

VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

Vegas Fandom Unites for Three Holiday Parties!

Good will and good cooperation ruled as some of the city's leading fans pulled things together for three major holiday season parties.

They are:

The Vegas Fandom Halloween Party

A great Las Vegas Tradition returns! The party will be at the home of James Willey on Saturday, October 29 at 7:00 PM. Carol Kern and Mindy Hutchings will serve as co-hosts.

The Vegas Fandom Christmas Party

James & Katheryn Daugherty have graciously volunteered to open their home for Las Vegas Fandom's oldest holiday tradition — the Vegas Fandom Christmas Party! It's set for December 10 at 7:30 — and you might want to start thinking about your contribution to the Alien Auction.

The Las Vegas Fandom New Years Even Open House

Whether you're looking for a place to hang for the evening or just want to stop in before going on to other celebrations, the Las Vegas Fandom New Years Eve Open House seemed to get bigger and more popular



Vegas Fan Events This Week

Here's what's coming our way

- **SNAFFU Meeting**
Friday (9/23) 8:00 PM
- **Library Work Session**
Saturday (9/24), 9:00 AM
- **VSFA Dinner & a Movie: "Corpse Bride"**
Saturday (9/24), 4 PM

You'll find all the info in previews or the calendar.

every year. Joyce and I look forward to welcoming all of you to the Launch Pad for a night of Vegrants-style revelry. Arrive after 7:30 and stay as long as you like.

All three events are sponsored by United Fans of Vegas, a consortium of Las Vegrants, SNAFFU and VSFA — the same combination that put on the Las Vegas Fantasy & Science Fiction Day earlier in '05.

VFW will have plenty of details on all three parties in the weeks to come. For now, just reserve the dates on your calendar — and consider volunteering when one or more party hosts ask for help.

Thanks to Michael Bernstein, Roxanne Gibbs, Rebecca Hardin, Merrick Anderson, Carol Kern, Mindy Hutchings, Joyce Katz (and me) for working together to cut through the bureaucracy and get this trio of events organized.

Library Committee to Work This Saturday!

The SNAFFU Library Committee will resume its war against chaos this Saturday (9/24). That's when the work detail will comb the Launch Pad's garage (Hangar 909?) for materials for donation to the Computer Museum. Chris Garcia will haul it a way the following weekend, leaving that much more space for

Inside Story Holidays in Vegas

After a couple of hit-and-miss years, Las Vegas Fandom will again have a full complement of holiday parties: Halloween, Christmas and New Years Eve. (Las Vegrants may do something to commemorate Chanukah and Joyce's 1/9 birthday, but no one has spoken up for Super Bowl Sunday or Valentine's Day). It's also going to give James & Kathryn Daugherty and James Willey the chance to show what they can do as hosts of these traditional Vegas events. This will be the first time in several years that there will be large, open events for all three fourth-quarter holidays.

The best thing is that it took only firm resolve, good will and a bit of decisive (ahem) action to cut through the ridiculous dithering and bureaucracy to forge a united front that will help make all three parties successful. We *could've* ended up with competing parties (they wouldn't necessarily have had to be on the same day to compete for fans' attention) and some hurt feelings. As it now stands, however, each party will have all of Vegas' fan community behind it (and only I got my feelings hurt when three fans couldn't be bothered to allow me one day to break the story in *VFW*),

Things were in chaos on Monday of this week. I read all the material, drafted a comprehensive plan and presented it to the major Vegas fans identified in the news story on page one. I told them we were going to settle it all in less than 48 hours and, despite some neofannish skepticism, that's exactly what we did. Congratulations to everyone involved for acting like mature adults. — Arnie

the library shelves — and the books and magazines that will be displayed on them..

A couple of volunteers wouldn't hurt. Contact Lori (loriForbes@cox.net) if you can help. The work will start at 9:00 AM and will be completed by no later than 11 AM, so you're not going to shoot the day inhaling fanzine and pulp mag dust.

VSFA Slates Two Movie Outings!

The highly successful Dinner and a Movie series, sponsored by VSFA, has outings planned for each of the next two Saturdays. On 9/24, they will be going to see *Tim Burton's Corpse Bride* and on 10/1 will see the opening of *Serenity*.

The outings take place at the Crown Theaters in Neonopolis. The group generally sets a tentative time — 4:00 PM — and then adjusts to fit the film's actual

start time. After the movie, the participants generally pick an area restaurant for a post-movie meal.

It is to be hoped that VSFA will tinker with the schedule a little so that it won't conflict with the Vegrants Party on Saturday night.

Get in touch with Rebecca Hardin (hardin673@aol.com) the day before an outing to get finalized times.

Joyce Gets Good Medical News!

After a tough, pain-filled week that was low-lighted by a trip to UrgentCare to have her cast removed (because the splint inside was digging into her flesh), Joyce Katz's appointment with the orthopedic surgeon went very well on Thursday (8/22).

Dr. Morris expressed pleasure over the latest set of

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Vegas Fandom Weekly #45, September 22, 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 to Roxanne Gibbs (many things), Bill Burns (posting), Mindy Hutchings (posting) and Joyce Katz (proofreading).

Reporters this issue: Roxanne Gibbs, Michael Bernstein, DeDee White, Chris Garcia, Aileen Forman and Joyce Katz

Art/Photo Credits: Shelby Vick (4), Alan White (6, 8), Bill "Potshot" Kunkel (13), Bill Rotsler (all other cartoons)

Columnists This Issue: Shelby Vick

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 hedonistically happy fanzine 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!

Four Kinds of Activity *Katzenjammer*

"We ought to do more fanac!" I said, caught in the throes of my occasional enthusiasm for such things. My listeners looked at me bravely, but dumbly. And so another topic for *Katzenjammer* was born. I can't expect the neofans to *do* fanac if they don't exactly know what it is.

Activity and a consciousness of Fandom are what separate fans from mere enthusiasts. A fan is someone who does something more than watch, read or hear primary science fiction and fantasy content. You can divide that "something more" into four distinct types of activity. When they are done within the context of Fandom the people performing them are fans. All have merit, but some have more... substance, have more to do with the reason Fandom exists and we are part of it.

The lowest level of fanac consists of group-audience activities. This is one step above non-fannish enthusiasts who watch *Surface* and *Invasion* on TV. It's fanac, because it involves fans being together to watch. The more the experience goes beyond mere group-audience, the more it involves *other* types of fanac.

Group-audience activities rate low on the fanac scale, because watching/reading/listening is essentially passive. This is part of being a science fiction enthusiast, but it is not especially expressive of the fannish subculture.

The second kind of fanac, in ascending order, is organization and bureaucracy. Sometimes, it takes some organizing to make something worthwhile happen, like a convention or fanzine. And by that I mean the least possible amount of organization, regimentation and bureaucracy needed to do a needed job, not the most rigmarole that can be heaped on a basically simple and straight-forward task to gratify people who might be happier at the PTA or Elks Clubs.

Anything more represents a miss-ordering of priorities. If it is more important who gets the credit than what result is achieved, things have gotten pretty damn far off the rails.

People who think drafting constitutions, voting on meaningless rules, fussing over logos and stationary and other time-dishonored time-wasters are fooling themselves into thinking they are really doing fanac. Bureaucracy and organization add absolutely nothing if they don't facilitate something better; otherwise it's occupational therapy. These people are entitled to their delusion and their therapy, but real fans shouldn't get

caught by the City of Serious Constructivism.

The next level is social fanac. It's an integral part of being a fan and participating in Fandom. An Interest Group is a hobby structure in which there is little or no socializing. What makes Fandom special is that we become each other's friend and acquaintances (and wives and husbands and fathers-in-law).

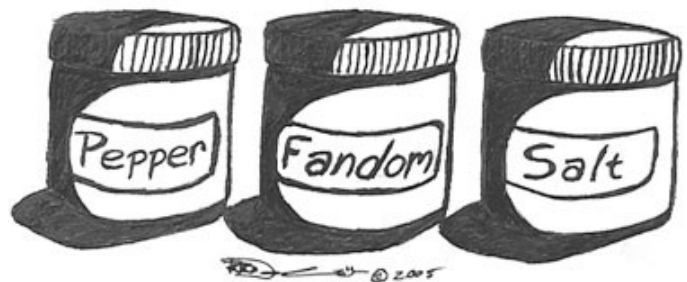
Las Vegas Fandom has always excelled in this area. No group has more events, more parties, and more social interaction than Glitter City. Fanhistorically, no one out-does Vegas Fandom's hosts.

At the top, above all other types of activity, is creative fanac. Fans ability to put forth their own imaginative and entertaining productions gives the hobby its style and character — not to mention a significant point to all that good carousing.

Without creative fanac, we're just another bunch of partiers, a little older and more staid than most. Fans' creativity is the key ingredient that makes Fandom what it is a— and it's what separates us from, say, a retirement community in Boca Raton.

Las Vegas Fandom should, by all means, continue

the Spice of Life!



to be ablaze with social activities, but I would sure like to see a little more creative fanac to leaven it, too.

Let's not only *listen* to music, let's *write* some!

Let's not only *see* a movie, let's *make* a movie!

Let's not only *go* to clubs and cons, let's *participate* in the programs and discussion.

Let's not only *play* games, let's *invent* one!

Let's not only *visit* sites, let's *create* our own!

Let's not only *read* fanzines, let's *do* them!

Let's not stop the partying, but let's find time to follow our fancestors' example and create, too.

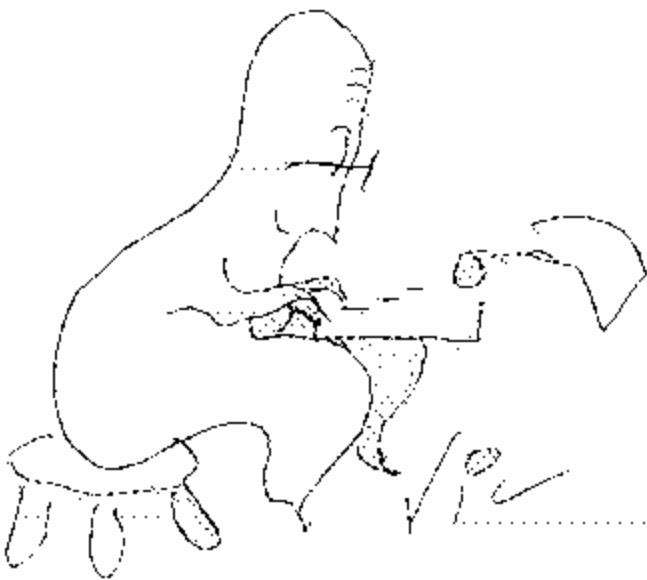
— Arnie

Bringing Willis to America

Shelby Vick takes us back in time

This was 1951. I wasn't a neofan – altho I hadn't entirely lost all the goshwhowgeewhiz-boyoboy, either. If I had. . . . Well, anywee. I had had many letters published in prozine pulps as well as fanzines. I had created puffins, and some had appeared in Lee Hoffman's Quandry. When I wasn't reading, I was writing – letters of comment to prozines and fanzines alike, letters to fans. . .and attempts at stories.

I wrote under extreme conditions. My folks traveled the tristate area selling a cleaning paste they made called Sanco. We would go to an area we wanted to work, find a cheap motel and leave my mom there making Sanco, labeling the cans, etc, while my dad and I went from business to business and door-to-door looking for suck. . .ah, customers. (It was a pretty good cleaner, before the days of spray-and-wipe and Oxyclean.) We traveled in a doorless truck. Yeah, doorless. I



sat with my trusty Remington Portable in my lap and sat on finished letters and stuff, so they wouldn't blow away. At LeeH's suggestion, I had written off for Walt Willis's printed fanzine, *Slant*.

And was stunned!

I had read, and strongly enjoyed, Willis's contribution to Q. (Should I explain that LeeH was the fannish way of referring to Lee Hoffman, and that Q was our abbreviation for Quandry? Nah, I don't think so!) The long and the short of it is, his humor was amazing! (Also astounding, startling and thrilling wonder stories!) (I'll not bother explaining that those were titles of pulpzines of the time.)

Anyway, it occurred to me that all us fans should get together and raise funds to bring Walt to the next worldcon. There were several hundred fans in those days, and all we needed was a few dollars from each of them – cinch!

I will bother explaining that I was straight out of that show-song, "A Cockeyed Optimist". How much of an optimist? As I said, this was 1951 – and I wanted to bring Walt to the Nolacon, scheduled for that September!

And I thot I had been writing a lot of letters before!

The Post Office then, the Post Office now. . . .

There was a lot of difference. For instance: Back then, I sat and wrote many letters of comment to prozines as well as "Help!" letters to fanzines, letters appealing to fan friends, letters that went all around the world. When we returned to the motel that was our temporary headquarters, I would drop the letters in the mail.

When we finally returned to Lynn Haven, I went to Box 493 to pick up whatever had accumulated. And it wasn't at all unusual to find a



Shelby Vick (right) smiles as he puts an arm around Bea Mahaffey at the 1959 Worldcon (Detention). Bea was one of Fandom's earliest glamour girls. She came to us from *Ray Palmer's* prozine *Other Worlds*, but her personal popularity outshone her credentials.

letter, addressed something like: "Shelby Vick, Lakeland, Florida" with a note scrawled on it by the last postmaster, "Try Lynn Haven".

That was then – no zip codes, no computer programs, just. . .people.

That was the Post Office then.

Well, my letters brought lotsa favorable response, lotsa enthusiasm, lotsa "I'll be glad to help," letters. .

But not lotsa money. In fact, so little money that I came to realize there was No Way we were gonna get Walt to Nolacon.

My folks ended their selling trips and I went to work at the local A & P Food Store. I know, I know; hardly anybody recognizes that name any more. At the time, however, it was the largest food chain in the country, and a standard joke was, "I've gotta go to the A, and P." Followed by a knowing chuckle.

I put my fanzine, confusion, together. (No capital letters. The abbreviation was 'cf.', one of the rare times I used a period in an abbreviation.) Willis contributed a column, he named Plinth – so named becos it was limited to one page. My idea. I

was lazy! Anyway, a plinth is the basis of a column, so you get the idea. . . And, limited or not, it was great.

My mother, by the way, had volunteered to be book-keeper. I bought her a journal and she entered contributors into it. Up until a couple of years ago, I could lay my hands on that journal whenever I desired.

It recorded less than \$200 received. That was not all, of course; my mother just became discouraged and let it slide.

Besides, some money was sent straight to Walt. The Chicon committee donated membership and a hotel room. Members of the committee saw to it there was food available. Fans cooperated in many ways other than financial support.

All in all, it worked – not becos of me but in spite of me!

+++

It was great meeting Walt. In fact, the Chicon was a wonderful whirlwind of greatness. The closest thing since, to me, was MagiCon.

After the convention was over, Walt began a tour around the country, driving away with one group of fans, staying a few days, then on to others.

When Walt Willis visited me in Lynn Haven, toward the end of his whirlwind tour of the States, my only transportation was a rebuilt (and rebuilt and rebuilt and. . .but you get the idea!) Chevy truck, which had its own idea as to when to run and when not to. One day I was going to take Walt out to soak up sun on the Gulf of Mexico. We got in. I turned the key. It spit and spat and died. I got out, looked under the hood, made a few adjustments, and got back in and tried again. Same results.

"Truculent," Willis commented, in his inimitable fashion.

— Shelby Vick

Return of the High Priestess

Arnie reports the 9/17 Vegrants Meeting

Joyce Katz's first fan appearance since her ankle fusion, the return of David Gordon and a visit from Los Angeles fan and pro John deChauncy made the Vegrants meeting as large as it was special.

The meeting might not have come off at all, if James Taylor, Teresa Cochran and Merrick & Luba Anderson hadn't made good on their pledge to arrive early and to do the preparations for the evening. The relative immobility caused by her post-op regimen will keep Joyce out of the kitchen for some weeks, but these four filled in admirably.

They also brought with them two special pumpkins pies Roxanne Gibbs made for Joyce. Well, actually, she made one for Joyce — and a second one to keep hungry fans from hobbling the one for the Fabulous Invalid. (Roxy also sent a six-pack of Tab for Joyce to drink in the hospital, an especially thoughtful gesture.)

JoHn Hardin and Ayesha Asghley led a gang of fans through the front door at the stroke of 7:30 and everyone went into full-tilt fanning mode.

As a group of fans clustered around the dining

room table, drinking Amoretto and eating pie, I told them about Mark Blackman, a fan with whom I had not heard from for 15 years until that very day. I'd spotted his email address on the Southern Fandom Classic listserv and, on the chance that it was the same New York fan, dropped him an email.

As I explained to the fans, Mark Blackman and I are barely fannish acquaintances, yet he played a role in my fan career exceeded in importance only by Judi Sephton, Ted White and rich brown. Judi was my first fannish contact, Ted invited me into the Fanoclasts and rich taught me a good deal of what I know about the microcosm — but Mark Blackman is the man who brought me back to it in 1989.

Shortly after Joyce and I moved to Las Vegas, I got a postcard from Mark, informing me that an apa I'd helped found was about to celebrate its 25th anniversary. He asked me to contribute and when that went well, I started participating in TAPS. I enjoyed the TAPsites, but I grew lonesome for my old fan friends and the kind of fanac we used to do. I coaxed forth the first issue of *Folly*, got an overwhelming reaction from fans and jumped back into the thick of the hobby to stay.

As JoHn, Teresa, James and I sat talking about the soon-to-be-published *Implications* #2, Alan White joined us. "I'm no longer the Vegas bag man," he said jovially, referring to the catheter removed earlier in the day. Alan is such a stoic that the only way to judge his actual condition is to observe him in person and I have to say that the signs are all very positive and encouraging. He looked better than at any time immediately before or since his surgery — which is welcome news to his Vegrant cohorts.

David Gordon brightened everyone's mood by returning to Las Vegrants after a several-month sabbatical. He's still fighting physical woes, but he seems in better spirits.

The SNAFFU Library Committee's last foray into the garage had turned up a copy of *The Incomplete Burbee*. This inspired JoHn to revive an old Ve-



Calling Ben Franklin (l to r): Ayesha Ashley, Joyce Katz and DeDee White.

grants activity by reading “FAPA Forever.” I noticed some of the newer members digging the outrageous story, so I suspect more readings will follow.

Ross Chamberlain mentioned that he had been asked to illustrate a version of “FAPA Forever” a few years ago. It was the complete version (as in the original publication and the reprint in *A Sense of FAPA*) rather than the expurgated version (as in *The Incompleteat Burbee*), which led Ross to decide not to do it. He said he just didn’t feel comfortable.

That was certainly understandable, as was Terry Carr decision to abridge it for the anthology. While I certainly see the areas of sensitivity in the full story, I did ask Charles Burbee about the piece. He said that he had talked to Elmer Perdue, whose inebriated antics are described in the controversial section, and that Ghod was not in the least perturbed. Since the two men were close friends at the time Burb wrote “FAPA Forever” and continued to beso for the rest of their lives, it doesn’t sound like Elmer really minded. It’s likely that “FAPA Forever” will be one of the reprints John, Joyce and I will present in *Implications*. It involves some — shudder — typing, so it may get pushed back a month or so. I think, when we do reprint it, it’ll be the whole story.

Continuing what David dubbed “Big JoHn’s Story Hour,” our genial reader started “The Ideal Fanzine.” A rush of fans into my office somehow caused him to stop. I hope he’ll resume with that wonderful essay at the next meeting. (What fanwriters would *you* like to have JoHn read? Send your request. JoHn is not doing dedications at this time.)

Bill Kunkel had us all rolling on the floor with his story about getting an “ass call” from legendary former Vegas Fan (and current California recluse) Tom Springer. Tom is notorious for not replying to email or answering calls, which probably accounts for the fact that I hear from Peter Sullivan in England about 10 times more often than I do my long-time friend and former co-editor.

When Bill picked up the phone to respond to a ring, he was surprised to hear a very familiar voice in the background. He tried yelling his name and injunctions to pick up the phone, to no avail. It turned out that Tom had sat on his cell phone and accidentally speed-dialed Bill.) I pointed out that the Kunkels’ cat Punk, now gone, used to occasionally speed dial me. I could never figure out where those strange, silent calls came from — until one day I heard the meowing.)

John deChauncy and I chatted about LASFS, which constitutes most of his fan experience. We knew a few folks in common, but I think I really surprised him when he’d participated in apa L and I admitted to being one of the founders.

I had the impression that Las Vegrants were something new in John’s fan experience. I’m not sure if he liked us or not, but he seemed to have a good time and was pleased when various Vegrants encouraged him to return when the opportunity arises. I’ve heard it said that John deC is sometimes critical of fans, which might make him a kindred soul for our merry band.

Perhaps prodded by my work readying “Sneary at Bay” for reprint in *Implications* #2, I teased Kent Hastings about being a member of VSFA’s Board of Directors. He claimed they haven’t given him a cape or even a Funny Hat to make his status instantly known to all who see him.

The chitterchatter continued unabated until 1 AM or so, when Joyce’s readiness for sleep became impossible to ignore. After some good clean-up work, the last group of fans headed into the darkness, ending another large and entertaining Vegrants revel.

Doing their part to perpetuate the Vegrants’ image for partying were: Ross Chamberlain, Merric & Luba Anderson, Marcy & Ray Waldie, James Taylor, Teresa Cochran, Ayesha Ashley, Bill Kunkel, Derek Stazensky, Lori Forbes, Dave Gordon, JoHn Hardin, Alan & DeDee White, Kent Hastings, John deChauncy, Joyce and...

-- Arnie Katz

Continued from page 2

ankle x-rays and his examination of the actual incisions. They removed some surgical staples, put on a fresh cast and made an appointment for the third week of Blochtober.

If Joyce’s recuperation continues going as well as it has so far, it is very likely that she will be able to attend her first out-of-house fan event, since September 7, the Vegas Halloween Party.

SNAPS Distribution #6 Boasts Notable Firsts!

Joyce Katz wheeled up to the keyboard to put to-

gether the 6th distribution of SNAPS (Southern Nevada Amateur Press Association), saving the group from the tough love of Emergency Emergency Official Editor Arnie Katz. “I feel like the third-string quarterback who gets to run the team in practice, but then finds himself on the bench at kick-off time.”

Perhaps in revenge, I did the largest SNAPS contribution to date, a robust 10 pages. The total for the mailing was 30 pages with contributions from 10 fans.

You can download the distribution at the SNAFFU web site or just write to Joyce (joyceworley1@cox.net) and she’ll send it direct.

It’s easy to participate in SNAPS, as both Laurie

SNAPS

Distribution #6 Sept. 2005



Kunkel and Jolle Barnes did for the first time in this distribution. (It was also Joelle's first fanzine of any kind.)

Write a contribution, send it to Joyce and you're in the next distribution. A Microsoft Publisher or Acrobat file is best, but Joyce and I will help you set up a fanzine from Microsoft Word or even a Text (*.txt) file.

SNAPS gives fans who haven't had much fanzine experience a chance to try out things in the safety of the Las Vegas fan community. It's also a bridge to writing for general circulation fanzines, as you'll see when *Implications* #2 comes out this weekend.

The deadline for the 7th Distribution is Sunday, October 16.

Chris Garcia to Guest at Vegnants Open Party!

Fandom's "most accessible invitational club," Las Vegnants, has the welcome mat out again for Saturday, Blochtober 1. That's the night of the Vegnants Open Party — and the city's most colorful fan group hopes that the rest of the Vegas fan community will flock to the Launch Pad for a shindig that will definitely be a blast.

There are, in fact, two reasons to celebrate. This will be Joyce's first night with all of Vegas Fandom since her ankle fusion on September 7. She's seen the Vegnants, but now everyone is invited to come show their love for the Sweetheart of Fanac Falls.

Not to be upstaged in the slightest is the special out-of-town guest for the evening, Chris Garcia! His fanzines (free at efanzines.com) and his frequent contribu-

tions to *VFW* have made him well-known to Vegas fans, so I'm sure they'll come out in force to meet and greet one of the brightest additions to Fandom in recent years. (He's also a treat for the technos; he's curator of the Computer Museum.)

The open party will take place at the Launch Pad (909 Eugene Cernan St.) and all Vegas fans are welcome. (If you have never been to my home or if you are bringing someone who fits that category, a phone call — 648-5677 — would be appreciated.) Donations of food and drink are gratefully accepted, but are not mandatory.

The fun starts at 7:30 on Saturday evening. (I'll be there all day, waiting for that to happen...)

It'll be an evening of fine fangab and the expectable assortment of things to eat and drink. So tune up your Fine Fannish Mind and join the fun on 10/1!

Club Picks New Name!

It's out with the Gay/Bi/Les/Trans Science Fiction Club of Las Vegas and in with the Neon Rainbow Science Fiction & Fantasy Association. According to the club's president Joshua Andrews, a recent vote mandates the name change.

Maybe the new name will herald more activity for this group. I am sure, for example, that either or both of the two formal SF clubs would welcome a program item like "How Fairly Does SF Portray Gays."

Heard Around Vegas Fandom...

Joelle Barnes has been summoned to the Palace, the Imperial Palace, that is. She has started employment there as a culinary worker...

Bill & Laurie Kunkel bought a '78 Ford Escalade. Buffalo Jim is doing the relatively small amount of work needed on this well-preserved vehicle and that will give the Kunkels a lot of extra mobility...

Ben Wilson is battling kidney stones. Wince — and send a positive thought in his direction...

James Willey and Mindy Hutchngs held a *Firefly* viewing at 6:00 PM at James' home. Looks like it might become a regular thing....

Roxanne Mills has just gotten back into contact with Las Vegas Fandom. She says she misses us and will shortly make her return to active participation. Here's hoping she carries through.

Chatback: The VFW Letter Column

The letters are waiting and I want to get to as many as possible to reduce the already short time between receipt and publication. Any LoCs sent on this issue should be in next issue's letter column.

The first letter comes from someone whom I haven't

seen over 30 years! I am delighted to welcome him to VFW...

Hal Hughes

Thanks for the issues of VFW, and for your kind words about me. Those were heady evenings indeed, and it's always nice to reconnect with, even see the names of, the folks who made Fanoclasts and other gatherings so stimulating. I'll make one small correction, though I'm inclined to let it stand just to see how the myth evolves on its own: I was working in a record store in Times Square when I met Alexei Panshin, with whom I've also recently reconnected through the wonders of e-mail. Those CC lines are a gold mine that led me back to the Richards Brown and Lupoff, among others. I have to thank Jay Kinney for maintaining the thread from the Brooklyn days to now - he's been a steadfast friend through all kinds of contortions and exigencies.

I was always a fringe-fan at best, though I hope not a fringe-friend. It's good to know there's still some juice left in the relationships that were formed so long ago. This past winter I spent time going through all of my poems and compiling them into a set of photocopied volumes - an unthinkable task before the digital age. In among them I found the few pages I'd written with the intent of finally pubbing an ish. Never happened. There was also a poem that grew out of the Fanoclast experience that I've attached here. The story behind it may be of more interest than the poem, and it's probably too long for you to publish, but I'm happy for it to go to anyone who's interested. Ted White had been spinning tales of an ephemeral fan named Darrell Strange for some time before I made the scene, and I was flattered to become known as the person who'd originally introduced Ted to Darrell. Talk about instant cachet! I decided to write something about Darrell, to add to the mythos. That didn't go far, but a little later the poem came along - "The Dissembling of Darrell Strange" - which I hope captures something of the spirit of the time, at least. That must've been shortly before I moved to SF, as I never got around to showing it to anyone.

If I remember correctly, Arnie, you got more music out of an empty Coke can than anyone before or since.

Arnie: Of course you're a Fringfan. Are you not aware of your Legend? Why, you're Hal Hughes, one of the all-time greatest fringe-fans we compulsive neurotics have ever taken to our weird hearts. We still tell our neofans of the night Alexei Panshin - come back, Alex! - met you at the book store where you were clerking and brought you to Fanoclasts.

He has been absent from VFW for a few issues, but

it's a great pleasure to have him back with another thoughtful - and thought-provoking - LoC...

Eric Mayer

Glad to hear Joyce's operation went well. By the time she's ready to start getting around she won't have to worry about icy sidewalks either - or am I wrong.

Thanks to rich for identifying Eric Frank Russell as Walt Willis' Profan. If I ever read that I'd totally forgotten. When I reread *TED* that episode did strike me as something that wouldn't be the same these days. As rich points out, some pros now have a very different attitude.

Thought provoking piece on attracting new "classic fans." (I note you segue from "fanzine fans" to "classic fans.") One thing for sure, when your "new" fans are folks who pop back to write a few locs after 20 years... well... that's not going to work in the long run.

The best way to attract young blood might be for all of us to get a lot younger. I'm all for that!

I think fandom has problems. Say we want "misfits." OK. Makes sense to this misfit. Take as a proposition that people who feel alienated from our society may feel, as you say, the pull of the literature of the imagination. This I can believe. However, today, much, if not most, of the sf one is likely to encounter in the media is anything but a literature of imagination and so might not attract such misfits. Also sf might not attract such misfits because it has become a part of the main-

I LOVE THE FEELING
OF LOCs ON BARE FEET



stream that such folks tend to feel alienated from. Then too, even if sf did still attract those misfits, the ties between "classic fandom" (or what I think you mean when you use the term) and sf are tenuous. Zines that concentrate most strongly on sf tend not to be regarded as being so Hugo-worthy, for example, by classic sf fans (and are honestly not to my taste since I don't read sf) even though they often win. So, misfits attracted by sf might make it to the edge of classic fandom, but the zines through which they reach our vicinity don't necessarily lead to us. We're often as not at odds with them. I know your club discussions often feature sf strongly, so you may figure that sf does still serve as the basis of classic fandom but my impression, from years back, was that many, maybe most of the fanzines considered best had rather feeble ties to sf.

Anyway, it was just toward the end of my sf days when I found some old *Fantastics* (I think) with the Club House column and discovered fanzines.

What grabbed me about fanzines was not anything to do with sf, but rather -- wow, do it yourself magazines, just for fun (no literary pretensions) with a whole network of people producing and reading these things! At the time such a non-professional/non-pretentious creative/communicative network was unusual. (I think) Today, the internet provides any number of similar (competing) outlets. *VFW* could be a blog.

Cyberspace forms like blogs and websites have all sorts of advantages but they lack that satisfying sense of being complete.

Well I certainly have no answers.

Arnie: I have started using the term "Classic Fandom" to indicate the segment of the hobby that continues to exist along classic, word-oriented lines. While the overlap with Fanzine Fandom is large, there are a lot of fans who share that classic approach who are not primarily fanzine writers, artists and publishers. I didn't like the idea of excluding folks who are fans in the full, traditional sense who don't happen to be Publishing Giants.

I'm not looking for young blood. I'm not against young fans, but few are going to look to our Fandom as a means to express their youthful rebellion as young fans of the past did. Potential young fanzine fans tend to gravitate to anime or other topics that are less acceptable to parents.

If the fans who came back only wrote a few LoCs, I would agree with you, but that is not the case. Earl Kemp, David Burton and Robert Lichtman are just three of many examples of fans who de-gafiated to do major fanac.

I like the combination of new and old fans we have

now. And I'm glad to have you in that mix, too.

Let's give a round of applause for this year's outstanding new fan -- and I hope a future TAFF candidate -- with another terrific letter...

Peter Sullivan

First of all, good news about Joyce's ankle operation - by far the most important piece of news in the last issue. I did even consider giving Joyce a ring at the Rehab Center, but decided that receiving a phone call from a mad Brit neo-fan she has never spoken to before (even assuming I did remember allow for the time difference properly) was more likely to induce a relapse than recovery.

I can grok your idea of fanac as a form of diversion therapy for temporary bachelorhood. On a similar, but more trivial level, I did wonder about trying to kick-start my own floundering diet by saying that every time I felt tempted to get something to eat, I should go and do some fanac instead. You could even call it the LoC-plan diet. Problem is, I don't think that even I can manage three substantial LoCs a day, then a light grazing of mailing list contributions through the evening. So, how many calories are there in crottled greeps anyway?

This links to your piece on abnormality and fandom. The problem is that, by accepting your thesis, we are buying into the philosophy that mundanes are normal, well-adjusted, people. I can see no empirical evidence for this at all, whether in the news (worldwide), the press lettercolumns (both national and local) or in recent election results (likewise worldwide). Abnormality is, paradoxically, the norm. It is *creative* abnormality, rather than abnormality per se, that distinguishes the classic fan from the mundane.

If Chris Garcia makes it up to Vegas as planned, he may be able to give Joyce some tips on film making. Although I suspect that his trip will be a little too whirlwind even to try producing one of his "48-hour movies." Actually, the more likely collaboration to come out of that trip would be an one-shot issue of "Vegas Drink Tankdom Weekly," which would certainly be a sight to see. You could even do two front covers front-to-back, like the old Ace double-fronted paperbacks, although I'm not quite sure how that would work in PDF.

Bill Wright linked my article to the lack of a Hugo Award for www.efanzines.com. I must admit that the first draft of my article had the subtitle "We don't need no steekin' Hugo anyway," but I dropped this before sending it to you in case it was still a Sore Point. I'm not sure that you can blame the Brits for the Hugo vot-

ing. What with the large number of Europeans, North Americans and other world-wide fans who made it to Glasgow, I can easily imagine the Brits being less than half the voters. Which is fair enough - they do call it a Worldcon after all. I suspect that the preponderance of British winners is as much down to overseas attendees wanting to vote for home field nominees than any Brit block vote.

I don't know about "already one of the best writers in UK fandom." Regardless of the quality judgment, which I'm not really qualified to pronounce on. But I'm not sure I really count yet as part of UK fandom, as pretty much all of my fanac has been North American based thus far. I guess at least part of it is a subconscious element of "If I'm going to make a bally neofan fool of myself, I'd rather do it in a galaxy far, far away," or at any rate in North American fandom where no-one will notice. Or maybe it's just the e-z-to-access nature of www.efanzines.com. I must go get myself some issues of the likes of *Banana Wings*, *Zoo Nation* and *Plokta*, and get involved.

Arnie: I don't think we are saying it's better to be "normal." We are talking about the degree of adjustment to the prevailing societal norm, not whether that norm represents the things we want. In fact, Classic Fans generally want something other than that mainstream view of the world. Classic Fans

The way reading is falling out of fashion, it may not be loog before we may begin to get persecuted readers who are not necessarily big science fiction fans. Since just about everyone likes some science fiction, I don't think such newcomers will have much trouble adapting to our subculture.

Mr. Sunshine from the Sunshine State – that's our next letter writer...

Shelby Vick

Speaking of donating things to a fan library. Many years back, we had a local fan group -- at least five who classified as Almost Fans, and a few of the fringe element, plus Tim Riley, who is clearly a Real Fan. At that time, I had a steamer trunk full of old sf mags. Different ones kept borrowing old mags and, finally, someone suggested I donate the trunk to start a Fan Library.

By that time, regular meetings had been established, and some had suggested a club zine. I thot donating the trunkful would help encourage

the establishment of a Real Fan Club, so I agreed.

In a month or two, several of the group moved away, and I never saw my old mags again. I had, again, added another bit of paving on the road to Hell.

Or, as is currently said, 'No good deed goes unpunished!'

Jack Calvert: While I don't have a writer's club for you to join, I do have *Planetary Stories* (www.planetarystories.com) and would gladly entertain an sf story or two!

Arnie -- I have an easy solution to my request for material for confuSon. Send me the text of this week's Katzenjammer, along with permission to reprint it. I like it! In fact, an easy way for you to have a column in confuSon would be to give me permission to reprint at will. As you print weekly and I don't even have my first issue ready, chances are I'll have lotsa material from which to choose!

Arnie: Consider this my blanket permission for you to reprint Katzenjammer. I will start sending you word documents.

A letter full of good will and good wishes is next, from one of the most charming fans I know...

Laurraine Tutihasi

So glad to hear Joyce's surgery went well. I hope she has a smooth and troublefree recovery. I'm sorry to hear about Alan White's setbacks and hope that he will have no more such problems.

I hope Lloyd Penney's intention to come out to LA-con will be realized, as I don't expect to get out East any time soon. Our cat Shadow's cancer has returned, and house plumbing problems also don't help our financial situation any. We had to have our plumber change out our seventeen-year-old hot water heater while we were in Phoenix for CopperCon.



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Arnie: I envy you your hot water heater's longevity. We had to replace one the very weekened we moved in to Toner Hall back in 1989. The Launch Pad had – and still has – some problems, but so far the water heater works well.

I hope you'll come out to Vegas the weekend before LACon IV for Toner 2.

You can hardly have a bona fide fanzine letter column without this guy – and I'm not sure I'd want to...

Lloyd Penney

Life conspires to prevent you from doing the things you really want to do. I'm thinking of work, actually... I've been busy working registration for a trade show at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, so I've been a little out of the loop, and the fanzines have piled up.

Time to get with it, and loc *Vegas Fandom Weekly* 42 and 43.

42...I hope the Labour Day weekend was a real blast for all involved. I do read the Yahoo! list, and Vegas fandom is just One Big Party. But, where else should this happen but in Las Vegas, hm?

Wild Sexual Excess...well, Arnie, why else would sensitive fannish faces such as ourselves go to conventions? Hope springs eternal, and sometimes, you get what you want. Most of the time, though, that curvy young lady you've had your eye on walks away with a big, muscular boyfriend, and

you're left by yourself sleeping in the gopher hole, accompanied by the literally unwashed. Ah, the story of the lives of many a fanboy.

The last few years have seen so many fans from ages past return nostalgically to the old asylum. It's good to see. I can understand why some might leave, but I can also see why some would come back...is fandom the same old I left behind? Probably not, but it's probably a pleasant surprise to see that some do remember, and that fanzines still exist.

Arnie, you have become officially the Emergency Holographic Collation Editor. Please state the nature of the emergency. You should have only used two staples... If the Kunkels (spelled it right this time) are moving to the wilds of Michigan, perhaps they might be close to Jan Stinson, editor of *Peregrine Nations*. Which university did you go to in Buffalo, Arnie?

How's Joyce now? Sounds like too much pain, and a lot of time to heal. Once current theory of fandom is that it is one huge asylum, with all its inmates suffering from Asperger's Syndrome. Some of us have Asperger's much worse than others. I don't like the explanation all that much, but it seems to provide as much explanation as any other theory.

The First Thursday pubnight here has drawn as many as 50 local fans, to the delight of the Duke of York. However, the summer greatly reduced that number. I am hopeful that we'll return to our regular numbers, around 40, and the Duke will get off our backs about our numbers. I guess our lack of attendance has reduced the size of the tip jar.

A fanzine collection is a wonderful thing, but putting together an archive may upset those collectors in the crowd. Archive zines, sure, as long as you leave my collection out of this. The way it was originally described by the guy who thought of it, it almost sounded like the archive wasn't a voluntary operation. No one will ever beat Harry Warner for locwriting. That doesn't mean to say we can't give it a good shot.

Harry set a benchmark for us all to try to meet.

It's been said a couple of time here...sure, we like print, and there's nothing like being able to sit down and crack open a chunk of paper zine. But, the paper's expensive, the postage is expensive, and some of us need whole lockers just to store the collection. .Pdfed files is the way to go. Soon, I will have enough ezines to burn onto a full CD-R, and relieve a lot of stress on my hard drive. I'd rather have paper, but .pdfed zines make sense for money and space.

Arnie: Hey, how about you writing up some of those Toronto activities like the Pubmeet you mentioned? We've got Seattle, London and Melbourne, but I would like to have reports from all the major fan centers.

I am a proud graduate of SUNY at Buffalo in English Literature. My faculty advisor was John Barth.

Welcome a Las Vegas fan who's making her first VFW appearance...

Joelle Barnes

VFW was hysterical in some parts. In fact, maybe I

Potshot's Cartoon Theater



Las Vegas Fan Event Calendar

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.

Dinner & a Movie September 24 4:00 PM

VSFA continues its popular series of movie outings with a trip to the Crown Theater at Neonopolis to see "Tim Burton's Corpse Brude."

Neon Rainbow SF/F Club September 26 7:30 PM

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

Las Vegrants Open Party October 1 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. This is a great opportunity to party with the Vegrants and see the currently home-bound Joyce Katz and meet Chris Garcia.

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.

SNAFFU October 14 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 Blochtober 15 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 Kat.

VSFA Sunday Social October 16 2:00 PM

VSFA continues the highly successful series of Sunday meetings, though the venue is now the Blue Ox (5825 Sahara @ Dunesville). There is no official subject this time, but the talk is always first class.

shouldn't be so anxious to find someone, because it will be very *taxing*. Thank you for saying that Lubov and I are two of the most attractive women in fandom, and thank you for pointing out that I didn't throw my panties at Englebert Humperdink,

Arnie: Accuracy and fairness are the goals here at VFW – unless they interfere with a good story, And I want to pledge that, as editor, I will always be wiling to look into women's panties whenever the occasion presents itself.

Time to Punch Out...

... the invisible clock that regulates my fanac time, that is. See you all in a week. Send mews. Locs, reports, news and unstinting praise

— Arnie Katz

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... and a *ton* of news.