

# VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

## **Vegas Music Circle Will Hold August Meeting This Sunday!**

The Vegas Music Circle invites all Las Vegas Fans to spend Sunday afternoon singing, playing, listening and ignoring an eclectic mix of folk, blues and filk. It's set for Sunday (8/28) at the Launch Pad (909 Eugene Cernan Street). The fun starts at 2:00 PM and, says hostess Joyce Katz, will start at 2:00 PM — and wouldn't it have been sad if that was the end of the meeting? — and will run two-to-three hours, depending on endurance and distractions.

"I hope those who play instruments will bring them," whether it's a guitar, a harmonica or a washboard," Joyce encourages. "But if you just want to listen, that's perfectly all right, too."

## **VSFA Schedules Saturday Grimm Movie & Dinner!**

*The Brothers Grimm* will be the focus of the next A Movie & Dinner with VSFA. Fans will



WRITER WHO LOVES HIS OWN WORDS

## **This Weekend in Vegas Fandom**

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

- \* **SNAFFU Southside Meeting** Friday, 8:00 PM
- \* **VSFA Movie & Dinner** Saturday, 4:00 PM
- \* **Vegas Music Circle** Sunday, 2:00 PM
- \* **Gay-Les-Bi-Trans SF Club of Las Vegas** Monday 7:30 PM

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

# Inside Story VFW at 40 Weeks

Did you ever have one of those Supreme Fannish Moments. You know, that special time, perhaps only an instant, when it all seems to come together and you almost feel like you're one of those fans depicted in the more grandiose fan fiction stories. As I sat at my computer, happily redesigning *VFW* as I do every 10 issues, even Jophan would have had to take second place to me for a turn at the Enchanted Duplicator.

As I fiddled with the layout, my easily enflamed ego reached such majestic proportions that it began to exert a gravitation field. Mundanes up and down Eugene Cernan Street began to feel an inexplicable compulsion to Pub Their Ish. I believe at least two joined FAPA and one started a new bureau for the N3F.

Pity me. I knew not what I did. What began as pure fannish joy had warped into something... extreme. And I had forgotten Fandom's time-tested ability to offer necessary correction.

My pride in publishing 10-14 pages per week for 40 consecutive weeks expanded my ego to unimaginable dimensions. If there's a lost tribe of fans on that newly discovered 10th planet, I'll bet they felt it.

"I think I'll check my email to see if there are any locs," I thought as I completed the new look of the colophon. There were several, including one marked "Wilson Tucker." Though it is hard to work a computer while standing at attention, I opened the letter from the fan who published the second fanzine of all time, the fan who inspired such greats as Ted White, the Elder Ghod who put his hand on my shoulder and called me, "Son."

It had one only one line. I will quote it for you without even having to glance at the email to refresh my memory:

## Forty weeks, that's not too many, Meyer

Thanks, Bob, I needed that. I'm feeling much more myself again. I'd strike off a medal for you, but I have vowed that there will be no more Unseemly Celebrations in *VFW*. Well, not until the super-terrific first Annish.

I'm going to call it the something pretty damn catchy, too, when I think of it.

Can I expect your article.... Dad?

— Arnie

rendezvous at the Crown Theater at Neonopolis at 4:00 PM. The actual start time for the Twilight Show — to take advantage of the lower price — will not be known until closer to the actual event, but 4:00 will have you there on time no matter what.

Dinner after the movie will be at one of the downtown casinos, probably Fitzgerald's.

## Alan White Is Home From the Hospital!

Alan White has returned home to convalesce

following his operation for prostate cancer. The operation was last Thursday (8/18) and Alan got released on Sunday (8/21).

When he called to tell me the good news, Alan indicated a new, heightened appreciate of drugs. "Tonight, I'm going to relive the 1960's," he assured me.

*Special Bulletin: Alan's crucial post-operative appointment got moved up from Thursdays to Wednesday. DeDee just called and it is with great*

*Continued page 6*

*Vegas Fandom Weekly #41, August 24, 2005*, is written and produced by Arnie Katz (PMB 152, 330 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107; Email: crossfire4@cox.net; phone: 702-648-5677).

Special Thanks Joyce Katz (proofreading), Woody Bernardi (Star Reporter Emeritus) and Alan White (unindicted co-conspirator).

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

**Art/Photo Credits:** Alan White (15), Chaz Baden (14), Bill "Potshot" Kunkel (17), Bill Rotsler (all other cartoons)

**Columnists This Issue:** rich brown, Peter Sullivan, Richard Lupoff

*VFW* is free by request — and you may get it anyway. It can be downloaded at the SNAFFU and VSFA sites as well as at efanzines.com. No ebullient editors 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!

# The First Vegas Apa **Katzenjammer**

*Note: I spent last Saturday morning helping the SNAFFU Library Committee rearrange our garage in preparation for the Library to replace the towers of boxes that filled it since we moved to the Launch Pad in September, 2003. I did some lifting and carrying, enough to bend my ailing back into the shape of a question mark, but my main function was to comb through cartons to consolidate similar items and throw away trash.*

*My excavations turned up a number of fannish treasures, not the least of which was a complete file of Las Vegas' originally local apa. So let me tell you all about it...*

In fall, 1993, Joyce and I thought the time was ripe for a local Las Vegas amateur press association. Local Fandom had developed tremendously since we'd paid our first visit to SNAFFU a little over two years earlier.

SNAFFU had grown much more aware of the rest of Fandom and had also expanded beyond the early formality-laden meetings.

We threw open Toner Hall to all of Las Vegas Fandom on the third Saturday of the month for the Socials. An outgrowth of Las Vegas NonCon I, Labor Day 1991 — the city's first fan-run convention — the Socials also introduced Vegas fans to the idea of fanzines with a series of oneshots titled *The Vegas All-Stars*.

Las Vegrants had begun to meet on first Saturdays.

The short individual entries and off-the-cuff style of *The Vegas All-Stars* suits the wide variation of interest in and talent for fanzines within Las Vegas Fandom.

Since Las Vegrants is an invitational group for fanzine fans, we reasoned, it would be good to go beyond simple oneshotting and encourage more sophisticated fanzine creativity.

We kicked it around at the October Vegrants meeting, as is our habit. Enough were willing to try that we set November 18 as the deadline for the first Distribution and the Mainspring, Ken Forman as Official Editor.

We assembled the first mailing, under Ken's genial direction. I donated a Bill Rotsler cartoon cover and Ken used one of the Macintosh computers to slap together a table of contents.

Apa V's Official Organ (O-O) may have lacked a few niceties, such as

the date, but Ken did draft rules for the group as follows:

## Our Constitution

1. Fans should devote all of their energy to two Activities.
  1. Doing fanac. Pubbing their ishes, writing articles for other ishes, creating art, etc
  2. Sex.

Those submitting 20 copies of their Vzines were (in order of appearance in the distribution): Arnie Katz, Joyce Katz, Karl Kreder, Marcie McDowell and Su Williams. With the cover and the O-O, the first mailing totaled a scant 12 pages.

Apa V wasn't as much of an instant hit as SNAPS. The group marked time, or even slipped a little for the first four mailings. There wasn't even an O-O again until the March 1994 (#5) distribution!

The 18-page assemblage also introduced a feature that became a cornerstone of the group: the Group Topic. The first one, set for the April distribution, was "Jokes, Tricks and Put-Ons."

Apa V felt the impact immediately. The 6th distribution had a record 22 pages.

We kept the concept pretty informal. We'd discuss

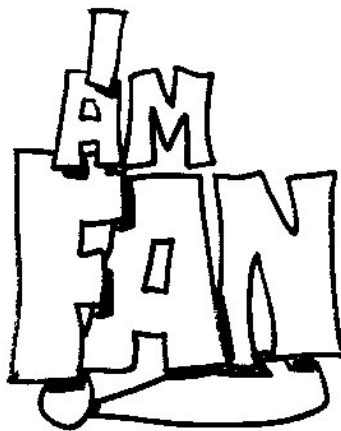
possibilities for next month and when one inspired enthusiasm, it became the Group Topic. Vegrants can, and did, ignore the topic, but it provided a focus for fans that weren't used to coming up with article ideas. Apa V immediately increased in size.

Ken Forman bowed out as OE after the 30-page October 1994 mailing. JoHn Hardin took over as Official Editor with the next mailing. Although I stepped in for the 12/94 distribution as Emergency OE, JoHn piloted Apa V though March '95. After I did another, two-month stint as Emergency OE, Ross Chamberlain took over for the rest of the group's run.

Like everything else, Apa V eventually ran its course. The final distribution, #66, appeared in April 1996. Joyce (*Pow Wow*) and I (*Implosion*) had issues in every mailing. In fact, Joyce actually produced a 67th issue, but we made a group decision not to do any more.

Apa V fulfilled all the hopes of its founders by sparking a lot of fanzine writing and publishing. An anthology of some of its best material is now in the works.

— Arnie.



November 6, 1993

# Fandom by the Numbers

## rich brown's Fanhistory Corner

A few issues back, editor Arnie Katz provided an excellent thumbnail sketch of the formerly useful fanhistorical tool for dividing fannish eras known as Numbered Fandoms. It was based in part on what I have about them in my on-line "Fan Terms," but is more succinct and includes a few interpolations by Arnie.

I say "formerly useful" for a reason. And not just because I could quibble with a few of the points Arnie made. Let me provide one quibble just to illustrate.

Arnie observes that some fan historians point to active fans participating in the prozine lettercolumns of *Startling* and *Planet Stories* as exemplifying Fourth Fandom (late '44-Sept. '47) but speculates that they were "more properly the spawning ground of Fifth Fandom [Sept. '47-mid 1950] than a true part of Fourth." I have no problem with them being the spawning ground of Fifth Fandom, but quibble with the notion that they may not have been a "true" part of Fourth. Wartime paper shortages helped bring on the demise of Third Fandom, and these shortages continued unabated through the rest of the war years and even a bit beyond, which had a negative impact on fanzine publishing during Fourth Fandom. Perhaps Arnie's opinion was influenced by the fact that Rick Sneary, Ed Cox and Art Rapp were the "deacons" of Roscoeism, the Fifth Fandom mock religion, and Rapp edited Fifth Fandom's focal point fanzine *Spacewarp* -- but Sneary and Cox were actually major participants in those prozine lettercolumns during Fourth Fandom, as was Joe Kennedy ("JoKe"), editor of Fourth Fandom's focal point *Vampire*. Before the notion of focal point fanzines took hold,

Silverberg's updating of Speer's concept said Fourth Fandom took place *almost exclusively* in those lettercolumns (including *Thrilling Wonder Stories*, the sister magazine to *Startling*). Those three monthly prozine lettercolumns were 20-30 pulp-sized pages long, printed in miniscule type; *Vampire* (in comparison) was a quarterly -- the *only* focal point that was less than monthly -- which didn't contain anywhere near the same volume of material. It achieved its retroactive status as the focal point by virtue of its annual polls, which doled out the era's most meaningful egoboo. So I hold that those prozine lettercolumns were a major component, very much a "true part" of Fourth Fandom.

But this is a quibble. And *just* a quibble. A difference of opinion and one of those arguments about how many angels dance on the head of a pin -- which is to say, almost wholly speculative, fun for the participants, amusing to a few observers, but of little concern to most people. And here's my main point in providing the example: Regardless of who's right or wrong, it has *no impact* on the usefulness of the Numbered Fandom concept as a short-hand method for establishing fannish eras.

How it once served as useful shorthand is fairly simple to understand. You don't have to memorize the dates of the numbered fandoms nor their interregnums -- just the broadest possible outlines of roughly when they happened and their primary focus. Speak of them and even those only recently acquainted with the concept knew pretty much what you were talking about -- First Fandom (emphasis on the science in sf), Second Fandom (feuding over politics), Third Fandom (avoidance of controversy, focus on mature consideration of sf), Fourth Fandom (frivolity and participation in prozine lettercolumns), Fifth Fandom (the rift between those who practiced FIA-WOL vs. FIJAGH [Fandom Is A Way of Life vs. Fandom Is Just A Goddamn Hobby]), Sixth Fandom (a mellowing and maturing of the humor, balanced with serious but not pompous/pretentious consideration of anything and every-





thing, including but not limited to sf and sf fandom).

But then came Seventh Fandom.

O, my.

Arnie's piece glosses over the problem by stipulating an extremely long Sixth Transition/ Interregnum and settling on Terry Carr and Ron Ellik's *Fanac* as the focal point of Seventh Fandom. It's not an unreasonable position.

But there's a problem Arnie's exposition doesn't mention.

It begins with, as major participants, two active fans who went on to become two of the best and most prolific writers of modern sf -- Robert Silverberg and Harlan Ellison. Silverberg updated Speer's concept, which ended with Third Fandom, to Sixth Fandom in column he wrote for *Quandry*. Except that he named no focal point fanzine for Fourth Fandom and didn't mention the notion of interregnums, his updating remains pretty much intact as far as current fanhistorical thinking goes.

But he speculated that some of the newer fans who were just becoming active might make up Seventh Fandom after *Quandry* folded. This speculation and the fact that he didn't mention interregnums left fans new to the concept with the impression that when one numbered fandom ended, fans on the sidelines just stepped up to the plate and started another. So when *Quandry* ended publication with its 30<sup>th</sup> issue, Harlan Ellison and his active fanzine publishing friends picked up the banner and marched to the Midwestcon, where they de-

clared that Seventh Fandom had arrived. (Harlan published a huge monthly, *Science Fantasy Bulletin*, later named *Dimensions*.) It was mostly a number of his other contemporaries -- not the fans who'd made up Sixth Fandom -- who got their noses out of joint, took this in aversion, regarded it as hubris and, feeling they'd been left out, simply refused to take part. After a series of in-print conflicts over the matter, Harlan amused everyone by declaring that the "mad dogs" had "kneed" Seventh Fandom in the groin, the anatomic impossibility being much remarked. But at that point it was over. Bitterly over.

A fan named Peter Vorzimer (who considered himself a rival of Harlan's), not too long thereafter, declared Eighth Fandom and suffered a similar fate, but largely over some childish antics he and *his* friends were involved in; Harlan's Seventh Fandom, although dead, was flogged for those shortcomings as well by inattentive fans who didn't notice that Seventh Fandom was a dead horse, so both the declared Seventh and Eighth Fandoms were designated the "false" Seventh Fandom. A few said Harlan's was the false Seventh Fandom, Vorzimer's the real one. But quite a few more said the "real" Seventh Fandom began with Joel Nydahl's fanzine *Vega*. Others yet, in further speculation, said no, Sixth Fandom was "handed off" to *Vega*, since there was no change in focus or attitude, just in the focal point vehicle. Subsequently, others speculated that Dick Geis's *Psychotic* -- this on his first comet-like swing through the microcosm -- was the real Seventh Fandom or, if they accepted *Vega* as the focal point of Seventh Fandom, then the real Eighth Fandom. Others said no to both, it was still Sixth Fandom -- *Quandry* handed off to *Vega* which handed off to *Psychotic* in a series of lateral passes, making numbered fandoms for the first time somewhat like the game of football. The "real" Seventh Fandom, they maintained, was *Fanac*. Which Arnie implicitly accepts.

The problem here is, once again, *not* which theory is right or wrong. That's still all in quibble territory and it's easy to lose count when those angels go hopping off the head of one pin onto another every time we try to enumerate how many of them are dancing there. No, the *real* problem is that, whenever you mention "Seventh Fandom," you have to specify *which* Seventh Fandom you're talking about -- Ellison's, Vorzimer's, Nydahl's, Geis's or Carr/Ellik's. It also means that, depending on what you accept among these various choices, the Carr/Ellik *Fanac* could be the focal point of Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, Tenth or maybe even Eleventh Fandom. Which means it definitely ceases to be short-hand, and -- for that reason, if no other -- probably ceases to be useful. — rich brown

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*happiness (and great relief) that I report that the operations appears to have been a complete success! The biopsy disclosed that the surgeon got all the cancer, which means that Alan won't have to endure chemo or radiation therapy! He still must recuperate, of course, but the news couldn't be better.*

### Joyce Gets Ankle Surgery Date!

Everything is finally coming together for Joyce Katz — who likes to see her name underlined, even if she is the editor's wife — after 16 months of ankle-spawned agony. The cardiologist has

given her a release after a post-op (angioplasty) EKG and x-ray came back flawless.

The surgeon who will perform the ankle fusion has set September 7 as the day for the operation. Joyce is now doing a round of pre-op tests and will also have one more conference with the doctor before the actual surgery.

### Vegas Westercon Is in Limbo Until Early Next Year!

The Westercon rotation system has effectively postponed any decision about a possible Westercon for Las Vegas in 2008 to after January 1, 2006. Should a Westercon bid from the Central and Northern regions (essentially the Pacific Northwest and northern California) out-of-rotation bidders would have to step aside. That means Phoenix and Las Vegas, the current '08 bidders, would likely reload for a run in 2009.

### Heard Around Vegas Fandom...

Richard Brandt is, indeed, coming back to Las Vegas. The super-scavenger will grace the Vegrants Open Party on September 3...

Bill Kunkel's memoirs of his life in the video and computer game world is slated for an official release date in late November. Copies may be available up to two weeks before that when Bill will make an appearance at a huge electronic games convention...



## Big Weekend II Is Coming!

Here's what's already schedule for Labor Day Weekend:

- \* **Chicago SF League** Saturday (9/3), 5:30 PM
- \* **Las Vegrants Open Party** Saturday (9/3) 7:30 PM
- \* **Help the Hardins Move** Sunday (9/4) 9:00 AM
- \* **VSFA Dinner** Sunday (9/5), 2:00 PM

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

# Order from Chaos! **Book Shenooks**

The first SNAFFU Library Committee work session made a significant dent in putting the collection's new home — the garage at the Launch Pad — into shape for shelf-building (the next phrase of the project). Circumstances prevented a quick follow-up, but Lori Forbes got a work party to our place by the agreed-upon 8 AM on Saturday (8/21).

Ron Bushyager, April Reckling, James Taylor and Lori, with a little help from Joyce and me, continued the sorting and classification process for the hundreds of cartons that once stood where Mundane might stow their vehicles.

Much paper went through the small shredder the committee brought to dispatch out-of-date tax records and the like and we filled both portable dumpsters and two giant trash bags with debris no one wanted to keep.

Some of the stuff we don't plan to keep had considerably more appeal. So plans are now in formation for a yard sale to benefit SNAFFU (and help raise money for the shelving).

Two sessions into the clean-up campaign, I can see the dim outlines of order emerging from the chaos. It may not take more than

LAS VEGAS FANS  
ARE FANDOM'S  
SLANS!



another session like this one to set the stage for the really exciting part — installing the shelves (and the books and magazines that will sit on them).

— Arnie

Lee Hoffman, the greatest female fan of all time, is suffering eye problems that makes reading fanzines almost impossible for her. Perhaps the technology that helps Teresa Cochran would be helpful...

Warren Harris (aka Jack Avery has joined the "local Fandom" movement. His excellent *SF/SF* is dedicated to coverage of the BArea. I highly recommend a visit to [eFanzines.com](http://eFanzines.com) to download your free copy of the latest issue (and old ones, too)...

Chaz Baden, the Los Angeles fan who has become one of the hobby's most prolific photographers, had a compu-catastrophe that wiped out thousands of fan photos. It's going to take an ultra-expensive (\$1K) rescue effort to retrieve them. Anyone who'd like to donate or, especially, anyone who is capable of performing this intricate surgery on Chaz' computer. You can write to him

at: Baden PO Box 17522, Anaheim, CA 92817.

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

*There are quite a few letters of comment, so I'll cut the palaver and get right to it.*

*Leading off is a sophisticated museum curator from the Bay Area, one of VFW's strongest supporters:*

### **Chris Garcia**

Damn you Arnie! I had just written a gag using "Dave Kyle says you can't sit here" as the punch line, and you use it as a photo caption!

Another great issue, even if my comedy was thwarted. I know I've seen MZB's *Faan Fiction* and *The Enchanted Duplicator*, but not too much other. Jan Stinson lemme take a look at *The League of Extraordinary Fuggheads*, and there

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was that fine Eklund piece that *Trap Door* ran, but other than that, there hasn't been too much that I've read.

I do love it as a concept. I seem to remember someone telling me about Forry having written some in the distant past.

Ever since the last banquet, there've been many folks writing about missing them. I was never at any of banquets, though my father did attend the BayCon '68 banquet (or so he's claimed). He says it was a good time, but the price was not worth it at all. Then again, when you're as young as he was, everything is an immense price.

I wrote an article on computers in movies (Issue 29 of *The Drink Tank*) and I'm working on one about Robots in the movies and literature. That'll likely take a year or so to put together a decent piece, and then I'll realize what I left out like I did with the Computer article.

When first I sent an LoC to Jan Stinson's *Peregrine Nations*, she thought I might have been a rib because I, like you, am a wrestling buff, video game history-type and a fan writer, and that you'd created a theoretical personae Chris Garcia to do your bidding (much like Claire Brialey created Geneva Melzack!). Well, as we now know that's not the case, but we have another something

in common: it would seem we both have the same hero. Earl Kemp's *Who Killed Science Fiction* was one of the great things my Dad had a copy of and when I returned to reading fanzines, it was eI that caught me most. I was quite happy when he sent LoCs to *The Drink Tank*.

Hmmmm...maybe I am just a construct of some evil Katz scheme. That would explain why we've never been seen in the same room.

*Arnie: You can get more than a look at The Science Fiction League of Extraordinary Fugg-heads any time you want. Last time I looked, it was posted on efanzines.com. A very worthy book project would be an anthology of faan fiction.*

*Sorry for inadvertently hijacking your punch line. It could be worse. Check out Peter Sullivan's LoC, which arrived less than an hour after the one from Bob Tucker quoted in Inside Story.*

*From the all-natural goodness of Colorado comes this letter of comment from one of the most frequent, and most popular, fannish visitors to Las Vegas:*

### **Richard Brandt**

"The Paunch Pad"? I'm not even sure that was a typo.

I was bemused when Dave Kyle asked if he



could work for me when I was running press relations for the Boston Worldcon in 1989, although it was tempered by the pleasant thought that Dave would damn well sit wherever I ordered him to.

*Arnie: That was certainly one of my more memorable typos, wasn't it? At least it got me started on a new diet.*

*Let us remember that it wasn't Dave Kyle who said they couldn't sit there, but some self-important functionary who uttered those censorious words. My very limited contacts with Dave have all been reasonably pleasant.*

*Here's one of the best "first LoCs" I've ever received, perhaps the best since Jason Burnett's debut:*

### **Peter Sullivan**

I've been lurking on [www.efanzines.com](http://www.efanzines.com) for a few weeks, but finally a comment on the ever-rolling stream that is *Vegas Fandom Weekly*.

I've always been one to step up and bat for the underdog, so I feel the need to defend the Calendar against the vile allegations you made against it this ish. Fifth weekends are not exactly unusual (as opposed to, say, the harmonisation of the spheres) and can be easily planned for with forethought.

The way my old church group used to organise their services, they had specified stuff on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and last weekends of the month. I appreciate that adopting this generally in Vegas fandom would simply replace the "5th weekend problem" with the "4th weekend problem." But as long as some groups go 1/2/3/last and other groups 1/2/3/4, you should never have a blank weekend again.

The other alternative would be to designate the 5th weekend as a "Private Fanac Weekend." Loyal Vegas fen would have it as an opportunity to do fanac by themselves, whether it be catching up on LoCs to that fine organ *VFW*, starting a new co-edited fanzeen, or simply working out the next few



steps in the Wicked and Dasterdly Cabal to enslave all Trufandom as we know it...

The other, other alternative would be to adopt a different calendar - I'm sure there must be an alternative calendar in some SF or fantasy story that has a regular number of weekends each month. (The Shire calendar alas doesn't qualify - I've checked.) Simply get the Nevada State Legislature to adopt this, and Bob's your uncle.

*Arnie: Or Fandom could break completely with reality and set up our own calendar We could rename the months after the legen-*

*dary BNFs and determines our own holidays, like Insurgent Day and AckerMonday. If you have the fortitude to claim Fandom as your religion, you could even take them off from work.*

*At the risk of shocking Certain British Fans, I would have to say that though your idea for "fifth weekends" is very good - especially like the part where they write letters of comment to VFW - it runs counter to the Vegas grain. We'd just get to missing each other's company and parties would erupt spontaneous across Glitter City. In fact, that's what generally happens.*

*Now a fan who was nice to me as a neofan and can't quite get rid of me 40 years later:*

### **Richard Lupoff**

This is incredible. You're publishing a weekly fanzine -- a sufficiently amazing feat in itself -- and now you're adding a monthly zine as well?! Clearly, you've got the energy and dedication of a fourteen-year-old-neofan who's just discovered fandom and has lost all sense of self-control. So where have you hidden said fourteen-year-old?

Even as old and experienced a fan as I can always learn, and I really enjoyed Rich Brown's article about convention banquets. His explanation of

"Dave Kyle says you can't sit here" gave me new insight into that half-century-old incident. I was also intrigued by the photo taken at the 1962 Worldcon. If I could get better resolution out of my monitor, I might actually be able to find Pat and myself in the picture.

We had attended the '60 Worldcon in Pittsburgh, our first. That's where Charlie Brown took the oft-reprinted photo of us as Captain Marvel and Mary Marvel. I recently encountered it as a refrigerator magnet. And we never got a nickel in royalties. Neither did Charles. I remember literally running down the corridor of that convention hotel forty-five years ago, chasing people and begging them to take copies of the first issue of our fanzine Xero. I've seen those some issues going for \$150 a pop on eBay.

*Arnie: My prolific writing – I've sold over 25 million words – is certainly a factor, but mostly I credit digital technology. Not only is it readily ac-*

*cessible to someone with vision problems like mine, but it takes almost all of the time-consuming physical labor out of the process!*

*Desktop publishing is easier and faster than fussing with those mimeograph stencils, especially with headings and artwork. I put in a lot of work on the writing, editing and layout, but once Joyce proofreads it and I enter the corrections – it's done. It's fanatic with the lumps took out! (Yes, I have glorified collating and mimeography in past articles, but I'm quite willing to forgo such dubious pleasures in exchanged for greatly enhanced productivity.*

*Our most faithful Canadian correspondent writes in the midst of a holiday celebration:*

**Lloyd Penney**

It's the end of a weekend for you, but for us in Ontario, it is the middle day of the Civic Holiday/

## The Social At the Crossroads!

A survey taken a couple of years ago sought to find out what Americans fear most. Shockingly, "speaking in public" outranked "death" as the paramount fear. So Rebecca Hardin can be forgiven a little nervousness as she took over as Hostess of the monthly Socials. She couldn't have stepped in under more harrowing circumstances, because football-related activities will take the club's meeting room for September through December — and February, too, if the Cleveland Browns confound the experts and make the play-offs.

She did a marvelous job of leading the discussion about the future of the Socials without stifling it and displaying a nice feel for getting everyone involved and bringing forth a full spectrum of opinions. VSFA affirmed its interest in continuing the Social, so now Rebecca is leading a citywide search for a venue. In an irony, Fandom may return to Skinny Dugan's, the site of SNAFFU meetings for more than a year in the 1990's.

When Joyce and I got to The Tap House for the August Social a little before 2:00, we found other early arrivals trying to figure out how to set up the tables for the meeting. The problem was that a couple of very handy long tables had been moved to another room. We ended up with a tight rectangle of table with fans sitting around the outside rather than the "U" shape of previous Socials. It made it a little harder to gather the Insurgent Cabal com-

pactly, but it certainly didn't dent anyone's pleasant afternoon.

Joyce and I broached the subject of Westercon with the Daughertys, but I got the impression that help and opinions were both unwanted, so I dropped the subject. Perhaps it's just that they have to wait until January to find out if there is even a legal bid.

The ever-generous Linda Bushyager passed around a stack of DVDs for anyone who wanted to take one or more. Merric Anderson noticed that Joshua Andrews seemed utterly disinterested. When he expressed surprise at this, I told him that, "If you don't like football, you probably don't want to watch movies of football, either." Joshua smiled.

The recent start of our *I, Claudius* multi-session screening went so well that participants are already discussing what we might want to watch next. Being Russian, Luba was especially fascinated by the concept of *Reiley, Ace of Spies* and I also tried to drum up some enthusiasm for one of my all-time favorites Alan Ayckbourn's comedic trilogy *The Norman Conquests*, starring Tom Conti. We also had a little fun with Merric, who readily acknowledges his lack of expertise in Roman history, teasing some of the wild excesses that lie in store for him in future chapters of *I Claudius*.

Enjoying the fannish atmosphere were: Rebecca Hardin, Merric & Luba Anderson, Ron & Linda Bushyager, James Taylor, James & Kathryn Daugherty, Kent Hastings, Carol Kern, Joshua Andrews, Joelle Barnes, Bettye Hardin, Joyce Katz and me. — Arnie

# A Big Hand for the Little Lady **The Daze**

We missed the '61 Worldcon because our first baby was about to be born -- Ken arrived on September 7 of that year. And we spent yesterday babysitting with Ken and his wife, Crystal's, firstborn, Ethan Jude Lupoff.

As our friends the Flying Karamazov Brothers often say, "Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana." Anyway, by '62 we were back on the Worldcon scene. I think that was the convention where some bright soul had planned the costume competition so that the costumers would parade past an audience, then proceed inward in a spiral formation as more and more space-travelers, aliens, mutants, and superheroes packed in behind them. Unfortunately there was no "exit strategy," and it was a miracle that nobody got crushed to death in the middle of the spiral.

Getting back to the photo -- I'm also struck by the relatively formal attire on so many of those fans, and by the incredible

gender imbalance of the crowd. What was the male/female distribution? Must have been close to ten-to-one!

A great pleasure to see ATom cartoons again. Reminds me of the time Arthur Thomson visited the US. He'd been contributing cartoons to Xero and Pat and I had the pleasure of ATom's company much of the time while he was in New York. We had a dinner date with ATom and Don & Elsie Wollheim.

The five of us assembled at our apartment on East 73rd Street, then set out for the restaurant. As we were crossing a major Manhattan thoroughfare I'm afraid I reached down and patted my darling wifey's darling derriere. Pat and I were leading the procession, followed by ATom and Don & Elsie. Suddenly I heard Elsie's distinctive voice commanding me, "Richard, stop that, you'll embarrass Arthur!"

Ah, them wuz the daze, Arnie, them shore wuz the daze.

— Richard Lupoff



Simcoe Day long weekend. I also want to cram in one last loc for the month of July, so here's one for *Vegas Fandom Weekly* 36 and 37.

36...Congrats to all on the success of SNAPS. It's proof that apas can still work in this age of blogs and webzines. Think you might store past issues, even those originally committed to paper, on eFanzines.com? Bill Burns must have a near-infinite amount of storage space for all that's on his site.

Arnie, I think one of the problems you're probably facing right now is not only telling the newer fans who Al Ashley and Walt Willis and Claude Degler are, but getting them to care about the wide and varied history of science fiction fandom. It's hard to believe that this fun little activity is more than 75 years old, but then, most people can't remember what happened last week. At least we have some timebinders in our midst who will keep track, but getting people to care will be

tougher with every year passing.

It looks like Vegas fandom is following the smorgasbord model I've been prattling on about for years now. Fandom is not the small group of friends and enemies it was in the 1930s, not the group of basement scientists Uncle Hugo wanted us to be. It's not even just a group of pulp readers any more; there are so many interests within it, so many ways to cater to your interests and talents in an SFnal manner. I've had people tell me I'm not a fan because of my interests, simply because my interests aren't theirs. (For the record...I started as a Trekfan, but I soon veered into conventions, costuming and now fanzines.) Fandom is a smorgasbord in that you can chow down on one dish/interest, or sample from a lot of dishes/interests, whatever appeals, and whatever allows you to shine and satisfy your own curiosities.

I would like to know more about the Future Fantasy French, the group that Claude Degler or-

ganized in Quebec. I'm sure Graeme Cameron, the current foremost Canadian fanhistorian, and indeed, many fans in Montreal, would like to know more. I don't recall being in any fanhistory text I can think of...

Congrats to Seattle on its own Pubnight...in Toronto, we are getting close to our 10th anniversary of our own First Thursday. We have Tommy Ferguson, traveling fan, resident of Toronto for a couple of years, to thank for his wanting to restart traditional events in new places. We do have a regular newsletter that comes out each month, and your Editor is (by the usual default) Yours Truly. Every so often, we are graced by the appearance on Mike Glicksohn and his wonderful wife Susan Manchester, and other attendees familiar to these pages are Catherine Crockett, Colin Hinz, Hope Leibowitz and Murray Moore.

37...What did you find in your garage, Arnie? The secret back entrance to Warner's Dungeon? I must wonder if faan fiction is possible any more. Many fans (certainly not all) are too humourless, pompous and pedantic to suffer even the best attempts. In many ways, this fandom is not the fandom we'd like to have.

Good memories of the Hugo banquet that was held at the 1983 Worldcon in Baltimore. I won't say it lost a ton of money because I have been corrected by its organizers, but I know it gave many

people headaches anyway...we were all warned not to applaud the Hugo winners using our hand-dandy crab mallets, all given to us at the beginning of the banquet, but, fans being fans, we all internally exclaimed, "Why, what a fine idea!" and did exactly that. Well, if not headaches, most of us had tintinnus, and something to talk about for many years to come. If I recall, Robert Silverberg wrote about his own reminiscences of the event, and they were not all that pleasant.

The large photograph reproduced on page 6 was, if I recall, brought to a Midwestcon or a Worldcon (possibly CFG suite) to see if anyone could name a few of the still-unidentified members attending that Chicon II banquet. Whoever brought it did get a few new names, but there will still I think about 30 or 40 unnamed.

Well, I am caught up again. Yvonne and I are making our plans to wind up a fabulous fannish career, that of running local conventions in Toronto. We started working conventions in 1981, and our commitments to local cons will end (with one possible exception) at the end of 2006. That's 25 years, and that will be it. We've done our bit, and afterwards we will be attendees only. That exception is Ad Astra, which we've worked on (with a politically-oriented absence for a couple of years) since 1981. Yvonne may continue creating their space and science programming, and I may continue designing their flyers and badges. Or not. Depends on our health, depends on our tempers, depends on whether they want us back after Ad Astra 2006, which is the 25th Ad Astra. The gold watch isn't coming any time soon, so I think we will just rest on our laurels, and kick back in the con suite. Take care, and see you when next a couple or three issues arrive.

*Arnie: One of my favorite parts of Corflu is the banquet. The food varies, sometimes alarmingly, but the company is uniformly outstanding. I didn't love worldcon and Westercon banquets quite that much, but I am very sorry to see them discontinued. I was there when the potatoes bounced, you know.*

*A long-time Las Vegas fan, recently returned to activity, reports on a fannish outing from the supposedly "dead" weekend*

**Carol Kern**



# Who's That Girl? Las Vegrants

I knew it wouldn't be a normal Vegrant meeting — if the Vegrants are “normal” at any time — even before James Taylor's timely arrival at 7:30 added a touch of the familiar to the festivities. I was glad to see him, that's for sure, and not only because he brought those delectable wafer cookies from Trader Joe's.

The reason for my feeling was the knowledge that circumstances had combined to keep six of the most faithful Vegrants — Alan & DeDee White, Bill Kunkel, John Hardin, Teresa Cochran and Ayesha Ashley — from attending the meeting.

My apprehensions about a meager turn-out proved groundless. I hadn't counted upon the unexpected (and most welcome) return of five Vegrants who haven't been coming around as regularly of late: Don Miller, Marcy Waldie, Su Williams, Karla Hardin and in a special guest appearance, Cathi Wilson!

Early in the evening, much of the talk concerned Cathi's impending move to Flippin, AR. The current plan is for Ben to return to Yucaipa so that they can drive across country together. Cathi's yearning to see her daughter again after nearly two months was especially poignant.

Sparked by a batch of terrific MP3 disks full of Jean Shepherd radio shows, I told Don, Karla, Cathi and Ross Chamberlain about the man whom I consider the top American humorist of the 20th Century. I also explained that my writing style owes more than a little to those incredible radio monologs Shepherd delivered on a nightly basis during my teen years.

Sensing it was time to shift topic, I asked Don if he'd had a chance to talk to Cathi. (They are both long-time Vegrants and good friends).

“Cathi who?” he asked.

“You know... *Cathi*” I replied. “She was sitting in the living room when you came in the door.”

“Do I know her? He asked. There was no trace

of anything but sincerity in his tone or manner.

“Don... it's Cathi,” I persisted. “You know, Cathi and Ben.” As soon as I said it, I regretted it.

“Ben who?” said Don. His eyes held the same innocence as a neffers at his first worldcon.

“Ben... Wilson...” I said, clearly enunciating each and every syllable.

“What about Ben Wilson?” he demanded.

“Cathi Wilson... Ben's wife... is sitting in the living room right now,” I retorted. “Ben and Cath Wilson... you remember, don't you, Don?”

“Cathi's here?” he said, suddenly enthusiastic.

“Where?”

“In the living room, Don,” I repeated, not quite as patiently as at the start of this dialogue.

It must be admitted, however, that Fandom's current Don Miller may have had some reason for his bewilderment. (Besides his natural propensities, I mean.) Cathi is a living endorsement for the Atkins Diet and is but a beautiful shadow of her former curvy self.

The word that VSFAS's a Movie & Dinner would next go see *The Brothers Grimm* caused our film buffs like Ross and Don to try to recollect if there'd been any similar movie in the past. Ross thought he recalled one in Cinerama. That, in turn, led to discussions of some of the non-standard formats that the movie industry introduced to combat TV's encroachment in the 1950's. I told about seeing *Around the World in 80 Days* on the skyscraper Todd-a-o screen. The sight of Phogg's balloon rising to the heavens really has impact on such a towering screen.

Living the Vegrants' version of the good life were:

Merric & Luba Anderson, Ross Chamberlain, James Taylor, Don Miller, Cathi Wilson, Su Williams, Marcy Waldie, Karla Hardin, Joyce Katz and me.

— Arnie

I just wanted to point out that there was fan activity on the calendar for Saturday. VSFA had a movie & dinner outing.

We saw *Sky High* and met three new people, one of whom has already posted to the VSFA list.

The movie was pretty good. I was afraid it would be completely lame, but it didn't take itself too seriously and played just the right amount of Disney predictability and sentimentality. For me, it was worth it just to hear Linda Carter's pay-off line. (You'll have to see the movie.)

We had a great post-movie discussion ranging from the movie we'd just seen to *Battlestar Galactica* (old and new) to *Star Wars* (old and new, too), etc.

*Arnie: I meant general-interest fan gatherings, but I'm glad you reported the movie and dinner event. In fact, I hope you'll continue to do so in the future, since VSFA seems to have at least a couple of them a month. Meanwhile, thanks for providing this one.*

*One of Fandom's finest rebounds from some computer troubles in typically upbeat fashion with a LoC:*

**Shelby Vick**

I'm ba-a-a-ack!

All this waiting was aggravating, but the very

*Continued on page 15*

# Bill Burns -- An Appreciation

## Peter Sullivan salutes an outstanding fan

It's traditional, with anniversary issues, to have some kind of retrospective. And, although a nine-month anniversary is a bit out of the ordinary, with a weekly zine I think Arnie is entitled to take his anniversaries wherever he likes. As well as well-deserved kudos for our esteemed editor, retrospectives are also a good opportunity to salute the back-room people, the "powers behind the throne," the people who make things happen without ever necessarily being in the foreground. But since

Joyce will undoubtedly get many name-checks this issue anyway, I thought I'd write about Bill Burns instead.

Reading through the various back issues and other material on the efanazines.com website, there seemed to be a common theme emerging from the "how I got into fandom" articles from many of the more active fans. David Burton got started in fandom by working his way through the collection of Buck and Juanita Coulson of Yandro fame (see



Mary & Bill Burns shown at Noreascon 4 in 2005. (Photo by Chaz Baden)



Catchpenny Gazette #1). Chris Garcia of course was pretty much "born and bred in a briar patch" - having his father's collection of fanzeens accessible from an early age (see *The Drink Tank #1*). And even our own High Priestess of Fandom, Joyce Worley Katz, really got started by going through Duggie Fisher's collection (as recounted in *The Sweetheart of Fanac Falls*).

It seems that access to a large library of fanzeens in the very early days of the heady sensawonda of one's own personal First Fandom is key. Key in moving on from the level of timid neo-fan to becoming a fannish big-hitter. This makes sense, really. Someone who comes into fandom through seeking out and responding to individual zeens has a slow-burn introduction to fandom, and will probably stay at the level of casual loc-cer or even less. But having early access to a large fanzeen library is the fandom equivalent of being allowed to gorge yourself on the first day of your job at the chocolate factory. You may never get through so much so quickly again, but if the whole experience doesn't put you off for life, you will be hooked.

So where does Bill Burns come in to all of this? The [www.efanzines.com](http://www.efanzines.com) website is of course a valuable resource for experienced fen. For traditional quarterly fanzeens, it provides a supplement to the more traditional distribution channels. For turbo-zeens like our own VFW, Chris Garcia's *The Drink Tank* and Jack Avery's *SFSF*, it is even more important. Not so much in making a weekly fanzeen possible (e-mail would, at least in theory, work just as well for that), but in terms of making it visible and accessible to the casual reader.

But where the website really scores is that it provides neofans like myself with access to a virtual fanzeen library in those crucial early days after first discovering fandom. It's possible from the fanzines on the site (and from the other material linked to from the site) to do, in effect, a crash course in fandom. A neo-fan can, within weeks, become fully conversant with who sawed Courtney's boat, why Dave Kyle says you can't sit there, why you need to send plenty of potscards and the grizzly casualty lists from the Great Staple War. In a pre-electronic age, even with a really good fanzeen library, this would have taken months or even years to grok.

I've no idea whether my own personal stay in fandom will be long or short. Whether I will end up producing a Hugo-winning fanzeen or just developing a niche as a humble but regular letterhack. But I do know that whatever I do will be thanks to the introduction to fandom I got through Bill Burns and his website. A heavy burden to lay on an otherwise blameless individual, maybe, but there you go.

So, thanks Bill. We who are about to fanac salute you.

— Peter Sullivan

*Continued from page 13*

first day I am greeted by VFW #38 -- what a great welcome back! And Vegas in '08 is great! '08 is great -- yeah! Have it where September 1 is part of the date and I can celebrate my 80th birthday there!

*Arnie: The '08 convention is a Westercon chaired by James & Kathryn Daugherty. Joyce and I hope you'll come here in '06 for Toner 2, to*

*be hosted by the lovely and charming Merric & Luba Anderson. It should be a great fannish time -- and would be all the better for your participation.*

*An old fan friend weighs in with thoughts inspired by rich brown's "South Gate in '58" article:*

**Richard Lupoff**

Thanks wunts more for the *Weekly*. I was most

taken with rich brown's fanhistory column. Ah, yes, I well remember South Gate in Fifty-Eight, Rick Sneary and Rory Faulkner. It was a sign of the coherence of fandom in the 1940's (and probably earlier, but I didn't get involved until the '50s) that everyone understood Sneary's "creative" spelling and published his letters exactly as written.

One did not "correct" Snearyisms, nor did one denigrate Rick or <ahem!> sneer at them or him.

It was considered an honor to have a Sneary letter in your fanzine.

I knew that he was physically handicapped, but had not idea that he was as severely afflicted as rich indicates. It was a tribute to fandom's inclusiveness that he was a fully accepted, active, popular member of our community. His handicaps were treated as totally irrelevant. I never had the pleasure of meeting Rick, but he did send loc's to Xero.

A wonderful person, a grand old fan whose memory will remain green thanks to rich brown. Hurrah for dr. gafia!

*Arnie: I met Rick Sneary a couple of time on West Coast trips, but I mostly got to know him through correspondence and LoCs to Quip and other Katzines. After I moved to Las Vegas and re-entered Fandom, Rick and I got back in touch and I was thrilled to learn that he was building a new home in Las Vegas and planned to move here. He died on the very weekend he would've made the move, a double sadness.*

*Look! It's another sterling contribution by a wonderful new fan who appears to be auditioning to become VFW's British Editor...*

### Peter Sullivan

Forty-one issues in forty weeks? Let me be the first to say - that's not too many.

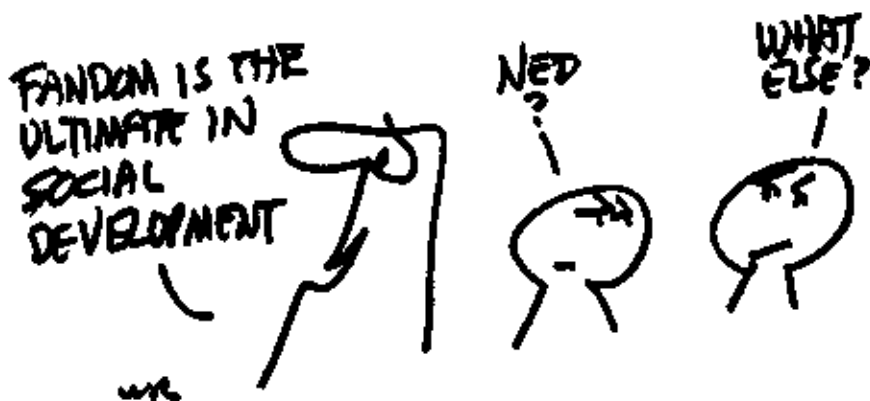
Not sure what happened to my e-mailed LoC from 30 July. I was fully prepared for my maiden effort to get WAHF-ed (is that a proper verb?), but it's not listed at all in the latest VFW. It's possible that you never actually received it, or did it end up in the great bit-

bucket in the sky?

There is, of course, something rather recursive about writing a LoC about an article about writing LoCs. It's interesting that you mention comment hooks. Whilst publishing a postal games fanzeen, I discovered that, from the editor's point of view, trying to consciously put comment hooks in never seemed to work as well as the off-the-cuff remarks that you made without even thinking about it. So, a weighty, analytical but controversial three-page article on The State of the Hobby (always a favourite topic, in postal games fanac as in fanzine fanac) would go un-remarked on. Whilst a throw-away comment that "I prefer the new milk chocolate Foo Bar to the old plain chocolate ones" would generate screeds of letters, both for and against, stretching over several issues. Possibly developing into a mini fan-feud at times.

Respect to Merric Anderson for being able to put up with all the travelling in his job. I was travelling a lot for my job for about six years on and off, and it does tire you out - and my distances were by the sound of it nowhere near as bad as his. My new job sees me getting home at 4-5 p.m. each night rather than 7-9 p.m. (or not at all). As well as a much happier Mrs. Sullivan, I also have time to write LoCs for my favourite SF fanzeens - a win:win situation if ever I heard one. I guess it's about the luxury of being able to make a conscious decision between "I work to live" and "I live to work."

Interesting that Lloyd Penney started in Star Trek fandom before becoming a mainstream fanzeen fan. Likewise, my background - postal games fandom - has always had links with SF fandom. Whether from its very foundation by John Boardman in the US 1963. Or the links via John Piggott





in England in the 1970s, giving us crotled greeps as a shared "official food of fandom." Or more recently the cross-over links by Sandra Bond in the late '80s/early '90s.

But these sort of links seem to apply between each of the "related fandoms" and SF - whether it be the many types of media fandom, manga/anime, furry fandom, or whatever. All of these seem to link back to the original SF/fanzeen fandom, even if they have almost no contact with each other. There's almost an airline-style "hub and spoke"

system of allied fandoms, with SF/fanzeen fandom being the LAX or ORD that everyone has to go through to get from one to the other. As you say, "It's a big fandom out there."

*Arnie: It's worth noting that your letter, quoting a version of that old fannish catchphrase, arrived less than an hour after Bob Tucker. He's still the Man Who Invented Fandom (as we know it), so it's an honor to come in such a close second even if you didn't get a whole column written about it, the way Bob did.*

# Potshot's Cartoon Theater



## Las Vegas Fan Event Calendar

**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.

**VSFA Dinner & a Movie** August 27 4:00 PM

Fans will meet at the Crown Theater at Neonopolis to see *The Brothers Grimm*, followed by dinner at one of the downtown casinos.

**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.

**Gay-Les-Bi-Trans SF Club** August 29 7:30 PM

This small, but active club meets at the Gay & Lesbian Community Center (953 East Sahara Suite B-25).

**Chicago Science Fiction League Meeting** September 3 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

### **We Also Heard From:**

Marty Cantor, Joshua Andrews, James Taylor, Rebecca Hardin, Richard Brandt.

### **Bye-Bye... for Now**

Eighteen pages... that *is* too many — or at least not too few.

It's nice to be more or less back on schedule, too. I'll look forward to your news and LoCs so that next one doesn't have blank pages.

See you in a week!  
— Arnie

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... and a *ton* of news.