

VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

Vegas Fan Events This Week

Here's What's Happening

SNAFFU Meeting
Friday (11/11) 8:00 PM

Las Vegas Futurists
Friday (11/11) 8:00 PM

VSFA Dinner and a Movie
Saturday 5:00 PM

Vegas Music Circle
Sunday (11/13) 2:00 PM

*Check out the Calendar
and preview stories*

SNAFFU Venue Locked in for 11/11!

Despite the recent renovations — we've got the shelves to prove it — the Borders bookstore at Decatur and Sahara can and will host the SNAFFU meet-



ing scheduled for Friday, November 11 at 8 PM. (There was a little, innocent confusion on the listserv, but all is now firmly settled.

The main discussion topic for this meeting is unusually timely: *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*. Attendees will gather in the café area at the bookstore.

SNAFFU Changes Meeting Format!

In response to what SNAFFU President Michael Bernstein described as a “unanimous vote” of the members via email, SNAFFU has decided to change the meeting format it has used for the last few years. This is the first major change since the club switched to the present “two venue” system in which one meeting is held on the West Side and one on the East Side each month.

The new set-up changes the format to one discussion meeting per month and one dinner social meeting per month. At this point, the club intends to hold the discussion meetings on the second Friday of each month at the Borders bookstore the group has used for some time.

The “fourth Friday” SNAFFU event will be a dinner and social. Pending discussion at the next SNAFFU meeting, it looks like it'll be a different, interesting restaurant every month, rather than a continuing venue.

Vegas Music Circle Meets This Sunday!

The Vegas Music Circle will resume its regular meeting schedule this Sundaes (11/12), when the group gathers at the Launch Pad, home of the group's founder, Joyce Katz (909 Eugene Cernan Street) at 2:00 PM.

The VMC is an informal gathering of fans who like to sing, play instruments or just listen to their friends make music. Even if you're

Inside Story The Widner Cometh

As predicted last issue and partially chronicled in my Vegrants meeting report, Art Widner came for his first visit to Las Vegas Fandom since Corflu Blackjack over a year and a half ago. He arrived, fresh from a visit with his recuperating girlfriend in Ventura, in the late afternoon on Saturday and left early Monday afternoon to go see Earl Kemp in Kingman, AZ. In between, he attended a Vegrants meeting, spent Sunday evening with us and JoHn Hardin watching *Rome* and *The Crusades* and helped us solve all of Fandom's present, past and future problems.

I was especially eager for Art to meet the New Generation of Las Vegas fans that has arisen since his last visit. Although Ayesha Ashley wasn't able to attend, those who did — Merric & Luba Anderson, Teresa Cochran, David Gordon and special guest Joelle Barnes did a fine job of upholding the honor of the neofan contingent. Widner was in terrific form; I hope had a good enough time that he may well come back to Vegas in time for the next Vegrants meeting!

It turned out, to my surprise, that the aforementioned Next Generation had much less hype to live up to than I thought, because Art hasn't been getting *VFW*. He could've gotten in it at efanazines.com or the SNAFFU or VSFA sites, but he confessed that he only rarely visits the world of electronic fanzines.

Naturally, I've added him to my emailing list, so that he will, but it does make me wonder if there is anyone else I've skipped. So I'm asking you to help me find the cracks in my system by encouraging you to ask your fan friends whether they're getting *VFW*. You might even suggest that you like it — or possibly that they aren't real fans if they don't read it. I'll be glad to add them to the list.

— Arnie

instrument is a kazoo or a paper and comb, there's room for you here.

The Vegas Music Circle dabbles in filk when the mood strikes, but the emphasis is on folk, blues and rock music. There's also a good bit of socializing among the fans and much fannish chit-chat — and most likely a significant supply of snacks, too.

The Vegas Music Circle is a free and open club. "We encourage all Vegas fans who like music, whether or not they can actually carry a tune,

to come by on Sunday for a pleasant fannish afternoon," said Joyce.

SNAFFU Names Linda Bushyager As Its Dinner Coordinator!

Linda Bushyager is SNAFFU's new dinner coordinator. She'll now take responsibility for orchestrating the dinner/social meetings the club just voted to try.

Continued page 5

Vegas Fandom Weekly #52, Nivenber 11 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, Linda Bushyager, Michael Bernstein, Mindy Hutchings and Joyce Katz

Art/Photo Credits: ATom (from "ATom: A Tribute") (1,10, 13, 14), David Gordon (6), Bill "Potshot" Kunkel (3, 9), Ray Nelson (15), (All Else by Bill Rotsler.

Columnists This Issue: Shelby Vick, Bob Tucker

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 fulminating insurgents 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!

Say What?

Katzenjammer

Everyone has heard, and most likely used, such nuggets of common wisdom as “He who hesitates is lost” or “Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.” That such sayings are, as in my examples, sometimes diametrically opposite in their advice doesn’t deter us at all. They come to mind readily, they sound good and they deliver us from the need to think about what we are saying.

Fandom, too, has its adages and aphorisms. One article couldn’t possibly cover them all – rich brown has a marvelous dictionary online – but I thought I could tell you about a few of them.

Real Soon Now. When a veteran fan promises to do something “Real Soon Now,” you can hear the capital letters, but you shouldn’t hold your breath waiting for whatever glittering prize is in view. It’s the faanish equivalent of “the 12th of Never,” but with even less hope.

I Take Your Seat. The Fanoclasts began saying this to each other ‘way back in the 1960’s. It was a sort of apology for using another fan’s trip to the kitchen (or the bathroom) to acquire a chair or place on a couch. Members of SNAFFU eagerly perpetuated this tradition and the phrase is often invoked at large gatherings. The late Dave Van Arnam coined a similar phrase to cover the inevitable toe-crunching when fans move around a crowded living room: “I break your feet.”

Anything Two Fans Do Together Is Fanac. The meaning varies according to context, but it is generally a prelude to an invitation to test a mattress in another fan’s hotel room. When I was a young fan, it was widely believed that this line would convince any female fringefans – that’s mostly what there were – to succumb. There are no statistics on how successful it is.

Wanna Make a BNF Happy? Under the right circumstances, I suppose it could have a very similar meaning to the previous phrase, but usually it just one of your fan friends asking for a favor. Many a fan has made the soda run to the refrigerator as a result of this question.

It’s a Proud and Lonely Thing to Be a Fan. The phrase is meant to express

both the pride and the inner-directedness of members of Core Fandom. They are proud to be fans, but they recognize that the subculture to which they belong is a mote in a roiling sea of Mundania. Gives being a fanzine fan a romantic air, don’t it?

Fandom Is a Way of Life (FIAWOL) and Fandom is Just a Goddamn Hobby (FIJAGH) are forever linked. The former is a reflection of the “Fandom is all” attitude Forry Ackerman espoused in the 1930’s and 1940’s, while FIJAGH is Francis Towner Laney’s rejoinder. Both phrases have some validity and are often used by the same person in different situations. Which phase a fan uses probably says more about his or her feeling about Fandom at that moment than it does about the basic nature of Fandom itself.

Fans are Slans. The people who said it first said it were serious, but the meaning quickly became somewhat ironic. Most fans aren’t geniuses, but they are smart enough to realize that there is very little resemblance between fans and the tendril-haired psychic super-beings of the AE van Vogt novel.

I have a Cosmic Mind, what do I do Now? This rhetorical question, first asked of legendary fan crackpot Claude Degler, sums up skepticism about fans having special gifts denied to homo sapiens. It expresses the observable fact that fans don’t have special mental capacities, something that a visit to any con or club will confirm.

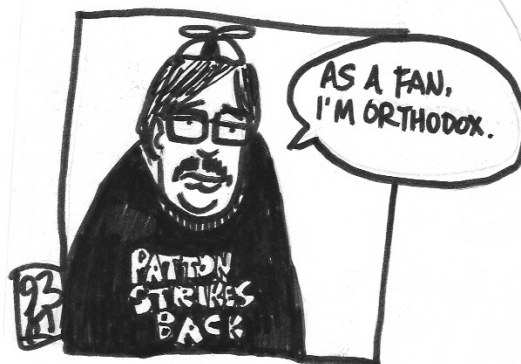
Rosebud. There is a famous BNF who might possibly be enticed into explain the fannish implications of this saying in a future issue of *VFW*. I think I will wait and see if he rises to the fannish bait.

All Truth is contained in fanzines. The saying attests to the importance of fanzines to the subculture of Fandom. Yet this phrase is often uttered with more than

a touch of irony. Saying that all truth is found in fanzines is not quite the same as saying that everything in fanzines is true. It is better, perhaps, to take a Will Rogers-ish skepticism to everything, including fanzines (except this one).

I imagine other fans can think of similar fannish aphorisms. Maybe they’ll share them with us.

-- Arnie



NOW & Again PS...Censored!

Last column was my last Confession. . .or, at least, the last one planned. And I have something I wanta add to it. When I was talking about how what you saw looking at me was not really me, I had intended to use medical science to back me up: My physical when I was seventy brought a comment from my doctor: “You have the heart of a fifty-year-old.” (Brought to mind a quote from Robert Bloch: “I have the heart of a little boy. I keep it in a jar in the kitchen.”) Then, earlier this year I had an EEG. Doctor said, “Your brain is only 20 years old.” (Didn’t I say age was all in your head?)

Anyway, if my heart is fifty and my brain twenty – what you see AIN’T what you get, when you look at me!

Now, out of confessions, I hafta turn out a Regular Column. A Regular Column? A Regular Column??? How in the world am I supposed to do that?

Well, just remember: You never run outta things to talk about, Vick!

In a way, this IS another confession: I’m a comix fan! Now, I don’t just mean Superman and The Fantastic Four and so on. . .I watch TV comix – the Cartoon Network, primarily. And I’ve done some online research about the Teen Titans and a few others.

Talk about fantasy!

Nearly every member has not one, but two or even three backgrounds! Sometimes they are like parallel worlds. . .sometimes, alternate universes! (That’s always been something I liked about Green Lantern. Like Dr No, they pull different ones out as years pass.)

‘Tain’t just back-ground, either; the artwork



the Cartoon Networks Teen Titans. And then –

Again, the first one from comic books, the second from TV. Honest – each of them is a girl named Starfire. Way I have it figured is that the TV version is supposed to be more in line with the younger kids, whilst comic books are, ‘most always, teenage and above.



varies – drastically! Now, you would expect each cartoonist to vary in style, but – Well, take a Look to the right:

Two different incarnations of Raven; the first one from comic books, the second one from

There are blogs online, as well as lotsa other websites, all devoted (in this case) to the Teen Titans, including fan-fiction and polls and art and interviews and. . .you get the idea! In fact, each member of the Titans has several websites of their own.

Oh, and whilst looking around, I found a site called Cartoon Girls I Wanta Lay! Amused me. It even included Betty Cooper, from Archie!

Is nothing sacred?

Well, you create an internet, make it easy to get to,leave it pretty well uncensored, and –

What do you expect???

Also on Cartoon Network there's

one where I like the premis. It's called Static Shock. Seems a bunch of teenagers accidentally were exposed to a chemical spill from a local lab. Later, they start developing these strange powers; Static has the power of harnessing electricity and making it do things. One can throw blasts of fire, while one becomes Rubberman, kinda like Mr Fantastic. And there are others. Most use their powers for their own benefit, paying little attention to the law. Static Shock



Then there's also the Winx Club. Seems there is only one fairy left on Earth, and she manages to make it to Fairyland where she can go to Fairy College. But not all fairies are good, leading to (of

course!) trouble.

Then, when I tried to submit the column, I was censored by the Internet.

I explained to Arnie: I've already tried twice to send this to you! It's another column that just sorta came out of left field. Short, but several pix. The pix seem to have overloaded what I'm doing!

The first try bounced, saying there wasn't enuf room in your mailbox. Now, I don't believe that -- but, when I pulled the column up, the computer had, somehow, multiplied the number of pix! There were three copies of each one!

I decided to save it as a PDF and send it that way. (I wanted the pix included so you could see where I wanted them; the order is important for two sets of them.)

Saved it as PDF, then Attached.

Or *started* to Attach. As sometimes happens with a big file, it stayed on Attach for a while. And a while! I left the computer to get something to drink, came back... same thing!

Finally I decided it just wasn't gonna do. So I'll send the column, indicate by typing placement in. So I'll get it off eventually -- column one email, pix another. Lemme get it started. . *after* I've added this into the column!

— Shelby Vick



Continued from p 2

Here's what Linda had to say:

"If you are attending the Snaffu meeting on Fri. Nov. 11 (Decatur & Sahara) let's discuss plans to change over to the dinner meeting on such points as when it should start and time of day. Also let's try to determine what to do about Nov. 24 and Dec. 23 meetings - should they be held on those days, moved, or what - and dinner or just Borders meetings.

"For those of you unable to attend - please send me email privately or post on snaffu@googlegroups.com so we can figure out what most people would prefer to do. If Snaffu does want to go to dinner starting in Nov. or Dec. I will try to arrange a suitable venue .Nov. 24 is

coming quickly, so we need to decide if Thanksgiving-time is going to be a problem or not.

"The Xmas party is coming up Dec. 10, so that will be a good event for Dec. It is only 1 day after the 2nd Friday meeting -- too bad those are so close together.

"Let me know what you think and I'll try to give the views of those unable to attend the Nov. 11 meeting."

VSFA/SNAFFU to Combine on Movie Outing!

Mindy Hutchings and Linda Bushyager are putting together a movie outing to see *Harry Potter ^ the Goblet of Fire*. The idea is to use the "dinner and a movie" format — with dinner being the November Sunday Social (11/20), 2 PM).

Start times for the film are not yet available.



Mindy and Linda wrote:

"We would prefer to go after the Social, but due to available show times, we might have to schedule this prior to the Social. We will not know the exact details until approximately one week before to the Social, but once we have the venue and time, we'll let everyone know.

"There are already enough people wanting to go that transportation should be available for anyone interested. In any case, we hope that you will plan to attend the Sunday Social where there will be good conversation for all and economical food for anyone who wishes to eat."

Futurists Announce Details Of Wil McCarthy Event!

Scientist and Science Fiction writer Wil McCarthy will address the Las Vegas Futurists on Friday, January 13 at 5:30 PM. McCarthy will give his talk at Borders bookstore (2190 South Rainbow Blvd/

McCarthy is expected to discuss the science that serves as the foundation for such science fiction novels as *The Collapsium* and *Hacking Matter*.

The author will also answers questions after his

speech and sign books bought at the store during the event.

Taylor Gives Library Temporary Home!

James Taylor has offered to store the SNAFFU Library in his garage until the Launch Pad's garage is ready to receive the massive collection (augmented by our book and magazine collection).

Darmon Thornton, who is in the middle of a move anyway, will get the library from the Bernstein-Gibbs home where it now resides and convey it to its new, temporary resting lace.

Zathura Is Next 'Dinner and a Movie' Outing!

The next VSFA Dinner & a Movie outing will be this (11/12) Saturday. Fans will be going to see *Zathura* at Neonopolis' Crown Theater.

The movie is scheduled to start at approximately 5:15 PM. Rebecca Hardin advises fans to get to the theater between 4:45 and 5:00.

Fitting the name of the event, the group will go out for dinner after the movie.

ChatBack: The VFW Letter Column

The email queue is satisfyingly full, and since I'm eager to keep the published-within-a-week pace, I'd better not filibuster too much here. Let's do it!

A late-arriving loc just missed last issue, which gives me the pleasure of having one of my closest fan friends lead things off this time...

Robert Lichtman

Some comments on *VFW No. 50*, or at least the parts of it that aren't *me*. First, I enjoyed your "How to Write for Fanzines" as the booster piece it is, trying to encourage this new generation of Vegas fans to jump in and test the waters -- perhaps at first contributing to SNAPS and then, one hopes, going out beyond local fandom. Hope it meets with some success.

I'm looking forward to a Full Report on the Las Vegas visit of Art Widner.

Randy Byers's letter is certainly sercon (old definition) regarding What Electronic Fanzines Should Be Like. I doubt that Mark Plummer and I are the only people who print out PDFzines, but we may be the most prolific. I have hard copies of every fanzine you and Joyce have done since going electronic, and the same goes for every issue of Earl's zine.

However, I only print out a fairly small percentage of what turns up on Bill Burns's efanazines.com. As far

So Long, Joshua!

VSFA Views

Joshua's going away party had a small turnout. Only members of his *Star Trek* group, K'Ehleyr Station arrived.

Many members of VSFA (especially the-BoD's) were far too pooped after staying up all night for the Halloween Party and then having to restore James Willey's home (aka: taking down the decorations). However, many VSFAans gave Joshua their own well wishes.

Joshua announced at the party that his plans for the future may be changing. He is off to visit his Grandmother, and he, as of yet, does not know whether he will be continuing on to Canada or returning to Las Vegas to live with his parents. Either way, everyone wishes Joshua well, and that he'll find whatever he's looking for and have a good and happy life, where ever that may be. — Ruth Davidson

as "ideal" format for electronic fanzines, perhaps my favorite non-traditional one was the late John Foyster's *eFNAC*, which presented each page in what would on paper be the landscape format. This made it possible to read a page on-screen, but it required extra thought in how to position the paper when printing out the back sides. And yes, I printed out all of *eFNAC*, too.

From one "Core Fan" to another, I agree with your using that term instead of "Classic Fans." The latter is too broad-based and can apply to those who have been around just as long as we have but whose main interests lie in other areas.

Mark Plummer writes, "What it takes, I think, is for paper publishers to recognize PDF publishers as equals, different manifestations of the same message, and indeed vice versa."

I totally agree, and find this a far less polarizing statement than your (as quoted by Mark) "We digital publishers have got to stick together."

Arnie: I don't know why it should be so, but Vegas fans have had to wrestle with greater-than-average timidity when it comes to testing fannish waters. I'm hoping that SNAPS, VFW, Implications (and perhaps Ruth Davidson's VSFA Valley Voyager) will be a way for

some of these scaredy-cats – you reading this, Merric? – to give things a try.

I like the term "Core Fandom," because it is based on one's knowledge and understanding of Fandom, not the type (or types) of fanac one pursues.

I didn't believe it when I saw it in my email queue, but here he is, big as life and as lovably cranky as ever...

Bill Kunkel

I must express my admiration. You are now obviously a fastidious user of Spellchecker -- which I think is, by and large, a Good Thing. Yet I am delighted that you still manage to thwart its Big Brother-like attempts to homogenize and format all writing and periodically burst out with what I call the Arnie Katz New Age Typo (with a tip of the fakefan beanie to our new kitten, Typo). These are typos that somehow elude the All-Seeing Eye of Ms Agamoto that otherwise keeps your writing too tidy and void of Arnie-isms.

For example, at one point you intended to write "I wonder" but instead produced the delightful "I wonderful" -- and it's actually perfect. It's also very shrewd of

A Money Matter

BT: His Window

I can't say much about money because I have so much of it that I stuff the smaller bills into my pillow and the bigger ones into the mattress. I don't bother to count it but have a rough idea of the total amount by the number of lumps I sleep on.

Had a bit of trouble with the maid once. I caught her trying to smuggle my mattress out of the house and into her Volkswagen bug. If she had selected a pillow she would have gotten away with it and I would have been a lump short. — Bob Tucker

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you to change the type size from one LOC to another without being scolded by that stick-up-its-ass paperclip character who tries to slap us around whenever we do something Out of Format.

Don'cha love those smartass lectures you get when it thinks you're making a list or writing a letter? "It looks like you're writing a letter. Perhaps to your mother. You don't write her very often, you know. Oh, e-mail doesn't count for old people. Here, let me write this for you..."

I've voided all those default options and the smartass paperclip sits screaming its know-it-all advice, which goes unheard through the electrons of my monitor. It is by now quite mad.

Seriously, *VFW* was fun as always. I remain remote from the details through my lack of fannish conversation -- i.e., I never bring up the subject. But I can smell a good internecine feud brewing and its saucy scent fills my lungs with vestiges of Insurgentism from decades past.

Or some shit like that.

Arnie: I'm becoming perversely proud of the ability of my typos to squirm through the twin snares of the Spellchecker and Joyce's proofreading. They are a hardy breed. Karma being what it is, your letter about my typos had two of your own. Remember, Bill, typos can strike anyone, regardless of race, nationality or creed. They are working on a vaccine. (I am a test subject; the fact that I could spell "vaccine" shows that it is working...)

I don't think there'll be a local fan war. There's

some miscommunication and some difference in attitude and understanding, but I don't see a lot of villains ready to perpetrate major infamies.

The hits just keep on comin'....Now it's time for another creative and delightful letter from one of VFW's most popular contributors....

Dick Lupoff

Well, upon reading the latest *VFW* and of course my own letter therein, I got the terrible feeling that I was coming across as an arrogant would-be bigshot, than which in reality I am anything but, or at least so I hope.

Jeez, there are some real bigshots around here, and not arrogant either. Bob Tucker invited me to his 90th birthday party a few months ago. I was unable to attend,



Richard Lupoff as a neofan, circa 1938.

and sent my regrets. Tucker responded with an email to the effect of, No big deal, I'll just invite you again to my 180th.

By Ghu-Ghu, if he does (and it wouldn't surprise me!) I will make it my business to be there.

With bells on.

Anyway, since you are in the habit of publishing photographs in *VFW*, I am attaching a pic of myself, which I hope you will see fit to include in a future edition of your most estimable periodical. When the publisher of my due-real-soon-now collection, Terrors, asked me for any author photo I sent him this one. He declined to use it, and requested something of more recent vintage.

Can you believe the effrontery?

Lissen, I'd write longer but I have to go change clothes for this afternoon's ceremony in which I will accept the Nobel Prize for Literature. The committee would have phoned me by now to set up an appointment, except that I have an unlisted number.

Dang!

*Arnie: You know, the same thing happened to me. I thought I was sure to get that Nobel Prize for Literature – I submitted *VFW* with all the necessary forms and authentications, but I'm still waiting for that summons to Sweden. Who knows, maybe if the Nobel folks don't come through, maybe one of us will hear from the folks at *Swedish Erotica*.*

Now that we have been duly dazzled by a trio of

Potshot's Cartoon Theater



BNFs, let's bring on current Fandom's most prolific young publisher...

Chris Garcia

You open with Art! I met Art about five years ago and had the good fortune to get to witness his slide-show of early fandom at NASFiC this year. I'm glad to hear that he's just running late and nothing worse. You know, if I could think of a pair that would be more entertaining than Earl and Art, I'm not sure who they would be!

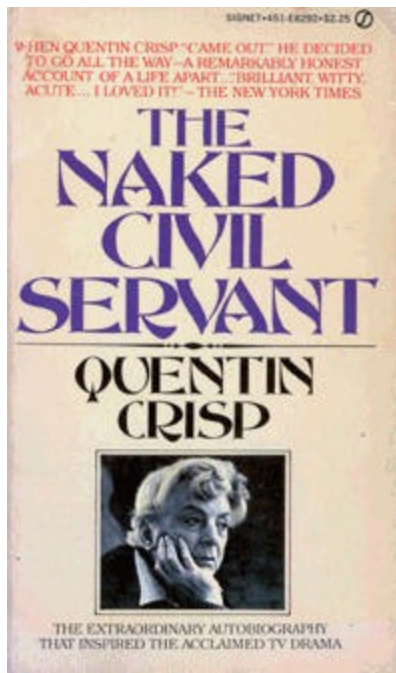
By the way, I love *The Naked Civil Servant*. Great time had I while watching that.

I've never been clear on Insurgents. I know the names, what they've done over the years, but I've never really understood the push. Trufannishness, I get, but the Insurgents, I'm still kinda fuzzy. I do sorta have a different view than the selectivism that you mention towards the end of the article. Somehow, my life has allowed me to basically absorb as much as people put in front of me and still have time and energy for more. I just like the idea of seeing as much of what's out there as possible, both the good and the bad and the stuff that disinterests me. Maybe I'm a little too egalitarian in my fannish thinking.

I've never read *The Fantasy People*, but I've often thought of what I'd like my fan writing to be, at some point during my future fanac, and it sounds just like what I think of at those times. Then again, as my National Novel Writing Month experience has shown me (I finished my 50k words in just 2 1/2 days), I'll always be better counted on for quantity than quality.

Ken Forman: Chicken Slayer. That might be my next short film. I've got a friend who looks just like him. Throw in Kate Kelton as the love interest and Rosie O'Donnell as a wise-cracking CGI Chicken that gets butchered and it's a sure fire hit!

Sounds like Halloween was a blast out there. I didn't do much, just walked around with Gen and Evelyn (who was a purple princess while I dressed as Jay



Lake) and then went to the BASFA meeting, then home to watch wrestling, then I started my novel around 1 and stopped typing around 4am. Not a totally exciting Halloween, but one that didn't end up with me being taken in for questioning (which has happened TWICE!)

Believe it or not, there have been three different wrestlers who have used Occam's Razor or a variation as their character. The best of them was Occam S. Razor, a late 1980s rassler who worked the indy circuit up my way and in the Northwest. He was a High Flyer. In Germany, there was, and I kid you not, Jochim Razor, who didn't use that name long before he came to the US as Alex Wright. O-Cam Razir was an indy guy who worked bad lucha. I officially know far too much about wrestling...

You know, I do most of my publishing through Bill "If he's not a Saint he should be" Burns and eFanzines for the same reason as Dave Burton, because even though I can print for free, even sending out the 25 regular issues of Claims Department was more than my bank account could handle. So, it too will be on eFanzines for the most part.

I'm sorry I missed congrats on the 50th issue. You're going strong and making the rest of us look like slackers!

Arnie: There's no pressure, certainly not from me, to change that egalitarian approach. As I've repeatedly said, each fan's philosophy is a blend and Trufannishness is certainly a large component of mine. But my belief that all fans are created equal is tempered by my sense that my time on this Earth is finite. Since I see the limit, it means that what I have must be allocated effectively to produce the most happiness. My experience is that I am happier if I spend an hour with one friend than 15 minutes with four acquaintances. That doesn't mean I sometimes don't spend the time with those four, but I know which means more to me.

Chiming in with some stfnal memories is one of VFW's most recent, but no less loved, additions....

Hank Luttrell

Lupoff's mention of the old Mentor anthology which included a convention report ("The Fantasy People" by Dave Ish) reminded me -- I've been looking for that book for years!

And I've never seen it. The title of



the book is a little confused here, by the way. It is actually *New World Writing* -- no plural on "World." Obviously mixing it up with the British science fiction magazine.

That's a minor detail, but the sort of thing that could make it harder to find using a search engine, for instance. If the date is right, 1956, that would make it the 9th annual edition of this serial, Mentor MD170. I'm not positive about that, because while there are many copies being offered for sale (with prices ranging from about \$3 to more than \$20), most of the sellers don't mention contributors beyond Ralph Ellison and William Eastlake.

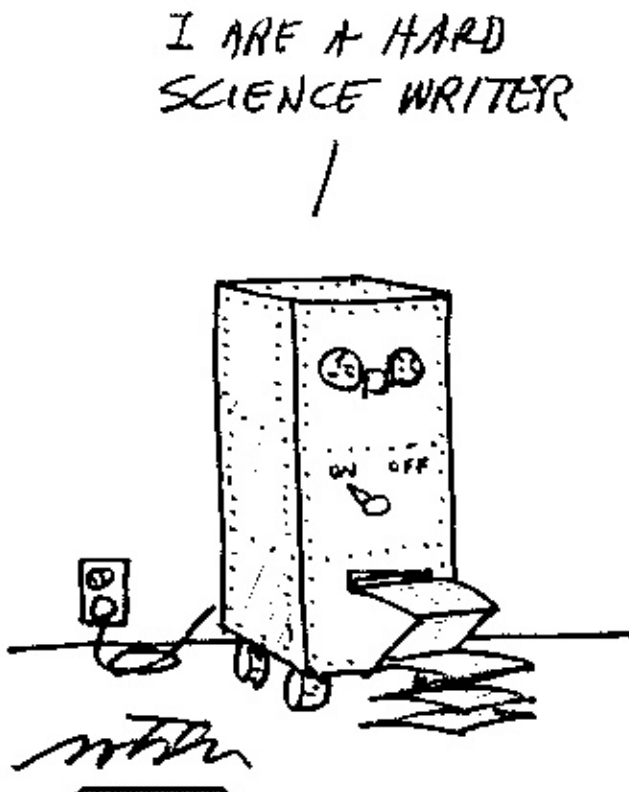
Obviously, I could order it from one of these Internet-based sellers, but that would be too easy. I'd rather find it the old fashioned way, in a used book store, a thrift shop or a box of old books offered to me by a customer

Arnie: Wouldn't it be nice if we could locate the book, get whatever permissions might be necessary and put it on the Internet for all of Fandom to enjoy?

Back with another, brief LoC is the Sage of the BArea...

Robert Lichtman

I was amused to read "Where's Widner?" in *VFW No. 51*, since Art has a bit of a history with me for being late. To explain, when I was still working in Santa Rosa we would get together now and then for a lunch date when Art was coming down from Gualala for a doctor's appointment. On more than one occasion he would be considerably later arriving at the restaurant on which we'd decided, which would cause me a certain amount of anxiety because I was on my lunch hour.



However, he always did turn up and, it goes without saying, getting to spend time with him was definitely worth the wait.

Arnie: We were just worried that Art had experienced a highway misadventure until he called to tell us he had been delayed. And he was definitely a great guest when he did arrive.

Weighing in with another of his excellent locs is

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Dodge the Fuggheads!

Warning: Addictive

If the quantity of Vegas fanac suddenly dips, we can put the blame on the insidious David Gordon. David recently sent the URL for a simple, yet compelling online video game to most of local Fandom via the SNAFFU listserv.

The game could hardly be more primitive, but one round often leads to another. And another.

Since there's almost nothing on the screen, I've taken the liberty of providing a theme for this compulsive time-waster. Formerly called *Escape!*, it is now to be known as *Dodge the Fuggheads!* The backstory is that, perhaps due to extreme over-indulgence, you find yourself at the wrong party! "This is not the Cool People's Party!" you shriek as you regain consciousness.

The fuggheads have spotted you and are closing in. Long, boring conversations bubble on their lips like a mad dog's spittle. Your only chance is to evade them as long as possible in the hope that Ted White will save you. (John Hardin has dodged fuggheads for over 45 seconds!)

The URL: <http://www.iol.ie/~dluby/escape.htm>

— Arnie

High Risk Why I'm in Nevada

Nevada has a habit of not going away. It stays in one place; it barely moves at all. Or maybe it's me who hasn't moved since I came to Nevada.

Still, it's a dynamic state, Nevada. The scrub brush in Pahrump contrasts with the scrub brush in Vegas in that the latter is a slightly darker green. The neon lights of the casinos in Tonopah are dimmer than those of the whorehouses in Pahrump. The dirt along I-15 is slightly more ochre-colored than the dirt along the Blue Diamond highway. And then there are the mountains. They are all the same, gray craggy peaks that cut a jagged edge along the sky.

The sun is the same all the time. Big, hot, glaring. And as it sinks slowly in the west, we bid a fond adieu to this enchanted desert. . . Whoops. It's still here. Damn place just won't go away. Maybe if I got in my car and drove a piece. I might do that one day. Just to see if anything happens in Nevada. If anything changes. Did I tell you about the pretty new casino they're building in Vegas? I didn't? Well, never mind. It doesn't matter.

Nevada is miles of nothingness, punctuated by the occasional casino or brothel. There is no state income tax, because there is nothing to tax. You can't squeeze a dollar out of sagebrush. You can't file a lien against a scrub pine. You can't get blood out a hunk of sandstone. (Sure, there's gambling to tax, but don't they skim most of that off?) In most states, there is practically nowhere you can stand without being in sight of the signs of civilization—a golden arch, a sign that promises "Always," a green sign that offers hot coffee ground fresh from the bean—glorious icons that are the bulwark of our civilization. But here you can find vast reaches of the natural world. It still exists. Land untouched since the first colonists from Asia trekked across it on the way to someplace that could sustain them. There's nothing here. Nothing.

I drive and my eyes wander—don't worry, there's nothing to hit, not a tree, not a pole, noth-

ing for fifty miles at a time—over a sea of uniform knee-high scrub brush stretching not to the horizon but to a gray expanse of mountain, bleak and eroded, dry as dust, denuded of any speck of vegetation.

What's that? Ahead, on the road, a mote of something, miles distant. It's an approaching vehicle. Something actually lives out here. You know that, for every once in a great while, some tiny, unidentifiable thing skitters across the road in front of your car, dashing for its life. I once caught sight of one of these creatures. It looked like a rat with big ears. It could have been a fox. It could have been a mutant Chihuahua. It looked more like a mutant Chihuahua than a fox. I don't know what it was.

I think of all the nuclear tests that this state hosted. I don't feel very good myself. Is my hair falling out? Oh. Right, my hair fell out a while ago. I'll be all right. I'll be home soon. "Home," actually meaning my place of exile. A house in the desert. In the middle of nowhere, in the middle of nothingness. Bleak nothingness, relieved only by Art Bell and two nearby whore ranches.

I wonder. Do they have to break the whores before they ride them? Rope them, cajole them, then mount them and ride until they stop bucking? Or are the whores compliant when they arrive to take up residence? Are they kept in stables? I have a hundred questions.

I seek answers, out here in the purity of the desert, as have many a mystic before me. There was an old hermit named Dave, who kept a . . . never mind. Around that colossal wreck, the lone and level sands stretch far away.

What colossal wreck? I'd give my right arm for a colossal wreck of something around here. Some sign that someone had ever lived here. For all the signs of the white man will be swept away by the winds eventually.

The chintzy buildings, the prefabs, the billboards—all will be dust in the wind.

— John DeChancie

Continued from p 11

one of Seattle fandom's most prominent citizen and co-editor of the estimable *Chunga...*

Randy Byers

It's great to see the lettercol in *VFW* really taking off lately. That's a sure sign of a healthy fanzine, ain't it?

VFW is the first -- and so far only -- PDFzine that I've found interesting enough to regularly wrestle with the awkwardness of reading it onscreen. I'm not sure that it's just because of the frequency that makes it interesting, although now that the lettercol is bubbling the frequency is certainly a factor. But you've been on a roll since you started the *Bring Bruce Bayside Bulletin*, which I thought was one of last year's best fanzines.

With *VFW* you seem to be making a real effort to reach out to people, including myself, and that also makes it very attractive. Nothing like spreading the egoboo to make fans think you're a pretty interesting guy and a fine writer. I've also been intrigued by your effort to inculcate fannish values in a new generation of fans, and I've enjoyed your little essays about fanhistory and theory. (Funniest line in *VFW 50*: "These one-page *Katzenjammer* essays are like haiku to me.")

I found the various comments about electronic fanzines in the lettercol quite interesting. We need look no further than Earl Kemp's *eI* for an example of how to put out a fanzine with discreet issues in HTML format. Earl and Bill Burns put out a PDF version of *eI* as well, but I always read the HTML version. It would make it more complicated to e-mail copies of the zine to various folks, as you do with *VFW*, but it could be that a notice with a pointer to the website would suffice to get folks to click through.

That said, I sympathize with your reluctance to let go of the paper ideal, and also with the feeling Dave Burton expressed that HTML provides less control over design elements such as typeface. But there are some elegant-looking websites out there, however it's done, so creative design is still a possibility.

Theresa's letter made me wonder whether HTML is easier for her to read than PDF, or whether PDF would be just as easy if the text of articles was kept in one continuous block.

Anyway, I better run outside now since yesterday's steady rain has given way to a rare sliver of November sunshine. Glad you guys managed to locate R.

Twidner, and I hope y'all are having a grand

old time with him down there in the desert.

Arnie: I think you can love your friends and still be open to other fans. I want VFW to be a fanzine for anyone with a substantial interest in Fandom, though it is especially attuned to Core Fandom.

Here's a fresh letter from what T O'Conner Sloan might've called "a fan from the antipodes"...

Bill Wright

LoCs on the subject of paper vs electronic zines are interesting. Comments later. I would like to abstract some of that material -- with general attribution to *VFW #51* -- for use at the Fanzines panel at Conjure, the 45th Aussie Natcon Apr 14-17, 2006. Is that OK?

Meanwhile, here is an Antipodean anecdote for your edification.

An old Aussie lay dying when he sniffed the aroma of his favourite home made meat pie wafting upstairs. Gathering his remaining strength he lifted himself from the bed and, leaning against the wall, slowly made his way down to the kitchen. Were it not for death's agony

he would have thought himself already in heaven, for spread upon waxed paper on the kitchen table were dozens of meat pies alongside a bottle of tomato sauce.

Was it really heaven? Or was it one final act of heroic devotion from his big hippered dinkum Aussie sheila of sixty years seeing to it that he departed this mortal coil a happy ocker? Mustering a final effort, he threw himself towards the table, landing on his knees in a rumbled posture. His parched lips twisted into a rictus of pleasure-pain as the wondrous aroma of pastry suffused his being.



Suddenly, as his withered hand trembled on its way to a pie at the edge of the table, it was smacked with a spatula.

"Bugger off!" said his wife, "They're for the funeral."

Arnie: Consider this permission to use whatever proves helpful. And also feel free to encourage fans to visit efanazines.com (or write to me direct) to get future issues.

The aether vibrates, the cosmic flux quivers... and an outstanding fan of the past takes another stride toward returning to full activity...

Creath Thorne

Many thanks for keeping me on the VFW list. I continue to be amazed by your ability to write, edit and assemble this classy publication every week. How many hours a week would you estimate this takes?

At some point I want to return to my questions about fandom which you were so kind to begin to answer-but I thought this evening I would just put those aside and jump back into it, seeing if I even remotely can fashion up a letter of comment (except it's not really a letter-Post of Comment?).

Like the parents in Heinlein's *The Rolling Stones*, I'm afraid I prefer printed fanzines (printed anything) to the electronic version. I even think that I know why: we look at words with our fovea, a very small portion of the retina where high resolution occurs. Outside the fovea we have much less resolving power but great sensitivity to changes in brightness. Thus, the flicker of a computer screen is interpreted as motion which, in turn, causes the fovea to move, slowing down reading speed. Add to this problems with contrast and resolution & it's just not as pleasant to read on screen.

More generally, when I read a fanzine on line



(something I've now done more than five but less than fifty times) I always have a sense that I'm looking at a picture of a fanzine, not the fanzine itself -- so much so that I'm always tempted to print the 'zine out and read it that way. I've even wondered if I could score some twiltone and run it though my printer to have more of a 'sixties fanzine feel. And it's not that expensive to print a fanzine out; the major expense for me is ink, which seems to run about three cents a page. So a 30 page fanzine is under a dollar to print out-probably less than what it would cost to print it and mail it these days.

Having said all that, I nonetheless believe that e-zines are clearly where everyone will be a few years from now. The advantages of production and distribution are so great that I think they will pull solutions to the technological problems of reproduction along with them.

(I hope you will forgive this pontificating about fanzines when I've been away for thirty years & obviously know nothing of what's really going on. But I have tried to think about e-books and e-culture & that's the source of these thoughts.)

Two or three issues ago Seth Johnson was mentioned. Seth was my first correspondent when I began to be involved in fandom and I've always felt kindly

Las Vegas Fan Event Calendar

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 13 2:00 PM

This meeting has been canceled.

Las Vegrants Meeting November 19 7:30 PM

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

SNAPS Deadline November 20

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

SNAFFU/VSFA Movie Outing November 20 TBA

The two formal clubs will sponsor a trip to see the new Harry Potter movie.

toward him. I gather that he was incredibly poor, supporting himself by selling ice-cream from a cart in the warmer months. Because of his poverty, Seth was frugal in buying the tools of the fannish trade.

Somewhere he had come across reams of a light-weight onionskin paper which, so he thought, would reduce the cost of postage. Unfortunately, since Seth filled up both sides of the page with minimal margins, the bleed-through made his letters difficult to read. Reminds me now of eighteenth century letters where one first filled the page and then wrote cross-wise across it again. In addition, Seth, who was very prolific, worked his way through typewriter ribbons quickly. However, instead of discarding a ribbon when it began to become faint, he would douse the ribbon with Three-in-One oil to briefly restore it. This really didn't work very well & often, when I opened a letter from Seth, the smell of lubricating oil would fill the room. As I think about it, I'm almost nostalgic.

Despite his virtues (I remember him as kind and thoughtful) Seth did tend to forge ahead in his letter-writing, not being overly concerned about the niceties of spelling, punctuation, or syntax. It was, then, a real joy in my life when Redd Boggs began to write me, encouraging me in my efforts to put together a fan-

zine. I still have Redd's letters saved somewhere; what I learned from that correspondence is that by slowing down just a bit one could write with a spontaneity that informs genuine letter-writing and, at the same time, bring care for words and phrases & a sense of the flow and development of a letter to the task. That's pretty generally stated: but in reading Redd's letters you could see his mind at work, bemused, amused, properly elliptical. I learned from Redd that less can be more, that tone controls, that the unexpected can be picked up anywhere and made to shine



in an account of it if we are just alert enough.

Because of those fond memories it somehow made me feel better about Redd's sudden death (which I'm sure I had misremembered as a heart attack) to know that Robert Lichtman was with him near the end of his life.

Has anyone ever thought of doing (or done, for that matter) a fanthology of Redd's writing? That would be a worthwhile project.

Thanks again for the e-copies of VFW. My particular wishes to Joyce; I hope that her recovery is coming along.

Arnie: I think we can safely say that you can still fashion a damn good loc, Mr. Thorne. Your idea about the intrinsic advantage of print over digital fanzines is devilishly clever. The real flowering of digital fanzines may not come until printing becomes cheaper (and possibly two-sided).

I think there was a small Boggs anthology published for FAPA – was it Dave Rike? – but I'm sure fans would love an anthology if you decided to produce one.

We Also Heard From: Laurraine Tutihasi, Marc Cram, Mike Legg.

Is This the End?

Yes, but only for this issue. All signs point to

another issue — the one that completes a year of publication — heading your way about next Thursday.

Hope to see you all then — and hear from you all in the meantime. — Arnie Katz



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... and a ton of news.