

# VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

## Old Friends and New to Highlight The 10/1 Vegrants Open Party!

A visit from one of the BArea's most active fans, the return of a Vegrant after more than a year and maybe a new fan making his local debut will be just some of the highlights when the rest of Vegas Fandom joins the Vegrants at the group's Open Party this coming Saturday (10/1) evening.

Chris Garcia is coming to visit Vegas Fandom and pick up a donation for the Computer Museum while Roxanne Mills is looking forward to reviving her fan activity, which has languished since her marriage and subsequent move to Las Vegas.

## Vegas Fan Events This Week

### Neon Rainbow SF/F Association

Friday (10/1) 7:30 PM

### VSFA Dinner & Movie: "Serenity"

Saturday (10/1), 4 PM

### Las Vegrants Open Party

Saturday (10/1), 7:30 PM

### VSFA 'First Monday' Meeting

Monday (10/3), 7:00 PM



Schedules permitting, Ray Veach will attend his very first fan meeting and Sandra Bean will meet the Vegrants for the very first time

These three will be the figurative icing on the cake when the Vegrants and their guests converge on the Launch Pad (909 Eugene Cernan St.) for the year's biggest pre-Holiday Season fan party. The revels start at 7:30 PM and will go as long as stamina permits.

All Vegas fans — and any outlanders in town at the right time — are invited to eat, drink and chitterchatter the night away. This will also be the first chance for many to see Joyce Katz and Alan White since their successful surgeries.

Donations of food and drink (hard or soft) are always welcome, but not necessary. As at all Vegrants parties, the living room, dining room and kitchen are "smoke free" zones, though there'll be indoor and outdoor smoking areas.

If this is your first visit to the Launch Pad, let us know you're coming via phone or email so we give you a proper welcome when you arrive. If you've already made the trip to the "astronaut streets," we'll be delighted to see you again.

# Inside Story A Creditable Effort

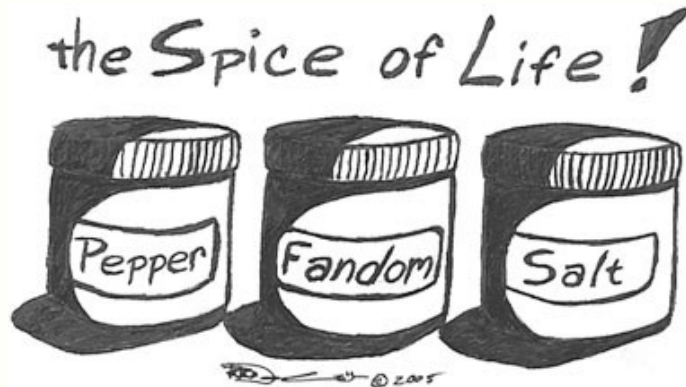
Soon after I sent out *VFW* #45, I got a letter from Ruth Davidson, one of the local neofen (and current president of the N3F). She wrote, definitely more in sorrow than in anger, that though she had enjoyed seeing her first illo ever in *VFW*, she noticed that it had somehow failed to be credited.

She didn't demand or even ask for anything. She was so nice about it all, that I felt a great upwelling of fannish spirit. I rushed her an apology, of course, but somehow that didn't seem enough. Making your artistic debut is not something to be passed off lightly.

So if you look to the right, you'll see that very same illo in all its grayscale glory. Thank you, Ruth, for your patience with a harried fanzine editor.

I hope this reprise of the drawing and my little essay will, in some measure, atone for the previous omission. Welcome to *VFW*, Ruthie!

—Arnie



## Two Former Vegas Fans Return for Surprise Visit!

The voice, almost indecipherable above the caller's cell phone's crackle and hiss, broke into my Tuesday afternoon with a huge surprise. "We're coming to Vegas," I heard. I asked him to repeat it and the message remained the same. Thursday morning, another call came, this one with the crystal clarity of same-calling-area transmission. "We're on the other side of town. We'll be to your place in less than an hour!"

The first call came from Ken Forman and the second one from Ben Wilson. And by 10:00 AM, two of the finest products of Las Vegas Fandom were shaking off the tiredness of an all-night drive in the Launch Pad's living room.

It wasn't a long visit — Joyce ran out of arguments for why they absolutely needed to stay through the Vegrants Open Party on Saturday — but it was a most welcome one. We didn't accomplish much except a lot of fangab, but it was a highly enjoyable 24 hours.

It now appears that the Flippin (AR) Folk will be making periodic journeys to Las Vegas. We're eager for their return and only hope that next time it is possible to share the pleasure of their company with a few more of you.

## Wil McCarthy to Speak at LV Futurists!

Scientist and science fiction writer Wil McCarthy will address a meeting of the Las Ve-

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*Vegas Fandom Weekly* #46, September 29, 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, Ben Wilson and Joyce Katz

**Art/Photo Credits:** Ruth Davidson (2), Ray Nelson (10), Bill "Potshot" Kunkel (13), Bill Rotsler (all other cartoons)

**Columnists This Issue:** Randy Byers, Michael Bernstein

*VFW* is free by request — and you may get it anyway. It can be downloaded at the SNAFFU and VSFA sites as well as at [efanzines.com](http://efanzines.com). No compulsive fan bureaucrats 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!

# Check 'em Out, Gentlefen **Katzenjammer**

That's the chant of the porn store operator. And in these days of digital fanzines, finding the right one to read can be even harder than picking just the right smut film based on the outside of the package. Not as rewarding in some senses, perhaps, but definitely more difficult,

Some newer fans have recently asked me to recommend fanzines. They did so individually, avoiding that "Geek Chorus" affect, but it is still something I noticed as I wrote out several little lists.

It's understandable that neos would want some guidance in this area, because that long list of issues on the front page of efanzines.com can be a little daunting. There are a lot of zines, even some not written by [Chris Garcia](#) or me, available for free download at fandom's "must visit" site.

Since I'm lazy, it occurred to me, that one "Katzenjammer" column could free me from a month of writing out individual recommendations. All I'll have to say is, "Check out 'Katzenjammer' in *VFW #46*" and I can shirk this list-making for a few weeks.

The first thing I recommend is *Vegas Fandom Weekly*, *Implications* – and then every fanzine and special publication Joyce or I have posted to efanzines.com. Hey, I have to get *something* out of all this helpfulness. And I sincerely believe that every Las Vegas fan should read *VFW* and then send me all their money in small, used bills. (Actually, I'm willing to make reading *VFW* optional if you send enough currency.)

Anything else I recommend reflects my idiosyncratic taste. My favorite fanzines feature a strong sub-cultural context, good writing and a light-handed approach.

I have a friend, whom we'll call The Mainspring to protect Ken Forman's identity, who used to recommend the worst fanzines and send people to read *FOSFAX* and worse. I'm sure I never got the logic, but I think it had something to do with his concept that people who are meant to be poor-quality fans should be directed to the fanzines that are of a similar lowly estate.

I try to recommend the best fanzines, an expression of my belief that reading is an enriching experience. Sometimes, though, I recommend fanzines that I don't especially love — mostly very serious ones — that I recognize as good for people whose tastes run in that direction. I'm not going to recommend any fanzines that are not available in electronic form. I have

great nostalgia for those mimeographed fanzine days, but we digital publishers have to stick together.

Speaking of nostalgia, those who pine for the purity of Sixth Fandom must immediately read *ConfuSon* ([Shelby Vick](#)). Shelby has put together a fanzine that feels so hardcopy you can almost smell the ink. The content, mostly by Shelby with some pieces by folks like [Lee Hoffman](#) and me, is highly entertaining, long on charm and warm personality.

*Trap Door* ([Robert Lichtman](#)) is the best fanzine currently being published, issue for issue. It consistently has outstanding writing, compelling subject matter and venerable BNFs you'll rarely see in other fanzines. The art is equal to the written content and Robert's editing is impeccable in every detail. *Trap Door* has only come out once or twice a year through most of its hardcopy fanhistory. Maybe Robert's retirement and shift toward electronic publishing will enable him to entertain us more often.

*Chunga* ([Andy Hooper](#), [Randy Byers](#) and [carl juarez](#)) is Seattle's outstanding fanzine and a credit to the fan center's history of great titles like *Cry*. Not that the well-manicured and tightly edited *Chunga* resembles the sprawling and spontaneous fanzine edited by [FM & Elinor Busby](#) and [Wally Weber](#), but *Cry* never approached *Chunga*'s literary quality or intellectual level.

*Catchpenny Gazette* ([David Burton](#)) is much like the fan himself: intelligent and good-humored. His return to fanzine after a lengthy hiatus and his willingness to adapt to the digital fanzine environment have quickly earned him a place among the best current fanzine editors.

*eI* ([Earl Kemp](#)) verges on overkill as this prolific and colorful writer/editor serves up heaping portions of outstanding essays. Although *eI* has good outside contributions, the main course is almost always Earl's colorful anecdotes and trenchant articles. The larger issues can be a little overwhelming, but the rewards are great.

*The Drink Tank* ([Chris Garcia](#)) is as frequent as *VFW*, a varied mix of interesting articles. Chris has advanced rapidly as a fanzine writer and editor; *The Drink Tank* is probably not the best fanzine Chris will ever publish, but it's plenty good enough right now.

There are many other good fanzines, but these are a good group to start with. Happy Reading!

— Arnie

# Fanac by the Tun

## Randy Byers reports the Seattle 9/11 pubmeet

Seattle was host to the North American Science Fiction Convention (or NASFiC) this year, but due to last minute self-imposed social complications, I was unable to attend. Amongst other problems this caused me (such as missing the chance to hang out with any number of old cronies and other people of interest), my plan for this second column for VFW was derailed. I had intended to write about the Vanguard party, which is a fannish party that has been held in Seattle on the first Saturday of the month for 25 years and was held at the NASFiC this month because of the overlap on the calendar. This would have been a great opportunity to write about exotic attendees that don't normally

appear at run-of-the-mill Vanguards, and it would have allowed me to make up somewhat for having missed the 25th anniversary Vanguard that was thrown at my very own house while I was busy having a blast at Worldcon in Scotland in August. But it was not to be, and instead I missed my second Vanguard in a row and am reduced to reporting once again on the Seattle Tun, where various NASFiC survivors (and the people who love them) gathered on Sunday the 11th in the lost shadow of the World Trade Center to tell tall tales over pints of beer and other beverages.

This edition of the Seattle's relatively new monthly fannish pubmeet was not without its own exotic attendees, although admittedly two of

them are pretty familiar faces in these parts anymore. Dave O'Neill lives in Bath in England, but he travels to Seattle on business so frequently that he's beginning to grow local mosses on his north side. I've lived in Seattle for 20 years, but I had to ask Dave for directions from his hotel to the pub when I picked him up. Eofan Art Widner lives in Gualala, California and is a rolling stone who hasn't gathered much moss as he approached his 88th birthday on Sept. 16th, and he too is a frequent visitor to Seattle, where, along with many fannish friends, he also has a granddaughter and a great grandchild or two. So perhaps more exotic than either of these guys was Dave's co-worker, Andy, although I've met even him a few times before at this pub or that when Dave's been in town. Andy isn't a fan, but he'll talk to just about anybody as long as beer is involved.

When I arrived at the Blue Star Cafe with Dave and Andy in



tow, I bought the first round for the three of us, only to watch Dave dump his pint half on the floor and half on Jerry Kaufman's leg. Dave's birthday was only on the 9th, but I'd be damned if I was going to buy him beer just for tossing on Jerry. Then again, Jerry's pale skin did look a bit healthier after the beer bath. Maybe I should've asked Dave to splash a half-pint on me!

After this practically mythical event, we forged our way into the back room and joined the social fray, which was larger than it had been at the pubmeet in August. Suzle and I smuffed about TAFF for a bit, and she returned the bank account registers I'd kept in my day as North American TAFF boss, which is now her job. (And a fine job she's doing of it, having raised a couple hundred dollars at NASFiC.) Meanwhile, Art put us beer-swilling youngsters to shame by having a boilermaker, which is something I'd never seen anybody drink before. It made me realize that I'd been stuck for years with one of those false understandings that are immediately ridiculous once the truth dawns. For some reason, I'd always thought that you actually threw the shot glass into the beer along with the shot of whisky. No, I don't know why. Yes, I'm all better now. Now I know the whisky is a cut to the chaser.

The subject of drinking got Marilyn Holt onto the topic of the poet Theodore Roethke, who taught at the University of Washington and drank himself to death at that legendary hangout for bullshit philosophers, the Blue Moon. Marilyn has developed an allergy to beer, which is probably just as well considering Roethke's fate. She didn't seem so sure about that herself, as she sipped her iced tea and told me a phantom-of-the-opera story about another UW professor who helped someone hide out in the attic of a campus building by bringing him a casserole every other day. To this day, you can see stacks of dirty casserole dishes through the gable window on Parrington Hall.

Anita Rowland arrived and pressed her head against mine to show that we now have matching hairdos. Unfortunately, while we both shave our heads to hide the fact that we are bald, her baldness results from the chemotherapy she's undergoing for a recurrence of cancer. Here's hoping that the chemo does the trick and that Anita will soon leave the cueball look to me. Although I'm not saying she doesn't look kind of cute this way!

My inscrutable co-editor, Carl Juarez, showed up, and I took out my notepad to add him to the list of people in attendance, in preparation for writing this report. Carl told me that his new amour, Scott (not to be confused with Scott, a previous boyfriend, or Scott, another previous boyfriend), was quite struck at the first fannish party Carl dragged him to by the fact that everybody had a little piece of paper on which they scribbled

occasional notes. I had to laugh, because I'd never really noticed it before myself, but it certainly is true. We looked around, and everybody at the pubmeet was scribbling a note about Scott's comment.

Jack Foy arrived wearing a t-shirt he'd gotten in Scotland when he was there for the Worldcon. It read, in part, "LOCH THULHU Single Malt Ichor -- You'll never drink another whisky. Crafted with love." Hal O'Brien told me he'd watched the DVD of PICCADILLY, which he and Ulrika had liberated from my unguarded room at the August Vanguard. While the existence of the DVD is largely due to the recent interest in Anna May Wong's career as the first female Asian-American star in Hollywood (and briefly in Europe), Hal had mostly found the movie interesting as a document of British working class life in the '20s. I mentioned that another British movie from the late-silent era, HINDLE WAKES, had come out on DVD recently and apparently revolved around the factories and working class dancehalls in Blackpool of that era.

Kate Schaefer had recently returned from Alaska with her husband, Glenn Hackney, via the infamous Alaskan Highway. I was impressed. She insisted that it was paved. I said that when my dad drove that highway in the mid-'80s, he found it full of potholes as big as his pickup.

"There are huge potholes," Kate agreed, "but it's paved around them."

Eventually, I moved down to the grown-ups table, where Ulrika O'Brien and Marci Malinowycz were debriefing on Cascadiacon. We were soon joined by Janice Murray and Alan Rosenthal (who ran the fan lounge at Cascadiacon with help from Marci and Ulrika), and Jerry and Suzle. Talk turned to the prospect of a Worldcon in Seattle, which the concom of Cascadiacon is apparently interested in trying. It has been over forty years since Seattle hosted a Worldcon, and the last attempted bid, for 2003, fell apart due to a problem with facilities, if I remember correctly. Hard to say whether Seattle is in any better position now. Some have suggested that Vancouver BC might be a better location as far as the Pacific Northwest goes. Since I can't even imagine what it takes for my friends to throw a Potlatch or a Corflu, this talk of Worldcons is way over my head.

So talk turned inevitably to fans, as the time to break up the party wound around. As we discussed one fan who shows many typical signs of that fannish syndrome, Aspergers, Janice made a declaration that could well grace many a fannish tombstone: "He's a mensch, but he's also a schlub."

And so goodnight.

— Randy Byers

# Who Is This Peter Sullivan Guy?

## Peter Sullivan makes with the autobiography

I have been an avid reader since before I went to school, initially taught by my mother. Once my little sister became a wandering toddler, my mother would use a play pen to keep her away from irritating me. Not in the conventional way, but by putting me in the play pen. As long as I had a pile of books to work through, I was happy as Larry. I also remember that, at the local library, I was allowed to take out the full 8 books entitlement as if I had an adult ticket. The normal limit on a child's ticket was 4. But this was increased after the time I took 4 books out and had them all read in the car before we got home, and wanted to go straight back and get some more.

Science fiction and fantasy probably made up a significant chunk of that early reading, certainly of the fiction part. I remember working my way through Ursula LeGuin's *A Wizard of Earthsea* and its sequels whilst still at primary school. I was also an avid reader of non-fiction, especially around board games, war games and chess. By the age of 13, I had read both *Lord of the Rings* & *The Silmarillion* – although I probably didn't appreciate either as much as I did on

subsequent re-readings in adulthood. (One of these re-readings was on an Amsterdam to Seattle flight, where I managed to get from Bilbo Baggins' Eleventy-First Birthday Party to the Battle of Helm's Deep in one session.)

In 1981 I went to Computer Camp for a week during the summer holidays. In the evenings, we were free to do other activities, and I got involved in *Dungeons & Dragons*. Needless to say, I caught the bug and started arranging sessions at school, sometimes in groups of up to a dozen or more. The other gaming interest was *Diplomacy*. For those who don't know, this is a boardgame with fairly simple rules, but where the focus is on the negotiation between the players, with the fundamental principle that no agreements are binding. The game was allegedly a favourite of both John Kennedy and Henry Kissinger. Because of the structure of the game, it's ideal for postal play, and the first postal *Diplomacy* fanzine was started by SF fan John Boardman in 1963. The period of my involvement – from 1983 to 1994 – was pretty much the golden age of postal games fandom, certainly in terms of the number of people involved. And, as with SF fanzines, computers were there to ease production and improve graphic/layout standards but the internet had yet to become significant enough to impact on the postal fanzine as the default distribution method.

At university, I was a member of the SF club, but this was almost as notional as my membership of the *Treasure Trap Live Action Role-playing* group. My main focus was the Games Society, getting involved in a long on-going campaign set in Middle-Earth and that other great role-playing game of *Student Politics*. At least one of the people I knew at college via the Students Union is now an MP.

Probably my biggest period of reading SF was immediately after university, as I splurged almost exclusively on Philip K. Dick. I worked my way through everything the local library had plus whatever paperbacks I could afford. (This was the very late 1980s, when he was posthumously becoming more "mainstream.") The only ones I still seem to have are



BIG QUESTIONS ONLY EVOKE OTHERS

Flow My Tears the Policeman Said and The Preserving Machine short story collection. Oh, and Michael Bishop's Philip K. Dick Is Dead, Alas, which I must admit I thought was an enjoyable/fantastic romp, but nothing more. Now that I seem to be starting on a new wave of SF-reading, I'm going back and working through the PKD books that I never got around to before, starting with The Man in the High Castle.

I published my own postal games fanzeen for 142 issues both before and after university, mostly on a three-weekly frequency. All but a few photocopied special issues were done on an old Roneo 870 electric mimeograph – I was one of the leading lights of the “Real Zeens are Mimeo” movement (our own 1990s equivalent of the Great Staple War). I was also involved in various hobby services, and in running Manorcon, the UK's (and, to the best of our knowledge, the world's) largest Diplomacy convention of the day, firstly as Tournament Director and subsequently as Treasurer. Games conventions are probably a little bit easier on the convention committee members than their SF equivalent, in that we don't have to worry about programming – just provide a hall full of tables for people to play games on, and maybe some

YOU MEAN  
FANDOM IS  
STILL ALIVE?



shiny trophies. But the hassles of keeping attendees happy, dealing with the management and trying to set a convention fee that recovers just about your exact costs from an unknown number of attendees are pretty much the same.

From 1994 onwards, I largely drifted away from the postal games hobby, as marriage and career took more of a focus in my life. I kept running the occasional postal game until 2000, but even that gradually drifted away. It wasn't really until I left my previous high-stress, high-commitment job earlier this year that I had the time to get involved again. And this time, my interests seem to be much more on the SF side of fandom rather than games. So I certainly still consider my-

self a neo-fan in SF terms, but there can't be many neo-fans with over 150 issues of various paper fanzeens (and over 50 issues of an e-fanzeen) behind them – even if the said fanzeens are from the “wrong” fandom!

(ObDisclaimer: Much of this was originally written for my contribution to e-APA's September distribution, but since that has a maximum circulation of 11, I don't feel too self-plagiarising in repeating it here.)

— Peter Sullivan.

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gas Futurists at its January 2006 get together. McCarthy, secured through the wbrwepeising auspices of David Gordon, is sure to have a lot of interesting and perceptive things to say about our world's future — and the way science fiction approaches it.

It is hoped that a guest of his strong stfnal interest will encourage Vegas' fan community to visit the Futurists and get a first-hand view of this active and interesting discussion group.

### SNAFFU Listserv Adjusts Format!

Following a good open discussion on the

SNAFFU listserv, club president Michael Bernstein has changed the reply system to conform to the most popular set-up.

Hitting “reply” now creates an email form with the listserv as the recipient. Previously, the user had to use “reply all” or the intended post went only to the person who last added to the thread.

This should make the SNAFFU listserv easier to use and, therefore, draw more participants and traffic. VFW has already noted a small upswing in postings and encourages Vegas fans to sign up.

(It's free, Rebecca).

### Josh Andrews Hold Sales!

Citing the need to raise some cash, Joshua Andrews ([Andrews1701@gmail.com](mailto:Andrews1701@gmail.com)) has announced that he is selling an unusual assortment of items that may well be of interest to fans in Vegas (and elsewhere).

Here is how Joshua describes the items:

Legos Galore - About 1 Million Legos. In

Good Condition. Separated in 3 containers. \$10.00 each or all 3 for \$25.00

Star Trek Memorabilia - Many things from an Autographed Photo of Patrick Stewart to Action Figures to Books...

Pictures, Clothes, Non Star Trek Books...

EVERYTHING MUST GO!!

The actual sale will take place on October 8-9 at the Cosmic Tree House (6400 Cosmo Lane)

### Heard Around Vegas Fandom...

Condolences to Bill & Laurie Kunkel on the automobile accident death of Crystal. The Kunkels helped Crystal tremendously during her teen years and actually became her guardian between the ages of 15 and 18. Although Crystal came from a horrifying environment, the Kunkels' aid and support allowed Crystal to move out of that situation, marry and start a family. What a pity her young life was cut short, at 19, before she had fully tasted the gifts Bill and Laurie gave her...

Marc Cram, popular member of Las Vegants and contributor to *Wild Heirs*, has returned to Las Vegas after several years! It is hoped that the affable Mr. Palindrome will soon resume attending the meetings...

Ayesha Ashley has been gigging with a band. The Trufan Thrush played with the group on Saturday. So far, it doesn't look like the band's schedule will conflict with Vegants meetings...

Aileen Forman is waiting for word of a very exciting job on a daily newspaper in her new homeland...

The second issue of *Implications* has lots of content by and about Las Vegas Fandom. Check it out at efanazines.com...

### Chatback: The VFW Letter Column!

*We've got some choice LoCs, so let's get to them without lengthy preamble...*

*Just as the sun brightens the awakening day, so, too, does this lead-off writer illuminate our fannish day... (That's what he said for me to say.)*

### Shelby Vick

I had a letter published in Chatback -- *and* I was in WAHF! In number 44, I was *active!*

I'm sure rich brown opened Pandora's Box with his discussion of 'What is a fanzine?' To hell with 'Which one was first?' . . . except that, of course, you have to decide what one *is* before you can establish which one was first. . . . MY take on it combines some of his.

For instance, its publisher has to be a fan. Its contents. . .? Well, discussion of sf or conventions or science aren't needed at all! Discussion of fans or fanac would do -- but, mostly, it should contain things some fans would find interesting, regardless of the subject. Humor is helpful. Remember - our fanzines aren't the only amateur publications put out by fans of different subjects - the pulps, stamp collecting, etc. *But* -- our fanzines are the only group where you can read zine after zine and *never* find sf mentioned!

*What?* At SNAFFU meetings, they actually discuss *science*? How noble!

*Arnie: Why, Shelby Vick, did you track science fiction all over this nice, clean fanzine? Don't you realize that, at the mere mention of it, ears have perked up all around the world as the sercon shamble in the general direction of this defenseless (though charming) publication?*

*Now, with weightier matters, comes this letter of comment from a New York fan legend now living it up in the BArea...*

### Dick Lupoff

"Science Fiction League of Extraordinary Fuggheads" -- what a brilliant concept! No, I've never seen that, and will try and navigate to it. If I fail I'll come back weeping and snivelling and beg for a specific URL or for a copy of the file itself. But first I'll go and look for it.

But I've already timed out my fanac connection for the day. Gotta start writing a short story called "Hebrews Have No Horns." <g>

Glad to hear that Joyce is home. Someday (maybe) I'll write up my 2003 hospital experience. Innards blew up and my docs told me I'd have to give up all food and drink until things quieted down so they could go in there and do a repair job.



# About Calendar Conflicts

I spent part of this week contemplating the reasons I started *Vegas Fandom Weekly*. That's something I have done, at intervals, since I put together the first issue of "Las Vegas' Sorta Weekly Newszine." I tend to do it when I have to make tough decisions about *VFW*, because it reminds me of the mission I set when I started this weekly marathon..

I began *VFW* about 10 months ago, because Las Vegas Fandom had sunk to the lowest point since the Katzes met the Formans in 1990. There were very few events, even less real fanac and the only club sure of surviving was Las Vegants (and our meetings had gotten smaller, too.) With wifely prodding from Joyce, I set out to change the situation.

My goal was, and is, nothing less than the regeneration of the Las Vegas fan community. The purpose of *VFW* is to increase the quantity and quality of fan events in this city, help newcomers learn about the subculture of Fandom, increase connections between Las Vegas and the rest of Fandom and nurture creative fanac. I won't claim responsibility for the abrupt turnaround of Vegas Fandom, but so far I am pretty damn pleased to be able to report that things are good and getting better. Two cons are in planning stages, there's

**"BECAUSE YOU CAN DO IT" IS NOT A JUSTIFICATION FOR DOING IT.**



a local apa, some fanzine publishing, lots more events and a large increase in participation.

Yet progress is seldom linear and it's a rare road that has no bumps and potholes. We hit one this week. It's a pretty small, even insignificant, thing in itself, but it undermines a fannish principle that has worked particularly well for this city.

The Las Vegas Fandom Golden Rule: **The calendar is big enough to avoid scheduling conflicts of events open to all Las Vegas fans.**

I have no delusions of grandeur; I don't run Las Vegas Fandom — and wouldn't want to if I could. Anyone is free to hold any event any time they choose. Independence of action is also a fannish principle.

I *do* run this fanzine, however,

and I can't in good conscience support and promote events that ignore Vegas' time-tested mutual agreement to avoid conflicts. They can hold 'em, but I don't have to cover 'em.

I haven't done anything about this week's unnecessary scheduling conflict, because it wouldn't be fair to take action with warning.

This is the warning. If the event organizer can't be bothered to avoid conflicts, then I won't take the trouble to cover it. — Arnie

In the meanwhile, not to worry (I was told), we'll keep you nourished and hydrated intravenously. Thus began a stretch of 46 days without anything passing my lips except an occasional grumble of despair. (Well, I was allowed an occasional "ice chip" to keep my lips and tongue from turning to rust and flaking away. But I was warned not to swallow any.)

There was also a very nasty pain-management situation. For a while I was on heavy doses of morphine, which I did not like at all. Too much mental fuzziness involved. And after a while the morphine was inadequate to the job, so my doc

said, "I'd like to switch you to Dilaudid."

I'd never heard of Dilaudid and asked him what it was.

"Think of it as morphine times ten," he told me.

"Hmm," I said, "is there a dependency concern?" (Thinking: Dick Lupoff, Wild-Eyed Drug Fiend.)

"It's highly addictive," my doc replied, "but let's deal with one problem at a time. We have to get your insides fixed first. Then we'll worry about the other."

"Oh."

"And besides, in that other matter, I know you pretty well and I'm not worried about you."

(RAL thinking, "Has he uncovered my seamy past in the Dope Dens of Fanoclast Fandom?")

But in fact, I liked the Dilaudid -- no mental fuzziness. One shot of it and there was a moment of satori followed by two painless hours of mental clarity, followed by another shot of the stuff.

In due course I came into the care of an absolute genius surgeon (about whom I'll tell you someday, too). He worked some amazingly science-fictional wizardry on my guts and after that -- yippee! -- I didn't need so much as an aspirin. Which is a good thing, as I'm allergic to aspirin. And no Dilaudid cravings, none whatsoever.

I mentioned this to my friend Howard Pearlstein, who is not an actual MD but has a strong history as a medical researcher and documentarian. Howard told me this was not surprising. "People who use narcotics for medical pain control almost never become addicted. People who used them recreationally often do."

Anyhow, once I was ready to go home my doc asked me if I was eating regular meals again. I told him I was trying, but my appetite had simply gone away. I lay there watching the Food Channel on TV -- Julia Child's Kitchen, followed by a faux university series called, no kidding, "BBQ U" -- and didn't even feel hungry. And this was after 46 days without a bit of food. I watched the programs and decided that I felt that way a eunuch does in a harem. I could appreciate the esthetics of what I was watching, but as for the lower regions of my physique, no pasa nada.

Doc said, "Okay, I guess you'll just have to smoke some dope, then. Here, I'll give you some sources."

But in fact, once I got home my appetite came back unassisted. Darn. Interestingly, I eventually regained the 40 pounds I'd lost while I was sick, and then -- click! -- my weight leveled off exactly where it had been before the whole unpleasant series of events commenced.

Lissen, this is ridiculous.

That short story has to be written!

*Arnie: The tug-of-war between pain management and mental clarity is a problem that currently besets Joyce. All the invasive surgery on her ankle causes a lot of pain and makes her pine for meds, but she recoils from the mental fuzziness that pain killers often produce.*

*I maintain that a little disorientation might enhance her role as Fandom's Gracie Allen, but she points out that it takes a lot of thought to come up with all that seemingly crazy stuff. Her near-absence from Implications #2 resulted primarily from not feeling on top of her mental game. She's still proofreading well, which is a mercy to readers of this fanzine.*

*Let's stay in the BAarea for a while, because next up is one from one of the best and most frequent Chatback contributors...*

### Chris Garcia

Hey! It's another LoC from me as I sit at my work computer, waiting for my contribution to my first FAPA mailing to finish printing. I've already done 2/3 of an issue of *The Drink Tank* while I printed the first batch.

Glad to hear that Joyce is back at home. It's always tough to recover from any surgery, or so says the guy whose only actual surgery was a knee operation that took ten minutes and ended up only having to stay off of it for less than a

day. You can tell that she's still got her spirits up, which after a long road as she's traveled is almost a miracle. Having fen around to drop by and say hello helps a lot too, I imagine.

You know, the phrase Full Frontal Fandom can have a downside. Then again, there are a few lasses I've run into at Cons who I wouldn't mind seeing the Full Monty. Hmmmmmm... objection withdrawn.

There are a lot of things that make being a part of any fan group difficult. BASFA is



# Changes in the Wind

# SNAFFU CENTRAL

During a recent discussion with Arnie Katz (Not-So-Secret-Master-Of-Fandom), he suggested that meeting attendance would be boosted if all SNAFFU meetings were centralized at a single location. I agree, and several members have brought up the fact in the past that traveling to the opposite side of the city has deterred them from attending both monthly meetings.

I have been reluctant to institute this change, due to the long history of meeting at two different Borders bookstores in widely spaced locations on the the second and fourth Fridays of the month.

So, I am opening up the discussion to Fandom at large (especially those with more experience in club management), to see if a single central location would likely entice more people to attend meetings.

The basic idea is that if we can find a suitable location that is equally accessible from most of the city, more people will attend meetings.

## Pros:

One reason I think that fewer people attend both meetings than in the past is that Friday night traffic is much worse (and more dangerous) than in the past, deterring a drive to the other side of town.

## Cons:

A single location might turn out to be equally inconvenient for everyone.

Thoughts, suggestions, and hard-won experience with location changes are all very welcome.

A few people have critiqued various email formatting conventions, so I'd like to mention some suggestions. These

aren't hard-and-fast rules, just best practices:

- \* Quote from the email you are replying to.
- \* Post your reply below the quoted material, not at the top.
- \* Attribute the material you've quoted. Most email clients do this automatically when you hit 'Reply'. If yours doesn't, please add the attribution.
- \* Trim the quoted material to include only the portion of message that you are actually replying to.
- \* When composing a reply to the list, start by hitting 'Reply'. Just starting a new email (even if you use the same subject) breaks the conversation thread unnecessarily.
- \* If you are a digest subscriber, the thread will be broken in any case no matter how you reply. Please at least re-write the subject line to match the thread you are posting to, as 'Re: X' messages in Y topics' isn't very helpful.

Now, personally, I have some email habits that have been refined over many years that apparently make reading email more difficult for some users, such as:

Interleaving my reply within the quoted material.  
Relying on angle brackets (eg >>) to indicate quoted material and the 'quote level', and on the absence of quoting to indicate new material I've written.

Abandoning these habits will be hard, but I am going to make the effort, as I do not want to exclude anyone from the conversation.

-- Michael Bernstein

sorta different, as we're a group that loves socializing and just being nutty, only buttressed by a strange form or Parliamentary procedure. I'm a member of the N3F, just joined this year, and I have to say that it's a good group, if only to say Hey, I'm a Neffer.

I've heard about the battle between the two sides of fandom about which was the first convention. It's hard to deny that the Leeds event was really a convention and that the Philly trip was more a gathering, but on the other hand, I'm an American so Leeds is second! That's the same reasoning I have to call ENIAC the first computer and not any of the British things that preceded it!

Charles seems to have been a part of a damn lively SNAFFU meeting. I never developed a

shorthand, and my long hand is bad enough that I don't think I should ever try.

And it's good to hear that rich brown's latest troubles were less than he, and the rest of fandom, had feared.

You know, I met Dick Lupoff about 10 years ago, and it wasn't until recently, right before CorFlu I guess, that I realised that he was the same guy who had done Xero. I guess it had been about a decade or so since I had last read them, so the connection probably wasn't there. The discussion at this year's CorFlu that Dick was a part of was great. I was sitting next to Frank Wu while he did a cover for Xero, full-well knowing that it hadn't been published for ages!

It odd, Lloyd mentioned that there was a lull in

## Contact Information

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

the pubbing of those speedsters like me around CascadiaCon time, but I put out two things right before the con. I think he's just starting to come around to my way of thinking that you can FANAC around the clock

*Arnie: I see Bill Rotsler as the Spiritual Father of Full Frontal Fanac, but in my capacity as captain of this fanzine, I will now make you the movement's titular head.*

*Las Vegrants is, as Joyce often reminds me, a bunch of people who like hanging around together. We have lots of discussions, but very few arguments. We don't argue about "organizational concerns," because we don't waste time on crap like constitutions and procedures. It may not be coincidence that Vegrants meetings are the best-attended fan events in town.*

*Goin' back to Glitter City with our fan community's candidate for "Best Neofan of 2005"...*

### **Teresa Cochran**

I'm continually amazed to find out who has had a history in fandom. I'll was pleased to read Richard Lupoff's letter about Fred Chappell. I loved reading Chappell's books before I discovered fanzine fandom, and now I have yet another reason to admire him.

His activity in fandom explains the flights of fancy in his somewhat autobiographical writing. Some examples: the family piloting a spaceship and the appearance of various eccentric relatives with supernatural qualities. The books are a real joy to read, and fun to find in "mainstream" or mundane writing.

*Arnie: Classically, Fandom attracted talented people who like words. It is not surprising that so many have gone on to careers as writers, editors and other creative content professionals.*

*The Fan Who Never Gafiated makes a welcome return to Chatback with a fascinating stroll through fanhistory...*

### **Hank Luttrell**

Okay, I got out my file of *Starlings* and checked. The first issue was dated Feb. 1964; probably too late to have been actually traded for the first issue of *Cursed*. I don't remember how accurate that date was, but as we all know, the way such things work it was probably dated much earlier than it actually appeared!

I thought a bit about how I first got involved in fandom, and I believe I ran across some fanzine reviews somewhere -- in a prozine? It must have been. So I must have, indeed, mailed out some

coins to fanzines that sounded interesting -- probably all of them!

The first two issues of *Starling* were actually published by a young fellow named Tim Eklund, I was a "co-editor." Did you remember that you contributed to the first issue of *Starling*, with a short story? You know, those first few issues of *Starling* were the only fanzines I ever published that included straight up amateur fiction. I learned my lesson fast in that area. I decided there was plenty of bad fiction being published without my help. I mention this partly because I've seen the suggestion in print here and there that I published a short story thought to be the worst ever, in an issue of the St. Louis fan newzine OSFAn. Didn't happen. That issue of OSFAn was published after I turned it over to Doc Clarke.

*Arnie: Lenny Bailes and I published *Cursed* #4 about the time you did *Starling* #1 (with Tim*

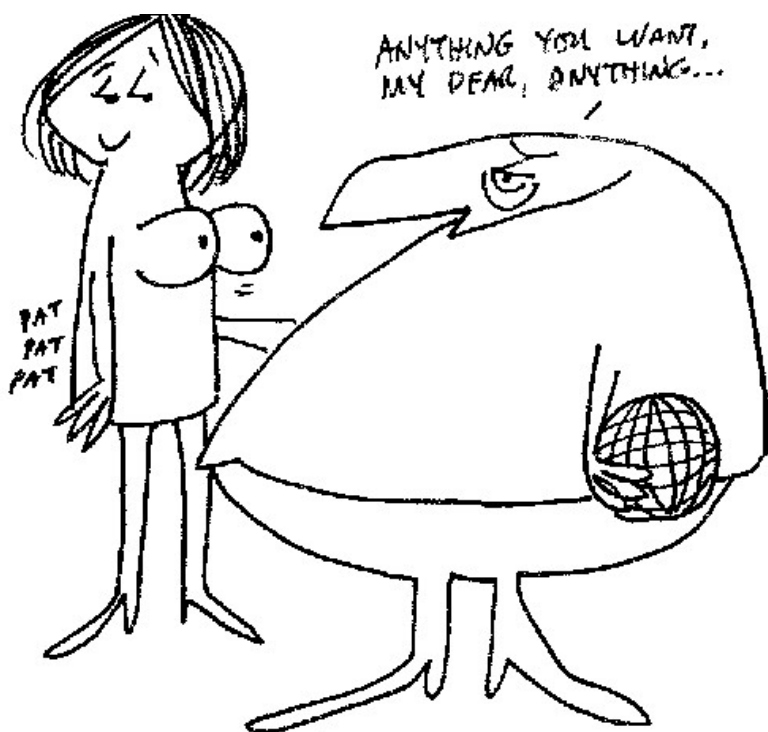
*Eklund*), I think you sent that dime to me as a result of Mike McInerney's review of the second or third issue of *Cursed in Castle of Frankstein*. What's important is that *Here We Are Again*. Hope you enjoy things enough to stick around the fanzine scene a bit.

Hideous to hear that anything you did has been confused with the productions of Douglas O. Clark. I recall his issues of OSFAn as not just ad, but fundamentally embarrassing. He specialized in things like adding imaginary sequences to his meeting reports that had various female club members doing rather outrageous (and uncharacteristic) things. He chased a number of worthwhile people out of the group, as I recall, including the Yaffees,

And now, direct from the BArea - here comes another mind-boggled letter of commenr...

# Potshot's Cartoon Theater





### Jack Calvert

Firstly, I'm glad to hear that Joyce is back, and you didn't have to spend too much time rattling around alone in the Launch Pad. I hope that the recovery goes as well as the operation, and that the High Priestess is soon tap dancing her way to the stars.

Richard Lupoff's comments about Seth Johnson in 44's letter column were very fair.

I never met Seth face-to-face (probably just as well), but I was caught by one of his "contact fandom" ads in the back of *F&SF*. I sent two bucks for the package of zines, and there was a lot of crud in it, but also some good stuff: *Yandro*, Bob Vardemann's *Sandworm*, and *Locus* (on buff twiltone!) stick in my memory. I exchanged a few letters with him, and my impression is that what he had to say was coherent enough (though I can't remember now what it was). Maybe there was a better grade of fugghead *Back In The Day*.

Which brings me to your column in 43 on the relation of fanzine fandom and All Known Fandom. It seems that the membership of current world cons is larger than All Known Fandom was in the 40's. And projecting the figures ahead in a proper scientific manner, by the turn of the next

millennium the con committee alone will be larger

Nooo, the mind boggles. I'm not sure either where the new fans (as we know them) are going to come from, but it is good to see so many of the originals coming back.

I took a look at the Con-Jose program book to verify the faint trace of fact in the previous paragraph, and I have to say despite all the changes in fandom, its style and outlook make it a recognizable descendant of earlier fan productions.

Up here in the BArea, the weather seems to be short-cycling between summer and winter. The New Orleans event has prompted me to look to my emergency supplies.

### Peter Sullivan

Re: organised fandom vs. insurgency. One of the things that I always liked about the postal games hobby was that we managed to square the paradox of having hobby 'officers' without having a hobby organisation. During the 1970s, the UK postal games hobby was dominated by the National Games Club (NGC), but by the time I got involved this had long collapsed. Hobby service custodians would be appointed by their predecessors, based on hobby consensus (or, being the only volunteer).

When they had had enough, they would appoint their own successors, based on hobby consensus (or, only having one volunteer). If a new job needed doing (e.g. talking to the makers of Diplomacy about getting advertising flyers into the boxes), someone would volunteer to do it. The few occasions where hobby service custodians either dropped out or weren't pulling their weight were handled by, guess what, hobby consensus.

Attempts to retro-fit a bureaucracy of some kind (such as in the US hobby by the late Robert Sacks) were always resisted, as no-one could see what benefits they would bring. And apparently there was at least one case in the NGC days

of someone spending so much effort getting elected to a hobby office that, by the time they had won it, they were burned out.

On calendars, I had always assumed that the hobbit month names in Lord of the Rings were creative morning. I mean, come on, "Blotmath"?

"Winterfilth"? However, I subsequently discovered in an Australian postal games fanzine (see, all knowledge \*is\* in fanzines) that they were minor Anglicisations of the Anglo-Saxon originals.

Surely the main function of 14-year old neo-fans in modern Fanzine Fandom would be to go visit Joyce in the Rehab centre and wind the staff up even more by calling her "Nana"?

Part of my current job involves working on school budgets, and one of our schools is called Toner Avenue Primary School. Every time I come across the name, I get a mental picture of a school full of 100+ little Arnies being taught how to grow their mustaches, work a photocopier and being set writing assignments to produce 2,000-word fanfiction pieces.

Worrying.

*A resurgent fan asks an intriguing fanhistory question...*

### Hank Luttrell

Thanks for the recent VFW. I always enjoy reading it.

This issue I especially liked the photo of Bea Mahaffey and Shelby Vick. Who wrote the caption? Shelby? Arnie?

See, I thought Mahaffey was a well known fan personality before she started working on Ray Palmer's magazines, as well as becoming his wife. I might be wrong, I'm not very good at keeping these time lines straight. But I am rather fascinated with Palmer's career. For one thing, while his work with

*Amazing Stories* and the other Ziff-Davis magazines was in Chicago, his history started and ended in Wisconsin, my home. For another, while his work certainly had a dark side, with the Shaver Hoax and his strong connection to the beginnings of the flying saucer as a popular culture icon, he also did fascinating things with his little science fiction magazines out of Amherst, Wisconsin, all with very little budget. Mahaffey was a charismatic editor, in my opinion.

*Arnie: You've shaken my confidence, but I thought Ray Palmer sent Bea Mahaffey to Fandom as a piece offering, knowing that her winning personality and voluptuous beauty would intrigue the mostly male fan population. As I understood it, fans liked her, but there wasn't a huge amount of rub off for Palmer.*

*I couldn't agree more about Ray Palmer's brilliance as an editor. The man who edited the first fanzine had a way of filling a professional magazine with a warm and inviting ambience. He was a sleazy hustler, but he wrote some of the greatest editorials I ever read in the prozines.*

*Did you mean "Ray Palmer" in that last line?*

*I doubt that Bea Mahaffey made many editorial decisions, though I could be wrong.*

*A couple of issues back, I repeated a story that unfairly assigned blame for the gaffiation of Creath Thorne to a snub at St. Louiscon by Hank Luttrell. Although I've apologized to both for perpetuating this canard, I'm also happy to present (by permission) Creath's own view of the matter...*

### Creath Thorne

...the premise of the mention was just wrong: that a snub by Hank Luttrell at St. Louiscon had driven me out of fandom. I'll admit that I was a highly sensitive young man—but things didn't happen that way. In fact, the college year after St. Louiscon in Columbia, Missouri where I occasionally hung out with Hank,



## Las Vegas Fan Event Calendar

### **Dinner & a Movie** October 1 4:30 PM

VSFA continues its popular series of movie outings with a trip to the Crown Theater at Neonopolis to see “Serenity.”

### **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.

### **VSFA ‘First Monday’ Meeting** October 3 7:00 PM

Club business and socializing are the main features when one of Las Vegas’ busiest fan groups gets together at the Clark Count Library (1 block East of Maryland, corner of Escondido & Flamingo Road).

### **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 Nog Weekend Open Party** Blochtober 15 7:30 PM

The informal club meets on the first and third Saturdays of the month at the the home of Arnie and Joyce Katz.

### **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.

Lesleigh, Jim Turner, Terry Hughes, and Doug Carroll was probably the most time I’ve ever spent in person with fans.

I’m afraid the causes of my drifting away from fandom were far more boring than a Fatal Snub: grad school, falling in love (fortunately to the woman I’m still married to), the Vietnam war, & my father’s serious illness. When I shortly went off to Chicago to grad school, I lived in conditions of such poverty that my children listen with open mouths of those years—conditions that really prevented any participation in fandom at all, or anything else that did not involve an impoverished Life of the Mind

*Arnie: Thanks for setting the record straight. Now let’s look to the future and, I hope, the possibility of a Creathe Thorne fan article.*

### **Space and Time**

... are running short, though the fires of Fandom burn bright. Send a letter of comment or some news or something for issue #47 and keep the se pages full.

— Arnie Katz

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... and a *ton* of news.