wilson will also be able to come, but that is as yet uncertain.)

The festivities start at 7:30, There's always a lot to eat and drink, though many fans bring special treats of various types to pacify the ravening throng. (The address is 909 Eugene Cernan and the phone number is 648-5677.)

Shown at top-right is Dan Steffan's rendition of Jophan, hero of *The Enchanted Duplicator*. At bottom-right is a photo of the Tower of Trufandom that Joe Siclari had built for the *TED* miniature golf course featured at the 1993 World SF Convention (Magicon), at which Walt Willis was the Fan Guest of Honor.



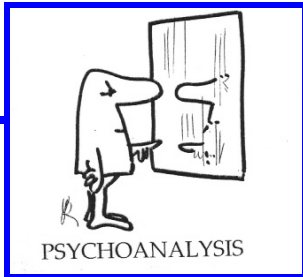
Inside Story For the Fun of It!

A glance at this issue's news — you know, the stuff that snakes around the columns, articles, photos and cartoons — testifies to the high level of activity in our resurgent Vegas Fandom. There's seldom a week with fewer than two events, we have a flourishing local apa (SNAPS), two listservs, several fanzines, a gaggle of clubs and plenty of energetic new fans. Every time I compare the local scene now with a year ago, I am impressed by how much more is happening in Vegas Fandom these days.

As in any large group, there are some negative developments, too. Bureaucracy is on the rise and, with it, a short-sighted contentiousness that threatens to divide our generally harmonious fan community. It's unlikely that those who are so fiercely defending their "territory" will see the error of their ways. It really comes down to how the *rest* of us react. The four Noncon II events this weekend show the benefits of cooperation,

I don't know about the rest of you, but I'm not in Fandom to fight juvenile club-vs.-club turf wars. I just wanna have fun. I want to spend time with my local fan friends, do some fanzines and attend the occasional convention. If other fans revel in constitutions and titles, let 'em. Let's just polish our Shields of Umor and go on as we have begun, as the Fandom of Good Cheer.

— Arnie



The living room and dining room, for the comfort of all concerned, will again be "no smoking" zones. Smokers will be

able to choose from two rooms, the backyard and, if you like 120-degree heat, the garage in which to puff their way to pleasure (and some rather unsightly diseases.)

It's a holiday weekend and there's plenty reason for celebration. Joyce and I hope you'll all come to the Launch Pad this Saturday.

CSFL Fetes Formans This Saturday!

One of Las Vegas Fandom's oldest and

proudest institutions, the Chicago Science Fiction League, has announced plans to honor Ken & Aileen Forman on Saturday (7/2). The Formans are Charter Members and co-founders of the prestigious club, which wages a never-ending battle for Truth, Justice and the Trufannish Way. In practical terms, the Chicago Science Fiction League seeks a cut of all profits from all world and regional conventions held in CSFL territory since the 1940 World SF Convention.

"Now Ken and Aileen go to Arkansas, perhaps to execute a

Continued on page 5



Vegas Fandom Weekly #33, June 29, 2005, is written and produced by Arnie Katz (PMB 152, 330 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107; Email: cross-fire4@cox.net; phone: 702-648-5677).

Special Thanks to Alan White (photos), Michael Bernstein (motivation), Joyce Katz (proofreading), Woody Bernardi (Star Reporter).

Reporters this issue: Woody Bernardi, Ken Forman, Mindy Hutchings and Joyce Katz

Art/Photo Credits: Ross Chamberlain (3), Alan White (6), Bill "Potshot" Kunkel (9), Bill Rotsler (all other cartoons)

Columnists This Issue: rich brown, Kent Hastings

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 would-be fannish Napoleons were harmed during the production of this fanzine.

Member: fwa. Supporter: AFAL. Believer: United Fans of Vegas Toner II in 2006!

The Enchanted Duplicator Katzenjammer

Note: I wrote about The Enchanted Duplicator 'way back in VFW #10, when it was still four pages. With the discussion of TED coming up at the next SNAFFU meeting, it seemed right to do an article about TED. This is an expansion and revision of the original piece.

Fandom has produced a tremendous range of literature. You give intelligent, verbal folks 75 years and they will come up with some fairly compelling stuff. Fandom has generated reams of delightful personal meanderings, formal essays, faan fiction (fiction about fans and Fandom), humor and even poetry and songs. A few have even been so bold as to write about Science Fiction and Fantasy. (I have heard rumors of (shudder) capsule book reviews, but I wouldn't know of such things, personally.)

One work stands above them all. It isn't the longest, the funniest or maybe even the best, but no work says more about what it means to be a fan. It's called *The Enchanted Duplicator* – and it's nothing less than Fandom's universally recognized prose epic. Walter A. Willis and Bob Shaw, two fans in Northern Ireland, wrote it 50 years ago and it has been reprinted 11 times. (I co-edited one edition with rich brown in 1971 with artwork by Ross Chamberlain and Ross and I are at work on a new edition right now.)

There's an edition of it that is exceptionally easy to read on screen available at: <http://www.qui-gonline.org/features/dupe.htm>. Another edition, found at http://fanac.org/fanzines/Enchanted_Duplicator/Enchanted-00.html has gorgeous art by Dan Steffan and photos by Madeleine Willis.

The Enchanted Duplicator tells the story of Jophan's journey from his home in Mundane to the Mountain of Trufandom in his quest for the Enchanted Duplicator. It is an allegory of every fan's growth from neo to a full member of the subculture. In a series of humorous encounters, Jophan meets a wide variety of fan types, including some that provide instructive lessons about what *not* to do in fandom.

If you're expecting a preachy, sermonizing screed, forget it. *The Enchanted Duplicator* imparts its lessons with wit, humor and evocative word-pictures. Fandom has evolved quite a bit since the first publication of *TED*, but its universal concepts are still highly relevant to Fandom in the 21st Century.

Fundamentally, *The Enchanted Duplicator* is a highly entertaining short story that should strike a chord with any real fan. That's fortunate, because no one is truly a Fan until they have read this masterwork and felt the tug of its fannish spirit.

It's a light, pleasant read and it's readily available. Take the journey to the Tower of Trufandom and you'll be a better fan for having made the trip. — Arnie



Ross Chamberlain's sketch for Jophan's meeting with Disillusioned.

Getting Steamed Up!

rich brown's Fanhistory Concern

We were talking, earlier, about a propensity of fans to laugh at their foibles, including making fun of the feuding that sometimes springs up among us.

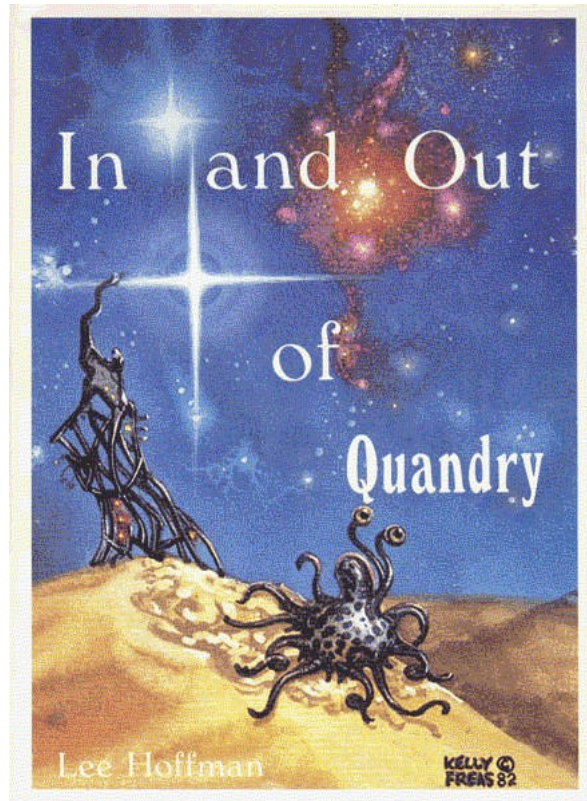
One of the best, and probably most entertaining, mock feuds was the battle over steam between UK fans Ken Bulmer and Vincent Clarke, on the one hand, and Walt Willis (of Belfast, North Ireland) and Lee Hoffman (of Savannah, Georgia) on the other.

The sheer Machiavellian guile of Bulmer can be seen and admired in retrospect by virtue of the fact that, long before this mock feud broke out, he cleverly established his claim to be the “inventor” (a.k.a. “the father”) of steam to Willis who, per the above, was destined to be his adversary in the proceedings.

It was during a visit Willis paid to his home, the Epicentre, that Bulmer, apparently noticing the phenomenon for the first time, openly observed the fact that the lid to his tea kettle appeared to be lifted by the strange forces that resided in the vapors produced by the boiling waters, and speculated to Willis on the possibility of someday harnessing this very energy, perhaps even to provide transportation and other unnamed but easily imagined vast benefits to all mankind.

It was really not very long thereafter that

Lee Hoffman, editor of the monthly *Quandry* (regarded by many as the best fannish fanzine of all time) formed Hoffmannothing to supply the needs



of the Ft. Mudge Steam Calliope Company, which was tied in some unspecified manner to her publishing ventures.

Vincent Clarke, acting as Bulmer's /m/o/ u/t/h/p/i/e/c/e/ barrister, sent notice to Ms. Hoffman that this was a clear infringement of Mssr. Bulmer's patent or copyright or whatever it was.

Rather than pay Bulmer the fees or honoraria suggested by Clarke, however, Ms. Hoffman retained the services of Walter Alexandrew Willis, whose legal expertise may be gauged by the fact that neither he nor his firm had apparently ever heard of the concept of “conflict of interests.” He countered

Bulmer's sheer Machiavellian guile with his own sheer Machiavellian indifference to the fact that he'd been "set up" to be the best witness to Bulmer's claim that the use of steam was his intellectual property -- Willis was Hoffman's most popular columnist, he took up the cudgels of representing her defense.

As is usually the case when matters turn litigious, no real "results" were obtained by either side, and although Hoffman and Bulmer managed (without the aid of legal counsel) to reach enough agreement among themselves to form an international group to supply white



Lee Hoffman wore a costume made up of covers of her fanzine *Quandry* to the 1951 Worldcon in New Orleans (Nolacon I). Max Keasler (left) appears to be catching up on his reading.

steam for general use (a.k.a. "Fair Steam"), clearly the edge was off.

The legal exchanges were really only so much hot air -- but that, of course, is a vital element in the production of steam.

The saddest thing, perhaps, is that neither firm managed to capture the markets they should have, as witness the fact that NASA went on to utilize those dreadfully expensive liquid-fuel rockets.

In all the world, there's not a single steam-powered computer to be had.

Cooperation would have been ever so much better.

-- rich brown

Continued from page 2

flanking maneuver on the Second City," said club president Mr. Big, "and we need to get one last good look at them before they go into action."

As always, the meeting will be held at Chicago Hotdog (1078 N. Rancho Drive). We will convene for the feast at 5:30. That gives us an hour for heavy eating and light scheming — and still gives the Katzes (and Formans) time to get back to the Launch Pad to set up food and so forth for the Vegnants meeting.

"This is a great chance to spend some 'quality time' with Ken and Aileen before they disappear into the Ozark hills," notes the president.

VSFA Plans Movie Outing to See *War of the Worlds* on Saturday!

Lunch & a Movie with VSFA, the highly successful movie outing series, will next confront Steven Spielberg's *War of the Worlds*, starring Tom Cruise.

Fans will gather at the Crown Theaters in

Neonopolis at (approximately) 12 Noon. The exact time depends on the movie schedule.

You can get more information at: 327-3154.

'Indoor Picnic' to Celebrate July 4th!

An "Indoor Picnic," hosted by Mindy Hitchings and Rebecca Hardin, will help fans whoop it up on Independence Day. Fans will begin gathering at the home of Woody Bernardi at about 3:00 PM and it will wind up in plenty of time for everyone to catch the evening's fireworks.

Mindy and Rebecca will have a selection of tasty sandwiches, diet-busting deserts and palate-clearing waters and soft drinks. Guests are encouraged to bring food, too, to turn it into a pot-luck meal.

Although no RSVP is required, lobbing a phone call so they can get a rough head count would be much appreciated. You can reach Mindy at 204-4332 or by email at lady_shayir@yahoo.com.

Mindy also supplies the following directions: Go north on Rancho past Craig. You will see a Wendy's on the east side of Rancho, very near

Continued on page 8

Brunchcon I

Arnie reports on a pleasant Vegas Sunday

Great food, great company and a great so-so movie added up to a delightful Sunday for the attendees of Alan & DeDee White's Brunchcon I. The group assembled at the White House by 11:30 and spent the next hour or so gorging on Cthulhu Omelets, crispy bacon, mimosas and other potables and an assortment of goodies brought by the guests. There was even a Special Appearance by the reclusive, yet lovable, Pie, the Whites' black cat.



Pie relaxes before Brunchcon I.

Joyce and my portion of Brunchcon I actually started a little before 11 AM, when Ayesha Ashley knocked at the door of the Launch Pad. Ostensibly, she wanted to go to the Whites' place with us, though she ultimately decided she couldn't bear to be parted from

her own car and drove there as the second car of a two-vehicle caravan. I think Ayesha was really just making sure that Joyce didn't need a few minutes with her Healing Hands.

As Joyce inched down the Whites' street, I noticed that their neighbors also seemed to have large amounts of company. It was as if the entire block had decided to play host on the same morning. We'd just parked when Joyce spotted fellow guests James Taylor and Teresa Cochran emerge from the Taylor-mobile and walk towards us.



Caught on a laid-back Sunday at Brunchcon are (left to right): Arnie Katz, Teresa Cochran, Ayesha Ashley and Joyce Katz.

The five of us found the Whites, Luba Anderson and her charming mom already there. Although our band of interlopers represented a clear majority at Brunchcon I, who couldn't think of anything to vote about, so we skipped the business meeting and went straight to the banquet.

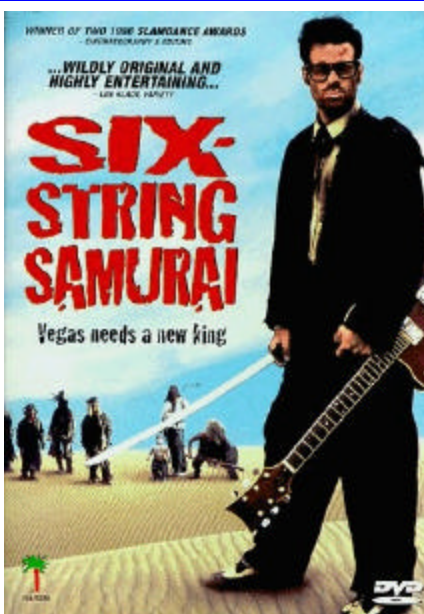
Alan followed up his hilarious Brunchcon I flyer, distributed at last week's Vegrants meeting and the Sunday Social, with a great four-page program

book! Alan's talent and inventiveness never cease to amaze me.

As usual, conversation ranged widely as we devoured the bountiful spread. Teresa thought the best thing to do about the listserv discussion was let things lie. On the whole, I pretty much agreed with her. It might be nice (and convenient) to have one, central listserv that reached all Vegas fans, but that's not going to happen in the present climate.

Joyce beat the drums for the recently renamed Vegas Music Circle. (No, not literally.) Illness kept Teresa from attending the first sing and she was eager to participate in the next one. (See *the story this issue for information about the next sing.*)

James sparked a discussion about memorably bad movies. Almost everyone seemed to know *Plan 9 from Outer Space* and *Robot*



Monster, but most had not seen *Glenn or Glenda*? I told them about *It Came from Hollywood*, in which John Belushi and Dan Ackroyd re-enact the climactic scene from *Glen or Glenda*? I think Alan is thinking of an Ed Wood festival for his next event.

After we'd made a dent in the food -- some RSVPers no-showed without calling to create a local food surplus -- we screened *Six-String Samurai*, an independent science fiction film shot in Las Vegas. Chris Garcia had lauded the

movie in a recent letter, but he hadn't prepared me for this goulash of cinematic clichés. The battle to bring Rock 'n' Roll to Las Vegas, where the Russians and Heavy Metal appear to be in command, was positively inspiring. Well, if not inspiring, at least awesomely strange.

-- Arnie

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Continued from page 5

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). If you get lost, call the party at: 256-7769.

SNAFFU 7/8 Meeting Features The Enchanted Duplicator!

The July 8 Westside SNAFFU meeting could be unusually interesting due to the night's discussion topic: *The Enchanted Duplicator*. Walt Willis and Bob Shaw wrote this funny and perceptive allegorical adventure in 1954 and the 10 editions published since the original testify to its enduring appeal and the resonance it has for fans today.

There is still plenty of time to get one of the free online editions in time to read the relatively

short tale in time to chime in on the discussion. You can find a very nice edition at http://www.fanac.org/fanzines/Enchanted_Duplicator/Enchanted-00.html,

The meeting is also the SNAPS deadline, so copies of the 4th distribution will be available from Official Editor Joyce Katz.

Vegas Music Circle Schedules A Sunday Afternoon Sing!

The first gathering of the Vegas Music Circle, held in conjunction with the 6/4 Vegnants meeting, proved so successful that they're going to host another one on Sunday, June 10. Like the first one, it'll be held at the Launch Pad (909 Eugene Cernan St; joyceworley1@cox.net). Starting time is 2:00 PM and all fans are invited to sing, play their instruments or just listen to a variety of folk, blues, rock and possibly even a little filk. Aysha Ashley will be the Circle Leader, though other accomplished musicians and singers are eagerly welcome to contribute their styles and songs.

Even if all you play is a kazoo, tissue-and-comb, jews harp or jug, this band definitely has room for you — and all Vegas fans are invited to enjoy the get-together in whatever way suits them best.

VSFA Slams the Door On Listserv Discussion

In a post signed only with the organization's name, VSFA expressed hostility toward the current discussion about the future of locally oriented listservs in Las Vegas. Here's the complete text:

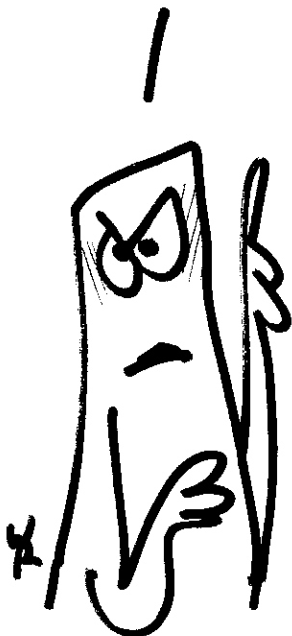
"It's become very apparent that we need to clarify some issues before they continue escalating beyond the realm of reality, even though we are a science fiction and fantasy group!

"Several members have now voiced concerns over the possible dissolution of our listserv due to recent postings about the VFW column.

"Be assured that VSFA is not considering ending its very successful and active discussion list and calendar. Regardless of any discussions by any other groups, we will continue to maintain an open, active listserv and calendar as long as our members are posting and we have events to be scheduled.

"VSFA's listserv has been and will continue to be open to all F&SF groups who want to post their activities along with VSFA's. If there is overlap, so much the better for people seeking information. If some items get posted on only VSFA's site and,

THIS FANZINE
IS PROTECTED
UNDER FANDOM'S
CODE OF
SILENCE!



SO
DON'T
SAY
ANY-
THING!

therefore, not seen by some that is unfortunate but VSFA cannot be responsible for maintaining everyone else's listservs.

"Information posted to the VSFA Calendar and/or message board is for public consumption. Any events which are announced on VSFA can be shared with other listservs, as some people have already done."

In light of this, it's useless to continue discussion of this topic. Accordingly, the Digital Town Meeting will look to other subjects.

Chatback: The VFW Letter Column

Space is a little tight this issue – I may get it down to 10 pages if I am careful – so let's jump into the letter column.

First off, let's reach back just a little for this letter of comment on #27. Hey, it was only about a month ago. If that's too long, then I know a lot of fanzines that should-n't have any letter column at all:

ChrisGarcia

Ve-gas Fanzine, you just keep rollin'. (OK, I'll stop there as I am no Filker)

A very good issue, though I've come to expect no less. Lots of great art, including a Rotsler I don't think I'd seen before. You Vegas types have more great fan artists per capita than anywhere else on Earth. Alan White's site has kept me wildly entertained over the last few months. I'd never found Ross Chamberlain's site though. Bill Kunkle's work in *Chunga* is great. It's one of my favourite things about *Chunga*.

ATom and Rotsler will always be the two fan artists I think of first. I've loved Ray Nelson's stuff for years now and I wish I could get him to do some art for my of my little titles, but alas no. Brad Foster is guy whose art I had to warm up to, took me years, but I finally caught the fever and he's doing a cover for my first Special Edition of *The Drink Tank*.

Stiles and Chamberlain are the type of folks who make me sick: Talented writers and artists. My good friend Kate Kelton (who's had a couple of pieces in *The Drink Tank* and some up-coming in *Claims Department*) is another of those types, except she's no writer, but a fine actress in films like *Harold and Kumar Go To White Castle* and *American Psycho II*, where she has a love scene with Bill Shatner. There's nothing more maddening than a double or triple threat when you're a barely a single minor annoyance.

That Original Harry Warner Form LoC cartoon was one I'd never seen and I love it! So often, my own LoCs fall along the same lines.

Never thought I'd see Jeff Hawkins' name men-

Potshot's Cartoon Theater



tioned in a fanzine. He's a guy who founded Handspring along with Donna Dubinsky and has been around my museum a lot, so I've had a few chats with him. Really nice guy, though the book was less than my cup of tea. In the same paragraph, the name Alan Kay, another guy whose work I love and who's a Computer History Museum Fellow. Sounds like the Futurists put together good talks.

Rich brown's Fan History Corner was nice to see. rich always has a lot to say and a good way of saying it. I'm glad to see that I'm not the only Bay Area who has ever had terribly strange ideas like a tower of Bheer cans.

Arnie: Thanks to Rotsler's epic generosity, I still have quit a few unused illos that will gradually make their way into VFW and other zines. And I couldn't agree with you more about Vegas' bounty of artists: Chamberlain, White and Kunkel are three aces – and they all can write, too.

Here he is again, our lovable curmudgeon, keeping up with Fandom in the Digital Age:

Eric Mayer

That's neat about getting a mention in *Time*. I first saw a home video game -- Pong -- at your Brooklyn apartment. It's hard to grasp now how amazing that was. Up til then a TV was something I looked at. Period. To make something happen on that screen was pretty wild.

Now I see you tried to protect me from my loc-col comments by burying my name under a text box (or something)! I'm not sure I said what I intended to say. I think Fandom is an amalgam of social interaction and creativity.

If you participate in fandom as a writer or artist the creative aspect is strong and people who create tend to want validation of their work, if only to feel they're connecting with an audience, which is really the purpose of art.

When I was running in road races I was happy to finish in the middle of the pack because I'm no athlete and so just to be average at running was a good accomplishment and made for an enjoyable hobby. But however congenial I might find fandom otherwise it isn't going to be highly attractive to me to participate as a writer at a middling level when I can participate at a much higher level in other venues. Now to just participate as a "consumer" and enjoy reading some zines and writing locs and keeping in touch with people such as yourself -- that's different.

I should add, awards and such are nice to have as an indication that one's creative efforts are doing what they are supposed to do -- connect with an audience. I like praise directed at my work, not at me personally. Our publisher is wonderfully understanding of my refusal to do book signings and appearances. I tried a few, was on some authors' panels at a couple conventions, but I just don't enjoy being spotlighted. I know authors who love being the center of attention, but it just makes me uneasy.

Now I'm wondering if the weekly schedule you and Chris Garcia are keeping has thrown my faanish metabolism off-kilter. Zines are supposed to appear a couple times a year...maybe. I fear I might have evolved at high speed and got all the way to Gafia in five months!

Arnie: No, indeed, your weekly dose of VFW is the fannish equivalent of Buns of Steel. Read it every week and soon you'll be shooting out quips and making multi-level puns like a Walt Willis.

And speaking of a man with a flair for Quips, here's a fine fannish gentleman who helped me quite a bit when I put out a fanzine of that name in the 1960s.

Richard Lupoff

Tnx for VFW31. As I mentioned last week, my Adobe pdf reader is up and running again so I don't have to sit there like a kid on Xmas morning who's unable to open any of those wonderful colorfully-wrapped packages. I've just scanned the zine. Will read it when I get home from the baseball game out at the Oakland Alameda County Coliseum, which was renamed Network Associates Coliseum for a while and is now McAfee Coliseum.

Ah, well, if the new owner of the Oakland A's moves 'em to Vegas (as has been rumored) I may just have to fly out there for a game sometime. Jeez, you think science fiction fans are nutty...!

Gotta recommend a book: The Mayor of MacDougal Street, by Dave Van Ronk with Elijah Wald. It's Van Ronk's autobiography, put together and polished by Wald after Van Ronk's death. Wonderful book, amazingly like a fannish memoir.

This is not surprising as the overlap of science fiction fandom, radical politics, and the folk music revival was extensive. The book is full of people we knew and loved: Dick Ellington, Jock Root, Tom Condit, Lee Hoffman, Larry Shaw, Harlan Ellison, Chuck Freudenthal, etc. There's even a

You Got Stf in My Fantasy!

Kent Hastings' SNAFFU (6/26) Meeting Report: Part One

The eastern sect SNAFFU-ans arrived in their various snafmobiles (cue the sixties Batman theme: "Snaf-Fan!"), and took off their ninja masks inside Borders Books at Stephanie and Sunset, revealing themselves to be Mindy Hutchins, Rebecca Hardin, Teresa Cochran, James Taylor, Woody Bernardi, Lori Forbes, April Reckling, Rachel Mainz, Mike Ma, Darmon Thornton, Kent Hastings and Michael Bernstein.

SNAFFU Pres. Michael Bernstein announced some upcoming and current events of fannish interest, including the SFRA convention at the Imperial Palace in progress, the Vegrants open house at Arnie and Joyce's (which might get a mention in a certain VFW publication), work on the SNAFFU library, a Sunday BBQ at Woody's house (but without Woody in attendance), and the release of the new genre movies, *Bewitched* and *War of the Worlds*.

Michael reminded us that a link to the SNAFFU online group can be found by visiting www.snaffu.org. After stating the evening's topic, "You Got Fantasy In My Science Fiction!" Michael said that ideas for future topics were needed. Mindy instantly suggested "remakes" as a topic and surprisingly nobody said "It's been done." So it looks like we'll get to hear all about *War of the Worlds*, *Bewitched*, *Battlestar Galactica* and just about every other "new" media being re-done again.

But the very next SNAFFU topic will be "The Enchanted Duplicator." Will the movie feature Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman? Or will Nicole star in the sequel alone? Stay snaf-tuned on this snaf-channel!

Suddenly, a blizzard of books were hurled into the midst of the group by shuriken-do master, Michael Bernstein. Titles spun in the air, whistling to their place in the pile, starting with *Madwand* by Roger Zelazny, *When True Night Falls* by C.S. Friedman, *Cursed and Consulted* and *The Wiz Biz* by Rick Cook, *The Magic Goes Away* by Larry Niven, *Swordspoint* by Ellen Kushner, *Dream Park* and *The Barsoom Project* by Larry Niven and Steven Barnes, *Burning Tower* by Larry Niven and Jerry Pournelle, *Blue Adept* and *Golem in the Gears* by Piers Anthony.

When the dust settled, Michael and Lori mentioned Clarke's *Third Law* (from 1961): "Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic" and a corollary, "Any sufficiently advanced magic is indistinguishable from technology." Woody asked if the Pern books were fantasy or science fiction, and Michael replied that although they had trappings of fantasy (such as dragons) they were SF. Michael gave the counter-example of Gene Wolfe, who writes fantasy with SF trappings (like spaceships). — Kent Hastings

Part Two — Coming Soon!

lovely photo of Lee Hoffman with Van Ronk, undated but it looks like the late 1950's.

I don't think I ever met Van Ronk, which is really weird considering how many mutual acquaintances we had and how often we were in the same scene -- but I guess never quite at the same moment.

Really sorry I never met the guy. Or maybe I did in some busy scene and failed to take note. My loss. If you get a chance, pick up the book. You're in for a treat.

Arnie: I met him only once, with Mike McInerney, during a lull in Dave's fan activity in the mid-1960s. (He subsequently got more active again, but I was Gafia. As a folk fan, I was very excited about meeting him and prepared myself to

talk music at least semi-intelligently. So Mike leads me up to Dave, who takes one look and says, "So, Arnie, what's new in Fandom?"

What's better than one Chris Garcia letter? Why, two, of course. Here he is, revealing his fannish past and talking fanhistory:

Chris Garcia

I like the new look. I've never had a consistent look to any of my zines, mostly because I'm not skilled enough to replicate any of the minor successes I've managed to stumble across.

Sounds like fans out there are going through the coaster of activity. There's always more folks at meetings in the dead of winter than in spring

Las Vegas Fan Event Calendar

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 Indoor Picnic 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. The topic is *The Enchanted Duplicator*. This is also the 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.)

Vegas Music Circle July 10 2:00 PM

All fans are invited to make music or just listen at the Launch Pad. The session starts at 2:00 PM.

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.

SNAFFU July 22 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.

and summer, though for y'all in Vegas, it may not be the biggest of differences. I've been guilty of just this crime myself.

I'm not sure which I'd rather see: Dick Lynch's *Fandom in the 1960s* or rich brown to do a full-fledged book of his fanhistory stuff. I'm never not entertained by his writing and this tale of the various fannish religions made me laugh. I'd heard about these over the years, but I'd never seen anything that gathered all of them into one area of paper.

I was wonderin' if it was the same Richard Brandt when I read that *Entertainment Weekly* article. I read the Time article Bill Kunkle mentioned. Good stuff. We've added it to the collection of the museum's research department, and on the list of wanted periodicals is *Electronic Games*.

To Robert Lichtman: Pops is Johnny Garcia (who used the aliases like John Ghod Geely and Amado St. Croix). He was pretty much like I was in the early part of this decade: Lurking with a few

friends. I also own a copy of *All Our Yesterdays*, though I've only read parts of it. I did read *A Wealth of Fable*, which was great.

Arnie: Meaning no disrespect to Dick Lynch, I think a richbrown fanhistory book would be absolutely wonderful. Then Ted White will write an equally brilliant critique and – voila! – ten-thousands posts from the Trufen listserv!

Let's Just Say 'Au Revior'...

Parting is such sweet sorry and so forth, though I must admit I am somewhat relieved to see the page count go *down* a little (even if I had to drop the text font a point to make it work).

I'll be back next week with a complete report on the NonCon II weekend, other news, letters (if you write) and columns (if you send them).

Have a great long weekend and, please, keeping touch. You know how I worry when you don't write.

— Arnie Katz