

VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

Vegas Fan Events This Week

**SNAFFU Formal Meeting
Friday (2/10) 8:00 PM**

**VSFA “Second Saturday” TV Viewing
Saturday (2/11) 7:30 PM**

*Check out the Calendar
and preview stories*

Toner 2 Postponed!

After a lot of soul-searching, Merric Anderson and James Taylor, have reluctantly come to the conclusion that it won't be practical to hold Toner 2 in Las Vegas the week before the LACon IV. They really didn't want to pull the plug, but they could find no way to guarantee the kind of con they (and the Vegrants) want to host.

The big problem is that Merric, who originally got the ball rolling, has endured a radical change in his job situation. When he first began to kick around the idea, he only traveled a few days a month in his capacity as a hotel room security expert. Over the last three-four months, though, he has been out of town just about every week, all week. He has even sacrificed some weekends. Under the circumstances, he can't promise to be in Las Vegas for Toner, much less provide consistent pre-con help..

That, in turn, would have put a huge burden on James' shoulders. And though James expressed willingness to carry the load if the rest of us thought it advisable, it just doesn't seem like a great idea.

This was an agonizing decision for both James and Merric and they tried to figure out a way that they could invite everyone to Toner 2 with certainty, but no solid alternatives came to light.

Speaking for Las Vegrants and, indeed, all of Las Vegas Fandom, we hope you'll consider stopping here before or

after the worldcon, because we'd love to see you here in Glitter City.

The New Generation of Las Vegas Fandom is still in its formative stages, comparable to the previous generation circa 1992. Viewed in that light, Toner 2 may've been a little premature.

SNAFFU Library Committee Prepares to Build!

On Thursday, February 2, the SNAFFU Library Committee advanced an important step closer to getting the library set up and open for fans. Committee chairman Lori Forbes, Jolie LaChance, James Taylor and Teresa Cochtan joined Joyce and I for a relatively brief but highly productive session..

The chief reason for getting together was to give Jolie, a professional carpenter, a chance to examine the shelves and figure out what we need to set up shelves that are stable enough to handle the books.

They now have compiled a list which will be priced out at one or more of the local home centers. It is likely that the next session, in early March, will see some shelves erected in the Launch Pad's garage.

Continued on page 13



Inside Story Pulling Together

Las Vegas Fandom has put on some very successful events in the last months — the Christmas and New Year's parties, the VFW Anniversary, the Wil McCarthy Appearance and even last Saturday's Vegrants meeting. There's no reason to suppose that the year just begun won't have its full share of great events.

Yet our community is no freer of problems than any other fan center. One club — Neon Rainbow — appears to have gone dormant, if not extinct. VSFA continues to sponsor audience-oriented activities, but the membership is small and not very experienced with organizing actual fanac. SNAFFU only has one candidate for each of its two offices and the meetings are significantly smaller than they were at times in the past.

I'm not just singing the blues. Las Vegas Fandom is doing very well and the best is very likely still to come. Yet I can't ignore those problems, especially since I believe that the solution is simple, straight-forward and cost-free: Unity. SNAFFU and VSFA certainly don't have to merge, but the advantages sure seem to outweigh the rampant inflexibility and runaway egos that have stifled discussion of such a unification in the past.

Look, these two clubs can certainly continue as they are. They don't *have* to unite, but I think it is mutually beneficial for them to do so. It would create one solid group to serve as a focus for the kind of events, like the Las Vegas Fantasy & Science Fiction Day, that require wide-spectrum support and plenty of effort.

Both groups have strengths and, since I'm being honest, weaknesses. SNAFFU has a far larger membership than VSFA, a roster that includes many fans who really know about Fandom and have proven ability to do all kinds of activities from cons to fanzines. SNAFFU also owns what may well be the biggest science fiction library between Chicago and the West Coast. Yet SNAFFU leadership is a bit thin and in need of new blood (and new ideas). The new format Joyce will introduce to the SNAFFU Discussion meetings would only be improved by more participants such as VSFA might provide.

VSFA has sponsored a number of successful activities and events since it became active about a year ago, most especially the Sunday Socials and the VSFA listserv. VSFA also did a lot on the Fantasy & SF Day and did a good job of putting on the Las Vegas Fandom Halloween Party under the UFV banner. They've also established some audience-oriented events like the Dinner and a Movie Series and the video and TV viewings at James Willey's place. Yet VSFA has some weaknesses, too, which could even threaten its long-term continued existence as a viable fan club. The club is very small and does not have a single major active fan. The listserv is in the doldrums, the Socials have not been well-attended and there is a lack of direction.

If the clubs unite, VSFans will have real scope for their organization efforts, SNAFFU will have a new generation of leadership and renewed energy and Las Vegas Fandom will benefit from a heightened community spirit and more frequent and ambitious events.

I'll be presenting a detailed plan in the next couple of weeks. I hope members of both clubs will give it consideration.

— Arnie

Vegas Fandom Weekly #64, Volume 2 Number 10, February 7, 2005, is written and produced by Arnie Katz (909 Eugene Cernan St., Las Vegas, NV 89145; Email: crossfire4@cox.net; phone: 702-648-5677).

Special Thanks to Roxanne Gibbs (many things), Bill Burns (posting), David Gordon (Futurists liaison), Alan White (arty fella) and Joyce Katz (proofreading).

Reporters this issue: Roxanne Gibbs, Michael Bernstein, Teresa Cochran, Linda Bushyager, Rebecca Hardin and Joyce Katz

Art/Photo Credits: Alan White (3, 13), Shelby Vick (4), Ross Chamberlain (7), Atom (8), Ray Nelson (8), Lee Hoffman (9), Ron Bushyager (10, 11), all else by Bill Rotsler.

Columnists This Issue: Shelby Vick, Joyce Katz.

VFW is free by request — and you may get it anyway. It can be downloaded at the SNAFFU site and at efan-zines.com. No bumptious neos were harmed during the production of this fanzine.

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

Sin City Sing-out! Las Vegrants

Billy Mills and Ayesha Ashley provided lively musical accompaniment to the fannish hijinks at the February 4 Vegrants meeting. Despite some lamentable absences, 17 fans, a ferret and the elusive Foggy the Cat turned out for the “first Saturday” get-together.

Spirits were high, despite two pieces of disappointing news.

Despite their best efforts to make it happen, James Taylor and Merric Anderson reluctantly announced that they’ve been forced to shelve plans for Toner 2 this year. It was the right time for a Toner, but it wasn’t the right time for us to put on even a relaxacon .

The other bad news was the abrupt departure of John DeChancie for Los Angeles. Everyone expressed the hope that John will soon be reunited with his fellow Vegrants.

Bill and Ayesha serenaded their fellow Vegrants with an assortment of excellently performed blues and folk. Some Vegrants gathered around the musicians in



David DelVal, the newest Vegrant, spoke entertainingly about many subjects, including movie memorabilia.

the dining room, while others continued conversations in the living room and my office with the tuneful accompaniment. They did so well, in fact, that it’s likely that the Vegas Music Circle will soon hold another music-making evening.

Jack Delval, who attended his second Vegrants meeting, continues to fit in smoothly with the rest of the group. He talked enthusiastically about his main hobby of collecting movie stills and memorabilia, which led to a general conversation about collecting.

Jack recently discovered, to his joy, that quality prints of his rare stills are highly saleable. Drawing on my experience as editor-in-chief of CollectingChannel.com, I pointed out that there are two fundamentally different types of collectors. (There is also a third category, composed of people who think subscribing to Franklin Mint programs is collecting rather than serial consumerism.)

Some collect mementoes, but others are only interested in acquiring content. For them, reproductions are entirely satisfactory. Billy and I explained how the same factor has changed Old Time Radio from a content-oriented hobby to one that gives more weight to radio relics and background information.

Those congregating at the Launch Pad on 2/4 were: James Taylor, Teresa Cochran, Ross Chamberlain, Merric & Lubov Anderson, Alan & Dedee White, Roxanne & Billy Mills, David Delval, Lori Forbes, Ayesha Ashley, Su Williams, Marcy Waldie, Joelle Barnes, Joyce Katz and me...

— Arnie Katz



NOW & Again A Specialized Memory

Rich brown talks about his 'cast-iron sieve of a memory', and I clearly understand. But I have a selective memory, seeing the past with rose-colored glasses, remembering the difficulties, but focusing of the pleasant. It has helped me thru life in many ways!

Anton Chekhov (not *Ensign* Chekhov, but Anton) has said, "Any idiot can face a crisis; it is this day-to-day living that wears you out." He's got a point there. But, looking back, my specialized memory doesn't see it that way. When I was about 11, we pulled up roots and moved to St Petersburg. My grandfather, who was deep into contracting, had moved there and ended up telling my dad there was lotsa business, and we should join him. Now, I know that leaving my home was drastic, and remember regretting leaving the friends I had grown up with (well, as much

'grown up with' as you can do in eleven or twelve years) but what I remember is St Pete. There was a park with a lake where I enjoyed playing with my mom's dog, Betty. There were new friends I made. AND –

I discovered my first used-magazine store! At first, they would give me two mags for three. After a bit (maybe becoss of all my business!) they went to two-for-one, but I still traded there a lot. (And 'traded' was definitely the accurate word!) I had discovered pulp sf by then, but I also got lotsa comics.

Later, in my teens, we started selling the cleaning paste, Sanco, and by then I had discovered fanzines, Quandry in particular. (A quick aside – of course; I can't do a column without asides!) my spellchecker has learned. Ordinarily it underlines misspellings, but it just accepted Quandry. My spellchecker is getting fannish! (Altho it DOESN'T accept 'spellchecker'; I guess it wants a space after 'spell'.) ANYhoo (it accepted that, too!) I read a lot of Walt Willis and started the Willis Campaign. Started it in the summer, intending to get Walt to Nolacon in '51, but that failed. I'm sure I felt lots of disappointment, but I only remember being glad to head WAW With the Crew in '52, and how happy I was to meet Walt. Not only meet him at the '52 ChiCon, but also when he came by to visit and I got to introduce him to the Gulf of Mexico. After swimming for a while, he said that someone had to devise a way to divert the Gulf Stream to Ireland.

When Suzy and I got married, she started ballooning up almost immediately, and tongues began to wag, the way they do in small towns. In almost exactly nine months, she gave birth to twins. They were premature, and didn't live 24 hours, but Suzy and I convinced ourselves that God needed more angels in Heaven, and chuckled about how the wagging tongues were thwarted. (Suzy ALWAYS showed early.)

There is one exception: We next had a little



Shelby took this photo of Walt Willis in 1952, during WAW's trip to the US for Chicon II.

girl (after delivery, Suzy said, fondly, “She looks just like George Burns.” She quickly outgrew that, and Elizabeth Ellen Vick became ‘Betsy.’ When she was maybe two, we showed her the full moon and said, “Moon.”

Betsy looked at it and disagreed. “Baah!” she said, meaning ‘ball’.

“Moon,” I corrected her.

She looked at me and said, “moom”.

I nodded, pointed up in the sky, and said, “Moon.”

Betsy looked up in the sky and said, conclusively, “Baah.”

At four-and-a-half, one of the carpool ladies picked her up to take a bunch of kids to the church kindergarten. I left for work a few minutes later and saw the car off the side of the road, smashed into a tree. Several of the kids were injured, but Betsy was unconscious. A friend of mine who came by said he would get Suzy, and I rode to the hospital in the ambulance.

Betsy died a few days later.

It took Suzy and I two weeks to be able to move back into the house.

Now, while I say this is an exception, nonetheless I focus on the happy parts. I try not to be like a lady clerk I met a few months later; she had lost her daughter eight years earlier, and still mourned about it. When I think of Betsy, I remember “Moom,” and “Baah!”mories.

There are many more, of course. Making my first book sale only led to a payment of under \$300, but it was a SALE! Suzy and I worked really hard to come up with three more. I remember lots of problems with plotting, lots of typing (OH what I would have given for word processing! Back then, changing the story involved crumpling up typed paper, tossing it in the wastebasket, and starting over – on a *manual* typer, not an electric one.)

But it was fun! I was SELLING! So it took lots of effort and was repaid in a small way, but I



WAS SELLING!

There was the car whose engine a friend of mine and I rebuilt – and the engine burned out on me on my way home, at night. A prison was nearby, and a guard let a trustee bring me home in an official truck – but the friend and I had lots of fun doing the rebuilding. So what if we had failed to clean the oil system when we rebuilt it? Besides, having a prisoner bring me home was exciting.

Mustn't forget Corflu Sunsplash. I was really tickled to get that Corflu, and bubbled over with lots of ideas to attract fans. A Real

Convention in Panama City! It ended up being the SMALLEST Corflu ever – but it was a blast! Most of my best fannish friends attended, so (again!) I remember the fun.

And then there was my auto accident, just before my 76th birthday. I was told I should been killed when that car plowed into me, smashing right into the driver's side. But I survived.

What was good about that? Well, there were the wonderful hallucinations I had while recovering, as well as the fact that I DID recover. Yeah, it led to a bunch of months in the Lisenby Retirement Center, where they loved serving LETTUCE SALAD. And where it took them weeks to get my cable activated so's I could be online again. But there were interesting people I met there, as well as visits from friends. In fact, the best part of it is, the memories. That is, REMEMBERING that I was in Lisenby, all past.

A selective memory is a wonderful thing.

— Shelby Vick

If You Enjoy Now & Again, you are really missing out by not getting Shelby Vick's other fanzines. Go to efanzines.com and have a great time with one of Core Fandom's most unique and appealing personalities.

See also Shelby's recent electronic fanzine reprints of *Odd* and his own *confusion*.

Katzenjammer A Volatile Core

The young year's most interesting fanhistorical discussion was the conversation on the Trufan listserv between Ted White and rich brown about ensmallled fanzines.

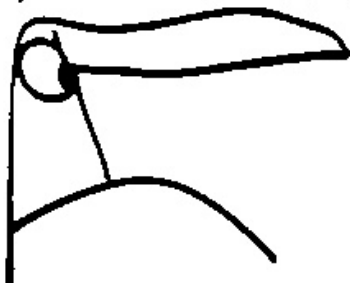
Though I closely followed their fierce debate about what constitutes an ensmallled fanzine and whether specific titles fall within that definition, the most interesting thing to me is that it should take place just as the old criteria are in the midst of a major change.

Core Fandom embraces its roots, but the subculture is far from stagnant. It has lasted eight decades, in part, because it's flexible and evolves to meet changing situations.

The biggest adjustment Core Fandom has ever had to make is currently underway. Core Fandom is shifting from hard copy to digital forms of creative expression and communication. Email has replaced hard copy correspondence, the listservs convey news and foster casual fannish contact and more fanzines are available electronically (visit efanzines.com) than arrive via the post office. Paper-and-ink apas (amateur press associations) are limping toward oblivion and even FAPA and SAPS will all too soon belong to fanhistory.

The fanzine size and frequency paradigms Ted and rich discussed are on the way out. That they had their exchanges on a listserv rather than in a fanzine and that the discussion took less than a week instead of a couple of years demonstrates how much impact changes are having on Core Fandom.

THEY WANT A
100-PAGE ANNISH?
/ THE FOOLS!



I've been publishing electronically about as long as anyone except maybe the late John Foyster and Dick Geis. I've done three "major" digital titles (*Jackpot!*, *The BBB Bulletin* and *Vegas Fandom Weekly*), plus an electronic apazine (*Softcore Fantasy Adventures*) and some special publications (like *The Sweetheart of Fanac Falls*). Though I'm largely pleased with my digital fanzines, each has been more successful than its predecessors.

Though I've gradually learned the digital fanzine medium through trial and error, I only glimpsed the Big Picture after *VFW* rolled into high gear. The mechanics of digital publishing came a lot easier than an understanding of the digital environment itself.

It may be hard to jettison the time-tested theories of fanzine size and frequency, but it is necessary to do so. Digital fanzines operate under some new rules about how big zines should be and how often they should be published.

During the 1950-1985 period, any fanzine that aspired to be a focal point came out monthly or oftener. Most other significant zines appeared bi-monthly or quarterly.

In the last 20 years, postage and paper costs have significantly reduced fanzine frequency. A few genzines aim for a bimonthly schedule, while many see no more than one or two issues a year.

Editors of electronic fanzines usually approach the question of fanzine frequency as if they were still cranking out zines on the ole mimeograph. That's understandable, because some have been doing it that way for a long, long time, but that doesn't mean they're on the right track in 2006.

Few of those who've switched from paper to pixels have taken into account that "frequent" doesn't mean the same thing in the digital fandom age as it did in the hard copy era. A quarterly electronic fanzine turns out to have about the same level of continuity and momentum as a paper-and-ink one that comes out every year or so.

It's because frequency is relative. When the fastest conveyance on earth was a railroad train going 40 mph, that represented incredible speed. Now that airplanes fly at supersonic speeds and some trains crack 180 mph, that same 40 miles per hour is comparatively pokey.

Twenty-five years ago, a North American fan could reach another North American fan in two-to-

three days by postal delivery. Most apas were quarterly and it generally took a week or two to send a bundle of copies of an apa contribution to the OE and about the same to receive the group's latest mailing. Long distance telephone service cost enough that most folks thought twice before calling anyone out of their area code without a good reason.

Under those conditions, a quarterly fanzine is a good, safe choice. A monthly or bimonthly publication sets a rapid pace, relative to a quarterly apa.

Those are, however, no longer the conditions under which Core Fandom operates. The speed with which listservs, email and fan websites disseminate information and facilitate communication is not far from my airplane/railroad train comparison.

Pioneering electronic fanzine publishers picked monthly or bimonthly frequency, pretty fast stepping by the standards of the pre-digital period. Then they wondered why their fanzines didn't get the kind of response frequent, good fanzines used to draw.

The answer, I finally understood, is that a bi-monthly, or even a monthly, fanzine is not all that frequent by the standards of *today's* Core Fandom. Rich and Ted had their ensmalled fanzines debate in days rather than years it would've taken in a quarterly apa or genzine.

Several fans have suggested that *VFW* should cover all of Core Fandom, not just Las Vegas. That's an appealing idea in some ways, but logistically impractical. Any news that doesn't come through the major listservs — Trufen, InTheBar, Wegenheim — is sure to be found on Victor Gonzalez's excellent Trufen.net site. In that light, a *weekly* newszine would be slow off the mark and contain few scoops. (Something more like a fannish *Time* or *Newsweek* might be possible, but I don't think I would attempt it unless fans showed a heretofore invisible desire to pay 50 cents a copy.)

I attribute a lot of *VFW's* success, especially with the letter column, to its weekly schedule. A listserv post that tried to respond to one from a month or two earlier would be perceived as dredging up the past. Fans make allowances for hard copy fanzines, but it's impossible not to notice that you can conduct a discussion via a listserv or a fanzine like *VFW* a whole lot faster than in the pages of a printed fanzine.

As electronic fanzine publishing takes over the fanzine field, I predict that the overall faster pace of



fanac will lead to a major re-evaluation of frequency in the direction of much shorter intervals between issues. I believe that electronic fanzine editors will likely choose between weekly, biweekly, triweekly and monthly, with very few opting for a lower frequency.

Fanzine size is also undergoing a change. Cost is a limiting factor for hard copy fanzines, but electronic publishing is essentially free. That might have led to larger publications, except that digital fanzines have their own limitation: memory.

Further improvement in the speed of home computers and the Internet will eventually remove the memory cap, but it's a significant barrier at the moment. Some fans' email boxes won't accept files above a certain size and some fans still pay a fee for email attachments.

Dial-up Internet connections and the slow processing speed of older computers also pose problems for electronic fanzines. A 4-MB fanzine takes quite a while to download under those conditions. Again, time will dissolve the obstacle.

All that aside, simple logistics will tend to keep down the size of electronic fanzines. The more frequent the fanzine, the less likely it is to also have a great number of pages. Fanzine production is a hobby, not a full-time occupation.

The next Golden Age is coming. Look for it in your email queue.

— Arnie.

Blue Jazant

How to Be a Great Big Fan-Woman

Most people reading this really don't need to – they learned the lessons long ago, and have swollen their egos to the maximum over decades of fan activity. In fact, I caution against reading this, if you have reached any kind of status in fandom, since it may make you puff up so much more that you actually explode.

But I sure could have used such an article back in the 1960s when I finally found fandom. Just think, if I'd had this kind of fannish inspirational path to follow, I might have ended as the Queen of Fandom. It coulda happened.

There certainly has been a terrific train of fan women from whom to draw inspiration. By my count, the greatest female fan of all time is, of course, Lee Hoffman. I'd probably place Bjo Trimble in the next spot (though, as Livia said of Cleopatra, she didn't last as long.) You can fill in the next few slots for yourself – it comes down to some mighty fine femfans doing outstanding fan-

ac-



tivity over a long period of time.

Most of those historical figures came to their high worth by the standard route followed by male fans. LeeH pubbed her ish with great spirit and grace. Bjo cartooned, hosted, and provided inspiration for an entire generation of mountain-movers.

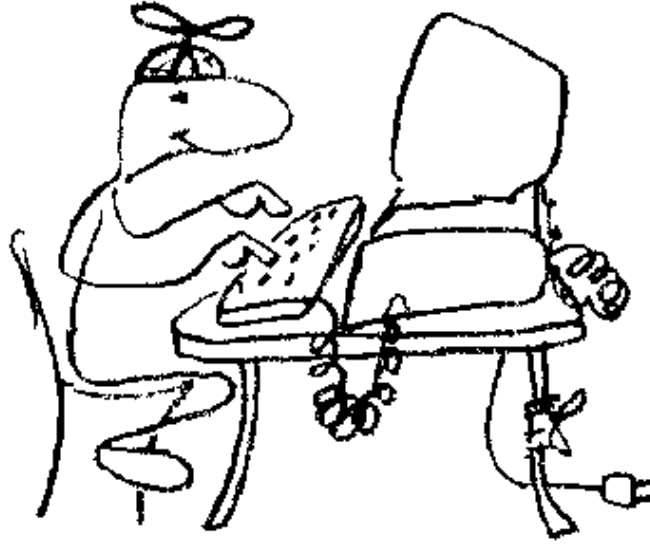
From Juanita Coulson to Suzle Thompson, Ethel Lindsay to Gina Ellis, Linda Bushyager to Lucy Huntsinger, the ladies trod the trails hacked out by the fans who went before. They read, loc'ed and contributed to the fanzines that hit their mailboxes. They listened to hours of discourse from their elders to learn the ways of fandom. And along with the cartoons and illustrations and letters and articles, they often oiled the joints of the big fan machine with oceans of spaghetti sauce and mountains of brownies and chocolate chip cookies. But it was all seasoned with their own creativity, and it went down smoothly, sometimes with a little help from their friends.

This is, admittedly, a somewhat longish route to travel just for a handful of egoboo and a listing on a wholly dubious list of great female fans. In this new millennium, there must be better ways, faster methods. And, since there are so many new female fans around now, I'm writing this article to help them on the way to fame.



(Sorry. No fortune can be expected.)

1. Dazzle them with your accomplishments in the mundane world. The BNFs you want to impress will be knocked out to know that you're president of your PTA, or that you organized your church bazaar, or that you were sales-rep-of-the-month at your job. They'll be equally interested that you're Valedictorian of your high school, on the Dean's List, or editor of your class yearbook.
2. Print your thesis in your fanzine. Fans really enjoy reading academic papers, and you know they're going to love your report on the growth of algae on the bottom of your dad's boat.
3. Double space your fanzine to make it impressively multi-paged. You might also consider publishing on only one-side of



the paper. Or, you can accomplish much the same thing by including large diagrams and photographs that puff up your page count.

4. Plagiarize interesting articles you find on the internet or in obscure magazines. No one will ever notice.
5. Write attack pieces directed against some of fandom's sacred cows.

Everyone will mark your courage and conviction, and they won't mind your slashing at things and people they love. Really.

6. Wear really big hats, low-cut blouses, and long dangling scarves. Toss your hair a lot. No one will remember that you haven't written anything of note since, well, forever.
7. Bring up sex in your conversation as often as possible. Mention that you like it a lot.
8. When you sign your name, list all the offices you have ever held, so everyone will see how important you are.
9. Argue with every point raised, on the listservs, in fanzines, and at club meetings. People will respect you for it.
10. Learn nothing. You don't need to bother. You're the best thing to ever hit fandom, and they're lucky to have you.

By religiously following this tract, your track to the top will be greased. Soon fans will be pounding on your doors, filling your mailbox with missives, ringing your phone at all hours, and sending you more email than you can read!

-- Joyce Katz

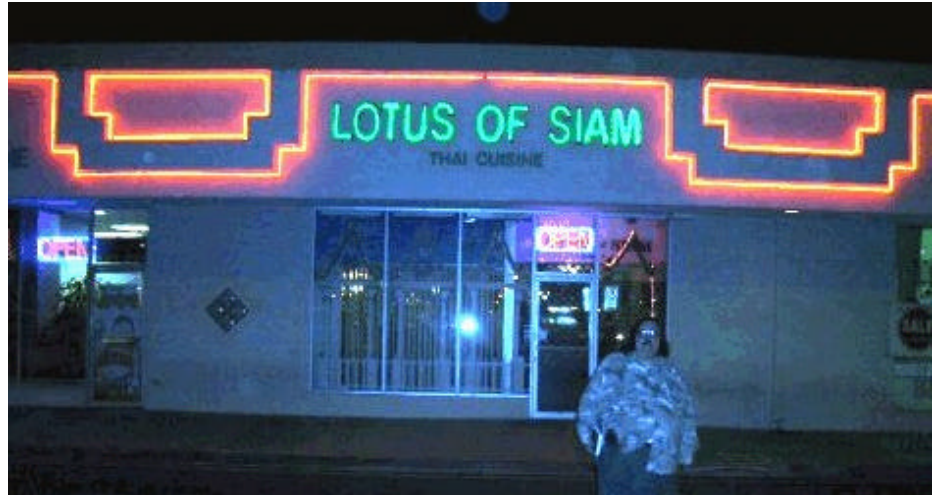


SNAFFU Central

Dinner with SNAFFU

The moral of this story is if you want to get a good trip report, go yourself. Unfortunately I was unable to go to the SNAFFU 4th Friday dinner I organized because I had free tickets to see singer Ricky Martin. Now perhaps you think it is strange that I would choose a show over a fan activity -- well, if so you haven't seen Ricky Martin. He is a fantastic, energetic singer -- and soooo sexy! So I had to send Ron alone - accompanied only by a camera and L.A. fan Chuck Hammill, who was in town for a week to check on some properties he rents in Las Vegas. I also asked Ron to take notes about the dinner and get photos. As I sometimes say - send a man to do a job, get a job done by a man.... The women reading this will know what I'm saying.

Due to the difficulty of seating a large party on a Friday night at a popular restaurant, I asked everyone to email me with RSVPs a week in advance - most, but not all complied. Hopefully everyone will do better next time for the dinner Feb. 24, 2006 at Artem,



the Russian restaurant formerly called Eliseevsky at Flamingo & Decatur. I've already made a tentative reservation, but it is important that you RSVP by Feb. 17 if you plan to attend so that adequate table space can be reserved.

According to Ron's notes, 19 people attended the Lotus of Siam meeting. I don't have complete names, but here's what I've got: Lori Forbes, Teresa Cochran, James Taylor, Ron Bushyager, SNAFFU President Michael Bernstein, Ron, Rehr Chazz, Raven, Carol Lee Cameron, Sanoe Cameron, Rebecca Hardin, Merric Anderson, Lubov Anderson, Chuck Hammill, Kent Hastings, John De Chancie, Jolie LaChance, and Joelle Barnes.

Also -- Regina de la Luna - who may have actually been Cindy? Ron said that when she arrived she said, "Hi, you may have been told to expect me and given the name Regina de La Luna... but that isn't my real name."

Ron replied, "Fine." But he didn't ask what her real name was or if she was actually Cindy, which was the name of someone that Raven said was coming. (You send your husband, you get your husband's responses.)

The photo at the top of the page shows, of course, the outside of Lotus of Siam where the group met at approximately 6:15 pm for a 6:30 dinner. I'd reserved a table for 15 and when I called to expand the reservation to 17 at the last minute, the man I spoke too reluctantly agreed to go to 17, but said "Don't bring anyone else! We can only squeeze in 17 and it will be tight." But



Jolie LaChance (left) chats with Lori Forbes chat amiably over dinner at the restaurant.



Vegrants Three: Kent Hastings is flanked by Merric Anderson and Luba Anderson.

somehow, when 19 showed up, they managed to squeeze everyone into one long table.

Now, Ron took photos, but apparently never bothered to ask anyone to look at the camera, smile, or do anything. Apparently he thought the important thing was to show that everyone was eating and having a great time eating. As a result, what you see is a rogue's gallery of weird expressions, bizarre shots, and blobs of the back of people's heads. When the blob is blue - that is Raven -- otherwise I couldn't tell you!

Ron said that everyone enjoyed the Thai food, and from the photos I can see that the portions were not generous, but everyone was so busy eating or talk-



Four of Las Vegas' best-known fans (left to right): Teresa Cochran, James Taylor, Michael Bernstein and Kent Hastings.



Raven & Ron Pehr made a rare, welcome appearance at Dinner with SNAFFU.

ing that apparently they didn't notice a guy in a beard wandering around taking flash photos.

Ron said the topics were wide ranging, from what is art to gravitational lensing and planet imaging, to where to find men in Las Vegas, to religion, to strip clubs, to Osama bin Laden's whereabouts and friends, to Ligers and Tigans and other genetic experiments, to the difficulty of bringing back dinosaurs, to languages, to spicy food, to the Chinese New Year, and more.

One topic apparently was me -- why wasn't I there, and how dare I pick Ricky Martin over fans. Sorry folks - that's how the Chinese fortune cookie crumbles. Not everyone will be able to attend every meeting.

The good, or bad news is that I will be at the Russian restaurant in Feb. I'll be the one taking the photos -- so hopefully I can get fans to smile and look at the camera. If not, Ron will be dissing my photography next month!

March 24th will be the next "Dinner with SNAFFU," which will be at a Cuban restaurant. What for announcement of that and more in VFW, [www.snaffu.org's](http://www.snaffu.org) calendar, and your local Yahoo group listings.

Apparently a lot of people are looking forward to the Russian outing in Feb. They will have flavored vodka available -- including raspberry and horseradish! Be sure to RSVP to me ASAP at LindaBushyager@aol.com.

If any of the above information is wrong -- well, blame it on me because well, I wasn't there!

-- Linda Bushyager

2006 Las Vegas Fan Awards Poll

The **2006 Las Vegas Fan Awards Poll** salutes 2005 fan activity in southern Nevada. It's a way for our fan community (and friends in other fan centers) to dish out some egoboo to deserving fans.

Who Can Vote: Any current Las Vegas fan, or any fan who lived in southern Nevada for at least four months in 2005 may vote in all six categories. Non-Vegas fans are invited to vote in the "Outstanding New Las Vegas Fan," "Outstanding Addition to Las Vegas Fandom" and "Outstanding Las Vegas Fan" categories.

Who Can Receive Votes: You may vote for any event or happening that occurred in southern Nevada in 2005 and for any fan who resided in southern Nevada for at least six months during 2005. Since the main reason for the awards is honor our fellow fans, no self-votes will be counted.

How to Vote: You can use the ballot distributed in email, cut and paste the one on the listservs, download a ballot from SNAFFU.org, fill out a hard copy form or call Arnie Katz (648-5677) and dictate it. The important thing is to vote.

You do not have to vote in every category or nominate three choices in each category. The write-ups that accompany this flyer are for memory-jogging purposes only; you can vote for anyone or any thing that is eligible.

Deadline: Sunday, February 5

Survey Tellers: Arnie Katz (crossfire4@cox.net) or Joyce Katz (joyceworley1@cox.net)

2006 Ballot

Most Important Happening in Las Vegas Fandom in 2005

What was the most significant thing that occurred in Las Vegas Fandom during 2005?.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Outstanding Local Event of 2005

What was the most enjoyable and entertaining event of 2005?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Outstanding Non-Vegas Fan

Who do Las Vegas fans esteem as the top fan outside southern Nevada?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Outstanding New Las Vegas Fan of 2005

This category honors the best Las Vegas neofan of 2005.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Outstanding Addition to Las Vegas Fandom in 2005

This category honors fans who've come to Las Vegas from other areas.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Outstanding Las Vegas Fan

This category recognizes the top Las Vegas fans based on their fanac in 2005.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

NAME _____

Continued from p 2

John DeChancie Returns to LA!

John DeChancie, a highly popular member of Las Vegrants since he relocated to Pahrump, NV, has been forced to return to Los Angeles. He had been staying at the home of Neil Shulman, who asked him to vacate.

The Vegrants are already missing John, who has also become a regular contributor to *VFW* in recent months. We are hopeful that the housing problem will prove temporary so that John will soon be re-united with his Glitter City co-conspirators.

LV Fan Awards Poll Deadline Extended!

Voting for the 2006 Las Vegas Fan Awards is brisk, but Your Friendly Pollster has decided to extend the deadline by a week for the benefit of procrastinators who don't want their friends to see their name missing from the published list of voters — or who just feel remorseful about not giving their fellow Las Vegas fans their deserved egoboo.

Check out the ballot on page 13.

Oneshot Planned for Next Week!

Las Vegrants will set to work on a second oneshot fanzine to follow the successful *The Glitter City Gangstas #1* at the invitational Core Fandom group's February 18 "third Saturday" meeting. Members will be bringing some drafted material and writing more at the actual gathering.

The theme, more or less, is inspired by Valentine's Day (2/14): sex, love, marriage, dating, relationships and so forth. The Vegrants are throwing open the oneshot to fans who'd like to join the fun, but who won't be on hand.

To join the fun, write or draw something in line with the theme and send it to me (crossfire4@cox.net). If you don't use *Word*, send the file as .txt or .rtf. If the contribution runs more than 500 words, it may run as a separate article.

SNAPS Deadline Draws Closer!

Joyce Katz, stern but lovable Official Editor of SNAPS, reminds all Las Vegas fans that the deadline for the 10th distribution of Las Vegas' local amateur press association is Sunday, February 19.

All you have to do to participate is write something and send a file — PDF, PUB, DOC, RTF or TXT — to Joyce (joyceworley1@cox.net). She will assemble all the contributions into the February distribution and send a copy to each participant. (Others can download a copy of the distribution for free at SNAFFU.org.)

You can check out past distributions of the Southern Nevada Amateur Press Society at SNAFFU.org to get an idea of the broad range of topics.

Really, though, you can write about anything you find interesting, from the account of a personal experience to an opinion about something, reviews of things you've read and seen and just about anything you might put in a letter to a friend.

SNAFFU Dinner Meeting to Dig in at Artem!

A highly touted, if slightly pricey, Russian restau-

rant will be the venue for the February 24 SNAFFU Dinner Meeting. This is the second in the series — you can read a report by Linda Bushyager elsewhere in this issue — that began in January with the incredibly successful gathering at Lotus of Siam that drew 19 fans. This time, fans will revel in the Russian cuisine of Artem (4825 W. Flamingo, corner of Flamingo and Decatur). The Dinner Meeting is scheduled to start at 6:00 PM.

Although there is no private room, the ambience is said to be conducive to pleasurable group dining. There is a non-smoking section, though it is reportedly not foolproof.

Linda (LindaBushyager@aol.com) would appreciate RSVPs from fans who plans to attend.

Menu: <http://www.usmenuguide.com/eliseevskymenu.htm>. Website: <http://russianrest.russianvegas.org/home.asp>

Joyce Gets Kindest Cut of All!

In the never-ending effort to bring you the vital fan news, the fan news you can use, *VFW* can disclose that Joyce Katz has had her luxuriant rich brown locks shorn and styled.

Only the tonsorial expertise of DeDee White could cope with this mane and turn it into a chic coiffure. (And thanks also to DeDee, you'll find a photo of the "new look" Sweet-heart of Fanac Falls on This Very page.)

Heard Around Vegas Fandom...

Ayesha Ashley will be playing a professional gig this coming Sunday evening at the E-String (2031 W/ Sunset Rd) in Henderson. This is the same place she played a couple of weeks ago, so they've shown the good sense of inviting her back. Get there at 6:00 PM to hear Vegas Fandom's Blonde Thrush...

JoHn Hardin, fresh from visiting Columbus, OH, for the birthday of his son Lucas, reports that things are going well for him down in Kingman, AZ. He's working with his brother, starting to make some decent money and getting a vehicle. He expects to begin attending Vegrants meetings again very shortly...

Raven & Ron Pehr have a new email address. The well-known fan couple can now be reached at: raven@viawestdu.net...

Before... and After



ChatBack: The VFW Letter Column

The schedule is back in the groove and I want it to stay that way. So, I'd better make way for the letters...

Let's start with one of my closest Vegas friends...

James Taylor

Just a quick note on VFW #63 -- or more specifically Joelle's cry of anguish. All Vegas fans need to write to their Legislators in Carson City to move forward the Bill to create a sub-section of the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services to assist short people.

Currently, it's being held up in the Legislature for several reasons. Will the State provide the service directly or use private contractors? Will it be funded by fees (how much to have your hood lifted?) or subscription (monthly, annually).

But the real sticking point is, of course, how short do you have to be to qualify for assistance? Please write, e-mail or phone the Legislator of your choice to advance this important measure.

Arnie: The concern for short people is touching, but we should not forget the tribulations suffered by tall people. Going through life ducking under low-hanging ceiling fans and reeling from unexpected collisions with chandeliers and ceiling beams is no picnic, either.

This warms the cockles of my fannish heart...

Hal Hughes

I tend to come up short on faanish responses to VFW, but I do know how to pick nits and comment on obscurities, and #63 gave me a little fodder. Dick Lupoff's query about cockles led me to the dictionary - I knew about molluscan cockles, but the heart connection was obscure. Cockles are defined, for one, as bivalve mollusks with "rounded or heart-shaped shells," and "the cockles of one's heart" as "one's innermost feelings." So as best I can extrapolate, the expression means more or less the heart of one's heart, or heart or hearts. Now I keep imagining a bivalve in my heart, which will be okay, I guess, if something warms it.

Next, to chime in on the whip mistress dialogue - Michelle Pfeiffer also learned bullwhip technique for her stint as Catwoman, did the whip bits in the Batman film herself, and quite impressively. I happened to see her on a late-night talk show, where she gave a convincing exhibition. Her Catwoman was hard to beat for scary-sexy.

I went back and looked at the *Planet Stories* cover again, and the space babe there had at least nominal protection against the vacuum. In addition to her fishbowl helmet, strapless one-piece, and high heels, she wears gloves AND a sort of loose Saran-Wrap body suit! Who says those covers were unrealistic?

As for the Backhand Heard Round the World, I'd say you got off easy. Once in NYC my (ex)wife and I ran into a female acquaintance of mine who gave me the usual Manhattan peck on the cheek. We exchanged pleasantries and parted, but a few steps later my ex just about laid me out with a blow to the head from her metal lunchbox. I never saw it coming, but I sure haven't forgotten! My ex was newly

arrived from Ohio (which explains her carrying a lunchbox to work at a Manhattan ad agency), and unaccustomed to the kind of casual intimacy New Yorkers take for granted.

I may not have much to add to the faanish interplay, but I thoroughly enjoy it, especially hearing from my old Fano-clast and Insurgent pals. Keep 'em coming!

Arnie: Knowing that Joyce didn't have a metal lunchbox in her hand when she gave me the Clop Heard 'Round the Cosmos does make me feel a little better, but it won't stop my ears from ringing. I think I'll go answer them while y'all read the next letter of comment.

Like a fresh breeze from the San Francisco Bat comes this outstanding letter of comment...

Chris Garcia

Another issue and I'm psyched. It's a good 'un, as always, but this one is special since $63 = 7 * 9$; $7 + 9 = 16$, $1 + 6 = 7$ and that's my favorite nonsensical numerological outcome roughly translating to the overcoming of obstacles via luck rather than skill. I once had a friend who was a numerologist and there were some fun nights we had drinking and talking about these things.

Missing that first week is the hardest. Happened to me last year in the summer. It hurt, but you go on. I used to do mid-week too, but I've settled on Mondays for *The Drink Tank* now and I think it works out. Of course, Wednesday is the day we try to get *SF/SF* out, so there's always that. Good Rotsler there too.

Sounds like another wonderful Vegrants party... I mean meeting. I told BASFA folks about what a Vegrants meeting was like and a couple of folks responded like kids seeing Mr. Wizard do some new Baking Soda and Lemon Juice Gag. 'But, how do they call things to order?' 'You mean there are no minutes?' There are some fannish elements that require order.

You know, I tried to convince Merric to write something for *The Drink Tank* too. And alas, if a man can't convince another man to write for his zine over drinks, then no man will convince him!

Woohoo! Another Puffin! Wait...TWO PUFFINS!!! Yay!!!

Wow, ShelVy's daughter managed to keep a crow alive into its twenties? That's almost unheard of. Those things aren't meant to live nearly that long. Ravens, same genus different species if I remember it right, average about 12 years. Wow, there must be something in their water.

ShelVy's tale of his accident reminds me that there are bad days that become legendary. Ben Vereen had one where he had a stroke while he was driving, which led to him getting into an accident. After the accident, he had another stroke. If a guy can recover fully from that, then anyone can come back from anything. I store stories like that and ShelVy's away for when I have a bad day (as in 'Awww...I dropped my dinner!') to remind me that I've got it easy. I really hope I get to meet Mr. Vick at some point. He sounds like the type of guy I'd really enjoy chatting with.

Wow, sounds like the Annish Party was interesting. I know that Merric called over and I talked to Luba for a min-

ute. Merric thought it was going to be you for some reason on the phone. I would have flipped because, as little French as I know, I am easily aware of pretentious French Talk from having attended film festivals enough to learn the inflections. A degree in literature is a very useful thing for a writer. It should at least give them an idea how bad their writing is (then again, I've got a degree in Creative Writing and I still tried to write creatively for a few years)

VSFA is meeting at a place called Dead Poets Books? That's an awesome name! I must use it in something (perhaps my 2006 project, *A Prairie Home Convention: Tales from Lake WobeCon!*)

SNAPS cancelled their mailing? That's sad, but hardly unheard of. N'APA did it at least once. I'm betting Peter Sullivan could tell us about some of the gaming APAs that did the same.

I had no idea that Robert Lichtman was in the 6'2"+ club. M, that dear friend and writer for *The Drink Tank*, is 6'3, towering over me and her fiancé, and she'll never let us forget it.

And on my influence on John Purcell, I will steal and modify a line from *King of the Hill*: "I always have been a creeper. My influence creeps like the Kudzu vines that are slowly strangling our Dixie."

Arnie: I guess that, numerologically speaking, #64 is cool, too. After all, $6 + 4 = 10$; $1 + 0 = 0$ – We're number one! We're number one! Sorry, that wasn't numerology; I think it may've been a Super Bowl Flashback.

The only drawback to VSFA's new home is that they constantly have a push Dead Poets off chairs and out of access aisles so fans can properly congregate. I imagine the Rancho adult Center is even stranger, littered as it must be with human internal organs.

I greatly appreciated the thoughtfulness of the call, but I was surprised that they wouldn't pass the phone to me so I could say, "Hello." Just 'cause Luba is so much prettier...

The Nicest Fan I Know has not only done a column for this issue, but also provides the following comments...

Shelby Vick

What??? You SKIPPED an issue! How DARE you! Worst of all, you snuck in the 'skip' -- did a late ish, that a latish late ish... on you! And after all the trouble I've gone to, getting weekly columns off to you...

Uh... it just hit me; I skipped one week on my column, too. Okay, okay; you're forgiven.

In case I didn't make my meaning clear about LoCs to *Planetary Stories* (you know, <http://www.planetarystories.com>) I'm *not* expecting lo-o-ong letters (except, of course, from Peter Sullivan) that take each story, each feature, and dissect it. All I really wanna know is -- is it worth it? Are people enjoying it? Is there anything you'd like to change? *something* (other than the counter) to let me know it's being read.

#63 was as great as always, and I would ramble on and on (I'm good at that!) but I'm tied up with a writing project. There's this guy wot runs a *supposedly* weekly fanzine and wants a column. . . .

Arnie: Those publishers of supposedly weekly fanzines are an affront to hard-working fanzine editors everywhere. I am so glad that I have never missed an issue or even published late. I have never made a typo or screwed up a fact in a story, either.

Rising from his bed of pain, the Golden Neofan brings hands to keyboard and writes...

Peter Sullivan

I'm back! Back at home, back at work and now back at LoC-ing for *Vegas Fandom Weekly*.

I've always found it a useful technique to agree with BNFs like Robert Lichtman in print, but in the case of Shelby Vick's *Planetary Stories*, I actually do agree with him anyway. If dropping *Planetary Stories* gives Shelby more time to do more frequent and larger issues of *ConfuSon*, and/or get more issues of *Confusion* and *Odd* tarted up from the scans. Of course, it's not really my place to tell Shelby what he should spending his spare time on, but that's my take.

Interesting to see Shelby Vick complaining about *Word Perfect* putting in formatting that he doesn't want. I find that *Word* is even worse at this, and *Front Page* is a pretty bad offender as well. I've always tended to hand-code HTML for web pages, doing them in Notepad or similar, so that I keep total control of the layout. I'm almost coming to the point where I'd rather do the same for other types of document as well. HTML has its drawbacks – no real concept of page or column breaks, for instance – but at least when I number a list of bullet points, they stay numbered...

Arnie: More issues of *ConfuSon* sounds good to me, too, though I would prefer to see Shelby maintain the format that has served him so well and keep the size of individual issues at the same size.

It's good to have you back, Peter.

The Sage cometh toward Vegas, holding a badge in one hand and a wastebasket in the other...

Robert Lichtman

I'm glad to read that your reason for skipping a week was to get *VFW* back on track as an informational vehicle to let Las Vegas fans know what's coming up on the weekend. It's kind of hard to do that without clairvoyance in the absence of timely issues. And you're to be congratulated for beating Joltin' Joe's streak.

Due to my all-encompassing knowledge of Things Fannish, I know that the "fan from Way Back" with whom Shelby renewed correspondence was none other than Wally "Wastebasket" Weber.

I caused this connection to be made by asking Wally if he would run off copies of Shelby's Howard Devore memorial fanzine for the January SAPS mailing, since Howard was a member of SAPS continuously from 1952 on. His last zine appeared in that mailing as well, and is now available to all 'n' sundry as a download from Bill Burns's estimable *efanzines.com* (where one can read a brief fannish history of Howard that Bill asked me to write as an introduction to the

zine). If anyone plans to print it out, they should know that the paper should be goldenrod. I removed the color in my scanning it for Bill.

I hope you ended up getting enough voters in the 2006 Las Vegas Fan Awards Poll to make the results meaningful, and I look forward to seeing them.

It was a pleasant surprise to see the Scientifiction badge I scanned and ran through Wegenheim turn up in your pages. I look forward to any comments that might result from it having a wider airing than the twenty or so members of Weg.

Joelle Barnes writes, "I hope I have a man the next time I'm in the market for a car -- to wheel and deal with the salesman. That's a man thing." My wife Carol would beg to differ. She's often told me the story of how, when she bought her new car back in 1988, she drew a dollar-amount line in the sand that the sales people first met and then tried to wiggle out of -- and got the car because she was ready to walk. I wasn't there with her that day, but I've always been proud of her success.

It's a little disappointing to read that, after all, the Ray Nelson cartoon I praised in my letter was actually reprinted from an earlier appearance. When Terry Carr passed away back in 1987, I inherited his fan art files. They include a number of unpublished Classic Period Nelson cartoons. I really must get around to using them in TRAP DOOR. (The files also included some unpublished LeeH and Trina. And they also had the long-unpublished Jack Weidenbeck drawing that I used as the bacover of TRAP DOOR No. 11 back in 1992 -- a piece of art that just happened to incorporate the "trap door" imagery I've favored for cover art.)

When Shelby writes that *WordPerfect* "acts like it knows what it's doing and puts in code I hafta go back and delete" when he's making PDFs, I have to wonder just what he's doing that causes the problem. I use *WordPerfect* for all my fanzines and have had no trouble turning them into seamless PDFs. (Yes, there are uncirculated PDFs of TRAP

DOOR Nos. 21 and 23 in addition to the one I put on efanzines of No. 22.)

Arnie: I have always considered Wally Weber one of the all-out funniest writers in Fandom -- and one of the most under-appreciated fans. His ability to confect pages of amusing prose out of thin air impressed me as a neofan and I still marvel at it today. I wish he'd venture into the digital arena, because I'd love to have him in VFW.

The Poll has drawn a good number of votes, especially for a first try. I have extended the deadline a little to give fans, including everyone in VSFA, an extra chance to participate.

I'd like to encourage you, Robert, and other fanzine editors, to send electronic versions of your fanzines to Teresa Cochran. Obviously, she can't read hard copy zines, so electronic format is the main way she connects to fanzines.

All we Vegnants have a soft spot for Joelle, but she does say some mighty strange things. Despite her age, her life experience is not vast, which encourages her to make sweeping pronouncements of dubious validity.

Turning up like a good penny just in time to bring it on home is VFW's most faithful Canadian supporter...

Lloyd Penney

A combination of work and other convention commitments have kept me from writing as often as I'd like. Yeah, yeah, excuses, excuses...here's come comments on Vegas Fandom Weekly issues 61 to 63. (Another Lloyd Penney-style loc. See, you use the term long enough...)

61...Thank you for the one-shot *The Glitter City Gangstas*... a loc is already in your in-box, looking for a home in the next issue. Looks like it got there just in time for issue 2, currently in the planning stage, no doubt.

Collecting... some years ago, I read that some psychologists believe that the urge to collect, to assemble like things together, as many as possible and take pride in that collec-

Contact! Las Vegas Club Directory

Looking for a local group? These are the major ones.

Las Vegnants

Arnie & Joyce Katz,
909 Eugene Cernan St., Las Vegas, NV 89145
Email: JoyceWorley1@cox.net
Phone: 648-5677

SNAFFU:

Michael Bernstein
Email: webmaven@cox.net
Phone: 765-7279

VSFA:

Rebecca Hardin
Email: hardin673@aol.com
Phone: 453-2989

Las Vegas Fan Events Calendar

Second Sunday Movie Screening February 12 6:00

James Willey hosts this monthly get-together. They watch genre movies. More info from Mindy Hutchings (204-4332).

Las Vegrants Meeting February 18 7:30 PM

The informal invitational Core Fandom club meets on the first and third Saturdays of every month.

Sunday Social February 19 2 PM

One of Vegas' most convivial groups gets together at the Blue Ox for food and chatter.

SNAPS Deadline Sunday, February 19

Las Vegas Fandom's own electronic amateur press association has its deadline for contributions to the February distribution. Send your file to Joyce Katz (Joyccworley1@cox.net).

SNAFFU Dinner February 24 6:30 PM

The SNAFFU Dinner Meeting will take place at Artem, a fabulous Russian restaurant.

First Friday Video Group March 3 6:00

James Willey hosts this monthly get-together. They are currently doing *Farscape*. More info from Mindy Hutchings (204-4332).

Las Vegrants Meeting February 18 7:30 PM

The informal invitational Core Fandom club meets on the first and third Saturdays of every month.

tion, is a mild form of mental illness. Either those psychologists need to take up a hobby themselves, or we're the happiest bunch of sickos on the face of the planet. Bit of both, I'll bet. Do you suffer from mental illness? No, I quite enjoy it, thanks for asking.

Archie Comics have been through more artists than I knew about. Archie and Jughead look like GI dogfaces, and Veronica Lodge looks like a Mata Hari figure. I like the modern versions of Betty and Veronica much better.

Greetings to Billy Mills... the audiobook field is one I'm trying to get into. I've been boring people about the Sec-tarian Wave audiodisks I'm on for years now, and the disks should be available this summer, knock on wood. Wish Shelby Vick and all other pulp fans could come up to Toronto for a day...Don Hutchison hosts the annual Fantastic Pulp Show and Sale every year at the TPL's special collections building, home of the Merrill Collection of Science Fiction. We've had some marvelous collections of pulp cover art on display, marvelous especially when you realize that 90% of all pulp magazine covers were trashed. The 10% left are in collections, or are sold for impressive prices.

Putting all zines on-line? For preservation's sake, perhaps, but part of the charm of fanzine was the paper it was printed on. Not just a visual medium, fanzines could always be a textural medium, too. I still remember the mimeo vs. xerography, bond vs. twiltone debates, which seems very old right about now. Today, it's paper vs. .pdf vs. web.

I am teaching myself a little bit about how your graphic work on *QuarkXPress* can be handled by *PhotoShop*, and then exported back to *Quark*. It's all about saving as an EPS file. I will see if I can write up something about our Third Monday pubnights, held each month at Orwell's Pub in the

west end of Toronto. Orwell's, established 1984...

62...When I was a raw kid, I would help my father with his television repair service. I'd hoist into a stranger's home huge cases of vacuum tubes, and I would search when Dad would ask me to find a 6AV6, or similar tube. If repairs could not be made on site, we would carry the set away, to the chagrin and withdrawal symptoms of the client. Today, the television set is as disposable as a pen. When the set Yvonne and I had had for the past 15 years finally started showing everything only in shades of green, we gave it to Goodwill, and bought a new set for about \$100. Works great. There may soon be changes to broadcasting courtesy of the FCC, and everyone may have to buy a new set when television stations all must go to digital broadcast at the end of 2008, IIRC. The CRTC here has made no such announcement, so the only analog stations still available may come from my side of the border in 2008.

Yup, I am to blame for David Gordon. (Well, someone has to take it, and if David won't, then I'll have to. Yes, David...if that's your real name...) I sold my Noreascon 4 membership to David through the N4 bulletin board (took less than an hour to do it, too), and he said he was moving to Las Vegas, and did I know anyone there? The first word that went through my fevered mind was, REVENGE! "Yes, David", said I, "I know some people in Las Vegas," and you all know the rest. I shall remain in Toronto, safely ensconced on this side of the border, and well away from anyone who might charge the border guards in a beat-up old car. I'm a beneficiary of the fannish witness protection plan. Can't catch me, ha-ha...

F. Wu? Well, Chris F. Wu, too! With bells on it! That article is in the cogitation stage (whatever the hell that

means), and will be straightforward hence to you ASAP. RSN. I hope. High school was a happy time? I don't think so...I found it a time of harassment because of being smaller in stature than most in my grade, and doing fairly well in school. It was a time of boiling hormones, and frustration about knowing I sure as hell wasn't going to get a date or any other action any time soon. It took graduation from high school, moving across the country, going to community college, finding some good friends through a local Trek club and discovering fandom that turned life around for me.

63...No VFW that week? How could you??? Actually, most fans struggle to get a few issues of their zine out in their lifetimes, so 62 straight weekly issues are an achievement, and congratulations on that. Shelby, Yvonne and I are now great aunt and great uncle again, thanks to our niece Nicole who is now the proud mother of little Jakson. Nicole is the little brat we took to the '92 Worldcon in Orlando. Back then, we were cool; now, we're just her weird aunt and uncle again.

Editors add clarity and polish, no matter what the writers say. Proofreaders check for more than just spelling, but also check for sense and often catch continuity problems that others miss. Unfortunately, many publishers dismiss editors and proofreaders as unnecessary steps that just cost more money, and an inferior product goes out the door. Any writer that objects to this process is a prima donna with an inflated sense of his or her importance.

Joelle Barnes needs pedal extensions on her car? Yvonne is learning to fly at the Guelph Airpark WNW of Toronto, and the folks who run the airport there have been good enough to order pedal extensions for the Cessna she's learning on.

Chris, you bad influence you, you got to come up to Toronto to track evidence of one of the old Canadian computer companies, Commodore Business Products. Right beside my desk is a Commodore filing cabinet, but they branched into the brand-new field of computers, and created the VIC-20 and Commodore 64, way back when 640k was all anyone needed, according to Mr. Gates.

Just realized I'm on the third page of this loc, so I'd better get off the computer for the evening, and go watch the news or something. Once again, I am caught up, although that won't last; it never does. Take care, all, and we are saving to go to LA, so we hope to see some of you there.

Arnie: I really can't worry about mild mental illness, Lloyd. I'm publishing a weekly fanzine of up to two-dozen pages, which only leaves me time for major mental illness. Besides, we wouldn't be fans without a little of what psychologists and psychiatrists are pleased to call "mental illness."

The change in the basic approach to the art in Archie Comics is quite striking. The characters had a somewhat realistic feel in the '40's, then went to the cathedral eyes and good-girl-art poses in the 1950's and 1960's and now seems to be somewhat more realistically drawn, though without as much of the sexual aura that surrounded Betty and Veronica back when Dick Lupoff was being influenced by them.

Billy is discussing various audio book and ebook projects, some with a fannish twist, with various Vegrants. Since the owner of the company – check out renebooks.com – is long-time fan Jean-Marie Stine, there may be some cool stuff emanating from that source before too long.

We Also Heard From: Hope Liebowitz, Chris Garcia, Joelle Barnes, Mark Plummer, Kent Hastings, David Miller.

Shalom!

In this case, it means "good-bye," which is just as well considering I've already done 18 pages for this week's issue. I'll be saying "Shalom," meaning "hello," around Wednesday of next week.

Meanwhile, I eagerly solicit you all to send news, contributions of art and writing and letters of comment. I'll be watching the in-box.

See you next week!

— Arnie Katz

In This Issue of Vegas Fandom Weekly...

Vegas Events This Weekend ::: 1

Inside Story ::: Pulling Together ::: Arnie ::: 2

Las Vegrants ::: Sin City Sing-out! ::: Arnie ::: 3

Now & Again ::: A Specialized Memory ::: Shelby Vick ::: 4

Katzenjammer ::: A Volatile Core Arnie ::: 6

Blue Jaunt ::: How to Be a Great Big Fan-Woman ::: Joyce Katz ::: 8

SNAFFU Central ::: Dinner with SNAFFU ::: Linda Bushyager ::: 10

ChatBack: The VFW Letter Column ::: You ::: 14

Contact Information ::: 16

Calendar ::: 17

... and a ton of news.