

# VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY

## Vegas Fan Events This Week

**Vegrants Meeting**  
**Saturday (2/18) 7:30 PM**

**Sunday Social**  
**Sunday (2/19) 2:00 PM**

**SNAPS Deadline**  
**Sunday (2/19)**

*Check out the Calendar  
and preview stories*

### **SNAFFU Elects Officers!**

The ballots are in (and counted, after a fashion, by election teller Kent Hastings) and the winners were announced at SNAFFU's 2/10 meeting.

Michael Bernstein, the club's president for the last two years, was elected to a third term. Joyce Katz, also unanimously approved becomes vice president/meeting director for 2006.

Congratulations to the new administration, which will first make itself evident at the March 10 discussion meeting.

### **Reminder: Sunday Social Is This Week!**

Looking for something to do this Sunday? Join the fans who congregate at the Blue Ox for the Sunday Social. They've abandoned the program, alas, but there's still plenty of socializing over relatively inexpensive and tasty food.

It starts at 2:00 PM and runs to about 4:00 PM. VSFA is the sponsor, but it's open to all Las Vegas fans (and any out-of-towners who happen to be in the area.) There's no charge beyond the actual cost of your meal and the fans are very friendly to newcomers.

Joyce and I are hoping to resume attending starting this Sunday and hope to see a *lot* of you there.

### **SNAPS Deadline Is This Sunday**

It's time to hit the keyboard and write something for the 10th Distribution, Las Vegas' own monthly apa (amateur press association). Official Editor Joyce Katz (joyceworley1@cox.net) has already received several contributions and is expecting quite a few more for what is shaping up as another terrific SNAPS month.

All you have to do to participate is sending Joyce an electronic version of your SNAPS fanzine by the 2/19 deadline and she'll send you a copy of the distribution will all the SNAPSzine submitted for it within a few days. If you have *Acrobat*, that's probably the best way to submit, but you can send a *Microsoft Word*, *Microsoft Publisher*, Text or Rich Text file.

Write about anything that interests you, from accounts of your doings to reviews of various media. It doesn't have to be stfnal, either. Check out recent distributions at SNAFFU.org to see for yourself how fans participate in this virtual fan party.

SNAPS gives every Vegas fan a chance to try one of the most basic forms of fan activity, fanzines, at no cost and with very little work. You'll be writing for your friends — and they'll comment back to you in the next distribution.

*Continued on page 13*



# Inside Story Implications on the Shelf

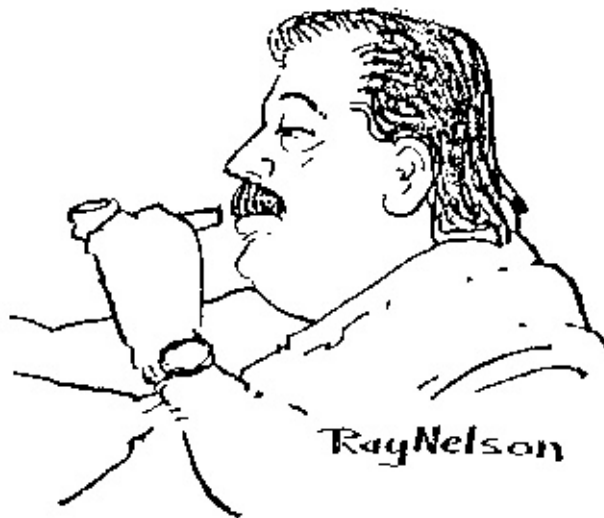
While *Vegas Fandom Weekly* keeps rolling along (with one minor hitch that should never, ever, be mentioned again), *Implications* has gone quiet after two well-received issues. The spirit is still willing, but Mundane circumstances dictate that Joyce, JoHn Hardin and I put it on the back burner for at least a little while. Much as we'd like to adhere to the intended monthly schedule for this showcase for Las Vegas Fandom's New Generation, the time is simply not right for such a major undertaking.

As most already know, JoHn has had quite an upheaval in his personal life. In line with that, he is now living in Kingman, AZ, where he is working with his brother, who has a successful plumbing business. Things are going very well so far and JoHn reports he has acquired a vehicle (and is clearing a license fine) and plans to use his restored mobility to start attending Vegrants meeting. He has been much missed by his co-conspirators and his return is eagerly anticipated.

As things turn out, we might've had to postpone *Implications* for a little while, anyway. It looks like Joyce and I are starting a couple of somewhat ambitious professional projects. If they work out as planned, the overall impact on our fanac should be extremely positive, but it will take a good bit of time to get it going at first. That means there might be some pressure on *our* leisure time — and I wouldn't want anything to damage *VFW* or our ability to fully participate in the Las Vegas fan scene.

Contributions for *Implications* will appear in *VFW*. I hope all of the writers will bear with me for a week or two while I try to work off the backlog. Joyce's piece for *Imp #3* ran in last week's issue and Peter Sullivan's contribution is one of this week's edition.

We also have a fine cover by Alan White and a number of letters of comment. I don't want either to go to waste, so you can look for a letters issue of *Implications* in early March. — Arnie



**Vegas Fandom Weekly #65, Volume 2 Number 11, February 17, 2005**, is written and produced by Arnie Katz (909 Eugene Cernan St., Las Vegas, NV 89145; Email: [crossfire4@cox.net](mailto: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 and So Much More).

**Reporters this issue:** Roxanne Gibbs, Michael Bernstein, James Taylor, Linda Bushyager, Rebecca Hardin and Joyce Katz

**Art/Photo Credits:** Alan White (3-5), Shelby Vick (7), Ross Chamberlain (12), Michael Bernstein (14). Ray Nelson (2), Ron Bushyager (10, 11), all else by Bill Rotsler.

**Columnists This Issue:** Shelby Vick, Kent Hastings, Peter Sullivan

*VFW* is free by request — and you may get it anyway. It can be downloaded at the SNAFFU site and at [efanzines.com](http://efanzines.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!

# My Fan Poll Ballot

# Katzenjammer

“So, who’d you vote for?” the Trufan asked. I suspect he was more interested in ideas for *his* vote, but as a weekly editorialist, I have to find topics where I can. So this time, I’m going to present my ballot in the 2006 Las Vegas Fan Awards Poll along with my reasons for voting that way.

## Outstanding Happening in Las Vegas Fandom in 2006.

1. Influx of new active Vegas fans
2. Increase in out-of-town visitors
3. Woody Bernardi Leaves Vegas

At the risk of seeming immodest, this category was a tough one, because of my personal involvement in things like the Las Vegas Fantasy & Science Fiction Day, the founding SNAPS and the start of the Sunday Socials. All of them had some of my fingerprints on them — and I take the “no self votes” rule seriously.

Las Vegas Fandom looked pretty puny in mid-2004. Attendance at SNAFFU and Vegrants was low, activity was minimal and nothing seemed to be happening. What a different situation exists today! The New Generation of Las Vegas fans is still in its early days, but the newcomers have already reinvigorated the whole fan community.

As wonderful as Vegas Fandom is, it’s just one link in the vast network of Fandom. Visits from afar give locals the chance to meet folks like Chris Garcia, Bruce Gillespie, Art Widner and the Flippin Faction and learn more about what’s out there beyond Clark County.

I miss Woody. What’s more, local Fandom misses him, too. His departure has greatly affected the activity level of at least two clubs (VSFA and Neon



Rainbow) and everyone here is a little poorer for want of his spirit.

## Outstanding Local Event

1. Las Vegas Fandom Christmas Party
2. Las Vegas Fandom Halloween Party
3. Daugherty Pool Party

The emergence of James & Kathryn Daugherty as hosts (Christmas party and Pool Party), is a very positive development for the local fan community. They did a fine job on both events, largely overcoming their remote location with sumptuous hospitality and a flair for hosting.

The tradition of the annual Halloween Party, once a major date on the local fan calendar, had languished since Ken & Aileen Forman, the originators and hosts, departed Las Vegas. The nadir came in 2003, when SNAFFU members voted to attend a commercial, rip-off comic con instead of holding their own Halloween event. This year, however, neofan James Willey, abetted by newcomer Mindy Hutchings and de-gafiate Carol Kern brought back the Halloween Party with great success. I didn’t get to attend this year, for reasons discussed at length in past issues, but I am looking forward to the 2006 edition next October.

## Outstanding Non-Vegas Fan

1. Chris Garcia
2. Bruce Gillespie
3. Robert Lichtman

My *intent* with this category was to salute the out-of-towners who have had the greatest impact on Las Vegas Fandom (as opposed to selecting the Number One Fan Face, as in the annual Fan Achievement Awards presented at Corflu.

I also made the personal decision not to vote for Ben Wilson, Cathi Wilson, Ken Forman and Aileen Forman. To me, they are now and forever part of Las Vegas Fandom, no matter how far they may roam. Besides, there were only three spaces for votes and there are four of them. The thought of listing three and omitting one horrified me. I love ‘em all and can’t bring myself to discriminate.

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Since entering Core Fandom, Chris Garcia has become one of Vegas Fandom's best and most cherished friends. His contributions to local fanzines, his visit and his friendships with so many of us earned him my first-place vote.

It has been a while since a fan fund recipient has come to Glitter City. Bruce Gillespie, brought to the US from his native Australia for Corflu and Potlatch by the Bring Bruce Bayside Fund, broke the drought by making a special trip to Las Vegas. Not only was Bruce a terrific guest, but he gave the New Generation a real insight into the international brotherhood of Fandom (not affiliated with the AFL-CIO). And now that Bruce has been here and survived, perhaps other Special Fund, TAFF and DUFF winners will follow his example and put Las Vegas back on the itinerary.

Robert Lichtman didn't visit Las Vegas in 2005, as he has several times in past years, but he made his presence felt all the same. His fanzines, writings and letters have put him at the top of the New Generation's "want to meet list" and I consider him my closest friend in Fandom over the 16 years since my return to activity.

This was really a crowded category. I could easily whip up another list of three and give you good reasons for their inclusion. Maybe next year, this one should have space for five selections.

### **Outstanding New Las Vegas Fan of 2005.**

1. Ayesha Ashley
2. Mindy Hutchings
3. Joelle Barnes

If Ghu didn't love neofans, why did he make so many of them? These days a lot of "neos" are actually imports from All Known Fandom (or even Mega Fandom), but Vegas Fandom still benefits from the arrival of total newcomers with no previous fan experience of any kind.

Ayesha Ashley is still largely unknown outside Las Vegas Fandom and, in truth, she would not do well in a fannish trivia contest, but the Blonde Dynamo is an unalloyed delight to all her fellow Vegas fans. An active member of the Vegrants, Ayesha is known for her wonderful singing and guitar-playing, sharp intellect and irresistibly charming personality. Core Fandom: Prepare to be delighted.

Mindy Hutchings ranks as Woody's best recruit in the last couple of years. She's an active member of VSFA and is often instrumental in organizing that group's events. The "Dinner and a Movie" series is largely her creation.



Chris Garcia came all the way from the BArea to meet the Vegrants.

Joelle Barnes is a unique presence in local Fandom. She is friendly, helpful, very pleasant and says some of the most outrageous things I have ever heard. She's easily the newest of my three choices and is still just learning the basics of Fandom, but there's a lot of untapped potential there.



Teresa Cochran makes music and sings in a high, clear voice at the Vegas Music Circle get-together held at the Launch Pad.

## Outstanding Addition to Las Vegas Fandom

1. Teresa Cochran
2. David Gordon
3. John DeChancie

Teresa Cochran spent her first few months in Las Vegas sampling all the local activities. Now she has become one of the mainstays of the Vegrants, a promising fanwriter and easily the most Trufannish of all 2005's transplants. She's sweet and kind, but her quips have started to show an independent mind and the soul of an Insurgent.

David Gordon, or "Tony" as Alan White calls him for unguessable reasons, edged into Las Vegas Fandom by degrees after first becoming an important member of the (nonfan) LV Futurists. Although he has a strong interest in science fiction, David has also become a praiseworthy member of the Vegrants and has authored some excellent contributions to SNAPS.

John DeChancie came to Las Vegas from Los Angeles, where he'd been Secretary of the LASFS. The SF author quickly found a new home with the Vegrants and became an integral part of the club. His articles in *VFW* entertained everyone and helped earn my vote.

Merric and/or Lubov Anderson really deserve special mention. Again they failed to make my ballot only due to the need to choose three people and my inability to choose between one of Joyce and my favorite couples. It just shows you how much the Las Vegas fan community benefited from this influx of fans from other areas.

## Outstanding Las Vegas Fan

1. Joyce Katz
2. Roxanne Gibbs
3. Michael Bernstein

Joyce Katz — ill, half-blind and temporarily crippled — is still a better fan than just about anyone, either here or elsewhere in Fandom. A leading writer and fanzine editor, Joyce is also the premier hostess in Las Vegas Fandom, opening her home for meetings, parties and general fanning.

Roxanne Gibbs is the most under-appreciated fan in southern Nevada. Although she has had another year of bad health, she worked tirelessly on so many of the things Vegas Fandom enjoyed in '05, including virtually all SNAFFU activities. She runs the SNAFFU.org website, manages the SNAFFU listserv and can be counted on to do more than her share for any event or gathering. Her Vegrants brothers and

sisters miss her and hope that '06 will see her in better health and more able to enjoy the fruits of her labors.

Michael Bernstein has given SNAFFU calm and intelligent leadership as its president for the last two years. That alone would merit consideration in this category, but Michael does much, much more. Few fans have a better view of Las Vegas Fandom's "big picture" and he has put a lot of effort into things like the Las Vegas Fantasy & Science Fiction Day and major parties sponsored by the United Fans of Vegas (of which he is a founding member).

One again, there were far more fans who should get mentions than there were spaces for their names. Alan White, Rebecca Hardin and James Taylor could easily have cracked my "top three."

— Arnie

## Outstanding Retread

When he returned to activity after a period of gafia, I thought to myself, "Well, he'll be a nice addition to the Vegrants meetings." That assessment was both accurate and inadequate.

He didn't just come back to Fandom, he came back with new spirit and new confidence. And he wasn't just a "nice addition," he became one of the major members — and a leading light in the Las Vegas Fan Community and, I see, a future BNF.

He doesn't qualify as a new fan or an '05 import, but it would be unfair to salute achievements without recognizing his tremendous contributions.

So here's to the Dauntless Degafiate — James Taylor!



# NOW & Again Writing Habits

I have a weird way of writing. –What, you say you’ve noticed? Well, that isn’t what I mean! It isn’t the results I’m talking about, but what leads up to the words being typed. (Even tho this is electronic, I’m using a keyboard, so – typewritten or not – it is still ‘typed’.) Actually, I’m referring to my method of creativity.

When I’m writing, serious or not, story or article, whatever, I keep on going as long as the juice is flowing. When the flow stops –

I play a game on my computer; Spades, Zuma, Spider Solitaire or even online poker (no cash, of course!) I don’t sit and think about where the thing I’m writing it going, or what I can do to solve the block – I play games. If it’s on TV, I might watch the World Poker Tour. Or, sometimes, check my email or even go to something else I have been writing.

The idea is that I’m putting my project on the back burner, so to speak, and let it simmer – turning everything over to my subconscious.

Now, let me explain: I don’t mean that I don’t give advance thought to something I’m writing. Often, after I go to bed, I’ll lie there and think on a story or (in this case) this article I’m now writing. Sometimes the juices will start flowing so strongly that I get up and go to my computer and start putting it down. Also, five or six days a week I go out for my 15-20 minute walk and often I toss ideas around as I go. And I like taking warm, soaking baths. I will read for a while, then – sometimes – lie back and soak and think.

BUT –

Mostly, I just let things simmer until they boil.

Oh, and I do lots of research on different things, too – on the internet, of course. Google, fanac, etc, as well as sites I have marked as Favorites – other fan sites, encyclopedias and a couple of sites for Thesaurus. My WordPerfect thesaurus used to be sufficient, but suddenly it has gone fancy on me. Like, when I look up ‘fancy’, instead of giving me other words that can be used to replace it, it includes things like: ‘fancy - v. “have a fancy for”’.

I don’t wanna know how to USE the word, I want it to suggest substitutes! So I go to Thesaurus.com.

(Robert Lichtman, I still love WordPerfect, but I wish they’d stop trying to *improve* it! As I’ve said many a time before, ‘progress brings change, but change ain’t necessarily progress!’ Or, back to the old saying, ‘If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it!’)

Now let me admit that my computer contains lots of unfinished stories, ideas for stories, or articles. They ain’t lost! Now and then I pull one out and see if it has properly simmered. (Some people have ‘irons in the fire’; I have stories in the fire.) I look at it and, sometimes, it becomes what I wanted it to be. . .or, sometimes, becomes something totally different; it takes off on a life of its own, so to speak. It’s an old acquaintance I rediscovered.

There’s another place I find unfinished stories: In my dreams! More than once, a scene has come to me – in technicolor! I don’t care what they say about us dreaming in black-and-white – that stayed in my memory when I wake up; at least, enuf of it stays to stir me to do something about it. There was a book I wrote that grew from a scene I dreamed – wrote, but never sent in, becous I kept re-writing it and am still not thoroughly satisfied with. The most recent example of a story from a dream will be in *Planetary Stories* (of course! See, I worked it in again!) In fact, Bill Jackson, cover artist, uses a scene for the cover.

Anyhoo, Space Marshal Slade Marsten’s friend, Probot (a professor’s brain in a robot body) comes up with time travel. Things don’t go exactly as planned. They go back to just a few minutes before the Big Bang, but they come back and find Jill has disappeared! They go back to the Big Bang moment –

And find eighteen ships there, all being the Time Ship!

Repeated again

And again

And again



Yeah, I know; that not only BREAKS laws of physics, it smashes those laws all to pieces – as well as time laws.

Well, of course, the space marshal solves all this. How? Read the story!

Now, some of you may scoff at my methods of writing. “Just shows you’re lazy, Vick! You don’t want to take the time to *plan* your stories.”

Lazy? Me? . . . Well, you might have a point there. But, in its own way, it works. And, BEING lazy, I ain’t gonna take the time and trouble to change.

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Another one stolen from a listserv, fiction-mags. They were talking about combining titles of novels (kinda like the Before and After category

on Wheel of Fortune) and Denny Lien came up with this TRIPLE play:

“A dysfunctional family breaks apart under the stress of alcoholism and attacks by zombie English teachers:

LONG DAY’S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD POETS’ SOCIETY”

— Shelby Vick

**If You Enjoy *Now & Again***, you are really missing out by not getting Shelby Vick’s delightful fanzines.

Go to [efanzines.com](http://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*.

# The *Star Wars*

## *Nothing turns a hardnosed rationalist into a mystic like a little gambling. After turning a dollar in change into \$20 at the downtown Pahrump Terribles, I thought I'd stumbled upon a system to beat the casino. But the odds struck back.*

# Wealth-Building System

I was running on empty and the check I was expecting to live on had not yet arrived at my mail drop. I was considering cannibalism when I remembered the change dropped over the years into the little center storage area between the front seats of my car. I dug desperately and recovered a small handful of coins from the bottom of the compartment. Thing is, the nearby casino would only be interested in the quarters and nick-

els. As for the pennies and dimes? "We don't take their kind." They'd have to wait outside during this mission.

The cashier was not impressed with my logical powers when I handed her four quarters and a nickel. She pushed the nickel back along with a single dollar bill. But at least the rebel forces were now equipped to take on the empire. I made my way to the nearest *Star Wars* themed penny slot machine. Upon insertion of the dollar, C3PO said, "R2, welcome our new guest." When playing the game for amusement in the past, I had been a penny-a-liner, playing five lines. But in these dark imperial times, I was playing one penny total each game. At that level, we see characters from Tatooine such as Jawas and the red droid, and we hear the main theme repeated again and again. After a few fruitless "Game Over" results, I got a Vader vs. Kenobi bonus fight.

Obi-Wan might have been my only hope in this most desperate hour. After some energetic crossing of light sabers, Darth Vader sliced through Kenobi's now-empty cloak, and said in an inhuman voice, "You have chosen poorly. You have betrayed yourself." Kenobi's failure may have been complete this time, but I'll never join the Dark Side. Many gambling companions have foolishly switched sides after such a defeat only to face surprising destruction at the hands of the bathrobed elderly gentleman. "There is much fight left in the old Jedi." In my case, the consolation amount was only three cents. So, the Vader duel payouts were based on the total bet. Interesting. Usually I'd get up to 50 even when I lost on 5 lines.

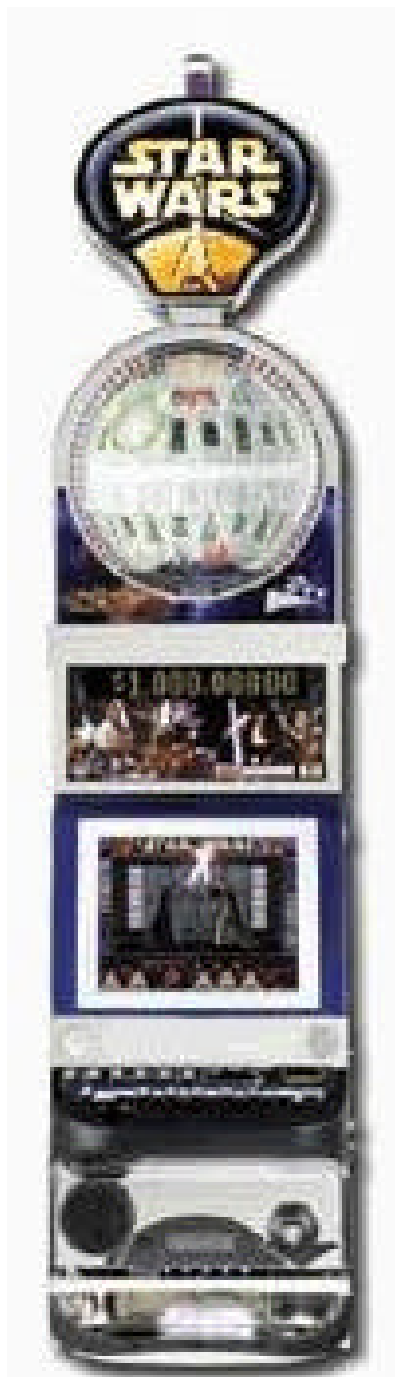
Things were looking grim, but I kept betting. And then a miracle happened. I hit a Death Star Bonus! Han Solo chased a squad of stormtroopers around a corridor, yelling all the way, and then my view of the situation consisted of choosing which dork in a stormtrooper outfit to





shoot. Probably fanboys from the local Neon City Garrison. I touched the screen and the rightmost trooper fell from a blaster shot. This was to choose the lower Death Star pointer position. Another three stormdorkers showed up and I blasted the leftmost one. That picked the upper pointer. I hate centrists, but upon further reflection, they're the only ones I left alive. Now it was time to spin the Death Star. Primary ignition was commenced and the lower pointer moved over amounts like 100, 20, 50 and finally settled on 600. My strategically chosen upper pointer rested on 400. I just won a ten-dollar bonus with a single penny bet!

Now I switched to playing five lines and the very next spin included a pay line with five Han Solos in a row, paying yet another ten dollars. I had a few spins left, and after getting back down to 20 dollars credit, I hit the "cash out" button. When I brought the twenty-dollar ticket to the cashier, reminding her that this resulted from about fifteen minutes of play starting with one single dollar, and that I was starting a new career playing *Star Wars*, she still regarded me as a complete idiot.



I bought a five-dollar lunch and put ten bucks of gas in the car. Perhaps I had stumbled across a method to beat the game. The remaining singles would fuel a test of my theory at the other Pah-rump Terribles location, which was on the way home. Despite being a moral cripple, I had no valid handicap parking sign and thus had to park in an able bodied space. Inconvenient.

I played five lines with five dollars until I had less than three dollars credit, then switched to single penny play. Upon winning enough to exceed a total balance of three dollars I switched to five lines again, fell back to single penny, then five lines--back and forth--and after a few hard fought hours of play, walked out of the Lakeside Terribles with another twenty dollars. Assuming my time was worth nothing, I had come out ahead yet again. But prolonged exposure to smoke and sneezy gamblers in winter had given me a cough in addition to the cash.

But I soldiered on and reported my winnings to the visiting John DeChancie. "I've analyzed the *Star Wars* slots and have found a weakness. Just bet only one penny total at a time."

"What good is a single penny against that?" John said, remembering a group of the imposing machines, each crowned by its own Death Star Bonus sphere.

"Most so-called penny players are impatient drunks playing max bets per game, so the casino doesn't view the rare single penny bettor to be any threat," I replied, recalling the cantina aliens that show up with cantina background music when five cents are bet per line and the space ships with heroic music when ten cents are bet per line. "It's time to make an effective demonstration of this system--I suggest we use it."

Of course with an audience present, my initial gloating over the poor casino's fate of having to face an insurmountable gauntlet of penny payouts turned into me feeling like a malfunctioning little twerp. All my remaining extra cash earned earlier was eventually lost. John fared no better. Although my system was totally blown away, I was still ahead of the game that day.

But now I have a new strategy. Make a series of movies and sell toys.

— Kent Hastings

# Winston Churchill

## Statesman, War Leader... Fan

There is, I think, clearly something that, for want of a better phrase, we can call fannish writing. It's that writing style common to both science fiction fanzines and postal games zines. And, for all I know, the other myriad types of amateur publication that are out there. (The newly-revived Factsheet 5 might be a good place to track these down, if & when the re-launch issue emerges Real Soon Now.)

Fannish writing, like jazz, is one of those things that defies specific definition, except for cop-outs like "If you has to ask, you ain't got it." But for the purposes of the article, I would guess the main features of fannish writing are mild cynicism combined with enthusiasm, and a eye for the risible or self-importance, both in the world at large, the subject matter and even the author herself. Fannish writing is not necessarily confined to fandom. It has been pointed out elsewhere (I think by [Arnie Katz](#)) that Dave Berry is probably a good example of a professional writer who writes in a fannish style.

And people who write fannishly in fandom can sometimes find it difficult to switch off. Many of the better weblogs are written in fannish style -- as are some of the more infamous weblogs that have resulted in people losing their jobs. The weekly newsletters I did for the GNU Enterprise free software project often read like fannish writing, at least the way I did them. And, although I tend towards ultra-cautious in any formal writing I do at work, I tend to be a bit more informal and fannish with e-mails, at least when I know the person at the other end well enough to be sure they can take it.

Historic examples of fannish writing will inevitably become rarer as you go back through the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, before even the early days of First Fandom. However, reading Roy Jenkins' excellent single volume biography of Winston Churchill, I came across a good early example of fannish writing, significantly pre-dating the SF fandom era.

The story so far: Winston Churchill gets elected for parliament in 1900 as a Conservative, then switches parties to the Liberals over the issue of free trade. By 1910, he has worked his way through various ministerial posts, and pressurised Prime Minister Asquith to make him the youngest Home Secretary since Peel.

In the late Victorian and early Edwardian times, one of the PM's duties was to do a private letter to the Queen or King every day that the House of Commons was sitting, telling them what had gone on. (Assuming, of course, that the PM was a member of the House of Commons -- at this time, the PM could equally well be a member of the House of Lords.) By 1910, the PM had managed to off-load this task on to the Home Secretary. (The Home Secretary had several other odd royal-related duties, including having to be present at all royal births "to prevent the babies being switched.")



For Churchill, who had made his name in the Boer War as what we would today call an embedded reporter (albeit one who was actually a member of the army rather than employed by a news organisation), doing the daily letter was of course grist to the mill. Rather than do the minimum, he would write up quite substantial pieces whilst sitting in the Commons. Not just giving the dry gist of what was said, but describing the atmosphere and mood of the House in terms that were quite fannish.

So, his report on the Army Estimates of 11<sup>th</sup> March 1910 went “The House assumed that listless air which indicated that the questions of interest lay outside the debates [...] other Members took refuge in the smoking rooms.” This could, almost verbatim, be a description of a panel session gone bad at a science fiction convention.

Like all good convention reports, any friends of Churchill’s – including the surprising number of Conservatives who were still on speaking terms – would get star billing for their contributions in debate. And a point made by a speaker, or even just their method of delivery or demeanour, could inspire an off-topic diversion, of the sort that normally gets removed in the second draft of fanzine articles. But of course Churchill was working first draft only, in his own handwriting, so the completely irrelevant section as to how Lloyd-George had looked the absolute spitting image of Joseph Chamberlain before LG grew his moustache stayed in.

Churchill got no real feedback on his letters, so he kept on going. The crunch came on the debate on the King’s Speech. The Labour Party, which as a result of a semi-formal electoral pact with the Liberals was now a small but growing third party, had put down an amendment about the “right to work.” Churchill wrote up the debate as normal, but then added some pugnacious comments of his own. It is typical early Churchill, not least in its ability to cross-over conventional left-right political shibboleths:

“As for tramps and wastrels, there ought to be proper Labour Colonies where they could be sent for considerable periods and made to realise their duty to the State. [...] It must not however be forgotten that there are idlers and wastrels at both end of the social scale.”

This unsurprisingly didn’t go down well with the King, and his private secretary wrote a letter of complaint to PM Asquith. Asquith, in much the same bind as an Official Editor of an APA trying to dampen down



WSC and his assistant slip-sheeters rushing to un-jam the paper feed mechanism in the mimeograph (Or, if you insist, David Low’s famous “All Behind You, Winston” cartoon from the London Evening Standard, May 1940)

a potential inter-member feud, got dragged in against his better judgement. He instructed Churchill to write an apology – as the neo-fan who had upset the BNF (in this case, the hereditary chief BNF).

The “apology,” of course, turned out to be a masterpiece of fannish writing itself. Churchill pointed out that he had never had any feedback, and had just carried on as he had done for the previous King. He “now gathers that YM [Your Majesty] desires that he should confine himself to a narrative of the debates.” But pointed out that he was very busy, and that the King could just read the newspaper reports if that was all he wanted. And he would be frightened of upsetting the King again – would it not be better to get another minister to do the job? As Jenkins notes, the letter was a classic of “dumb insolence.”

The result was, in effect, a score draw, with Churchill being told “your letters are always instructive and interesting and [the King] would be sorry if he were to receive no further ones from you in the future.” So Churchill carried on, noticeably toning down the letters to start with, but soon getting back into the swing of things, continuing until he started his first (less famous) stint as First Lord of the Admiralty.

So Churchill didn’t lose his job over what he had written in his “daily newzine,” but he did get a shot across the bows. And the issue of whether his zine was meant to be “sercon” or “fannish” was, as in all the best fan disputes, never really resolved.

— Peter Sullivan

# SNAFFU Central Results Are In!

No, not paternity test results. That's *The Maury Show* and this was the February 10 meeting of SNAFFU. A total of 10 fans, including newcomers Phil & Barbara Greyhound, clustered in a corner of Borders bookstore and spent a couple of reasonably pleasant hours chatting about local Fandom, upcoming events, the near-future of the club and other, similar topics.

Though the Borders folks, with a little expert prodding by Lori Forbes who works there, were hospitable, the handwriting may be on the wall for that location as a meeting place for SNAFFU in the future. They've actually given away the folding chairs and, had they not obligingly cannibalized chairs from around the entire store, we might've had to stand through the meeting. (Seating for 10 was not an insurmountable problem, but if the incoming administration's plans are successful, it is expected that SNAFFU meetings will grow larger again as more fans find it worth the Friday night excursion.)

Vice President (and election teller) Kent Hastings duly informed those present that the two uncontested candidates both won unanimous election. Michael Bernstein will continue as president for a third term and former SNAFFU officer Joyce Katz returns to power as Vice President/Meeting Director. The new team took charge at the *end* of the meeting, thus saving Joyce from actually having to do anything right away.

Linda Bushyager, coordinator of the recently instituted "fourth Friday" Dinner Meetings, updated the club about the status of the February 24th event. Fif-



teen fans have already signed up to sample the Russian cuisine of Artem and there's still time to RSVP to Linda for the 7:00 PM get-together.

Linda wanted to trial-balloon some future possible restaurants, which brought to the surface some serious concerns. The main one is the price of some of the restaurants, especially a sushi eatery which would cost \$27.50 per person. The general feeling seemed to be that while a restaurant in that price category would be all right two or three times per year, it is too high as a monthly expense for a lot of the fans.

I pointed out that everyone's money is limited to some extent and, therefore, the restaurants should be chosen in a way that prevents the SNAFFU Dinner Meeting from blowing the family budget for the entire month, which would adversely affect other events like the VSFA Sunday Social. The consensus was that the SNAFFU Dinner Meeting should include a mix of restaurants at different price points.

When Phil revealed that he and Barbara own a bookstore, Greyhound Books, fans bubbled over with questions about it. With some reluctance, Phil provided a brief description of the store's selection (heavy on the SF and mystery but with lots of other stuff), but also showed commendable restraint in going on about it. He said that he wasn't there to do business, but to show support for local fan activities.

Several fans asked about the possibility of meeting at the bookstore. The Greyhounds seemed receptive to the idea, though the club may need to buy some folding chairs to facilitate things. It's likely that quite a few fans will visit the store in the next couple of weeks to show *our* support for this fan-run business and scope out its possibilities as a venue.

Lori Forbes described the recent progress of the Library Committee and beat the drums for some volunteers to participate in a crucial work session on the second Saturday in March (3/11). That's when the books currently stored at James Taylor's place will be brought to the Launch Pad, shelves will go up and books will be placed on them. (There may also be a min-garage sale featuring lots of electronic games and some other stuff) to clear space and generate a little money for future club projects.

Attending the meeting were: Michael Bernstein, Linda & Ron Bushyager, Lori Forbes, Phil & Barbara Greyhound, Kent Hastings, Rebecca Hardin, Joyce Katz and me — Arnie Katz

Continued from p 2

(To dispel some apparent confusion: SNAPS is *not* a fanzine and is *not* the property of Joyce (or me or anyone). It is a club, except that instead of going to dinner or huddling in the corner of a bookstore, SNAPS is to be found in the digital world. It belongs equally to everyone who participates and each fan is completely in charge of his or her own contribution (except that Joyce is willing to help folks with technical details and formatting if they are unfamiliar with those aspects of fanzines.)

### **SN AFFU Sets Next Three Dinner Meetings!**

Linda Bushyager, who coordinates the Dinner with SN AFFU "fourth Friday" meetings, has lined up the next three restaurants. She supplies the following information:

*Dinner time will be 7pm unless otherwise announced.*

*Try to arrive a few minutes early and meet outside the front door. If you are unsure about coming, or might be late, please communicate that, plus all RSVPs, or cancellations via email.*

*Feb. 24, 2006 -- Artem (Russian) (formerly called Eliseevsky -- Chef is Artem Eliseevsky)  
4825 W. Flamingo (Flamingo & Decatur)  
Phone: 247-8766*

*Recommended by: Lubov and Merric Anderson*

*They have a non-smoking section, but could be somewhat smoky even in non-smoking section.*

*Cost \$\$-- Moderate to Moderately Expensive*

*No private area*

*18% tip for large parties*

*Free sample of vodka*

*Comments: The Andersons report the food was great as was the experience.*

*Menu: <http://www.usmenuguide.com/eliseevskymenu.htm>*

*Website: <http://russianrest.russianvegas.org/home.asp>*

*RSVP by Feb. 17 to [LindaBushyager@aol.com](mailto:LindaBushyager@aol.com)*

*March 24, 2006 -- Cool Cuba - Cuba Cafe (Cuban) 2055 E. Tropicana (Burnham near Eastern)*

*Phone: 795-7070*

*Recommended by: Terry Wilshire*

*Interior All non-smoking; outside patio is smoky.*

*Cost \$-- Economical-Moderate*

*No private area*

*17% Gratuity for large parties*

*Restaurant Review: [reviewjournal.com/lvrj\\_home/2004/Jan-30-Fri-2004/weekly/23080842.html](http://reviewjournal.com/lvrj_home/2004/Jan-30-Fri-2004/weekly/23080842.html)*

*Menu: <http://www.usmenuguide.com/cubacafemenu.html>*

*Website: <http://www.usmenuguide.com/cubacafe.html>*

*RSVP by March 17 to [joyceworley1@cox.net](mailto:joyceworley1@cox.net) (Since*

*Linda will be out of town in March)*

*April 28, 2006 - Buca di Beppo - (Italian - family style)  
412 E. Flamingo (Flamingo & Paradise)*

*Phone: 8662867*

*Recommended by: Lori Forbes*

*Non-smoking area*

*Cost \$-- Economical-Moderate (\$20-30 for entrée but*

*entries are large enough to share)*

*Private area for 12-16 people or 10 people for "kitchen table" (somewhat separate) which would be non-smoking;*

*Smaller groups could choose nonsmoking or smoking areas.*

*Gratuity added as you like*

*Comments: The portions are LARGE and meant to be shared family style. Good economical choice.*

*Restaurant Reviews: [http://las-vegas-hotels.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant\\_Review-g45963-d422814-Reviews\\_Buca\\_di\\_Beppo\\_Las\\_Vegas\\_Paradise-Las\\_Vegas\\_Nevada.html](http://las-vegas-hotels.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant_Review-g45963-d422814-Reviews_Buca_di_Beppo_Las_Vegas_Paradise-Las_Vegas_Nevada.html)*

*Website: <http://www.bucadibeppo.com/>*

*RSVP by April 21 to [LindaBushyager@aol.com](mailto:LindaBushyager@aol.com)*

### **Heard Around Fandom...**

Dick Lupoff is hard at work on a series of mystery short stories, which is why his wonderful *Them Daze* column has been absent for the last few issues. He'll be back in full glory once he completes this effort. (It may take a little longer, now that the most recent story is growing into a novel.) VFW will let everyone know when his current project hits print...

Lauraine Tutihasi, a regular contributor to *Chatback* has a new issue of her fanzine ready for free download. You can get it at: <http://members.aol.com/felinemewsings/index.html>...

Ruth Davidson has a new email address: [ruthiechan@ruthiechan.net](mailto:ruthiechan@ruthiechan.net).

### **Heard Around Vegas Fandom...**

Phil & Barbara Greyhound, who made their local Fandom debut at the 2/19 SN AFFU meeting are proprietors of Greyhound's Books (1539 West Oakey, Southwest corner of Western & Oakey. The bookstore, which is open Tuesday-Saturday 11AM-5PM, has a wide range of books, but is especially good in science fiction and mystery. The phone number is 444-9415. Phil and Barbara are long-time fans, formerly active in the Baltimore area, who have relocated to Glitter City. They seem quite friendly and may even end up providing SN AFFU with the best meeting room the club has had in a long time. They welcome fans, so go visit — and tell 'em you saw it in VFW...

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

*We've reached that point in the fanzine when it's time for me to stop hogging the pixels and share them with Fandom's greatest cast of letterhacks.*

*The lead off letter this time has some well-meant advice about the Brown (haired) Bomber...*

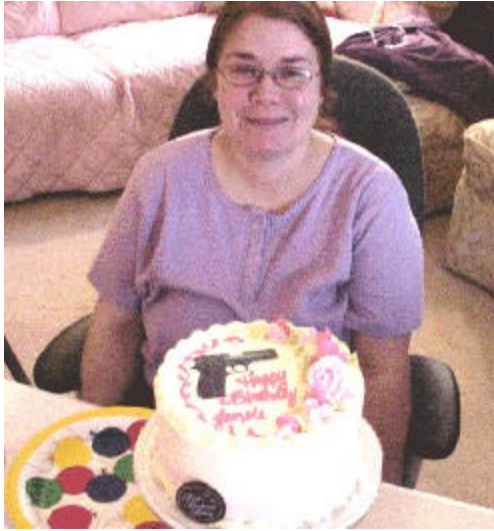
### **Jack Calvert**

Joyce hit you over the head? Umh, well, speaking from my experience at getting my wife to behave, the only comment I have is to suggest that you might take up the habit of wearing a soft, padded hat, or else a motorcycle helmet -- maybe the kind with a little attached rear-view mirror.

As I expected, I'm beginning to get used to *Word*. I've managed to turn off most of the automatic stuff, though I'm

# Taylor-Made Happy Birthday, Janole!

It was a dark and stormy night. OK, not really. It was more like a warm and pleasant mid afternoon. Teresa and I joined Charles E. Fuller, Jr. to celebrate Janole Merchant's birthday at the home of Roxanne Gibbs and Michael' Bernstein.



A number of others had to bow out at the last minute due to the risk to Roxanne's health by passing on a cold. Although her health is much improved recently, someone else's sniffles could still knock her out for weeks or send her to the emergence room.

The conversation was as wide ranging as you'd expect from even a small gathering of fans. From non-toxic heavy metals to the state of the Clark County School District, the discussion progressed accompanied by crackers, fruit and exotic cheeses. Then came pizza in no less then three varieties. A Freed's Cake that Teresa still speaks of in awe was a sinful end to the meal.

Although Jannole received many fine gifts, Roxanne's crocheted afghan stole the show. Roxanne used every stitch in the book and employed green and purple yarns of different shades to great effect. Eventually, Charles had to leave for work and Teresa and I had a Vegrants meeting to attend, so my report ends but perhaps not the party.

— James Taylor

sure I'm still going to fall into some traps. What I do like about it is that it is widespread, and it is easy to exchange files with people who have it. But I am also tempted by Robert Lichtman's suggestion to get a copy from eBay. I didn't know that it could be had so cheaply. And there's no law against having two word processors.

The *Mystery of David M. Gordon* was a fine piece of faan fiction. You have revealed who the *real* Secret Master of Fandom is.

Chris Garcia's comment about the appeal of the UNIVAC name resonated with me. Long ago, I worked briefly on a UNIVAC training computer called a "MINIVAC." This was before transistors were common, and it used subminiature vacuum tubes. I never did get the hang of making the thing go.

I enjoyed your tale of the annish party. My wife the editor offers a collegial "hmpf" of agreement with your comments about the self-publishing gent and his opinions about editors.

Are you doing an "Astounding -- Analog fade" with the title block of VFW? The "Vegas" is getting fainter and fainter.

*Arnie: Until the Clop Heard 'Round the Cosmos, I had depended on my quick reflexes to dodge such blows. On this occasion, however, Joyce caught me unawares, because I didn't know I had done anything wrong. (Because I hadn't.)*

*The arrogant self-publisher wrote me a long, arrogant letter after he received that issue, but since he also asked to be removed from the mailing list – typical sorehead – I decided not to inflict it on everyone.*

*Uh, wouldn't it be confusing if I changed the name of Vegas Fandom Weekly to Analog?*

*The next letter is from an energetic fan who vows to be there to turn out the lights when the Good Ship FAPA plummets to the briny depths of Dave Van Arnam's Locker.*

## Chris Garcia

I hope this gets to you as I've had a bad email month which meant that I didn't get a lot of mails from folks in eAPA and other fannish groups, and a few mails were not received from my email. Sadness reigns.

If this doesn't arrive, feel free to ignore this mail.

Anyhow, Merrick mentioned that there was a chance that Toner wouldn't be happening when he came out this way. I was hoping that it would happen. But, if it is postponed, it could be an easier weekend for me, since I'd've had to take an extra weekend off from Evelyn and all other strangenesses that I tend to week to week.

I am much distracted as the lovely Katherine Heigl is wearing only a bra on *Grey's Anatomy* on ABC TV. She's one of my faves.

The combination of two groups is a serious matter. It's often necessary, but it takes a gentle hand and strong leadership to navigate such an undertaking. Usually, it ends up making the new group much stronger than either ever had a chance to be... though it has also been known to kill groups dead. I see that both groups have great strengths (and a large SF library is a good thing indeed)

Now Leonard Nimoy is doing an Aleve commercial.

That's very distracting... though not as much as Miss Heigl in a bra.

I must try to make it to a Vegants meeting when there's singing going on. I really must. Frankly, Vegas sounds like it would be a great place to settle in, but museum jobs for my kind are probably rarer than unsigned copies of *Greetings From Lake Wu*.

I have to echo your praise for ShelVy's other fanzines. Plus PUFFINS!!!

On the matter of the lifetime of print fanzines and print APAs, they'll be around for a while longer. I'm almost certain that I'm the youngest member of FAPA, and I'll be around for the long run. Of course, I have the added advantage that I do not pay for paper or printing. Postage on some of my zines is astronomical (for The Everlasting Club, a UK paper Ghost Story APA, one mailing cost me almost 40 bucks!) but I still like doing them.

I really think the big difference will be seen when the next generation of fanzine publishers come about. Look at how frequently I pub something. If a neo were to come across eFanzines.com, like what I put out (we'll have to have him shot before it catches... wait, that's a joke) and decide to do his own, what frequency would he shoot for? I really think that we are influenced by the first fanzine that really touches us. The ones that made me want to do my own zines were Peregrine Nations (quarterly) and eI (five or six a year), so that should say that I'd do one about that speed, but I'm hyper, what do you expect?

Joyce makes me laugh hard. What a great little article! The 'Argue Every Point' thing is one that I know works to land you babes of all sorts when used properly!

Sorry to hear that John DeChancie has left the land of Art Bell for LA. I like that guy and I was hoping that I'd get the chance to chat with him again when I'd return (dates of which are coming soon)

Like Joyce's new hair! It's a very flattering style on her.

A Dead Poets gag is always a good thing. At least it wasn't something about your Long-fellow...

Good stuff as always. I've rambled enough and WonderCon, where almost all of the good people *Science Fiction/San Francisco* will be gathering for the first time!

*Arnie: I'm confused, if I may borrow the word from ShelVy for a moment. Are you volunteering for a spot at the wrong end of a firing squad? You, my friend, are the "next generation" of fanzine publishers.*

*You don't need a Dead Poets gag, Chris. They already can't speak.*

*Your longevity has little to do with the eventual demise of FAPA (along with the other print apas). After all, if it dwindles down to you, to whom will you address your mailing comments? Since I wrote that piece, by the way, I received word that another long-running print apa, *Myriad*, has bitten the dust.*

*I wish I could be as generous as you, but I'm afraid that 40 years of fanzine publishing have hardened my heart on Certain Subjects. So if your email fails and you don't get this, I will still expect another of your entertaining letters of comment.*

*I'm not familiar with that actress, since I don't watch medical dramas. It did make me wonder why, if she is so distracting, the program isn't called **Heigl's Anatomy**?*

#### **Teresa Cochran**

Thanks, Arnie, for making it known how much I'd like to read fanzines if made available. Robert Lichtman just sent two issues of *Trap Door*. Oh joy, more fanzines! And, as you know, I agree with you about electronic fanzines. I can appreciate the disappointment some must feel about the fading of hard-copy fanzines, but, of course, now I have more access to them since they've gone electronic.

Shelby Vick: I really appreciate your column on selective memory. I have that tendency myself, and, of course, it has advantages and disadvantages. but it seems to me that the advantages are a great way to cope with the curve balls life can throw at one sometimes.

It's an inspiration to read about your trials and laughter and all.

Chris Garcia: You mentioned that you heard some say that some fannish activities require order. Well, ok, I think this is true to some extent, of course, but I prefer to engage in those that don't most of the time.

Joyce Katz: You confused me with your column. here I was, trying to be a good fan, and now it seems I'm doing it all wrong? Ah well, it isn't the first time I've bucked a trend.

## Pure Purcell **FMZ EYE**

John Purcell, who has become a fixture in the letter column around these parts, has just published *In a Previous Lifetime #8* as a Word document fanzine.

The 20-page issue is entirely editor-written apart from the letter column and John's writing is definitely strong enough to carry the load. He has a range of fannish, personal and sfnal topics, develops his theme to maintain reader interest and knows when to move on to the next subject before that interest wanes.

For instance, I didn't really know Lee Pelton as anything more than a name spotted in fanzines, because the late Minneapolis fan's activity occurred mostly while I was gafia, but John's essay about Lee really evokes his late friend in a way that made it meaningful to me.

*IaPL* is laid out in traditional fanzine format, albeit with some subtle adjustments to the electronic medium. John has mastered [re]presentation and offers a visually attractive zine.

I wasn't familiar with John's fanzine fanac until I read this personalzine, but you can now count me among his satisfied readers. Go to efanazines.com for the free download. — Arnie

I'll just keep going on my merry way and see where that leads.

James Taylor: You forget about the woes and trials of people-of-medium-height. Since we can't distinguish ourselves with our vertical stature, we must find some other way to make a mark. I say this is unfair, and there should be special accommodation for those of us who are neither tall nor short, or we'll be relegated to a life of obscurity and mediocrity.

*Arnie: Actually, I am a strong advocate of planning and order in fanac – and some day I hope to try it to see how that works out. Seriously, my objection is not to forethought, but to over-organization, superfluous officiousness and pompous self-puffery (though I approve of Puffin-ery.)*

*One of VFW's prime contributors offers a lengthy, entertaining LoC in lieu of his column. I'll take it, with gratitude...*

### Dick Lupoff

In lieu of a "Them Daze" column or even a full-fledged loc, here's at least one small comment on Joyce's excellent essay, "How to Be a Great Big Fan-Woman." I refer specifically to her comments about using mundane achievements to puff up one's standing in the fannish community.

This reminds me of George Clayton Johnson's famous "Prince from a Distant Land" theory. I remember his explaining this to me as we dangled from the edge of the swimming pool at Bill Donaho's house in El Cerrito, yea many years ago.

"I don't have many publishing credits," George told me, "certainly not enough to impress anyone around here." And, indeed, as he spoke these words, Bob Silverberg, Terry Carr, and Greg Benford strolled past us, sucking at longneck bottles of beer. "So I use my Hollywood credentials. I have a

couple of feature films to my credit, and a Twilight Zone episode or two, and everybody is mightily impressed. I am a Prince from a Distant Land."

Okay, fair enough. But then he continued:

"When I'm in Hollywood, I don't make a lot of noise about my motion picture and TV credits, because I'm surrounded by people who could brush me aside and hardly even notice I'd been there. Instead, I let 'em know that I've actually published a couple of novels and some short stories. They are awestruck by somebody who's a real author and not just a screenwriter. You see, I'm a Prince from a Distant Land."

And I can tell ya, having served a few tours of duty in Tinseltown over the past thirty or forty years, George was right. I was on location where a film was being made from one of my short stories and the director said, "You want to have some fun? Want to be an extra in this scene?"

I said that sounded good, so he told me to go over and stand with some other extras. The principal actors were going to do a scene close to the camera. When the assistant director gave the signal we extras were supposed to walk back and forth across a street intersection. We did multiple takes, and between takes we just stood around being bored. To alleviate the old ennui, I tried to strike up a conversation with an attractive young lady extra. She cut me dead. Extras get no respect, even from other extras.

During the third or fourth pause between takes, and maybe just to get me to stop annoying her, she finally melted enough to ask me, "Do you do a lot of extra work?"

"Oh, no," I told her. "I'm only in town for a few days and the director invited me out here today because I wrote this thing."

I swear, if we'd been in a different environment, the former Miss Glacier would have jumped my bones then and there. As it was, standing on a sunny (blocked off) street and surrounded by a couple of hundred actors, directors, assistant directors, sound engineers, lighting technicians, camera operators, and miscellaneous studio personnel, and protected from gawkers by a small contingent of off-duty LAPD cops who picked up extra dough working as location security, she whipped out a notebook and pen and wrote down her name and phone number. She tore out the page and handed it to me. "If there's anything you'd like, anything I can do, just call me. Please. Anything. Any time."

She must have been taking acting lessons, too, because the way she said *anything* spoke volumes.

On the other hand, a joke making the rounds of the studios, when I was working down there a while ago, went like this:

Did you hear about the ( ) starlet who was so stupid, she actually slept with a writer?

Fill in that blank with "blonde," "Polish," or whatever adjective represents the target-of-derision du jour.

Hollywood is a cruel and evil place. The only time I've ever made really decent bucks as a writer, I didn't make 'em for writing. I made 'em by selling screen rights to something I'd written years before. I was promptly audited by the IRS.

*Arnie: Alas, being a writer doesn't have quite that much*





*cachet in today's sub-literate All Known Fandom. While serving as Fan Guest of Honor at a Westercon in El Paso, TX, it seemed appropriate for me to visit the large, open parties which I generally avoid. After all, I said to myself, the con committee has spent money to bring me here; attendees should have whatever pleasure there is in meeting me.*

*So Joyce (my co-GoH) and I began a tour of the parties, starting with a bidding party for a potential St. Louis worldcon. I knew we had left Core Fandom far behind when none of the dozen hosts even knew there had been a St. Louis worldcon or that Joyce had chaired it. But I persevered.*

*Overcoming my natural shyness, I edged up to a knot of people and used a lull in conversation to extend my hand and introduce myself as one-half of the Fan GoH team.*

*"What cons have you put on?" one of them asked me.*

*"I've worked on some cons and even chaired one," I replied, "but my main fan activity is publishing fanzines." He immediately took several steps backward, a horrified expression on his insensitive non-fannish face, and pretended I had left the room.*

*The next letter comes from a fan who wants to make a Sap out of me -- but in a good way...*

### **Robert Lichtman**

The news of the week is certainly the cancellation of Toner! Now that there's no "aw, c'mon!" attached to it, I can confess that it was extremely unlikely that I was going to be able to attend anyway. Now that I'm retired and on one of those infamous "fixed" incomes, my options for travel are more limited.

It's equally likely that I won't make it to LACon IV even though I have a paid-up attending membership. I \*could\* change my mind at the last moment, of course, since there are always motel rooms available around Disneyland. And it would offer me an opportunity to pay a visit to Canter's and the Diamond Bakery up in L.A. afterwards to stock up on deli food and baked goods for the ol' home freezer high in the Oakland hills.

I loved your crack in "Sin City Sing-Out!" that "There is also a third category" of collector, "composed of people who think subscribing to Franklin Mint programs is collecting rather than serial consumerism." To that I would add the people who "collect" Thomas Kinkade "artwork," and even pay extra to have him sprinkle fairy dust (aka "highlights") on their kitsch.

As for those other two categories -- "Some collect mementoes, but others are only interested in obtaining content" -- I fall into both categories depending on the subject matter. The primary thing I collect is books, with a minor in periodicals. As you know from my extensive fanzine writing on the topic, I have a complete collection of the writing (both SF and mystery) of Fredric Brown. Part of that is the twenty volumes issued by Dennis McMillan, and there I paid extra to obtain the signed hardcover first editions of the half-dozen that are available far less expensively in trade paperback editions. But another author whose work I have complete, Phil Dick, I'm perfectly happy to have any edition -- al-

though I do have first edition hardcovers of all his posthumous publications since those were easy to obtain as they appeared.

Carol and I love that 1952 photo of Walt Willis (which we'd seen before) and never knew until now that it was taken by Shelby. Walt looks like such a Southerner in it!

I was about the same age as Shelby when I discovered my own "first used-magazine store." Actually, it was a used book store but they had magazines as well. This was during the phase in my life where I was buying car magazines such as MOTOR TREND and ROAD & TRACK. I remember being thrilled one day to find a copy of the first issue of MOTOR TREND at that store, and for only a quarter. Later I branched out into collecting back issues of GALAXY and F&SF, and broadened my used bookstore horizons considerably.

I think to some extent that in "A Volatile Core" you somewhat overstate the case for "Core Fandom...shifting from hard copy to digital forms." I say this as someone who's still very active in no fewer than four paper apas and who publishes a paper genzine (new issue this spring!) \*and\* who still receives quite a few paper fanzines. While it's indisputable that it's way cheaper to publish electronically than on paper that has to be mailed and that faster internet connections will eventually make it so that all fans can receive even the largest digital fanzines without crashing their connection, the big obstacle to the more frequent electronic fanzine future you envision is one that's all too familiar: obtaining sufficient material of decent quality to fill those pages, whether paper or electronic.

Weekly fanzines like VFW and Chris Garcia's DRINK TANK are anomalies even in the world of electronic publishing. When you write that you "believe that electronic fanzine editors will likely choose between weekly, biweekly, triweekly and monthly, with very few opting for a lower frequency," I honestly have to wonder where all the articles and artwork to fill those pages will come from.

And a side note: You refer to Trufen, In The Bar and Wegenheim as "the major listservs," but I would definitely remove the latter list from that category. Wegenheim is small in numbers and (most of the time) few in posts.

I wonder how many of your readers will fail to realize that Joyce's ten suggestions are meant to be humorous?

You write in response to my mention of Wally Weber that you consider him "one of the all-out funniest writers in fandom -- and one of the most under-appreciated fans." If you want a quarterly dose of Weberiana, I suggest you consider joining SAPS. The copy count is currently only eighteen. While Robert Briggs is still a member, you could ignore him, even as I do.

*Arnie: As Joyce has said more than once, the question is not a choice between printed and digital fanzines. Ultimately, it's a choice between digital fanzines and no fanzines. As costs climb, the likelihood that anyone will publish a large, frequent fanzine declines.*

*I see no shortage of fanzine contributors now or in the future. Digital fanzines have proven quite enticing to many*

fans who never gave the printed ones a tumble. We're getting quite an influx of folks who've cut their writing teeth on blogs and listservs and I think that trend will intensify in the future.

The inevitable increases in the speed of computers and the growing prevalence of cable modem do not necessarily require fanzine editors to come up with more material. Music CDs don't have appreciably more content than long-playing records, even though they are capable of holding much more content. Enhanced digital capabilities certainly would permit larger publications, but that doesn't mean we all have to publish 100-pagers every week.

Making this "ensmalled" fanzine just a little bigger (in a good way) is this cogent LoC from one of the cutting-edge digital fanzine do-ers...

### David Burton

Interesting comments re: "ensmalled" fanzines in the latest VFW. Most of it I agree with, but there are a couple of points where I don't.

I don't understand your position that digital fanzines need to be, or should be, published more frequently than their paper counterparts. Surely newszines need a more frequent schedule, but they've always been published that way, even in deadtree versions. I don't think that just because production is easier and the cost of production has been reduced to virtually nothing means that "more often is better," mainly because you still have to have content and the more frequently you publish, the harder it is to come by.

One of the first things I noticed when I returned to fanzine fandom a couple of years ago after my 30-year absence was that it was much *smaller* -- fewer fanzines, fewer people contributing to those fanzines (articles, art, and LoCs), and apparently fewer people reading fanzines. Almost as if not only fanzines became ensmalled, but fanzine *fandom* had as well. I think this smaller "pool" of talent is one of the primary reasons fanzines tend to be smaller these days. I've been fortunate to be able to look at some genzines from the 70s recently. What I noticed was that in a then fairly typical issue, there might a dozen writers represented, along with a similar number of fan artists, plus editorials and heftier letter columns than we're used to seeing in digital zines. I don't think it would be possible to produce such a zine digitally today on the kind of schedule you're talking about, because with a smaller base of creative people (writers and artists) you can't come up with the required content that often. "Fanzine production is a hobby, not a full-time occupation" yes, but the same goes for writers and artists -- they can only be stretched so thin. I can only speak for the last couple of years, of course, but I don't see anything like the explosion of decent writers and artists that emerged in the 70s happening today. Only a couple of top-notch writers have come on the scene, and they're so deluged with requests for material that one of them had an angioplasty just to get out of a couple of deadlines! Look at VFW -- most of your material (including your own) comes from fans who've

LAS VEGAS FANS  
ARE ON THE  
LEADING EDGE  
OF 21ST CENTURY  
FANDOM!;



been around a while. Look at The Drink Tank -- most of Chris' material is from non-fans, or if they're fans they don't have much to do with the rest of fandom. Look at my zine -- a lot of reprinted material, and what's original comes from fans who've been around a while.

I'm not sure I buy the idea that "[digital publishers] 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." Was their debate any *better* because it took days rather than months? We all get hooked (I'm as guilty as the next guy, although I'm Working On it) on the idea that because we *can* do things quickly, we *should*. Just because we *can* instantly answer e-mail, or a post on a mailing list or a newsgroup doesn't mean we should. We've all seen examples of half-baked comments and responses that started huge threads as the participants explained (and defended) their positions. Maybe if everyone took a deep breath, thought about it for a while, and wrote more than a first draft dashed off without a lot of thought, the follow-up would be unnecessary. (This isn't a comment on that particular thread, either, which, like you, I found interesting.) That's one of the things the more leisurely pace of a fanzine allows that newsgroups,

e-mail, and mailing lists often don't. E-mail, newsgroups, listservs, whatever all have their place, don't get me wrong. In addition to all the heat that tends to be generated, there's often a lot of light as well. But to say that fanzines should become more like those forms of communication seems to deny that they're two different critters. Fanzines are discrete little works frozen in time and format; newsgroups/listservs/etc. are amorphous and constantly changing.

I can't speak for any zine but my own, but for the past 5 or six issues I've been pretty pleased with the response; I'd like to have more LoCs, of course, but I'm averaging about a 10% "return", and I think that's not too bad. My own feeling is that while people are beginning to accept that digital zines are here to stay, they're still too easy to "miss" when it comes to writing a LoC. They're a file on your computer, they aren't a paper-and-ink artifact sitting on your desk or on the nightstand or by your easy chair reminding you that you need to Do Something Real Soon Now. I think this is starting to wane, but it's still a problem. I can see a really frequent publishing schedule have just the opposite effect too -- \*fewer\* LoCs rather than more. Joe Phan sits down and reads a zine and thinks, "Hey, I really want to write a LoC on this, but I don't have time right now. In a few days I'll be able to write one." Bang, before he gets a chance to write his letter on that issue, "You've Got Mail" and another's in his in-box. Bang, there's another. Bang, one more. Suddenly he's got 3-4-5 issues to comment on. Writing a LoC has become something of a chore rather than something he wants to do, and Joe Phan says the hell with it and you don't get a LoC.

Through trial and error, I've pretty much settled into a more or less monthly schedule for *Catchpenny Gazette*. That seems to be about the best "cycle" for the zine -- most LoCs come in a few days after I publish an issue, but some don't arrive for two or three weeks. And it isn't taxing on my contributors. (I've fortuitously managed a work-around there by re-uniting last month with a couple of people I hadn't seen for decades who are going to be contributing regular columns to CPG. One is Lee Lavell, my fannish mentor from the 70s, who is making the first steps towards returning to fandom, and the other is Jack Blandifet, a musician and fringe fan who was a friend of mine from the same period.) It's enough time for me to do what I want with the zine, and frequent enough to maintain (I think) reader interest.

"...more fanzines are available electronically (visit efanzines.com) than arrive via the post office." Yes and no. While I don't get every paper zine published, I would say that in the average month I get as many or more *different* paper zine titles as I do through efanzines. Using efanzines.com (as wonderful a service as it is - thanks, Bill!) to "promote" the health of fanzine fandom seems like a tricky thing to me. I'm way too lazy to crunch the actual numbers, although I'm sure someone will or has, but I'd be willing to bet you a case of your soft-drink of choice that you, Chris Garcia, and Dick Geis (with me and a couple of others trailing behind) account for 75% or more of the total fanzines that appeared at efanzines last year. Yeah, that's a lot of fanzines but not a lot of different titles, and yeah, the quality varies (my own zine certainly not less than the others), but is

it "healthy" for (digital) fanzine fandom to have 4 or 5 people "dominating" the field, if only by sheer quantity?

*Arnie: I guess I bungled my explanation of fanzine frequency, so I hope no one will object to a Second Try. Low cost and ease of production will help meet faster schedules and entice more fans to try fanzines, but it is not the reason for increased frequency. It's just an enabler.*

*Fanzine frequency will tend to increase, because today's Core Fandom moves at the speed of the Internet, not the Post Office. The effect on a newszine is magnified, but it affects all fanzines to a significant extent.*

*Consider that staple of fanzine content, the con report. Ten years ago, if you published one three months after the event, you'd be one of the first to present a substantial one. If you wait three months now, your con report is likely to be about the fifth, not counting the ones in blogs, on websites and through the listservs and newsgroups. And the slow reaction time of print fanzines can only become a greater disadvantage as the trend toward digital publishing continues.*

*Fanzine Fandom is a network. The interplay among fanzines is the nervous system of Core Fandom. By the time a quarterly or semi-annual fanzine gets around to it, the electronic fan media have chewed it over and left it for the next hot subject. Hell, we'll be done with this topic before print fanzines can offer more than after-thoughts.*

*You mention that Catchpenny Gazette is a monthly. So is the electronic apa you founded, eAPA. How many monthly hardcopy fanzines -- aside from Ansible and some Apa L titles, do you get? -- I don't receive any.*

*EAPA is a FAPA-forma amateur press association. Leaving aside local apas, how many hard copy apas are monthly? None. How many are bimonthly? The only one I know is SFPA. So you're already participating in the trend!*

*I think you're flat-out wrong about the size of Core Fandom and the pool of contributors. The fanzine is no longer the only way fans flex their writing muscles. We've got alternatives, including websites, listservs, blogs and newsgroups. I think you and I prefer fanzines, but the others exist, too.*

*Quip went to about 125 fans, Folly went to less than 200 and VFW is read by approximately 350. The population is expanding, even as we lose senior fans to the Enchanted Convention (and the Netherregional).*

*As far as the contributor pool goes, those alternative fan-literary media offer stiff competition for content. Victor Gonzalez's Trufen.net -- and this is definitely not a complaint -- posts enough fanwriting for a dozen monthly zines. And even within the digital fanzine field -- again, not a complaint -- Earl Kemp corrals a huge amount of material that, in tree-killer days, would've fueled several fanzines.*

*As wonderful as efanzines.com is -- and I am hereby striking off a digital -- medal for Bill Burns -- it's far from the whole electronic fanzine universe. There are a lot of titles that are not posted on it or linked to it. Then, too, the digital fanzine field is still in its infancy. Let's check back in a year.*

*And here's a welcome sight, a letter from a fine fan too rarely seen in fanzines these days...*

## Richard Brandt

Sure, why bring \*that\* up again?

Dick Lupoff reminds me of the exchange from "Love and Death," Woody Allen's most overtly Bob Hope-ish film, when he asks his cousin Sonya how she could possibly be attracted to his bear of a cousin:

"He warms the cockles of my heart!"

"Oh, great, just what we need. Hot cockles."

Why on earth would you want to consolidate the two clubs? Then how will the members of one sneer at the others behind their backs? Now they'd have to sneer at them in front of their backs.

The sight of the Lotus of Siam alone is enough to make me homesick for Las Vegas. The Venetian is trying to tempt me with free nights through June but I honestly don't know when I'll be making it over that way again.

*Arnie: C'mon, give into temptation and visit – and maybe take a little time off from freebie chasing to enjoy some good ole Vegrants hospitality. It is free, you know...*

*You know what they say about cockles: "Warm hands, hot cockles." Well, if they don't say that, they probably say something about hands and cockles.*

*Let's welcome back to Chatback one of the all-time leading lights of Southern Fandom...*

## Rich Dengrove

I can say one thing for Shelby Vick. He certainly has a good attitude toward life. Remembering the good things and forgetting the bad things. Remembering the good part of his recuperation from a car accident, remembering the funny things his deceased daughter said. True optimism. False optimism is pretending that the world is all sweetness and light, warm and fuzzy. The icky part always creeps in.

I loved Joyce's advice for female fans. It reminded me of advice to get around New York City. Remember that everyone in New York is on welfare so they get to ride the subway for free. However, they have to give you their seat if you request it. So if you need a seat on the subway, just go up to someone and say, "Unlike you, I'm not on welfare so give me your seat."

*Arnie: You may also want to say, "Mets and Yankees fans suck!" Then, when you get out of the hospital, you'll have something to write for VFW.*

*He's one of the more recent additions the ChatBack cast, but he has become one of the mainstays...*

## John Purcell

Sorry to hear about the putting off of Toner 2; unfortunately, the real world sometimes throws a spanner in the works to gum up our fannish plans, but maybe it's for the best. Just think of how much better Toner 2 will be without the distractions of Mundania and all.

Reading ShelVy's "Now & Again" column reminds me of how precious life is. I grieve to read about Suzy and Shelby's loss, no matter how long ago that happened. But he is so right about remembering the fun times. Having a selective memory can be a good thing. I know I do this, especially

in light of May, 1999. Without knowing it at the time, I had a near-death experience.

One Sunday afternoon in that late May, after eating a LOT of barbecued chicken that I had grilled to perfection - smothered with barbecue-honey sauce - I spent a sizeable amount of time in the john with what I thought was diarrhea caused by excessive gorging. Afterwards, I felt extremely light-headed so I went to lie down for a while.

When I didn't feel better the following morning, I stayed home from work. This was also the case on Tuesday, at which time my wife took me to the doctor. Turned out that I had suffered such a massive bleed-out that the doc couldn't even get a standing bp count on me.

So off to the hospital I went. To make a long story mercifully short, they finally figured out - after three scopings - that I had a hole in a blood vessel hiding behind a self-healed duodenal ulcer; apparently the scar had scraped a hole in the vessel, so every time my heart beat, blood was being pumped into my abdomen.

Two weeks in the hospital and 13 units of blood later, with a three-hour surgery sandwiched in between, I was home. They figured that I lost something like 80% of my blood volume, and told my wife at one point that I might not make it.

Why I'm still here on this rock, I don't know, but I am most certainly glad I am. Otherwise I wouldn't be enjoying the crazy antics of my three children. Maybe I should be more grateful when they're driving me stark, raving bonkers.

And I am. So ends the story, and explains why I agree with ShelVy that "a selective memory is a wonderful thing." Ain't it da truth?

All righty, there, Arnie! "A Volatile Core" is right up my current fan-thinking alley. Once you read the latest IAPL (#8) soon to be posted on your favorite efanazines.com website (the ish is done; just proofing it before I send it tomorrow), you'll see what I mean.

The points you raise herein are so true. I agree that frequency is relative, and your analogies are well chosen. It is clear to my mind that fanzine fandom is shifting to the ether



not only thanks to the technology, but because pubbing a zine nowadays doesn't take as much effort and cost.

All right, all right; so that's due to the technology, but we are still fans, which means many of us don't have well-paying jobs. Cost of reproduction and distribution has always been a huge factor in the life or death of a fanzine. The Internet is making fanzine fanac that much more affordable and easier to participate. Besides the listservs and weekly or monthly e-zines and webzines - there IS a difference: e-zines are like hard copy zines, only sent as attachments; webzines are full blown fanzines that have their own website, complete with hyperlinks and bloggings - the technology is soon going to make cybercons a reality.

Take distance learning, instant messengering, digital images, webcams, and the lot, and someone could easily set up a virtual con room here in North America at the same time the Worldcon is going on over in Japan next year. My guess is that someone is probably already planning on doing this, but the mind boggles at the possibilities of a true world-wide fandom thanks to the technology that is available right now. Scary thought, isn't it?

"The next Golden Age is coming." Yeh, and it should be mighty interesting and a lot of fun. I am most certainly looking forward to it.

Joyce, your recommendations are well-made, and were fun to read. Do more stuff like this! (And by the way, your new hair-style looks simply marvelous!) "Print your thesis in your fanzine." Hey, I've begun doing this with some papers I've written for my doctorate in Education. Got more coming, too. You Have Been Warned.

Good issue, Arnie. I can't wait to see more. Take care, and enjoy life!

*Arnie: I adored Suzy Vick. And, yes, I do like to think of her as I first met her in 1965 when I visited Shelby and her in Panama City, FL - so full of the joy of life.*

*I'm not sure academic prose and fannish prose are compatible. Academic prose is often stiff and impersonal, while the best fanwriting is generally personal and shows some attitude. And your fanwriting is especially good as I hope I communicated properly in the review elsewhere in Rhis Very Issue..*

*It's time for another fine letter of comment from the co-editor of my choice for the best British fanzine of the decade...*

### **Mark Plummer**

Just been looking at VFW #64 and your 'Volatile Core' piece.

An interesting coming development in the UK -- which would have been a whole bigger deal back in day when more people actually produced paper fanzines \*and\* put them in the post -- is a scheme called 'Pricing in Proportion' under which the \*size\* of the item is a factor in postage costs as well as weight. This will supposedly be introduced in August this year.

Uncharacteristically, certain types of post will actually become substantially cheaper to mail, while others -- especially items which are large and light -- will become more

expensive. Anybody who's in the business of mailing large cubes of expanded polystyrene around the country is in for a hard time.

As from August we will be able to send up to 100g -- what's that in your money? nearly 4 oz imperial? -- for the standard letter rate so long as it's no bigger than A5 (your half-letter) and no thicker than 5 mm. However, an unfolded A4 (= letter size) fanzine which weighs less than 60g -- half a dozen sheets or so -- which currently goes for the standard letter rate will be reclassified as a 'large letter' and will cost nearly 50% more, unless you fold it in half. An interesting, albeit implausible example, is that a single sheet of unfolded A3 paper (double-letter? -- I don't know what you'd call it) will cost 80p; folded in half it'll cost 35p, and folded into quarters 21p.

I can see how a few years back we'd have all been getting quite vexed by this, working out the optimum size and weight of fanzines. Indeed, I wonder whether the post office is assuming that most people who aren't regular users will get caught out through not realising that an A4 letter sent flat costs half as much again as one folded in half. Now? Well, as you note, more people are switching to PDF and, as some people have noted, many hard-copy fan editors aren't too good at mailing out their fanzines anyway.

The 'Pricing in Proportion' proposal doesn't apply to international mail, so sending fanzines to the US and Australia remains as ruinous as it is at present. Yes, yes, I know, \*if\* only we all switched to PDF...\*

*Arnie: And the effect of that change may be to further discourage fannish contact between UK fanzine publishers and those in the US and Australia. I hope not, because I would like to get more fanzines from the Sceptered Isle, not less. Ghu Save the Zine!*

*A ChatBack regular returns for a second round...*

### **Jack Calvert**

Too bad about Toner II, and I hope it happens another time. Work does have a way of interfering with fanac -- that's one reason I gave it up. Not that I've exactly been a blazing ball of activity. This past year I've watched in dull bemusement as three FAPA deadlines sailed by, and now I got to actually produce a zine. I'm in awe of you and Chris Garcia getting out an issue a week. I'd be happy doing one a quarter.

And, speaking of frequency, that was a good Katzenjammer on the current state and future prospects of fan publishing. I followed the discussion between Ted and rich with some interest, since I'm planning to do my next effort for FAPA in reduced size. (I'd been thinking of it as "ensmalled," and may have been abusing that term, Roscoe forgive me.)

You're very right about the time compression of this and other discussions, feuds, and brush-wars that occur on the e-lists. In mimeo and p-mail, they would unfold over eons of fan time. So far, VFW and The Drink Tank are the only weekly zines I know of. It'll be interesting to see if others follow the pioneers.

Paper does have some advantages, though. As I write

this, I'm sitting in a local pub with a bheer and a paper off-print of VFW in front of me, and life is good. I supposed if I were a more evolved being, I'd have a laptop and a wireless link. (For the zine, that is. Wireless bheer is somewhere over the Singularity.) And as I wrote *\_that\_*, a second difference between bars and coffee shops besides the fluid provided just hit me. No laptops in sight here. The coffee shop down the street averages one or two per table.

I read the second part of Joyce's column first, and started making plans to get myself a a low-cut blouse, then read the first part and realized that this won't work for me. I'll have to try arguing with every point raised. But there are already too many people with conflicting patents on that. Ah well.

You mention to Lloyd Penney the sexual aura around Betty and Veronica -- yeah, I remember that from my high school days in the Fifties. A more innocent time that was, in some ways. I notice that Archie Comics is still available on newsstands -- which is more than I can say for most sf magazines.

And shalom to you, too!

*Arnie:* At the risk of reducing the egoboo Chris and I get for weekly publishing, I have to admit that this weekly publishing schedule is easier than it looks. Putting together a 24-page issue is an effort, but it's not quite the same as doing a 24-page hard copy fanzine (especially if you do your own copying, as I did until I switched to the digital medium. The big difference is that I can put 100% of my energy into writing, lay-out and other creative tasks instead of copying, collating and addressing. Now, I have written several paeons to the assembly of fanzines — anyone remember "The Trufanish Collating Girl? — but I have more or less had my fill of

*that experience and am quite willing to substitute something else.*

*Certainly, paper has advantages over pixels. For one thing, every time I make a checkmark while reading an electronic genzine, it leaves a mark on the screen.*

*Portability is a huge plus for the tree-killers. I like to read in the bathroom and I can't quite balance my Dell workstation on my lap. Technology is on the way to curing that one, though. Large-screen laptops make it easier for some fans now and Portable readers will be pretty much standard in the next few years. Meanwhile, may I suggest that this is the reason why Ghru, in his fannish wisdom, has given us printers.*

*Strangely, the sexiness of Betty and Veronica (and the Good Girl art that put it across to adolescent readers like me in the '60's) did not extend to Katy Keene The Fashion Queen. They always drew her in underwear or bikinis, but the paper doll character just didn't have the same sizzle as Veronica smoothing her stockings and playing with the garters.*

*What marginalized Archie Comics, I think was the insistence on keeping Riverdale firmly anchored in the '50's, while the real world shook with war and protest in the 1960's. I doubt many teens could identify with the tranquility of the Archie world when the Viet Nam War and Civil Rights had their older brothers and sisters marching in the streets.*

*And now let's bring it on home with the UK's top new fan — and a great favorite around these parts...*

**Peter Sullivan**

# Contact! Las Vegas Club Directory

**Las Vegrants**

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

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

### **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 (Joyceworley1@cox.net).

### **SNAFFU Dinner** February 24 7:00 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).

### **Second Sunday Movie Screening** March 12 6:00

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

### **Las Vegrants Meeting** March 18 7:30 PM

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

A shame about the cancellation of Toner II, but I'm sure it's the right decision. Even a relaxacon (like this was intended to be, as I understand it) can be a lot of work to do properly. And if the people involved think they might have problems delivering to the standard that \*they\* want to achieve, then it's best to back out gracefully at this comparatively early stage. Presumably all the Vegas-related con-running efforts will now be focused on the 2008 Westercon bid?

As a complete outsider, it's probably not really appropriate for me to express an opinion on your proposal for a merger between SNAFFU and VSFA. All I would add is the (probably blindingly obvious) observation that, if something like this is going to work, it has to be a genuine merger of equals, and be perceived by as many people as possible as such. Of course, you are at least partially countering your own argument, in that the existence of Vegas Fandom Weekly actually reduces the need for the clubs to formally unite. In that there is a Vegas-wide forum for people to be made aware of the events happening in the other clubs.

And there's also the (partially notional but still useful) concept of the United Fans of Vegas, which can provide an over-arching banner for events where the different communities want to come together, such as the Halloween Party. So

even if the outcome is not a formal merger, but closer informal links between the clubs under the UFV banner, then that's still a positive outcome.

Shelby writes, of his first meeting with WAW, "he said that someone had to devise a way to divert the Gulf Stream to Ireland." I've heard of Walt's role as fannish ghod and author of *The Enchanted Duplicator*, but hadn't been aware of his key role in proposing global warming...

Most of your comments about frequency in the Katzenjammer piece pretty much gel with my own thoughts. But in terms of fanzeen size, I think that the frequency can to an extent drive the size.

The reason being that the cost structure of a paper fanzeen is largely driven by the postage cost. An ensmallled paper fanzeen, even if it's a Shelby Vick-like single sheet lazy-letter, still costs as much to post as something that just fits under the first weight limit.

And I don't know if the same is true of USPS rates, but the printed matter rates that the Royal Mail apply to international mail (both air and sea) start at 100 grammes, which equates to anything up to a 38-page fanzeen. So it makes economic sense, in the paper-based paradigm, to send out larger, but less frequent, fanzeens.

But for electronic fanzeens, the cost of "postage" is the

same regardless of size. And so instead of leading to larger and larger zeens, this actually works the other way - if you have a 4-page fanzine that says all that you want to say this week, you might as well send it out as it stands and see what the response is. Rather than wait for inspiration to strike for another 34 pages to make the weight up. I suspect that this will continue to be the case even as dial-up internet connections fade away.

I don't know about me "rising from a bed of pain." In fact, as recounted in FAFIA (now available, thanks to the ever-wonderful Bill Burns, at <http://www.efanzines.com/FAFIA/>) about the most painful part was when they put a venflon into the back of my other hand \*before\* the procedure in case they needed to sedate me. Overall, I have been very, very lucky throughout as not everyone has quite such a straightforward or painless time as I did.

*Arnie: Vegas Fandom is pretty strongly behind the Westercon bid, but there's very little for us to do at this stage. James Taylor helped push the bid at Loscon, but it is really in the hands of James & Kathryn Daugherty and their group of out-of-town con-runners.*

*Your thoughts on the relationship between frequency and size in electronic fanzine publishing dovetail with mine. Digital publishing no longer means having to watch the scale to make sure that you don't go one sheet over or two sheets under. (Going three sheets to the wind is also inadvisable in most instances, but that's a discussion for another time...)*

## FMZ Auction Alert

Robert Lichtman, probably Fandom's foremost fanzine auctioneer, has started another one. He's turning loose of some of his prize duplicates in an effort to raise money to produce a new hard copy issue of his outstanding fanzine *Trap Door*.

This is a great way to acquire some of the best fanzines ever published — and at the same time insure the appearance of today's Cadillac of fanzines sooner rather than later.

You can participate in the auction by writing to Robert (fmz4sale@yahoo.com) and he'll put you in the loop with his round-by-round updates.

### Oh, My Aching Back...

Feeling out of step with my fellow Vegas fans, who collectively sometimes seem like the Walking Wounded, I have successfully managed to torque my back. I accomplished this by turning over too abruptly in bed. (I have already petitioned the Olympic Committee to add this taxing event at the next Games. I think it's the greatest event idea since Women's Curling.)

As always, I'm sorry to see the bottom of the issue's final page, but this time my back is oh-so-glad. See you all next week and, in the meanwhile, you might want to bring a small bit of joy into my pain-wracked life by writing that article or letter of comment.

— Arnie Katz

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