

# VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

## Three Major Events Will Highlight Las Vegas' Big Weekend '05 II!

Labor Day has long occupied a special place on the Fannish Calendar. Though this year's World Science Fiction Convention took place a couple of weeks ago in Glasgow, Scotland, the Labor Day Weekend is traditionally a time to celebrate being a fan.

Las Vegas fans who don't slip away for a three-day-weekend trip will be celebrating at three socially-oriented events. Here's what's on tap:

1. **The Chicago Science Fiction League Dinner Meeting.** Founded more than 60 years ago in Chicago, the CSFL has flourished since its rebirth in Las Vegas in the early 1990's. The club has thrived on its policy of seeking reparations from all conventions held on its Chicago Turf since Chicon I in 1940 and eating some of the best hot dogs in the known universe.

The CSFL is the only current Las Vegas fan group with its own membership card. Moreover, the card confers the only tangible benefit offered by any Glitter City Science Fiction club: If you



## This Weekend in Las Vegas Fandom

Here's what's scheduled for Labor Day Weekend:

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

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

# Inside Story The Rise & Fall of Elk City Fandom!

Shed a tear, my fellow fans, for the dear dead Elk City Fandom.

It did not last long, but it leaves an indelible memory in the minds of all the fans who knew and loved it during its brief life. They were a horny bunch, of course, and they made a few moose-takes, but its record stands as testimony to the greatness of a Fandom that will never be forgotten by the fans who lived it.

Elk City, OK, Fandom began on Saturday, August 27, with bright hopes. That's when its first two members, esteemed and well-known fans both, Ben & Cathi Wilson, motored into town. The club wasn't a particularly formal organization, in line with their fannish history. It is rumored that the very first night featured Wild Sexual Excess. That's a great start for any fan club and the Elk City fans hoped that the fact that all Elk City fans were having sex with all other Elk City fans might soon induce other fans to this new Center of Fandom.

It's no over-statement to call Elk City Fandom an overnight sensation. Its leading fans had spent overnight together and, reportedly, there were plenty of sensations.

It took only that one, first night to firmly establish Elk City Fandom. The next morning, its two foremost fans discovered that they just couldn't leave. Maybe it was the magnetic lure of a new local Fandom being born or maybe it was the dead starter in their car, but they both literally could not leave the fast-rising fan center. (Going from no fans to two BNFs in 24 hours is, after all, unparalleled in fanhistory.)

Through Saturday, Sunday and Monday they reveled in the round of meetings, meals and other events that made Elk City Fandom so memorable. That was the Golden Age of Elk City Fandom, Meyer, and it will never be forgotten.

Then as happens to all too many local Fandoms, circumstances caused by the Mundane World brought a quick and noisy end to Elk City Fandom. The repair shop installed a starter and, suddenly, all of Elk City Fandom decided to embark on a road trip to Flippin, AR.

Reports are that, like Woody Bernardi's road trip to Boston, that has turned into permanent relocation.

Shorn of its leading fans, Elk City Fandom is no more. Prospects for a resurgence aren't good, though for mer Elk City fans Ben & Cathi Wilson are expected to add its special flavor to the budding fannish metropolis of Flippin.

Elk City Fandom is gone, but its spirit will live on in fannish hearts.

And I say that's a Damn Good Thing. — Arnie

buy 10 hot dogs, the 11th one is absolutely free!

The meeting gets underway at Chicago Hot Dog (Rancho & Washington, in the small shopping center) at 5:30 PM. There is no formal program, but good conversation is guaranteed. All Vegas fans are invited and encouraged to attend.

2. **Las Vegrants Labor Day Party.** Las Vegas Fandom's very own, semi-beloved band of rascals invites you to an evening of good food and conversation at the Launch Pad (909 Eugene Cernan Street), the home of Arnie & Joyce Katz.

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**Vegas Fandom Weekly #42, August 31, 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:** Michael Bernstein, DeDee White, Charles Fuller, Joshua Andrews and Joyce Katz

**Art/Photo Credits:** Alan White (1), Rob Hansen (5), Bill "Potshot" Kunkel (11), Bill Rotsler (all other cartoons)

**Columnists This Issue:** Rob Hansen

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 nostalgic relics 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 Fandom Connection **Katzenjammer**

Something wonderful has been happening — and I give all the credit for it to Fandom. (Well, maybe with an “assist” to the Internet.)

On Saturday, I got emails from two people who mean a lot to me. I hadn’t heard from either of them in more than three decades. As I sat in front of my computer, wide-eyed at the names that had miraculously appeared on in my email queue, I realized that this was actually the third and fourth pleasant experience of this kind that I’d had in the last few months.

The first person who came back into my life is Richard A Lupoff (as he is known to his admirers in the professional world — and if you haven’t bought *The Best of XERO* yet, do so now). We had some fleeting contact a year or two ago, discussing agents, but recently we’ve begun to build a more personal connection again.

Dick and his wife Pat (she of the smackable ass described in his column in *VFW #41*) were among the first major fans to welcome a young neo “with a thin veneer of sophistication,” as Dick described the teenaged Arnie Katz after our first meeting.

I’d made the long trip from Long Island to Newark, NJ, for a Sunday meeting of the Eastern Science Fiction Association (ESFA) that turned out to be canceled. Dejected, I took the Public Service bus back to Manhattan and, on the spur of the moment, called the Lupoffs. I was unaware that New York fans had grown gun-shy of such calls due to the antics of Andy “Phone Fan” Silverberg. N3F Fughead Seth Johnson had lectured me on the Evil of the Lupoffs and, though I’d defended them staunchly in correspondence, I was braced for the worst.

Instead, they welcomed me into their flashy eastside apartment and spend the afternoon talking to me in the friendliest possible way. Dick proved to be a big, amiable guy with a lively sense of humor and Pat was quite simply the most impressive woman I’d met in Fandom.

Within a few years, we’d become close friends. We often went to the Filmore East to see the rock bands and I must have spent a hundred weekends in Poughkeepsie after they moved there. In fact, that’s where I spent the weekend of Woodstock.

Time, circumstances, their move to the BArea and gafiation parted us 30 years ago. Recently, I started sending Dick *VFW* and he began sending terrific letters. Now we’re starting to relate as friends again.

I can’t say for sure, but I think Hank Luttrell was one of the 80 or so fans who sent a dime for *Cursed #1*, the fanzine with which Lenny Bailes and I entered Fandom. He be-

came an active and respected fan in St. Louis and then Columbia, MO, but he gafiated while I wandered through the Glades of Gafia.

Joyce, a former fellow St. Louis fan, and I had often speculated on what Hank might be doing these days. Evidently, he has been dipping a digital toe into efanazines.com. Now he’s back on the mailing list and, we earnestly hope, back in our lives.

Because Dick Lupoff and I were now back in contact, he forwarded a satiric electronic clipping about the attempt to dignify the theory of Intelligent Design as an alternative to Evolution. I liked the story, but I positively went into orbit when I noticed who’d sent it to him: Hal Hughes.

Hal was clerking at an East Village comic book store, when Alexei Panshin stopped in on his way to a Fanoclats meeting. Hal charmed him so thoroughly that he brought him along to Ted White’s place — and he became one of the most popular guys in the group. A terrific singer and musician, Hal led many an evening song-fest, always involving everyone and never parading his ego or demanding the spotlight just because he had more musical talent than the rest of us put together.

I lost track of him when he moved to the BArea (circa 1971, I think). I dropped him a note and, on Saturday, got a long and fascinating letter. He has become a professional writer/editor, so it’s not even out of the question that you may see him in these pages.

One of the reasons Hank Luttrell broke 30 years of silence was to gently correct a comment in *VFW* about the reasons for the gafiation of Creath (rhymes with “Death”) Thorne in the early 1970’s. It turned out that Creath had recently contacted him to renew *their* friendship and take the first step on the road back to Mother Fandom.

I told Hank that I’d like to re-connect with Creath, whom I’d known since we were both neofans. On Saturday, I got a long, detailed letter from the man I consider as close as possible to the second coming of Redd Boggs. He sure sounds like a man about to de-gafiate, but just corresponding with him is an unalloyed pleasure.

And all of this happened because we share a long history through Fandom. If I got nothing else out of the hobby, I’d consider my time and effort in Fandom well-spent.

So come back, Lane Lambert! Rejoin us, David Haugh! Come home, Greg Dees! I miss you, Bruce Telzer! Olly-Olly Osinfree!

The slogan for today is FIAFR! — Fandom Is a Family Reunion!

— Arnie



# London Calling

## London Calling by Rob Hansen

Last time out I wrote about the third of London's venerable first-Thursday meetings to be held at the new venue, Walkers. Who could have guessed the fourth would be disrupted by terrorism? As you know, four bombs went off in London on Thursday 7th July, killing over 50 people and shutting down the Underground network.

I work in Whitechapel, very close to the Royal London Hospital which was receiving most of the dead and injured, so there were ambulances rushing past my office window most of the day.

This did not stop me or most other Londoners turning up at work the next day - my boss would not have been impressed if I'd begged off work just because a few bombs had gone off - but it did stop most of us getting to the pub Thursday evening. With the Underground shut down and police cordons all over the place, there was no way of getting home afterwards even if I had walked there on foot. As it turns out about a half dozen hardy souls - who were presumably already nearby anyway - did make it to Walker's, only to find it shut. So they decamped to the nearby Printer's Devil, a pub which had stayed open, thus ensuring that unbroken line of post-war meetings.

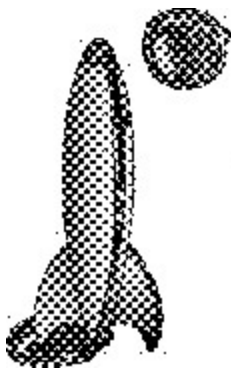
August was, of course, the month the Worldcon came to Britain again. As happened last time

it was here, in 1995, there were those of us who either could not afford to attend or who actively dislike such huge conventions. Last time we organised a small relaxacon, PRECURSOR, the weekend before Worldcon in order to attract those fannish fans here for Worldcon we wanted to see and to hang out with them. From a socializing point of view, PRECURSOR delivered far more of the sort of bang for the buck we were looking for than a Worldcon ever could and was considered a great success by all who attended.

Plans for a second PRECURSOR this time fell apart, alas, but Avedon and I threw a party at our house for those in town on Saturday 30th July.

Overseas fans attending included Lise Eisenberg, Moshe Feder, Jack Heneghan, Sharee Carton, Patrick Nielsen Hayden, Randy Byers, Spike Parsons, Murray Moore, GUFF Winners Damien Warman and Juliette Woods, and others I'm sure I've forgotten.

We laid on our usual party spread and I cooked up a big pot of my own recipe chili, something I only usually cook for parties. This was well received, with Patrick, Jack and I divvying up what was left over for breakfast the next morning. Patrick and Jack were our house guests for several days and Patrick was stunned to see a fox casually



INTERASTRA

The 63rd World Science Fiction Convention

4-8 August 2005, Glasgow



That's Steve Cain & Alison Scott in front; Erik Olsen and Patrick Nielsen-Hayden behind them; and Jack Heneghan at rear.

strolling along our garden wall one afternoon. But then, I don't suppose most people expect to see wild beasts roaming the back gardens of London.

There was a special evening gathering in Walker's on Monday 1st August, the sort of one off that has often been held in the first-Thursday pub before a British Worldcon. All of those who had been at our party were there, and a great many more besides. Even Dave Langford showed up, and he hasn't been a regular at these things in many a moon. Typically, I forgot to make a list, but other North American fans I recall being there included Erik Olsen, Tom Becker, Colin Hinz, Catherine Crockett, and Jae Leslie Adams. This meeting was supposed to be an 'as well as' rather than an 'instead of', but at the regular first-Thursday meeting three days later only six of us turned up. OK, a lot of people would either already have been in Glasgow for Worldcon or preparing to leave, but we can't have been the only half-

dozen fans in the South-East who weren't, surely?

Oh well, normal service will presumably be resumed at the September meeting this coming Thursday, and in the meantime we did our bit to maintain that unbroken line, just as those who made it the previous month had. Gotta keep up those fannish traditions.

— Rob Hansen

#### **Be Like BNF Rob Hansen**

Write about *your* local fan experiences and share them with *Vegas Fandom Weekly's* large (and ever-expanding) readership. Rob wrote his piece on August 29 — and here it is, going out to just about all of Fanzine Fandom.

Bill Wright, Randy Byers and Bruce Gillespie are also producing similar reports on their local activities. Join the fun — and join the Local Fandom Movement — in *VFW!*

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The festivities begin at 7:30 PM, but as a gesture of solidarity between the two clubs, we invite members CSFL members to head over to the Launch Pad right after their session ends. The thought of all those CSFLers wandering aimlessly around the neighborhood bothers our consciences (not to mention the neighbors themselves), so you don't have to lurk.

Donations of food, especially snacks and sweets, are encouraged, but not mandatory. Joyce and I are hoping to see all of you this Saturday — and it's also your last chance to wish her "good luck" prior to her surgery.

3. **VSFA Lunch.** Instead of a boring business meeting, VSFA has decided to liven up the weekend with a lunch at Marie Calendar's (4800 South Eastern Ave., near Tropicana),

The lunch will start at 2:00 PM. VSFA President Rebecca Hardin (Hardin673@aol.com) asked for RSVPs by 9/1, but I suspect extra fans would be welcome with a little advance warning.

Joyce and I plan to be there for her last out-of-the-house appearance until mid-December. Come see the High Priestess and stay for the pie.

### Help the Hardins!

JoHn & Karla Hardin (and the three little Hardins) will be making their forced move, their second in little more than a month, starting about 2:00 PM on Friday at 2242 East Desert Inn (@ Eastern).

Some timely good fortune has enabled the Hardins



to hire a truck with two workers for Friday afternoon, so we're not talking about a lot of heavy lifting, but a little help getting the truck packed and loaded would be much appreciated.

It's likely that the Hardins' phone will not be working by Friday, so the best thing is to just go over there at or after the appointed time.

JoHn and Karla plan to be at the Vegnants Labor Day Party. They'll be able to update everyone on the move and indicate if help on Sunday would do them any good.

### SNAPS #6 Deadline

#### Approaches!

Its official editor will be in a hospital on the day of the deadline (Monday, September 12, 2005) for distribution #6, but

SNAPS is ready to assemble and distribute what may turn out to be one of its largest bundles.

Joyce Katz, Official Editor, will still be out of commission following her ankle fusion and Emergency OE JoHn Hardin will still be unpacking, but Joyce has bravely named me Emergency Emergency Editor with instructions not to spoil anything.

SNAPS (Southern Nevada Amateur Press Society) has proven to be a popular form of local fan activity since it was introduced in April of this year. The group, now all-electronic, requires only that members submit a digital file of their contribution to Arnie Katz (crossfire4@cox.net).

A .PDF file is always prefer-



Walt Willis, Lee Hoff, and Max Keasler pose for the camera at Chicon II in 1952. This worldcon still owes the CSFL a fair share of the revenues it collected. (Photo: fanac.org)

# Award Winners Considered **SNAFFU**

## Charles Fuller Recaps the 8/26 Meeting

First, among those present but before an official meeting had been declared, assorted mumblings about cons, in fannish context, conventions. Especially noted was that there is a lot of bad stuff on and about cons on The Web.

So, when the meeting gets started there are present and accounted for, Fearless Leader Michael Bernstein, Theresa Cochrane, Charles Fuller, and James Taylor. This is of course rendered in alphabetical order, though it's a coincidence that the President happened to be at the head of the list that way.

We get started at 8:15PM

Michael announces the meeting open.

Assorted of those present mumble various things about Cthulu.

Topic for the evening was Hugo Winners and "also-rans".

New Business announced - Next Library Project meeting is to be on 10 Sept. 2005, a Saturday. Lori is Chair Being and wants volunteers. So, if you want to, show up @ 0800, as in 8:00 AM.

Michael at this point notes that he has been up for 36 or 37 hours and is feeling no pain.

Kent shows up at this point. He contributes some interesting data on registering one's car in Parumph. Seems that was why he was somewhat late getting to the meeting. He describes as how one can save a lot of money registering ones car out in Nye County. The cost is said to be about \$100 instead of \$500. The difference is said to be mostly in the lack of smog checks. He further noted that they are very casual out there about documentation requirements.

Teresa - Notes that a SNAFFU caravan to LOSCON might be arranged. If we are making plans for a caravan or carpool, we might discuss when it runs.

Kent notes at this point that he goes to his dad's for Thanksgiving, and Michael noted that his mom is doing a tour of the US then, including five days here.

Michael reporting on Roxanne in this context -

Better, but not well enough for a con. Hope to go to Worldcon next year.

Kent - Notes Mountain Con in Utah. Says it's a media con, but fan run. Says it's around 24 Sept. and will have mostly low-level Star Trek and Star Wars people. This is clarified as "those who are lower than Creation Contractors bother with. Further description, "Red Shirts." In fact it is said to be a Red Shirt Con.

Teresa - Notes that her favorite Red Shirt is Joe Puckley, who gets creatively killed on his web site.

James - Provides a review pg JASON X. That's X as in Roman Numeral "ten" and not "X" as in a letter of the alphabet. Seems Jason is rebuilt by nano technology. Somebody quotes, "We can rebuild him. We have the technology."

Back to topic...

New Hugo Winners

Best novel Jonathon Strange's Mr. Norrell. Said to have a Victorian air and style. Definitely mixed reviews in SNAFFU. Noted that because Susanna Clarke is a Brit, it may have helped her to win. But it seems that most of the other nominees are Brits as well.

Best Novella - Concrete Jungle by Charles Stross. This resulted in a discussion of other works by Stross such as Atrocity Archives, which was highly recommended.

Also noted that Concrete is a part of a series.

Best Dramatic Presentation - The Incredibles (cheering).

Short Story - Mike Resnick - Travels With My Cats

Side note - Charles Stross has a new novel out available for free on line, Accelerando.

This was followed by assorted descriptions of how such free distribution has stimulated physical copy sales.

Nominee efanazines.com did not win.

Ellen Datlau won Hugo for best professional editor.

Elizabeth Bear won John W. Campbell award for best new writer.

— Charles Fuller

able, but you can submit a Microsoft Publisher, Word or

even a Text (\*.txt) file. I'll provide whatever help you usually get from Joyce.

Charles Fuller has the honor of having submitted the first SNAPSzine of the month, but several others are reportedly nearly completion an unheard-of week early!

SNAPS is open to all Las Vegas fans and is set up to be particularly congenial for those who have not done a lot of fanzines. There a chance to try your hand at this without the pressure of a big au-

dience of strangers; only your friends will be downloading it at the SNAFFU website.

Doing a contribution for SNAPS is not nearly as hard as those who haven't actually *tried* it may think. It's your opportunity to express your opinions and share your observations with the Las Vegas fan community and get theirs in return. You can think of the SNAPSzine as like a letter you're writing to your fan friends.

One specific topic suggested for Distribution #5 is: What is your best and/or worst moment in your time in Fandom? Arnie, Joyce and I hope to

## Contact Information

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### **SNAFFU:**

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### **VSFA:**

Rebecca Hardin  
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compile them into a Symposium for *Implications* #3.

A couple of SNAPS members have had articles accepted for *Implications* #2. Both James Taylor and Teresa Cochran will help represent the Vegas New Generation in the zine, which should be out within a few days.

### **SNAFFU Library Session Postponed!**

The SNAFFU Library session originally scheduled for September 10 has been postponed. Joyce will still be in the hospital on that date, so there's little productive work that could be done.

As soon as Joyce is home, Lori Forbes will set a new date. This should be just a short postponement.

### **Attendance Down at Last Weekend's Events!**

There's always going to be occasional lulls in activity, even in a bustling fan center like Las Vegas and last

weekend (8/25-26) that's exactly what happened. The Southside SNAFFU meeting drew five fans and the meeting of the Vegas Music Circle garnered the same number.

Prospects look good for more participation this coming weekend, unless too many take advantage of the Labor Day holiday to get a change of scenery.

Joyce and I especially look forward to seeing you at the Vegrants Open Party on Saturday night — and we'd also be thrilled of some of you would join us at Chicago Hotdog for the last meeting of the Chicago Science Fiction League until Joyce recuperates from her impending surgery (which means no CSFL until December when she'll get permission to resume driving.)

### **Wilson's Say Farewell!**

Ben & Cathi Wilson, among the leading Las Vegas fans for a decade, came to





Las Vegas one last time before they began the trek to Flippin, AR. Ben has been in Arkansas since July with the Formans and his daughter Megan, while Cathi stayed in Yucaipa, CA, to collect a major bonus at her job.

Ben flew back to California and he and Cathi then began another cross-country drive to their new home. They stopped in Las Vegas to say good-bye to family and, while they were at it, visited with Joyce and me for most of Thursday (8/25) afternoon.

I know they'd have liked to see a lot more of their friends, but only a pair of lazy writers is apt to be home in the middle of the day.

It was good to see them, but it was also profoundly sad to be parted from such good friends. Thankfully, Fandom will keep us connected and together. Both pledged to write for *Implications* when they get settled.

### **Heard Around Vegas Fandom...**

Bill & Laurie Kunke have purchased a spacious trailer in the wilds of Michigan. They plan to move after Bill finishes teaching his fall semester class at UNLV...

Richard "Freebie" Brandt has parlayed his scrounging ability into an amazing 12 nights in Vegas. He arrived on Tuesday (8/30) and will be in town through the end of next week. It may be tough to locate him, because his stay is split among *four* hotels! He plans to be at the Las Vegans Open Party on Saturday and is also planning to join the diners at the Chicago Science Fiction League meeting at 5:30...

Mindy Hutchings has returned to Glitter City after soaking up the culture at the Shakespeare Festival in Utah. At this writing, no soliloquies are planned...

Robert Lichtman has just about completed his big, post-retirement move to consolidate living arrangements with his wife Carol...

Dick & Leah Smith were in town this week so that Leah could do a second-round job interview. The Smiths, according to intrepid journalist Freebie Brandt, they are wavering about whether or not to move here. Dick and Leah are experienced (and talented) fans, so let's hope the decision comes down on the side of Las Vegas...

Arnie & Joyce Katz have agreed to donate

their huge file of video and computer game screen shots to the Computer Museum. Chris Garcia, who is curator, is handling the details...

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

*Thanks to your support, it looks like another large, lively letter column for this issue. So let's get to it...*

*You can't go wrong by starting out with the fan who invented the kind of Fandom most of us enjoy so much today...*

### **Bob Tucker**

rich brown missed an important step in his article on Numbered Fandoms. Eofandom began when the first profan climbed down from his tree and stood on grassy ground, liking the feel of green grass squishing between his toes.

"I will invent the wheel," he mused aloud. "I need the wheel to operate a mimeograph." And so he did.

His one and only issue of *Dawn Fan* is lost to history because his treemates couldn't read and used the paper for other purposes.

*Arnie: Did you at least save a copy of your article in that issue so we can reprint it?*

*This LoC has a hairy moment, but it's short and sweet (like its author)...*

### **Lorraine Tutihasi**

You said "*I am braced for a Grand Shearing.*" Is that of you or her?

I have a follow-up to the fire story. The fire was put out in less than twenty-four hours. acreage burned totaled 220. Homes were damaged, though a few fences were singed. Days later we had another brush fire, but this one was so small that it was out in about an hour. Happened on the street where the fire house is located, so I'm sure the response time was super quick. I am still feeling the effects of the smoke from the first fire, though. Asthma was badly affected.

*Arnie: Last year's wild fires in the Yucaipa, CA, area probably made the Formans and Wilsons decision to leave a little easier.*

*As T. O'Connor Sloan might say, "Here is a*

*letter from the antipodes...*

### **Bill Wright**

Thanks for *VFW#39*, which is a welcome read after my marathon (six and a half weeks) expedition to Thailand to escape the worst of Melbourne's winter. The highlight was rich brown's segment of fan history that deals with the influence of Francis Towner Laney and Charles Burbie. Both were active in the 1940s and both have had a not inconsiderable influence on what fandom is today. I was attracted to Melbourne fandom in the mid 1950s when legal and social sanctions for overt expressions of homosexuality were extreme.

The object lesson of what happened to Alan Turing, the founding genius of modern computer science, was burned into our souls, adversely affecting our approach to engaging with life both then and for decades afterwards. In the 1950's Melbourne fandom was an accurate reflection of how rich brown describes LA fandom in the 1940's, ie. a microcosm devoted to a form of literature aimed at adolescent males which attracted only a handful of females.

I am far from suggesting that a majority of the shy lads who preferred fandom to remain a mostly male province were homosexual, but many of us were, although we were painfully unaware of our shared identity at the time. Among figures in history who, one can be reasonably certain, did more harm than good in their spheres of influence are Vlad the Impaler, Adolf Hitler and Slobodan Milosovich. From what rich brown says about him, Laney was up there with them.

A highlight of my visit to Thailand was a visit to an animal sanctuary in Chonburi Province where they have developed a technique for breeding tigers in captivity. The trick is to bring them up with other animals, especially (and surprisingly), pigs. Attached are two photos, the first showing a female tiger suckling a litter of piglets. The latter are done up in tiger rugs and bows. Not that that made any difference one way or the other to the tiger; it was done entirely for the purpose of the photo. The other is a picture of me bottle-feeding a seven week old tiger cub who was being weaned. Mum in the background seems anxious.. I would have been worried about that except for

the fact that mum is, in fact, a plaster mould.

I am sorry to hear of your back strain, but pleased for Joyce who has recovered from angioplasty to the extent of being able to contemplate eye and foot surgery before the year is out. Best wishes to both of you for optimum restoration.

*Arnie: I strongly disagree about Francis Towner Laney's place in humanity and in Fandom. Laney's upbringing did not prepare him for his collision with alternative lifestyles at LASFS. That is not an excuse for homophobia, an attitude totally unworthy of someone with FTL's Fine Mind but it does explain his weakness of character in that area.*

*We can't pretend he didn't make anti-homosexual comments, but we also need to put them into some kind of context. It is very clear from the fact that Laney had gay friends (whom he did not attack for their sexual preferences if he was even aware of them) and the nature of his attacks when he made them, that he did an uncharacteristic sloppy job of focusing his wrath. Laney is not against homosexuals as much as he is concerned about homosexual pederasts who aggressively cruised the LASFS' youngest teen male members. (There weren't any young girls for hetero hunters to exploit, so that simply didn't come up.)*

*A provincial from Idaho, Laney made the classic mistake of attributing to an entire group the transgressions of a few individuals. This blemish on his reputation should be instructive for those who frame sentences that begin "All [blank] are..."*

*Also back from vacation is our BArea buddy with another slew of entertaining takes...*

### **Chris Garcia**

OK, I'm back after a WorldCon break where I headed up to Yosemite (perhaps I should bid for Corflu someday with AhwahneeCon?)

Ooh, a renaming with mystery! Sounds entertaining. The Woodshed had such a great name though, it's kind of a shame to see it go.

Sorry to hear about Alan White. My Pops, who introduced me to fanzines, has been dealing with cancer for a couple of years now, but he just made it passed 50 and has managed to get a fair

deal better...and keep his hair! I wish Alan the best. His site is fantastic and has helped me out a couple of times when I've needed art.

Again, rich brown has gone and done a fine article on someone that I never had the chance to meet, though I did see an issue or two of *The Acolyte* in the collection of a friend who is gaga for Lovecraft.

I'd heard tell of Burbee's classic methods of needling folks, and I'm sure I've read his stuff when I was much younger. Laney sounds like a right ass, but the more I learn about some of the

folks from the old days that more I realize that it's just like today, only the names are different and they didn't have livejournal back then to spread the net wider more quickly.

Sounds like Woody's going away party was good fun. I've been lured to move back to Boston myself, back in 1998, when I found this fantastic museum (the then-Computer Museum on Museum Wharf) that was willing to hire me. After a solid winter, I found out that they had a museum in California and got myself back home.

*Arnie: I like the hot weather pretty well and*

# Potshot's Cartoon Theater



## Las Vegas Fan Event Calendar

### **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 Party (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

### **SNAFFU** September 23 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.

### **Vegas Music Circle** October 9 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** September 26 7:30 PM

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

*find no allure in rain, sleet and snow drifts. I got my fill of that stuff growing up on Long Island and then attending university in Buffalo, NY. I can imagine moving to a smaller population center, but probably not to a colder one.*

**We Also Heard From:** Carol Kern, Linda Bushyager, Shelby Vick and Lorraine Tutihasi.

### **Twelve Is Enough**

... at least for this issue of *VFW*. I'll be back next week with more news, columns and, if you send 'em, letters of comment

— Arnie Katz

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... and a *ton* of news.