

### Breaking News: White Surgery Successful!

Alan White, according to a phone call just received from a happy and relieved DeDee White came through his prostate cancer surgery with flying colors. According to DeDee, the doctor performed the operation at Sunrise Hospital early on Thursday (8/18) morning. As reported last week, the surgery was scheduled for Monday, but got pushed back a few days.

The surgeon, says DeDee, pronounced the operation a textbook success. At this point, he has shelved plans for follow-up chemo and/or radiation therapy. He is expected to stay in the hospital three days to recuperate, but nothing definite on that, yet.

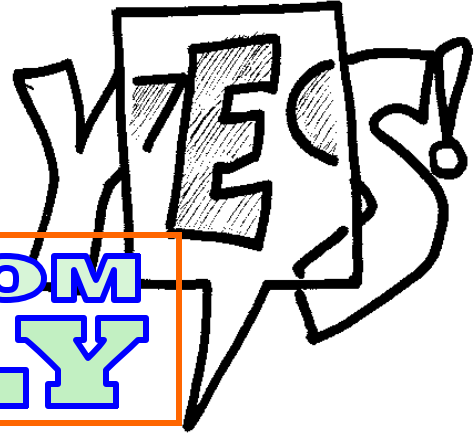
### The August Social Is On Tap for Sunday!

The August Social, sponsored as it has been since April by the Vegas Science Fiction Association, is set for The Tap House at 2:00 PM this coming Sunday (8/21).

## VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

There is a program, which usually runs 30-45 minutes, but the big attractions are the relaxed socializing, the congenial Tap House ambience — it's the best public meeting venue since the dear, dead days of Skinny Dugan's — and reasonably priced, reasonably tasty good. (Joyce recommends the thin crust pizza, but there have been noticeably few complaints, especially considering we are talking about a group of a dozen-to-20 fans.

The program this time is of great interest to those who care about the future of this monthly



### This Weekend in Vegas Fandom

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

- \* **SNAFFU Library Committee Work Day**  
Saturday, 8:00 AM
- \* **Las Vegrants Meeting**  
Saturday, 7:30 PM
- \* **August Sunday Social**  
Sunday, 2:00 PM

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

# Inside Story A Fanzine Archive?

This week's most interesting story is Joshua Andrews' idea for a Las Vegas Fanzine Archive. As Joshua suggests in his statement (*see the news article*), there are still a lot of details to handle, but the basic idea has merit. It's great that SNAFFU has a book and prozine collection, which I hope will eventually be made accessible to everyone in the Vegas fan community, but it would be a shame to neglect the city's rich fanzine heritage. Whether the project ultimately tries to create a full archive of fanzines, analogous to what the SNAFFU Library does with pro material, or limits its collection to fanzines produced in Clark County, it would be great to have a repository for all that fan literature.

The best way to start may not be a blanket request for old fanzines. Many are unobtainable and some are worth enough that potential donors will think twice for surrendering them to a project that is still in its formative stages. One good way to begin would be to compile an index of Las Vegas fanzines. Not only would such an index be enormously helpful, in and of itself, but it would map the territory for the Archive's collecting efforts.

The Las Vegas Fanzine Archive also must consider the effect of the shift to electronic publishing on its plans. I'm not doing much in hard copy these days, nor are most of the other local publishers. Even SNAPS has gone all-electronic.

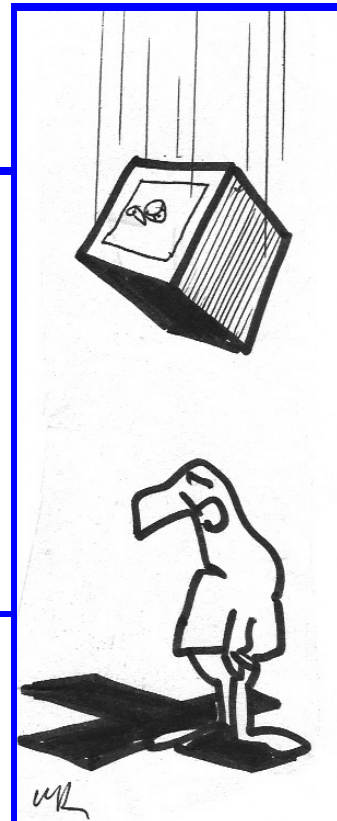
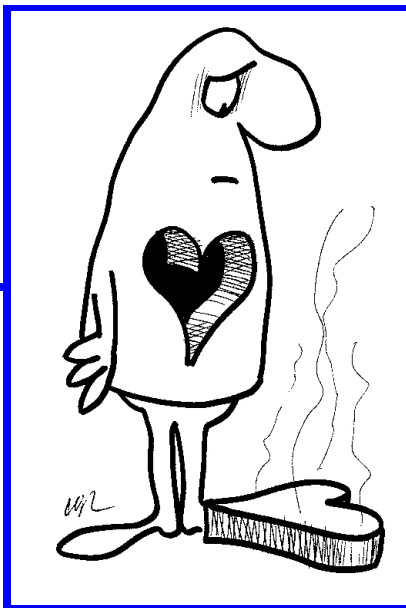
I think it should be set up independent of any individual club and therefore open to all local fans. There would have to be a few rules, but I think the arrangement between SNAFFU and us (Joyce and me) about the Library is a template for a fair and just set-up. Let's hear more ideas from you on this. The letter column is waiting.

— Arnie

event, because the topic is whether to have topics in the future. However, it's likely that the open discussion will also extend to other aspects of the popular event,

VSFans may not be that committed to the idea and, on the other hand, that there are other fans who would probably take the baton if VSFA decides it wants to hand it off.

The original Socials were an outgrowth of the 1991 Las Vegas NonCon I



like the frequency and a possible change in venue.

Comments, both written and verbal, indicate that some

*Continued page 6*

**Vegas Fandom Weekly #40, August 18, 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 Joyce Katz (proofreading), Woody Bernardi (Star Reporter Emeritus) and Alan White (unindicted co-conspirator).

**Reporters this issue:** Mindy Hutchings, Linda Bushyager, Rebecca Hardin, Joshua Andrews and Joyce Katz  
**Art/Photo Credits:** Alan White (7), Ross Chamberlain (6), Bill "Potshot" Kunkel (11), Bill Rotsler (all other cartoons)

**Columnists This Issue:** Bill Wright, Joshua Andrews

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 somnambulant old BNFs 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!

# How to Write a LoC **Katzenjammer**

Every now and then, I like to depart from the usual snooping and rumor-mongering that passes for *VFW's* editorial policy to present something of genuine lasting worth. No, don't thank me; I do it because I am Good.

I'll be sitting here, working on one of my professional projects, writing for Fandom or trying to decide whether Lotta Top or Busty Bubbles has the largest breasts and the modd will just come over me. "It's time to do something worthwhile," I will say to myself. "You must put aside your indolent, Insurgent ways and create something with Redeeming Faanish Social Value."

It's in that pure Spirit of Trufannishness that I bring you this treatise on how to commit a letter of comment. I will show you the ropes, teach you the angles, reveal the trade secrets that make such as Robert Lichtman, Rob Hansen and Lloyd Penney superstar letterhacks.

The prerequisite for a letter of comment is the same, reading a fanzine. If you avoid reading one, it's a safe bet that you won't have to write a letter of comment. This admittedly has its attractions, but it also means you'll miss out on a lot of entertainment and information.

In any case, you have passed the point of no return by downloading *Vegas Fandom Weekly* and wending halfway down page three. You have incontrovertibly received and, to some extent, read a fanzine. The die is cast and you might as well surrender to fanzine's siren call.

Whether you call it an "ell-oh-see" (like old-time fans) or a "lock" (like newer ones), the letter of comment is one of the best ways to complete the exchange that began when you got the fanzine. It's kind of like the Native

American custom of Potlatch in which increasing expensive gifts are exchanged until one party buckles and admits they cannot out-do the other in generosity. (Other ways are to write or draw something or trade your fanzine for the ones you receive.)

Some fanzines are available for subscription, but that's just an affectation. Ironically, the better the fanzine, the less likely it is to be obtainable for mere money. Most fanzine editors would rather give it away — and that's no cheap gift when it comes to hard copy fanzines — in the hopes of getting a response.

Fandom is a paper party,

with the fanzine editor as genial (it says here) host. And when you have been entertained, it is nice to show appreciation to the host — and the fannish way is to write something back.

Many newer fans indicate that the toughest thing about a LoC is how to start it. Honestly, that couldn't be easier. "Dear Arnie" will do just fine.

You thought maybe I would teach you how to write one of these things and then send you to some *other* fanzine editor and let him or her reap the pay-off? If I teach you how to do this essential piece of fanac, you owe me at least your maiden LoC.

Although as you write your LoC, you will no doubt be tempted to swamp the fanzine editor (me) with extravagant praise and flowery adjectives. While some of this is inevitable, fanzine editors really aren't look for a review or a rating. Commending someone's efforts, accolades for a particularly fine article or drawing or a brief comment about the overall quality of the fanzine, possibly touching on its indispensability, is always welcome.

That shouldn't be the main thrust of the letter, though. It's a letter of *comment*. The fanzine editor is hoping you will respond to things in the fanzine.

Some letterhacks take notes, while others put checkmarks in the margins of the fanzine to remind them of something they want to say. Naturally, the checkmark system doesn't work very well when you're reading a fanzine as a .PDF. Or you can do what I do and trust your memory to retain the main items you want to mention in your letter.

There are a lot of ways to generate a response to a fanzine. Something may remind you of a life experience, an anecdote you can tell. Or a writer's opinion about something may encourage you to state your opinion on the same subject. Sometimes, a writer may ask a question that you can answer or raise a topic to which you can add relevant information.

Writing a LoC is easier than doing an article precisely because it is reactive. Every fanzine — well, the ones worth reading — is jammed with comment hooks. Many won't be particularly good for you, but the likelihood is that you'll easily find one or more.

Give it a try. It's fun to do and I happen to know at least one fanzine editor who will be Helpless with Smiles if you fill his mail queue with letters of comment. — Arnie



# A Legend of AussieCon

## Bill Wright's The Wright Stuff

A saga of epic proportions by Aussiecon's Parliamentarian, Bill Wright

---

**Author's Note:** *Not many fans are aware .. it was hushed up by the SMOFs .. that the business meeting of the 33rd World Science Fiction Convention (Aussiecon) held in Melbourne Australia in 1975 was, not to put too fine a point on it, an utter shambles. This was due in no small part to my depredations as its Parliamentarian. In a spirit of reforming zeal and dazzled by the prospect of taking the World Science Fiction Society away from the Americans who thought they owned it, I tried to substitute Renton's Guide for Meetings and Organisations based on Australian law for Roberts Rules of Order as the basis for determining the outcome of Worldcon business meetings. Following is my account of proceedings, first published in 1976 in my fanzine Interstellar Ramjet Scoop.*

"This business meeting of the 33rd World Science Fiction Convention will come to order" intoned the Chairman. "First item on the agenda is ratification of the Constitution bequeathed to us by DISCON 2. All in favour say Aye; to the contrary No; I think the Ayes have it – Secretary, note that the Constitution is ratified."

Instant bedlam erupted. The Chairman's resonant monologue had taken all of

twenty seconds. He smiled at the meeting through a half inch screen of bullet-proof plastiglass. "Order, ladies and gentlemen, please. Sergeant at Arms, escort those two men fighting out of the room!" Bedlam gave way to a tense silence.

"I will recognise a point of order," said the Chairman in a soft voice, glancing significantly at the armalite rifle being twirled negligently by the Sergeant at Arms. An insignificant-looking American rose hesitantly to his feet. "M-mister Chairman," he began and then with a rush, "point-of-order-I-think-there-should-have-been-some-debate." Oh you do, do you?" said the Chairman in a tone that froze his listeners to the marrow, "Perhaps we had better learn what the Parliamentarian has to say about that."

The lights dimmed and a pearly radiance was seen to emanate from a raised throne in a corner of the dais. Gradually, as their eyes adjusted to the gloom, members took cognisance of a commanding personage seated on the throne. The Parliamentarian spoke in soft musical tones. No one remembered exactly what he said, but all present carried away with them an impression of having been vouchsafed the wisdom of ages.

On their descent from epiphany, the lights once more flared into brilliance and the Chairman continued with the meeting. "The next item



on the agenda is Kansas City's objection to ratification procedures in the Constitution." An unnatural silence greeted this announcement. "Well, well. Have they got a surprise coming!" commented the Chairman cheerfully and moved straight on to the main item of business - the NaSFic controversy. A forest of hands was raised, each member trying to catch the Chairman's eye. "One moment," said the Chairman, "first we must have a statement of process from the Parliamentarian."

The Parliamentarian rose to his feet and the audience was spellbound by the austere beauty of his sensitive fannish stance. "Inasmuch as it is accessible to human understanding," he began – and this time his words resonated clear as a bell in everybody's mind, "the NaSFic is entirely the concern of the Americans, so discussions concerning it would normally be conducted in North America. However, at this meeting we have assembled the elite of fandom whose minds are finessed to a subtlety that might well be capable of resolving the NaSFic conundrum .. don't you lower your voice to Me, Mr Chairman! Here, on this neutral ground, contestants meet each to pit his wits and experience against the massed opposition of his peers."

A feast of argument ensued. The Parlia-



mentarian retired into the background with a smirk of satisfaction on his fat face. The Chairman's spectacles glittered with intellectual rapture as he steered the meeting through the shoals of debate until - and nobody to this day is sure when the actual moment arrived - the NaSFic was explained and a brand new insight was born into the world.

John Foyster cried out in amazement; the argument had shown him how to square the circle. An excited babble broke out as each member tried to expound to his neighbour his own blinding revelation from the NaSFic solution.

The meeting broke up in disorder, but it wasn't long before NaSFic was being applied to all sorts of problems everywhere. Peace

was restored in the Middle East, the Indo-China War fizzled out and the World Science Fiction Society was recognised by the United Nations as the legislative arm of World Government. The Rule of the SMOFS had begun.

Nowadays, the WSFS is a relatively stable organisation. Aussiecon's resolutions were rescinded the following year at MidAmericon and it is as tribute to FIAWOL that no one has seriously challenged North America's hegemony over the WSFS ever since.

— Bill Wright



The chairmen of all three Aussiecons, Robin Johson (Aussiecon One, 1975), Perry Middlemis (Aussiecon Three, 1999) and David Grigg (Aussiecon Two, 1985), photographed at Aussiecon Three, August 1999,

Continued from page 2

(Labor Day at Toner Hall with over 50 guests). They ran monthly for five full years, first under the sponsorship of SNAFFU and then of Las Vegants.

The revival of the Social was the joint brainchild of Woody Bernardi and me. The original idea was to find something to fill the "fifth Sundays" of the year, but Woody liked the concept so well he established the Social as a monthly event beginning in April.

### SNAPS Hits 32 Pages In Aug. Distribution!

Fittingly enough, since she is Official Editor and a founder of SNAPS (Southern Nevada Amateur Press Society), Joyce Katz produced the largest contribution for SNAPS' August Distribution.

In fact, her latest issue of *Hard Science*, at eight pages, is the largest single SNAPSzine produced to date. Ross Chamberlain's *Vegas Notions* was first in the distribution (because it came in first) and the cover is a Chamberlain

classic that reminds us of the deep connection between the LA Insurgents and Las Vegas Fandom.

Other represented in the fifth distribution are: James Taylor, Kathryn Daughtery, Teresa Cochran and Linda Bushyager. Joyce expressed the hope that SNAPS regulars like founding member JoHn Hardin will return for the September Distribution.

The deadline for submitting your contribution for Distribution 6 is September 12. It would actually have fallen a day earlier, but our dauntless OE prefers to avoid that date as too depressing.

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 completely electronic, so there is virtually no cost associated with producing a SNAPSzine. It is sent directly to participants via email to 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 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.

### Joshua Andrews to Start Vegas Fanzine Archive

Joshua Andrews' latest project is the compilation and maintenance of a Las Vegas Fanzine Archive. Under the sponsorship of the Gay-Bi-Les-Trans SF Club of Las Vegas, Josh hopes to put together a repository, accessible to local fans, of fanzines published in southern Nevada.

Here's what he had to say on the subject:

"I have decided to start a new tradition. Since SNAFFU has the SNAFFU Library. The Les-Bi-Gay-Trans SF Club of Las Vegas has started the Las Vegas Fandom Central Archive. (First Entries are the most recent *VFW* and *V3*).

"So if you have extra copies (Hardcopies) of any or all *VFWs*, *SNAPS*, (*Snaffu's Newsletter*, if one exists), the *V3*, *Implications*, and any other fanzine/Newsletter I may have forgotten. Please send them to me or arrange for pickup.

"I am also looking for online copies to put them on a disc. I would prefer to have to files sent to me since I am currently not using my own computer. Thanks in Advance and I look forward to receiving the issues.

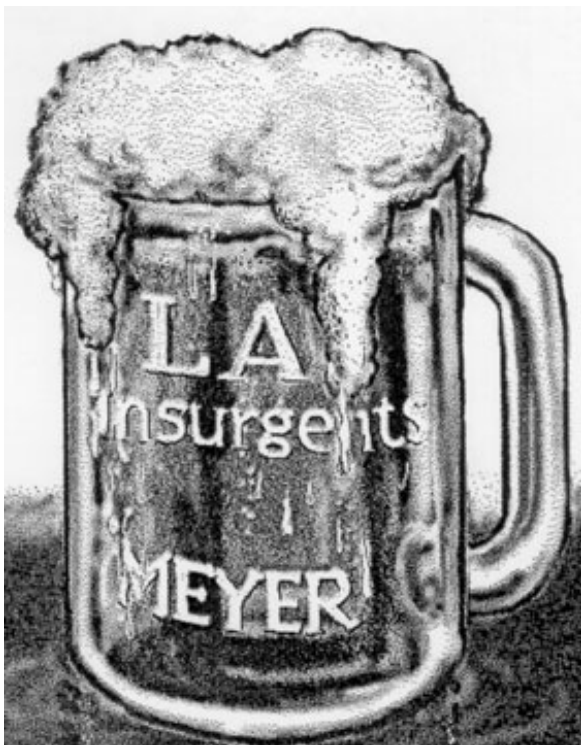
-- Joshua Andrews

Curator, Las Vegas Fandom Central  
[Andrews1701@gmail.com](mailto:Andrews1701@gmail.com)"

I imagine Vegas Fandom's many fanzine fans will have opinions about this idea as well as suggestions for helping Joshua fine-tune it. Next issue is *VFW's* nine-month issue. A long letter column would be a very appropriate way to celebrate, so take this as an invitation.

# SNAPS

Distribution #5 Aug. 2005



# What's in a (Re)Name? Joshings

**Note:** Last Saturday (8/13) Joshua Andrews held a re-naming ceremony for the residence formerly occupied by Boston Fan Woody Bernardi. In response to a little editorial nagging, Joshua sent a letter that covers the whole event so well I'll let him tell you about it in his own words...

**Who was there...** Mindy Hutchings, Stacy Lawrence, Joelle Barnes, and Charis. Great time was had by all and good food also. There were a number of cancellations due to illness.

**The Food...** BBQ Chicken, Homemade Potato Salad, Cake, Croissants, Chips and Spinach Dip, Corn on the Cob and I am sure more...

## The Naming Ceremony:

"I, Joshua Andrews, Host of these Festivities, do hereby declare that the home known as the **WOOD-SHED** is to be called by a different name. The Home at 6400 Cosmo Lane will now be called the **COSMIC TREE HOUSE**. Congratulations to Carol Kern who has



Mindy Hutchings was on hand for the big ceremony.

now won a year's subscription to *VFW*."

-- Joshua Andrews

## Fans Begin Extended Roman Holiday!

Looking for another way to keep off the streets and out of indictment, several fans got together last Sunday (8/14) to begin watching *I, Claudius*. This 13-part *Masterpiece Theater* mini-series, based on the Peter Graves novel, stars Derek Jacoby, John Hurt, Brian Blessed, Sian Phillips and Patrick Stewart. (The highly sercon can pretend that Captain Pickard has gone incognito to a newly discovered planet that is strangely like Rome during the dawn of the empire.)

A group that included Alan & DeDee White, Merric & Luba Anderson, James Taylor, Joyce Katz and me watchw three episodes, ate a variety of salads and sandwiches and pooled their fannish energies to right all possible wrongs. A second group that includes JoHn Hardin, Teresa Cochran and Derek Stazenski will watch the same episodes in a "make-



Claudius

up" session in a couple of weeks. If you want one of the remaining seats, contact me ([crossfire4@cox.net](mailto:crossfire4@cox.net)).

## Heard Around Fandom...

Even as Bill & Laurie Kunkel begin to intensify their preparation for their announced move to Michigan, it looks like another well-known fan couple may move to Las Vegas! Leah Smith visited Vegas last week, interviewing for a job. If she gets it, look for Dick & Leah Smith to relocate to Glitter City...

Merric Anderson continues to spend more of his week traveling for business. If you noticed he was a bit quiet this week, it's because he went to both Tuscon and then Utah before heading home...

Bill Kunkel is one of the keynote speakers at the Classic Games Expo in the BArea this (8/20) weekend...

Teresa Cochran is in West Virginia this (8/20) weekend, attending a mini-con devoted to fans of the 1632 universe...

We haven't quite convinced long-time friend of Vegas Fandom and two-time summer 2005 visitor Richard Brandt to move here, but he has announced plans for another visit. We'll have more details as soon as Richard provides 'em...

## Contact Information

<b>Las Vegrans</b>	Arnie & Joyce Katz, PMB 152, 330 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas 89107 Email: JoyceWorley1@cox.net Phone: 648-5677
<b>LesGayBiTrans SF Club</b>	Joshua Andrews Email: Andrews1701@gmail.com 702-759-9303
<b>SNAFFU:</b>	Michael Bernstein Email: webmaven@cox.net Phone: 765-7279
<b>VSFA:</b>	Rebecca Hardin Email: hardin673@aol.com Phone: 453-2989

*Continued from page 8*

### **Chatback: The VFW Letter Column**

*With no letter column for the last couple of issues, I'm pleased to say that VFW has built up a nice stack of entertaining letters of comment.*

*And first in the queue is one from VFW's number-one Canadian reader...*

### **Lloyd Penney**

The Vegas Fandom Weeklies just keep coming, and once again, real life gets in the way, and four issues pile up. Here's comments on issues 32 to 35.

32...Mmmm, Cthulhu Omlettes! Were they green? I will not eat green eggs and ham, Sam I Am...

I seem to remember discussions in past Vegaszines about whether or not a large convention could be held in Vegas, mostly because of near-continuous events keeping hotels busy. Could a Westercon make it as one of those hotel-clogging events, or could it even get into the local hotels? I'd say it's worth the look, but it may be difficult.

I have my own copy of Jack Speer's *Up To Now*, a copy of Richard Newsome's 1994 reprint. As you say, Arnie, there wasn't that much fanhistory to consider at that point, 1939, but I guess there had to be some way of making sense of the social mess fandom was in at that time.

Most modern fans are, I believe unaware of the history of fandom, and even writing it down in book or chapbook form doesn't really help the matter, mostly because of the relative unavailability of those books, and the fact most fans

are unaware those books exist.

I've read elsewhere that this numbering system exploded when hordes of newcomers came into fandom with the *Star Trek* phenomenon. I must admit it was *Trek* that brought me into fandom in late 1977; fortunately, I asked myself about all these other people who seemed to be involved with non-Trekkish things, and that's when I got in touch with fandom as we know it.

Lots of mention of Gaylaxicon...I'll add to it and say that Gaylaxicon next year will be in Toronto, and I hope Woody can make the jump up from Boston. Lance Sibley, one of the few bright lights of Torcon 3, is the chairman, Yvonne will be the treasurer/registrar, and I'll be looking after the dealers' room.

Ever Googled up your own name, and done an electronic egoboo check? I have, and I have found that while I am the busiest Lloyd Penney on the Net, I am not the only one there. Another LP runs a motorcycle club in Oshawa, east of Toronto, another is the janitor of a high school in Newfoundland, and yet another LP is the head of the Liquor Control Board of Newfoundland and Labrador. Doesn't seem to be any other of me in the US.

33...Can't always keep the old group of friends together, they've got to go their own way. Hope the Formans are happy in Arkansas, and hope they might be able to form the same group of friends they found in LV. The formation of the Arkansas Science Fiction Club (ASFA was already taken) should make for some good times, and perhaps some contact with the good folks at the Southern Fandom Confederation.



Keep me in mind for the newest edition of *The Enchanted Duplicator*. I have the 8th edition, produced by ConStellation in 1983, *Warhoon 28*, which contains the sixth edition, and the sequel that Geri Sullivan helped to produce in 1991. Stu Shiffman made Jophan look suspiciously like Dustin Hoffman in that edition...

34...Another Vegas zine! Send *Implications* to me ASAP! Arnie, you're right when you say that fandom keeps people connected over great stretches of geography. As in the old Irish saying, there's no strangers in fandom, just friends you haven't met yet. There are many friends made through communicating through zines, and many of them I haven't met yet, or more likely will never meet.

Most people don't have a philosophy about fandom... they just want to have some fun, do something worthwhile and get what they can get out of it, and some like to make the good times happen. Some of us are lucky enough to find friends, a little fame, a few trophies on the wall, or even someone to spend the rest of your life with. Not everyone gets all of that; I've been blessed.

35...You've got to go where the work is. I'm too much of a homebody, with friends and family mostly in the Toronto area, so I doubt I'll move anywhere soon. I guess Boston has more opportunities for Woody as a practicing realtor, so I'm sure that he'll do well there.

*Arnie: If a lot of fans don't know about the roots of their hobby, then that is their deficiency. It's the equivalent of an American not knowing that Washington was the first President under the US Constitution. I think there are two main reasons why most "fans" wouldn't be interested in Speers excellent Up to Now: a lot of the fans you mention don't like to read and a lot of the fans you mention don't think of Fandom as anything more than a party venue with free liquor and "sure thing" hook-ups.*

*It's a big Fandom out there – and a much too diverse one to worry about folks who really aren't on anything like the same wavelength. My experience tells me that there are still a lot of new fans who want to become full citizens of Fandom. And they would probably like to see re-prints of any major fan works.*

*I always thought that Stu Shiffman's Jophan looked a bit like Ted White. OK, Stu... was either resemblance intentional?*

*At no point did I say that the fan philosophies are conscious or volitional. Those are the seven philosophies, in a myriad of combinations, that drive our attitudes, whether we are aware of them or not.*

*Good things come in small packages, goes the saying, which must've been invented for a loyal reader and commenter from the west coast...*

### R-Laurraine Tutihasi

Does Woody's moving to Boston mean that we will see him less often on the West Coast? I met him at Corflu Blackjack and found him interesting to talk to. We were also both at the memorial for SEKIII.

The story about the fire in Ayesha's apartment building reminds me of the brush fire we had in our neighbourhood last week. The fire was finally put out the following day, which was Thursday. However, the smoke lingered for about a day. It affected my asthma and my general feeling of well-being. I had the AC fan going all day for two days.

*Arnie: Part of our sadness at Woody's departure is that we won't see him at major, and minor, events in the South-west and on the west coast. We'll all miss him at VSFA, SNAFFU and Vegrants meetings, too. One of the most amazing things about Woody is the way he participates in such a range of fanac. I used to say that, whenever three fans get together – one of them is probably Woody.*

*Wouldn't you know it? One of my best fan friends in the world sends a letter of comment – and it's a correction...*

### Robert Lichtman

A few comments on *VFW No. 35*, starting with shock and horror over Joyce's dog bite! I hope it heals rapidly and that Brust takes care of any incidental expenses involved.

In "Amateur SF -- No!" there are a few errors. First, Roger Zelazny's story appeared in *Thurban I No. 3*, not No. 1. Besides plenty of documentation available about this, I

\*have\* No. 1 and there's nothing by Roger in it.

Also, the first issue of *Slant* didn't have \*any\* "short-shorts that eventually sold professionally," let alone two. I know of one story -- "The Swordsmen of Varnis" by Clive Jackson -- that appeared in *SLANT* No. 3 (under the pseudonym of "Geoffrey Cobb") and was professionally published in a number of venues, including an issue of *Other Worlds* and in the Fredric Brown/Mack Reynolds-edited *Science Fiction Carnival*. If there was another, I don't know it off the top of my head and don't have time to do the requisite research this evening.



*Arnie* Seriously, your corrections are very much appreciated. After all, it's accuracy that is the goal. It doesn't hurt that your fix actually improved my case against amateur SF.

Here's an interesting comment from one of my favorite Vegas fans.....

### James Taylor

The Forman party...: something having nothing to do with moving some place with 75%-100% humidity or speaking in tongues.

*Arnie*: If you can promise me that the business meeting will be conducted solely by fans speaking in tongues and throwing fits, Flippin Fandom can count on my vote for any worldcon bid.

Back after his battle against dreaded fafia comes a former Louisiana fan now relocated to Minneapolis...

### Jason Burnett

I'm back! Now that the move and the bulk of the unpacking are over, I actually have (some) time for fanac again!

I greatly enjoyed VFW #36. I had read one of the early numbers (something in the single digits) and dismissed it as "strictly a local." I am very pleased to have been proven wrong. You have struck what must have been a very difficult balance (between local and fandomwide items) and gotten it just right. I'm eagerly awaiting the next issue.

There is, however, one project which I think would make it worthwhile for you to either stop pubbing VFW or else reduce your time investment in it (either by reducing the frequency or handing it off to someone else). That project, of course, is Fancyclopedia III. Maybe you could /s/h/a/n/g/h/a/i/ convince Ted White and rich brown to help you with it! I can see it now "Fancyclopedia III - A brown and White Katz Production"!

You owe it to your generation of fans - you guys have a lot of great stories that deserve to be widely known but aren't, because they're scattered among decades of old fanzines - and also to my generation - how will we know where fandom should go if we don't know where it's been? More to the point, how will we rebel against the status quo if our elders won't give us a status quo to rebel against?

Or if you want to just keep pubbing VFW - that'd be good too. But give my other suggestion some thought.

*Arnie*: You'll get no argument here on the value of a new Fancyclopedia, but should point out that rich brown has already done a tremendous amount of work. It would be unfair to just jump in start doing it.

IT IS A PROUD  
AND LONELY  
THING TO BE  
A LOCSTER



By coincidence, though, rich recently wrote to ask me to contribute some material about Las Vegas Fandom to Fancy III, which I plan to do in the next couple of weeks. Really, I can't think of a worthier project, though I believe I will continue to provide Vegas Fandom Weekly on a weekly basis at least for the foreseeable future.

I also wanted to provide your CoA (Change of Address) for fans who'd like to get back into contact: Jason K. Burnett, Stately Wayne Manor, 4903 Camden Ave N., Minneapolis MN 55430.

And now it's time for that literate lawyer, that articulate attorney, to weigh in with another batch of fascinating thoughts sparked by VFW...

### Eric Mayer

Thanks for the new issues of VFW. You and Chris Garcia are still neck and neck. I notice from your reprint that Claude Degler also published weekly. A word of caution? Always enjoy reading about Claude.

Fandom made the right choice when it decided it wasn't a step on the ladder to prodom. Amateur writing venues I've encountered are sad affairs where everyone wastes their time reading each other's junk and patting each other on the back.

It can be hard to explain to people that fandom isn't for frustrated/aspiring sf writers, that it is, in a sense, a hobby about nothing (or itself) but it is more enjoyable that way. As you say in #36, fandom has no "purpose" or "cause" which is good, but makes it hard to sell because what are you selling? But I digress...

I can only remember one sf story I had published in a fanzine, in Donn Brazier's *Title*. The story never sold, of course, but it did garner a compliment from Gene Wolf so it was worth it.

When I stated making some sales to magazines, what did the trick, were humorous essays from fanzines, only slightly reworked. (My own essays, I hasten to add, not other people's essays!) Mostly I did feature articles and the one I recall best was when I was asked to cover/run in a 10K race in Vermont. The editor, race sponsor, everyone involved loved the article. I didn't reveal that I'd simply written a pure fanzine trip report. So that was the one time I got paid to write a fanzine article.

By the way. Was Pofan from TED modelled on anyone in particular?

*Arnie*: I prefer to think of friend who have published weekly such as Andy Hooper, Calvin W. Biff Demmon and Ron Ellik. It would be unfair to compare my modest achievements to their gigantic ones, but at least I have the reassurance that others have walked this path.

Rob? Rich> Got an answer for the fan?

And what would a Chatback column be without something from one of the BArea's most energetic and productive fans?

### Chris Garcia

So, I'm finally back from Outer Space after having done all sorts of prep for the 48 hour movie I shot this week. We finished it, with a lot of help, and now I'm ready for some hot L-O-C action!

For off, I don't really agree with your take on amateur fiction. In fact, much of the best fiction that I've read has not been in pro mags, but in tiny things that don't pay by people no one's ever heard of. This isn't because the folks who write it also run the zines that publish these pieces, but because there's no solid market for the particular types of fiction.

Flash fiction is incredibly hard to place in a ProZine, and MicroFiction (100 words or less) or TinyLit (the amount that will fit on a business card) are even harder. Little Elegy is one piece that always gives great work a home when it would otherwise have no place. Mags like Nth Degree have spot-tier fiction records, but once in a while they put out something very good. The AmZines allow for more specialization, which benefits some writers who have no other outlet.

That, and I like fan fiction sometimes.

I loved the look at Claude Degler. I've never actually sat down and read Fancyclopa II, but I've seen more than a few folks using it as reference point.

Lloyd [Penney] says that it would take cartons and cartons of paper to print out all of the e-Fanzines he reads...and I'm fairly sure he's just talking about the ones the two of us and Dick Geis put out!

Also, there's a new BArea Fandom weekly thing called SF/SF on eFanzines.com. It's done by Jack Avery and it's a fun little read. I'll certainly be writing for it over the coming weeks.

*Arnie: You've pointed out a reasonable exception to my blanket condemnation of amateur science fiction in fanzines. There are some form of writing that, either temporarily or long-range, simply have no commercial market (much like the material we publish in our fanzines). My comments covered only the readily saleable lengths of fiction (short-short to novel). Although I have no interest in the forms you mention - I did graduate study in The Novel so you can guess my own fiction preferences --*

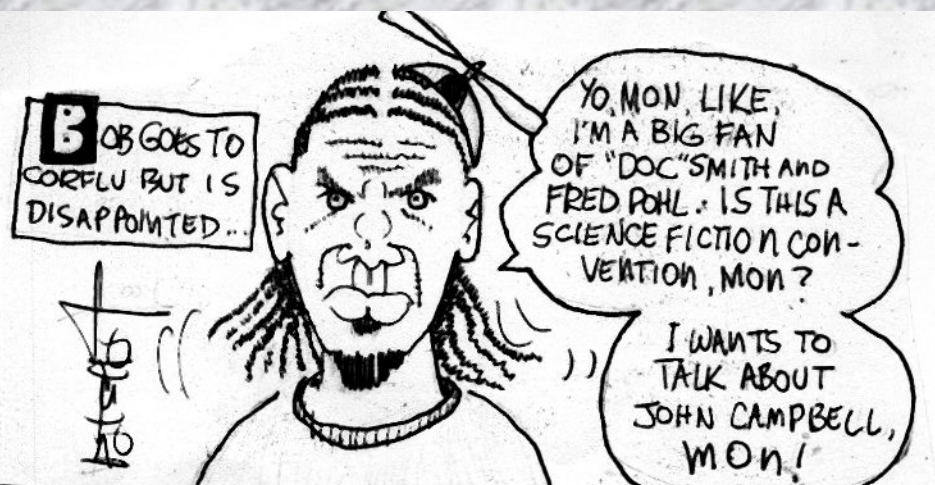
**We Also Heard From:** Curt Phillips, AP Sawyer.

### The Last Page Beckons

All good things come to an end and so does VFW, at least for this issue. Sorry for the delay caused by my still-ailing back, but I expect to have the nine-month milestone issue ready by the middle of the week. Forty-one issues in 40 weeks, not a bad record, though I say it myself.

I hope to hear from a lot of you in time for the celebration, and there will no doubt be other goodies to mark the

# Potshot's Cartoon Theater



## Las Vegas Fan Event Calendar

### **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 PM

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).

### **SNAFFU** September 9 8:00 PM

This formal SF club meets the second and fourth Friday's of each month. This time, it will be held at Borders bookstore on Sahara.

### **Las Vegrants Meeting** September 17 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

occasion. Meanwhile, have a great week.

— Arnie Katz

### **Late Bulletin**

Two events were announced after I locked up the issue. Details of Dinner & a Movie and a party at [Joshua Andrews' Cosmic Treehouse](#) will be in the next *VFWm* in plenty of time to plan to attend both.

### ***In This Issue...***

Inside Story ::: An Intriguing Project ::: Arnie ::: 2  
Katzenjammer ::: How to Write a LoC ::: Arnie ::: 3  
The Wright Stuff ::: A Legend of Aussicon ::: Bill Wright ::: 4  
Joshings ::: What's in a Re-Name? ::: Joshua Andrews ::: 7  
Contact Information for Vegas Fan Groups ::: 8  
Chatback: The Letter Column ::: The Readers ::: 8  
Potshot's Cartoon Theater :: Bill Kunkel ::: 11  
Calendar ::: 12

... and a *ton* of news.