

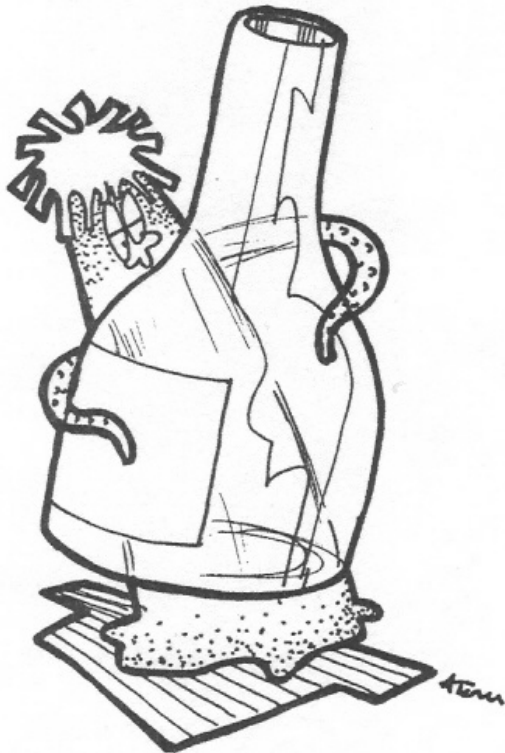
# VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

## Las Vegas Fandom Halloween Party Gets Spooky This (10/29) Saturday!

This coming (10/29) Saturday is a big day for the Las Vegas fan community and, especially, local neofan James Willey, The newcomer, who attended his first fan event only a few months ago, steps forward as the host of the Las Vegas Fandom Halloween Party.

Carol Kern, always a notable lover of Halloween, is one of several fans helping James W putting together what looks to be an ambitious and well-prepared celebration.

The Halloween Party itself is a welcome revival of a long-standing Las Vegas fan tradition. Ken & Aileen Forman hosted it in the name of SNAFFU for a decade, but their departure from Glitter City left the party with an uncertain future. Well-meaning attempts to continue the institution foundered due to spotty support, but it



## Vegas Fan Events This Week

Here's What's Happening

**SNAFFU Meeting**  
**Friday (10/28 8:00 PM)**

**Las Vegas Fandom**  
**Halloween Party**  
**Saturday (10/29 8:00 PM)**

**Good-Bye Josh Dinner**  
**Sunday (10/30 6:00 PM)**

*Check out the Calendar  
and preview stories*

looks like this one will firmly re-establish the party in the Vegas event line-up.

Here's the key info from an update Roxanne Gibbs posted on the SNAFFU listserv:

*"The United Fans of Vegas Halloween Party is just days away.*

*\* Date: Saturday October 29th, 2005*

*\* Time: 8:00 pm until the last fan is standing.*

*\* Place: James Willey's home,*

*\* Phone: e-mail for phone number*

*<horgon.vsfa@gmail.com>*

*\* Address: 7279 Clearwater Circle*

*"Special Notes:*

*\* Linda & Ron Bushyager need a ride to the party, e-mail LindaBushyager@aol.com if you can help."*

# Inside Story The Great Pumpkin

I read, on the SNAFFU listserv, that some VSFAans are getting together to carve pumpkins for this coming Saturday's Las Vegas Fandom Halloween Party. The part of the post that sticks in my mind, and possibly my craw, is the mention that they will be carving pumpkins for VSFA, SNAFFU and Las Vegrants.

This well-meant gesture surprised me. Las Vegrants is not ordinarily perceived as a pumpkin-oriented group. We are more likely to carve fuggheads than pumpkins. Nonetheless, it was very nice of them to think of the Vegrants – and I didn't at all envy them scooping out the smelly goop that lurks inside that cheery orange skin.

It did set me to wondering what, if anything, would be appropriate to carve to represent Las Vegrants. Should it be the ruggedly handsome face of Bob Tucker or the Sensitive Fannish Face of Charles Burbee? Or maybe the pumpkin should emulate the debonair visage of William Rotsler. I guess it could even look like me, though that would definitely be more trick than treat.

Then I reminded myself that, despite willing spirits, the VSFAans weren't master carvers capable of copying those famous fannish physiognomies. A "V" for "Vegrants" would be ok, I guess, but it wouldn't look like much on a pumpkin and there are a lot of things that start with "V" in this town.

Symbolism may be the best solution. Considering the group's support of the Las Vegas fan community and the ecufenical movement, I think a hand with one finger upraised to denote Unity would be ideal.

And since it's for Las Vegrants, how about making it the *middle* finger?

-- Arnie

Carol Kern has this, in part, to say:

*"We are mere days away from madness and mayhem! The Vegas Fandom Halloween Party is this Saturday! If you haven't sent me an RSVP please do so by Friday at 5 PM so we can have a fair idea of the amount of food and drink needed.*

*"If you don't send an RSVP and decide to drop by the party anyway, we'd love to see you."*

Those with Special Needs should contact Carol.

Unfortunately, Joyce's physical condition won't permit us to attend, but this well-prepared event de-

serves support — and it's also likely to be a lot of fun.

## **SNAFFU 10/28 Eastside Meeting Will Contemplate the Cosmos!**

"Science Fiction stories with Good Astronomy" is the featured topic at this (10/28) Friday's SNAFFU meeting, the group's first formal meeting in a month. (The Westside meeting was turned into a dinner when the usual venue became unavailable due to renovations.)

*Continued page 5*

**Vegas Fandom Weekly #50, Bloctober 27 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), David Gordon (Futurists liaison) and Joyce Katz (proofreading).

**Reporters this issue:** Roxanne Gibbs, David Gordon, Carol Kern, Laurie Kunkel and Joyce Katz

**Art/Photo Credits:** ATom (from "ATom: A Tribute") (1), Shelby Vick (4), Bill "Potshot" Kunkel (9), Bill Rotsler (all other cartoons)

**Columnists This Issue:** Shelby Vick, Richard Lupoff, Gilda Cabral

VFW is free by request — and you may get it anyway. It can be downloaded at the SNAFFU and VSFA sites as well as at efanazines.com. No costume fans dressed as Klingons were harmed during the production of this fanzine.

Member: fwa. Supporter: AFAL. Believer: United Fans of Vegas; Toner II in 2006! Vegas Westercon in '08!

# How to Write for Fanzines

# Katzenjammer

Once upon a time, Charles Burbee wrote an article called “How to Stop Writing for Fanzines.” This was maybe 60 years ago or more, so it figures that things have changed since Burb banged out that one on the typewriter. Even he, in his wisdom, could not foresee a day when fans would develop immunity to writing for fanzines, rendering his advice obsolete.

Nowadays, neofans are born with a string of excuses and evasions as long as your arm – or even my arm. Las Vegas fans neofans have shown a remarkable ability to stop writing for fanzines, many without having even started.

I’m sure that even Burbee would agree that things have now Gone Too Far. It is one thing to convince the suggestible, other-directed fakefans to not quit writing, but when it cuts into *my* entertainment, it has gone too damn far.

So the purpose of this essay is to help you *start* writing for fanzines. Once you’re buried in deadlines and six of your articles languish in the archive files of as many fanzine editors, none of whom show the slightest inclination to actually publish, there will be time to consider Burbee’s message.

You can write for your own fanzine or someone else’s. One advantage of writing for your own fanzine is that the editor won’t say you’re making a fool of yourself. Of course, that is also the major disadvantage. It’s actually a little harder to write *and* edit a whole fanzine than to write one article.

So let’s say you are a typically shiftless fan and decide to write an article for a fanzine. You’ll endear yourself to a faned and have to do less work in the process.

The next question: Should you write an article and then pick a fanzine or vice versa? Either will work, eventually, but it is easier to find a fanzine in which you’d like to appear and then write something appropriate. Assuming you can write well enough to meet the fanzine’s standards, a targeted article is likely to find a home faster than one that needs a particular setting. You’re not

going to place a book review in *Implications* or fabulous faanish humor in *Fosfax*.

Once you’ve chosen a fanzine, take the time to thoroughly read an issue – more if you can get them. Knowing the audience is a tremendous help and the act of reading a fanzine you enjoy may spark some article ideas

Reading the target fanzine may also cause a flash of realization or an anxiety attack, depending on your self-estimation of your ability. At times like that, you should remember that the fanzine fan community is very tolerant of neos and very much hopes they will “succeed” and become fixtures in the subculture. Fans will want to read your piece, because they want to know more about your thoughts and experiences. (If you can make them laugh a few times, that’s a plus.)

Some neo fanwriters freeze in the clutch. Again, remember that it’s more like telling a story in your living room rather than on *David Letterman*. Others retreat into the archaic formalism of academia, a sure way to create a dull article that repels much more strongly than it impresses. If you’re new to writing, think of it as a letter to a friend and don’t worry too much about the artistry. The nuances will come with repetition and practice. Don’t put on airs or claim superior knowledge or intelligence; chances are some of the other fans are ‘way ahead of you on both counts. No sense riling them, right?

New fanwriters are often uncertain about what to write. My problem is knowing when to stop, so I’m not the best person to ask. These one-page “Katzenjammer” essays are like haiku to me.

I recommend writing about yourself and your experiences. Fans are always interested in other fans, so you’re halfway home with an essay like that.

The important thing is not to write an article on how to write for fanzines. I’ve done that and you don’t want to piss me off.

— Arnie

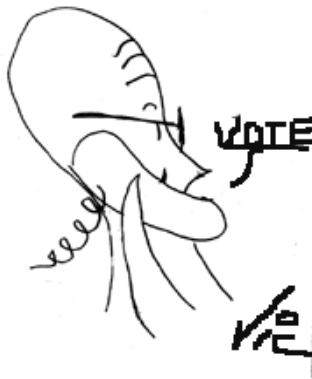
# NOW & Again Confessions of a Political Pollster

My wife Suzanne found the ad for this one. "Telephone pollsters need!" She called and found out they wanted people from four PM til eight PM. More importantly, she found that they were trying to oust a political bigwig she and I were both against, so she signed us both up. (They were only paying \$20 per night, six nights a week, but, with both of us working, it would be a nice addition to our budget and would fit in with my convenience store hours. And, frankly, I would have gladly donated my time!)

Let me throw in some background. This politician was someone I had known for many years, since before he got deeply into politics. He was a lawyer (but isn't that something of an oxymoron – a politician who started as a lawyer?) And I met him because he was dabbling in Little Theatre stuff. (For a while in my life, I was more active in Little Theatre than fandom.) ANYway, he seemed nice enuf, and we got along. When he ran for the state senate, I backed him to the hilt, and was pleased when he won.

And won again the next term!

Now, there are no term limits for senators and he became a fixture. "Our" senator. He wore the Good Ole Boy cloak. . . .



But, when a new interstate was planned for Northwest Florida, we got a look beneath the cloak. Over the years, Our Boy had bought several hundred acres maybe fifty miles north of Panama City. (I had heard he got them as a result of his lawfirm 'helping' to settle an estate. . . and, when the heirs couldn't pay the bill, the lawfirm took the land in payment! Of course, you can hear all kinds of rumors. . . .)

Well, back to the proposed interstate.

Now, there already existed a state highway that went from Pensacola to Tallahassee. Many of us assumed the interstate would run the same path, and the state would work out some appropriate deal with the feds to swap it out. That would put the interstate running across the northern border of our county and would increase property values.

Nope!

Our Good Ole Boy's property was, as I said, further north and, strangely enuf, the new interstate ended up traveling over a good chunk of his property. The feds, of course, paid him for the land they used. . . . In fact, the interstate ended up going Where No Road Has Gone Before. With a few twists and turns, it managed to use a lot of property of friends of his, too.

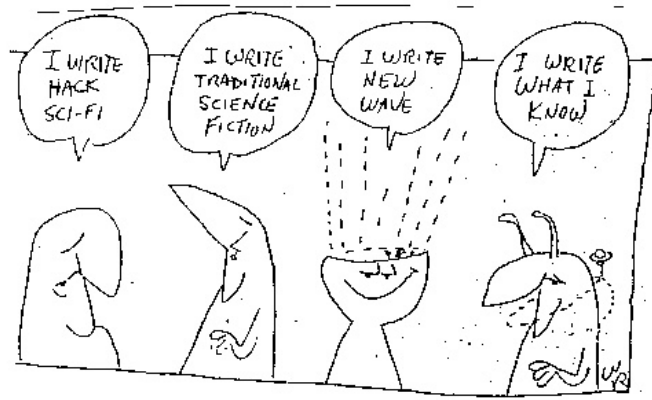
All sheer coincidences, of course!

So, as I said, we were willing, even eager, to work to unseat him!

The first poll was simple and straightforward, something along the line of: "If a new, qualified person came along to run against our present senator, would you vote for him?"

Now, we weren't supposed to politic on this first one – but, if the respondent was willing to switch, we made note of it. If the respondent was EAGER to switch, we put a star beside his/her name, for future reference.

"How'd you get my name?" was asked a few times.



“Sir, you are a registered Republican, and the list of registered Republicans is public property.”

“Oh! Well, if whoever runs against him can do it, I’d like that list made private!”

“I’ll make a note of that, sir.”

We found an encouraging amount of voters who were willing to change. Next, we started introducing our client. He was a lawyer (of course!) but also an active church member all his life, a Sunday School teacher, active in three different community clubs (president of one) and, all in all, A Good Guy.

One response we often got was, “But our present senator has been in for years! We need his

power behind us!”

“Tell me one thing he did to help our county this term – his last two terms, even! He is helping himself and his friends – and Bay County doesn’t seem to be his friend any more!” I would respond.

Suzanne and I didn’t always have the same response, but – because our conviction was so strong – we each made our point and swung more and more voters to our guy.

I’m not going to say that we turned the tide; all I can say for certain is that our man won.

— Shelby Vick

Next

“I’m a fake!”

*Continued from page 2*

The meetings are not solely limited to the topic and include other reports, general conversation and, usually, a very pleasant post-meeting dinner outing.

ity among Las Vegas fans for three main reasons: it’s entirely focused on local fans, it’s fun and it’s cheap. It’s a local amateur press association — a sort of fanzine trading club — that gives everyone a chance to dabble in fanwriting and exchange thoughts and opin-

### **Reminder: Veggrants is 11/5!**

Knowing that Fandom’s (Alleged) Elite cannot be bothered with Mundane calendrical details, *Vegas Fandom Weekly* respectfully calls to the attention of Veggrants that this coming Saturday, 1029, is *not* the first Saturday of the month. Counting on my fingers indicates that it is, I fact, the fifth Saturday of Blochtober.

Las Veggrants, on the other hand, meets on the first and third Saturdays of the month. Thus, there is no Veggrants meeting this Saturday. Go to the Halloween Party and then you can write and tell Joyce and me all about it.

### **SNAPS 7th Disty Sets Page Record!**

The seventh distribution of SNAPS (Southern Nevada Amateur Press Society) didn’t just break the page-count record, it blew it away! The total of 49 pages represents an increase of 15 over the next-largest distribution!

Two contributions — *D’Clutter Bug 2* (Bill & Laurie Kunkel) and *Hard Science Tales #9* (Joyce Katz) tied the record for “largest single publication,” 10 pages, set only last distribution by *Softcore Fantasy Adventures*.

SNAPS continues to grow in popular-



Distribution #7 Oct. 2005



ions with many of their closest fan friends.

It's easy to participate. Just write your contribution and send it to OE (official editor) Joyce Katz. You can send an Acrobat (\*.pdf) or Microsoft Publisher (\*.pub) file, but Joyce will help you set up your material as a fanzine if you can provide her a Word (\*.doc) or even a Text (\*.txt) file. After the deadline, Joyce sends each participant a digital copy of the whole distribution.

You can write about anything that interests you, including your comments on what people say in the last distribution. SNAPS includes both experienced fanwriters like Linda Bushyager and newcomers like James Taylor, so there's room for everyone.

The next SNAPS deadline is November 20. Why not give it a try? (If you have questions, email Joyce at: joyceworley1@cox.net.)

### **Vegas Fans Say 'Good-Bye' to Josh Andrews !**

Joshua Andrews will shortly depart for his new home in Winnipeg and Ruth Davidson has invited everyone who wants to say "good-bye" to meet at Marie Callender's (Eastern and Tropicana) on Sunday (10/30) at 6:00 PM for a farewell dinner.

Joshua came to the Vegas fan community through *Star Trek* Fandom. While maintaining his interest in *ST*, he has started numerous projects and organizations relating to our Fandom in the last year.

The menu includes a choice of meat loaf, lemon chicken or lemon pepper salmon with appropriate sides and beverages. The cost is estimated at \$17, which includes the tip and tax.

### **Art Widner to Visit Vegas This Week!**

It has been a while since he last came to town, but Art Widner will be in town Tuesday through Thursday, before continuing to Arizona to see Earl Kemp. Art is a long-time friend of Las Vegas Fandom and it is hoped that fans will want to see him again — or meet this fabulous fannish character for the first time.

Art will be staying at the Launch Pad. If you'd like to come visit on Tuesday evening or Wednesday day or evening, just give Joyce and me a call (648-5677).

### **Heard Around Vegas (and Fandom)...**

Merric Anderson definitely knows the way to San Jose. In fact, he's there again this week for business. Next week, it's off to Cheyenne, WY. Keep watching these pages to find out when the "Merric Over Merica" Tour comes to a city near you...

"Plastics," a well-meaning fellow counseled Ben in *The Graduate*. Now, 40 or so years later, *our* Ben — Ben Wilson — has taken the advice. He has become the first of the Flippin Five to accept full-time gainful

employment and is working in a plastics factory located near the Arkansas metropolis...

Linda Bushyager reports that she has received feelers from around Fandom about putting on Ditto in Las Vegas. It's a small convention for fanzine fans and fellow travelers that combines a smattering of programming with plenty of socializing. Hmmm... maybe it could be combined in some way with Toner 2, if the Dittoheads didn't mind an August date...

### **ChatBack: The VFW Letter Column**

*The letters of comment continue to pour in – don't take that as a cue to stop! – and I'm getting them into VFW just as fast. Enough preamble; let's get to the lettercol!*

*There's no better way to start ChatBack than with something from Mr. Sunshine...*

### **Shelby Vick**

EeeGAD, Arnie --

I haven't yet written you about #48. How could I be so... so slack!!!

VFW a letterzine? Well, yeah, it does seem to be going that way. And, yeah, it's better than a listserv; there's a week between opportunities, so we get a chance to think our reply over. Yet it's ONLY a week, which keeps it timely. Perfect!

Lotsa egoboo, but I was most impressed by the way Peter Sullivan just tossed off 'Shelby Vickites' as a term for returnees. Hey, lookit me, I'm an icon!

And Peter's right about Puffin Books. I DID run into them in the past, just forgot.

And hey, look! There's another column by Shelby Vick!

*Arnie: I didn't mean that VFW will literally become a letterzine. It does seem that fans are enjoying the opportunity to participate in ChatBack. My approach is that if I get letters of comment, I print 'em, so how much ChatBack expands (or contracts) is pretty much in the hands of the recipients.*

*I almost overlooked these on-target comments, because it was at the tail end of an article sent for VFW.*

### **Richard Lupoff**

One other point -- really just a nitpick. You say, "Most of the early fanzines like *The Time Traveler* and *Fantasy Magazine* were similar to Mundane Ayjay titles in that they were done with hand-set type and then printed on small offset presses."

Well, essentially you have it right, but there's little error in there. The early fanzines were printed on small letter presses, not offset presses. Offset presses (at least as I remember, from some jobs I held a zillion years ago) use a revolving cylinder that picks up an inked image and delivers it to paper. They look a little bit like mimeographs although the process involved is actually quite different.

*Continued on page 8*

# A Matter of Form **Them Daze**

I was struck by your obviously upset comments in "Law of the Sandbox." Squabbles among competing local fan clubs and less formal groups are of course nothing new. If you read Sam Moskowitz's classic *The Immortal Storm*, you'll find a fascinating picture of just such battles in the 1930's.

My own period of greatest fannish activity was the early '60s, and the same kind of thing was going on then. In the greater New York Metropolitan Area, we had the "fannish fanzine fans" concentrated in the Futurians, which gave birth to the Fanoclasts, which spun off FISTFA. The Futurians of that era, of course, were the heirs of the original Futurians -- Don and Elsie Wollheim, Richard Wilson, Jim Blish, Damon Knight, Johnny Michel, Judy Merrill, Larry Shaw, Fred Pohl, Virginia Kidd. The "new" Futurians were Terry Carr, Pete Graham, Ted and Sylvia White, Steve Stiles, Andy Reiss, Algis Budrys, Tom Condit, Pat and me. Larry Shaw was a member, as were his former wife Lee Hoffman and his present wife, Noreen Kane Falasca Shaw. Lee and Noreen were not exactly on the best of terms, and there was much juggling of attendance and who-sat-where.

Our "rivals" were concentrated in the Lunarians (centered around Frank and Belle Dietz and George Nims Raybin, in the Bronx) and ESFA (centered around Sam Moskowitz and Alan Howard in Newark, New Jersey).

There was some real ill-will between the two factions, reaching the level of sabotaging each other's parties and "kidnaping" visiting celebrities, like Ethel Lindsey, ATom, Ella Parker, Eric Bentcliffe, or the Willises.

Even so, I remember vividly the evening when Pat and I answered our doorbell and met, for the first time, an odd character named Henry Andrew Ackermann (no relation to 4SJ).

Henry announced that he wanted to start a science fiction club. We explained to him that there were already several science fiction clubs in the area. Why didn't he just pick one and join it, or

attend open meetings and decide which one was most to his taste.

Henry mooched around the New York fan scene for a while. I remember mentioning him to Jim Blish, who told an amazing story about him. Around 1940, Blish said, Ackerman had started selling stories to the SF pulps. He looked like a bright new talent until somebody -- maybe Blish himself -- made a nasty discovery. Apparently Ackermann had been reading non-SF stories in "variety" pulps like *Argosy*, *Blue Book*, *Short Stories* -- and converting them to science fiction. He would pick a western story and simply retype it, converting the deserts of Mars to the deserts of Arizona, the hero's cayuse to a mini-rocketship, six-shooters to ray-guns, redskins to greenskins. . . and ship the result off to a low-end science fiction pulp.

Jungle adventures, sea stories, knights-and-castle stories, anything was fair prey. All of this was years before Horace Gold created Bat Durston in his famous "You'll Never See It in Galaxy" essay.

Blish documented several such stories and spread the word among the pulp editors of the time, and Ackermann was blacklisted.

Now he was mooching around again, fifteen or twenty years later. Nobody exactly boycotted him, but he wasn't exactly popular and soon disappeared back into the woodwork. If you're curious, you can find a couple of stories credited to Henry Andrew Ackermann in the *Day Index*.

As for what's going on in Vegas fandom -- well, it sounds unpleasant indeed. I would suggest trying to avoid open hostilities, keep the lid on things and wait for everyone to cool down. I realize that's maybe more difficult in Las Vegas than it would have been in New York, but fan feuds seldom leave anybody happy.

Hey, do you think that fandom invented flame wars?

— Richard Lupoff

## Contact Information

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<b>VSFA:</b>	Rebecca Hardin Email: hardin673@aol.com Phone: 453-2989

In letter-press work, ink is spread on the type and the paper is then pressed against this, thus transferring the image. Think Johann Gutenberg.

Later in your piece on fanzine technology you seem to correct yourself, and refer to the process as letter press.

Pardon me for nitpicking, but this did give me a little shudder.

*Arnie: I have absolutely no idea why I call that process offset printing when what I described is letter press. I guess it's just been so long since I even thought of letter press as a realistic alternative.*

*A letter column that starts with Shelby Vick followed immediately by Richard Lupoff? That can only mean that the Father of Fannish Fandom has got to be next.*

*And he is...*

### **Bob Tucker**

You persist in publishing items that remind me of other items. Is this a plot to drive me mad? In the new issue you said "Dear Griends:" which easily reminded me of an ancient fanzine Joyce published entitled WHAT ABOUT US GRILS? She claimed to have found that question on a toilet wall. How eldritch.

*Arnie: Who could forget What about Us Grils? And should that sentence properly end with two question marks? Joyce's two co-editors, Pam Whittington and Sue Robinson were nearly as charming and not without talent.*

*My memory may be somewhat sweeter than yours, though. After all, we both got into her fanzines, but I also got into Joyce's pants.*

*(We have now been together 35 years.)*

*Here's a letter from a fan who is most welcome in these*

*pages, even if he hasn't logged a half-century in Fandom...*

### **Randy Byers**

I see that you're ramping up the rhetoric about the future of fanzines being electronic. That's almost undoubtedly true, although I doubt that paper fanzines will disappear completely, at least in the near future. In any event, this is still early days for electronic fanzines, but I'm curious why so many people are still designing them as though they were going to be printed on paper. If paper is the past, let's get past it!

I believe David Burton made a similar point on the fmzfen list a while back, but even he now acts as though people are going to print his zine out. The only two people I've heard say that they actually do print PDFzines out are Robert Lichtman and Mark Plummer. Is anybody else printing them? I'm certainly not. It might be an interesting thing to survey amongst your readership.

Groggy Eric Mayer wondered on trufen.net why people are "blogging with PDFs," referring to Dick Geis' *Taboo Opinions* in particular. I think calling it blogging confuses the issue somewhat. The real issue is that PDF is a lousy format for electronic fanzines.

PDF is for creating documents that are going to be printed out. I'm no expert on these technical issues, but it appears to me that HTML would be a much better format for electronic zines. (It's possible that more complex packages like slashdot code or blogging software are even better, but maybe only if you want to allow unmoderated commenting on your articles. That seems to move things away from the magazine template.)

HTML zines are fundamentally different than paper zines, but that's as it should be. Software, data files, and computer networks are not just a different form of mimeo-



graph, paper, and the postal system; they are a completely different mode of production and distribution.

Faneds who have abandoned paper should stop looking at paper fanzines for their model. Look at the online magazines for your clues -- Salon and Slate, for example, or for something with a more coherent sense of "issues," if that's what you want, there are online film commentary magazines like *Bright Lights* or *Senses of Cinema*. These are just examples I'm familiar with. There are a zillion others, and you're probably utterly familiar with, say, online gaming or wrestling magazines. The point

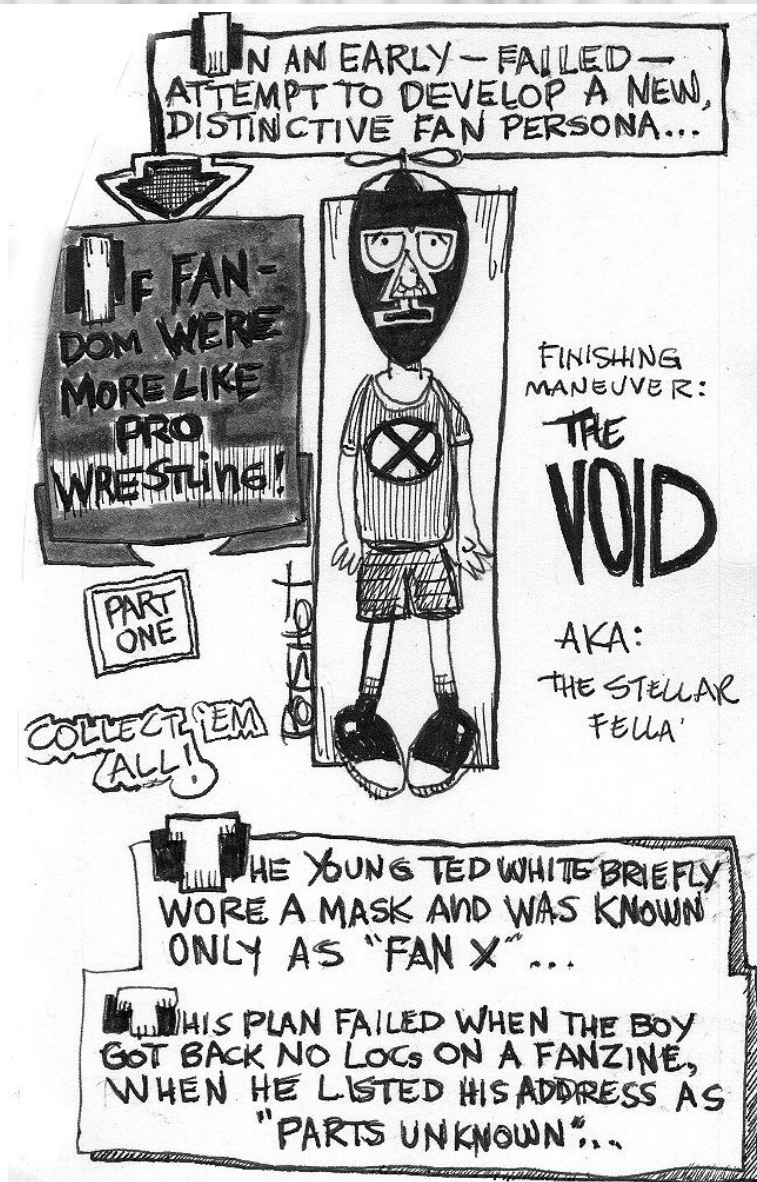
is that magazines on the Net have evolved to take advantage of the system, and fanzines should, too.

If this is too radical a departure at this point, I implore you to consider the possibility that the majority of your readers are reading *VFW* online -- or at least try to find out if that's true. (Hopefully this letter will prompt others to comment.) There are various scenarios for making PDFs more easy to read onscreen, as others have commented on the fannish forums

Making the zine single-column would

# Potshot's Cartoon

## Theater



# Futuristics Energy Crisis!

## The Las Vegas Future Salon

was honored to have at its October 14 meeting Dr. Robert Boehm, Distinguished Professor of Engineering and Director of the Energy Research Center UNLV. Dr Boehm addressed the topic of *energy conservation and alternative energy*.

As Americans face steep prices at the gas pumps and as much as a 50% increase for home heating this winter, energy conservation and alternative energy fuels are receiving due attention. Dr. Boehm outlined the several types of energy sources existing today and along with each energy source, he issued a statement of the source's ability to compete with fossil fuel's costs and distribution networks. For decades, fossil fuel pricing has been untouchable from an economic perspective, but with rising oil prices and with global usage rapidly rising to satisfy the growing needs of China, India, and other fast-growing nations, limited fossil fuel reserves are being consumed at an alarmingly rapid rate. Amazingly, there are many alternative fuel options. To cite only a few: Geothermal, Wind, Solar, biomass, and nuclear. But technology is only one component that influences consumer and industrial usage. Government, business, and environmental policies play a forceful role in our selection and availability of energy sources.

Dr. Boehm, a true environmentalist and alternative energy proponent, has spent his career and influence to help advance technologies and partnerships that may benefit Nevada and will eventually benefit the United States energy policies.

Two Las Vegas projects described by Dr. Boehm were of great interest to me personally:

1) Zero Energy Home -- a home that is designed to produce it's own energy requirements (well, almost all). The Zero Energy home in the Pinnacle Development in Las Vegas is outfitted

with various insulative and energy producing apparatus. The energy usage of this home will be monitored for the next 18 months and will compared to the energy usage of a standard home of the same model and size built by the same developer. The results will be published after 18 months. The Zero energy home was designed to save 92% of the energy costs of the standard home. For more information on Zero Energy Home Las Vegas [http://www.unlv.edu/News\\_Bureau/News\\_Releases/2005/September05/59121.htm](http://www.unlv.edu/News_Bureau/News_Releases/2005/September05/59121.htm)

2) The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE), the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), and UNLV have collaborated with Solargenix Energy to build "Nevada Solar One", a 64-megawatt (MW) Solar Thermal Electric Generating Plant in Boulder City, Nevada. The "Solar One" plant in El Dorado valley will be a proof of concept that solar collector technology of Solargenix will be a viable technology for power plants using solar energy as its source.

According to the NREL website: "DOE has issued a report that identifies suitable land and solar resources in Nevada that could produce more than 600,000 megawatts (MW) of power generation using concentrating solar technologies. Currently, Nevada's electricity consumption is less than 3 percent of this resource capacity. The same report claims that the economic benefits far exceed the cost to develop this clean renewable energy source". "Solar One" will begin production of electricity in early 2007. For more information on NREL: <http://www.nrel.gov>

Will Nevada be the Saudi Arabia of the United States? Keep an eye on these two projects for the next 18 months to find out. -

— Gilda Cabral

help, for example, (perhaps on a narrower page to keep the line from getting too long), and it would be nice if chunks of text were kept together, rather than interrupting them with boxes containing other, unrelated text. That kind of stuff looks great on a two-page paper spread, but it just requires a lot of paging down and back up onscreen.

(Or, for lazy people like me, it just results in the interrupting

box of text being skipped over, as I follow the thread I'm reading and then can't be arsed to page back up.)

So I say: All hail the electron! Please make it readable!

Obviously VFW is a great success and you can choose to ignore all of this unsolicited advice and kvetching, but I hope it's at least worth the time for you to explain why I'm all wet.

*Arnie: I appreciate the advice, Randy, even if I do plan*

to honor it more in the breach. My professional work has been primarily online for over 10 years and my main occupation is running a website. One of the things I most enjoy about fanzines is that they provide an escape, an alternative, to my work.

Everything you say about format is probably true, but it is irrelevant to my reasons for publishing. I love fanzines. I've published plenty of tree-killers and I would do more if the conditions weren't so adverse. Electronic publishing, for me, is a compromise between what I want to do and what I can do. If VFW didn't look like a fanzine, it wouldn't mean as much to me and I doubt I would keep publishing it as steadily as I have.

And something to ponder: Beta is better, but we all have VHS videocassette machines. Sometimes, human feels triumph over technology.

And now a letter from a fan who has successfully made his new electronic fanzine look like something straight out of Sixth Fandom....

### Shelby Vick

Won't be so tardy on THIS LoC, Arnie --

I'm writing it the same day #49 came in.

500th page!

WOW! Also, zippideedoodah, great goings, congratulations... and I'm not surprised. If anybody could do it, it would be you!

Free bookshelves! (Well, if you could make arrangements to get them and had a place for them and. . .) Well, I'm glad it worked out. (Considering that I'm also a retired librarian, sounds like I need to move to Vegas!)

Richard Lupoff sounds like he is like me about retirement. But -- just hold on. I finally managed it by age 76. . . with the help of a near-fatal auto accident.

Bill Wright -- someone who understands us retired insurance reps. And Bill, you brought up something I forgot: Nurses. Met nurses even, a time or two, delivered babies! With the fading of the nurses program, they started putting out health brochures and the Metropolitan Cookbook was a very popular item.

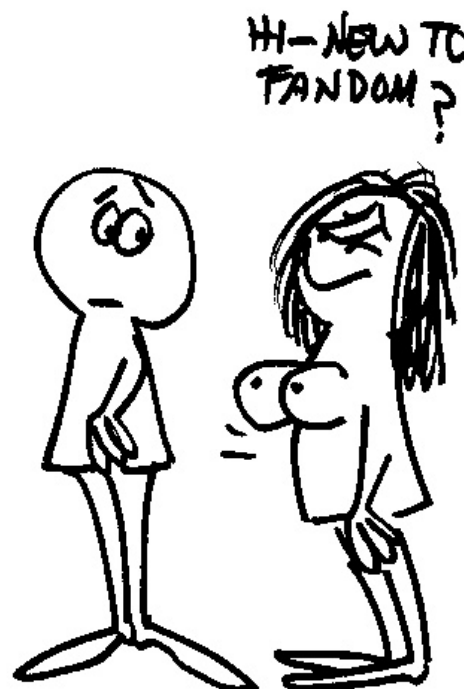
500th page thish, and issue #50 right on us. . . and not too long until An Entire Year will have passed! As I said, WOW!

*Arnie: In fact, I decided not to flap my feathers -- and my gums -- about the 50<sup>th</sup> issue, because the Annish and the year=end issue both loom on the horizon. I wish everyone could be here for the Anniversary Dinner that SNAFFU is planning for mid-December.*

Now let's make a little room for one of VFW's most faithful and consistent contributors...

### Eric Mayer

Thanks for the steady stream of VFWs. I know I haven't been loccing every issue but you realize that a loc per week is kind of difficult when you haven't been writing a loc per year. Plus, I have to admit, I learned to stand back when people started defining fandom. Mostly, people's definitions of



fandom -- including my own -- end up sounding pretty much like "me and my fan friends."

I think it is interesting that fandom is typically described, in the first instance, as a community rather than an activity. Usually the activity -- as for example, orienteering which I was involved with -- comes first, and the community follows.

An orienteer is defined as someone who goes out on an O course, rather than someone who associates with other orienteers, although orienteers have their own social connections, jargon, in-jokes, history etc just like fans. Most definitions of fandom seem to focus on fans associating with other fans (and knowing the history, in-jokes etc) and only then mention that fans often publish zines or go to conventions. Makes fandom hard to explain.

Then too, you can't teach folks attitudes. The way it works, ideally (I think) is someone sees a fanzine and says "Wow. Neat. I have to make one of those." So, the person comes into fandom sharing at least one attitude with those already there, thinking fanzines are neat. People who share one interest, especially a peculiar, minority interest, like making fanzines (or orienteering) are likely to share other interests as well. I'd bet that people who discover fandom via fanzines tend to stick more often than those who discover it via the social side first but I'm certainly no expert.

I agree with you entirely that e-fanzines are the wave of the future -- well, the wave of the present for that matter. They have so many advantages over paper zines, to my way of thinking. And we all ought to realize that it isn't physical attributes that matter. The perfect fanzine isn't mimeoed, or stapled, or hectoed, it's any fanzine produced by a trufan, even if it is only electrons. Wait, didn't someone already cover this?

*Arnie: One different between our Fandom and the others I've encountered is that we are not focused on a single subject. Our Fandom began with an obsessive interest in science fiction, but we have relentlessly widened the scope until SF is a major, but not all-encompassing, interest for most "Core fans." (This is my new term, replacing "Classic fans.")*

*You're probably right that those who plunge into fanzines generally last longer than neofen who don't. I think it's because fanzines have a way of becoming an integral part of one's life as they lead the new fan to embrace the sub-cultural aspects of Fandom. Fanzine fans develop roots. That may be one of the reasons so many have returned to activity after lengthy periods of gafia.*

*If Fandom means going to convention parties and movie outings, then the hold doesn't seem to be quite as strong. After all, there are other parties and the movies will be there whatever the composition of the audience. If you want to hang with rich brown and Shelby Vick and Dick Lupoff and Bob Tucker, though, you've pretty well got to do it in Fandom.*

*I've been hoping for more Vegas fans to write letters of comment, especially if they are to me. Now, after this LoC, maybe that was a hasty wish.*

#### **John Wesley Hardin**

I've held back any responses to VFW thus far, but I feel compelled to argue a point you made in the latest issue. You say it's true for any fan that someone dislikes them, except for ShelVy and Ross Chamberlain.

I must put quit to this disinformation. I deeply dislike Ross Chamberlain, and have for decades now. He's polite, he's talented, he's a great artist, he's thin and has a great speaking voice. Sure, I've always treated him decently, but secretly I hate his polite, talented, artistic, thin, great-speaking-voice guts. Just thought I'd clear that up.

As far as I know, everybody likes Shelby Vick. Congratulations on 500 pages of VFW.

*Arnie: What I meant to say is that no one who doesn't like Ross is alive to say so. The Brooklyn police never pinned those horrible murders on him and the Washington Heights and Cleveland, OH, authorities couldn't make their cases stick, either.*

*Look on the bright side. Maybe Joyce and I will do a Memorial issue of Implications.*

#### **Peter Sullivan**

You've already got a letter on file from me, but given your propensity for scattering comment hooks throughout the zeen, what's a boy to do but send in a further LoC?

Enjoyed Shelby Vick's column, but I have to wonder what kind of Evil Mind Games(TM) he's playing with you. I can see each column containing more and more shocking revelations. "Confessions of an insurance salesman" and "Confessions of a telemarketer" are obviously just designed to soften you up until he gets to the ultimate revelation. Which must be something he fears will shock you to your

insurgent core - "I was a WSFS business meeting attendee" or similar.

On Mark Plummer's letter, I can't remember exactly how I worked out 2010 as my first eligible TAFF race, but I seem to remember it was something to do with eligibility at date of nomination rather than date of election or date of trip. I didn't pay too much attention, as it was rather academic anyway. Of course, there may not be much of a TAFF race in 2010 anyway if there isn't a Worldcon in North America to go to. If the Melbourne in 2010 crew does end up getting the nod, then the focus that year will rightly be on the DUFF and GUFF races instead.

Even ignoring the not inconsequential problem with ineligibility, there are several reasons why I would make a \*very bad\* TAFF candidate:

a) Although I live in Britain, I'm not sure I really qualify as a British fan, as all of my fanac to date has really been in US fanzeens. I am actively looking to change this, and get more involved over here as well, but this sort of thing takes time. Really, someone like me is the sort of nightmare that the "20% each side of the Atlantic" rule is designed to eliminate.

b) I would strongly echo Mark's echo of my "reach for my flexible friend and go" approach. There's always this tension in TAFF about whether it's a merit award-cum-ambassadorship or an opportunity for someone who couldn't otherwise afford to go. (The correct answer, of course, is the dualist view that it is both and neither at the same time, as <http://www.taff.org.uk/13paras.html> makes clear.)

c) TAFF, if it is anything at all, ought to be the ultimate sensawonda for whoever goes - the fannish adventure that stays with you for the rest of your life. Although I'm not as transatlantic as, say, David Frost (who claims he was once told by a British Airways pilot, "Do you realise, Mr. Frost, that you fly more hours than \*we're\* allowed to?"), I have been to the U.S.A. several times before, both for games conventions, general holidays and even business. Somehow I feel that a TAFF trip report that starts "I flew into J.F.K. Yet again they've moved the baggage reclaim, and they still haven't finished the building work they were doing the last time I was here" isn't really in the grand tradition of Walt or ATom...

We have three really good candidates for TAFF this year, all of whom have "paid their fannish dues" over a number of years, and I would urge all eligible fen on both sides of the Atlantic to get behind their choices and vote. By any stretch of the rules I'm \*not\* eligible to vote, so I've sent in my "ineligible voter non-voting fee" instead.

As it is, I reckon that there's probably about a 50% chance of me making it to LACon next year anyway (plus, of course, Toner II the week before). The stumbling blocks will be work-related and/or health-related rather than money.

Yay to Ruth and her comments about wanting to write more Letters of Comment. Some pedants would insist that this should be a new year's resolution, but I would say that, in fandom, any day can be the start of a new fannish life-style. And an un-LoCced fanzeen is like an unloved child. I must admit I've

now got to the stage where I end up sending LoCs to fanzeens that don't even have letter columns. To be fair these tend to be more "Attaboy!"/"I quite liked your zeen, yes" comments rather than the mammoth monstrosities I inflict on people like you who are foolish enough to publish them.

*Arnie: It would be a great pleasure to welcome you to Las Vegas for Toner, Peter. The funny thing about fan funds is that, sometimes, the qualifications for voting and more stringent than the qualifications for running.*

*Another LoC from a Las Vegas fan? Yes, indeed! Here she is...*

### **Ruth Davidson**

Your comment above my LoC saying that it may be my first one outside of N3F proved that yes indeed, I am an LoC Slacker. I believe I wrote two back in March or April (eons ago, well, before my three months of forced gafia anyway) for VFW. I also wrote one (maybe two?) for *Peregrine Nations*. Not sure which was first. One could go digging for dates, but I'm not feeling that obsessive at the moment. So, yes, because such things were forgotten, clearly I do not LoC enough.

Contrary to what you might believe, I'm not against the fannish way. I'm against the idea (which seems terribly unfannish to me) that there's only one way to be a fan.

I was cool with Woody's "aggressive recruiting" because you never know where you might find a fan. We got Mindy Hutchings, and James Willey due to Woody's efforts. Two very active neofans. He also managed to return Rebecca Hardin to the fandom scene, and through her, Carol Kern. Somehow, I think those are good results. Anyway, you never know if a fanling or a fringe fan will become a fan unless you give them a chance.

I know you'll disagree because you did before, but I think that some anime belongs in fandom because of the SFF in them; surely not all of course, like not all books are a part of fandom, just some. Anime that come readily to mind for the fannish scene are *Escarflowne* and *Crest of the Stars*.

Also, there are some anime fans that became SFF fans because of all the SFF present in the genre. I guess that's also another example of why I'm okay with fringe fans. Sometimes a small interest will lead into a broader one.

Then again, I'm one of those fans where, if it's SFF related, I'm all over it. Games? WOO! Comics? WOO! Anime? WOO! Books? WOO! Etc. etc. Wikipedia really describes me when it says (regarding SF Fandom offshoots) "Participation in science fiction fandom often overlaps with other similar interests, such as fantasy role playing games, comic books and anime, and in the broadest sense fans of these activities are felt to be part of the greater community of SF fandom."

Egads, I'm so pathetically geeky. . .

*Arnie: The theme of The Enchanted Duplicator is the brotherhood of all those who understand the subculture of Fandom. The magic mimeo in the story symbolizes the goal of Trufans to be creative and to reach out to others of their kind*

*The next fan got his spot in the letter column for free.*

*He's super schnorrer, so I know he'd want you to know...*

### **Richard Brandt**

So that's what Shelby Vick and I have in common... I did some telemarketing work between my televised and other careers. I found myself calling on behalf of some slimeball who published a rag called the *El Paso Police News*...formerly *The El Paso Police Association News*, and despite legal challenges from the El Paso Police Association, which canned him as a fundraiser after objecting to the portion of proceeds that he was pocketing, he retained the El Paso Police part of the name. (You may still occasionally find naifs displaying "We support the El Paso Police News" stickers at their places of business.)

It was a relief when I left his employ to sell books of two-for-one dining coupons. Now there's a cause I can wholeheartedly endorse.

*Arnie: I've never done telemarketing. When I got this voice, I had to promise to use it only as a Force for Good.*

*We're heading to the BArea for a fresh LoC from the most prolific new publisher and writer to hit Fandom in some years...*

### **Chris Garcia**

Y'all got a bunch of free shelving! Exceptional! That's a wonderful addition to Vegas fandom. Building a library of any sort is tough, but having things to put other things on is certainly a help.

500 PAGES!!! That's fantastic! I'm up around 300 total for the year, not including LJ or any of the other web writing I do. You're nuts! Gotta love it, though!

It's a wonderful amount of work that you've done. You know what's great about the world at the moment: we can celebrate milestones all the time! I'm about to put out issue 50 of *The Drink Tank* and about to cross 1M words! Gotta love the speed of things, nowadays.

It's tough on the new guys. There's also a brand of neo that has been around forever. I'm sorta one of those. They are people who are on the fringes for long periods of time or are used to a different portion of fandom and slip into another. You wouldn't believe what folks who have been around con-running since the 1970s don't know about fanzines and so on. It's tough.

ShelVy should be given a small country to run so that one of his future articles could be "I Was a Caribbean Dictator!" He's quickly becoming one of my favourite VFW sections.

Again, so many letters. Let's see, you had a couple of BArea folks, A Brit, Mr. Canadian LoC, Dave Burton!, and so many others. You really are doing great stuff if you've got this many great people writing in.

*Arnie: The Balkanization of All Known Fandom into relatively separate sub-Fandoms is a long-term trend. And however much we may regret the estrangement from fans in sub-groups that don't strongly connect with Core Fandom, that has been a fact of fannish life for a long time. The Internet has enabled quite a few such fans to connect to Core*

*Fandom for the first time. For some, it appears to be accompanied by a realization of what they wanted when they contacted Fandom in the first pace.*

*He's gone from Glen Ellen, but he's still The Sage to me, so let's get to his major LoC...*

### **Robert Lichtman**

Yesterday I bit a big bullet and printed out, all at once, the dozen issues of *VFW* that have come out since my retirement in early August. It was a good test of my new HP 2600N, and came hard on the heels of printing out the 70-page new issue of Earl's fanzine. I'm quite pleased with the fairly minute amounts of color toner the printer uses. After printing nearly 300 pages of fanzines, the three color toner cartridges are still at 93% full while the black one is down to 82%.

Anyway, I spent a couple hours last night making my way through those issues with pencil in hand and want to share with you the harvest of my checkmarks.

In No. 37's "Katzenjammer" you state that Terry wrote "a couple of versions of 'Night of the Living Oldpharts' (one mentioned Joyce and me, then gaffiated)." Naturally I had to check this out, and so I went to my giant chrome and plastic files and pulled out the first publication of "Oldpharts" as a one-shot included in the October 1985 SAPS mailing. And then I went to my bookcases and brought to my desk the NESFA Press "Ace Double" of Terry and Bob Shaw done for the 1986 Worldcon. I didn't find your name in either version.

In the back of my mind, though, I remembered in a shadowy fashion that the story had also appeared somewhere else. It took some digging around but eventually I emerged triumphant with *IZZARD* No. 9. But I'm sorry, Arnie, I didn't find your names in that version, either.

However, I did settle down for a while and reread all three versions of this brilliant story. The differences aren't all that subtle in some cases, but perhaps fifty years from now people will write doctoral theses on \*why\* Terry made the changes he did.

In that same editorial you make reference to a story called "Beyond the Enchanted Convention to the Netherregional." This is unfamiliar to me, though perhaps I'm just being forgetful. Where did it appear?

I agree with your sentiments at the end of this "Katzenjammer" about producing "an anthology of faan fiction in all its variety." If you ever do so, I urge you not to overlook what was probably Larry Stark's last effort in this area, "Con Report," which was in *BOONFARK* No. 5 back in 1981.

In No. 38 Rich Brown mischaracterizes Rick Sneary as a "dwarf." I disagree; Rick was short and he was definitely disfigured, but he wasn't short enough to be a dwarf per the technical terminology for that condition. At [http://www.lpaonline.org/resources\\_faq.html](http://www.lpaonline.org/resources_faq.html) there's a good description of what constitutes dwarfism that I commend to your attention. One relevant point is that dwarfism "a medical or genetic condition that usually results in an adult

height of 4'10" or shorter, among both men and women, although in some cases a person with a dwarfing condition may be slightly taller than that." My recollection was that Rick was over five feet tall, though not much over. I had a lot of contact with him, especially in my neofan days, when I would ride my bicycle and/or take the bus to visit with him in South Gate -- and come home toting bags of choice old fanzines from the '40s and '50s.

One such haul was complete runs of both *SPACEWARP* and *QUANDRY*, while another was the first dozen SAPS mailings (1947-1950). I wrote a detailed review of the latter spread over three issues of my own early SAPSzine. Rick also shared with me his extensive files of clipped Sunday strips for "Flash Gordon" and other sfnal cartoon strips. When I published my first fanzine back in 1959, Rick was one of the early respondents, and when I began *TRAP DOOR* back in 1983 he was also quick to LoC.

Josh Andrews' relocation to Winnipeg reported in No. 47 would apparently render moot his suggestion, reported in No. 40, that a Las Vegas fanzine archive be established. While I agree with you (and others who chimed in later) that such an archive would be a valuable resource for local fans, if it ever does happen it might be good to limit its reach to fanzines produced over the decades in the Las Vegas area. Otherwise it would be necessary to devote an enormous amount of space to such a venture and would require a late-night caper at the Eaton collection in Riverside, California, to spirit away the makings of the archive. What with having so many different fanzine collections already resident at Riverside, they probably wouldn't even notice if it was done right. (This could be the genesis of a faan fiction story.)

Your editorial on "The Fandom Connection" in No. 42 seems to me like a nexus point in *VFW*'s recent history, since your mentions of Hal Hughes, Hank Luttrell and Creath Thorne have brought them all out of the woodwork and into subsequent "Chatback" columns, much to my delight. I also have periodic correspondence with Hal, who I first met in 1970 when he was part of the group of fans on the two-Volvo cross-country trek with the Lupoffs when they moved from New York to Berkeley.

He stayed with me at my house on Lundy's Lane in San Francisco for a time, and I would later encounter him behind the counter of the now-defunct Philosopher's Stone bookstore in S.F. More recently he's moved to Berkeley and is living only a block away from the wonderful Berkeley Bowl produce market where we both shop. I'm sure that one of these days we'll run into each other in the aisles of the Bowl and have a flash of recognition.

A few comments on Rich Brown's "Who's On First?" article in No. 44: First, it was *DETOURS*, not *CONTOURS*, that was the title of the 1940 fanzine in which its editor, the late lamented Russ Chauvenet, coined the word "fanzine." Rich also brings up the oft-raised notion that "our" fanzines can trace their origins back to various times in the past. He cites William Blake, the Bronte sisters, "Lewis Carroll" and H.P. Lovecraft, all of whom were self-publishers whose work had "fantastic" elements. In a *FA-PAZine* I published in 2003 I rebutted the same assertion,

which was being made by Ray Nelson. Here's what I wrote:

In the May issue of BIG CAT, Ray Nelson writes: "...When I entered the fan microcosm science fiction was considered a subgroup of fantasy rather than the other way around. For us, fandom was created by H. P. Lovecraft when he formed the fantasy faction in (I think) the United Amateur Press Association and built up by his frenzied amateur journalism and letter writing."

Ray repeats this assertion in the August issue ("Fanzine fandom began as the Lovecraft faction in the United Amateur Press Association way back in 1914"), and I \*must\* take exception. While I certainly don't dispute that HPL joined in 1914 and that he was writing some fantasy prior to that, his early activity in that group was not particularly focused on fantasy fiction. I have in hand my copy of the 1977 Necronomicon Press publication, H. P. LOVECRAFT - THE CONSERVATIVE - COMPLETE 1915-1923. Its contents are largely devoted to poetry by Lovecraft and others, commentary on literary matters, essays on political and social issues which would not have been out of place in Bill Donaho's early issues of HABAKKUK (where HPL would have given the late Art Castillo a run for his money in tedium), and commentary on the amateur journalism (ayjay) scene, into which he immersed himself just like any neofan first discovering fandom.

The first and only sign of anything relating to fantasy in THE CONSERVATIVE appears in the July 1919 issue: "The Field of Night," a short story by W. Paul Cook. Cook is, of course, famous in the world of HPL fandom as the publisher of many of Lovecraft's early pieces, including "Dagon" in the November 1919 issue of his publication, THE VAGRANT, for which he wrote an introduction. He also published Lovecraft's SUPERNATURAL HORROR IN LITERATURE in his famous and well-regarded (and rare) 1927 zine, THE RECLUSE. And later, after Lovecraft's death, it was Cook who wrote one of the -- if not \*the\* -- seminal memoirs, "In Memoriam: Howard Phillips Lovecraft," which he typeset and published himself.

I also have another Necronomicon Press publication, this one published in 1976: H. P. LOVECRAFT - WRITINGS IN THE UNITED AMATEUR 1915-1925. Lovecraft held numerous offices in the UAPA (and later in the National APA as well): Chairman of the Department of Public Criticism, First Vice President, President and Official Editor. In THE UNITED AMATEUR and elsewhere, Lovecraft wrote voluminously about the hobby in such well-known essays as "For What Does the United Stand?", "Amateur Journalism: Its Possible Needs and Betterments" and "What Amateurism and I Have Done for Each Other." In these and other writing, Lovecraft reveals both his love for Ayjay and his desire for it to have higher standards. In this regard, he's not so different from many who've written similarly in fandom over the past seventy-plus years. (These essays and much else are readily found in the 1995 Arkham House volume, MISCELLANEOUS WRITINGS (S. T. Joshi, editor), which I believe is still in print. I recommend it highly.)

As for Ray's statement that Lovecraft "formed the fantasy faction" in the UAPA, that too is questionable. When

he joined the UAPA, his early associates there were Cook, plus Maurice Moe, Rheinhart Kleiner and Samuel Loveman. While these gentlemen figure prominently in amateur journalism circles, only Loveman did much writing that could be classified as fantasy. Another associate of Lovecraft's met through ayjay circles was Alfred Galpin, who also wrote a few fantasy works but was mostly a poet and essayist. It wasn't until 1919 that HPL became acquainted with Frank Belknap Long when the latter joined the UAPA while in his late teens. HPL first met him on a visit to New York in 1922 (the same trip during which he also met Loveman). Another member of Lovecraft's circle, Clark Ashton Smith, was never an Ayjay participant; HPL became acquainted with Smith's poetry when some of his friends gave him copies of Smith's early books of poems. Lovecraft was so impressed that he wrote a fan letter to Smith and thus began a long association that was conducted entirely by mail; they never met in person. Most of the other members of the "Lovecraft Circle" (Derleth, Wandrei, Bloch, etc.) came later on, when HPL began getting published in WEIRDTALES, and many of them after "ur" fandom began in 1930.

While Lovecraft's joining the UAPA might serve as a convenient place marker, to my way of thinking this singular event has no significance as the beginning of fandom. After all, amateur journalism itself dates back well into the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The National Amateur Press Association was formed in 1876 -- it's essentially the FAPA of ayjay, being the longest-lived -- while the UAPA came into existence in 1895. But before either of these groups existed, there were a number of other (failed) attempts to form a national association of amateur journalists and there were numerous local and regional clubs.

In THE HISTORY OF AMATEUR JOURNALISM (The Fossils Inc., New York, 1957), its author Truman J. Spencer writes, "The beginning of amateur journalism is shrouded in uncertainty. Publishing for pleasure was no doubt indulged in soon after the invention of printing, and even before. The desire to express one's thoughts in words and to see these words in print is as old as civilization." He goes on to trace back in time as far as 1786 when "George Canning, later Prime Minister, while a student at Eton, published an amateur paper called the MICROCOSM, filled with poems, essays, stories and editorial comments. In it the young editor, then 17 years of age, displayed that marked ability which later enabled him to enter Parliament at the age of 23, and to rise to lofty heights in the service of the nation."

In America the origins go back similarly far. Spencer quotes an authority on amateur journalism, James M. Beck, to the effect that "Benjamin Franklin, a printer from his youth, was the first amateur journalist, writing and printing with his own hands pamphlets which he gave away, without hope of gain."

And going back to England once again, Ray himself (if I'm remembering correctly) once wrote that the original amateur journalists included none other than William Blake (1757-1827), whose self-publication efforts began in 1783 with POETICAL SKETCHES. So where does one draw the

line for the beginning of our self-aware fandom, after all, if fandom and amateur journalism are lumped together as one continuum as Ray does in BIG CAT? In my own view, ours began sometime in the late '20s and definitely by 1930.

In No. 44's lettercol, Dick Lupoff recalls Seth Johnson in much the same light as my own memories of him. He writes that "Seth was fanpubbing in the early 1960s." That's true, but I believe his activity was limited to a number of zines in the mailings of the N3F's apa. So far as "general fandom" was concerned, he was primarily a letterhack and a fairly prolific one.

Also in the same issue, Creath Thorne writes that he "read in LOCUS that Redd [Boggs] had died of a heart attack." I don't have that reportage available, but my information is different -- and first-hand. As I wrote in my editorial for TRAP DOOR No. 16, "On the evening of April 24th, following dinner with Dave Rike, Redd Boggs experienced severe stomach pains, was rushed by ambulance to hospital, and operated on the next morning for a ruptured stomach. Unfortunately, there were complications, and it was soon determined that his condition was inoperable. Though Redd couldn't talk because he was on a respirator, he was able to communicate through head movements and notes, and he remained lucid until the last day or so. I visited him frequently, as did Dave Rike and Jeanne Bowman, and was the last of his friends to see him alive. He passed away the morning of May 9th."

In No. 46 you say about me and TRAP DOOR, "Perhaps Robert's retirement and shift toward electronic publishing will enable him to entertain us more often." Actually, it's the need to collect enough material to fill a 60-page issue that determines TRAP DOOR's schedule, and that hasn't changed due to retirement.

As for my "shift toward electronic publishing," I've reconsidered and would like as long as possible to keep TRAP DOOR as a paper-only fanzine. Towards this end, I'll be fundraising soon to help finance publication sometime next year, and said fundraising will be in the form of a private (i.e., non-eBay) auction of fanzines. I have quite a few people already on a list for such auctions, thanks to my handling the BBB Fund auction and others in the past; but if anyone reading this would like to receive notice of that auction when it begins please drop a line to me at [fmz4sale@yahoo.com](mailto:fmz4sale@yahoo.com). This is not to say I haven't prepared PDFs of recent issues. The one for No. 22 is posted on efanzines, and if anyone would like the one for No. 23 (which appeared in December 2004) they could contact me at [robertlichtman@yahoo.com](mailto:robertlichtman@yahoo.com) for a copy. It's 2.5MB, so one must be able to receive an attachment of that size.

I enjoyed your article on "The Fannish Way" in No. 48 and of course take the Three Precepts to heart. I'm not sure it was fair, though, to mention Vijay Bowen as an offender without also naming Abigail Frost for doing the same thing under the same circumstances. Fortunately, such events are rare.

One of the great recent additions to VFW's pages is Shelby Vick's column, and in "Confessions of an Insurance Salesman" I particularly take to heart his suggestion that you

should "have something to do when you retire." Like Shelby before he got sidetracked into insurance sales, it's my intention to write. Over the years I've written quite a lot in a fairly piecemeal way about my decade living on The Farm, that commune in Tennessee with which you're familiar at least through my writing and anything I may have said to you in person. I plan to collect these together, expand them where appropriate, and write lots more, in hopes of eventually generating an anecdotal volume in which a publisher might be interested. I have no particular time frame for this, though, since after all I'm \*retired\*. But I won't put it off indefinitely, either.

I agree with your comments at the end of my short LoC in No. 48 that you'd "sure like to see one or more fans bend some effort to putting QUANDRY online as PDFs." Although a small quantity of the run is available that way at fanac.org, much more could be done. One big problem is that in order to get a decent scan each issue must be unstapled, and given the flimsy paper on which it was printed this will require serious staple surgery in order not to wreak havoc. But eventually it must be done before all available copies crumble into irretrievable dust.

This brings me to No. 49, the latest issue, in which the 500th page of VFW inauspiciously appears as your report on the October 15th Vegrants meeting. In the same short editorial in which you note this milestone, you also mention fan-nish tension in Vegas fandom. I'm not sure who the "VSFA clique" might be, but it's unfortunate that what used to be called "the fandom of good cheer" now has such goings-on -- and I sincerely hope they can be resolved amicably.

In "Confessions of a Telemarketer" Shelby writes that a one-year expiry date for vitamins is "very important." Why is that? I buy most of my vitamins from Longs Drugs and they come with expiration dates as far out in the future as late 2007 on some of the more recent purchased ones. But I also get some from a natural/health food store and they have similar dates. Assuming proper storage avoiding moisture/humidity and extremes of heat, what's the problem with long dates?

Great that Joyce is now wearing a "cam boot" instead of a cast! And great that Mike Glicksohn is returning to activity next year upon his retirement.

One doesn't often see mention of '50s fan Dave Ish in fanzines these days, so it was a little surprising to encounter David Burton quoting him in No. 49's letter column.

Ish is perhaps best remembered for his faan fiction story, "The Fantasy People," that appeared not in a fanzine but in the prestigious NEW WORLD WRITING -- in its ninth issue back in 1956. In an introduction to the story it's written, "Mr. Ish is eighteen years old and a freshman at the University of Chicago. He was born in Rutherford, New Jersey, where he lived for ten years, and where the family doctor was William Carlos Williams. At Ridgewood High School he edited THE ARROW, a school literary magazine, and a story of his won first place in the National Scholastic Writing Awards contest. 'The Fantasy People' is his first work to appear in a national publication." Unless, of course, you count fanzines....



*Arnie: Sorry to have peddled that piece of misinformation about "Night of the Living Oldpharts." Shortly after I returned to Fandom, someone sent me a copy of the story and told me that my name was mentioned in a different version of the same story. As someone who is both lazy and egotistical, I was quite willing to believe that Terry had done me that honor, but I greatly appreciate you setting the record straight.*

*VSFA is the a second, formal SF club. Started by Woody Bernardi as a vehicle for his con-running aspirations, it is trying to find its place in the Las Vegas fan community in the wake of Woody's departure to Boston. It's the smallest of the three major local clubs, but it is also very active when it comes to sponsoring activities.*

*They're nice people, who don't know much about Fandom and haven't made much effort to learn. The club's penchant for scheduling conflicts and over-concern with its own bureaucracy are the chief points of irritation for many other local fans.*

*And now, taking time out from a week of wrestling, is another VFW Frequent Loccer, and a very welcome one...*

### **Laurraine Tutihasi**

Most of my past week was spent wrestling with a dead or dying external hard drive. We had to go through all sorts of procedures to prove the fault was with the drive and not my computer or the cables. While all this testing was happening, I could not use my computer. This meant I could not do most of the stuff I do from day to day. Being organized, I decided to spend time sewing, an activity I usually rarely get to. By sewing I really mean repairing and making alterations. As you may recall, I am rather small. Many items of clothing I buy are too long. I've had some items hanging around waiting for alteration for more than a year. I was able to do quite a bit while my computer was otherwise occupied.

We did finally manage to prove that the drive was bad. We weren't able to find the purchase receipt, but a phone call to the manufacturer proved that the unit was still under warranty. I just took the old unit to the PO to send back. I believe we should be receiving a replacement soon.

*Arnie: Hurray for the Uncommon Fan versus the Machine! It's nice to hear about people getting the service they expect and deserve. Makes a nice change from the Iraq War...*

*He's a relative newcomer to VFW, but one of UK fandom's leading lights. What a great way to wrap up this issue's letter column...*

### **Mark Plummer**

Greatly flattered by the appellation 'one of England's foremost active fans'. I'm thinking of having it put on a badge, or maybe a t-shirt...

And it makes me even more embarrassed over accidentally branding you 'Arena'. Thing is, I'm usually quite careful about that sort of thing,

not least because I've seen so many examples of people allowing the spelling checker free rein with their words to unfortunate effect. So was this in fact my subconscious trying to tell me something? That you are vast and contain multitudes, perhaps?

I was also surprised to discover that one of the other alternatives to 'Arnie' proposed by the spelling checker was 'zine'. This struck me as slightly odd at first, but I guess the two words have three letters in common and while the alphabet places A and Z at polar extremes they're quite close on the keyboard. And it is, you have to admit, appropriate because you're a zine kinda bloke, whether on printed paper or PDF.

I take your point about the evolution of the fanzine from hand-set type through hecto, mimeo and copier to 'the digiverse' and that, yes, it's about the message rather than the medium. What I'm worrying at in my little way is that pre-online forms are all about different ways of printing words on paper, and we've ported that principle across to the internet, treating this particular evolutionary jump as no different to the move from, say, mimeo to copier. We are, in effect, making it about the medium (i.e. a bundle of printed pages, or at least pages that are designed to be printed).

Still, as you point out, we're in a state of transition. I am curious, though, when you say that 'I want us all to be together'. I mean, I'm certainly not disagreeing, nor suggesting that those who produce efanazines should be forcibly dragged back to 'the downward spiral of print-based publishing', but it seems to me that the print can lie down with the PDF, as it were. After all, and to use your analogy, mimeo and copier did exist alongside one another for a couple of decades.

What it takes, I think, is for paper publishers to recognise PDF publishers as equals, different manifestations of the same message, and indeed vice versa. So yeah, 'trade' your print publications for online fanzines, for websites and -- while you're at it -- with older fans for the fanzines they produced decades ago and sent to you up the timestream. Which was the point of my (very slight) dig at your remark that 'we digital publishers have got to stick together'.

Just another small demonstration that British fandom has not entirely delegated the VFW letter-column to Peter Sullivan...

*Arnie: My fanzine distribution policy has always been along the lines you suggest. I feel there are some fans who have earned a "free pass" and I will send them my zines whether they respond or not. I also believe in an "all for all" trade, even though I usually have published more than those with whom I swap fanzines. One of the reasons I've switched to electronic publishing is that I couldn't afford to be that open-handed with hard copy fanzines. This way I can send my fanzines to everyone I'd like to see get them.*

We Also Heard From: John DeChan-



## Las Vegas Fan Event Calendar

**SNAFFU Meeting** October 28 8:00 PM

This formal SF club meets the second and fourth Friday's. Location: Borders bookstore on the East Side.

**Las Vegas Fandom Halloween Party** 8:00 PM

All Las Vegas Fandom unites for a wild Halloween celebration at the home of James Willey.

**Farewell Josh Andrews Dinner** October 30 6 PM

Say "Good-Bye" to Joshua at Marie Callender's (Eastern & Tropicana). Cost: \$17/fan.

**Las Vegrants Meeting** November 5 7:30 PM

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

**VSFA 'First Monday' Meeting** November 7 7:00 PM

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

**SNAFFU** November 11 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.

**LV Futurists** November 11 8:00 PM

This discussion group looks to the world of tomorrow on the second Friday of each month at Borders bookstore (2190 N. Rainbow Blvd.) The featured topic is online education

**Vegas Music Circle** November 12 2:00 PM

All fans are invited to make music or just listen at the Launch Pad. The session starts at 2:00 PM.

**SNAPS Deadline November 20**

Get your contributions to OE Joyce Katz (joyceworley1@cox.net).

cie, Earl Kemp, carl juarez, Laurraine Tutihasi,

### **A Less-Hasty Ending**

Usually, I end up with a half-dozen lines left at the end of an issue to bare my soul, articulate my ultimate theory of Fandom and other important things. Normally, that means I have just about enough room to beg for LoCs and say, "Good-bye until next week!"

This time, I have lots of lines, the residue of cutting the point size for the news and letters. So for perhaps the first time in the brief history of *VFW*, I actually have the space to fully develop my thoughts.

Before I get into that, though, I wanted to mention that I sure do love getting your letters of comment. I think I've printed everything I have, so it'll take your contribution to fill those page next issue.

And speaking of next issue, it would be impolite for me to neglect to say, "Good-bye, see oyu next issue!" so I guess the Deep Think Stuff will have to wait some more.

— Arnie Katz

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... and a *ton* of news.