

## **SNAFFU 8/12 Meeting Looks At Fairy Tales & Legends!**

This Friday's SNAFFU meeting (August 12, 8 PM) will have as its discussion theme "Fairy Tales, Legends and Myths Retold."

It'll take place at the club's Westside location, Border's book store at Decatur & Sahara.

## **Woodshed Renaming Highlights Andrews 8/13 Potluck Party!**

Woody Bernardi is back home n Boston, but there's one remnant of his time here that is, rightly, about to get a facelift. Now that Woody no longer lives at the Woodshed (6400 Cosmos Lane), new resident Joshua Andrews will honor an old fannish tradition by re-naming the place.

And since this is Las Vegas, he's



tion to Las Vegas' very own local apa, because the deadline isn't until Sunday, 12 noon.

All you have to do is use a word processor or desktop publishing program to write one or more pages. Then submit the file (via email) to the group's Official Editor Joyce Katz ([joyceworley1@cox.net](mailto:joyceworley1@cox.net)).

SNAPS is distributed electronically to the participants and can also be downloaded at the SNAFFU and VSFA web sites. So even those who haven't written a lot for Fandom can feel

# **VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY**

turned it into a party that'll begin at 4:00 PM and continue through the evening. There will be a pot luck dinner, followed by an evening of fannish revelry leading up to the re-christening at 10:00 PM.

Even *VFW* doesn't know Joshua's choice, selected in a contest in which the winner will receive a subscription to *Vegas Fandom Weekly*, though I campaigned loudly for Cosmic Corners or Cosmic Circle.

## **SNAPS Distribution #5 Gets First Two Contributions!**

Ross Chamberlain and Teresa Cochran have the honor of being the first to submit fanzines for the 5th distribution of SNAPS (Southern Nevada Amateur Press Association). There's still time for you to add your contribu-

### **This Weekend in Vegas Fandom**

Here are the major events scheduled for Las Vegas Fandom for this coming weekend:

- \* **SNAFFU Westside Meeting**  
Friday, 8:00 PM
- \* **Woodshed Re-naming Ceremony & Potluck Party**  
Saturday, 4:00 PM
- \* **SNAPS Distribution #5 Deadline**  
Sunday, 12:00 PM

You'll find all the info you need in preview articles or the calendar.

# Inside Story Through Thick n Thin

Reading some of the stories in this week's news — I generally don't write this little section until the issue is just about finished — is a fresh reminder of one of the reasons I am a fan and one of the best things I can say about Fandom. Divert your attention, however temporarily, from the "important" stories of the week like the SNAPS deadline, the SNAFFU meeting preview and the announcement of Elizabeth Bear's Hugo and you'll see some other stories about some of our fan friends who could use a little help over the next few weeks. Some fans are a bit shy about asking for assistance, but we shouldn't let that make us forget our loyalties or forget members of our community just when they need a boost.

One instance of what I mean involves JoHn & Karla Hardin, who have to move after only one month in their new place due to circumstances decidedly beyond their control. They really need some help from the rest of us to move approximately a half-mile to their new place on Sunday, September 5th. With three kids and a just-completed move, you can guess the financial situation, so fan-power would come in mighty handy. If you have cartons or would like to help over the weekend of the move, contact JoHn at ([fractal\\_zero@yahoo.com](mailto:fractal_zero@yahoo.com)). A truck and/or a station wagon would be particularly helpful.

Ayesha Ashley, who is moving to her condo on August 28, could also use some muscle. Shlepping a few boxes won't kill anyone and it would be a nice way to show Ayesha a little of what makes Fandom special. Her email is: [desertsiren@myway.com](mailto:desertsiren@myway.com).

There's more than one kind of support. Alan White, my friend and one of the most positive and generous fans in Vegas, needs your good thought (and if you go that way, prayers) as he enters Sunrise Hospital for cancer surgery next Monday (8/15). Alan doesn't like to bellyache about troubles, but let's make sure that he knows we are all in his corner.

— Arnie:



that they are in a safe, protected environment where they can

give things a try without stepping onto that (relatively) large stage of worldwide Fandom.

Started in April '05 by Joyce, JoHn Hardin and me, SNAPS has become a successful and popular local activity with roughly a dozen fans contributing to each distribution. It's a chance to share your thoughts and opin-

ions with the most articulate Vegas fans and then get lots of entertaining feedback in the form of the Distribution Comments that participants will have in their SNAPSzines for the September SNAPS distribution.

What should

*Continued page 8.*

A BLANK SHEET IS THE CANVAS OF THE LOCSMITH



**Vegas Fandom Weekly #39, August 10, 2005**, is written and produced by Arnie Katz (PMB 152, 330 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107; Email: [crossfire4@cox.net](mailto:crossfire4@cox.net); phone: 702-648-5677).

Special Thanks to Earl Kemp (photos), Joyce Katz (proofreading), Woody Bernardi (Star Reporter Emeritus).

**Reporters this issue:** Michael Bernstein, Mindy Hutchings, Linda Bushyager, Rebecca Hardin, Carol Kern, Joshua Andrews and Joyce Katz

**Art/Photo Credits:** Alan White (1, 6, 7, 8), Bill "Potshot" Kunkel (8, 11), Bill Rotsler (all other cartoons)

**Columnists This Issue:** rich brown, Mindy Hutchings

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

Member: fwa. Supporter: AFAL. Believer: United Fans of Vegas Toner II in 2006!. Vegas Westercon in '08!

# Why a Vegrant? Katzenjammer

When the fan party starts to wind down and the clock creeps into the single-digit hours, it's not unusual for fans to wax philosophical and ponder the meaning of this amazing pastime that commands such huge amounts of our energy, time and emotion.

One specific aspect of this admittedly vast subject that has come up several times is what, exactly, makes someone a Vegrant and what makes Las Vegrants different from other clubs.

The readymade answer is: "Las Vegrants is an invitation club primarily for, but not limited to, fanzine fans." That's what it says in the unwritten constitution the club doesn't have, but the map doesn't precisely fit the territory.

The invitational part is true, but it doesn't mention the frequent open parties Las Vegrants has thrown for *all* of Las Vegas Fandom. Joyce has said Las Vegrants is the most open invitational club in fanhistory and she may well be right.

It's that way, because that's the way the members want it. Las Vegas Fandom has always thrived on friendly cooperation and our bunch wants to do our part to be *ecufenical*.

Las Vegrants doesn't host open parties as a recruitment tool. We have plenty of members. We do it, because we genuinely enjoy having all the active Vegas fans come have a good time with us.

Las Vegrants is not exactly compulsive about fanzines, either. A lot of us like them and enjoy writing, drawing and reading them. Yet like every fanzine fan club I know, Las Vegrants has some folks who do little in the fanzine field — or even nothing at all. Derek Stazenski and Su Williams have done little or nothing in fanzines, but both are valued members (who have recently returned to attending after some time away).

The end-of-party bull session last Saturday brought forth what I felt was a particularly good statement by Joyce. She said that the reason for Las Vegrants is that there are Vegas fans who enjoy each others' company so much that they want to spend more time together than the other local fan events make possible.

As soon as she said

it, I knew that she had put her finger on a major point. I miss the other Vegrants a lot when it's too long between get-togethers, like months with five Saturdays. I may not get to spend quality time with each of them at every meeting, but over the weeks and months, I do.

Yet that's not the whole definition. There are quite a few non-Vegrants in Las Vegas Fandom whom I like quite a bit, too. My closest friends are probably the men and women in the group, but there are others whom I look forward to seeing, too.

There are a lot of ways to express the other component and, in truth, it is a somewhat nebulous concept. We say "fanzine fan," because it makes the point succinctly, but as I've already explained, it's not really accurate.

Another way to express the common bond is that Vegrants generally have an interest in, and commitment to, Fandom in other cities and countries. We have subscribed to Fandom's "social contract" and glory in its literature, history and traditions.

Simply put, we love being fans, knowing fans from everywhere, receive their fanzines and seeing them at cons and during visits. We understand that great fans have come before us and other great fans will no doubt come after us. Vegrants try to learn from the former and teach the latter to preserve the unique subculture that sets SF Fandom apart from the Mundane world and, indeed, most other Fandoms.

This closeness, this tribalism if you will, is obviously not for everyone. It's possible to participate in Fandom at many levels, depending on time, interest and (sometimes) ability. You can even treat the whole thing as an Interest Group and ignore the very aspects that most interest Vegrants.

I've been an active fan for most of the last 42 years. I met my wife and most of my current friends through participation in the hobby. It's can't be a casual thing for me, because so many of my life experiences, so many of my personal attachments, are in Fandom.

They say it's a Proud and Lonely Thing to Be a Fan. That's a wonderful phrase — and one with a lot of relevance to Las Vegrants. I guess you could say that I am proud to be associated with such an outstanding group of fans and that their presence in my life makes being one of those oddball fans a great deal less lonely.

— Arnie



# The Laney Laugh

## rich brown's Fanhistory Corner

The microcosm is not just about things and events, it's about people and the personalities on display there. It's been observed that while clubs and conventions may have their presiding officers, *no one* runs the microcosm as a whole. That said, quite a number of individuals have had profound and long-lasting influences on fandom. In any examination of fan history, be it as lighthearted as this one has tried to be or as serious as many others have been, it's necessary to have an understanding of these people and what they did and said.

One such person was indisputably Francis Towner Laney. I'll write about others later, but I've picked Laney first because he was a man with feet of clay, and I think it's important to establish that the "fancestor worship" we are engaging in here is not (or at least should not be) an exercise in ignoring facts to elevate real fans into wholly imagined paragons of virtue. Any attempt to do so, in my opinion, would be like putting square wheels on the vehicle we've chosen for viewing the history of fandom, in that it would lead to a very bumpy ride indeed. *Most* of the fans I'll be writing about were also not without flaw, but where their flaws were in no way impact on their accomplishments, they most likely won't get mentioned, so might come out *sounding* more like paragons than they actually were or are. Better to start here.

In the early 1940s, Francis T. Laney was already regarded as a Big Name Fan -- or BNF for short, as is more often used in fandom. One cannot proclaim one's self to be a BNF, it's something that has to come from the perceptions of others, and to be valid the per-

ception has to be widespread in the microcosm. Laney had achieved this status by editing a very fine serious fanzine, *The Acolyte*, devoted in the main to critical examination of the works of H. P. Lovecraft. Hugos were not established until the 1950s and fanzines did not routinely receive them until the 1960s, but his fanzine appeared at or near the top of many of the polls conducted during the period.

As did *Shangri-L'Affaires*, the generally-circulated fanzine of the Los Angeles Science-Fantasy Society (LASFS), edited by another figure who had a considerable impact on fandom, Charles Burbee. (Quick aside: In his final years, Burbee had a very positive influence on modern-day Las Vegas fandom. Ask Arnie or others involved for details.)

In truth, their major impact on the microcosm was as a duo: Laney and Burbee became friends when Laney moved to southern California; their fanzines, while topping popularity polls, were not in serious competition because they were different types of fanzines and (if you'll pardon the double entendre) poles apart in both content and attitude.

Burbee was a humorist -- one of the best; in many people's opinion, mine included; his only real rival for the spot of fandom's best-ever being Walt Willis, who entered fandom somewhat later. (Calvin Demmon would be in contention if his body of fanzine works had been of comparable size.) And one of the things Burbee did in the pages of *Shaggy* (as the LASFS club zine was affectionately known) was to lampoon some of the club's more sober-sided members. That, and the fact that he did not wait when lazier LASFS

members dawdled in coming up with promised material but published more reliable contributors outside the membership in their place, was what eventually led the club to remove him as editor.

Laney, feeling that Burbee had been scolded and admonished for poking harmless fun at people who took themselves and fandom far too seriously, joined his friend in exile. In a series of one-shots for FAPA, in a number of issues *Wild Hair* which they co-edited, and in *Ah! Sweet Idiocy!*, his serialized fannish memoirs (which he pronounced

ME-moirs) he embarked with Burbee on an insurgency which lambasted the attitude of FIAWOL (Fandom Is A Way Of Life) which he saw as detrimental in LASFS in particular and fandom in general, and extolled the virtues of the alternate fannish philosophy, FIJAGH (Fandom Is Just A Goddamned Hobby). From that point forward Laney claimed he was no longer a "fan" but -- taking his cue from the mundane amateur press associations -- was instead now an amateur journalist.

As I said at the outset, in some of this, judged from today's perspective, Laney revealed feet of clay. When fans spoke of "the Laney laugh," they were not referring to his sense of humor but to public sneers and locker room humor that bordered on cruelty. Laney, a bit of a misogynist who yet considered himself a "lady's man," dated women who advertised for romance in newspaper "personals" columns and dropped them as soon as he achieved his aim of having sex with them, and no doubt as part of maintaining this self-image was sneeringly anti-gay: Laney claimed LASFS was a hotbed of homosexual activity and took obvious delight in saying or implying that members he held in low esteem



The cover of a 1945 issue of *The Acolyte*, Laney's celebrated fanzine.

were homosexuals, effeminate and/or incapable of satisfying a women.

The kindest thing we can say about this today, and then only to explain rather than justify, is that FTL was a product of his times. It needs to be pointed out, perhaps, that in the late 1940s in the U.S., the most "liberal" attitude toward homosexuality was that it was a "sickness" for which participants could or should not be blamed but should be urged to seek some psychological "cure." It's a sad observation, but perhaps understandable why, in a micro-

cosm devoted to a form of literature aimed at adolescent males which attracted only a handful of females, very few had the courage to speak up against him. No doubt there was more than one reason for this, but a primary one was almost certainly that they didn't want to be branded as homosexuals who preferred fandom to remain a mostly male province.

Even with these acknowledged shortcomings, however, it's impossible to dismiss Laney's legitimate insights, which have been a seminal influence on the microcosm. While Burbee continued to puncture the pomposity of practitioners of FIAWOL with the barbs of humor, Laney -- particularly in his memoirs -- focused his critical faculties on skewering with an acid pen everything he considered immature, dishonest, pretentious and self-serving in LASFS and in fandom, while articulating what he felt was a better way of approaching the hobby.

His critical examination, his eye for detail, his dismissal of pomposity in the late 1940s and early 1950s had a profound impact and influenced the shaping of the microcosm for many years beyond his death in 1958.

— rich brown

# Bye-Bye Bernardi!

## Arnie reports on the 8/6 Vegrants Event

"He's here! He's here!" cried exultant voices that carried all the way to my office where some of the Vegrants had gathered during the 8/6 Las Vegrants Open Party and Bye-Bye Bernardi Bash.

Shouts of jubilation shook the Launch Pad! The sound of fannish voices rose to a crescendo as we heard the unmistakable sound of everyone in the living and dining rooms converging on him, mobbing him at the door and showering him with friendly greetings.

Sure enough, barely a minute later, Michael Bernstein (who desperately needs a nickname) stuck his head through the doorway. "He's here!" he announced grandly.

"We'll just wait here for now," I said, speaking for my indolent comrades.

"You'll have to come out if you want the pizza," Michael warned. And so with great gusto, we poured out of the office and fell upon the three defensibly medium pizzas that Michael had so generously and thoughtfully ordered delivered to the party.

Oh yeah, that Woody Bernardi guy was there, too. He made an incredible, successful, effort to negotiate the Boston-to-Vegas air trip in time to join the party in his honor. And while the welcome for the pizza delivery guy may have been a tad more enthusiastic, you couldn't beat the greeting for Woody when it came to spontaneity, warmth and sincerity.

"I knew you were gonna move to Boston," I teased him shortly after he arrived at about 9:30. "When I heard that you were going to Boston for Gay-laxicon and to visit your family, I told people that there was a chance you might not come back."

He looked up at me from his chair, no doubt curious about the nature of my next revelation.

"And when you announced you were extending your stay, I told Joyce 'He's gone!'," I continued.

"We're going to miss you a lot, Woody," I said, "But I know you're coming back. Toner 2 is in '06 and I think

we've got a good shot at getting you to move back here."

Ayesha Ashley got the evening rolling when she arrived about 7:00 PM after what she described as a day of "doing nothing." Knowing that she has been wearing herself out with moving preparations, a little decompression time sounded like a good idea, so I tried to make her feel less guilty by telling her that I'd slacked off myself. I told her I might continue the idleness on Sunday, but my honesty got the better of me when I added, "Well, except for some work on the wrestling site and then there's a fan novel I'm trying to write."

As Ayesha helped her in the kitchen, while I polished off some pre-party chores, I heard Joyce give a soft-sell fanhistory lesson about the informal group that used to do ceramics every Tuesday and the 4F Club, which may be up for a revival now that Vegas Fandom has so many new female fans.

Irrationally, I always get slight apprehensive as 7:30, the standard starting time for our fannish evenings, approaches. My mind conjures a harrowing vision of every Vegrant failing to show due to circumstances beyond their control. And there I am, sitting with a full coffee table and an empty house. Joelle Barnes' timely arrival, jumbo bag of Cheetos in hand, put an end to that fear, at least for *this* night. I know that Fandom has provided a few surprises for Joelle since she encountered it a couple of months ago, and I admire her pluck in weathering these jolts with mostly good spirit.

Ayesha shocked everyone with her tale of the attempted murder in her building. It happened in an adjacent apartment. The alleged attempted murderer, allegedly a meth freak on a long run, then went to a local bar and stabbed someone five times.

Michael Bernstein was in a surprisingly chipper mood when he arrived, considering that he and Roxy Gibbs were still with-





out air conditioning. He clung to the scheduled repair appointment like a dying man clutching a life raft.

Ross Chamberlain came in and was duly introduced to Joelle, who did not seem especially impressed by our modest genius (with emphasis on both words). A little later I let her know that Ross is one of Fandom's finest artists and showed her his painting from *The Enchanted Duplicator*.

Bill Kunkel, Derek Stazenski, JoHn Hardin, Ross and I went to get our share of the pizza — and then returned to our conversation about Hitler, Kennedy and Stalin. We not only picked up pizza, but also Joyce.

Of specific interest was the manipulation of photos. We talked about Stalin's habit of placing his image in historical photos of major Russian moments and, conversely, the habit of retouching photos to remove Russian leaders who fell out of favor with Uncle Joe.

Michael and JoHn had a heated exchange on whether birth control should be compulsory for cats. At first I thought it was some sort of backhanded slur, but they assured me that that issue involved only felines. I suggested the Patch as a compromise, but JoHn will accept nothing less than contraceptive-laced cat chow distributed to feral kitties.

Bill described a movie he'd seen the previous night, *Ginger Snaps Back*. Although it sent my mind to stored

mental images of one-time porn star Ginger Lynn, it turns out to be the story of a village menaced by poorly made up werewolves.

Su Williams made a welcome return to Las Vegas., She told the whole gory story of how the gendarmes stopped and searched the Wilson-Forman caravan to Arkansas. I wish Su would write this one up, because it would make one hell of an article. If she doesn't, perhaps Ken, Ben or Aileen will give it a try for *Implications*.

Woody — who made his entrance shortly after the pizza, Joyce, Ross, Teresa and I got talking about the Boston fan scene and its differences from, and similarities to, Las Vegas Fandom. Joyce and I both pointed to the man achievements of that Fandom, especially in the areas of con-giving and small press publishing, but there's no getting around the fact that the general ambience is a bit more subdued and sober than the Fandom of Good Cheer. I'm sure it won't take Woody long to find his proper place in it; Boston's gaining an enthusiastic fan if they recognize him.

Joelle mentioned that her small stature (4'7") had led her to consider studying to be a clown. That reminded me of an incident that strongly suggests that all the world does *not* love a clown. I described a Saturday morning visit to one of the units of the Blueberry Hill chain that thought hiring a clown would be a great way to jolly up those hours.

Of course, this is Las Vegas, so the crowd at Blueberry was packed with couples who barely knew each other's names and many of whom were still out on Friday night dates.

The clown, evidently unaware of the true situation, strutted up to a table where he did not find eager, bright-eyed children and doting parents waiting to see his balloon animals. I believe the clown's reward, audible throughout that area of the restaurant, was a threat that he would be killed if he didn't take his damn balloons somewhere else.

Variations of this scene were re-enacted at each table. Finally, the mentally broken clown fled the scene, probably in one of those little cars.

As midnight struck, the throng had whittled down to Joyce, JoHn, Teresa, Michael, Lori Forbes, Joelle, James Taylor, Kent Hastings, Mindy Hutchings, Rebecca Hardin and me. The intelligent, amusing conversation on subjects ranging from the role of children in Fandom to adventures in Pittsburgh, PA, made this one of the most enjoyable parts of a really fine fannish evening.

The night's merry-makers were: Ayesha Ashley, Bill Kunkel, Derek Stazinski, Michael Bernstein, Mindy Hutchings, Rebecca Hardin, Ross Chamberlain, Alan White, Dedee White, Lori Forbes, Su Williams, Woody Bernardi, Joelle Barnes, Teresa Cochran, James Taylor, Kent Hastings, Joyce Katz and me.

— Arnie

(As always, thanks to Joyce for the attendance list.)

Continued from page 2

you write about? There are pretty much no limits. You could talk about books and movies, recount a recent (or an old) experience/adventure, spout off about things you like (or don't) about local and national Fandom or any other thing that comes into your head. The important thing is to give it a try and see why so many other Vegas fans have found it worthwhile and entertaining.

### Electricity Comes to the Kunkels!

It took guest appearances by the fire department and a representative of Nevada Power on Wednesday (8/10) evening, but Bill & Laurie Kunkel finally have electricity (and such niceties as air conditioning) again.

During the general chaos, Laurie felt onto her already-damaged knees. She is all right, but it sure didn't do them much good.

Bill will no doubt regale the next Vegrants meeting with the amazing details of the Kunkels' night of horror so I won't steal the story that's rightfully his, but basically, the apartment management and repair staff tried to let what would've been small repairs slide until they ballooned into a major crisis.

### Alan White Faces Cancer Surgery On 8/15 at Sunrise Hospital!

Alan White will undergo cancer surgery on Monday, August 15 at Sunrise Hospital. He is expected to stay there approximately four



Alan stands in front of some of his art.

days before returning home for more recuperation and, possibly, additional medical measures.

Get well soon, Alan, your fellow Vegrants, Las Vegas Fandom

and all those who've enjoyed your delightful fanzine work will be rooting hard for a full and complete recovery.

### Joyce Katz Is Now On Track For Eye, Ankle Surgeries!

The medical situation is starting to brighten for Joyce Katz and looks pretty good at the moment. Now considered recuperated from her angioplasty, the cardiologist has cleared Joyce to pursue both the cataract and ankle fusion surgeries.

She is meeting with doctors and arranging for necessary tests. It is not known when the surgeries will be or even which one will happen first, but it is starting to look like early September is possible.

### Joshua Andrews Named President Of Gay/Bi/Les/Trans SF Club!

Joshua Andrews has replaced Terry Wilsey as president of the Gay/Les/Bi/Trans SF Club in a wholly amicable transfer of leadership. Terry stepped down, because he didn't have time to do the job as he felt it should be done. Joshua, who has been looking for an organization-based project since he entered Vegas Fandom through one of the local *Star Trek* clubs, is an obvious choice to succeed him.

Coverage of the club in *VFW* has suffered in recent months, but the new president has already provided solid information to be found in various places in the fanzine.

Perhaps with an active fan like

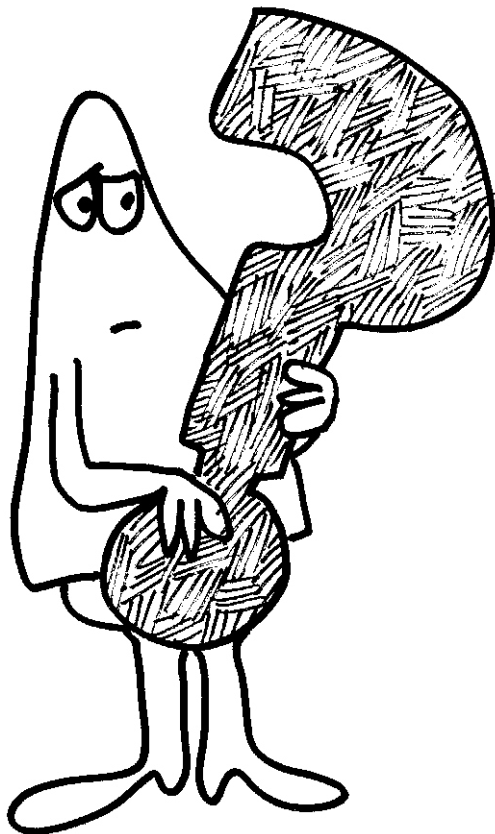


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# Aug. Social Preview **VSFA VIEWS**

*Note* VSFA secretary Mindy Hutchings filed this extensive preview of the August Social, which takes place next Sunday. In view of the great Vegas-wide interest in this event and its future, I'm presenting the complete report.



The August Sunday Social will be held, as usual, on the third Sunday of the month: August 21, 2005. It will also be held in its usual venue: the Tap House Bar and Grille (5589 West Charleston Blvd, between Jones and Decatur). Our topic is a little unusual: Why should a Social have a topic?, but this is guaranteed to stimulate conversation which is the whole point of a Social! Thanks Rebecca for the idea! As with so many other things VSFA does, the idea is to have fun no matter what the event. Of course, this is true for all Fan events in Las Vegas.

As there may be some concern about VSFA's plans for the Socials now that Woody is gone and we have a new President, we

want to say here and now that the Sunday Social as a VSFA event will continue as far into the future as we can make it go. As long as people from Las Vegas Fandom (and any guests we might convince to join us) are willing to attend, we'll keep going. Our program may vary over time (to have a topic or not have a topic, that is the question), but it is the flexibility of the event which we love: topics or no topics, panels, or art displays (annual art event, anyone?).

VSFA has no plans for changing the venue. It will remain at the Tap House as this offers a banquet room with room for growth. It is also a flexible space as it has hookups for microphones and a stage area. On top of that, the price is right: \$25 versus the \$100 food minimum other places demand. This means that if the attendees don't buy \$100 worth of food and drink, VSFA is responsible for the difference. VSFA's treasury says we can't take the chance we don't meet the minimum. Besides, Natalie, the Tap House banquet waitress, is truly a wonder. She remembers all our names and what we usually order, not to mention being very unobtrusive. Give her a big "Thank You!" (and a big tip) the next time you attend a Social.

Now, with all that said, there is one major change planned. VSFA has decided to have a Holiday Hiatus during November and December. Since the holiday season starts at Thanksgiving and many people have out-of-town visitors during that time, it was felt that it is unreasonable to expect people to attend yet another event while trying to prep for holiday festivities. However, not everyone has family plans for the holidays, so some sort of informal social event will be planned.

So, everyone relax and keep the third Sunday of the month reserved for the VSFA Sunday Social!

— Mindy Hutchings

## Contact Information

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
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Joshua at the helm, the GBLT will find it easier to interact with the rest of the local fan community. They can certainly be assured that, based on Vegas Fandom's track record, sexual preference is not an issue.

### **Two Moving Stories**

JoHn & Karla Hardin are steeling themselves for another move a month after settling in their new place. They and the three Hardin children will relocate about a half-mile from their current abode on the first weekend in

### **Vegas Fans Say 'Bye-Bye' to Bernardi!**

A few of us met Woody for a very last minute ad hoc farewell tonight. We ended up at the Tuscany Cafe and enjoyed some final banter and food.

Most of us had Chinese meals and received the ubiquitous fortune cookies, Woody included.

I just had to share (and he was kind enough to let me) Woody's fortune with everyone: "Your mentality is alert, practical and analytical."

Those of us that know and love Woody can truly appreciate the accuracy of this statement!

Woodrow, we're gonna miss ya! — Carol Kern

Hazel and I got to see Woody at that last minute as well. I'm so glad I was there, and it's hardly fair that Woody is off to bless Boston's local Fandom. — Ruth Davidson

We also got to see him at the last minute, taking him out to dinner on Tuesday before he did all his packing. We are going to miss Woody, as is all of Vegas fandom. His new job sounds good though, and he will temporarily stay with his parents until he finds a new house.

I hope to see him at upcoming conventions as well as visits back to Vegas.

— Linda Bushyager



September. Offers of packaging cartons and moving help would be most welcome.

Ayesha Ashley move is voluntary, though the recent fire and an attempted murder in the building certainly motivated her to find somewhere else to roost. Her new place is even farther to the South than her current home, but it is also closer to her work.

Blondie claims to have the packing situation under control, but she would certainly appreciate some extra hands when she gets to the final stage of the move over the 8/28 weekend.

#### Heard Around Fandom...

Things are still pretty tentative in Flippin, AR., but we do have a new email address for Ken & Aileen Forman: [forman@yellville.net](mailto:forman@yellville.net). Unfortunately, the Wilsons are not yet connected to the web, but Ken and Aileen will pass along anything you may want to say to Ben. (Cathi is still in California until the end of the month)...

Congratulations to long-time

Vegas Sympathizer (and the Fan Guest of Honor at Silvercon I), Robert Lichtman, who is now officially retired. Robert always said that some day, he and I would become the Old Pharts of Fandom. It is good to know that he, at least, has ascended to this rank, even if my own rise has been blocked by my extreme virility and timelessly youthful appearance...

Woody Bernardi's trip to Las Vegas turned out to be briefer than many expected, but it was really good to have a chance to give him a real send-off. He left for Boston on Tuesday (8/9). I predict: He Will Return...

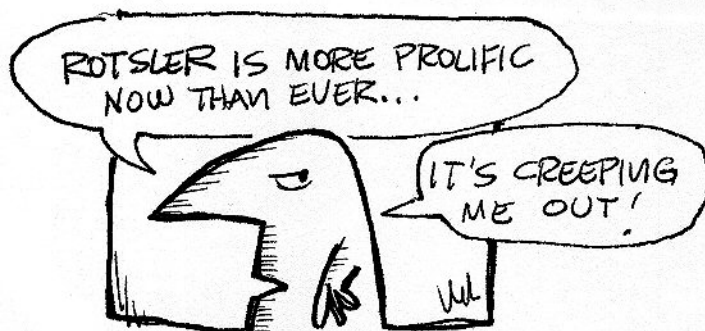
Carol Kern has adopted Jewel the Wonderdog, formerly the bashful canine resident of the former Woodshed. Carol reports that Jewel is adjusting to the new, quieter surroundings very nicely.

#### I'm Not Done...

... but the flesh is a little weaker than usual this week. *VFW* was on course for distribution on Wednesday when I pulled a muscle in my side. Favoring that injury led to a more generalized back problem and postponement of this issue for a couple of days.

I would like to continue with two pages of letter of comment, but my back is not showing

## Potshot's Cartoon Theater



## Las Vegas Fan Event Calendar

**SNAFFU** August 12 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 subject is Fairy Tales and Legends Re-told.

**Woodshed Re-naming Party** August 13 4:00 PM

Joshua Andrews invites everyone to bid farewell to Woody Bernardi and celebrate the re-naming of the residence formerly known as the Woodshed (\*6400 Cosmo Lane).

**Las Vegrants Meeting** August 20 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** August 21 2 PM

VSFA sponsors this event, open to all Vegas fans, at The Tap House. The topic for discussion is the future of the Social itself.

**SNAFFU** August 26 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. The subject is Hugo Winners and Also-Rans.

**Vegas Music Circle** August 28 2:00 PM

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

**Chicago Science Fiction League Meeting** September 5 5:30 OM

The Chicago Science Fiction League holds its latest get-together on the weekend that traditionally hosts the worldcon. All Vegas fans are invited to join them at Chicago Hotdog.

**Las Vegrants Labor Day Celebration (Open Party)** September 3 7:30 PM

Come spend a lively Saturday night with the Vegrants! Las Vegas' invitational fan club will host another of its famous parties and would like to see all of you there. Arnie & Joyce Katz will host at the Launch Pad (909 Eugene Cernan Street).

the proper spirit of cooperation. I expect to be back to full strength in a day or two, but I wouldn't want this issue to be any later.

So, reluctantly, I bid you all farewell until next week when *VFW* rounds off nine months of weekly publication.

Write if you can — and send the news.

— Arnie

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... and a *ton* of news.